



Tag & Release

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



Series Reflections:

**April 2026
Vol. 31 No. 2**

The 2026 Series is here, and we hope everyone is excited for five tournaments this season! None of this would be possible without the support of our generous sponsors. We are so thankful for the many businesses and individuals who have contributed to ensure each year is a success. Please note our many sponsors, highlighted throughout the newsletter. We truly appreciate the support, commitment, and dedication.

We are looking forward to kicking off the season with the Charleston Billfish Invitational, which will be hosted out of Seabreeze Marina. The 58th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament, hosted by Georgetown Landing Marina, will follow, and then the HMY Lowcountry Cup will take place out of Toler's Cove at the end of May. In June, the Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina will host the Carolina Billfish Classic as the fourth Series tournament. In July, we'll head down to the Marina at Edisto Beach for the Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament. Additional details regarding these events can be found on the following page of the newsletter. Be sure to register early to ensure docking space at the marinas, as most have limited slips available!

RULES! Please review the Series 2026 Fishing Guidelines [here](#).

We're looking forward to seeing you on the docks!

2026 Platinum Sponsors:



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38th Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2026 Tournament Schedule

May 6 - 9, 2026

Charleston Billfish Invitational

[Charleston Billfish Invitational](#)

Contact: Katie Harriss and Claudia Holcombe
49 Immigration Street Charleston, SC 29403
(843) 790-4001
billfish@seabreezemarina.com



May 20 - 23, 2026

58th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

[58th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament](#)

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



May 27 - 30, 2026

HMY Lowcountry Cup

[HMY Lowcountry Cup](#)

Contact: Desiree Freeman
7 Lockwood Drive, SC 29401
(561) 972-0564
LCC@HMY.com



June 17 - 20, 2026

Carolina Billfish Classic

[Carolina Billfish Classic](#)

Contact: Loyd Weston
20 Patriots Point Road Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
(843) 568-5230
td@fishcbc.com



July 15 - 18, 2026

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

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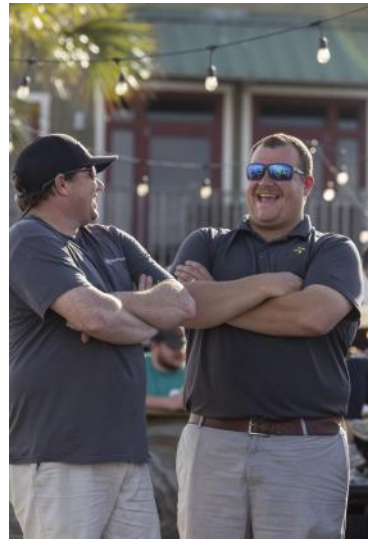


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Get Ready for the 2026 Fishing Season!

Below is a list 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.

****Double check 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://license.gooutdoorsouthcarolina.com/Licensing/CustomLookup.aspx>.

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. For vessel registration information, please visit <https://vessel.gooutdoorsouthcarolina.com/Vessel/CustomLookup.aspx>.

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. To obtain an HMS permit, please visit <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/>.





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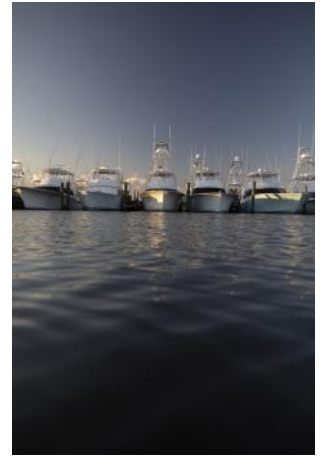


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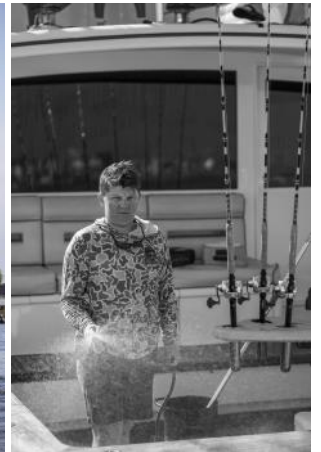
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2026 TOURNAMENTS



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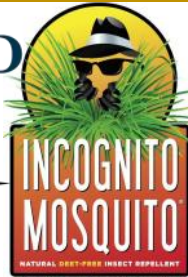


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The S.C. Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Division reminds the public of Coast Watch, which was developed to better help citizens report violations of saltwater recreational and commercial fishing laws, as well as marine environmental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