



TAG & RELEASE

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

Volume 5, No. 4 July 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!**

'BIG KAHUNA' LEADS AFTER ISLE OF PALMS

"Big Kahuna," owned by Rhett Spencer of DeBordieu, keeps its lead in the S.C. Governor's Cup Billfishing Series as the Outstanding Billfish Boat category with 1,918 total points with only Dock Holidays left in the tournament series.

So far in the series, "Big Kahuna" has tagged and released three blue marlin and a sailfish and weighed- in two blue marlin at 422.8 pounds and 395.2 pounds, keeping it in first place.

After the tournament at Marlin Quay, two boats were tied for second place. But after the June 21-25 Isle of Palms tournament and tagging and releasing a blue marlin, "Mar Jen," owned by Romo Inc. of Charleston, is now in second place with 1,300 points. "Mar Jen" also leads in the Outstanding Billfish Conservationist category.

"Cookie Monster," owned by Chris Ravenel of Mt. Pleasant, snatched the third place position in the series with 1,100 points after winning the Isle of Palms tournament. But "Billistic," owned by Hutch Hulseberg and Dale Martin of Ridgeville, is following closely behind with 1,000 points. Before the Isle of Palms tournament, "Billistic" was tied with "Mar Jen" for second place in the series.

Angler Robbie Renken on board "Hey Doc," owned by Allen Fogle of Charleston, caught a 446.3- pound blue marlin in the Bohicket tournament, putting "Hey Doc" in the lead for the Outstanding Billfish Award.

The Outstanding Female Angler so far is still Chandler Byrd of Charleston. Byrd helped "Billistic" when she tagged and released a blue marlin in each of the first two tournaments.

There is a new leader in the

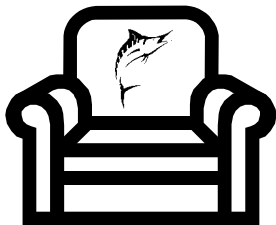
Leaders continued on page 2...

Leaders continued...

Outstanding Youth Angler award category. After the Isle of Palms tournament, the leader in this category is 15-year-old Christina Williamson of Irmo. She tagged and released a sailfish while fishing on "Capitol's Gain," owned by Paul B. Sanders of West Columbia during the Isle of Palms tournament.

In the biggest fish categories, none of the leaders have changed since the last tournament. The largest yellowfin tuna, a 103.5-pound fish, was caught by "Summertime Blues" during the Marlin Quay tournament. This is the largest yellowfin tuna caught so far in the 12-year history of the Series.

"Yellowfin," owned by Bill Cox Sr. of Orangeburg, still leads the series in the biggest dolphin category with a 58-pound fish caught in the Edisto tournament by Donald Dukes of Edisto. "Sound Machine" retains the biggest wahoo category with its 75.3-pound fish caught by owner Frank Wicker of Alpharetta, Ga., in the Bohicket leg of the tournament series.



FROM THE CHAIR...

Prop Wash...

The Isle of Palms Tournament had 53 boats registered. All three days of fishing were slow for the Compromise and, I believe, many other boats as well.

However, Graham Eubank showed us a trick or two by changing the props of "Sportin' Life." The change apparently created a better prop wash, enticing a big blue marlin that came up on the teaser right behind the boat. Graham managed to set the hook and bring the fish in ...a 112" marlin that weighed 402.2 pounds!

We understand Whiteline Diving is receiving numerous calls to change propellers. And after having taken the big marlin in the Isle of Palms tournament,

the "Sportin' Life," currently on the market, has a lot of interested buyers.

Isle of Palms saw several fish tagged and released; seven blue marlin and seven sailfish. Only one blue marlin was brought to the docks.

The last tournament of our series will be fished out of Dock Holidays. Susie only had 14 boats registered as of this writing. This is a poor turnout for our last 2000 event and the last opportunity to gain Governor's Cup points and qualify for our South Carolina Shootout Team.

The Governor has signed a new law limiting the number of dolphin and prohibiting the harvesting of sargassum grass. A copy of the new law is printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

For those whose tournament season is concluded, I hope you have enjoyed the season and will continue to enjoy fun fishing through the remainder of the summer. And please keep tagging fish as often as possible to help DNR's Tag & Release program.

*Bobby Hood, Chairman
SCGCBS, Charleston*

DIRECT LINES...

Trends...

Yellowfin tuna are distributed in most tropical and temperate waters of the Atlantic Ocean. They are highly migratory, fast growing and have a relatively short life span. They reach sexual maturity in 1-3 years and live up to 7 years. They feed on a variety of pelagic fishes, squid, small crabs and shrimps. The state record is 241 lbs caught in 1979, however today it is a treat to see one over 100 lbs.

Dolphin, like tuna are fast growing and only live about 5 years at the most. The dolphin caught off the Carolinas are mostly 1-2 years of age. They have a

protracted spawning season and can produce hundreds of thousands of eggs. They are attracted to floating objects and feed on a variety of prey including flying fish.

A wahoo reaches sexual maturity during its first year of life. It's steel blue in color and smaller fish have a beautiful pattern of vertical bars on the sides. It's more of a loner than a tuna or a dolphin and is rarely found in schools. As you might guess by its shape, it's in the mackerel family and related to the king.

One of the primary jobs for most biologists is collecting data or statistics. A few numbers alone don't tell you much, but when you routinely collect data in a standardized fashion over time, you glimpse a picture which begins to tell a story.

Because of the growing concern over the condition of the stocks of tuna, dolphin and wahoo, the Blue Water Conservation Award was initiated in 1997 to aid in the gathering of scientific information on these species. The winner of this category receives a beautiful hand carved trophy of a tuna, dolphin and wahoo jumping from a wave, but more importantly, the fish win and we learn a little more about these oceanic travelers each year.

In 1997 a handful of boats tagged 65 of these fish. During 1998 and 1999 we had twelve or more boats tagging over a hundred fish. So far this series, in five tournaments we've had only five boats tag twenty-four fish. You don't have to be a statistician to see which way the trend is going. Albert Einstein is quoted as saying "Not everything that can be counted counts and not everything that counts can be counted."

It's time for everyone to take a breath to decide for themselves "what counts."

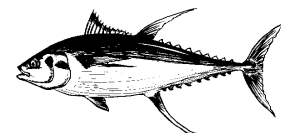
Wayne Waltz

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

NEW! OFFICIAL SCGCBS WEB SITE...

[http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/etc/
govcup/govcup.html](http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/etc/govcup/govcup.html)

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

Results through Isle of Palms...

TOP TEN BOATS	TOTAL
BIG KAHUNA	1918.0
MAR JEN	1300
COOKIE MONSTER	1100
BILLISTIC	1000
SPORTIN' LIFE	952.2
SUMMERTIME BLUES	850
PERSISTENCE	650
ROCKIN MAMA	625
BIG GAME	562.8
SKEE BO	550

TOP BOAT
POINTS: 1918.0
BOAT: *BIG KAHUNA*
OWNER: RHETT SPENCER

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

BILLFISH CONSERVATIONIST
POINTS: 1200
BOAT: *MAR JEN*
OWNER: DALE MARTIN

BLUE WATER CONSERVATION
POINTS: 850
BOAT: *MISTRESS*
OWNER: SCOTT BOYD

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

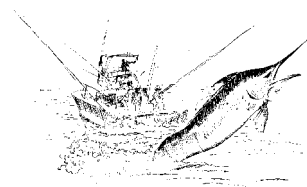
YOUTH ANGLER
FISH: SAILFISH T&R
BOAT: *CAPITOL'S GAIN*
ANGLER: CHRISTINA WILLIAMSON
OWNER: PAUL B. SANDERS

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

LARGEST TUNA
WEIGHT: 103.5 lbs.
BOAT: *SUMMERTIME BLUES*
ANGLER: SKIPPER JELLISON
OWNER: RON WALLSCHLAGER

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

*Boats Participating: 129
Billfish Caught: 61
Billfish Tagged & Released: 56
Billfish Weighed: 5
Tag and Release Rate: 91.8%*



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

H. 3475 DOLPHIN...

Reps. Limehouse, Cotty, Knotts, Lucas, W. McLeod, Meacham-Richardson, Rhoad, Sharpe, Trotter and Whipper.

A BILL

TO AMEND ARTICLE 5, CHAPTER 17, TITLE 50, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO COASTAL FISHERIES LAWS IN CONNECTION WITH FINFISH AND CRUSTACEANS, BY ADDING SECTION 50-17-550...

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article 5, Chapter 17, Title 50 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding: "Section 50-17-550. (A) It is unlawful to take, catch, have in possession, land, or sell a dolphin game fish, *Coryphaena hippurus*, also known as dorado or mahi mahi in excess of the following limits:

- (1) for a commercial boat, a commercial trip limit of four thousand five hundred pounds;
- (2) for a recreational headboat or drift boat, a limit of fifty fish;
- (3) for a recreational charter boat or other recreational boat not covered by item (2) above, a limit of seven fish for each person up to twenty-six fish for each boat;
- (4) for a commercial fishery, an annual landing quota of one hundred eighty thousand pounds.

(B) It is unlawful to harvest, possess, transport, process, or sell the floating aquatic 'grass' known as Sargassum, an important habitat for dolphins and other marine species.

(C) The penalties for convictions of violations of this section are as provided in Section 50-17-100, and each dolphin fish taken in violation of this chapter and each instance of the harvest, possession, transportation, processing, or sale of Sargassum is a separate offense."

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