

SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Advisory Board of Directors
Meeting Friday, January 19, 2024
Administration Building Conference Room
Marine Resources Division, Charleston, SC

GCAB Members Present: B. Gressette, D. Jennings, W. Frierson, R. Rodelsperger, H. McAlhany, D. Menefee

GCAB Members by Virtual: S. Dooley, C. Sanders, B. McClam, M. Herring, J. Ives

GCAB Members Absent: T. Greddick, J. Kohl, C. Oxner

DNR Staff Present: A. Dukes, B. Keppler, R. Boyles, M. Ingle, W. LaDue, E. Wait, E. Gooding

Call Meeting to Order – Chairman Gressette:

Chairman Gressette called the meeting to order. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes from November 2023. **D. Jennings made a motion to approve the February 2023 minutes, W. Frierson 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

Public Comment: N/A

D.D. Comments – B. Keppler:

- Legislative Update – Management Strategies for Blue Crab Fishery and Repeal Sunset for Flounder bag limit
- Update on the R/V Lillian

Tournament Committee Report – E. Gooding:

Elizabeth reviewed the TC summary report included in the Board Packet:

- Weather Rule – The TC sent their recommendation back to the AB for reconsideration
- Update on tournament contracts
- The TC discussed vessel licensing and HMS permit verification as recommended by the AB
- The TC recommended Jay Weaver to be added to the Tournament Committee. Chairman Gressette suggested adding Chase Merriman as well. **D. Jennings made a motion to approve both to the Tournament Committee. R. Rodelsperger 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.**
- CBC is hosting a Ladies Tournament the Tuesday before the CBC to support breast cancer awareness.
- Tournament schedule presented to the AB including potential venue change for the Bohicket Tournament

Old Business – A. Dukes:

- A. Sponsorship 2024 – Provided overview of the changes: Removed \$1,000 Newsletter sponsorship level; changed sponsorship level names to Bronze (\$2,000), Silver (\$5,000), and Gold (\$10,000); changed ½ off entry of Gold sponsorship level to \$1,000 off Tournament Entry Fee.
- B. Proposed Sponsorship 2025- Introduction of the new Platinum (\$15,000) level to mirror Gold level with additional marketing and social media to highlight specific Series categories (i.e., Lady

Angler, Mate of the Year) to follow throughout the Series season. The AB will further discuss this and make final decisions at the fall meeting.

New Business:

Chairman Gressette reminded AB members of their responsibilities and need for transparency while serving on the Board, including following Robert's Rules of Order during discussion and actions and recusing themselves from discussions and actions when unable to be impartial, thus upholding personal liability for decisions made by the AB.

A. 2024 Series Discussion:

1. Review and Approval of Fishing Guidelines: Conversation ensued led by V. Chair McAlhany. Spoke about HMS Permits with burden of proof falling to the participating vessels.

W. Frierson made a motion to edit fishing guidelines #13 to allow for the required affidavits to be emailed and remove the option for faxing them. It also requires participants to provide, in addition to the affidavit and digital billfish release images, copies of the required licenses and permits to verify participating boats fishing out of marinas or ports other than the host marina, D. Menefee 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by W. Frierson and seconded by R. Rodelsperger to edit fishing guideline #1 to clarify that any violation of state or federal law applies to any fishing day on which the violation occurred. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Review and Approval of Series Contractual Changes: The AB made edits to the Contract based on changes made to the fishing guidelines. D. Menefee made a motion to edit contractual agreement #7 to clarify that Series points are shared with Tournaments for their use in determining and distributing prizes. W. Frierson 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.
3. The AB revisited the Weather Rule brought forth by the TC. D. Jennings made a motion to accept the recommended TC change to the weather rule in the GCBS Contractual Agreement for consideration by the DNR Board, W. Frierson 2nd. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Budget: Series Staff reviewed the final 2023 revenue and expenditures. The 2024 proposed expenditures were presented to the AB which included consideration of a social media content management proposal. A motion was made by W. Frierson and 2nd by H. McAlhany to approve the 2024 budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Review and Approval of the 2023 Draft Annual Report: A motion was made D. Jennings and 2nd by R. Rodelsperger to accept the 2023 Annual Report post review by AB members with final ratification by the DNR Board. The motion passed unanimously

Date, Place and Time of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the AB is Monday, August 26 @ 10:00 am.

Adjournment: Chairman Gressette adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.