



TAG & RELEASE

<http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov>



DNR

Volume 17, No. 2 May 2012

Atlantic
Game & Tackle



24th Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2012 Tournament Schedule...

May 23 - 26 45th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

Contact: John Horton
P. O. Box 1704
Georgetown, SC 29442
(843) 546-1776, FAX 546-7832
gmarina@sc.rr.com

June 6 - 9 Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament

Contact: Bryan Richardson
1880 Andell Bluff Blvd
Johns Island, SC 29455
(843) 768-1280, FAX 768-3481
Dockmaster@Bohicket.com

June 27 - 30

Contact: Deidre Menefee
1625 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29407
(843) 345-0369, FAX 888-758-3950
dm@fishcbc.com

Carolina Billfish Classic

July 11 - 14

Contact: McKenzie Hutaff
P. O. Box 759
Charleston, SC, 29402
(843) 278-4920, FAX 577-7704
mhutaff@megadock.us

MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament

July 25 - 28

Contact: Becca Smith Jones
3702 Docksite Road
Edisto Beach, SC, 29438
(407) 463-2082, FAX (843) 869-3738
smithbecca@gmail.com

Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament

For more information, contact:

Amy Dukes
SC Governor's Cup Tournament Coordinator
843-953-9365
dukesa@dnr.sc.gov <http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/>

Series Reflections

In the last newsletter I made our annual appeal for Governor's Cup sponsorships, and I am happy to report that a number of folks have answered the call. We have several returning sponsors as well as a few new companies. Some of the returning businesses have upped their donations, and we are very grateful! I am happy to say that we have met our fundraising goal for the year and can now concentrate on preparing for this summer's events. See all our Sponsor ads scattered throughout this issue, and make a point to thank them when you see them.

In March I attended the Highly Migratory Species Panel meeting at NMFS headquarters in Silver Spring, MD. This is a biannual event that I have had the privilege of attending for several years. The panel is made up of scientists, commercial and recreational fishing groups, and NGO environmental representatives. The reason I bring this up is that this is the place where NMFS reports the outcome of recent ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) negotiations, and bounces ideas around on how to IMPROVE management of Highly Migratory Species. It was good to hear that in light of the recent stock assessment for yellowfin tuna, ICCAT did take steps this year to limit the tuna fishery in the Gulf of Guinea by increasing the size of the closure area. How much of an effect this will have remains to be seen, but at least things are going in the right direction. Unfortunately, there are also efforts underway to reduce the Charleston Bump time/area closure to long line fishing. This is in an effort to help the domestic fishing industry meet the United States ICCAT quota for swordfish. This three month/year closure to pelagic long line fishery went into effect in 2000, with the goal of protecting swordfish and billfish. The Governor's Cup program was instrumental in

obtaining this closure, and you can be sure we will be monitoring the situation to make sure your views are heard at the national level. Finally and perhaps even more absurd, there has been yet another (third in 10 years) petition to list white marlin as an endangered species. Biologists from the protected species group at NOAA outlined the process for reviewing this petition, which was made by a single individual named James Chambers. This is Mr. Chambers' second effort to have white marlin listed, and even though the data source he cited was not valid, NMFS has no alternative but to review his petition within 90 days and determine whether to

move forward. As one NMFS manager said, "All that is required to precipitate a review is for one individual who can put together two coherent sentences to ask for it, and we are required to start the review process." Further, during this 90 day review period, they are not allowed to involve anyone outside the federal government, which is a scary thought in itself. After the meeting, I contacted the primary biologists handling this request and told them that our data from the Series clearly shows an increasing trend in abundance, with nearly a 10 fold increase in the catch per unit of effort in the last five years alone. Of course, their response was that at this time they cannot consider anything other than the original

petition. If they decide to move forward, I have been assured that we will have a voice at the table. I plan to keep ya'll posted as the events unfold throughout the summer. If white marlin were listed, it would have severe consequences on tournaments as well as all pelagic fishing in the Atlantic. In conclusion, the reason I tell you all this is because the Governor's Cup is more than just a few fishing tournaments with a series of parties held each summer along our coast. Rather, it is an integral part of fishery data collections and analysis, providing data that can be used to better manage and preserve the fisheries that you all are part of. So when we ask you all those questions after a long day of fishing, remember we are there to protect your interests. See you on the Docks! – Wally Jenkins



sd
SUPERIOR DIESEL, INC.

SOUTH CAROLINA
GOVERNOR'S CUP
BILLFISHING SERIES

SUPERIOR DIESEL, INC.
6881 Bulldog Drive
N. Charleston SC 29406
800.662.7953

VOLVO PENTA

Proud Sponsor of the 2012 Governor's Cup



SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES

Fishing Guidelines - 2012



1. Fish must be caught in accordance with all state and federal laws, and under IGFA Rules with the exception of passing rod to qualify to earn SC Governor's Cup points or awards. **After a fish strikes, the rod may be passed to one angler one time as soon as possible. All anglers, including Youth Anglers (under sixteen years of age on April 1 of current tournament year) and Lady Anglers (over sixteen years of age on April 1 of the current tournament year), may have the rod passed one time to them.**

After the rod has been passed, only the angler is allowed to touch the rod. Once the leader is brought within the grasp of the mate or is wound to the rod tip, then the angler may have assistance to catch and release or boat the fish. Series points will accrue towards Series awards for these fish. Vessels may provide assistance to other vessels for boating fish.

2. White marlin and sailfish are catch and release only. Tagging is optional and not required for points. The minimum size for Series points or awards consideration for landed blue marlin is 105 inches measured in a curved line along the body from the fork of the tail to the tip of the lower jaw (LJFL). **Federal regulation dictates that a boated billfish cannot be returned to the water.**

Note: 105 inches exceeds the federally mandated minimum size limit. Should the federal size limit be increased, the minimum size for blue marlin eligible for weighing in SC Governor's Cup Series tournaments will be increased automatically to exceed the new minimum size by two (2) inches if required.

3. A penalty of 600 points will be assessed against a boat for each blue marlin brought to the dock not meeting the minimum South Carolina Governor's Cup Series size requirements.

4. Boats guilty of wanton waste of fish taken in a Series event will be disqualified from earning points in that event.

5. All landed fish are to be iced or refrigerated until such time as they are released by

tournament officials to the boat after which the edible tissue is to be processed and the carcass is disposed of. Boats landing Blue Marlin will have a maximum of three hours to complete this task.

6. Scoring for eligible billfish weighed-in is based solely on those points officially awarded each boat by each tournament. Boats earn one point per pound and fraction of a pound for their single heaviest billfish weighed in each tournament. No points are awarded for additional billfish weighed in any one tournament.

7. Only blue marlin, white marlin and sailfish are eligible for billfish catch and release points. Tagging is optional and not required for points. Billfish boated for any reason will not qualify for release points. Scoring for billfish caught and released in good condition is as follows:

Blue Marlin	600 points
White marlin	300 points
Sailfish	200 points

8. To qualify for catch and release points, a billfish must be fought to the boat according to program guidelines. A billfish is considered caught and points will be awarded when all the following has occurred: 1) the leader is grasped by the mate or the leader is wound to the rod tip (a leader may be no longer than 30 feet); 2) the billfish is positively identified through digital photography/videography; and 3) the fish is released in a healthy condition. Boats are encouraged to remove the hook or to cut the leader as close as possible to the hook.

9. Billfish may not be brought into the boat unless it is to be brought to the dock for weighing.

10. Any billfish gaffed, harpooned or otherwise injured in an attempt to boat the fish will not qualify for catch and release points. Additionally, if the gaff crosses the vertical plane of the boat and the intent of the crew is to land the fish, yet the attempt is unsuccessful, the boat will not qualify for catch

and release points.

11. For a vessel to qualify any billfish for points, every person aboard the vessel 18 years of age or older must sign an affidavit swearing that all rules and regulations were observed in reference to the described fish. Failure of any person to sign, for any reason, disqualifies that fish. In addition, all released billfish must be clearly digitally photographed or videoed (preferable image would include a visible dorsal fin) at time of release by each vessel using a digital/video camera provided by the vessel. The image must include a time and date stamp that corresponds to the time of release recorded by the tournament designated committee boats. Photos/videos must be provided on a removable storage device, and will be used to confirm species identification and release information, and will be used to resolve potential conflicts or formal protests.

12. Affidavits must be completed the day the catch and release or landing occurs, except when a medical emergency involving the boat's crew prohibits completion of the form or when a mechanically disabled boat cannot return within the prescribed weigh-in period. In these instances, the forms must be completed and returned within ten (10) days of the catch and release. If applicable by the individual tournaments, boats fishing out of other marinas or ports must fax or hand-deliver the completed catch and release affidavit and email digital images to tournament headquarters or SCGC personnel prior to the close of the weighing scales on the day of catch with the exception as noted above.

13. Boats will be awarded 25 participation points for each Series tournament entered up to a maximum of three events. A boat's points total will include participation points as indicated along with points for landed or caught and released billfish from all tournaments fished. Points will count toward aggregate point totals for Outstanding Billfish Boat

HMY YACHTS - CHARLESTON
Introducing Viking's New 66

Robert Everton
(843) 442-4205
reverton@hmy.com

Tim Gredick
(843) 607-7256
tgredick@hmy.com

OFFICE LOCATED AT CHARLESTON CITY MARINA

Sponsorship Provided By

APEX
Automotive Group

HONDA CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM

The Tradition Continues

TheApexAutomotiveGroup.com • Myrtle Beach/Anderson

and Outstanding Billfish Conservationist. Points cannot be transferred from one boat to another.

14. Boats must fish a minimum of two Series tournaments to qualify for Outstanding Billfish Boat and Outstanding Billfish Conservationist. Vessels fishing only one tournament qualify for Outstanding Billfish, Youth Angler awards, Lady Angler awards, and Outstanding Dolphin/Wahoo/Tuna.

15. In the event of a tie, the boat accumulating their points the earliest shall be the winner. If a tie still remains, the boat fishing in the most Series events will be declared the winner.

16. Tournament awards will be presented for the heaviest tuna, dolphin, and wahoo caught by boats participating in the Series and for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place Youth Anglers (under sixteen years of age) and Outstanding Lady Anglers (over sixteen years of age). The

tournament awards for Youth and Lady Anglers will be awarded for the heaviest tuna, dolphin or wahoo if no Youth or Lady Angler has landed or caught and released a legal billfish. Billfish caught by Youth or Lady Anglers will earn regular Series points for the species. Series awards for non-billfish species will be awarded for largest tuna, dolphin, and wahoo.

17. A Blue Water Conservation Award will be presented to the boat accumulating the most points tagging dolphin (50 points), yellowfin tuna (100 points) and wahoo (150 points). All fish must be caught on legal Series tournament fishing days and tagged using official tags supplied by the Marine Resources Division's Marine Gamefish Tagging Program. Completed tagging reports will serve as official entry forms and must be submitted to Marine Resources Division personnel working the tournament or the weighmaster on the same

day the fish was tagged.

18. Creel limits for dolphin are 10 per angler per day with a limit of 60 per boat per day, with a minimum size limit of 20 inches fork length. Creel limit for yellowfin tuna is 3 per angler per day with a minimum legal size of 27 inches curved body fork length, see current federal size and creel limits for other tuna species. Creel limit for wahoo is 2 per person per day.

Note: Size or creel limits will automatically be changed in SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series tournaments to reflect changes in federal or state laws.

19. All awards are presented to the boat. Invitations to the annual Governor's Cup awards reception are limited to winning boat crews and to boat owners whose boats fish two or more yearly Series events.

20. It is the intent of the S.C. Governor's Cup to encourage release of healthy billfish, therefore the use of 130 lb. class line is allowed.

21. A boat owner may request an official ruling from the S.C. Governor's Cup Series. The request for a ruling must be submitted in writing to a member of the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee shall rule on the request within seven (7) days. Any ruling of the Tournament Committee may be appealed by writing to the Board of Directors within forty-eight (48) hours, excluding weekend days and holidays. The Board shall render results of an appeal, in writing, to the appellant within thirty (30) days. All decisions of the Board are final. Voting individuals representing either the Tournament Committee or the Board of Directors will recuse themselves from the decision if there is a conflict of interest. All rulings will focus solely on compliance with Governor's Cup Series rules, not individual tournament rules.



Atlantic Game Tackle

YOUR OFFSHORE Tournament Ready BIG GAME OUTFITTER!!

From 130s To 530lb Wind-Ons
And Custom Built Dredges...
All By Highly Experienced Sportfishermen

PROUD TO BE A DEALER FOR ...

Release
MARINE

THE LOW COUNTRY'S EXCLUSIVE DEALER...
SQUITCHES!!

2012 CORPORATE SPONSOR
GOVERNOR'S CUP
BILLY LINDGREN

Charleston's Largest Selection Of Bulk Terminal Tackle & Lures At Low Prices!!!

ELECTRIC REELS BY:
LINDGREN-PITMAN *Miyu Epoch*

ALL SIZES OF BAITMASTERS BALLYHOO

Baitmasters South Florida

BLACK BART LURES *Mono* *CH LURES* *AFICO* *SHIMANO* *ILAND LURES* *PENN* *Memo*

We Know Outdoors Because We Go Outdoors!!!

www.atlanticgameandtackle.com

675 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Mount Pleasant, SC 843-881-6900





Getting prepared for your 2012 Fishing Season:



We thought we would provide everyone with a brief list of some of the permits, licenses and documentation that you will need to have so that the boat owners, captains and crew are ready for a successful fishing season. Please Double Check Your Expiration Dates!!!

- 1) Purchase your Atlantic HMS Angling Permit (Recreational) or Charter/Headboat Permit- All owners/operators of vessels fishing recreationally, or owners/operators of charter/headboat vessels fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit. Similar to Atlantic tuna permits, 2012

Atlantic HMS permits cost \$20.00, and will be valid from the date of issuance through December 31, 2012. Visit the NMFS website at <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/PermitList.asp> to apply for your permit.

- 2) Purchase your Dolphin Wahoo Permit- All owners/operators of charter/headboat vessels, are required to obtain an Atlantic Charter/Headboat Permit for Dolphin/Wahoo. The permit is \$25.00, and will be valid for one calendar year. Visit the NOAA Southeast Region website at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits/documents/Veselapplicationpackage09Dec2009.pdf> to apply for your permit.
- 3) Purchase your Operator Card- All owners/operators of charter/headboat vessels, are required to obtain an

operator card when fishing for Atlantic Dolphin and/ or Wahoo. The Operator Card fee is \$50.00, and will be valid for three years. Visit the NOAA Southeast Region website at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits/forms/OPCard.pdf> to apply for your operator card.

- 4) Purchase your SC Saltwater Fishing License - All anglers (over age 16) must obtain a SCDNR Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License. SC Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License can be purchased at <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/purchase.html> or call 1-866-714-3611. Be reminded that most SC Saltwater Recreational Fishing Licenses are issued on the fiscal calendar, July 1 - June 30. Your current license will expire on June 30, 2012. Next fiscal licenses, July 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2012, will go on sale on June 13, 2012. Make sure you get your new license before MegaDock and Edisto!

** Charter/ headboat vessels are exempt from having anglers purchase individual saltwater fishing licenses, as long as the fishing trip is documented in accordance to SC law under the vessels Charter License. The vessel can only have six anglers, captain and crew on board. **

Starting Our Next 40 Years!

PALMETTO
Ford LINCOLN

1625 SAVANNAH HWY. 571-FORD
WWW.PALMETTOFORD.COM

THE ALL NEW
PALMETTO
Ford TRUCK WORLD

1634 SAVANNAH HWY • 266-6700
PALMETTOTRUCKWORLD.COM

Outfit Your Offshore Lifestyle

The Charleston Angler

Charleston | Mt. Pleasant | Summerville
843.571.3899 | 843.884.2095 | 843.871.9362
www.thecharlestonangler.com

Major Sponsors



www.frankscarwash.com



www.wellsfargo.com



Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund
P.O. Box 2641
Columbia, SC 29202

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
SPARTANBURG SC
PERMIT #529



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.



The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, gender, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, PO Box 167, Columbia, South Carolina, 29202.
Total cost - \$398.00 • Total copies - 1,550 • Total cost per copy - \$0.26

Printed on recycled paper. 12-8033