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 HMY - Viking Charleston Harbor Marina Billfish Tournament
Contact: Deidre Menefee
19 Forde Row
Charleston SC 29412
843-345-0369
FAX 843-406-4775

For more information contact:
Tom DuPre’,
Office of Fisheries Management
843-953-9365* email: dupre@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us
http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/etc/govcup/govcup.html
*Note new phone number

A RELEASE TODAY IS A FISH TOMORROW!

PARADOX WINS CHARLESTON HARBOR HMY Viking Event...

The 14th Annual South Carolina Governor’s Cup Billfishing Series wrapped up its last of six tournaments, the Charleston Harbor Marina Resort Billfish Tournament, July 11-13.

“Paradox,” owned by John Hood of Mt. Pleasant, captured the Best Billfish Boat award with 400 points by tagging and releasing four sailfish at 100 points each. The four sailfish were caught by anglers John Hood, Tom Boggs and Dowse Austin of Mt. Pleasant, and John Sloan of Charleston. “Paradox” also reeled in a sailfish that got off the hook at the transom, so it was not awarded points for this fish since it was not tagged.

“The number of boats was down only slightly from last year, but that was not apparent from the number of billfish tagged and released or from the enthusiasm of the anglers during this tournament,” said Tom DuPre’ of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, who coordinates the tournament series. “Staff from the tournament, marina and hotel were very well organized, making this tournament an excellent wrap-up to this year’s Governor’s Cup Series.”

A total of 46 billfish were tagged and released during the July 11-13 Charleston Harbor Marina Resort Billfish Tournament including nine blue marlin, three white marlin and 34 sailfish. Each of the 94 boats that participated in the tournament fished two out of the three days.

Finishing in second place at the Charleston Harbor tournament for tagging and releasing a blue marlin was “Triple W,” owned by Williams Detroit Diesel of Savannah, Ga. The angler was Dale Morris of Summerville. Although nine blue marlin were caught during the tournament, Morris’ marlin was caught the earliest.

Charleston HMY cont. on page 2...
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“Second Love III,” owned by Ross Swygert of Johns Island, came in third in the tournament when three sailfish were tagged and released, at 100 points each. The anglers who caught the sailfish were Paul A. Speights Jr. of Charleston, who tagged two of the sailfish, and Jay McCormack of Mt. Pleasant.

A 62.7-pound wahoo caught aboard “Double G,” owned by George Pisula of New Smyrna Beach, Fla. and chartered by Team Wachovia, earned angler Tom Clymer of Charleston the Biggest Wahoo Award. Biggest Tuna went to Dowse Austin of Mt. Pleasant, for a 91.1-pound yellowfin tuna aboard “Paradox,” owned by John Hood of Mt. Pleasant.

Keith Farone of Wilmington, N.C., captured the fish at 43.9 pounds aboard “Rampage 45,” owned by KCS International of Charleston.

Outstanding Female Angler was Keegan Kennedy of Hollywood for a tagged and released blue marlin aboard “Sea Trace,” owned by A.J. Kennedy, also of Hollywood. The Outstanding Youth Angler Award went to Rob Johnson of Charleston who caught a 22.3-pound yellowfin tuna. Johnson hooked the fish aboard “Petrel,” owned by Harry L. Johnson Jr. of Charleston.

The next Carolinas Shootout, which has not yet been scheduled, will be held in North Carolina this fall.

Jennie R. Davis

UPDATE ON DOLPHIN TAGGING PROJECT...

The Governor’s Cup is a primary sponsor of the South Carolina Dolphin Tagging Research Project now well underway.

Recoveries of five dolphin tags have been received. A dolphin tagged by charter Captain Scott Goodwin 20nm SE of Cape Canaveral was recaptured 18 days later 50nm east of Jeckyl Island, GA by E. L. Thompson. A fish tagged May 17 by James Moore 65nm SE of Charleston, SC was recovered June 21 by Margaret Supplier 55 miles NE of Oregon Inlet, NC while fishing aboard the charter vessel “Propagator.” Cape Canaveral anglers have recovered two tags, one released off Sebastian Inlet and one from Jupiter Inlet. Two tagged dolphin have been reported captured by anglers out of Swansboro and Beaufort, NC. No information has been received on either.

With recent donations from the Charlotte Offshore Sportfishing Club and the Georgia Governor’s Cup Billfishing Series, sportfishing clubs and organizations from Florida to North Carolina have joined in providing financial support to the study.

More than 300 anglers from Key West to New York have volunteered to assist in tagging dolphin. Over 95 percent of these anglers own their own boats. Florida leads the field with 174 volunteers followed by South Carolina with 112. Interest in the program is growing in North Carolina with 26 vessels signed up to tag. A high level of tagging in NC is reported important to the study and hopefully more anglers will soon step forward. New Jersey and New York are represented by a single individual each.

More than 90 anglers have tagged dolphin. Twenty-one anglers and four boat captains have earned the right to wear the S.C. Dolphin Tagging Study t-shirt. Anglers tagging five or more fish have qualified for shirts while five others earned shirts by recovering a tagged fish. Additionally, four captains have earned t-shirts by having ten or more fish tagged by anglers aboard their boats.

Recently information surfaced that some anglers were tagging dolphin while the fish was in the water or dangling from the hook. This is not a good practice.

Attempting to implant the nylon dart tag into a fish not under control could result in poor tag placement. Proper tag insertion into the fish’s back muscle is critical. It’s also critical that we receive precise data on each fish to maximize the value of each recapture. Lat/Lon or LORAN TDs for positioning along with water temperature, depth and a measured fork length for the fish help immeasurably.

For these reasons, we’ve created a web site with forms for signup plus reporting convenience and accuracy as well as an online “home” for the project. The site tells about the project’s concepts, a little on dolphin life history, a how-to on tagging, rewards and sponsors page, and soon-to-come pages devoted to catch techniques and a dynamic map of the U.S. east and Caribbean island coasts that ultimately will show where each fish recovered was originally tagged.

Visit dolphintagging.homestead.com to view the site. While there, take the time to sign up to tag...we can use your help!

Don Hammond
Dolphin Tagging Study, SCDNR
P.O. Box 12559
Charleston, SC 29422
Telephone: (843) 953-9847
hammond@dcdnr.state.sc.us

NEW PHONE NUMBERS...

Wayne Waltz - S.C. Governor’s Cup
843-953-9389
Tom DuPre’ - S.C. Governor’s Cup
843-953-9365
Fax 843-953-9362
Robert Wiggers - Tagging Program
843-953-9363
2002
SC GOVERNOR’S CUP BILLFISHING
SERIES LEADER BOARD

TOP TEN BOATS

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BILLFISH CONSERVATIONIST

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SPONSORS CORNER...

There are many other aspects of propellersthan just pitch, diameter and cup. A good first step toward better performance for your boat is to have your propellers analyzed.

Before computer technology, the mean pitch was the major criterion used in propeller manufacturing and repair. With the advent of computerized scanning, we can more accurately detect inaccuracies in pitch. But, perhaps more importantly, we can also measure section shape and fact camber in the blades, sometimes more important than mean pitch.

Normally, section shape is a straight line at a given pitch. It will often have inconsistences that appear as “humps and bumps” in the computer scanned line graphs or a continuous rise or fall in pitch. A repair...