



TAG & RELEASE

Volume 9, No. 3 June 2004

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

- April 28-
May 1** ***Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament***
Contact: Deidre Menefee
19 Forde Row
Charleston SC 29412
843-345-0369 FAX 843-406-4813
- May 5-8** ***Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament***
Contact: Bryan Richardson/Damien Zanetti
1880 Andell Bluff Blvd.
Johns Island SC 29455
843-768-1280 FAX 843-768-3481
- May 16-22** ***Charleston Harbor HMY Viking Billfish Tournament***
Contact: Deidre Menefee
19 Forde Row
Charleston SC 29412
843-345-0369 FAX 843-406-4813
- June 2-5** ***37th Annual Georgetown Landing 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: Emily S. Arthur
P.O. Box 759
Charleston SC 29402
843-577-7705
- 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!
Fish Responsibly!

"GOLDEN LADY" WINS CHARLESTON HARBOR TOURNAMENT IN GOVERNOR'S CUP SERIES

From May 16-22, the 16th Annual South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series wrapped up the third out of five tournaments, the Charleston Harbor HMY Viking Billfish Tournament.

"What an excellent event! Participation numbers were down slightly, but the enthusiasm was not. The weather was accommodating with breezy but very nice, fishable conditions. The food, social activities and shopping opportunities kept the participants entertained. From youngest to oldest, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves," said Tom DuPré of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, who coordinates the tournament series.



"Golden Lady" earns 700 points and first place in the tournament

A total of 28 billfish were caught, 27 of which were released during the tournament. 73 of the 74 boats that participated in the tournament fished three out of the five days.

Points for Governor's Cup tournaments are awarded as follows: 300 points for a tagged or released blue marlin, 150



"Done Diggin'" with their Blue marlin

points for a tagged or released white marlin, and 100 points for a tagged or released sailfish.

"Golden Lady," owned and captained by Chris Morris of Murrells Inlet captured the Best Billfish Boat award. Angler Chad Chase of James Island released two blue marlin and a sailfish to earn "Golden Lady" 700 points and first place in the tournament.

Finishing in second place at the Charleston Harbor HMY Viking Billfish Tournament for landing a 507 pound blue marlin was "Done Diggin'," owned by Jimmy Brewer of Murrells Inlet. The angler was the owner's son Brad Brewer, also of Murrells Inlet.

"Major Motion," owned by B & D Protection LLC of Charleston came in third in the tournament when Wesley Morris released a blue marlin and Hope Hanckel released a white marlin.

A 57.0-pound wahoo caught aboard "Hatteras 54," owned by Jarrett Bay Yacht Sales of Beaufort, NC, earned angler Lyn Tayloe of Myrtle Beach the Biggest Wahoo Award.

The Biggest Tuna Award went to Robbie Renken of Charleston who reeled in a 54.4-pound yellowfin tuna aboard "Second Love III," owned by Swygart Shipyards, Inc. of Charleston.

As for the Biggest Dolphin Award, angler Jim Stuckey of Charleston caught

a 39.0-pound dolphin aboard "Ali L," owned by Offshore Ventures of Mt. Pleasant.

The Outstanding Female Angler Award went to Margaret Hood Mevers of Mt. Pleasant, who released a blue marlin. Mevers hooked the fish aboard "Paradox," owned by John Hood of Mt. Pleasant.

Cathy Stewart of Charleston was the second place Lady Angler with the release of a white marlin aboard "Fly-bouy" owned by Gary Davis of the Isle of Palms.

Hope Hanckel of Johns Island released a white marlin aboard "Major Motion" to earn third place Lady Angler.

The Outstanding Youth Angler Award went to 5-year-old Cameron Bodge of Myrtle Beach who caught a 27.6-pound dolphin. Cameron hooked the fish aboard "Totally Hooked," owned by Cyndi McDonald of Myrtle Beach.

Richard Coen, Jr. of Mt. Pleasant, age 12, was the second place Youth Angler with a 25.7-pound yellowfin tuna caught aboard "Aut-Top-Sea," owned by his father Richard Coen.

As for the third place Youth Angler, 10-year-old Hawkins Schirmer caught a 22.0-pound dolphin onboard "Rapid Pace," owned by his father, Sam Schirmer of Sullivans Island.

In addition to the regular fishing tournament, the Carolina's Shootout for the 2004 Governor's Cup Series was held in conjunction with the Charleston Harbor HMY Viking Billfish Tournament. Here, the top five boats from the 2003 South Carolina and North Carolina Governor's Cup Series were showcased in a prestigious, all-release event. South Carolina's team members won by a margin of 400 points to reclaim the Cup.

The Governor's Cup Board of Directors took an unprecedented step this year by making "tagging" an optional part of the tournament series. Now points can be accumulated for properly catching and releasing billfish, so tagging is no longer required to receive release points. Anglers are still encouraged to tag tuna, dolphin and wahoo as part of the bluewater conservation endeavor, and to help support on-going studies of these species.

Funds from each tournament are also used to support a broad range of marine fisheries research and conservation efforts each year. *Written by Jennie R. Davis*



Future lady angler



Governor Mark Sanford heading to the weigh station



"Have fish will travel"

INSIDE HMY CHARLESTON HARBOR MARINA BILLFISHING EVENT

It all began on Sunday, May 16, with what we locals refer to as “Good Groceries”. The captains/owners party featured, oysters on the half-shell, pork tenderloin, bacon wrapped scallops, shelled shrimp, fresh young asparagus and a lot more. I would go on, but I am making myself hungry.

Monday was calm and relaxed. Everyone was busy gearing up and talking about who had caught what, last and where. The Captains meeting was short, sweet and uneventful. Mike Altine Jr. had the mega-grill cranked up for a delicious meal of roasted chicken with all the fixings. At the end of the day 74 boats had registered and were now awaiting the 8 am lines-in call. In addition, the tournament was hosting the 12th Carolina’s Shootout between NC and SC as a tournament within a tournament. All the ingredients were in place for what would hopefully be the billfishing event of the year for SC.

Day one began with calm seas, overcast skies and intermittent pop-up showers along the coast, a theme that would persist throughout the event. Day one can be described with one word “WOW”. Two sails and one white caught and released as well as four blue marlin caught, three released and a 507 lb., 110 incher



A boy and his tuna

landed by the “Done Diggin” out of Murrells Inlet. There were lots of dolphins, the biggest of the day was 37.6 lbs. caught on the “Caramba”. A 54.4 lb. tuna and 56 lb. wahoo caught by “Second Love III” and “Legacy” took the lead in those categories. Youth angler after day one was Hawkins Schirmer from the “Rapid Pace” with a 22-lb. dolphin and Lady Angler was Gigi Wagner from “Size Matters” with a 44.2 lb. tuna. The Carolina’s Shootout was off to a slow start. If no billfish are caught, the winners are determined by the highest aggregate weight of the teams single biggest tuna, dolphin and wahoo. After day one NC was in the lead by 5.5 lbs.

Approximately 31 boats ventured out on day two. The weather was beautiful, but the bite was slow. Two blues and a sail were caught and released. One of the blues was caught by “Golden Lady”, which added to the catch from the previous day, put her in the tournament lead with 700 points. Lyn Tayloe, last year’s Governor’s Cup Lady angler took over that category with a 57 lb. wahoo caught aboard NC’s “Hatteras 54”, which also happened to be one of the NC shootout boats. Thanks Lyn. The blue water conservation category was beginning to heat up. We now had 4 boats tagging a total of 27 dolphin with “Summer Girl” in the lead with 12. At the end of two day “Golden Girl” was in the lead with 700 points, “Done Diggin” second with 507, followed by “Game On” and “Pipe Layer” with 300 points each. The NC Shootout Team was now in the lead by 55.2 lbs. Everyone else was gearing up for a better bite to come on day three.

May 20, 2004 (day 3) saw an improvement in fishing and thus a change in some of the stats. Eleven billfish were caught and released including 5 blues, 3 whites and 3 sails. The lady angler slot went back and forth with Cyndi McDonald of the “Totally Hooked” first releasing a sail and then the ladies on “Major Motion” and “Fly Buoy” releasing whites. The SC team fishing in the Carolina’s Shootout took the lead with “Special Lady” catching and putting an electronic satellite tag in a blue and “Totally Hooked” releasing a sail. “Major Motion” made its



Lyn Tayloe and Deidre Menefee

presence known by releasing a blue and a white.

Day 4 saw a return of the doldrums. No billfish caught, very few tuna or wahoo but plenty of small dolphin.

The final day was filled with excitement. 40 boats still were eligible for one last fishing day. The winds had begun to pick up and it was sloppy along the coast but improved offshore. There was absolutely no talk on the radio. Everyone was pretty tightlipped towards the end. The dock rumors ranged from 5-22 billfish released. Mark Sanford (SC Governor) had picked this day for his family to join Bob Faith on the “Caramba” for a family outing. It was around 5 p.m. when the boats began the steady parade back to their slips. Six billfish had been released, but nothing that would alter the overall outcome. The “Ali L’s” Jim Stucky captured the lead for the biggest dolphin at 39 lbs. A new lady angler Margaret Hood Mevers from the “Paradox” took that place with a released blue marlin. 5 year old youth angler Cameron Bodge of the “Totally Hooked” took that slot with a 27.6 dolphin. At 6:50 there were still anglers literally running to the weigh in station to record their catches.

The final banquet and awards cer-



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emony was awesome. Mike Altine Jr. and crew prepared steaks for dinner so tender you could cut them with a plastic knife, music was provided by Plain Jane, and the refreshments flowed. "Golden Lady" came in first with two blues and a sail released" followed by "Done Digin" with their 507 blue and third place was "Major Motion" with a released blue and white. A total of 73 dolphin were tagged and released for the Blue Water Conservation Award, with the "Summer Girl" and "Petrel" accounting for the majority. The SC Shootout team made up of "Rapid Pace", "ReeSea", "Special Lady", "Summer Girl", "Totally Hooked", and alternate "Dem Boyz" won the 2003 shootout by 400 points. We want to congratulate them and thank the NC team for their participation and sportsmanship.

Thanks to Deidre Menefee, Sam Hiott and Mike Altine and all the rest of the crew for a great event.

THE CAROLINA'S SHOOTOUT

The Carolina's Shootout first took place in 1992. It was to be an annual tag and release event that pitted the top 6 boats from North Carolina against the top six boats from South Carolina, with 5 boats from each state fishing and the remaining boat serving as an alternate in case of emergencies.

The purpose of the event was to draw attention for the need to conserve our dwindling marine fisheries, to promote offshore fishing and to inspire sportsmen to become proper stewards of these resources. The teams fished only for state's pride, with the winning team earning the right to display a perpetual trophy with

their boats' names on it until the next competition. There are no entry or dock fees and each boat is responsible for their own expenses to fish the competition.

The states alternate hosting the event with the host state responsible for setting date, location and covering all costs. The rules are simple. The competition is by invitation only. Billfish are tag and release or release only. If no billfish are caught, then the team with the highest aggregate weight for their biggest single tuna, dolphin and wahoo will win the event. During the early events observers were routinely used on each boat to verify the catches.

Historically, the Shootout was held in the fall after most of the tournament season was over. During 1992-93, North Carolina dominated the event with boats like the "Honey Hush" showing their fishing prowess. During 1994, weather forced a cancellation of the event. During the period 1995-97 South Carolina took over the winning circle with our own cast of boats like the "Sportin' Life", "Triple Play" and "Risky Business". 1998 saw North Carolina win again at Pirates Cove by a margin of 200 points.

In 1999, the SC Governor's Cup Board of Director's chose to hold the shootout during the spring of 2000, in an attempt to get better weather and better fishing. This event was hosted by Charleston Harbor Marina with South Carolina winning. This was also the first time a Georgia team participated in the event making it a three state fish-off.

During the fall of 2000, the 2000 Shootout was scheduled to be held at

Pirates Cove, NC. Again bad weather forced a cancellation of the event. The 2001 Shootout was held at Georgetown Landing Marina in April 2002. Three teams (NC, SC, and GA)



The SC Shootout Team

participated in the event. This was the first year SC did not utilize observers but used disposable cameras instead. Georgia came out on top with only a small fleet able to fish.

The 2002 event was held in Beaufort, NC. Only SC and NC participated. Again the weather was terrible, with only two NC boats fishing the final day and NC winning with a catch of dolphin.

This year, the 2003 shootout was held May 16-22, 2004 as part of the Charleston Harbor HMY/Viking Billfish Tournament. The Shootout became a tournament within a tournament with the tournament committee tracking points separately. Up to this point in time there had been 11 attempts to complete this competition. Mother Nature had won twice, GA had won once and SC and NC were tied at 4 wins each.

The twelfth Carolina's Shootout would pit NC vs SC in a tie breaking event. NC was in the lead after two days with a big dolphin and wahoo, with no billfish being caught. On day four "Special Lady" and "Totally Hooked" placed what would be the first and final nails in the coffin by releasing a Blue marlin and a Sailfish. SC wins the event by 400 points. SC now leads NC in shootout victories 5 to 4.

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**SC GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING
SERIES LEADERS
(AFTER CHARLESTON HARBOR, 2004)**

Outstanding Billfish Boat

Points: 2 Blues, 1 Sail released,
725 pts

Boat: *Golden Lady*

Owner: Chris Morris

Captain: Chris Morris

Outstanding Billfish

Conservationist

Points: 2 Blues, 1 Sail released,
725 pts

Boat: *Golden Lady*

Owner: Chris Morris

Captain: Chris Morris

Blue Water Conservation

Points: 1 Tuna, 74 Dolphin and 1
wahoo (tagged), 3950 pts

Boat: *Summer Girl*

Owner: Smith, Leasure, & Kelly

Captain: Charles Aimar

Outstanding Billfish

Weight: Blue marlin, 507 lbs

Boat: *Done Diggin'*

Owner: Jim Brewer

Angler: Brad Brewer

Outstanding Dolphin

Weight: 40.7 lbs

Boat: *Rapid Pace*

Owner: SHSR Enterprises

Angler: Teddy Thornhill

Outstanding Yellowfin Tuna

Weight: 54.4 lbs

Boat: *Second Love III*

Owner: Swygert Shipyards

Angler: Robbie Renken

Outstanding Wahoo

Weight: 57 lbs

Boat: *Hatteras 54*

Owner: Jarrett Bay

Angler: Lyn Tayloe

Outstanding Youth Angler

Fish: 45 lb. Wahoo

Boat: *Petrel*

Owner: Harry Johnson

Angler: Rob Johnson

Outstanding Lady Angler

Fish: 1 Blue released

Boat: *Paradox*

Owner: John Hood

Angler: Margaret Hood Mevers

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The S.C. Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Division reminds the public of Coast Watch, which was developed to better help citizens report violations of saltwater recreational and commercial fishing laws, as well as marine environmental laws.

The Coast Watch hotline number (1-800-922-5431) is toll-free and available 24 hours a day.

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