



TAG & RELEASE

Email: wildlife@sc.rr.com

Volume 5, No. 1 April 2000

2000 12TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S CUP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE...

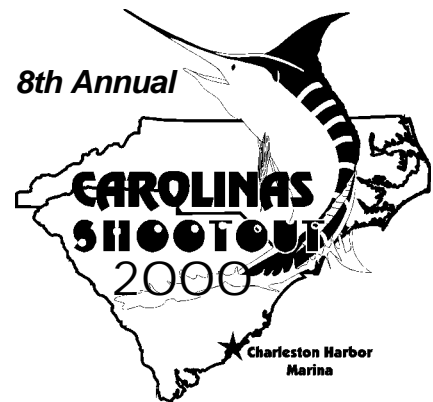
- May 3-7** *Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Edisto Marina
3702 Docksite Rd.
Edisto Beach SC 29438
843-869-3504 FAX 843-869-3738
- May 17-21** *Bohicket Invitational Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Damien Zanetti
1880 Andell Bluff Blvd.
Johns Island SC 29455
843-768-1280 FAX 843-768-3481
- May 24-28** *Georgetown Landing Blue Marlin Tournament*
Contact: Ricky Ferdon
P.O. Box 1704
Georgetown SC 29442
843-546-1776 FAX 843-546-7832
- June 7-11** *Marlin Quay Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Charles Stone
P.O. Box 549
Murrells Inlet SC 29576
843-651-4444 FAX 843-651-7795
- June 21-25** *Isle Of Palms Marina Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Brian Berrigan
P.O. Box 550
Isle of Palms SC 29451
843-886-0209 FAX 843-886-0058
- July 12-16** *Dock Holidays Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Susie Watson
1525 13th Ave. North
North Myrtle Beach SC 29582
843-280-6354 FAX 843-280-9002

For more information contact:

Wayne Waltz,
Office of Fisheries Management
843-762-5094 email: waltzw@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us

**A RELEASE TODAY
IS A
FISH TOMORROW!**

CAROLINAS-GEORGIA SHOOTOUT TO KICK OFF 2000 SERIES...



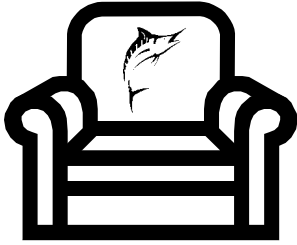
Charleston Harbor Marina April 27-29, 2000

Last fall, Hurricane Floyd brushed the South Carolina coast, then plowed into the North Carolina coastline, damaging boats and property in its path. Although our state escaped with relatively minor impact, several of Charleston Harbor Marina's docks were severely damaged and many of the North Carolina Governor's Cup boats were either moved because of or damaged by the storm, prompting the cancellation of the 1999 8th Annual Carolinas Shootout.

S.C. and N.C., together with Georgia, who were to compete for the first time by invitation after the successful completion of its first Governor's Cup, opted to postpone rather than call off the Shootout. The three states decided to fish the event April 27-29, 2000 at Charleston Harbor.

The annual Shootout, a tag and release only event, has become a great tradition to determine the best anglers in the Carolinas, and is enhanced this year by the addition of Georgia's best.

The 8th Annual Carolinas Shootout will be held April 27-29 at Charleston Harbor Marina. For more information, call Danielle deHoll Gredick at 843-856-9996.



FROM THE CHAIR...

Welcome...

Welcome to the 2000 Governor's Cup Billfishing Series and our first newsletter.

In '99, South Carolina anglers released over 95 percent of billfish caught. Most of those were tagged, as were many tuna, dolphin and wahoo. In short, South Carolina anglers are at the forefront of today's catch and release ethic...and my hat's off to these great sportsmen.

My hat's also off to a group of business leaders who've pledged not only support, but a lot of dollars to the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series. Our sponsors remain at the core of our program, funding it so our anglers can participate in what's become one of the prestigious billfishing events in the world.

Cummins Marine and Cummins Atlantic, Williams Detroit Diesel and Carolina First are Corporate level sponsors. HMY Yachts became a Benefactor this year and Gamble Givens and Moody came aboard as a Patron. We all should take the time to thank these outstanding corporations for their support, and not forget those past sponsors who've helped us achieve so many goals over the past eleven years.

Thanks are also in order to our newsletter sponsors, represented by their advertisements in this issue. Without them, we couldn't print and mail the *Tag & Release*.

Charleston Harbor Marina withdrew from the regular Series due to dock damage, but the Carolinas Shootout will kick off our 2000 season there with a bang, especially with Georgia joining the battle. Our first event is Edisto May 3-7 and we finish the year at Dock Holidays July 12-16, which is a change from our usual north to south progression. I can't wait...and I hope to see many of you this season on the docks!

Bill Cox, Jr., Chairman
SCGCBS, Orangeburg
bicox@coxwood.com

DIRECT LINES...

A Promise Kept...

It's hard to believe that the Marine Recreational Fisheries Stamp program is in its eighth year. This program plays an important role in DNR's efforts to conserve and manage the state's marine recreational fisheries, providing information and funding. The stamp provides a means to count and survey boat and shell fish anglers. It is a way to generate revenues that are used for programs, operations and activities that benefit the recreational saltwater angler and the resources they target.

Since it's effective date of July 1, 1992, the program has sold approximately 630,232 stamps to fishermen and 42,213 to collectors. Art collectors and conservationists have purchased approximately 11,380 limited edition and medallion prints by artists such as Randy McGovern, Diane Peebles, Mark Susinno and South Carolina's own Bernie Slice and Matt Constantine. The program has generated \$3.9M in net revenues with approximately 85% (\$3.3M) from the sale of stamps, \$294,773 from print sales and the remainder from the sale of annual permits (\$263,110), art contest fees (\$4,025) and other activities (\$795).

One of the main concerns voiced by anglers back in the late 80's and early 90's was the fear that funds generated from the stamp would be lost in the black hole of state bureaucracy. Most were more than willing to purchase a stamp if they knew the funds would be used for programs and activities that benefited them and the resources they cherish. And benefit them it has.

During the past year these funds have been used to fund the marine game fish tagging program which supplies anglers and tournaments with free tagging kits; six artificial reef construction projects were completed on six different permitted sites since July; seven tournaments were surveyed last fall documenting the number of vessel trips and number of fish being caught; the billfish monitoring program documented a record catch of 524 billfish during tournament and non-tournament fishing with the majority released

alive and tagged; a study to determine the monetary value of selected finfish for use in litigation and in determining fines involving environmental accidents and illegal activities is being conducted in cooperation with Clemson University; the fish carcass collection program successfully collected wracks from 37 anglers, which were measured for total, fork, and standard lengths, examined to determine sex and maturity, and aged by sectioned otoliths; all 20 public shellfish grounds were inspected and signs were replaced on grounds as needed; shellfish maps were made available to the public free; popular natural history publications, the Sea Science Series, maps, rules and regulations and fish rulers are but a few of materials made available to the angling public and the list goes on. All of these activities were funded totally or in part with saltwater stamp revenues. In addition, 20% of the funds support coastal law enforcement activities. The administrative overhead to accomplish all this? 5% or less!

As an added bonus, the charter vessel permit and logbook program has provided a wealth of information. This year South Carolina will take part in a comparative study looking at three ways to collect catch and effort information from charter and head boats. The historical methods used to collect this information have been questioned mainly because of the data we have generated using our vessel logbooks. The results of the study could have far reaching impacts on how future data is collected from the for-hire fleet up and down the entire east coast and Gulf of Mexico.

As other states struggle with saltwater licensing issues, South Carolina continues to play a lead role in marine conservation and effective management through the use of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Stamp program. Not a bad track record.

Wayne Waltz

Office of Fisheries Management
email: waltzw@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us



1999 GOVERNOR'S CUP...

Boats Participating: 164
 Billfish Hooked: 350+
 Billfish Caught: 187
 Billfish Weighed: 7
 Tag and Release Rate: 96%
 Number of Tuna, Dolphin, Wahoo
 Tagged and Released: 115

TOP TEN BOATS	TOTAL
ROOKIEIV	2,091.4
HIGH COTTON	1,900
MAR JEN	1,750
TROUBLEMAKER	1,750
BIG GAME	1,400
BIG KAHUNA	1,222.6
PISCES IV	1,200
BLUE WATER	1,175
OVERTIME	1,050
RISKY BUSINESS	1,037.5

TOP BOAT

POINTS: 2,091.4
 BOAT: ROOKIEIV
 OWNER: EDDIEBUCKSR.
 CAPTAIN: BOBBY GARMANY

LARGEST BILLFISH

FISH: 479.0 lbs. Blue Marlin
 BOAT: ROOKIEIV
 OWNER: EDDIEBUCKSR.
 ANGLER: EDDIEBUCKSR.
 CAPTAIN: BOBBY GARMANY

BILLFISH CONSERVATIONIST

POINTS: 1,900
 BOAT: HIGH COTTON
 OWNER: ED NORRIS
 CAPTAIN: BUSTER MELTON

BLUE WATER CONSERVATION

POINTS: 3,150
 BOAT: LUCKY DEVIL
 OWNER: LIN SMITH
 CAPTAIN: JIM CLINE

LICENSES BY PHONE...

24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK
 1-888-4FISH SC (434-7472)

Securities Brokerage

Asset Management

Retirement Services

E. Thomas Byrd Jr.
 CIBC World Markets Corp.

218 Haddrell Street
 Mt. Pleasant SC 29464
 Tel: 843.881.6102
 Tel: 800.569.9009
 Fax: 843.881.6082

CIBC
Oppenheimer

A DIVISION OF CIBC WORLD MARKETS CORP.
 Member SIPC

Y2K RULE CHANGES...

Striking fish and appeals process...

In November 1999, the SCGCBS Board of Directors unanimously voted to require anglers to strike their own fish in order to qualify for Series points. This is identical to the IGFA rule concerning striking of fish, but the Board stopped short of requiring full IGFA compliance, deferring to the individual tournaments to govern their participants according to each individual event's rules. The rule was adopted to avoid confusion if participating tournaments allowed anyone other than the angler to strike the fish.

The Board also voted to restrict their appeals process to only those appeals which concerned Series points and awards, again deferring to individual tournaments to settle disputes arising solely within their events and not involving Governor's Cup points.

Editor

NEW BILLFISH CERTIFICATES...

For many years, the Billfish Monitoring Program has awarded certificates to anglers who land, tag, or release billfish in South Carolina waters. In the winter months, a large number of you folks go to other geographical (read that as warmer) areas to fish. As participants in the South Carolina Marine Game Fish Tagging Program, you tag many billfish using tags supplied by the SCDNR, but, until now, you've received little recognition for your valuable efforts. Due to numerous requests, a new certificate has been developed and will be issued to anglers who use SCDNR tags when tagging and releasing billfish outside of SC waters. Please fill out your tag cards **completely** and **accurately** and mail them in **promptly**. A certificate will be mailed to the angler upon receipt of the tag card. We appreciate and thank you for the efforts that all of you make for conservation and research.

Kay Davy

SC Game Fish Tagging Program

Tom DuPré

Billfish Monitoring Program

Marine Resources Division

SCGCBS WEB SITE...

<http://www.sportfishnet.com>

Sponsored by *Blue Water Internet*

John DeStefano

LATEST CUP NEWS NOW ON SPORTS WEB SITE...

<http://www.localsports.com>



PALMETTO PROPS, LLC
Prop Scan® Technology for Performance Propellers

FREE Measurement & Analysis
 Computer Accurate Tuning & Repair
 Distributor for **new AUSTRAL** Propellers

Serving the CAROLINAS & GEORGIA
 from
 4893-C Savannah Hwy Charleston SC 29470
 843-889-9212 or 888-699-1250
 email: palmettoprop@wcionline.com






Lox INDUSTRIES

MARINE PRODUCTS

803-492-7728

P. O. Box 70
 Eutawville, SC 29048






*Purveyors Of
Fine Sportfishing Yachts
Premium Brokerage Services*
105 Wappoo Creek Drive
Charleston SC
843-762-2610

ULTIMATELY
THERE IS...
PURSUIT

FISHING BOATS
FROM 22 TO 38 FEET

**LIGHTHOUSE
POWERBOAT SALES**
OF CHARLESTON

Located at Daniel Island Marina
637 Marina Drive • Charleston, SC 29492

(843) 971-9920

www.lhmarina.com



Yacht Sales
Palm Beach, Florida

*The Southeast's largest Viking,
Viking Sport Cruiser, Cabo and Post
dealer, plus a superior selection of
quality, pre-owned yachts.
Trades O.K. on new or used boats!*

Please contact

Michael Brown

Office: (561) 775-6000

FAX: (561) 775-6006

E-mail: brownee4@bellsouth.net

Visit our website at:

www.hmyyachtsales.com

2000 Corporate Sponsors



**Cummins
Atlantic**



WILLIAMS
DETROIT DIESEL-ALLISON



Benefactors



Patrons



The Family of Solutions

● OFFICIAL SCGCBS WEBSITE - <http://www.sportfishnet.com> ● EMAIL - wildlife@sc.rr.com ●



*Governor's Cup Billfishing Series
PO Box 12559
Charleston SC 29422*

