



# TAG & RELEASE

Volume 8, No. 5 December 2003

## 16TH ANNUAL SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CUP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE...

- April 28-  
May 1**      ***Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament***  
*Contact:* Susie Bost  
3702 Docksite Rd.  
Edisto Beach SC 29438  
843-869-3504    FAX 843-869-3738
- May 5-8**      ***Bohicket Invitational Billfish Tournament***  
*Contact:* Damien Zanetti  
1880 Andell Bluff Blvd.  
Johns Island SC 29455  
843-768-1280    FAX 843-768-3481
- May 16-22**      ***Charleston Harbor Marina Tournament***  
*Contact:* Deidre Menefee  
19 Forde Row  
Charleston SC 29412  
843-345-0369    FAX 843-406-4775
- June 2-5**      ***Georgetown Marina Tournament***  
*Contact:* Ricky Ferdon  
P.O. Box 1704  
Georgetown SC 29442  
843-546-1776    FAX 843-546-7832
- June 24-26**      ***MegaDock Tournament***  
*Contact:* Robert Freeman  
P.O. Box 759  
Charleston SC 29402  
843-577-7702    FAX 843-?

For more information contact:

***Tom DuPre'***  
***Office of Fisheries Management***  
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<http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/etc/govcup/govcup.html>

***A RELEASE TODAY IS A FISH TOMORROW!***

### **"SUMMER GIRL" WINS 2003 S.C. GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING TOURNAMENT SERIES**

**Billfish boat:** 1,100 points - "Summer Girl," owned by Dean Kelly of Folly Beach, Steve Leasure of Charleston and John Smith of Walterboro.

**Billfish Conservation Award:** 1,100 points - "Summer Girl," owned by Dean Kelly of Folly Beach, Steve Leasure of Charleston and John Smith of Walterboro.

**Bluewater Conservation Award:** 1,550 points - "Summer Girl," owned by Dean Kelly of Folly Beach, Steve Leasure of Charleston and John Smith of Walterboro, for 23 tagged dolphin and four tagged yellowfin tuna.

**Largest Yellowfin Tuna:** 55.4 pounds, angler Eugenie Barrow of Savannah on "Legal Holiday," owned by Fred Bergen also of Savannah.

**Largest Dolphin:** 59.9 pounds, angler Meg Williams of Murrells Inlet 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."

**Outstanding Female Angler:** 1<sup>ST</sup> place -- Lyn Tayloe of Myrtle Beach for tagging and releasing 1 blue marlin and landing a 444.4-pound blue marlin on "Totally Hooked," owned by Cindy McDonald of Myrtle Beach. 2<sup>ND</sup> place -- Anne Johnson of Greenville tagged and released a white marlin aboard "Big Sky" owned by Jim Johnston of Georgetown. 3<sup>RD</sup> place -- Beverly Canby Mebane of Greenville tagged and released a sailfish aboard "Sea Fix" owned by Robbie Johnson of Mount Pleasant.

**Youth Angler:** 1<sup>ST</sup> place--14-year-old Fran Johnson of Sullivans Island, who tagged and released a sailfish aboard "Petrel IV" owned by Harry Johnson

Garrett Sloan of Charleston tagged and released a sailfish aboard "Paradox" owned by John Hood of Mount Pleasant. 3<sup>RD</sup> place -- 15-year-old John Kornegay III of Camden landed a 57.6-pound dolphin on board "ReeSea," owned by John Kornegay also of Edisto Island.

"What an exciting Series South Carolina had this year! From the first tournament in Edisto to the last in Charleston, it was a tight race for those entering Governor's Cup tournaments," said Tom DuPré of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, who coordinates the tournament series. "A great group of boats fished this year, with highly skilled and motivated crews."

The competition was keen and enthusiasm was high for the 131 boats that participated in the 2003 Series. The weather was not as cooperative as last year with three fishing days canceled due to weather.

"The conservation ethic embraced by the anglers was evident with a 94% live release rate," DuPré said. A total of 63 billfish were tagged and released during the Series including 17 blue marlin, five white marlin and 41 sailfish. Two blue marlin were released alive without tagging, and only four blue marlin were brought to the docks to be weighed throughout the entire Series.

A twist in this year's Series was the use of S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) satellite tags on billfish. DNR biologists Josh Loefer, Scott Meister and Dan Russ took turns as guests on board four of the boats, successfully tagging six billfish. Manly Eubank of Charleston, who owns Palmetto Ford, accepted a request from Loefer to ride on his boat "Sportin' Life" during the Georgetown tournament in an attempt to tag a billfish with a satellite tag. Graham

Eubank, Manly's son, reeled in a blue marlin that was tagged with a regular tag and then a satellite tag.

Satellite tags were also placed on a sailfish in Charleston Harbor off "Aut-Top-Sea," owned by Dell Dembosky of Bennettsville, two sailfish in Charleston Harbor on "Juncanewt," owned by John Cagle of Sullivans Island, one blue marlin and one sailfish in Charleston Harbor on "Special Lady," owned by Ed Kosnik of Columbus, Ohio.

Loefer explained to the crew that the satellite tags will record data every hour it's on the fish and will pop off after a pre-specified number of days up to 240. The data is transmitted to a satellite, then to computers at the DNR.

"I think it's a great way to do research because the tag stays with the fish and accumulates helpful information that can be used to ultimately manage and preserve the species," Manly Eubank said. "I can't wait to see the report and find out where our fish travels over the next four months."

The researchers have the goal of attaching 26 satellite tags to blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, and swordfish this year. DNR biologists plan to continue satellite tagging during other billfish tournaments and on recreational sportfishing charters throughout the 2003 season.

The overall winner of the 2003 S.C. Governor's Cup Billfishing Tournament Series as the Outstanding Billfish Boat with 1,100 total points is "Summer Girl," owned by John Smith of Walterboro, Steve Leasure of Charleston and Dean Kelly of Folly Beach. "Summer Girl" tagged and released three blue marlin and one sailfish, securing them the first place position. For the release of their four billfish, "Summer Girl" receives the Top Billfish Conservationist award. The Bluewater Conservation Award also

goes to "Summer Girl," for tagging and releasing 23 dolphin and four yellowfin tuna.

The top six boats in the 2003 Series are as follows: "Summer Girl," owned by John Smith of Walterboro, Steve Leasure of Charleston and Dean Kelly of Folly Beach, with 1,100 points; "Totally Hooked," owned by Cindy McDonald of Myrtle Beach, with 794.4 points; "Ree-Sea," owned by John Kornegay of Edisto Beach, with 686 points; "Special Lady," owned by Ed Kosnik of Columbus, Ohio with 575 points; "Rapid Pace," owned by Trey Banks and Sam Schirmer of Mount Pleasant with 525 points; "Dem Boyz," owned by Doug and Tommy Hancock of Chapin with 500 points.

The Outstanding Female Angler award goes to Lyn Tayloe of Myrtle Beach. Tayloe tagged and released a blue marlin and landed a 444.4-pound blue marlin to earn "Totally Hooked", owned by Cindy McDonald of Myrtle Beach, 744.4 of their points. Second place for the Outstanding Female Angler goes to Anne Johnston of Greenville who tagged and released a white marlin aboard "Big Sky," owned by Jim Johnston of Georgetown. The third place Outstanding Female Angler is Beverly Canby Mebane of Greenville, who tagged and released a sailfish on "Sea Fix," owned by Robbie Johnson of Mt. Pleasant.

As for the Outstanding Youth Angler, first place goes to 14 year-old Fran Johnson of Sullivans Island who tagged and released a sailfish on "Petrel IV," owned by Harry Johnson of Charleston. The second place Outstanding Youth Angler is Garrett Sloan, age 12. Sloan tagged and released a sailfish on "Paradox," owned by John Hood of Mt. Pleasant. The third place award for the Outstanding Youth Angler goes to John Kornegay III, age



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15, of Camden, who landed a 57.6-pound dolphin on "ReeSea," owned by John Kornegay of Edisto Beach.

As for the biggest fish award categories, the Largest Blue Marlin award goes to Richard Avant of Walterboro on "Ree-Sea." Avant landed a 586-pound, 117-inch long blue marlin to earn their boat first place in the Edisto tournament.

The Largest Yellowfin Tuna award goes to Eugenie Barrow of Savannah who reeled in a 55.4-pound fish on "Legal Holiday," owned by Fred Bergen also of Savannah. The Largest Dolphin award goes to Meg Williams of Murrells Inlet, who caught a 59.9-pound dolphin on board "Insane-O," owned by Denton Williams also of Murrells Inlet. A 64.4-pound wahoo caught aboard "My Time Out," earned angler and owner Frank Gibson of Beaufort the Largest Wahoo award.

The S.C. Governor's Cup Billfishing Series, in its 15th season, is an umbrella event encompassing billfishing tournaments along the state's coast. The Series encourages tag and release angling, conservation of South Carolina's marine resources and promotes coastal tourism. It has been recognized internationally for its efforts to conserve billfish and other species through tag and release.

The "Carolinas Shootout" has not yet been finalized, but is tentatively scheduled to be held in South Carolina in the spring of 2004. The Shootout is a total tag and release billfish event, which pits a team of the five best boats from South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia against the each other for bragging rights as the best billfish boat.

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources coordinates the S.C. Governor's Cup Billfishing Tournament Series through the Marine Resources Division's Office of Fisheries Management.

Written by  
Jennie R. Davis

## BANQUET 2003

The 2003 Governor's Cup/Harry Hampton Banquet and Awards was something to experience. As with anything new we had our share of startup problems. The beautiful hand carved trophies by Chris Costello didn't show up until an hour before the awards were to begin, because Chris thought we were still holding the ceremony at the Charleston Landing Dome. Chairman Bobby Hood and John Darby did an admirable job with the presentations despite the load background noise which we couldn't seem to control. Our guest of honor, the honorable Carroll A. Campbell Jr. was fashionably late, but once he arrived the atmosphere changed and the show began. We had a couple of mix ups with the trophies and awards and had to make some midstream adjustments. All in all we got through it. We had an estimated 500 people in attendance. Mike Altine's bill of fare consisted of braised tuna bites, sauteed scallop, pickled shrimp, cracked crab claws, crab cakes, roast beef, Jim Quinn's BBQ, Craig Whitfield's shrimp gravy and grits and much more. No complaints about the food. The live and silent auction, and raffles added a tremendous degree of excitement to the hold event. Preliminary estimates suggest that we were able to raise about \$23,000 for the Harry Hampton Wildlife Memorial Fund, money that will be used for conservation, education and other activities which SCDNR does not have the funding to do. We learned a lot this year and look forward to an even better event next year. Awards, camaraderie, excitement, food, entertainment and all for a charitable cause. If you missed it this year plan now to attend next year and join in with the celebration.



Tom DuPré and Eric Burn representing sponsor Wachovia Wealth Management.



Lady Angler Lyn Tayloe with Wayne Waltz.



The winning team from "Summer Girl".



*Eugenie Barrow and friends with Largest Yellowfin Tuna plaque and trophy.*



*First Place Youth Angler, Fran Johnson, with Chairman Bobby Hood.*



*Governor and Mrs. Carroll A. Campbell Jr.*

### **2004 GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES (SCHEDULE, FORMAT CHANGES)**

The 2004 Governor's Cup Series should be more exciting than ever. The new schedule places Charleston Harbor in mid-May and adds the MegaDock tournament at the end as the grand finale. Charleston Harbor's format is also expanding to include 3 fishing days out of 5. Join us in 2004 beginning with the kickoff event at Edisto, then travel north to beautiful Bohicket, cut loose at Charleston Harbor, continue on to historical Georgetown then back again to MegaDock Charleston for some great fishing and good times.

In addition to what will be a new and exciting schedule, the Governor's

Cup Board of Director's took an unprecedented step at it's November meeting by making "tagging" an optional part of the Series. Now, points can be accumulated for properly catching and releasing billfish in a healthy condition (no tagging required). Boats qualifying for catch and release points will still need to submit an affidavit signed by everyone on the boat (18 yrs and above) that fish were caught according to Series guidelines. In addition, we will also be asking information about the disposition and fate of the hook (i.e. was the hook removed or the leader cut, where was the hook lodged, deep, corner of the mouth or foul hooked) in an attempt to qualify the condition of the released fish. "We have accomplished some major goals through the use of tags, said Sam Hiott of the Governor's Cup Board of Directors. " We have fostered conservation through tag and release that has gone far beyond tournament fishing, we have proven that fish properly caught and released do survive and we have provided management with useful information regarding billfish life history. It is now time for the Cup to take the next step to maximize survival of these fish by eliminating the additional handling and stress brought about by tagging especially under tournament conditions. Plus, the use of new technology such as scientifically applied satellite tags appears to be the way of the future to study these species. Anglers are still encouraged to tag tuna, dolphin and wahoo to earn points for the bluewater conservation award. Theses species are not in the overfished state as our billfish and we still have much to learn about their life history and migration patterns."

A final change in the Governor's Cup rules reduces the number of tournaments from 4 to 3 where entry points (25 points) can be obtained.



*Niels and Brenda Layman representing Cummins Atlantic and Cummins Mercruiser.*

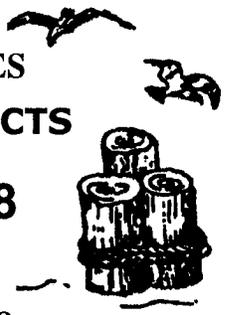
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**CONGRATULATIONS MEGADOCK**

This year, the Charleston City Marina successfully hosted their first billfishing tournament in a long time. With extensively renovated docking facilities, the City Marina's "MegaDock" tournament had 34 participating boats that were able to tag and release twelve billfish. In addition, "Flybuoy" landed a 444 pound blue marlin to win the event. For this event, the "MegaDock" used our Governor's Cup rules as the basis for points system and rule categories. SC Governor's Cup Coordinator, Tom DuPré and Tournament Committee Chair Stan Hurteau were there throughout the event to observe and document the professionalism and manner in which the event was held. In mid-July, 2003 the MegaDock petitioned the Governor's Cup Board of Directors asking them to include the MegaDock Tournament in the 2004 series. After much discussion and review from both the Tournament Committee and the Board of Directors, the decision was made to include MegaDock in the Series beginning in 2004. "It was a combination of several things", said Norman Pulliam of the Board. "The venue, with the City of Charleston as the backdrop, the positive publicity they generated, and the support they received from the City of Charleston, were all factored into the decision".

The MegaDock will hold its first SC Governor's Cup Billfishing tournament July 24-26, 2004. Welcome Aboard.

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**SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!!**

The SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series is funded totally from tax exempt donations from our Sponsors, Board of Director's and friends. SCDNR contributes part of my salary and Tom's to coordinate and run the program, but without the help of outside contributions we would be dead in the water. As the state budget and overall economy continues to stagnate, it is more important than ever to form strong and lasting partnerships to weather the storm and ensure our billfish resources and related industries continue to survive into the future. Whether you are simply a enthusiastic blue water angler or part of a large company that makes a habit of contributing to non-profit conservation activities, we invite you to take a look at the SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Program as a potential client for your charitable donations.

Depending on the size of your donation, your company/organization logo can be included in our newsletter which is published 5 times a year, with a distribution to over 1600 fishing enthusiasts and industry representatives. Corporate sponsors can participate in tournament events at a reduced rate and all our sponsors will be invited to and recognized at the gala awards banquet in August. We can even point you in the right direction if you only want to help sponsor a single tournament event. Check us out. I think you will like what you see.

For information on sponsorship opportunities contact:

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We welcome three new sponsors who will be with us through 2004, Albury Brothers Boats; the South Carolina Coastal Conservation Association (CCA); and Jarrett Bay Boatworks. Whether you are buying a boat or looking to have one serviced, looking for fishing opportunities; staying at a hotel or doing mechanical construction work we hope you will look at the services, products, and conservation opportunities all our sponsors have to offer and include them on your vendor list. When you support them, they will continue to support us.



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