



TAG & RELEASE

Jim Goller, Editor Email: wildlife@sc.rr.com

Volume 5, No. 2 June 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!**

SOUTH CAROLINA WINS!!!



South Carolina's team captured the 8th Annual Carolinas Shootout April 24-27 at Charleston Harbor Marina with the tag and release of two blue marlin and a sailfish on Saturday, the last fishing day of the tournament.

Gini Knight of Starr tagged and released a blue marlin on board the "Mar Jen" owned by Ron Motley of Charleston. The other blue marlin was tagged and released by Danny Roberts of Charleston on board the "Trouble Maker" owned by Jim Gabrish, also from Charleston. Eddie Buck Jr. put South Carolina over the top with the tag and release of a sailfish on board the "Rookie IV" owned by Edgar Buck Sr. of Charleston.

Only 10 boats fished Friday due to weather, and North Carolina took the first day lead when Leland Vann aboard the "Jo-Le" tagged and released the first blue marlin of the tournament.

On Saturday, all 15 boats left the dock to compete. Georgia started out successfully when David Muncy and Steve Ward both of Savannah, Ga., each tagged and released a blue marlin aboard "Hoo Hunter" owned by Eric Traub.

South Carolina won with 700 points, and Georgia finished second with 600, followed by North Carolina with 300 points.

This was the first year Georgia joined the Shootout against teams from North Carolina and South Carolina to compete in this elite competition. The series had been tied at three wins apiece between the two Carolinas.



FROM THE CHAIR...

Steering the boat...

I have always wanted to steer the boat. Every since I was a young fellow I have noticed that if a boating trip was successful it was the person steering the boat who got all the kudos. Actually that same person got the blame if there were problems but heck who thinks that will happen to himself.

It all boils down to who catches the fish. As Brer Rabbit might say, "Ya jus ain't gonna catch no fish ifn duh boat ain't over duh rite spot. Dats jus a known fact."

My grandfather had an old 16' cypress bottom batteau powered by a 10hp Johnson Seahorse outboard motor—standard fare back in the 1950's, that is if you could afford the motor. "I want to drive the boat, Papa," I would say. "Let me steer, please. Can I just hold the handle with you." Eventually he broke down and it was great. It wasn't long before I was a dyed-in-the-wool, true-blooded river rat. What a life!

On a similar note I have had for the last two years the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series. The kudos were nice but do not compare to the pleasure I've received from working with and getting to know the other directors, the tournament committee members, marina operators, and most especially DNR personnel. Wonderful folks...

The Governor's Cup Series has become recognized as the #1 sportfishing series in the U.S. and truly one of the top series in the world. I thank you all for making it so and for giving me the opportunity to be at the helm.

Bobby Hood is your new Chairman. He is a most capable captain. I look forward to my last year on the Board working with him.

A final salute also to Jim Goller, your *Tag and Release* newsletter editor. Without him this river rat would still be deep in the mires of some word processor.

Lord knows it is great to steer a boat!
*Bill Cox, Jr., Chairman
SCGCBS, Orangeburg*

DIRECT LINES...

bYe2K...

Ours is a time of change. She is one of those sweet, good ole Georgia girls you can't help but like. She first came to us in 1984 working as a dockside sampler. She later assisted with oyster shell relay efforts, clam and oyster mariculture research. She tried her luck as a teaching assistant at the College of Charleston and later as a Wetland Surveyor at NOAA.

Fortunately for us, and many others, she found her niche working with recreational anglers. In 1986 she came back to the then S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Department to begin a 14-year career promoting saltwater ethics, tag and release and public involvement in conservation. She is currently the supervisor of the Marine Game Fish Tagging program, Master Angler's program and Billfish Monitoring program.

You have seen her on the docks, speaking to sportfishing clubs, and participating in fishing workshops and events. She is a gem, to work with and be around. She was someone who seemed to enjoy what she was doing and she made you feel good about putting some of your fish back to catch another day.

Now, she is about to embark on a new journey. By the time most of you are reading this, she will already be in Ft. Lauderdale FL, beginning a new job with the Billfishing Foundation, doing what she did so well for South Carolina on an even bigger stage.

Unfortunately, nothing seems to stay the same. However, change is the only way we can grow and improve. We wish her the best. We will all miss her, and I know she will hit the ground running and an even bigger audience will now benefit from her experience.

"The years hurried past and gave hardly time to note their (her) work. Three or four months (14 years), though big with change, came to an end before the mind could catch up with it." (The Education of Henry Adams, 1918).

Good Luck Kay.

Wayne Waltz

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

BLUEWATER CONSERVATION AWARD...

Physical Therapy currently leads in the Bluewater Conservation Award category with 150 points. In 2nd place is *Yellowfin* with 100 points. No other boats have tagged and released any tuna, dolphin or wahoo.

Kay Davy is leaving, but she'll be disappointed if boats don't continue to tag these fish for science.

Don't disappoint Kay...tag and release a few of your meat fish catch!

Editor

BIG KAHUNA WINS AT EDISTO...

"Big Kahuna," owned by Rhett Spencer of DeBordieu, won the Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament leg of the S.C. Governor's Cup Billfishing Series held May 3-7 at Edisto Marina.

Spencer landed a 422.8-pound blue marlin, the largest of the tournament, to secure the win for "Big Kahuna." "Big Kahuna" also tagged and released a blue marlin en route to earning 722.8 points and the win.

Finishing in second place at Edisto with 600 points for tagging and releasing two blue marlin was "Summertime Blues," owned by Ron Wallschlager of Kiawah Island. These releases also earned Wallschlager the tournament's Conservation Award. Owner Terrell Rhye landed a 362.8-pound blue marlin to place "Big Game" third in the tournament.

Edisto's Outstanding Female Angler was Chandler Byrd, who tagged and released a blue marlin from the "Billistic." Greg Boger of Columbia won Edisto's Outstanding Youth Angler (16-years and under) award when he landed a 47.8-pound yellowfin tuna on board the "Missress." Jimmy Metts landed the largest wahoo at Edisto, 62.6 pounds, on "Dem Boys," owned by Tommy Hancock.

Donald Dukes caught the largest dolphin of the tournament at 58 pounds aboard "Yellowfin," owned by W.B. Cox. The largest yellowfin tuna, an 85.2-pound fish, was caught by angler and owner Jim Shannon aboard "Houdini."

Jennie Davis
CEC Division, Charleston



**2000
SC GOVERNOR'S CUP
BILLFISHING SERIES
LEADER BOARD
Results through Bohicket...**

Boats Participating: 80

TOP TEN BOATS

<i>BIG KAHUNA</i>	1,072.8
<i>SUMMERTIME BLUES</i>	650
<i>BILLISTIC</i>	650
<i>MAR JEN</i>	650
<i>SKEE BO</i>	500
<i>HEYDOC</i>	471.3
<i>COOKIE MONSTER</i>	450
<i>BIG GAME</i>	412.8
<i>CAPTAIN & KIDS</i>	350(T)
<i>PHYSICAL THERAPY</i>	350(T)
<i>WINNERS WORLD</i>	350(T)

TOP BOAT

POINTS: 1072.8
BOAT: *BIG KAHUNA*
OWNER: RHETT SPENCER

LARGEST BILLFISH

FISH: 446.3 lbs. Blue Marlin
BOAT: *HEYDOC*
OWNER: ALLEN FOGLE
ANGLER: ROBBIE RENKIN

BILLFISH CONSERVATIONIST

POINTS: 600
BOAT: *SUMMERTIME BLUES*
OWNER: RON WALLSCHLAGER

BLUE WATER CONSERVATION

POINTS: 450
BOAT: *MISTRESS*
OWNER: SCOTT BOYD

LADY ANGLER

FISH: 2 BLUE MARLIN T&R
BOAT: *BILLISTIC*
ANGLER: CHANDLER BYRD
OWNER: DALE MARTIN

YOUTH ANGLER

FISH: 47.8 YELLOWFIN TUNA
BOAT: *MISTRESS*
ANGLER: GREG BOGER
OWNER: SCOTT BOYD

LARGEST WAHOO

WEIGHT: 75.3 lbs.
BOAT: *SOUND MACHINE*
ANGLER: FRANK WHICKER
OWNER: FRANK WHICKER

LARGEST TUNA

WEIGHT: 85.9 lbs.
BOAT: *PISCES IV*
ANGLER: MARK RODDENBERG
OWNER: RICK LAVECCHIA

LARGEST DOLPHIN

WEIGHT: 58.0 lbs.
BOAT: *YELLOWFIN*
ANGLER: DONALD DUKES
OWNER: BILL COX Sr.

**MARJEN TAGS TWO
BLUES TO WIN
BOHICKET**

"Mar Jen," owned by Romo, Inc., won the Bohicket Invitational Billfish Tournament leg of the S.C. Governor's Cup Billfishing Series held May 17-21 at Bohicket Marina.

Angler Mark Ritter of Moore, SC tagged and released two blue marlin, earning 600 points to secure the win for "Mar Jen" and also earned Ritter the tournament's Conservation Award.

Finishing in second place at Bohicket with 450 points for tagging and releasing one blue marlin and one white marlin was "Skee Bo," owned by Chestnut Hill Restaurant. Angler Chuck Power of Myrtle Beach, SC tagged both fish.

"Hey Doc," owned by Allen Fogle placed third as angler Robbie Renkin of Charleston, SC caught a 446.3-pound blue marlin.

Bohicket's Outstanding Female Angler was Chandler Byrd of Charleston, SC who tagged and released a blue marlin from the "Billistic" owned by Dale Martin. Byrd received the same award in the Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament, the first leg of the series, with her tag and release of a blue marlin. There was no Outstanding Youth Angler Award in the Bohicket tournament.

Frank Whicker, owner of "Sound Machine" landed the largest wahoo at Bohicket at 75.3 pounds. Fisher Walker caught the largest dolphin of the tournament at 54.8 pounds aboard "Captain and Kids," owned by Ronnie Sparks. The largest yellowfin tuna, an 85.9-pound fish, was caught by Mark Roddenberg aboard "Piscus IV" owned by Rich Lavecchia.

Jennie Davis
CEC Division, Charleston

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