



Tag & Release

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



Series Reflections:

**June 2025
Vol. 30 No. 3**

The 2025 Series is here, and we had a fantastic bite for the first three tournaments! So far 71 boats have released a total of 255 billfish — 68 blue marlin, 3 white marlin, and 184 sailfish.

During the Charleston Billfish Invitational, *Viking 74* took home the first place award for Outstanding Billfish Boat after releasing three blue marlin, one white marlin, and three sailfish. At the 57th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament, *Claytime* took the win, releasing two blue marlin and six sailfish. *Bull Pen* took home first place at the HMY Lowcountry Cup, releasing four blue marlin and seven sailfish.

The excitement continues with the next two highly anticipated events in the series. The Carolina Billfish Classic is this week, so get your gear ready and your crew fired up! After Fourth of July celebrations and a little break, we'll finish off the season down south for the Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament.

We're all hoping for calm seas, clear skies, and plenty of billfish in the spread! Whether you're fishing or following from shore, stay tuned for daily updates, weigh-ins, and leaderboard action. To track our tournaments, follow SC Governor's Cup on Facebook and Instagram. You can also follow our live updates on Reel Time Apps, which you can find [here](#).

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37th Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2025 Tournament Schedule

May 7 - 10, 2025

Charleston Billfish Invitational

[Charleston Billfish Invitational](#)

Contact: Stan Jones

49 Immigration Street Charleston, SC 29403

(843) 790-4001

billfish@seabreezemarina.com



May 21 - 24, 2025

57th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

[57th 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



May 28 - 31, 2025

HMY Lowcountry Cup

[HMY Lowcountry Cup](#)

Contact: Deidre Menefee

6119 Bears Bluff Road Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487

(843) 345-0369

LCC@HMY.com



June 18 - 21, 2025

Carolina Billfish Classic

[Carolina Billfish Classic](#)

Contact: Loyd Weston

20 Patriots Point Road Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

(843) 568-5230

td@fishcbbc.com



July 16 - 19, 2025

Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament

[Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament](#)

Contact: Charles Yeomans

P. O. Box 598 Edisto Beach, SC 29464

(843) 631-5055

themarinaeb@gmail.com



For more information, please visit:

GovCup@dnr.sc.gov • govcup.dnr.sc.gov

PO Box 12559 • Charleston, SC 29422

Remembering Carroll A. Campbell

A reflection by his granddaughter

My First Catch

I was just three years old when I caught my very first fish—a ladyfish—on a Barbie fishing rod. It happened down in DeBordieu, in Georgetown, while visiting my Nanny and Poppy. My parents took me out on the water behind their house in North Inlet, aboard my Poppy, Carroll Ashmore Campbell Jr.'s boat, a 15-foot Scout that we often took up and down the creek while growing up. That day, I caught the fish all by myself. My mom and dad were over the moon with excitement, and to everyone's surprise, it ended up being the biggest fish caught on the boat that day. That moment was more than just a first catch—it was the beginning of a lifelong connection to the water and to a place filled with cherished memories. After my grandfather passed, I spent many summers at the beach with my Nanny, Iris Campbell, and every visit reminded me of the special bond our family shares with Georgetown. It's a place woven into our family history—one that holds deep meaning, even from those early days with a pink fishing rod in hand. Knowing that I caught my first fish in the same waters where my grandfather (Poppy) built his legacy is incredibly special. Every time I return to Georgetown, or hear about the Governor's Cup and think about all my grandfather accomplished, I'm not only reminded of him, but of the memories that first fish helped spark.

-Blakeney Campbell



The Charleston Billfish Invitational

May 7-10, 2025

Outstanding Billfish Boat - 1st Place

Boat: Viking 74

Owner: Pat Healey

Captain: Sean Dooley

3 blue marlin, 3 sailfish and 1 white marlin released

Points: 2,600



Outstanding Billfish Boat - 2nd Place

Boat: Cha Cha

Owner: VOR Sportfishing

Captain: Bennett Griffin

3 blue marlin and 3 sailfish released

Points: 2,400



Outstanding Billfish Boat - 3rd Place

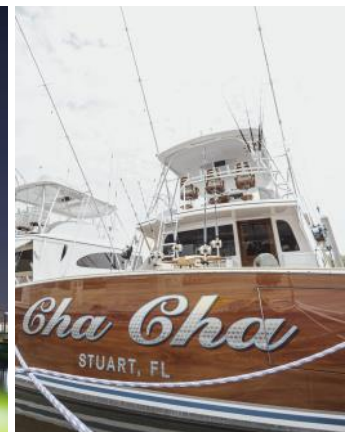
Boat: Claytime

Owner: Jon Clay

Captain: Phillip Fender

3 blue marlin released

Points: 1,800



The Charleston Billfish Invitational

May 7-10, 2025

Outstanding Dolphin

Boat: Showtime!

Owner: Fred Hardwick

Captain: Jon Meade

Angler: Fred Hardwick

42.6 pounds



Outstanding Tuna

Boat: High Yield

Owner: High Yield Sportfishing

Captain: Paul Wiseman

Angler: Bernard Linney

16.4-pound blackfin



Outstanding Wahoo

Boat: Redemption

Owner: Wes McAfee & Lee Ravenel

Captain: Wes McAfee

Angler: Jack Branch

29.3 pounds



The Charleston Billfish Invitational

May 7-10, 2025

Outstanding Female Angler - 1st Place

Ashley Sims

Boat: Cha Cha

Owner: VOR Sportfishing

Captain: Bennett Griffin

3 blue marlin and 3 sailfish released

Points: 2,400





W.W. Williams

CONSIDER IT DONE.

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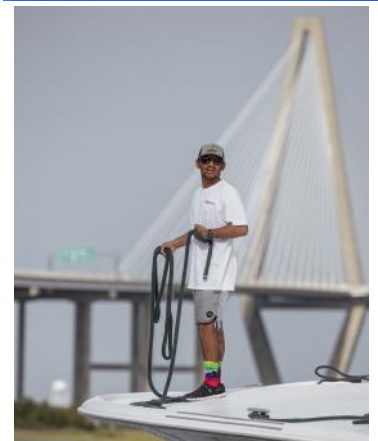


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57th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

May 22-24, 2025

Outstanding Billfish Boat - 1st Place

Boat: Claytime

Owner: Jon Clay

Captain: Phillip Fender

2 blue marlin and 6 sailfish released

Points: 2,400



Outstanding Billfish Boat - 2nd Place

Boat: Bull Pen

Owner: Todd Wigfield & Matt Byrd

Captain: Cordes Lucas

2 blue marlin and 3 sailfish released

Points: 1,800

Outstanding Billfish Boat - 3rd Place

Boat: Callisto

Owner: Robert Mason

Captain: Jay Weaver

2 blue marlin and 2 sailfish released

Points: 1,600



57th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

May 22-24, 2025

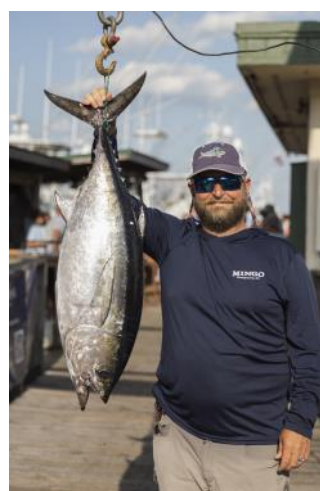
Outstanding Dolphin

Boat: Storm Chaser

Owner & Captain: Ebben Aley

Angler: Steven Wilkins

35.5 pounds



Outstanding Tuna

Boat: Mingo

Owner: Jody Tamsberg

Captain: Brad Payne

Angler: Joel Tamsberg

28-pound blackfin



Outstanding Wahoo

Boat: Undue Risk

Owner & Captain: Michael Schlicksup

Angler: Houston Reed

56.6 pounds

57th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

May 22-24, 2025

Outstanding Female Angler - 1st Place

Ashley Sims

Boat: Cha Cha

Owner: VOR Sportfishing

Captain: Bennett Griffin

1 blue marlin and 3 sailfish released

Points: 1,200



Outstanding Female Angler - 2nd Place

Holly McAlhany

Boat: Sweet Spot

Owner: Sweet Spot Marine

Captain: Chris Kubik

4 sailfish released

Points: 800

Outstanding Female Angler - 3rd Place

Carson Smith

Boat: Lady-S

Owner & Captain: Mark Smith

2 sailfish released

Points: 400



57th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

May 22-24, 2025

Outstanding Youth Angler - 1st Place

Julia Gressette

Boat: Man Cave

Owner: MCF Family Holdings LLC

Captain: Chase Merriman

1 blue marlin and 1 sailfish released

Points: 800



Outstanding Youth Angler - 2nd Place

Miles Cothran

Boat: Carolina Style

Owner: Brett Kraeling

Captain: Wren Fogle

1 blue marlin released

Points: 600

Outstanding Youth Angler - 3rd Place

Ford Schlicksup

Boat: Undue Risk

Owner & Captain: Michael Schlicksup

1 sailfish released

Points: 200



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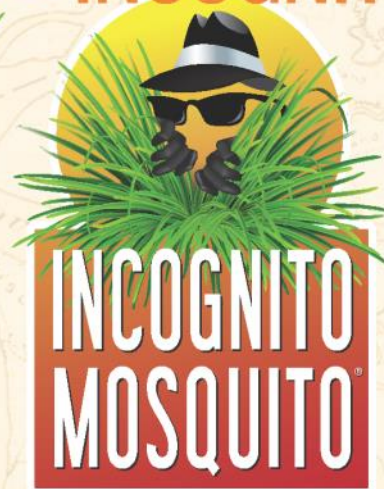


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HMY Lowcountry Cup

May 28-31, 2025

Outstanding Billfish Boat - 1st Place

Boat: Bull Pen

Owner: Todd Wigfield & Matt Byrd

Captain: Cordes Lucas

4 blue marlin and 7 sailfish released

Points: 3,800



Outstanding Billfish Boat - 2nd Place

Boat: Viking 74

Owner: Pat Healey

Captain: Sean Dooley

3 blue marlin and 6 sailfish released

Points: 3,000

Outstanding Billfish Boat - 3rd Place

Boat: Fish On

Owner: Fish On Sportfishing LLC

Captain: Andrew Dotterweich

3 blue marlin and 3 sailfish released

Points: 2,400



HMY Lowcountry Cup

May 28-31, 2025

Outstanding Dolphin

Boat: Dugga Boy

Owner: Andrew Dupps

Captain: Bobby Garmany

Angler: Andrew Dupps

44.3 pounds



Outstanding Tuna

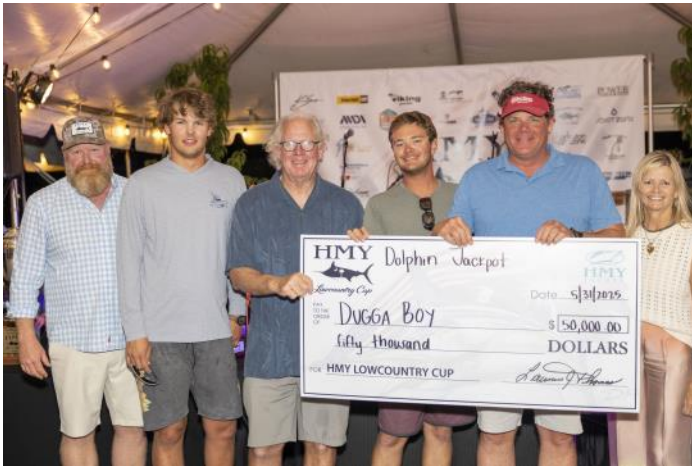
Boat: Syked Out

Owner: David Sykes

Captain: Dan Woody

Angler: Dylan Wallace

22.8-pound blackfin



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HMV Lowcountry Cup

May 28-31, 2025

Outstanding Female Angler - 1st Place

Holly McAlhany

Boat: Sweet Spot

Owner: Sweet Spot Marine

Captain: Chris Kubik

1 blue marlin and 3 sailfish released

Points: 1,200



Outstanding Female Angler - 2nd Place

Ashley Sims

Boat: Cha Cha

Owner: VOR Sportfishing

Captain: Bennett Griffin

5 sailfish released

Points: 1,000

Outstanding Female Angler - 3rd Place

Carson Smith

Boat: Lady-S

Owner & Captain: Mark Smith

1 blue marlin and 1 sailfish released

Points: 800



HMV Lowcountry Cup

May 28-31, 2025

Outstanding Youth Angler - 1st Place

Julia Gressette

Boat: Man Cave

Owner: MCF Family Holdings LLC

Captain: Chase Merriman

1 blue marlin and 2 sailfish released

Points: 1,000



Outstanding Youth Angler - 2nd Place

Miles Cothran

Boat: Fish On

Owner: Fish On Sportfishing LLC

Captain: Andrew Dotterweich

1 blue marlin and 1 sailfish released

Points: 800



Outstanding Youth Angler - 3rd Place

Leila Gressette

Boat: Man Cave

Owner: MCF Family Holdings LLC

Captain: Chase Merriman

2 sailfish released

Points: 400









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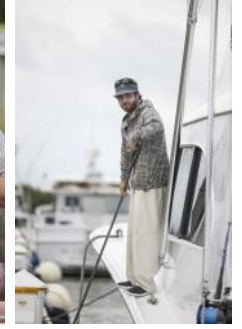
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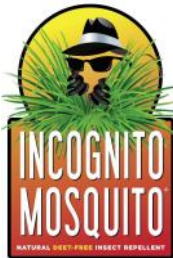
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