

Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Advisory Board of Directors
Meeting Friday, January 17, 2025
Administration Building Conference Room
Marine Resources Division, Charleston, SC

GCAB Members Present: B. Gressette, T. Gredick, D. Menefee, M. Herring, H. Turner, S. McCormack

GCAB Members by Virtual: D. Jennings, W. Frierson, R. Rodelsperger, F. Bergen, M. Glaesner, S. Dooley

GCAB Members Absent: H. McAlhany

DNR Staff Present: A. Dukes, B. Keppler, W. Ladue, S. Bates, E. Gooding, B. Dyar, E. Wait, M. Ingle, S. Porter

Guests: C. Rhodes, E. Roudebush, B. Garmany

Call Meeting to Order – Chairman Gressette:

Chairman Gressette called the meeting to order. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes from November 7, 2024. **T. Gredick made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes, D. Menefee 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

Public Comment: N/A

D.D. Comments – B. Keppler:

- Relayed welcome from the DNR Board Chairman to new members of the AB.
- Reminded the AB of Director Boyles retirement and that Dr. Tom Mulligan has been selected but is awaiting confirmation from Senate.
- Shared that the NOAA Right Whale proposed speed rule change has been withdrawn, so there are no changes to current speed rules.
- Announced that NOAA has proposed changes to Red Snapper regulations as supported through Secretarial Amendment 59 (open for public comment until March 17).

Tournament Committee Report – B. Garmany/E. Gooding:

- B. Garmany reviewed TC meeting discussions (12/10/2024).
- Welcomed new members C. Lucas, C. Merriman, and J. Weaver to the TC.
- Relayed that the TC fully supported the Fishing Guideline Sub-Committee's recommendations.
- Confirmed that all Tournament Directors have agreed they will be administering lie detector tests for the 2025 season. The CBC has provided the contact information for the lie detector contractor they have used for the other tournaments.
- Specified that there is an upcoming Tournament Directors meeting (2/3/2025).
- Stated there is a tentative additional TC meeting (2/13/2025), will only occur if necessary.
- E. Gooding updated the AB on the potential National Weather Service marine zone change to include a 20-60 nm zone.. These changes are expected to occur in March 2026.

Old Business – All:

- AB Board reviewed the current and proposed category name change to the 2025 sponsorship packet. Discussed changing from Mate Sponsor to Mate of the Year Sponsor. **H. Turner made a motion to approve the name change from Mate Sponsor to Mate of the Year Sponsor. T. Gredick 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

New Business – All:

- A. Dukes presented the 2024 final revenue and expenditures. The AB reviewed the actual expenditures for 2024 compared to the proposed.
- The AB reviewed the 2025 Fundraising efforts and the current revenue for the 2025 year.

- A. Dukes presented the 2025 proposed expenditures for the AB to review including the following discussions:
 - o Harry Hampton provided a proposal from the Buckskin Billfish for 2025 multimedia packages. The AB reviewed and discussed the proposal provided by Harry Hampton. AB members discussed future efforts to increase sponsorships for the Series.
 - o The AB discussed potential promotional items for the Series 2025.
 - o A. Dukes reminded the AB that the Harry Hampton Wildlife Ball is approaching in March. The AB has traditionally sponsored a table at the event as a donation and Harry Hampton is seeking additional sponsors and donation items.
- **T. Gredick made a motion to approve the 2025 proposed expenditures. D. Menefee 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**
- The AB reviewed the edits to the Fishing Guidelines recommended by the Sub-Committee. The board made further edits to the Fishing Guidelines. **F. Bergen made a motion to approve the Fishing Guidelines as written and edited. T. Gredick 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

Other Business – All: N/A

Date, Place and Time of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for Friday, August 29, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: Chairman Gressette adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

Save the Dates:

1. Harry Hampton Wildlife Ball – Thursday, March 27, 2025
SC Army National Guard Armory – Columbia, SC
2. GCBS Awards Reception – Friday, September 26, 2025
Founders Hall – Charleston, SC