



TAG & RELEASE

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

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15TH ANNUAL SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CUP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE...

- April 30-
May 3** *Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Susie Bost
3702 Docksite Rd.
Edisto Beach SC 29438
843-869-3504 FAX 843-869-3738
- May 14-17** *Bohicket Invitational Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Damien Zanetti
1880 Andell Bluff Blvd.
Johns Island SC 29455
843-768-1280 FAX 843-768-3481
- May 28-31** *Georgetown Landing Blue Marlin Tournament*
Contact: Ricky Ferdon
P.O. Box 1704
Georgetown SC 29442
843-546-1776 FAX 843-546-7832
- July 9-12** *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: dupret@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us
<http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/etc/govcup/govcup.html>

FROM THE CHAIR...

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I'm happy to welcome you to the 15th Annual Governor's Cup Billfishing Series. 2003 promises to be exciting. With your help and that of our sponsors, folks committed to the program, we continue to make headway in blue water conservation and education. The Cup is supported by donations and sponsorships. SCDNR provides the staff to coordinate the program, but it operates on dollars from concerned citizens and companies.

We are happy to have with us sponsors like Wachovia, HMY, Williams Marine Power and Cummins, plus all our generous newsletter sponsors ... companies who support the program and its values.

2002 was significant in many ways. All but one billfish were released alive. This is nearly a 99% release rate and all participants are to be congratulated.

2002 saw the inception of the Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. Award, a competition of skill, experience, determination and team work. The award recognizes the first boat and team to tag and release all six species; blue and white marlin, sailfish, tuna, dolphin and wahoo, during the Series.

As always, we are continually looking for new partners and ways to maintain a solid financial base. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the program, we have a variety of sponsorship categories at many levels.

Also, please consider entering the Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. Sportsman Competition. Not only is this a terrific way to support the program and have fun while testing your fishing knowledge and skill, but the entry donation has been reduced to only \$500!

I hope to see all of you on the docks and out on the water. Good fishing, good luck and be safe. Regards, Bobby.

*Bobby Hood, Chairman
SCGCBS, Charleston*

A RELEASE TODAY IS A FISH TOMORROW!

NEW RULES FOR RECREATIONAL HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES...

New regulations for anglers and charter boat operators who target highly migratory species in federal waters of the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and U.S. Caribbean went into effect in March 2003.

These conservation measures involve a recreational retention limit for swordfish, an inclusive recreational permit to fish for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, sharks and billfish and a new reporting system to monitor landings of billfish and swordfish.

Atlantic HMS angling permit:

Currently, owners of recreational fishing vessels fishing for Atlantic tunas (bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack, and albacore) must obtain an Atlantic tunas angling vessel permit. The new rules extend the tuna permit to include all regulated highly migratory fish including Atlantic sharks, swordfish, white marlin, blue marlin, sailfish and spearfish.

The Atlantic tunas angling permit is now called the Atlantic HMS angling permit. The permit costs \$22 (a decrease of \$5 from 2002) and can be obtained by calling

1-888-872-8862 or online at www.nmfspermits.com. Fishermen can apply and pay for the permit online and print it to start fishing immediately. The permit application may also be printed and faxed or mailed.

New Reporting Requirements for Billfish and Swordfish:

HMS permit holders and charter/headboat permit holders are now required to report all landings of Atlantic blue and white marlin, sailfish and North Atlantic swordfish, including those landed on charter/headboats, to NOAA Fisheries by calling 1-800-894-5528 within 24 hours of the landing. Anglers will continue to report landings of bluefin tuna to 1-888-872-8862 or online at www.nmfspermits.com. Landings are considered those fish killed and brought to shore.

Individual anglers participating in registered tournaments do not need to report landings if the tournament operator is already reporting to NOAA Fisheries.

Swordfish:

Anglers fishing in federal waters of

the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico are limited to one swordfish per person, up to three per boat, per day. This limit applies to all recreational vessels, including charter/headboat vessels.

Circle hooks: NOAA Fisheries is encouraging voluntary use of circle hooks in the recreational swordfish fishery to increase the chance that gamefish survive upon release back into the water. Circle hooks consistently hook fish in the corner of the mouth rather than catching in the gut cavity or throat, making it much easier to release a fish unharmed. For a more detailed story on the environmental benefits of circle hooks, visit www.nmfs.noaa.gov.

NOAA WEATHER GUIDELINES

"SCGCBS Rules Governing Participating Tournaments"...

The SCGCBS Board of Directors, in an effort to avoid confusion concerning cancellations of tournament fishing due to weather, amended the rules governing participating tournaments as follows:

10. In consideration for the safety of all participants, Series tournaments will adopt the use of a posted NOAA Weather Service "Small Craft Advisory" (winds 25 to 33 knots and/or seas 6 feet or higher) to cancel that day's fishing. Tournaments must set a specific time that can be no later than 5:00 am when a "Small Craft Advisory" will cancel that day's fishing. The safety of the participating vessel is ultimately the responsibility of the Captain.

All tournaments agreed to use the above weather rule, however, any tournament may still exercise discretion to cancel a day's fishing based on other pertinent information.

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

CARROLL A. CAMPBELL, JR. AWARD CATEGORY...

The Governor's Cup Board of Directors and staff are proud to announce the continuation of an awards category named in honor of Series' founder Governor Carroll A. Campbell, Jr..

This award category will again be a grand slam tag and release tournament within the Series. The award will recognize the first boat and team to tag and release all six species; blue and white marlin, sailfish, tuna, dolphin and wahoo, during the Series. This is a competition of skill, experience, determination and team work. A donation of \$500 is required to participate and all donations are tax exempt. Participants will be invited to the awards ceremony, listed in the program and receive special perks and gifts not available to others. Participants may also display their business logo or message in each issue of our *Tag & Release* newsletter. Finally, the winning boat will receive a hand-carved trophy named in honor of Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. Additional information and rules will be forthcoming. If interested call Wayne Waltz, (843)953-9389.

Wayne Waltz
SCDNR-Marine Div.





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2002 SC GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES WINNERS

TOP TEN BOATS

	TOTAL
MAJORMOTION	1100
COMPROMISE IV	800
GRAND SLAM	700
RISKY BUSINESS	625
OVERSPRAY	561.2
JUNCANEWT	550
HOUDINI	550
ROOKIE IV	525
MISTRESS	500
BIG KAHUNA	500

TOP BOAT

POINTS: 1100
BOAT: MAJOR MOTION
OWNER: BUCK MORRIS
CAPTAIN: WESLEY MORRIS, JR

LARGEST BILLFISH

WEIGHT: 361.2
BOAT: OVERSPRAY
OWNER: FOSTER MCKISSICK

BILLFISH CONSERVATIONIST

POINTS: 1000
BOAT: MAJOR MOTION
OWNER: BUCK MORRIS

BLUE WATER CONSERVATION

POINTS: 950
BOAT: PETREL IV
OWNER: HARRY JOHNSON

LADY ANGLER

FISH: BLUE MARLIN T&R
BOAT: MAJORMOTION
ANGLER: HOPEHANCKEL
OWNER: BUCK MORRIS

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 PROPPS

LARGEST TUNA

WEIGHT: 104.4 lbs.
BOAT: GRAND SLAM
ANGLER: ZAN EDENS
OWNER: BIG STICK INC.

LARGEST DOLPHIN

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

GOVERNOR'S CUP JOINS IGFA JUNIOR ANGLER PROGRAM...

We are excited to announce that the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series is now a qualifying event for the IGFA Junior Angler World Championship. Each Youth angler winner from each of the 4 tournaments in the series will receive a free membership to the IGFA Junior Angler Club. This entitles them to a free junior Angler Cap, decals, emblems, subscription to the *International Junior Angler* and more. The overall Series winner in the youth category will be invited to fish in the Junior World Championship in 2004. This year's Championship will be held in Key West FL. This is an excited opportunity for our young anglers, so everyone do your best to get the kids out there and let them catch a few fish. Good Luck this Season/Take a Kid "Fishin".

Wayne Waltz
SCDNR-Marine Div.

REMINDERS...


- White marlin and sailfish are tag and release only.

- A penalty of 300 points will be assessed against a boat for each blue marlin brought to the dock not meeting the minimum South Carolina Governor's Cup Series size requirements.

- White marlin and sailfish may not be brought into the boat. Any white marlin or sailfish boated for pictures or any other reason **will not** receive tag and release points. Blue marlin brought into the boat for measurement without the use of a gaff, harpoon or other device will qualify for tag and release points provided they are returned to the water in a healthy condition and meet the federal minimum size limit. (currently 99 inches).

Note: Federal law prohibits the boating of undersized billfish.

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