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Series Reflections

I hope you all have had a great winter... we are getting ready for a jam-packed fishing season here in South Carolina. Based on Facebook posts that I have seen, many of you have been out having fun in various locales, including: the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, and Isla Mujeres, Mexico. While winter is traditionally a slow time for billfishing off SC, there have been plenty of things going on behind the scenes to further improve your fishing opportunities off our coast. As you may have already heard, we are very excited about the opportunity to add significant structure to the Charleston Deep Reef Marine Protected Area (MPA) under the auspices of DNR, the SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Advisory Board of Directors and the SC Memorial Reef Project. The two previous structures placed in the MPA in 2014 have been a great success in attracting both imperiled deep-water grouper species as well as the pelagic species that you all target. In fact, many blue marlin and sailfish were caught and released in the immediate area during the summer of 2016. Adding structure to this MPA will only increase the beneficial effects. The new proposed project structure will include the US Highway 41 Steel Swing Bridge, which is 168' long, 32' wide and 24' tall, placed on top of a barge that is 130' long, 32' wide and 12' tall. The estimated cost to complete the project is \$180,000, with a deployment date tentatively scheduled for August 2017. To date, over half the funds necessary to complete the project have been raised. That leaves us with only \$80,000 more in donations to secure by August.

We are soliciting tax-deductible contributions to the SC Memorial Reef account within the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund. There are two methods in which you can donate to this cause: checks can be made payable to Harry Hampton Fund - The SC Memorial Reef, C/O Amy Dukes, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston,

29th Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2017 Tournament Schedule

May 10 - 13 Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament

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

May 24 - 27 50th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

Contact: Ed Keelin
P. O. Box 1704
Georgetown, SC 29442
(843) 546-1776, FAX (843) 546-7832
ed@georgetownlandingmarina.com

June 21 - 24

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

Carolina Billfish Classic

July 5 - 8

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

MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament

July 19 - July 22

Contact: Brian Bell
3702 Docksite Road
Edisto Beach, SC, 29438
(843) 631-5055, FAX (843) 631-5065
Bkbell1@bellsouth.net

Edisto Invitational 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/>
PO Box 12559
Charleston, SC 29422



SC 29422-2559; or, the Hampton Wildlife Fund has a quick and easy PayPal method for you to conveniently donate through their website at www.HamptonWildlifeFund.org. You can find the link on the lower left corner of the home page. After specifying the donation amount, please be sure to write "SC Memorial Reef" in the box that requests instructions for your donation to be sure it is credited to the appropriate project. A tax-deductible receipt will be provided for your records. With your help, we can build on our previous success with this unique project to enhance deep-water reef habitat off our coast. Please be on the lookout for our updates on Facebook and other media outlets, and enlist your friends to help put this project at the bottom of the ocean!

Finally, it is with deep sadness that I relay the news that Suzi DuRant, a longtime supporter of the SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series and the marine industry passed away on February 25, 2017 after a valiant battle with ALS. Suzi and her husband Nelson owned and operated Palmetto Props for many years and provided some of the best service in the industry. They were both always very nice to me personally and anxious to promote the Series in any way they could. The last time I saw Suzi, about a year ago, she was just as delightful as ever holding court from her purple wheelchair at a marine-related event. She will be greatly missed for her genuine enthusiasm and kindness, and her contributions to South Carolina's marine resources could only hope to be rivaled. Please keep her husband Nelson and her family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

We are looking forward to another exciting year of billfishing in South Carolina! The Series kicks off with Bohicket this year, followed by Georgetown's 50th anniversary celebration! The Carolina Billfish Classic returns to the Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina, Megadock is back with another strong week of Independence Day festivities, and we will end the show with an awesome time shaggin' at the beach down in Edisto! Please mark your calendars and bring the family down for one or all of these fantastic events. Amy, Kayla and I hope to see you there!

Wallace Jenkins



WANTED * WANTED * WANTED * WANTED * WANTED
Attention SC Billfish Anglers! Please report released billfish caught in SC waters throughout the 2017 fishing season. It's never too late to report a fish caught earlier this year! To report billfish releases or request billfish release cards, please contact Amy Dukes at 843-953-9365, or email dukesa@dnr.sc.gov. Good fishing!



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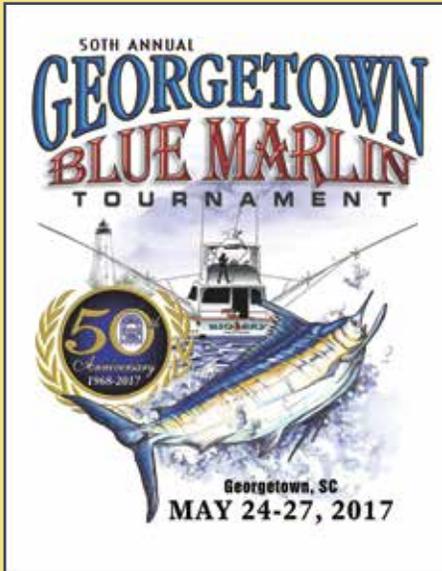


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50th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

May 24th-May 27th, 2017

In 1968, three local businessmen and avid fishermen started South Carolina's first blue marlin tournament, The Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament. This tournament is the state's longest running blue marlin tournament. These same men have fostered this tournament and have ensured that it evolved to become and remain one of the finest and favorites of fishermen along the South Carolina coast and beyond..This year marks the 50th year of the Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament! We are looking forward to celebrating this historic milestone tournament in Georgetown on May 24th-May 27th.



Please join us and participate in making this a memorable event



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Sponsor Donor Form

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SCDNR, P. O. Box 12559, Charleston SC 29422-9909
if you want to become a sponsor or donor

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Please visit <http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov> for more information on the benefits associated with each donor level. SCGC, in partnership with Harry Hampton, is a 501-c-3 tax-exempt organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

After receiving your pledge, an invoice will be sent to you for payment. When payment has been received, we will forward the appropriate promotional items for the donor level you have chosen and request an electronic copy of your business logo for use in the Governor's Cup Newsletter, website Sponsor list, and other publications as appropriate.



Thank you to our 2016 sponsors!

We can't go into the 29th year without thanking the business that made last year such a success! The Series is a public/private partnership overseen by SCNDR, and all expenses related to its operation are funded through private donations. We are so grateful for those individuals and businesses who came forward to keep the Series running strong, and are very appreciative of a couple new sponsors joining us for the 2017 Series. Please welcome The Charleston Angler, Coastal Conservation Association of South Carolina, Home Advisor, Mungo Homes and Southland Log Homes to the team! Each level of support comes with associated benefits. First, everyone who donates a minimum of \$100 gets an invitation to the Annual Awards Reception. Those donating \$500 also get mentioned on our website and in the Awards Reception program. Those donating \$1,000 (Newsletter Sponsor) get their logo in every Newsletter, in addition to the benefits mentioned above. Those donating \$2,000 (Patron Sponsor) are also included in all Series advertising, are allowed the use of the Governor's Cup logo in their own advertising, are given the opportunity to include their company brochures in boat registration packets for all tournaments, and they receive recognition of appreciation at the Awards Reception. At the \$5,000 level (Benefactor Sponsor) companies get all of the above, plus a place to put an advertisement banner at each tournament and 2 passes to all tournament and Series events they choose to attend. Finally, at the \$10,000 level (Corporate Sponsor) your company will also be eligible for a 50% discount on a single boat registration for all 5 Series Tournaments, or 6 tickets to all Series events they choose to attend but do not wish to register a boat, booth space at each tournament, and will be included in individual tournament brochures and advertising as a Corporate Sponsor of the Series. All you need to do to get started is print and fill out the pledge card on this page and mail it in! Come enjoy the fun and camaraderie of the Governor's Cup while reaping the many benefits!



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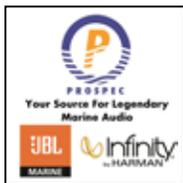
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2017 Tournaments



May 10 - 13



May 24 - 27



June 21 - 24



July 5 - 8



July 19 - 22

This newsletter brought to you by...



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.

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