



# Tag & Release

A newsletter following the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series



March 2021  
Vol. 26 No. 2

## **Supporting the conservation of billfish, ocean resources, billfish tournaments and coastal tourism**

Since 1989, the Cup has promoted the catch and release of billfish, resulting in a shift from a 90% landing rate to a 99% release rate in the billfishing industry in the Palmetto State!

### **33<sup>rd</sup> Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2021 Tournament Schedule**

**May 5 - 8**



#### **Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament**

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

**May 26 - 29**



#### **53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament**

Contact: Ed Keelin  
P.O. Box 1704  
Georgetown SC 29442  
(843) 546-1776 Fax (843) 546-7832  
[ed@georgetownlandingmarina.com](mailto:ed@georgetownlandingmarina.com)

**June 23 - 26**



#### **Carolina Billfish Classic**

Contact: Loyd Weston  
20 Patriots Point Road  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464  
(843) 568-5230  
[td@fishcbc.com](mailto:td@fishcbc.com)

**July 14 - 17**



#### **Megadock Billfishing Tournament**

Contact: Robbie Freeman  
P.O. Box 759  
Charleston, SC 29402  
(843) 577-7702  
[rffreeman@shmarinas.com](mailto:rffreeman@shmarinas.com)

**July 21 - 24**



#### **Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament**

Contact: Brian Bell  
3702 Docksite Road  
Edisto Beach, SC 29438  
(843) 631-5055 Fax (843) 631-5065  
[bkbell2009@gmail.com](mailto:bkbell2009@gmail.com)

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

Amy Dukes, SC Governor's Cup Tournament Coordinator  
[DukesA@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:DukesA@dnr.sc.gov) • [govcup.dnr.sc.gov](http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov) • (843) 953-9365  
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### *Series Reflections*

Wow, this month marks the one-year anniversary of when the world was turned upside down by this incipient virus. This time last year, I was fairly certain this would burn itself out by summer with expert scientists weighing in to say it was less transmittable in hot weather. Boy were they wrong!! By mid-April with the Advisory Board's guidance, we were rescheduling tournaments for early August while still hopeful that the Georgetown Blue Marlin tournament in late May could go on as originally planned. Then came the Governor's emergency order to cancel all event permits that even kept people off the water, period, for two weeks unless embarking from a private facility or as a licensed commercial fisherman. By sheer luck, we were able to hold the Carolina Billfish Classic as originally planned in the small window when the Town of Mt. Pleasant was permitting outdoor events. It went really well with virtual captain's meeting and awards announcements as well as socially distant weigh in and meals.

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Then July hit with the highest number of cases to be recorded in SC up to that time and the rest is history. I say all this because many of our sponsors stuck with us through this rough time and we are very grateful. Those 2020 sponsors included, Corporate Sponsors: Western Branch/COX/Volvo Penta; Martech Research and; Aire Serv Climate Professionals. Our Benefactor Sponsors were: Apex Automotive Group; HMY Yachts; Sea Hunt Boats; Southern Lumber and Millwork; and W. W. Williams/MTU. Our Patron Sponsors were: Founders Hall/SCPRT; McClam Associates; HPL+P Law, The Pate Foundation; Palmetto State Armory; and QEI Security and Technology. Our Newsletter Sponsors were: Legal Holiday Fishing Team; El Tejano Partners, Fairway Ford; Mungo Homes; and Spencer Yachts. These individuals, as well as our Advisory Board Members and other interested Series participants plus the one tournament that was held, the Carolina Billfish Classic, collectively raised \$66,525 for Series operations. Without the support of these individuals and companies, none of what we do would be possible. Please support them at every opportunity. With that said, we officially kick off fundraising for 2021, a little later than usual, but we hope each of you

will thoughtfully consider supporting the Series and billfish conservation. There are forms and information on how to make a contribution later in this newsletter. We promise to make this another year to remember, and we look forward to your continued support.

As we move into a new year, I regret to say that one member of the Advisory Board, Bubba Roof, recently completed his second 3-year term in office. I especially want to thank him for his long-time support, dedication, and participation in the Series. We are fortunate to have three members returning for a second term, Chairman Steve Mungo, Mr. John Hill and Mr. Stockley Holder, we appreciate their willingness to serve for three more years and their guidance going forward. Finally, we welcome two new members Mr. Wesley Frierson and Mr. Douglas Jennings. All these individuals were approved by the SCDNR board at their January meeting.

There were some small changes in wording to the rules for this summer they really should not affect fishing unless you fancy yourself as a modern-day Ahab and prefer to harpoon billfish. The word harpoon was removed from the rules as it violates IGFA rules. Finally, we are looking forward to a



productive season with Covid social distancing protocols likely to remain in place and remind you that now it is also the time to check your documents and permits to make sure you are ready for the fishing season. You will find this information on this page. I cannot wait until May to get the summer going! Please do not forget to register as soon as possible for the five currently scheduled events so that organizers can plan accordingly.

On a personal note, today was the first day that we have had the entire team in the office together since November 2020. However, it was short lived as Kayla has tendered her resignation, effective Friday, March 5. We will miss her, especially me, as I have a lot to learn about running an iPad and our live scoring app, as well as the DeLormes, before the season starts. Wish me luck! On a sad note, we learned

today of the passing of long time Governor's Cup participant Burke Wall of Savannah, owner of the TRASHMAN. Always a gentleman, with my fondest memory of him winning the Edisto Tournament in 2019 and the heartfelt speech he gave at the Awards ceremony. I am told a video of the speech will be available on our Facebook page soon. Please make a toast to Burke, with an on the rock's margarita, his were famous on the docks! Smooth sailing my friend. ~Wally Jenkins



## G·E·T P·R·E·P·A·R·E·D for your 2021 Fishing Season!



It's that time again, and we thought we would provide everyone with a brief list of some of the permits, licenses and documentation that you will/may need to have in your possession so that boat owners, captains and crew are ready for a successful fishing season. ***Please Double Check Your Expiration Dates!!!***

**1) Current vessel documentation or state registration** – All vessels must possess current and valid state registration or US Coast Guard documentation in addition to being titled in the owner's name/business.

**2) Purchase your Atlantic HMS Angling Permit (Recreational) or Charter/Headboat Permit** – All owners/operators of vessels fishing recreationally, or owners/operators of Charter/Headboat vessels fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit. 2021 Atlantic HMS permits cost \$26.00, and will be valid from the date of issuance through December 31, 2021. Visit the NMFS website at <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/> to apply for your permit.

**3) Purchase your SC Saltwater Fishing License** – All anglers (over 16) must obtain and possess a SCDNR Saltwater Recreational Fishing License. These licenses can be purchased at <https://dnrlicensing.sc.gov/DNRLicensingSales/SalesCategories.aspx> or call 1-866-714-3611. Be reminded that SC Saltwater Recreational Fishing Licenses are issued on a 365 day basis, and will expire one year from the issue date.





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# JOIN OUR TEAM!

Those who donate a minimum of \$100 get an invitation to the Annual Awards Reception. Those donating \$500 also get mentioned on our website and in the Awards Reception program.

## ◆ Newsletter Sponsor: \$1,000

- Logo in every newsletter, in addition to the benefits mentioned above

## ◆ Patron Sponsor: \$2,000

- Also included in all Series advertising
- Allowed the use of Governor's Cup logo in your own advertising
- Opportunity to include your company brochures in boat registration packets for all tournaments
- Receive recognition of appreciation at the Awards Reception

## ◆ Benefactor Sponsor: \$5,000

- All of the above mentioned benefits
- Advertisement banner at each tournament
- 2 passes to all Series events you choose to attend

## ◆ Corporate Sponsor: \$10,000

- All of above mentioned benefits
- Eligible for a 50% discount on a single boat registration for all 5 Series tournaments **or** 6 tickets to all Series events you choose to attend but do not register a boat
- Booth space at each tournament
- Included in all tournament brochures and advertising as a Corporate Sponsor of the Series

**Want to become a sponsor?  
Fill out the donor card below  
and mail to:**

**SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series  
SCDNR  
P.O. Box 12559  
Charleston, SC 29412**

## SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES SPONSOR DONOR FORM

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☐ \$500 (Donor)

☐ \$1,000 (Newsletter Sponsor)

☐ \$2,000 (Patron Sponsor)

☐ \$5,000 (Benefactor Sponsor)

☐ \$10,000 (Corporate Sponsor)

Please visit [www.govcup.dnr.sc.gov](http://www.govcup.dnr.sc.gov) for more information on the benefits associated with each donor level. SCGC, in partnership with Harry Hampton, is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

After receiving your pledge, an invoice will be sent to you for payment. When payment has been received, we will forward the appropriate promotional items for the donor level you have chosen and request an electronic copy of your business logo for use in the Governor's Cup Newsletter, website sponsor list, and other publications as appropriate.

# THE SC MEMORIAL REEF



The Hwy. 21 bridge that connects Hunting Island with the mainland is set to be demolished, and staff and friends have been hard at work to sequester as much of the structure as possible to add to the Charleston Deep Reef site. There are 3 options on the table of varying degrees of complexity, and the more money we're able to raise, the more structure we'll be able to sink! Demolition has also been pushed up to this summer, almost a year ahead of schedule, so the time is NOW to donate! With many of the Governor's Cup and Harry Hampton events cancelled during 2020, we are calling upon YOU help spread the word for this great cause!

## Donate now:

- \* Make checks payable to: Harry Hampton Fund - The SC Memorial Reef, C/O Amy Dukes, PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422
- \* Donate Online:
  - <https://scmemorialreef.com/> (Check it out - it's our NEW website!)
  - <http://www.hamptonwildlifefund.org/> - write "SC Memorial Reef" in the instructions box to ensure it's accredited to the appropriate project, in addition to the name it's in remembrance of, if applicable.

**A tax-deductible receipt will be provided for both sources!**



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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.**

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, gender, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, PO Box 167, Columbia, South Carolina, 29202.