



TAG & RELEASE

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

Volume 6, No. 6 December 2001

2002 14TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S CUP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE...

- May 1-5** *Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Susie Bost
3702 Docksite Rd.
Edisto Beach SC 29438
843-869-3504 FAX 843-869-3738
- May 15-19** *Bohicket Invitational Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Damien Zanetti
1880 Andell Bluff Blvd.
Johns Island SC 29455
843-768-1280 FAX 843-768-3481
- May 29-
June 2** *Georgetown Landing Blue Marlin Tournament*
Contact: Ricky Ferdon
P.O. Box 1704
Georgetown SC 29442
843-546-1776 FAX 843-546-7832
- June 5-9** *Marlin Quay Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Charles Stone/Lori Bryngelson
P.O. Box 549
Murrells Inlet SC 29576
843-651-4444 FAX 843-651-7795
- June 26-
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 10-14** *Charleston Harbor Marina Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Deidre Menefee
19 Forde Row
Charleston SC 29412
843-345-0369
FAX 843-856-8540

For more information contact:

Tom DuPre',
Office of Fisheries Management
843-762-5094 email: dupret@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us
<http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/etc/govcup/govcup.html>



CAROLINAS SHOOTOUT TO BE HELD IN SC IN APRIL...

The "Carolinas Shootout" has been scheduled for April 18-20, 2002 and will be held out of Georgetown Landing Marina, Georgetown, South Carolina.

"The 'Carolinas Shootout,' a total tag and release billfish event, pits a team of the five best boats from South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia against each other for bragging rights as the best billfish anglers.

South Carolina is the current Shootout win leader with four, the last coming in April 2000. North Carolina has three wins and Georgia has none. Georgia first participated in the 7th Carolinas Shootout held in Charleston in April 2000. Several Shootouts have been cancelled or postponed due to weather.

For more information, call Ricky Ferdon at 843-546-1776.

2001 SHOOTOUT TEAM

Sportin' Life
Holy Mackerel
Cookie Monster
Home Run
Bulldog
Big Game

A RELEASE TODAY IS A FISH TOMORROW!

Tom DuPre',
Program Coordinator

DIRECT LINES...

Billfish Numbers & Such...

I thought you folks might be interested in some fish numbers we collected this year. Please bear in mind that these figures come from you. We talk to owners, captains, mates, anglers, marinas, dock hands, and just about anyone else who will talk to us. This is in addition to all the dockside interviews we conduct at the tournaments. I'll start out with data collected at the tournaments.

A total of 146 different boats fished the 2001 South Carolina Governor's Cup Series, and 48 caught billfish. 112 eligible fish were hooked, and 83 were successfully landed. 3 were brought to the dock, 75 were tagged, and 5 were released without tagging.

Of 67 blue marlin hooked, 42 were successfully landed. 3 were brought to the dock. Those were caught by Legal Holiday (428.5), Holy Mackerel (370.0), and Hidin' Out (369.5). Thirty-eight were tagged and released, and 1 was released without a tag. There were 8 white marlin hooked, and 7 of those were tagged and released. 37 sailfish were hooked, 30 were tagged, and 4 were released without tags. There was also a longbill spearfish released. Crunching the numbers a little more shows that 63% of the blues hooked, 88% of the whites hooked, and 92% of the sails hooked were landed. The overall release rate for fish landed in the Series exceeded 96%.

During the 2001 Series the following data were collected for tuna, dolphin, and wahoo: 250 yellowfin tuna were reported caught, 138 of those were measured for length (37.4" avg.), and 60 were weighed (41.6 lbs. avg.). 991 dolphin were reported, 489 measured (39.2" avg.), and 87 weighed (32.2 lbs. avg.). 114 wahoo were reported, 68 measured (50.5" avg.), and 34 weighed (42.1 lbs. avg.).

Overall reported billfish catches for 2001, which include tournament and non-tournament fish, have made it an average year so far. Total blue marlin reported 130, white marlin 27, sailfish 149, longbill spearfish 1, and swordfish 3. Total - 310. The 1992 to 2001 ten-year average is 300. Had 1999 not been an extraordinary year with 527 fish reported, 2001 would be seen as a very good year.

With 115 boats reporting 310 billfish, it works out to an average of 2.7 per boat. Breaking this down further comes up

with 1.2 blues, 0.2 whites, and 1.3 sailfish per boat. 58 boats (51%) reported multiple catches. Only one billfish was known killed outside of tournaments. It was an undersized blue marlin brought in by an out-of-state boat. That boat was issued both state and federal citations. The overall release rate for non-tournament billfish in SC exceeded 99%. WOW!!! Not included in the above totals are 28 fish tagged by 8 boats in non-SC waters.

If you have caught billfish in SC waters this year and have not received a state billfish certificate, please get in touch with me at (843) 762-5036 or at dupret@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us. Certificates are issued for landed, tagged, or released billfish. If you tag billfish outside of SC waters using SCDNR tags, you are also eligible for a certificate. If you tag billfish in SC waters using tags from another program, you are still eligible for a SC certificate, but only if you report it to the SCDNR.

Congratulations on a fine fishing season and we look forward to seeing you on the docks next year.

*Tom DuPré, Program Coordinator
SCDNR-Marine Div, Charleston*

GOVERNOR'S CUP BOARD SETS 2002 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE...

The S.C. Governor's Cup Advisory Board officially adopted the 2002 tournament schedule at their November meeting held November 9 in Charleston. The Series schedule, which again includes six events at marinas along the Palmetto State coast, is published on the first page of this newsletter.

Editor



*Sportin' Life, owned by Manly Eubanks,
Charleston, won the 2001 Governor's Cup.*



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2001 BILLFISH STATISTICS AS REPORTED BY 11/15/01...

Total number of boats reporting fish from SC waters -	115	
Total number of billfish reported from SC waters -	310	(84 in tournaments and 226 non-tournament)
Tournament release rate	Exceeded 96%.	
Non- tournament recreational release rate	Exceeded 99%.	
<i>One undersized fish was killed by an out of state boat in non-tournament fishing. The boat was issued both state and federal citations.</i>		
Total number of boats reporting billfish from non-SC waters -	8	
Total number of billfish reported from non-SC waters -	28	
Total number of SC Blue marlin reported -	149	(49 in tournaments)
Total number of SC White marlin reported -	27	(7 in tournaments)
Total number of SC Sailfish reported -	149	(37 in tournaments)
Total number of SC Longbill spearfish reported -	1	(In tournament)
Total number of SC Swordfish reported -	3	
Average number of SC billfish caught per boat -	2.7	
Average number of SC Blue marlin caught per boat -	1.2	
Average number of SC White marlin caught per boat -	0.2	
Average number of SC Sailfish caught per boat -	1.3	
Average number of SC Longbill spearfish caught per boat -	0.01	
Average number of SC Swordfish caught per boat -	0.03	
Number of boats with multiple catches from SC waters -	58	
Percent of boats with multiple catches from SC waters -	51%	

TOP BOATS (SC WATERS)

ALI L	17
AUT-TOP-SEA	16
SPECIALLADY	13
BLUE CHEER	11
BLUE BOY	10
HIDIN' OUT	10
MISTRESS	9
SPORTIN' LIFE	9

TOP TEN GOVERNOR'S CUP BOATS

1. SPORTIN' LIFE	6. BIG GAME
2. HOLY MACKEREL	7. OVERSPRAY
3. COOKIE MONSTER	8. RISKY BUSINESS
4. HOME RUN	9. SKEE BO
5. BULLDOG	10. CLEAR CUT

(Listed in order of points earned the earliest in the 2001 Series.)

TOP BOATS BY SPECIES (SC WATERS)

Blue marlin	White marlin	Sailfish	Longbill spearfish	Swordfish
ALI L 9	SPORTIN' LIFE 3	AUT-TOP-SEA 11	COMPROMISE IV 1	FAR SIDE 3
SPECIAL LADY 7	ALI L 2	BLUE BOY 8		
MISTRESS 6	BLUE CHEER 2	HIDIN' OUT 7		
SPORTIN' LIFE 5	RASCAL 2	ALI L 6		
AUT-TOP-SEA 4		BLUE CHEER 6		
HOLY MACKEREL 4		SPECIAL LADY 5		
PALMETTO PRIDE 4				



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