Major Motion Wins Isle Of Palms... Leads 2002 Series...

The 14th Annual Governor’s Cup wrapped up its fifth out of six tournaments at Isle of Palms Marina June 26-30. “Major Motion,” owned by Buck Morris of Johns Island captured the Best Billfish Boat award with 400 points earned on Thursday, the first day of the tournament. Angler Hope Hanckel of Johns Island tagged and released a blue marlin to earn “Major Motion” 300 points. Hanckel’s uncle, Bucky Morris of Johns Island, tagged and released a sailfish within the same hour, earning their boat another 100 points. Hanckel’s blue marlin also earned the 21-year-old the Outstanding Female Angler Award in this tournament.

Hope Hanckel, current 2002 Lady Angler of the Year leader after five events. Photo by Jennie Davis.

“Major Motion” now leads all boats going into the final 2002 event, the HMY-Viking Charleston Harbor Billfish Tournament scheduled for July 10-14.

“A good number of billfish were tagged and released the Isle of Palms tournament,” said Tom DuPré of SCDNR, who coordinates the Series. “The weather was accommodating, and the marina hosted a festive tournament.”

During the tournament 17 billfish were...

A RELEASE TODAY IS A FISH TOMORROW!
Continued from page 1...
tagged and released, including six blue marlin, three white marlin and eight sailfish with 38 boats participating. Finishing second for tagging and releasing a blue marlin and a sailfish was “Juncanewt,” owned by John Cagle of Sullivans Island. The blue marlin’s angler was 13-year-old Newt Cagle of Sullivans Island, who also won the youth angler award for his marlin. The sailfish angler was Anthony Prizzi of Mount Royal, New Jersey. The blue marlin was tagged on Thursday, June 27, and the sailfish on Saturday, June 29.

“Rookie IV,” owned by Eddie Buck of Charleston came in third when Eddie Buck, Jr., also of Charleston, tagged and released a blue marlin on Thursday, June 27. “Rookie IV” was the first boat in the tournament to tag a blue marlin, earning third place.

A 46.8-pound wahoo caught aboard “Sportin’ Life,” earned owner and angler Manly Eubank of Charleston the Biggest Wahoo Award. The Biggest Tuna Award went to Craig Nimmons for a 95.6-pound yellowfin aboard “Lazy Daze,” owned by Alex Ebert of Atlanta, Georgia. Angler Thomas Anderson of Charleston caught a 36.9-pound dolphin aboard “Hot Shot,” owned by Dick Vance and Eric Burn, both of Charleston, to earn the Biggest Dolphin Award.

The last tournament in the 2002 Series will be held July 10-14 at Charleston Harbor Marina. For more information, contact Deidre Menenefee at (843) 354-0369.

CINDERELLA
By Charlie Boykin...

The 2001 Carolina’s Shootout held in the beautiful, historic city of Georgetown and hosted by Georgetown Landing Marina on April 18-20, is history. As most know, Georgia, participating for only the second time, took the Cup by successfully tagging and releasing a Blue Marlin on the second and final fishing day. What went wrong for the South Carolina team? What went right for the Georgia team? This is how the event played out.

By Thursday afternoon just about all the participants were in their slips. Charter fishing that day, were bringing in nice yellowfin tuna caught just north of the hole. Georgia’s “Rockin’ Robin” owner by Eddie Perry and accompanied by veteran fishermen Tommy Williams, blew her transmission about 12 miles from the Georgetown sea buoy and had to limp in. Replacement parts were on the way but for all practical purposes “Rockin’ Robin” was out of the event.

With no alternate, it looked like Georgia would only be fishing with 4 boats. Despite this turn of bad luck, the spirits of the Georgia team were high as they consistently proclaimed that they did not need 5 boats to “kick our butts.”

The captain’s meeting was held Thursday afternoon with the usual questions regarding the rules and use of the camera. Cameras were used for the first time this year to document the tag and release in lieu of observers.

As always seems to be the case, out-of-state fishermen seem surprised when they are told that they need a saltwater fishing license and there was subsequently a mad rush to order the license over the phone. The temperatures had been in the 80’s all week and seas had been calm ... predicted conditions for Friday were looking good with winds 15-20 knots out of the southwest and seas running 3-5ft.

This year’s Shootout had some interesting match ups. North Carolina’s “Honey Hush” was fishing in the event for the 4th time. The “Honey Hush”, owned by Bob Warren, one of the founding members of the NC Governor’s Cup, had been part of the 1992 and 1993 team when the Tarheels dominated this event. Manly Eubank’s “Sportin’ Life” of the Palmetto State was making its latest appearance. Manly’s earlier “Sportin’ Life” had been part of the 1995 team when SC won its first event.

As predicted, Friday was beautiful, but Georgia’s bad luck continued. The Evans B” had damage to her tower and the crew was unable to fix it. They were now out of the race, leaving Georgia with only 3 boats. Fishing was slow on Friday and no billfish were caught. A total of 7 dolphin and 3 tuna were weighed-in, the most notable a 99.3lb yellowfin caught on the “Anticipation” fishing for North Carolina. South Carolina’s only contribution was a small tuna and dolphin caught by the “Home Run” and “Bulldog.” With no billfish being caught, technically, North Carolina was in the lead based on the weight of their fun fish.

Saturday was less than perfect. Seas were running about 6 with an occasional 10’. Ricky Toone, fishing on Georgia’s “Buckaroo,” said “it was like flying from one wave to the next, waves were breaking over the cockpit...we were knee deep in water at our stern when we realized our bucket was blocking the drain.” Fishing was spotty.

Mike Glaesner, captain of the “Sportin’ Life” had information that the fish were being caught off Charleston, so it was his intent to go south, but the seas were just too rough and he ended up at the Georgetown Hole. Georgia’s “Lonesome Dove,” captained by Hilton Head’s Frank Boyd, took a different tack and fished shallow in about 200’. At about 9:42 am it payed off and they were hooked up to their first blue which they successfully tagged and released. They hooked up on a second fish around 2:30 but lost it.

“Anticipation”, fishing for North Carolina, successfully tagged and released a sailfish.

And so the story goes. Georgia, fishing with only 3 boats, took the Shootout. North Carolina finished second and South Carolina third (note: I prefer third to “dead last”). As Mike Glaesner summed it up; “It was pot luck fishing, there were so few fish out there you had to be in the right place and we just weren’t there.” Despite the outcome, everyone had a great time. As always, Ricky Ferdon and his staff at Georgetown Landing Marina did a great job. Plus...there’s always a next time.

Charlie Boykin
2002 SC GOVERNOR’S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES LEADER BOARD
(Results through Isle of Palms...)

TOP TEN BOATS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boats</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAJOR MOTION</td>
<td>1075</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRAND SLAM</td>
<td>675</td>
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<td>OVERSPRAY</td>
<td>561.2</td>
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<td>MISTRESS</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>ROOKIE IV</td>
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<td>COMPROMISE IV</td>
<td>475</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNCANEWT</td>
<td>425</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIG KAHUNA</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POINT RUNNER</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRAGON LADY III</td>
<td>350</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

YOUTH ANGLER
FISH: BLUE MARLIN T&R
BOAT: JUNCANEWT
ANGLER: NEWT CAGLE, 13
OWNER: JOHN CAGLE

LARGEST WAHOO
WEIGHT: 109.2 lbs.
BOAT: RAINMAKER
ANGLER: CHRIS BECH
OWNER: RODNEY PROX

LARGEST TUNA
WEIGHT: 104.4 lbs.
BOAT: GRAND SLAM
ANGLER: DAN EDENS
OWNER: TOM EDENS

LARGEST DOLPHIN
WEIGHT: 61.4 lbs.
BOAT: POINT RUNNER
ANGLER: GREG LEE
OWNER: DALE PROX

LARGEST BILLFISH
WEIGHT: 361.2
BOAT: OVERSPRAY
OWNER: FOSTER MCKISSICK

BILLFISH CONSERVATIONIST
POINTS: 1000
BOAT: MAJOR MOTION
OWNER: BUCK MORRIS

BLUEWATER CONSERVATION
POINTS: 750
BOAT: PETREL IV
OWNER: HARRY JOHNSON

LADY ANGLER
FISH: BLUE MARLIN T&R
BOAT: MAJOR MOTION
ANGLER: HOPE HANCKEL
OWNER: BUCK MORRIS

INSURANCE CORNER...

Liability Insurance...

A question often asked by boaters regards liability coverage, “Who needs it and how much is enough?” Liability coverage is a crucial part of your insurance coverage. This is especially true for charter boat people to stay in compliance with the ‘Jones Act. If you have a full-time captain and mate, both need liability coverage. Even if you utilize different mates from trip to trip, you still need full-time coverage for both captain and mate.

How much is enough? Unfortunately, there are no set guidelines on how much liability coverage to carry. Whether to carry $300,000 or $1,000,000 is typically up to the individual boater. Many marine underwriters suggest a “personal umbrella.” With $1,000,000 coverage, you may need only $300,000 in liability and your personal umbrella will, in most cases, pick up any excess coverage needed. A personal umbrella can result in substantial savings in premium costs.

If you have questions regarding liability coverage or would like to review your present yacht policy, please call Charles Riley in Charleston at 843-216-8263 or Laddie Stover in Greenville at 864-271-8080.

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MAJOR MOTION TAKES BOHICKET...

The 2002 Governor’s Cup wrapped up its second of six tournaments, the Bohicket Invitational, May 16-18. “Major Motion” captured the Best Billfish Boat award in the Bohicket tournament. Owner Buck Morris of Charleston and his grandson, Milo Hanckel, also of Charleston, each tagged and released a blue marlin on Friday, earning “Major Motion” 600 points for the win. A total of seven billfish were tagged and released including three blue marlin, three white marlin and one sailfish. All but four of the 34 boats that participated in the tourment fished two out of the three days.

Finishing in second place with 300 points for tagging and releasing a blue marlin on Friday was “Big Kahuna,” owned by Rhett Spencer of Florence. The angler was Chris Duffee, also of Florence. “Legal Holiday” placed third in the tournament when owner Fred Bergen of Savannah, Ga., tagged and released a white marlin for 150 points.

A 49.7-pound wahoo caught aboard “My Time Out,” owned by Frank Gibson of Beaufort, earned angler Tom Redding of Charleston the Biggest Wahoo Award. The Biggest Tuna Award went to Jack Cantey of Columbia who reeled in an 87.8-pound yellowfin tuna aboard “Mistress,” owned by Scott Boyd of Columbia. Angler Mack McIntosh of Charleston captured the Biggest Dolphin Award with a 43.5-pound dolphin caught aboard “Palmetto Pride,” owned by Anthony McAlister of Mt. Pleasant.

The Outstanding Female Angler Award went to Keegan Kennedy of Charleston who caught a 45-pound yellowfin tuna aboard “Sea Trace,” owned by A.J. Kennedy of Hollywood. The Outstanding Youth Angler Award went to Austin Wyatt of New Market, Tenn., who caught a 16.5-pound dolphin on “Marlin Luhr,” owned by Gary Wyatt, also of New Market.
OVERSPRAY TOPS AT GEORGETOWN...

This weekend, the 14th Annual South Carolina Governor’s Cup Billfishing Series wrapped up its third out of six tournaments, the 35th Annual Georgetown Landing Blue Marlin Tournament.

A total of ten billfish were tagged and released including six blue marlin, three white marlin and one sailfish. All but two of the 64 boats that participated in the tournament fished two out of the three days.

“Overspray,” owned by Foster McKissick of Greenville captured the Best Billfish Boat award. McKissick landed a 361.2-pound, 106-inch long blue marlin to earn his boat 361 points and first place in the tournament. Finishing in second place at Georgetown for tagging and releasing a blue marlin on Friday was “Compromise IV,” owned by Robert H. Hood of Charleston. The angler was James B. Hood also of Charleston. “Dragon Lady III,” owned by Don Crocker of Mt. Pleasant came in third in the tournament when Ed Heavner of Concord, North Carolina tagged and released a blue marlin later in the day on Friday.

A 109.2-pound wahoo, the fourth largest wahoo ever reported in South Carolina, caught aboard “Rainmaker,” owned by Rodney Prox of Georgetown, earned angler Chris Bech also of Georgetown the Biggest Wahoo Award.

The Outstanding Female Angler Award went to Heather Gehlken of Charleston, who reeled in a 33.2-pound dolphin. Gehlken hooked the fish aboard “Billistic,” owned by Dale Martin and William Holseberg of Ridgeville.

Georgetown’s Tag and Release Award went to “Mistress,” owned by Scott Boyd of Columbia for tagging and releasing a blue marlin and three dolphin.

Georgetown Landing’s Marina annual Wallace F. Pate Award for outstanding work in fisheries conservation was presented to captain Mike McClamrock of Georgetown, captain of “Overspray.”

MINDSET WINS MARLIN QUAY...

“Mindset,” owned by Robert Goff of Sumter, captured the Best Billfish Boat award at the fourth Governor’s Cup event held at Marlin Quay Marina June 6-8. Angler David Croft of Sumter tagged and released a sailfish at 8:40 a.m. June 7 to earn “Mindset” 100 points.

Only half of the 16 boats that participated in the tournament fished two out of the three days, because of a small craft advisory on Saturday. A total of two billfish, both sailfish, were tagged and released during the tournament.

Finishing in second place at Marlin Quay for tagging and releasing a sailfish at 12:05 p.m. on June 7 was “Overspray,” owned by Foster McKissick of Greenville. The angler was John Cleveland of Easley. There was no third place boat in the tournament.

The Biggest Wahoo Award went to Dan Edens of Columbia who reeled in a 104.4 pound yellowfin tuna aboard “Grand Slam,” owned by Tom Edens also of Columbia. The tuna is the largest yellowfin ever been landed in a SCGCBS event.

As for the Biggest Dolphin Award, angler Tom Goodson of Hartsville caught a 48.8-pound dolphin aboard his boat, “Good Buddy.”

The Outstanding Female Angler Award went to Heather Gehlken of Charleston, who reeled in a 33.2-pound dolphin. Gehlken hooked the fish aboard “Billistic,” owned by Dale Martin and William Holseberg of Ridgeville.

The Outstanding Youth Angler Award went to Bruce McNamara of Charleston who caught a 38.8-pound dolphin. McNamara hooked the fish aboard “Palmetto Pride,” owned by Anthony McAlister of Mt. Pleasant.

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- Written by Jennie R. Davis -