



TAG & RELEASE

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

Volume 5, No. 3 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!**

"PERSISTENCE" WINS EARLY AT MARLIN QUAY...

"Persistence," owned by Chris Johnston of Garden City won the Marlin Quay Billfish Tournament held June 7-11. Angler Charles Richardson of Brittons Neck tagged and released a blue marlin on June 8, the first fishing day. This early catch earned 300 points to secure the win for "Persistence".

Several boats tagged and released blue marlin, earning them the same amount of points. Therefore, the only way to determine first, second and third place was by which boats caught fish the earliest in the tournament.

Finishing second with 300 points for tagging and releasing a blue marlin on June 9 was "Insaneo," owned by angler Denton Williams of Surfside Beach.

"Overspray," owned by Foster McKissick of Greenville, placed third with 300 points, as angler Jim Foster of Easley tagged and released one blue marlin. "Overspray" caught its marlin later than "Insaneo" on June 9.

Even the fish won at the Marlin Quay leg of the Governor's Cup, as all nine billfish caught were tagged and released: five blue marlin, three white marlin and one sailfish. "This is the only tournament so far this year that released all billfish caught," said Wayne Waltz, Series director.

Marlin Quay's Conservation Award went to all five boats that tagged and released blue marlin. "It would have been impossible to give one single Conservation Award in this tournament where so many billfish were tagged and released," Waltz said. "This reflects the conservation-minded attitude of all the participants in the Marlin Quay tournament."

Marlin Quay's Outstanding Female

Marlin Quay continued on page 2...

Marlin Quay continued...

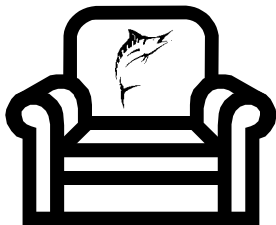
Angler was Bryson Ritter-Hills of Mt. Pleasant. Ritter-Hills tagged and released a blue marlin, caught a 74.2 pound yellowfin tuna, and caught a 17 pound dolphin from "Mar Jen", owned by Romo, Inc. of Mt. Pleasant.

Andrew Dembosky, age 9, of Bennettsville, won Marlin Quay's Outstanding Youth Angler award when he landed a 56.4-pound yellowfin tuna on board the "Aut-Top-Sea", owned by Del Dembosky of Bennettsville.

"Rascal," owned by Norman Pulliam of Spartanburg, landed the largest wahoo at 46.9 pounds. The largest dolphin, 47.7 pounds, was caught aboard "Lolligag," owned by Elbert Herring of Myrtle Beach.

The largest yellowfin, a 103.5-pound fish, was caught by "Summertime Blues," owned by Ron Wallschlager of Kiawah. This is the largest yellowfin tuna ever caught in the Governor's Cup Series' 12-year history.

Jennie Davis
CEC Division, Charleston



FROM THE CHAIR...

The Series...

Following a great time by those in the Edisto Tournament and a victory by "Big Kahuna" with a 422.8 lb. blue marlin and a blue tagged and released, our series moved on to Bohicket.

There the story on the docks was of Dr. Alan Fogle and his "Hey Doc." The crew overslept after enjoying the evening before, but managed to start fishing around 10 a.m. They also managed to catch the winning blue marlin...not bad for Doc's first tournament in a new boat. We hope to see him in more tournaments in the future.

From there, we headed to Georgetown. With small craft warnings flying Thursday, we fished Friday and Saturday. The winning fish was caught Friday by

Rhett Spencer's "Big Kahuna," a 395.2 pound blue but the tournament was won by Larry Heiden's "Rockin' Mama" with two blues tagged and released

The story that received little publicity, however, comes from the "Petrel." Harry Johnson and his crew of nephews decided they would prefer not to kill a blue marlin but to tag and release. Saturday, they caught a 107" blue marlin that was tagged and released, giving the boat 300 points in the Governor's Cup.

Congratulations Captain Harry! For 40 years you have set an example for sportsfishermen in South Carolina and we thank you. So far this year only four billfish have been brought to the docks; two at Edisto, one at Bohicket and one at Georgetown. All others have been tagged and released, except for meat fish. We have two tournaments to go; Isle of Palms, and Dock Holidays. We wish you good luck.

I'd like to thank the members of our board who've served so well, Billy Cox, immediate past chairman; former chairman Tommy Byrd, Eddie Buck, Jimmy Benton and Bert Pooser. It's through the dedication of anglers like you that the Governor's Cup Series is such an outstanding, rewarding, fun and exciting part of the summer. The Governor's Cup Series has resulted not only in competitive camaraderie, but in the creation of many new friendships. I doubt this has been matched by any other series around the country.

When this season is over, our five best boats will be in a lineup of fishing superstars we'll all be proud to have representing the Palmetto State against Georgia and North Carolina. We'll be traveling to North Carolina to defend our Shootout title and I hope your boat will be in the group. If not, there is always next year and the memories of the great time you had competing.

Bobby Hood, Chairman
SCGCBS, Charleston

NEW! OFFICIAL SCGCBS WEB SITE...

<http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/etc/govcup/govcup.html>

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DIRECT LINES...

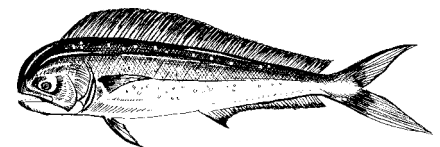
The Horse...

Their color is beyond description. It's a mixture and blend of hues that glimmer and blush across the body. Electric flashing powder blue, turquoise, speckled gold, and silver dance across the skin like magic to the eye. They are chameleons of the sea. They are jumpers, fighting acrobats that have the speed to run down flying prey and escape the biggest blue marlin. They have a fascination with flotsam. They hide among the sargassum windrows waiting for easy prey, dancing and masquerading between the drifting mats. A large bull, with his deep blunt forehead, protracted dorsal and falcate caudal prancing to and fro...smaller cows, ever fecund, waiting to join the dance below a sun-soaked sea.

Now that I have your attention, you may be interested in knowing that South Carolina now has new commercial and recreational restrictions on the taking of dolphin. H3475 was enrolled for ratification on May 25, 2000. Now signed by the Governor, recreational anglers have a 7 fish per day bag limit, with a 26 fish maximum boat limit. One exception to this applies to head boats which may have up to 50 fish per day. Commercial boats have a 4,500 pound trip limit with an annual landing quota of 180,000 pounds. This bill also prohibits the harvest and possession of Sargassum, a floating marine plant that is an important habitat for dolphin and other marine animals. Although most of the data suggests that dolphin are not overfished at this time, this proactive step will insure these stocks remain stable and will only restrict the most avaricious fishermen.

"We are the horses. We are noble and fine. We jump through the air, oh how sublime." (From: We are the Horses by Dayna N. Aston, 1998) A day with dolphin is a good day.

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





**2000
SC GOVERNOR'S CUP
BILLFISHING SERIES
LEADER BOARD**

Results through Marlin Quay...

TOP TEN BOATS

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| <i>BIG KAHUNA</i> | 1618.0 |
| <i>BILLISTIC</i> | 1000 |
| <i>MAR JEN</i> | 1000 |
| <i>SUMMERTIME BLUES</i> | 850 |
| <i>ROCKIN MAMA</i> | 625 |
| <i>SKEE BO</i> | 550 |
| <i>SPORTIN' LIFE</i> | 525 |
| <i>COOKIE MONSTER</i> | 500 |
| <i>HEYDOC</i> | 471.3 |
| <i>BIG GAME</i> | 462.8 |

TOP BOAT

POINTS: 1618.0
BOAT: *BIG KAHUNA*
OWNER: RHETT SPENCER

LARGEST BILLFISH

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

BILLFISH CONSERVATIONIST

POINTS: 900
BOAT: *BILLISTIC*
OWNER: DALE MARTIN

BLUE WATER CONSERVATION

POINTS: 150
BOAT: *PHYSICAL THERAPY*
OWNER: DUSTIN SMITH

LADY ANGLER

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

TOTAL

YOUTH ANGLER

FISH: 56.4 YELLOWFIN TUNA
BOAT: *AUT-TOP-SEA*
ANGLER: ANDREW DEMBOSKY
OWNER: DEL DEMBOSKY

LARGEST WAHOO

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

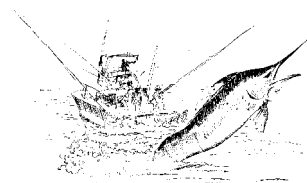
LARGEST TUNA

WEIGHT: 103.5 lbs.
BOAT: *SUMMERTIME BLUES*
OWNER: RON WALLSCHLAGER

LARGEST DOLPHIN

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

*Boats Participating: 117
Billfish Caught: 46
Billfish Tagged & Released: 42
Billfish Weighed: 4
Tag and Release Rate: 90.5%*



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**"ROCKIN MAMA"
TAGS TWO, WINS AT
GEORGETOWN**

"Rockin Mama," owned by Larry Heiden of Florence, won the Georgetown Landing Blue Marlin Tournament leg of the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series held May 24-28 at Georgetown Landing.

Angler Marc Heiden tagged and released two blue marlin, earning 600 points to secure the win for "Rockin Mama." The two billfish releases also earned Heiden the tournament's Conservation Award.

Finishing in second place at Georgetown with 395.2 points for landing a blue marlin of the same weight was "Big Kahuna," owned by Rhett Spencer of Debordieu. "Sportin' Life," owned by Manly Eubanks of Charleston, tagged a blue marlin to place third with 300 points.

Outstanding Female Angler was Sara Hightower, age 11, who caught a 24.6 pound dolphin from the "Triple Play," owned by Jim, Art and Bubba Hightower of Moncks Corner. Bo Higgins, age 13, won Georgetown's Outstanding Youth Angler award when he landed a 35.8-pound yellowfin tuna on board the "Christy II," owned by Hank Higgins of Spartanburg.

Frank Foster of Fountain Inn, owner of "Chicora," landed the largest wahoo in the Georgetown event at 63.4 pounds. Ed Norris of Garden City caught the largest dolphin of the tournament at 49.8 pounds aboard his boat "High Cotton". The largest yellowfin tuna, an 83.2-pound fish, was caught by Bob Jasa of West Columbia on board "Capitol's Gain," owned by Paul Sanders of West Columbia.

*Elizabeth von Kolnitz
Marine Division, Charleston*

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