



Tag & Release

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



November 2021 Vol. 26 No. 6

Series Reflections:

Thanks to everyone who made the 2021 tournament series a success! Earlier last month, we held the Awards Reception at Founders Hall and had a wonderful evening celebrating our award recipients. Dinner was provided by A&P Catering and the Marina Variety Store, with entertainment by DJ Trevor D. and Marshall with D&M Productions.

Congratulations to the *Inappropriate*, the 2021 Series champions! For those of you who missed the reception, the winners, photos from the event, and awards speeches written by Cameron Rhodes are included in this issue. Please continue reading to find out who was named 2021 Mate of the Year and who received the Carroll A. Campbell Award.

Additionally, a special SCDNR Service Award was presented to Wally Jenkins for over 45 years of dedication to protecting our state's natural resources. We are sincerely grateful for his commitment, and we wish him a relaxing retirement!

Lastly, we are excited to be returning to four tournaments next season. Be sure to mark your calendars!

34th Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2022 Tournament Schedule

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| May 11 - 14 | Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament
Contact: Beau Anderson
1880 Andell Bluff Boulevard
Johns Island, SC 29455
(843) 768-1280
marinamanager@bohicket.com |
| May 25 - 28 | 54th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament
Contact: David Black
P.O. Box 1704
Georgetown SC 29442
(843) 546-1776 Fax (843) 546-7832
dblack@georgetownlandingmarina.com |
| June 22 - 25 | Carolina Billfish Classic
Contact: Loyd Weston
20 Patriots Point Road
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
(843) 568-5230
td@fishcbc.com |
| July 20 - 23 | Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament
Contact: Brian Bell
3702 Docksite Road
Edisto Beach, SC 29438
(843) 631-5055 Fax (843) 631-5065
bkbell2009@gmail.com |

For more information, contact:
GovCup@dnr.sc.gov • govcup.dnr.sc.gov
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AWARD	SERIES WINNER
Outstanding Billfish Boat 1st Place	Boat: <i>Inappropriate</i> Owner: Frank Holtham Captain: Andy Crews 4 blue marlin and 6 sailfish released 3675 points
Outstanding Billfish Boat 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Home Run</i> Owner: Steve Mungo Captain: Grant Bentley 5 blue marlin and 2 sailfish released 3475 points
Outstanding Billfish Boat 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Sportin' Life</i> Owner: Graham Eubank Captain: Mike Glaesner 1 blue marline and 7 sailfish released, 1 blue marlin landed 1000 points
Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	Boat: <i>Inappropriate</i> Owner: Frank Holtham Captain: Andy Crews 4 blue marlin and 6 sailfish released



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AWARD	SERIES WINNER
Outstanding Billfish (landed)	Boat: <i>Glazed</i> Owner: Miles Herring Captain: Miles Herring Angler: Wilson Springs 505.0 pounds
Outstanding Dolphin	Boat: <i>Summer Girl</i> Owner: Mike Jackson Captain: Stevie Leasure Angler: Anne Hatcher White 39.5 pounds
Outstanding Tuna	Boat: <i>Mingo</i> Owner: Jody Tamsberg Captain: Jody Tamsberg Angler: Joel Tamsberg 22.0-pound blackfin
Outstanding Wahoo	Boat: <i>Outlier</i> Owner: Will Dorminy Captain: Ryan Riggs Angler: Will Dorminy 58.2 pounds



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AWARD	SERIES WINNER
Outstanding Female Angler 1st Place	Boat: <i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany 1 blue marlin and 1 sailfish released
Outstanding Female Angler 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Aspiration</i> Owner: Quill Turk Captain: Steven Lackey Angler: Betsy Turk 1 blue marlin released
Outstanding Female Angler 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Home Run</i> Owner: Steve Mungo Captain: Grant Bentley Angler: Hope Bentley 1 blue marlin released



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AWARD	SERIES WINNER
<p>Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place</p>	<p>Boat: <i>Tighten Up</i> Owners: Kevin Overstreet Captain: Kevin Overstreet Angler: Riley Overstreet, age 15 2 blue marlin and 1 white marlin released</p>
<p>Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place</p>	<p>Boat: <i>Blackjack</i> Owner: Jane Eudy Captain: Richard Lavecchia Angler: Jake Eudy, age 15 3 sailfish released</p>
<p>Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place</p>	<p>Boat: <i>Glazed</i> Owners: Miles Herring Captain: Miles Herring Angler: Woods Herring, age 12 2 sailfish released</p>





SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

AWARD	RECIPIENT
2021 Mate of the Year	Thomas Henry Key
Carroll A. Campbell	Wallace and Nan Jenkins
SCDNR Service	Wallace Jenkins
Governor's Cup Advisory Board Service	Chris Jennings
Governor's Cup Advisory Board Service	Victor "Bubba" Roof
Governor's Cup Advisory Board Service	David Sykes
Governor's Cup Advisory Board Service	Harry Johnson

Mate of the Year: Thomas Henry Key

The 2021 Mate of the Year likely did not expect to hear his name called this evening. All of our interactions with him indicate that he is too modest, perhaps even shy, to even suspect that he would be nominated for the award. While this young man may appear to be relatively quiet on the docks, working ceaselessly to rig baits and prepare for long days offshore in South Carolina, in fishing destinations all along the East coast, and abroad in Isla Mujeres, Mexico, he's an undeniable powerhouse in the cockpit.

As it turns out, he comes about these skills honestly, following in the footsteps of his father, Matt Key, who we sadly suddenly lost just over a year ago. Matt didn't just enjoy fishing and the outdoors. He lived it. Our 2021 Mate of the Year honors his father's memory every day whether he's on the water or in the field. All of us at the Gov Cup – participants and staff alike - are immensely proud of his accomplishments. We have no doubts that his father, with a flash of a bright, toothy smile followed by a hearty laugh, shares in that enormous pride.



HUK
PERFORMANCE FISHING

Even through this difficult year, this young man has demonstrated professionalism and sportsmanship, all while proving his exemplary skills as a mate. He helped Captain Ryan Riggs and the Outlier team win the award for the heaviest wahoo in the series this year, as well as other impressive wins further up the coast. And while he might not be the loudest character in the room, this young man's admirable caliber speaks volumes to where he's been and where he's headed. We look forward to what will surely be a bright future ahead.



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SCDNR Service Award: Wallace Jenkins

This evening we've spent considerable time drawing attention to Wally Jenkins' many achievements throughout his 45 year career with the Department of Natural Resources. But we're not quite done. It's time for a little roast – nothing too crazy, just a handful of anecdotes to help send Wally off in style. He's certainly been unafraid to wield his own dry sense of humor over the years, so it only seems fitting that we return the favor.

Those of you who have attended past Awards Receptions can attest to the fact that Wally is rather light on his feet. Once he hears the signature funk bass of Brick House, there's no stopping him from busting a few moves on the dance floor. Wally always seems to be the guy who starts conga lines at weddings, or somehow becomes a competitor in a heated dance battle.



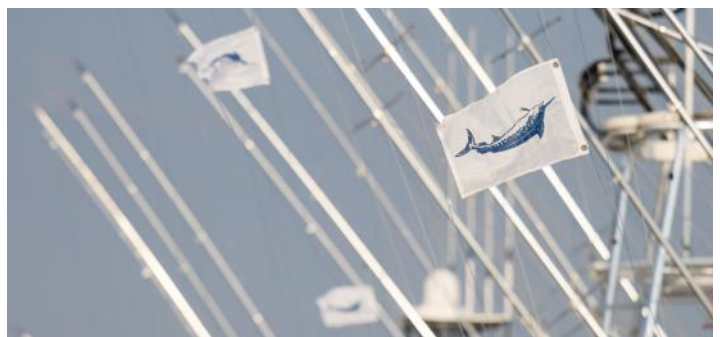
In addition to his debonair persona, Wally happens to be incredibly sensitive. He's no stranger to shedding a few tears during speeches. But when he gets through the emotional bits, he always manages to finish with a clever quip or a literal mic drop, much to the frustration of unsuspecting sound technicians at events.

Among his staff, Wally is somewhat of a father figure. He might not appreciate that term, and he'll likely be rolling his eyes right about now, but it's 100 percent true. Staff have always been able to turn to Wally for help and guidance. You just have to be prepared for an honest and direct answer that you might not like. He lives filter free, so it's best to expect the truth whether or not you're prepared to accept it.

However, in those moments of directness, Wally still manages to be nurturing, encouraging growth and resilience among his team. Jesse, who had the role that Kayla once fulfilled and Elizabeth holds now, said, "And as perhaps his most valuable lesson of all, Wally showed me that it's essential to avoid taking yourself too seriously. If you've been fortunate enough to get to know him, you've likely witnessed Wally's gift for telling a joke and making sure everyone is having a good time." He's done that time and time again. He knows exactly when to inject some humor into a difficult day, most often when it's at his own expense. Wally's never too proud to take the hit to lighten the mood.

Staff have certainly come to rely on Wally's many attributes. Next summer will be different without him charging down the docks, a tall, lone straw hat weaving through the crowds to find Amy or conduct interviews. Even though he'll be greatly missed, we're confident that his team can carry on as expected. He's given them all of the tools they need to succeed.

So unless his gout is flaring up too much following that red wine and steak dinner, we'll ask Wally to come up and join us for one last award – this time to honor his work with the Gov Cup, as well as his profound allegiance to his staff and the mission of the Series.





THE SC MEMORIAL REEF



Current Project: M/V *Coastal Venture*



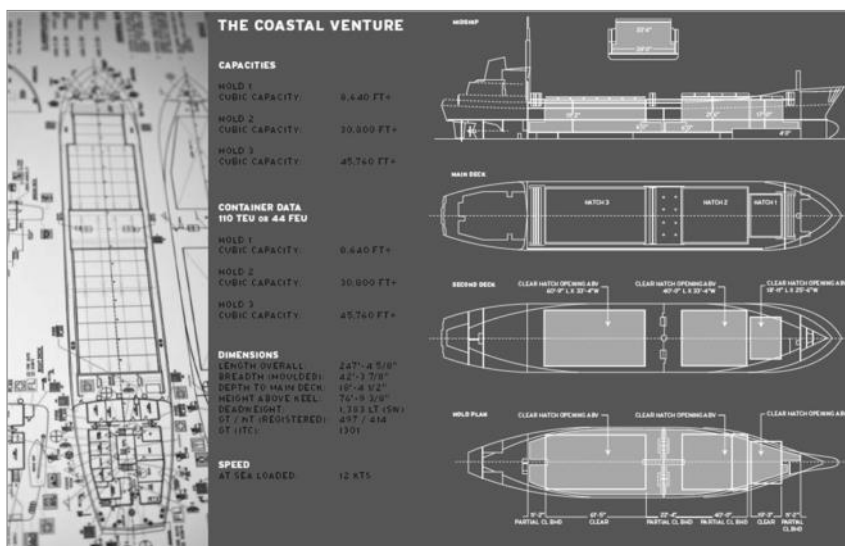
The newest SC Memorial Reef project includes plans to sink the 247-ft M/V *Coastal Venture* in the Charleston Deep Reef MPA. The vessel (70-ft keel to top of the mast) will provide habitat for a diversity of species. Its complex structure will offer refuge for finfish and other marine organisms, as well as provide areas on which invertebrates can settle and grow. Additionally, the upwelling that will result from such a large structure will release nutrients into the water column and increase the overall productivity of the area.

Fundraising goal: \$500,000

If we can raise the funds by Summer 2022, we will transport and sink the M/V *Coastal Venture*. We plan to deploy the vessel in 350 feet of water about a mile south of the sunken Highway 41 bridge.

Please consider making a donation. We truly appreciate the support.

Funds raised: \$344,974



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/> (See for additional information about the M/V *Coastal Venture* project)
 - <http://www.hamptonwildlifefund.org/> (Write "SC Memorial Reef" in the instructions box to ensure it's accredited to the appropriate project and include the name of the person being recognized and remembered, if applicable)

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