



Tag & Release

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



Let's get ready for 2022!

April 2022
Vol. 27 No. 2

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

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

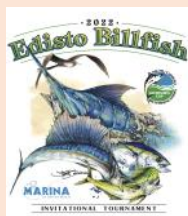
Carolina Billfish Classic



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



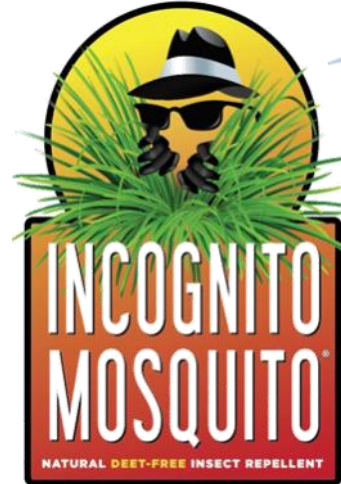
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Series Reflections

We hope everyone is getting excited for the 2022 Series! The first tournament is right around the corner, and we are counting down the days. We are so thankful for our generous sponsors whose support allows for a fun and successful Series. Please take note of our many sponsors, highlighted throughout the newsletter. We genuinely appreciate their commitment and dedication. For those interested, there is still time to become a sponsor! Please see page 4 for more information.

This year, we are excited about the three scheduled tournaments. Due to ongoing construction at Bohicket Marina, the Bohicket Invitational Billfish Tournament was canceled. Between the magnitude of the renovations and the global supply chain shortages, there would not be enough time to complete the project before the summer. While we are disappointed that Bohicket will not be part of the Series this year, we

are looking forward to the infrastructure improvements and hope to be back at Bohicket Marina next year. We are fortunate to have three stellar tournaments this summer! Our first, hosted by Georgetown Landing Marina, will be at the end of May. Following Georgetown, the Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina will host the second tournament in June. And in July, we'll head down to the Marina at Edisto Beach for the final tournament of the Series. Additional details regarding these events can be found on the first page of the newsletter. Be sure to register early to ensure docking space at the marinas, as most have limited slips available!

As we prepare for a new season of fishing, we reflect on the past year and remember both the joyous and heart-wrenching times. Our community aches over lost loved ones, as we remember all of the great times spent with them.

We will forever cherish the memories of those who have passed and open our hearts to creating new ones with family and friends. We value the comradery of this group during difficult times, and we are comforted by the support you give one another.

We continue to raise money for the SC Memorial Reef to commemorate our lost loved ones. We have made great progress on the current project, the M/V *Coastal Venture*, thanks to the support of so many generous donors. The vessel has been cleaned and prepared for deployment, which is now contingent on the overlap of a decent weather window and an available tug boat. Once we have date and time planned, we hope to give at least a 48-hour notice prior to towing for those who may want to travel out and watch the deployment of the vessel into the

Charleston Deep Reef MPA. With \$405,444 pledged and received, we are extremely close to our goal. We plan to continue fundraising through the summer post deployment to raise the remainder of the funds. Again, we sincerely thank those who have contributed to the project.

We hope everyone is ready for exciting fish days, relaxing lay days, good food, and great company. See you on the docks in one month!





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THERE'S STILL TIME TO 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

- All benefits mentioned above
- Logo in every newsletter
- Linked corporate logo on the website

◆ Benefactor Sponsor: \$5,000

- All benefits mentioned above
- Advertisement banner at each tournament
- Large Governor's Cup flag
- Two passes to all Series events you choose to attend

◆ Patron Sponsor: \$2,000

- All benefits mentioned above
- 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

◆ Corporate Sponsor: \$10,000

- All benefits mentioned above
- Eligible for a 50% discount on a single boat registration for all three Series tournaments **OR** six 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
- Ex-officio member of the Advisory Board of Directors

To become a sponsor, please fill out the donor card and mail to
SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29412
or email GovCup@dnr.sc.gov.

SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES SPONSOR DONOR FORM

Name: _____ Business Name: _____

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Phone: _____ Email: _____

☐ \$ _____

☐ \$50

☐ \$100 (Contributor)

☐ \$500 (Donor)

☐ \$1,000 (Newsletter)


☐ \$2,000 (Patron)

☐ \$5,000 (Benefactor)

☐ \$10,000 (Corporate)

Please visit govcup.dnr.sc.gov for more information. 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.





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Current Project: M/V *Coastal Venture*



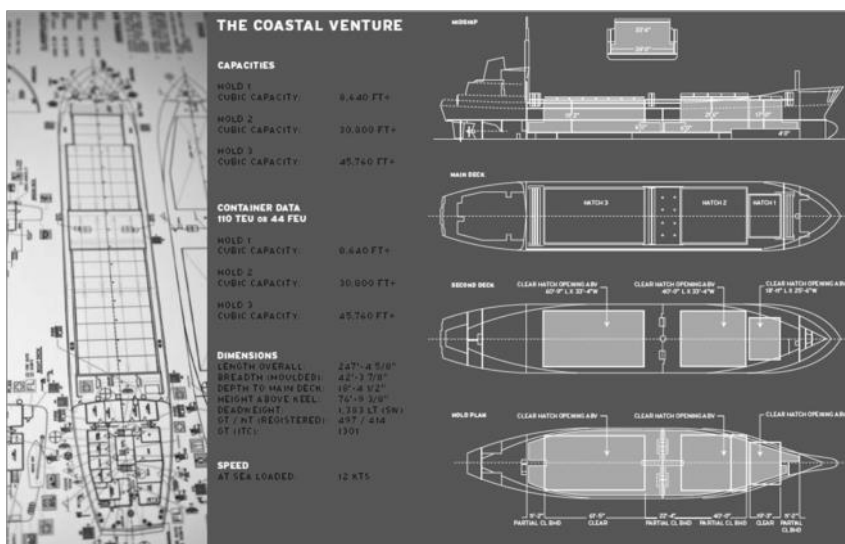
The current SC Memorial Reef project includes plans to sink the 247-ft M/V *Coastal Venture* in the Charleston Deep Reef MPA. The vessel (70-ft keel to top of the mast) will provide habitat for a diversity of species. Its complex structure will offer refuge for finfish and other marine organisms, as 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. We plan to deploy the vessel in 350 feet of water about a mile south of the sunken Highway 41 bridge.

Fundraising goal: \$500,000

The transporting and sinking of the M/V *Coastal Venture* are scheduled to occur around late February, early March. Fundraising will continue following deployment.

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

Funds raised: \$405,444



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)

A receipt for your tax-deductible donation will be provided!





BE PREPARED

for your 2022 fishing season!

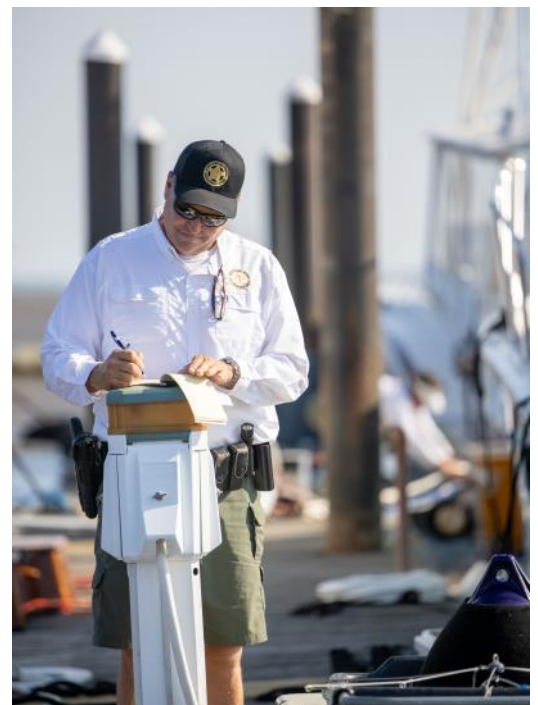
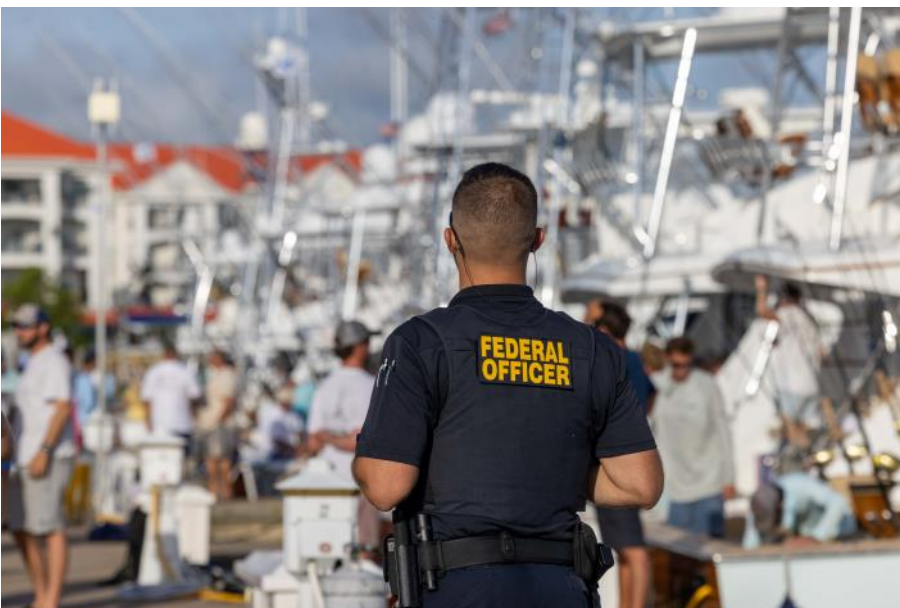


Below is a list of some of the permits, licenses and documentation that you will need to have in your possession so that boat owners, captains, and crew are ready for a successful fishing season. (NOTE: Double Check Your Expiration Dates!)

1) SC Saltwater Fishing License – Every individual (age 16 and above) aboard the vessel must have a valid, official SC Saltwater Recreational Fishing License in their possession. These licenses can be purchased at <https://dnrlicensing.sc.gov/DNRLicensingSales/SalesCategories.aspx> or by calling 1-866-714-3611, and expire one year from the issue date.

2) 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.

3) Atlantic HMS [Angling (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 (HMS; 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 permit. These permits cost \$26.00, and will be valid from the date of issuance through December 31, 2022. Visit the NMFS website at <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/> to apply.





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Save the date!

SC Governor's Cup Series Awards Reception

Founders Hall at Charles Towne Landing
Friday, September 30, 2022





See you on the docks!



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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.