



Tag & Release

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



July 2022 Vol. 27 No. 3



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

May 25 - 28 54th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament



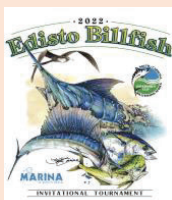
Contact: David Black
P.O. Box 1704
Georgetown SC 29442
(843) 546-1776 Fax (843) 546-7832
dblack@georgetownlandingmarina.com

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

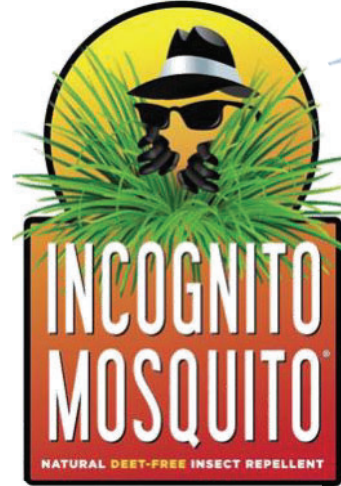


Contact: Brian Bell
3702 Docksite Road
Edisto Beach, SC 29438
(843) 631-5055 Fax (843) 631-5065
bkbell2009@gmail.com

For more information, contact GovCup@dnr.sc.gov.



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We have had an eventful and outstanding summer so far, including three landed blue marlin in Georgetown, a record number of billfish released at the Carolina Billfish Classic, and a successful sinking of the M/V *Coastal Venture*. Please continue reading for highlights from each tournament and a beautiful reflection on the latest SC Memorial Reef deployment written by Cameron Rhodes/The Buckskin Billfish. We hope to see you all next week at the Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament!



AWARD	GEORGETOWN	CBC
Outstanding Billfish Boat 1st Place	Boat: <i>Blue Sky</i> Owner: Greg Smith Captain: Jay Weaver 3 blue marlin, 1 sailfish released 2000 points	Boat: <i>Blue Sky</i> Owner: Greg Smith Captain: Jay Weaver 2 blue marlin, 7 sailfish released 2600 points
Outstanding Billfish Boat 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Reel Hook Up</i> Owner: Michael Carter Captain: Stuart Lackey 1 blue marlin, 1 white marlin, 1 sailfish released 1100 points	Boat: <i>Showtime</i> Owner: Andrew Dupps Captain: Jon Meade 1 blue marlin, 8 sailfish released 2200 points
Outstanding Billfish Boat 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Frequent Flyer</i> Owner: Larry Brown, Jr. Captain: Mike King 1 blue marlin, 1 sailfish released 800 points	Boat: <i>Buddy Rowe</i> Owner: Todd Wigfield and Matt Byrd Captain: Cordes Lucas 1 blue marlin, 7 sailfish released 2000 points
Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	Boat: <i>Blue Sky</i> Owner: Greg Smith Captain: Jay Weaver 3 blue marlin, 1 sailfish released 2000 points	Boat: <i>Blue Sky</i> Owner: Greg Smith Captain: Jay Weaver 2 blue marlin, 7 sailfish released 2600 points






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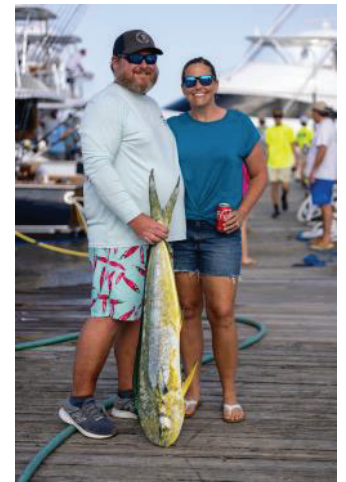
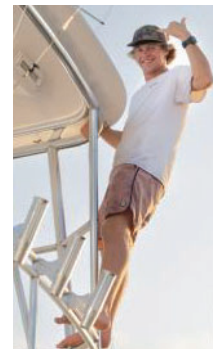
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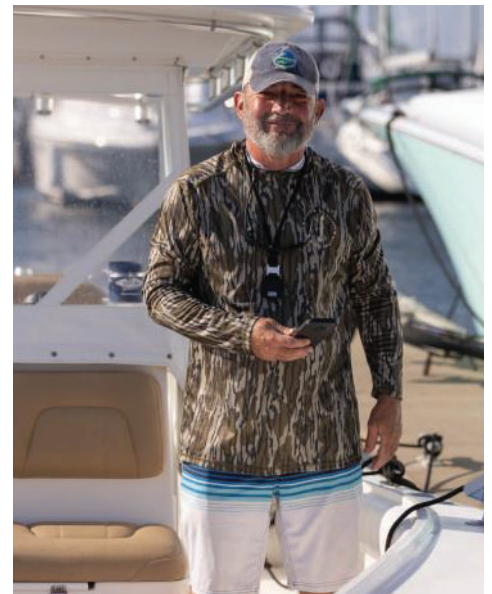
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THE SC MEMORIAL REEF



We have sunk the M/V *Coastal Venture*!

By: Cameron Rhodes, The Buckskin Billfish

The M/V *Coastal Venture* bore a tremendous weight as she took her final trip yesterday, one that sent her to the depths of the ocean to support life after life as the newest addition to the South Carolina Memorial Reef.



That great weight did not come from any steel, concrete, or other tangible materials. Instead, the M/V *Coastal Venture* carried the mournful yet beautiful burden of many heavy hearts. While the 247-ft vessel will serve as critical habitat for snapper and grouper, as well as pelagic species like billfish, she will also forever honor the men and women memorialized at the South Carolina Memorial Reef. This new reef structure is a perpetual reminder of those we've loved and lost in South Carolina's sport fishing community.

We'd like to thank Stevens Towing for their diligence, patience, and care throughout this long process. It took roughly 10 hours for the M/V *Coastal Venture* to sink and the crew remained steadfast in their careful watch and assistance. In addition, we are grateful to Metal Trades and staff with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources for their craftsmanship with various adornments, such as the cross, billfish, and plaque fixed to the stern and pilot house.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of many anonymous and named donors. Thank you for your immense show of support! Fundraising efforts will continue over the next several months as we work toward our overall project goal.

Also, thank you to the Sea Fix crew - Capt. JT, Frank, and Alberto - and the Johnson family for the opportunity for Gov Cup staff to go offshore and watch this momentous event.



Congratulations, South Carolina! We're proud to call this state home.



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)

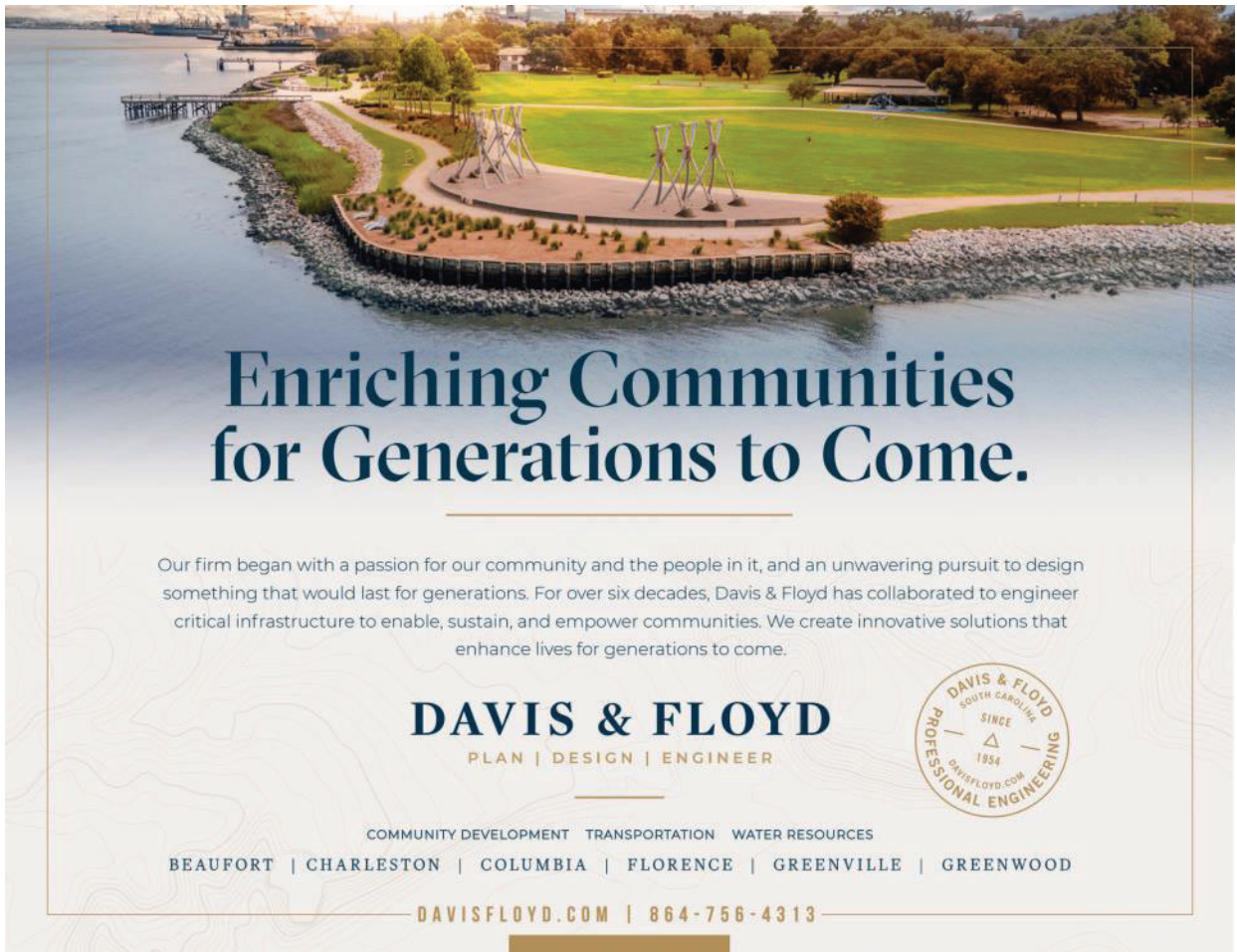
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AWARD GEORGETOWN		CBC
Outstanding Billfish (landed)	Boat: <i>Hydrosphere</i> Owner: Peter Lorris Captain: Matt Bierley Angler: Bryson Turner 532.1 pounds	N/A
Outstanding Dolphin	Boat: <i>High Yield</i> Owner: Bernard Linney Captain: Paul Wiseman Angler: Bernard Linney 52.1 pounds	Boat: <i>Micabe</i> Owner: Mike Larrow Captain: Chris Jennings Angler: Mike Larrow 51.8 pounds
Outstanding Tuna	Boat: <i>Cut and Dry</i> Owner: Fred Sancilio Captain: Fred Sancilio Angler: Leigh Sancilio 16.3-pound blackfin	Boat: <i>Pistol</i> Owner: Hal Turner Captain: Ed Keelin Angler: Hal Turner 23.2-pound blackfin
Outstanding Wahoo	Boat: <i>Reel Legacy</i> Owner: Mitch Avant Captain: Will Tayloe Angler: Mitch Avant 26.7 pounds	Boat: <i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhaney 41.2 pounds






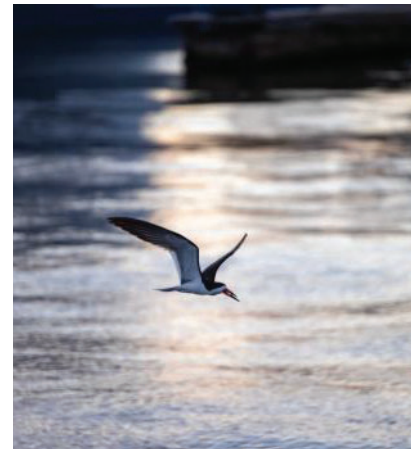
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AWARD	GEORGETOWN	CBC
Outstanding Female Angler 1st Place	Boat: <i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany 1 blue marlin released 600 points	Boat: <i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany 4 sailfish released 800 points
Outstanding Female Angler 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Legal Holiday</i> Owner: Fred Bergen Captain: Lawrence Bradham Angler: Fontaine Bergen 26.3-pound dolphin	Boat: <i>Showtime</i> Owner: Andrew Dupps Captain: Jon Meade Angler: Natalia Caroline 3 sailfish released 600 points
Outstanding Female Angler 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Frequent Flyer</i> Owner: Larry Brown, Jr. Captain: Mike King Angler: Hayelen Kelly 23.4-pound dolphin	Boat: <i>Showtime</i> Owner: Andrew Dupps Captain: Jon Meade Angler: Kelly Kirkpatrick 2 sailfish released 400 points



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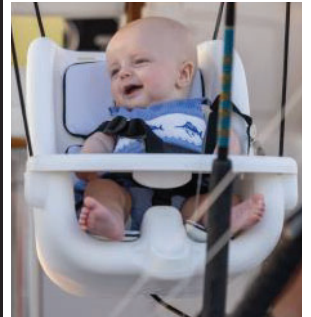
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AWARD	GEORGETOWN	CBC
Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place	Boat: <i>Tighten Up</i> Owners: Kevin Overstreet Captain: Kevin Overstreet Angler: Riley Overstreet, age 16 28.0-lb dolphin	Boat: <i>Sea Fix</i> Owner: Harry and Fran Johnson Captain: John Thomas Angler: Sidney Thomas, age 13 1 blue marlin, 3 sailfish released 1200 points
Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Insane-O</i> Owner: Denton Williams Captain: John McNamara Angler: James Blythe, age 15 27.8-lb dolphin	Boat: <i>Glazed</i> Owners: Miles Herring Captain: Miles Herring Angler: Woods Herring, age 13 1 blue marlin released 600 points
Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Big Sky</i> Owners: Jim Johnston Captain: Jim Johnston Angler: Jameson Johnston, age 15 18.3-pound dolphin	Boat: <i>Voodoo Child</i> Owner: James D. Edens Captain: Zach Adams Angler: Bull Adams, age 12 2 sailfish released 400 points



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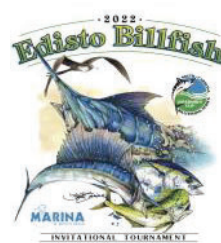
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The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, gender, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, PO Box 167, Columbia, South Carolina,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