



# TAG & RELEASE

Jim Goller, Editor Email: [wildlife@sc.rr.com](mailto:wildlife@sc.rr.com)

Volume 6, No. 1 Spring 2001

## 2001 13TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S CUP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE...

- May 2-6** *Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament*  
Contact: Bill Hackett  
3702 Docksite Rd.  
Edisto Beach SC 29438  
843-869-3504 FAX 843-869-3738
- May 16-20** *Bohicket Invitational Billfish Tournament*  
Contact: Damien Zanetti  
1880 Andell Bluff Blvd.  
Johns Island SC 29455  
843-768-1280 FAX 843-768-3481
- May 22-27** *Georgetown Landing Blue Marlin Tournament*  
Contact: Ricky Ferdon  
P.O. Box 1704  
Georgetown SC 29442  
843-546-1776 FAX 843-546-7832
- June 6-10** *Marlin Quay Billfish Tournament*  
Contact: Charles Stone  
P.O. Box 549  
Murrells Inlet SC 29576  
843-651-4444 FAX 843-651-7795
- June 27-  
July 1** *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 11-15** *Charleston Harbor Marina Billfish Tournament*  
Contact: Deidre Menefee  
24 Patriots Point Road  
Mt. Pleasant SC 29464  
843-345-0369 843-856-9996  
FAX 843-856-8540

**For more information contact:**

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

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

## FEMALE, YOUTH AWARDS EXPANDED FOR 2001...

The S.C. Governor's Cup Board of Directors voted unanimously in October to expand the lady and youth angler awards categories.

Prior to the Board's action, only one award was issued annually to the top

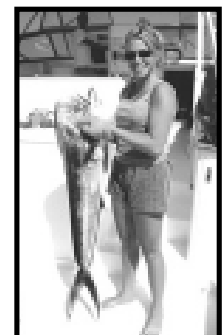
female angler and top youth angler of the Governor's Cup Series. Beginning this year, however, both categories will feature three awards: first place, second place and third place.



*Edisto, 1999*

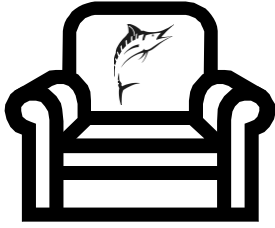
Speaking in support of expanding the categories on behalf of herself and other female anglers was Nancy Ravenel, who fishes the Series with husband Chris Ravenel aboard "Cookie Monster." Ms. Ravenel also encouraged participating Series events to expand their female angler categories.

The new awards will be presented at the annual SCGCBS gala awards ceremony usually held in Charleston in August following the last event of the season.



*Marlin Quay, 1999*





## FROM THE CHAIR...

### The Series...

25 October 2000

The Honorable Ernest F. Hollings  
U. S. Senate  
125 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hollings:

The Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Advisory Board understands that the U. S. Senate is currently considering legislation (S. 1911) that would take measures to eliminate pelagic longline fishing on the Charleston Bump. We understand that there are provisions of S. 1911 that, if the legislation were to pass, could leave vulnerable the resources of the Charleston Bump to indiscriminate harvesting by pelagic longline fishing gear.

On behalf of the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Advisory Board, I strongly encourage your support by whatever regulatory or statutory measures are necessary to protect the fisheries resources off the coast of South Carolina. Further, we urge you to work towards a vessel buy-back program that will dramatically reduce (if not eliminate) pelagic longline fishing off our coast. We are encouraged by your concern for our marine fisheries, and we thank you for your continued efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of our valuable marine resources.

Kind Personal Regards,  
Robert H. Hood, Chairman  
SCGCBS Advisory Board  
cc: John V. Miglarese, SCDNR  
SCGCBS Advisory Board  
SCGCBS Tournament Committee



*Bobby Hood, Chairman  
SCGCBS, Charleston*

## DIRECT LINES...

### What Do You Think?

The Governor's Cup Tournament Committee and Board of Directors met last October. As is typical with the fall meetings, we reviewed the rules and tried to address some concerns and problems that came to light during the 2000 Series. Before the Board of Directors meets again to take action on items that may impact the rules and scoring structure. The Board of Directors would like to know how the participants feel about some of these items. Your feedback, whether positive and negative is important and will be considered before a decision is made. Listed below are some items that are to be considered. If you have an opinion one way or the other or additional suggestions, please contact me preferably by writing or e-mail, so I can document it for the Board.  
Thanks: Wayne Waltz, PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422;  
waltzw@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us; fax (843) 762-5412, phone (843) 762-5094.

**1. Lie Detector tests?** There is an impression that some participants have been stretching the rules. Should the Governor's Cup administer random polygraphs to some of the winning boats to keep everyone honest or is this just a perceived problem and we need to re-emphasize the honor system and continue as usual with our signed affidavit requirement for tag and release and landed fish?

**2. Should White Marlin and Sailfish be Tag and Release Only?** Presently, the Governor's Cup will count points for landed White marlin and sailfish. The reason for this is so if someone catches a state record it will be accepted in the series. Should we discontinue this and classify whites and sails as T&R only?

**3. Should the Series be Tag and Release Only?** The series is an umbrella event. The Governors Cup does not control individual tournaments. As long as the tournaments abide by our general guidelines, they have a good deal of flexibility. Tourn-

ments will probably always include a category for landed Blue Marlin, but should the Governors Cup do away with the Landed Blue Marlin category points and only count points for Tagged Fish?

**4. In lieu of a T&R only Series as outlined above in 3, should the Series adjust the points per fish to favor T&R over landed fish?** Over the past few years, winning boats have all landed fish, while those that tag and release only never seem to get as many points. One way to further encourage Tag and Release is to increase the points for Tag and Released fish giving them a better chance to win. Another way to equalize this would be to cap the points for landed Blue Marlin at 300.

**5. Should the Series incorporate tagged Tuna, Dolphin and Wahoo (TDW) into the overall Series Billfish points?** In an effort to encourage conservation of the more popular "meat" fish we have established the Blue Water Conservation Award. During the 2000 series, very few TDW were tagged. To increase the incentive to tag these fish it has been suggested that in addition to the Bluewater Conservation Award, we give boats credit, in some manner, to the overall Billfish Awards if they tag these fish.

### What Do You Think ?

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

## 2000 RECAP...

*Boats Participating: 132  
Billfish Caught: 64  
Billfish Tagged & Released: 59  
Billfish Weighed: 5  
Tag and Release Rate: 92%*



## 2001 Governor's Cup Board of Directors

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Wayne Waltz, SCDNR, Charleston

## BLUEWATER CONSERVATION... AWARD NEEDS YOU...

The Bluewater Conservation Award, born from concern over declining recreational catches of tuna, dolphin and wahoo. This Series award category encourages sportsmen to aid fishery managers by tagging these important pelagic species.

To make the award worthy, a beautiful trophy carved by Chris Costello is awarded annually to the boat logging the most tagging points. By tagging and releasing some of their tuna, dolphin and wahoo catch, Governor's Cup participants make a significant contribution to the future of these gamefish through the information gathered when these fish are recovered.

In 1997, the first year the Bluewater Conservation Award was offered, it was won with 1,000 points. '98 and '99 saw a big jump in tagging points earned. Lucky Devil, owned by Lin Smith, won both those years with 1,750 and 3,150 points respectively. Unfortunately, there was a decline in participation and tagging in 2000, and 850 points won.

It's unfortunate because tagging information will not be collected. In '99, dolphin recoveries were recorded in only two weeks, with some recaptures coming for the same general area, but a Bob Besok tagged dolphin was recaptured over 800 nautical miles north off Long Island, NY. This is the northernmost recovery for dolphin tagged in this program. The dolphin had grown 12 inches during its 98 days at liberty.

This information, coupled

with an awesome hand-carved trophy should be incentive to get out the tag stick this year ... please!

*Editor*

*(See Tournament Guidelines for details and points.)*

## 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 was developed and will continue to 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. Thank you for the efforts that all of you make for conservation and research.

*Tom DuPré*

Billfish Monitoring Program  
Marine Resources Division




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