



TAG & RELEASE

Volume 8, No. 2 May 2003

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>

A RELEASE TODAY IS A FISH TOMORROW!

"REESEA" WINS EDISTO TOURNAMENT IN GOVERNOR'S CUP SERIES

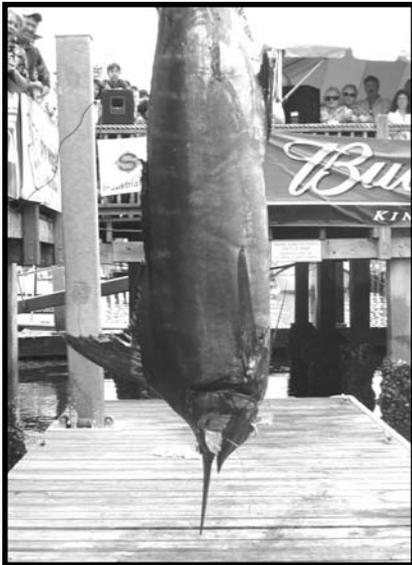
During the first weekend in May, the 15th Annual South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series wrapped up the first out of four tournaments, the Edisto Marina Tournament.

As for the Edisto tournament, "It went off without a hitch. The only problem was a Small Craft Advisory on Friday," said Tom DuPré of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, who coordinates the tournament series. "The tournament was very well run. From the Mayor and town council on down, everyone involved did a super job. The obvious community support made the Edisto tournament a great kick-off to the 2003 Series. The blue marlin that was landed was the fifth largest in Series history."

A total of three billfish were tagged and released including two blue marlin and one sailfish. Thirty-eight boats participated in the tournament. Boats can choose to fish any two out of the three days throughout the tournament.

"ReeSea," owned by John Kornegay of Edisto Island captured the Best Billfish Boat award. Angler Richard Avant of Walterboro landed a 586-pound blue marlin to earn "ReeSea" 586 points at one point for every pound.

Finishing in second place at Edisto for tagging and releasing a blue marlin on May 1 was "Summer Girl," owned by Steve Leasure of Charleston, John Smith of Walterboro, and Dean Kelly of Folly Beach. Dean Kelly was the angler who tagged and released the blue marlin.



586-pound blue marlin landed by Richard Avant aboard "ReeSea"

"Insane-O," owned by Denton Williams of Garden City came in third in the tournament when Williams tagged and released a blue marlin on May 3.

The sailfish was tagged on May 3 on "Laid Back," by the boat's owner Hew King of Anderson.

A 45.7-pound wahoo caught aboard "Summer Girl", earned angler John Smith of Walterboro the Biggest Wahoo Award.

The Biggest Tuna Award went to John Tilton of Hilton Head Island who reeled in a 52.7-pound yellowfin tuna aboard "Seven Sisters," owned by Robert Graves, also of Hilton Head Island.

As for the Biggest Dolphin Award, angler Boyd Plumb of Orangeburg caught a 50-pound dolphin aboard "Gamecock," owned by Fisher Walter of Edisto Island.

The Outstanding Female Angler Award went to Karen Evans of Durham, North Carolina, who reeled in a 46.7-pound yellowfin tuna. Evans hooked the fish aboard "Part Time," owned by Rion McKissick of Laurens.

The Outstanding Youth Angler Award went to 12-year-old Thomas Plumb of Orangeburg, who caught a 38.4-pound dolphin. Plumb hooked the fish aboard "Gamecock."

Funds from each tournament are used to support a broad range of marine fisheries research and conservation efforts each year.

Written by Jennie R. Davis

INSIDE EDISTO

Edisto Beach has always proven to be a wonderful kickoff to the SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series, but this year was something special. New owners and new staff, with backing and support by the town of Edisto Beach put a renewed enthusiasm and vigor into the event that was appreciated by all. It was down-right fun. The captain's meeting on Wednesday night was graced by Mayor Burley Lyons and Councilwoman Jane Darby who offered their support and good wishes to the participants.

Thursday's weather however, was nothing anyone would have wished for. As a developing low pressure area moved up the coast from Florida, seas began running in the 5-7' category, wind was anywhere from 15 to 25 knots and just about everyone fished under a cloud of rain. In addition, 5 boats experienced some type of mechanical problems and missed their opportunity to fish. Despite this rough and wet beginning, most boats found good numbers of dolphin, tuna and wahoo. *Summer Girl* successfully tagged and released a 99" blue marlin to account for the first release of the Series. With winds expected to continue to blow on Friday, everyone stayed on the hill hoping for a bluebird day on Saturday.

Fishing, as well as the weather, improved for Saturday's finale. Rumors were running on the dock in the afternoon, that a big marlin had been landed and was on the way in. Scores of tuna and dolphin were landed and weighed. *Insane-O* had tagged a blue and *Laid Back* a sail. As the scales continued to tell their tale, we all heard shouts and cheers. *ReeSea* owned by John Kornegay of Edisto slowly motored down the creek flying the marlin flag. As they pulled up to the dock we could all see the massive tail of the marlin sticking up over the gunwale. It took a good thirty min-

utes and several attempts to removed the behemoth from the boat and get her on the dock. It seemed to take forever as everyone took turns winching the fish up to be weighed. The fish was so big, spectators were cautioned to stay back should the winch cable break. The crowd grew silent as everyone waited in anticipation for the scale to settle down and be read. Five hundred and eighty-six (586 lbs.) even was the call as the cheers erupted again for the boat and angler Richard Avant of Walterboro. Not since 1997 has the Series' seen a marlin that big landed. It was the 5th largest in the Series' history. That evening, the awards banquet went off without a hitch. It was followed by a shagging contest that lasted well into the evening.

Congratulations to new owners Buddy Smith and Jimmy Knight for a wonderful event. Buddy's wife Becky, daughter Becca, tournament coordinator Penny Merriman and husband Chip, Susie Bost, Larry Darby and financial wizard Julia Harper all did a great job and made this event something special.

Written by Wayne Waltz



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GREETINGS FROM OUR GOVERNOR

On behalf of the State of South Carolina, I'm pleased to welcome you to the 2003 Governor's Cup Billfishing Series.

This series is a critical part of ensuring the health and future of our natural resources and coastal economy because it promotes the management and preservation of our billfish stocks for future generations.

Because well over ninety percent of the billfish caught each year are released alive, South Carolina is recognized as a world leader in marine fisheries conservation. It's my hope that we will continue to be leaders in conserving ocean resources through catch and release tournament angling.

We think South Carolina's natural beauty and hospitality are unparalleled, and our coastal offshore and inshore waters will challenge the skills of beginners and veterans alike. Hopefully, you'll have some time during your stay to take advantage of the many opportunities available to sportfishing enthusiasts in our state, as well as scenic, historic destinations from here in the Lowcountry to the mountains of the Upstate.

Take care and be sure to let me know if there's anything my office can do for you.

Sincerely,



Mark Sanford

"SECOND LOVE III" WINS BOHICKET TOURNAMENT IN GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES

This weekend, the 15th Annual South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series wrapped up its second out of four tournaments, the Bohicket Invitational Billfish Tournament.

After the first two tournaments at the Edisto and Bohicket marinas, the award standings are as follows:

Billfish boat: 650 points - "Summer Girl," owned by Dean Kelly of Folly Beach, Steve Leasure of Charleston and John Smith of Walterboro.

Billfish Conservation Award: 650 points - "Summer Girl," owned by Dean Kelly of Folly Beach, Steve Leasure of Charleston and John Smith of Walterboro.

Bluewater Conservation Award: 800 points - "Summer Girl," owned by Dean Kelly of Folly Beach, Steve Leasure of Charleston and John Smith of Walterboro, for 10 tagged dolphin and three tagged yellowfin tuna.

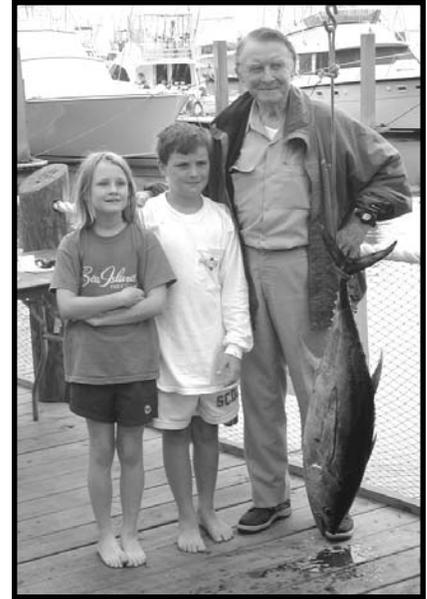
Largest Tuna/Outstanding Female Angler: 55.4 pounds, angler Eugenie Barrow of Savannah on "Legal Holiday," owned by Fred Bergen also of Savannah.

Largest Dolphin: 56.9 pounds, angler Robbie Morrison of Monroe, North Carolina on "Insane-O," owned by Denton Williams of Murrells Inlet.

Largest Wahoo: 64.4 pounds, angler Frank Gibson of Beaufort on his boat, "My Time Out."

Youth Angler: Eight-year-old Bobby Faith of Mount Pleasant with a 49.9-pound yellowfin tuna on "Caramba," owned by his father, Bob Faith.

As for the Bohicket tournament, "It was a very successful tournament. The marina staff made sure it was a great event with good food, good service and a friendly attitude," said Tom DuPré of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, who coordinates the tournament series. "A lady angler



Some of the "Legal Holiday" family.

caught the largest yellowfin tuna, and several of the six youth anglers were near the top of the leader board. Conservation-minded anglers tagged and released 34 dolphin and two yellowfin tuna in addition to the three blue marlin that were tagged and released."

Each of the 32 boats that participated in the tournament fished two out of the three days.

"Second Love III," owned by Ross Swygert of Johns Island captured the Best Billfish Boat award. Angler Paul Speights, Jr. of Charleston tagged and released the first blue marlin to earn "Second Love III" 300 points.

Finishing in second place at the tournament on Johns Island for tagging and releasing a blue marlin was "Summer Girl," owned by Dean Kelly of Folly Beach, Steve Leasure of Charleston and John Smith of

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Walterboro. The angler was Paul Aimar of Charleston.

“Maxed Out,” owned by Ed Renken of Mount Pleasant came in third in the tournament when Eddie Langeland of Mount Pleasant tagged and released a blue marlin after the one caught by “Summer Girl.”

The Biggest Tuna Award went to Eugenie Barrow of Savannah, who reeled in a 55.4-pound yellowfin tuna aboard “Legal Holiday,” owned by Fred Bergen also of Savannah. This catch also earned Barrow the Outstanding Female Angler award.

A 64.4-pound wahoo caught aboard “My Time Out,” by owner Frank Gibson of Beaufort earned Gibson the Biggest Wahoo Award.

As for the Biggest Dolphin Award, angler Robbie Morrison of Monroe, North Carolina caught a 56.9-pound dolphin aboard “Insane-O,” owned by Denton Williams of Murrells Inlet.

The Outstanding Youth Angler Award went to eight-year-old Bobby Faith of Mount Pleasant who caught a 49.9-pound yellowfin tuna. Faith hooked the fish aboard “Caramba,” owned by his father, Bob Faith.

Written by Jennie R. Davis

SPONSOR'S CORNER

Why should you use a professional yacht broker when buying or selling? The main reason is, it will actually save you money in the long run! Vessel transactions in today's market typically involve large sums of money, \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 are commonplace and often run much higher. If you had a \$500,000 tax or legal problem, would you attempt to handle it yourself without a qualified CPA or attorney?

Buying or selling a boat is no different; in fact it can be a very complicated and time intensive process. A good broker will not only help you locate the right boat, but he is in touch with economic conditions and current market values. He will assist from start to finish with the offer making and negotiating process, coordinate and oversee surveys, recommend credible financing companies and insurance agencies, and handle the myriad of paperwork involved in closing the transaction.

In addition to helping you avoid expensive pitfalls in the buying or selling process, he handles all aspects of

the deal, so you can concentrate on doing what you know best, running your business! This maximizes your productivity and maintains profit levels, so you can invest your spare time and money in something you enjoy, like using your new yacht!

If these concepts sound reasonable to you, please give me a call when considering your next boating transaction. There are more solid reasons for using a professional broker than I had room to touch on here. I would appreciate the opportunity to put my 18 years of brokerage experience to work on your behalf and demonstrate how I can save you time and money, and make your transaction more pleasurable.

Written by Michael Brown
HMY Yacht Sales, Inc.



GOV CUP Q&A

Every season, we get asked questions regarding various aspects of the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series. Some involve the rules, gamefish laws, fishing trends, while others involve more philosophical/social aspects. Over the course of the 2003 Series we will try and address some of these questions and whether you agree or not with the answers, we hope to shed some light as to why things are done the way they are. Opposing views, comments, other questions may be directed to the editor

Q: How does the Governor's Cup define a “youth” angler?

A: To qualify as a “youth angler” the individual must be less than 16 years of age. To say this a different way, they must be 15 or less. The reason this age frame was adopted is that once the boy or girl turns 16, they

are required to have a fishing license and therefore are considered no different than other “older” license holders.

Q: All of the Governor's Cup events award points for tagging billfish and other gamefish. Can you give me some advise how to accurately do this?

A: First of all, technique is very important. For example, single hook lures as opposed to bait hooks tend to cause less injury. Tuna circle hooks, supposedly help as well and tend to become lodged in the jaw as opposed to swallowed. Catching the fish as quickly as possible reduces exhaustion especially in warm weather, so use heavy tackle.

Handling should be kept at a minimum. Billfish should not be brought into the boat. If you bring smaller dolphin or tuna aboard, have a dark towel ready to cover the eyes and reduce stress.

Have all your tagging gear ready,

tag your fish at the base of the dorsal fin no closer than a foot behind the head and gill plate for billfish and half way down the length of the fish or more for dolphin, tuna and wahoo. Placing the tag high helps reduce injury to internal organs and reduces bleeding.

Using a pair of fishing pliers or dehooking devise, remove the hook. If it cannot be easily removed cut the leader as close to the hook as possible.

Now it's time to revive your fish. Holding the bill or tail push the fish underwater. Try and push smaller fish back and forth forcing water through the mouth and over the gills. Depending on the boat and sea conditions, some fishermen will have the captain kick the boat into forward gear to push water through the fishes mouth. Hopefully if everything was done right after 30-45 seconds the fish should begin to come back to life, regain color and slowly swim away.



**2003
SC GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING
SERIES LEADERS
(Results through Bohicket)**

TOPBOATS	TOTALS
SUMMER GIRL	650
REESEA	611
INSANE-O	350
SECOND LOVE III	325
TEAM SEA FOX (AKA MAXED OUT)	325
LAID BACK	150

OUTSTANDING BILLFISH BOAT
POINTS: 650
BOAT: SUMMER GIRL
OWNER: SMITH, LEASURE, &
KELLY
CAPTAIN: CHARLES AIMAR

**OUTSTANDING BILLFISH
CONSERVATIONIST**
POINTS: 650
2 BLUE MARLIN T&R
BOAT: SUMMER GIRL
OWNER: SMITH, LEASURE, &
KELLY
CAPTAIN: CHARLES AIMAR

BLUE WATER CONSERVATION
POINTS: 800
3 TUNA, 10 DOLPHIN T&R
BOAT: SUMMER GIRL
OWNER: SMITH, LEASURE, &
KELLY
CAPTAIN: CHARLES AIMAR

OUTSTANDING BILLFISH
FISH: BLUE MARLIN, 586.0 LBS
BOAT: REESEA
OWNER: JOHN KORNEGAY
ANGLER: RICHARD AVANT

OUTSTANDING DOLPHIN
WEIGHT: 56.9 LBS
BOAT: INSANE-O
OWNER: DENTON WILLIAMS JR.
ANGLER: ROBBIE MORRISON

OUTSTANDING YELLOWFIN TUNA
WEIGHT: 55.4 LBS
BOAT: LEGAL HOLIDAY
OWNER: FRED BERGEN
ANGLER: EUGENIE BARROW

OUTSTANDING WAHOO
WEIGHT: 64.4 LBS
BOAT: MY TIME OUT
OWNER: FRANK GIBSON
ANGLER: FRANK GIBSON

OUTSTANDING YOUTH ANGLER
FISH: YELL. FIN TUNA, 49.9 LBS
BOAT: CARAMBA
OWNER: BOB FAITH
ANGLER: BOBBY FAITH

OUTSTANDING LADY ANGLER
FISH: YELL. FIN TUNA, 55.4 LBS
BOAT: LEGAL HOLIDAY
OWNER: FRED BERGEN
ANGLER: EUGENIE BARROW

**Some Not So Famous
Fishing/Fishy Quotes
(Motivational and
Inspirational)**

compiled by Charlie Boykin

Let your hook be always cast. In the pool
where you least expect it, will be fish...
Ovid

On the road to Mandalay
Where the flyin' fishes play,
An' the dawn comes up like thunder outer
China 'crost the bay... Rudyard Kipling

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day.
Teach a man to fish and he will eat for the
rest of his life... Chinese Proverb

Fish and visitors smell in three days.
... Benjamin Franklin

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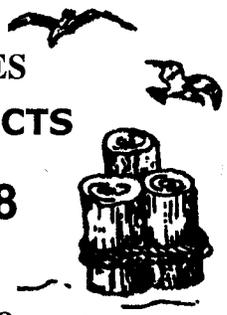



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