



# TAG & RELEASE

<http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov>



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## Series Reflections

It's hard to believe that with two tournaments completed, we are technically half way through the 2019 SC Governor's Cup Season. Things have gone smoothly for the most part from a management perspective, with the only major hiccup being what does a legal SC Saltwater fishing license (which you must have in your possession) while fishing, look like? At Bohicket, we encountered for the first time ever documents that could be printed from the SCDNR website listing privileges, which it was subsequently determined were not valid for use as a substitute for a license. This lead to staff having to print out flyers and a poster board with examples of what was legal and what was not to hand out at the Captains' meeting in Georgetown. Hopefully this issue is behind us as we get ready for the CBC beginning June 19 followed by Edisto on July 17. We had a good turnout at Bohicket with 33 boats and Georgetown with 56. One highlight for me at least at Georgetown, other than the bacon wrapped scallops, was that on the last day of fishing, the affable crew of the *Christy II* caught and released a blue marlin with veteran angler Poe Ratterree on the rod. As many of you know, these guys usually (and very successfully) target meatfish. This is the first time I can remember that they caught a billfish. Congratulations couldn't have been in order for a nicer bunch of guys; if they had caught it a little earlier, they might have finished in the money! On another note, we've been close to breaking 60 boats for the first time in many years at a tournament, last-minute mechanical problems and other issues seem to always curtail the participant list. Hopefully, the CBC

## 31<sup>st</sup> Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2019 Tournament Schedule

### **May 8 - 11 Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament**

Contact: Beau Anderson [marinamanager@bohicket.com](mailto:marinamanager@bohicket.com)  
 1880 Andell Bluff Boulevard (843) 768-1280  
 Johns Island, SC 29455

### **May 22 - 25 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament**

Contact: Ed Keelin [ed@georgetownlandingmarina.com](mailto:ed@georgetownlandingmarina.com)  
 P.O. Box 1704 (843) 546-1776  
 Georgetown, SC 29442

### **June 19 - 22 Carolina Billfish Classic**

Contact: Deidre Menefee [dm@fishcbc.com](mailto:dm@fishcbc.com)  
 20 Patriots Point Road (843) 345-0369  
 Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

### **July 17 - 20 Edisto Invitational Billfishing Tournament**

Contact: Brian Bell [bkbell1@bellsouth.net](mailto:bkbell1@bellsouth.net)  
 3702 Docksite Road (843) 631-5055  
 Edisto Beach, SC 29438

\*The Megadock will be under construction during the summer of 2019 and will be unable to host a tournament, yet will return in 2020.\*

#### **For more information, contact:**

Amy Dukes, SC Governor's Cup Tournament Coordinator  
[DukesA@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:DukesA@dnr.sc.gov) • <http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/> • (843) 953-9365  
 PO Box 12559 • Charleston, SC 29422

will break that barrier in a couple of weeks; they certainly have the space available, so sign up! In addition, I'm told that as promised, additional dock space at Edisto and other improvements including electrical and fueling systems have been completed. We are looking forward to having more boats actually in the marina.

Finally, while tournament logistics have been good, most of the talk on the docks has been related to the paucity of billfish in the catch. I looked back at our catch per boat by species data going back to 2000, and the numbers (particularly for blue marlin) are the lowest we have seen since 2011. This is not necessarily cause for concern, since between 2000 and 2010 the catch rates we are currently seeing for blue marlin would have been the norm, and this may just be an anomalous year for a variety of reasons (e.g. recent prevailing wind direction, moon phase, water temps, etc.). To put things in perspective, after the first two tournaments in 2018, we had

landed or released three times as many blue marlin per boat than we have encountered this year. The catch of white marlin over the years has been highly variable but it appears, at present, we are slightly above the long-term average and are doing nearly twice as well as this time last year. Sailfish numbers in the first two tournaments are way below the long term average, but this is not unexpected as their numbers in the catch typically increase as the season progresses. I imagine trolling all day

offshore and not catching anything can be tedious and frustrating. That said, it is our hope that things turn around and we have nonstop excitement going forward. We hope to see all of you in a couple of weeks; in the meantime, keep your eyes on what's happening at Big Rock the week of June 10-15. Hopefully some SC boats can get on and stay on the leader board. If that happens, who knows, you might see us at the awards ceremony on Saturday night!

~Wally Jenkins



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**Looking forward to seeing everyone on the docks for the 2019 Governor's Cup Series**



AWARD	BOHICKET	GEORGETOWN
Outstanding Billfish Boat 1st Place	Boat: <i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody 1 blue marlin released 600 points	Boat: <i>Bench Mark</i> Owner: Stephen Davis Captain: Bobby Garmany 1 blue marlin & 1 white marlin released 900 points
Outstanding Billfish Boat 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Sportin' Life</i> Owner: Graham Eubank Captain: Mike Glaesner 1 blue marlin released 600 points	Boat: <i>Rare Breed</i> Owner: Bubba Simmons Captain: Bubba Simmons 1 blue marlin released 600 points
Outstanding Billfish Boat 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Home Run</i> Owner: Steve Mungo Captain: Grant Bentley 1 blue marlin released 600 points	Boat: <i>Tighten Up</i> Owner: Rick Burke & Kevin Overstreet Captain: Kevin Overstreet 1 blue marlin released 600 points
Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	Boat: <i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody 1 blue marlin released 600 points	Boat: <i>Bench Mark</i> Owner: Stephen Davis Captain: Bobby Garmany 1 blue marlin & 1 white marlin released 900 points
Outstanding Billfish (landed)	N/A	N/A



Captain Alan Neiford of the *Mister Pete* was recognized at the Bohicket Captains' Meeting for winning *InTheBite Magazine's* 2018 Captain of the Year! Mates Jay Rhode, George Campsen and Emerson Read (not pictured) were also recognized. Great job, Alan and team!





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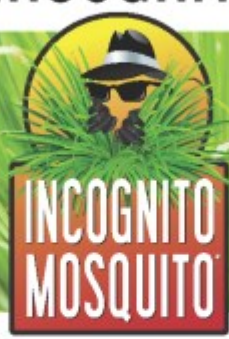
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AWARD	BOHICKET	GEORGETOWN
Outstanding Dolphin	Boat: <i>Mister Pete</i> Owner: Bob & Rusty McClam Captain: Alan Neiford Angler: Bob McClam 42.1 pounds	Boat: <i>Rare Breed</i> Owner: Bubba Simmons Captain: Bubba Simmons Angler: Mel Miles 39.9 pounds
Outstanding Tuna	Boat: <i>Rare Breed</i> Owner: Bubba Simmons Captain: Bubba Simmons Angler: Whitney Simmons 2.9 pound Blackfin	Boat: <i>Nauti Girl</i> Owner: Justin Kohl Captain: Justin Kohl Angler: Jim Costa 15.0 pound Blackfin
Outstanding Wahoo	Boat: <i>Tighten Up</i> Owners: Rick Burke & Kevin Overstreet Captain: Rick Burke Angler: Mackenzi Truluck 15.5 pounds	Boat: <i>Nauti Girl</i> Owner: Justin Kohl Captain: Justin Kohl Angler: Angie Kohl 24.4 pounds
Blue Water Conservationist	Boat: <i>Man Cave</i> Owner: Billy Gressette Captain: Billy Gressette Tag and release of 7 dolphin 350 points	Boat: <i>Cluster Fish</i> Owner: Andrew Dupps Captain: Andrew Dupps Tag and release of 2 dolphin 100 points



*Save the date  
for the  
Annual Awards  
Reception on  
Friday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>!*

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### Donate online:

- <https://scmemorialreef.com/> - Blue Donate button on top right and fill out the form.
- <http://www.hamptonwildlife fund.org/> - 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 for both online sources.

AWARD	BOHICKET	GEORGETOWN
Outstanding Female Angler 1st Place	Boat: <i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holy McAlhany 1 blue marlin released 600 points	Boat: <i>Home Run</i> Owner: Steve Mungo Captain: Grant Bentley Angler: Hope Bentley 1 white marlin & 1 spearfish released 600 points
Outstanding Female Angler 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Home Run</i> Owner: Steve Mungo Captain: Grant Bentley Angler: Hope Bentley 1 blue marlin released 600 points	Boat: <i>My Three Sons</i> Owner: Hunter Edwards Captain: Michael Mattson Angler: Andrea Parker 1 spearfish released 300 points
Outstanding Female Angler 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Family Tradition</i> Owner: Ralph Massenburg Captain: Brad Bloser Angler: Carol Cannon 25.9 pound dolphin	Boat: <i>Nauti Girl</i> Owner: Justin Kohl Captain: Justin Kohl Angler: Angie Matthews 33.8 pound dolphin



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	BOHICKET	G'TOWN	TOTALS
BOATS	33	56	
BLUES	3	9	12
WHITES	2	3	5
SPEARS	0	2	2
SAILS	3	11	14

TOP BOATS			
1. Bench Mark	1250	6. Tighten Up	650
2. Home Run	1250	7. Mister Pete	650
3. Syked Out	650	8. Jackpot	650
4. Sportin' Life	650	9. Inappropriate	625
5. Rare Breed	650	10. Christy II	625



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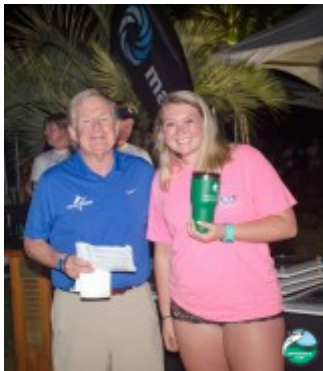
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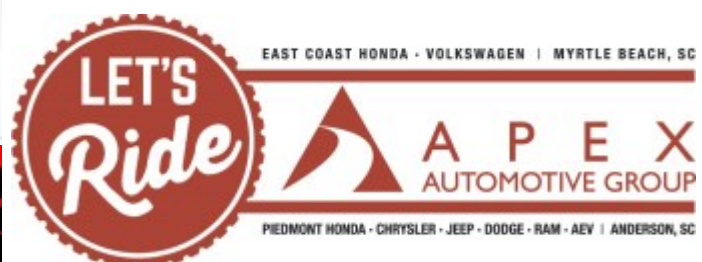
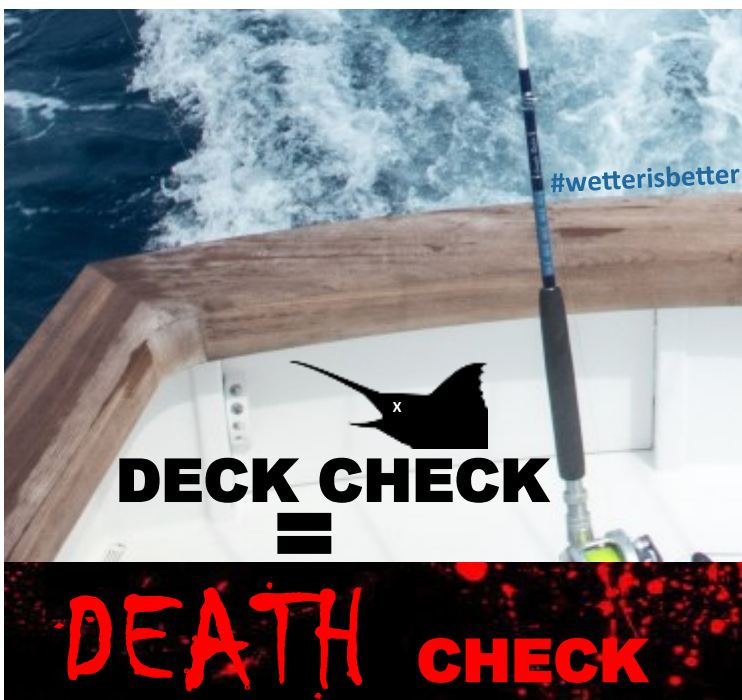
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AWARD	BOHICKET	GEORGETOWN
Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place	Boat: <i>Man Cave</i> Owner: Billy Gressette Captain: Billy Gressette Angler: Will Gredeck, age 12 28.5 pound dolphin	Boat: <i>Tighten Up</i> Owner: Rick Burke & Kevin Overstreet Captain: Kevin Overstreet Angler: Riley Overstreet, age 13 1 blue marlin released 600 points
Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Sea Tiger</i> Owner: Jerry Smith Captain: Jerry Smith Angler: Lilli Kirkland, age 15 19.4 pound dolphin	Boat: <i>Micabe</i> Owner: Mike Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings Angler: Rance Jennings, age 14 28.5 pound dolphin
Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Tighten Up</i> Owners: Rick Burke & Kevin Overstreet Captain: Rick Burke Angler: Riley Overstreet, age 12 19.0 pound dolphin	Boat: <i>Micabe</i> Owner: Mike Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings Angler: Andrew Jennings, age 13 27.1 pound dolphin





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## 2019 TOURNAMENTS



MAY 8 - 11

MAY 22 - 25



JUNE 19 - 22



\*Under construction 2019\*



JULY 17 - 20

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