



# Tag & Release

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



November 2023  
Vol. 28 No. 5



## Series Reflections:

Thanks to everyone for a fantastic 2023 tournament series! We held the Awards Reception at Founders Hall and had a wonderful evening celebrating our award recipients. A&P Catering and the Marina Variety Store catered dinner, and Lawler Beverage Co. provided the bar service. DJ Trevor D. and Marshall with D&M Productions kept us entertained and moving on the dance floor. We'd also like to thank Jill Dugger, owner of Cookie Kaleidoscope, for the Gov Cup logo and 35th anniversary cookies.

Congratulations to the *Trash Man*, the 2023 Series champions! For those of you who missed the reception, the winners, photos from the event, and awards speeches written by Cameron Rhodes, owner and operator of The Buckskin Billfish, are included in this issue. We were honored to name Captain Mike Glaesner the Carroll A. Campbell Award recipient. Our 2023 Mate of the Year Award went to a very deserving young man, Kyle Clark, for his impressive skills and hard work aboard the *Trash Man*.

Additionally, two chairman awards were presented to former chairmen Steve Mungo and Fred Bergen. We are sincerely grateful for their service and leadership.

We are excited to announce that the HMY Lowcountry Cup officially will be part of the Series in 2024 bringing the total to five tournaments! We will be welcoming back the Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament, the Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament, the Carolina Billfish Classic, and the Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament. Be sure to mark your calendars for an eventful 2024 Series!



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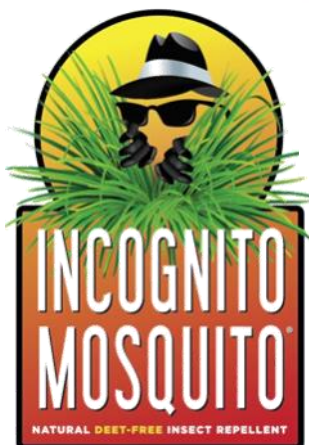


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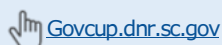
## SAVE THE DATES

### 36<sup>th</sup> Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2024 Tournament Schedule

May 8 - 11	Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament
May 22 - 25	56 <sup>th</sup> Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament
June 19 - 22	Carolina Billfish Classic
July 3 - 6	HMY Lowcountry Cup
July 17 - 20	Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament

#### For more information:

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@South Carolina Governor's  
Cup Billfishing Series



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AWARD	SERIES
Outstanding Billfish Boat 1st Place	Boat: <i>Trash Man</i> Owner: Ben Wall Captain: Geno Sauers 8 blue marlin, 11 sailfish released 7075 points
Outstanding Billfish Boat 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Sportin' Life</i> Owner: Graham Eubank Captain: Mike Glaesner 7 blue marlin, 1 white marlin, 10 sailfish released 6575 points
Outstanding Billfish Boat 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Sweet Spot</i> Owner: Sweet Spot Marine Captain: Chris Kubik 5 blue marlin, 14 sailfish released 5875 points
Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	Boat: <i>Trash Man</i> Owner: Ben Wall Captain: Geno Sauers 8 blue marlin, 11 sailfish released 7075 points





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## Governor Carroll A. Campbell Jr. Award Captain Mike Glaesner

By: Cameron Rhodes, The Buckskin Billfish



The Carroll A. Campbell Award was created to honor individuals and families who have been an integral part of billfish conservation in our state and who embody Mr. Campbell's principles and passions. This award is one of our most prestigious honors, recognition of a lifetime of commitment and service to everyone in this very room, as well as every other angler who enjoys blue water fishing off our state's coast. And it would truly take an entire lifetime to fully recognize and describe the immense contributions and achievements of this year's recipient.

Described by Chairman Stokely Holder as such an excellent fisherman that he could find a blue marlin in a mud puddle, this career captain has a professional fishing record that has unequivocally set the standard for others. If you ask any owner, mate, or captain from South Carolina for a list of the most respected captains in the industry, he will always be etched in the top echelon.

Whether using his eyes, nose, or gut, this captain finds the fish where others wouldn't. He comes by this astounding skill from years of experience fishing with some of South Carolina's pioneering blue water fishermen, including his late father. Even when he was just a lanky boy with long hair in the early 1970s, other anglers recognized that he was exceptional.

Dick McCaskill, who fished with tonight's honoree in those early years and has joined us here this evening, says "You could just tell, even then, that he was a very good fisherman."

This captain landed his first blue marlin in 1974 at the age of 14. And he's got the newspaper clippings to prove it. He's a sport fishing history buff, chock-full of facts and memories from those early years, those days of little regulation and rudimentary navigation. He enjoys putting fish in the boat, but carries a conservation wisdom inherited from his great mentors and his own experiences. And while he's been a passionate steward of the resource, he's also been an effective teacher and role model for up-and-coming mates and captains.

McCaskill says, "If you fish with him, you better be on your toes, because if you make a mistake, he'll let you know about it."

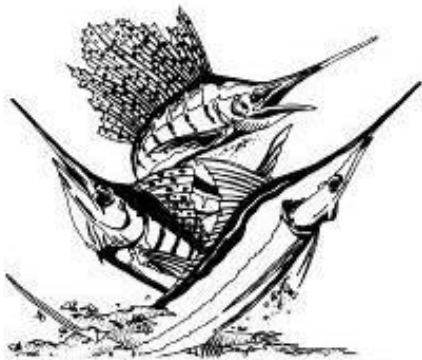
While he brings a competitive and fiery intensity to each day on the water, this year's recipient quietly reveals his tenderness. Much like his beloved father, he wields a softness, a friendliness, that has built measurable trust and respect across the industry over his 40-year career.

When Graham Eubank was asked about tonight's recipient, he said, "Having participated in the series and having fished with him over the past 35 years, I can say that he is without question one of the top captains in the industry. One of the best to ever hold the wheel of a sportfishing boat, period."

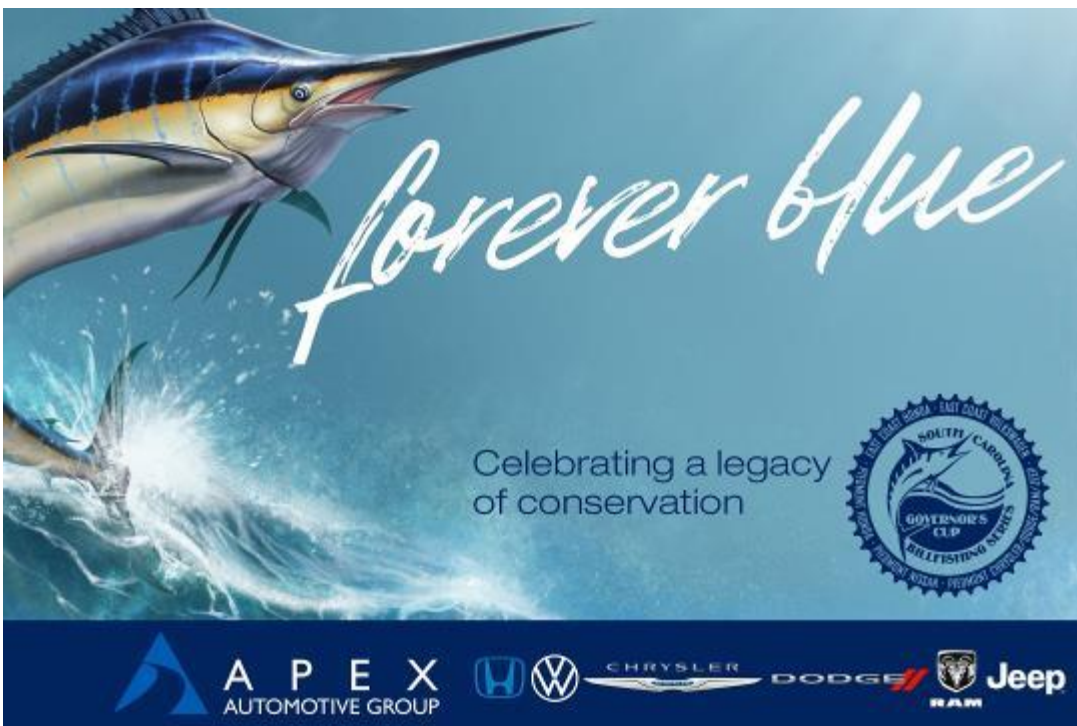
Ladies and gentlemen, it is our great honor and privilege to award this year's Carroll A. Campbell award to one of South Carolina's finest fisherman, Captain Mike Glaesner.







**STEVE T. GOIONE**  
MARINE ARTIST





AWARD	SERIES
Outstanding Dolphin	Boat: <i>Callisto</i> Owner: Robert and Bo Mason Captain: Stevie Cramer Angler: Perry Peace 50.7 pounds
Outstanding Tuna	Boat: <i>Reel Steel</i> Owner: Bryant Stuart Captain: Bryant Stuart Angler: Jenny Mangum 23.9-pound blackfin
Outstanding Wahoo	Boat: <i>Run-A-Wade</i> Owner: Wade Harper Captain: Jack Harper Angler: Jay Thompson 63.6 pounds



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## Advisory Board of Directors

### Chairman Awards:



#### Steve Mungo

Mr. Steve Mungo, who still sits on the board today and has been an active member since 2017, served as chair for 4 years. As Chair, Mr. Mungo prioritized efficiency and led extensive fundraising efforts for various South Carolina Memorial Reef Projects, including last year's M/V Coastal Venture Project. Please join us in thanking Mr. Mungo for his many years of direction and service to the Series, as well as billfish conservation efforts along our state's coast.

#### Fred Bergen

Mr. Fred Bergen, who has since termed off the board after serving as a passionate and committed board member for 6.5 years. Although his time as chair was relatively brief, Mr. Bergen left a lasting impression on his fellow board members with his careful attention to complex issues and his eagerness to hear all perspectives. He remains a steadfast advocate for youth anglers, continually encouraging and supporting their sport fishing aspirations. Please join us in thanking Mr. Bergen for his many years of service to the Governor's Cup, the South Carolina Memorial Reef, and our youngest generation of anglers.







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## Mate of the Year Award: Kyle Clark

By: Cameron Rhodes, The Buckskin Billfish



The Mate of the Year Award, which comes with a prize sponsored by Palmetto State Armory, recognizes exceptional mates who leave a lasting impression on their peers, as well as captains, owners, and tournament staff. The hardworking

men and women we see in the cockpit are critical cornerstones in our sport fishing community. Their preparation and skills serve as the bedrock of any stellar fishing performance. Recipients of the Mate of the Year Award don't just showcase integrity, sportsmanship, reliability, leadership, and skill. They're also active members of the community, setting an example for up-and-coming mates still learning the ropes.

This year's recipient is woven so intricately into the fabric of the sport fishing program that he works for that it's hard to imagine the team without him. He's been with the boat for over a decade and in that time got married and became a father. He's seen captains come and go and ownership change across generations, and yet he's remained the steady force in the cockpit, the reliable mate who is more like kin than a hired hand.

He's great with kids, offering clear and patient guidance when youth anglers battle billfish or fat red snapper. And he's got an incontrovertible sense of humor, able to roll with the punches and dish them out too. This is indeed a required trait for this particular crew, a group of talented anglers who love each other like brothers.

This year, on the final day of competition, he and the rest of his team clawed their way, fish for fish, to re-clinch the overall win in the Series. It

was a nail biter through to the very end, a fitting finish for what he and others on the boat call, "a day two team". While many are responsible for that success, it goes without saying that his contributions to the Trash Man program have helped pave the way to a long list of triumphs, both on and off the water. Since he wholly embodies what it means to be an exceptional mate, we are proud to announce that our 2023 Mate of the Year is Kyle Clark.





AWARD	SERIES
Outstanding Lady Angler 1st Place	Boat: <i>Sweet Spot</i> Owner: Sweet Spot Marine Captain: Chris Kubik Angler: Holly McAlhany 5 blue marlin, 12 sailfish released 5400 points
Outstanding Lady Angler 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Home Run</i> Owner: Steve Mungo Captain: Grant Bentley Angler: Hope Bentley 2 blue marlin, 4 sailfish released 2000 points
Outstanding Lady Angler 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Mary Agnes</i> Owner: Heico LTD Captain: Al Johnson Angler: Britta Stoeckel 1 blue marlin released 600 points



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Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place	Boat: <i>Sea Fix</i> Owner: Harry and Fran Johnson Captain: John Thomas Angler: Sidney Thomas, age 14 9 sailfish released 1800 points
Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Voodoo Child</i> Owner: Dale Daly Captain: Zack Adams Angler: Bull Adams, age 13 1 blue marlin, 1 sailfish released 800 points
Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Tighten Up</i> Owner: Kevin and JoAnne Overstreet Captain: Kevin Overstreet Angler: Harper Burke, age 13 2 sailfish released 400 points



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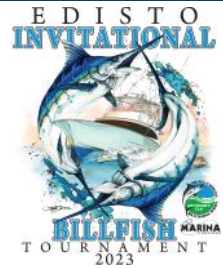


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The S.C. Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Division reminds the public of Coast Watch, which was developed to better help citizens report violations of saltwater recreational and commercial fishing laws, as well as marine environmental 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.