Series Reflections

The season started off with a bang at Bohicket with 43 boats, and concluded with Nick Macpherson throwing in a game changing decision at the 11th hour by rolling nearly $70,000 in registration fees into the tournament awards. At Georgetown, we had the highest participation we’ve seen in a while, with 58 boats. Fishing was good and the land-based activities were over the top. The hand-carved tournament awards made by the same individual who makes the Series Awards, Chris Costello, were and continue to be a highlight. Then, after a three week hiatus, we rolled into the Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina well rested and ready for the Carolina Billfish Classic. Fifty-five boats participated, and with most of them on B dock, it made for a great atmosphere. During the break, fishing had flipped from a dominance of blue marlin to sailfish as compared to the first two tournaments. As this newsletter is published, we are preparing for back-to-back Megadock and Edisto tournaments, and in just two short (long) weeks, the 30th season will be in the history books.

Reflecting back over the Series history, we often think of the winners, all the great sponsors, and of course, Governor Campbell for getting the concept off the ground and widely accepted. But none of this would have happened without significant input from the Wildlife Department/DNR staff. Going way back into the late 1970’s, staff, primarily Don Hammond, started attending blue water tournaments and collecting data on catch per unit effort of billfish and other species using much of the same approach as we use today, over 40 years later. I don’t know for sure, but I imagine these data were used by him and others to convince policy makers that something needed to be done to change the catch and kill nature of these events to something more conservation minded. In 1989, the Series was established, providing incentives for releasing billfish and meatfish. As part of this program, an annual reporting requirement was created. Reading through these 30 years of reports, I’ve noticed that one thing is typically missing: acknowledgement of those individuals who stood on the docks, rain or shine, to collect the important fishery.
data that is essential for managing these recreationally important species. So, in an effort to rectify that, I am going to list the names of individuals who contributed by decade. You, the reader, may remember some of them, and while others may have only been around for a few years, they are all important. Of course, Don was the program leader from 1989 until 1999. In 2000, Wayne Waltz took over until his retirement from DNR in 2005. Then in 2005, Tom Dupré, who actually started assisting Don and Kay Davy in the 1993 season and holds the record for longest tenure (15 years), was the program leader for 3 seasons ending in 2007. During those years, they had a number of folks who helped out. In the 1990’s, the list includes Shelly Knight, Barclay McCurdy, Kim Iverson, Dean Cain, Kristen Lennox and Michele Cunningham. In the early 2000’s, there was my late wife Nan Jenkins, Kris Reynolds, Brent Merritt and Lyndsay Roberg. Amy Dukes started volunteering in 2001 and was the logical choice to replace Tom beginning with the 2008 season. I was brought on for adult supervision. Since then, Amy and I have had three standout employees to help us, including Elizabeth Miller, Jesse Alderson, and now Kayla Rudnay. Each of these individuals is responsible for the present day relevance and success of the Series, and should be remembered and thanked for their dedication and service. Until next time; safe travels.

Wally Jenkins
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD</th>
<th>BOHICKET</th>
<th>GEORGETOWN</th>
<th>CBC</th>
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</table>
| Outstanding Billfish Boat     | **Boat: Mister Pete**  
Owner: Bob & Rusty McClam  
Captain: Alan Neiford  
Catch: 4 blue marlin released  
2400 points                           | **Boat: Mister Pete**  
Owner: Bob & Rusty McClam  
Captain: Alan Neiford  
Catch: 3 blue marlin released  
1800 points                           | **Boat: Reel Passion**  
Owner: Bill Ingram  
Captain: Gary Richardson  
Catch: 7 sailfish & 1 white marlin released  
1700 points                           |
| 1st Place                     |                                                                          |                                                                          |                                                                                        |
| Outstanding Billfish Boat     | **Boat: Full Pull**  
Owner: John Floyd  
Captain: Ryan Riggs  
Catch: 2 blue marlin, 1 white marlin & 2 sailfish released  
1900 points                           | **Boat: Glazed**  
Owner: Miles Herring  
Captain: Miles Herring  
Catch: 1 blue & 1 white marlin released  
900 points                           | **Boat: Sportin’ Life**  
Owner: Graham Eubank  
Captain: Mike Glaesner  
Catch: 2 blue marlin & 2 sailfish released  
1600 points                           |
| 2nd Place                     |                                                                          |                                                                          |                                                                                        |
| Outstanding Billfish Boat     | **Boat: Artemis**  
Owner: John Darby  
Captain: Chucky Moore  
Catch: 3 blue marlin released  
1800 points                           | **Boat: Syked Out**  
Owner: David Sykes  
Captain: Dan Woody  
Catch: 1 blue & 1 white marlin released  
900 points                           | **Boat: Grander**  
Owner: Terrell Rhye  
Captain: Larry Branham  
Catch: 2 blue marlin & 1 sailfish released  
1400 points                           |
| 3rd Place                     |                                                                          |                                                                          |                                                                                        |
| Outstanding Billfish          | **Boat: Mister Pete**  
Owner: Bob & Rusty McClam  
Captain: Alan Neiford  
Catch: 4 blue marlin released  
2400 points                           | **Boat: Mister Pete**  
Owner: Bob & Rusty McClam  
Captain: Alan Neiford  
Catch: 3 blue marlin released  
1800 points                           | **Boat: Reel Passion**  
Owner: Bill Ingram  
Captain: Gary Richardson  
Catch: 7 sailfish & 1 white marlin released  
1700 points                           |
| Conservationist               |                                                                          |                                                                          |                                                                                        |
| Outstanding Billfish (landed) | N/A                                                                      | N/A                                                                      | N/A                                                                                    |

We were happy to grab some photos of Jim Johnston, *Big Sky*, with his 2017 Carroll A. Campbell Award! Thank you again for all you do, captain!
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td><strong>Dolphin</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuna</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wahoo</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Boat: <em>El Tejano</em></td>
<td>Owner: John Hill</td>
<td>Owner: Peter Lorris</td>
<td>Owner: Jim Shannon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Captain: David Redd</td>
<td>Angler: Jay Griswold</td>
<td>Captain: Geoff Rosenberry</td>
<td>Captain: Wren Fogle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catch: 34.2 pounds</td>
<td></td>
<td>Angler: Brian McCaffree</td>
<td>Angler: Kevin Branigan</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Game Changer</strong></td>
<td><strong>Christy II</strong></td>
<td><strong>Legal Holiday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bench Mark</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner: MCF Family Holdings, LLC</td>
<td>Captain: Billy Gressette</td>
<td>Owner: Stephen Godfrey &amp; Trey Pierce</td>
<td>Owner: Stephen Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain: Billy Gressette</td>
<td>Angler: Brandon Long</td>
<td>Captain: Stephen Godfrey</td>
<td>Captain: Bobby Garmany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catch: 16.7 pound Blackfin</td>
<td></td>
<td>Angler: Carlyle Willis</td>
<td>Angler: Stephen Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Man Cave</strong></td>
<td><strong>Daymaker</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Catch: 26.8 pound blackfin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Owner: MCF Family Holdings, LLC</td>
<td>Captain: Billy Gressette</td>
<td>Owner: Bobby Krivohlavek</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Salty Maintenance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tighten Up</strong></td>
<td>Captain: Bobby Krivohlavek</td>
<td>Owner: Dennis Edwards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner: Brad Truluck</td>
<td><strong>Catch: 27.2 pounds</strong></td>
<td>Angler: Ryan McFadden</td>
<td>Captain: Rick Burke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain: Brad Truluck</td>
<td>Tag and release of 6 dolphin</td>
<td></td>
<td>Catch: Tag and release of 5 dolphin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 points</td>
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<td>Tag and release of 5 dolphin</td>
<td>Captain: Rick Burke</td>
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| Outstanding Female Angler 1st Place | Boat: *Syked Out*  
Owner: David Sykes  
Captain: Dan Woody  
Angler: Holly McAlhany  
Catch: 1 blue marlin released  
600 points | Boat: *Syked Out*  
Owner: David Sykes  
Captain: Dan Woody  
Angler: Holly McAlhany  
Catch: 1 blue marlin & 1 spearfish released  
900 points | Boat: *Syked Out*  
Owner: David Sykes  
Captain: Dan Woody  
Angler: Holly McAlhany  
Catch: 1 blue marlin released  
600 points |
| Outstanding Female Angler 2nd Place | Boat: *My Three Sons*  
Owner: Hunter Edwards  
Captain: Michael Mattson  
Angler: Andrea Parker  
Catch: 1 blue marlin released  
600 points | Boat: *Legal Holiday*  
Owner: Fred Bergen  
Captain: Lawrence Bradham  
Angler: Eugenie Barrow  
Catch: 1 blue marlin & 1 sailfish released  
800 points | Boat: *Grander*  
Owner: Terrell Rhye  
Captain: Larry Branham  
Angler: April Martin  
Catch: 1 blue marlin released  
600 points |
| Outstanding Female Angler 3rd Place | Boat: *Tina’s Trippin’*  
Owner: Trip Rice  
Captain: Brett Wood  
Angler: Lindsey Morrill  
Catch: 28.4 pound dolphin | Boat: *El Tejano*  
Owner: John Hill  
Captain: David Redd  
Angler: Kathy Baxley  
Catch: 1 blue marlin released  
600 points | Boat: *Summer Girl*  
Owner: Mike Jackson  
Captain: Stevie Leasure  
Angler: Shannon Smoak  
Catch: 1 blue marlin released  
600 points |
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<th>CBC</th>
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</table>
| Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place | Boat: Grander  
Owner: Terrell Rhye  
Captain: Larry Branham  
Angler: Will Marrow  
Catch: 23.2 pound dolphin | Boat: Gryphon  
Owner: Colby Griffin  
Captain: Jamie Holcombe  
Angler: Chandler Griffin  
Catch: 1 blue marlin released  
600 points | Boat: Rare Breed  
Owner: Bubba Simmons  
Captain: Bubba Simmons  
Angler: River Simmons  
Catch: 1 blue marlin released  
600 points |
| Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place | Boat: Gryphon  
Owner: Colby Griffin  
Captain: Jamie Holcombe  
Angler: Chandler Griffin  
Catch: 24.7 pound dolphin | Boat: Micabe  
Owner: Mike Larrow  
Captain: Chris Jennings  
Angler: Rance Jennings  
Catch: 1 sailfish released  
200 points | Boat: Petrel  
Owner: Harry Johnson  
Captain: Thomas Wynne  
Angler: Cordes Johnson  
Catch: 1 blue marlin released  
600 points |
| Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place | Boat: Gryphon  
Owner: Colby Griffin  
Captain: Jamie Holcombe  
Angler: Carson Paluscsak  
Catch: 19.4 pound dolphin | Boat: Grander  
Owner: Terrell Rhye  
Captain: Larry Branham  
Angler: Iain Rhye  
Catch: 29.4 pound dolphin | Boat: Tighten Up  
Owner: Kevin Overstreet & Rick Burke  
Captain: Rick Burke  
Angler: Riley Overstreet  
Catch: 1 sailfish released  
200 points |

seahuntboats.com
803-755-6539

LIFT IT...

AND TICKET

*Pictured have no affiliation with Gov Cup*
Mister Pete is still after the Series Cup, with two wins at Bohicket and Georgetown, and Sportin’ Life is right on their heels!

Mister Pete

Bohicket Winners

Georgetown Winners

Chucky Moore, Bryce Bell 2017
In The Bite Magazine East Coast captain, mate of the year
The SCDNR Board recognized Series Advisory Board Chairman Stevie Leasure for his vision and efforts for the SC Memorial Reef project.
Introducing the all new Luxury Series from Harman. Available in 6 ½", 8", and 10" subwoofer, the sound alone will keep the fish dancing. Add in RGB illumination as standard, and the whole crew will be rockin’. The 8" speaker is particularly unique—with a removable 3 ½” mid tweeter and this versatility allows you to raise the soundstage in your boat or act as smaller satellite speakers. Forward thinking, from Harman.

Distributed exclusively by Prospec Electronics, a Mount Pleasant, SC company

Welcome to Maximum Uptime

Your solution for engine maintenance, repairs, overhauls and all replacement part needs.
We need your help! Numbers of reported billfish releases and landings are way down this year. We hope that it’s due to lack of reporting and not low numbers of billfish around! Please let us know about any releases or landings, past or present, by emailing rudnayk@dnr.sc.gov. We’ll also send you a certificate for your release and release cards if you need them!

BE REMINDED: You must report landings of all billfish (and bluefin tuna!) within 24 hours to National Marine Fisheries Service! You can do this online at https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/reportLands or by calling 1-800-894-5528.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE AWARDS RECEPTION ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH!
Our sights are set on our next endeavor! The Harbor Island Bridge in Beaufort is set to be replaced, and we need your help to start fundraising once again to put this awesome structure at the bottom of the ocean! We’ve seen so much life and productivity from the structures already sunk in the Charleston Deep Reef area - imagine the benefits of having this beauty attracting even more activity!

The SC Memorial Reef

DONATE TODAY!
There’s more than one way you can make a charitable contribution to the SC Memorial Reef fund. Please see below to find out how you can help! Remember, the Harry Hampton Wildlife fund is a 501 (c)-3 organization, and your donation is tax-deductible!

Make checks payable to:
Harry Hampton Fund - The SC Memorial Reef, C/O Amy Dukes, PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422

Or:
Visit [www.HamptonWildlifeFund.org](http://www.HamptonWildlifeFund.org) and click the “DONATE NOW” button (via PayPal) on the left side of the page. After specifying donation amount, please write “SC Memorial Reef” in the instructions box to make sure it is accredited to the appropriate project. A tax-deductible receipt will be provided for your records.

**TOP BOATS**

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<tr>
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<th>BOH</th>
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<th>CBC</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Mister Pete 4275
2. Sportin’ Life 4075
3. Artemis 3275
4. Grander 3275
5. Full Pull 2475
6. Syked Out 2175
7. My Three Sons 1875
8. Home Run 1775
9. Reel Passion 1775
10. Bad Becky 1675

**ANTICIPATION**

**GW WYATT CONTRACTING**
The S.C. Department of Natural Resources’ Law Enforcement Division reminds the public of Coast Watch, which was developed to better help citizens report violations of saltwater recreational and commercial fishing laws, as well as marine environmental laws. The Coast Watch hotline number (1-800-922-5431) is toll-free and available 24 hours a day.