



TAG & RELEASE

Volume 23, No. 5



November 2018

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



Series Reflections

This year we got lucky again, and our Awards Reception at Ross Marine/The Island House on September 28th happened to fall midway between two east coast hurricanes. The first, Hurricane Florence, came by slowly in mid-September, while the second storm, Hurricane Michael, raced by to our west, devastating parts of the Florida panhandle and southern Georgia just two weeks after the party. Photos from Mexico Beach were almost unbelievable, and heartbreaking. On a trip to St. John USVI earlier this summer I saw, almost a year after Hurricane Irma, what 185 mph sustained winds can do, including wiping out Caneel Bay Resort and literally ripping the tops off of palm trees. Life on the coast never gets dull! In spite of all the hurricane scares, the party went off without a hitch, although it was a little on the warm (HOT) side. Once again, A&P Catering and the Marina Variety Store prepared the luscious meal featuring marinated filet and their top-secret recipe for mashed potatoes, both of which I personally love. *The Associates*, a five piece band from Spartanburg, provided the live entertainment and were a big hit. The event was well attended and we had a great time handing out trophies to all of the winners. As you all know, *Mister Pete*, owned by Bob and Rusty McClam and captained by Alan Neiford, won the 30th Annual Series by releasing 9 blue marlin and 12 sailfish, setting a new Series record with a total of 7,875 points. This point total was 400 more than accumulated by last year's winner, *Gryphon*, and continues to point to the excellent fishing opportunities off our coast. We've also learned that Captain Alan Neiford was named the 2018 *In The Bite Magazine* East Coast Division Captain of the Year! That makes four years in a row that the winners, including Gary Richardson, Harvey Shiflet and Chucky Moore, have all been participants and winners in the Series. If you covet this award, based on these and past results, the SC Governor's Cup Series is where you might have the best chance to rack up some points for this respected award.

In addition to the Series winners that are outlined in this newsletter, some special recognition awards were also handed out that night. Outgoing Chairman, Mr. Stevie Leasure, received the Chairman's Award



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31st Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2019 Tournament Schedule

May 8 - 11 Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament

Contact: Beau Anderson marinamanager@bohicket.com
1880 Andell Bluff Boulevard (843) 768-1280
Johns Island, SC 29455

May 22 - 25 52nd Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

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

June 19 - 22 Carolina Billfish Classic

Contact: Deidre Menefee dm@fishcbc.com
20 Patriots Point Road (843) 345-0369
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

July 17 - 20 Edisto Invitational Billfishing Tournament

Contact: Brian Bell bkbell1@bellsouth.net
3702 Docksite Road (843) 631-5055
Edisto Beach, SC 29438

The Megadock will be under construction during the summer of 2019 and will be unable to host a tournament, yet will return in 2020.

For more information, contact:

Amy Dukes, SC Governor's Cup Tournament Coordinator
DukesA@dnr.sc.gov • <http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/> • (843) 953-9365
PO Box 12559 • Charleston, SC 29422

acknowledging his dedicated service to the Advisory Board as Chairman this past year and for his previous five years on the Board. Now in its third year, the Mate of the Year for the Series went to George Campsen, mate on the *Mister Pete*. The award is based upon attributes including integrity, sportsmanship, reliability, leadership, fishing success, courtesy and the willingness to go the extra mile to help others. Finally, the highlight of the night was being able to present this year's Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. Award for contributions to billfish conservation in SC to Mike Larrow, owner of *Micabe*. Mike is foremost a fisherman, but also a boat owner, captain, crew member, mentor, storyteller, and sometimes even a mechanic. Sure, he and his team won the Series back in 2009, along with 9 other Atlantic coast billfish tournaments throughout the years, but none of this compares to the impacts he makes through his dedication and commitment to his family, especially his loving wife! His true legacy is the knowledge he has and will continue to pass down to his family about fishing, especially to his son-in-law Chris, and his grandsons Rance and Andrew. He has taught them to love and find joy in the ocean and to respect her creatures.

As you can see, next year there will be only four tournaments in the Series.

Megadock will take a year off to complete a permitted expansion project. The facility will continue to be managed by Robbie Freeman but as most of you know, the City Marina's lease with the City of Charleston has been transferred to privately-held Safe Harbor LLC, which describes itself as the largest owner and operator of marinas in the world, with 75 locations in 17 states. This just means the four other Series events will be bigger and better than ever!

Unfortunately, I have to end this column with the sad news that has rocked our fishing family over the past several weeks. During the last two months, we have lost two individuals who were important to the Series, on both ends of the age spectrum. On October 25th we lost Captain Joseph Allbritton, age 34, who was tragically taken from us in a private plane crash 110 miles east of Charleston while traveling to the Bahamas to work on the boat he captained. Joseph had participated as an angler, mate and captain in the Series for a number of years and was one of the nicest guys you would ever want to meet. His memorial reception at Ripley Light Marina, which I was fortunate enough to attend, had a tremendous turnout and was a true celebration of his life. It's an honor to be able to say I knew him. Joseph leaves behind his wife Diana and son Tripp. The

link for a Go Fund Me page to help them financially in their time of need is: https://www.gofundme.com/immediate-living-expenses?fbclid=IwAR3Fqun9UvKfB855qzWNLxy553-bx-idW5ykndtUraGwebAr_uQRenSm2N-OY. Four others also lost their lives in that crash, and our hearts go out to everyone's families. On the heels of this heartbreak, we lost Mr. Stan Hurteau, who had served on the Series Tournament Committee since its inception, and lead this group (for all its years except one!) as Chairman until the time of his passing. Stan loved the Series, its participants, its core values and most of all its comradery! He had a heavy hand in forming and shaping the Series into the great success story it has become. Stan was a diligent role model for us all, instilling the history and class of billfish tournaments to make the present and future bigger and more prosperous! Stan, along with Mike Altine and Sam Hiott, were on the ground floor helping to get the Series organized back in 1988 and all three individuals were recognized at our awards reception in 2008 for their significant commitment. Both Stan and Joseph will be missed, and we ask that you keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

In conclusion, I hope you all have a happy holiday season, and know that we are already making plans for 2019!

~ Wally Jenkins



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Looking forward to seeing everyone on the docks for the 2019 Governor's Cup Series



| AWARD | SERIES WINNER |
|--|--|
| Outstanding Billfish Boat 1st Place | Boat: <i>Mister Pete</i> Owners: Bob & Rusty McClam Captain: Alan Neiford 9 blue marlin & 12 sailfish released 7,875 points |
| Outstanding Billfish Boat 2nd Place | Boat: <i>Sportin' Life</i> Owner: Graham Eubank Captain: Mike Glaesner 6 blue marlin & 13 sailfish released 6,275 points |
| Outstanding Billfish Boat 3rd Place | Boat: <i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody 3 blue marlin, 1 spearfish & 15 sailfish released 5,175 points |
| Outstanding Billfish Conservationist | Boat: <i>Mister Pete</i> Owners: Bob & Rusty McClam Captain: Alan Neiford 9 blue marlin & 12 sailfish released 7,875 points |
| Outstanding Billfish (landed) | Boat: <i>Anticipation</i> Owner: Paul Coury Captain: Harvey Shiflet Angler: Drew Wilkinson 484.4 pound blue marlin 485 points |





| AWARD | SERIES WINNER |
|----------------------------|--|
| Outstanding Dolphin | Boat: <i>Legacy</i> Owner: Jim Borders Captain: Wren Fogle Angler: Kevin Branigan Catch: 54.4 pounds |
| Outstanding Tuna | Boat: <i>Legal Holiday</i> Owner: Fred Bergen Captain: Lawrence Bradham Angler: Fred Bergen Catch: 26.8 pound blackfin |
| Outstanding Wahoo | Boat: <i>Bench Mark</i> Owner: Stephen Davis Captain: Bobby Garmany Angler: Stephen Davis Catch: 46.3 pounds |
| Blue Water Conservationist | N/A |

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SPORTSMAN



| AWARD | SERIES WINNER |
|---|---|
| Outstanding Female Angler 1st Place | Boat: <i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany 3 blue marlin, 1 spearfish & 13 sailfish released 4,700 points |
| Outstanding Female Angler 2nd Place | Boat: <i>Man Cave</i> Owner: Billy Gressette Captain: Billy Gressette Angler: Sara Gressette 1 blue marlin & 8 sailfish released 2,200 points |
| Outstanding Female Angler 3rd Place | Boat: <i>Legal Holiday</i> Owner: Fred Bergen Captain: Lawrence Bradham Angler: Eugenie Barrow 2 blue marlin & 4 sailfish released 2,000 points |

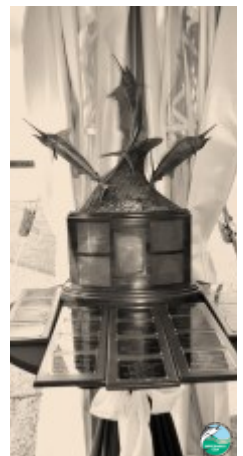


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| AWARD | SERIES WINNER |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place | Boat: <i>Sola Fide</i> Owner: Gary Wyatt Captain: Will Frederick Angler: Ansley Wyatt 5 sailfish released 1,000 points |
| Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place | Boat: <i>Tighten Up</i> Owners/Captains: Kevin Overstreet & Rick Burke Angler: Riley Overstreet 4 sailfish released 800 points |
| Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place | Boat: <i>Gryphon</i> Owner: Colby Griffin Captain: Jamie Holcombe Angler: Chandler Griffin 1 blue marlin released 600 points |

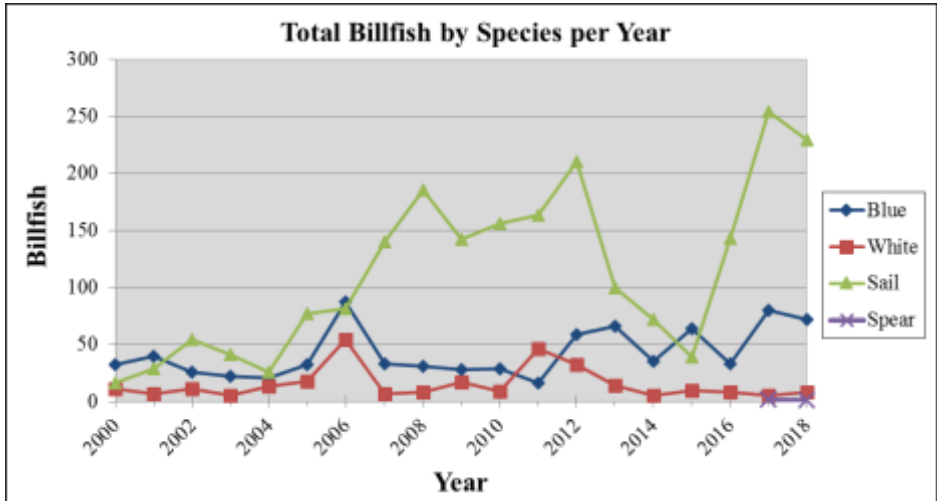


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Mr. Bucky Morris (above) and Mr. Tommy Hancock (not pictured) were honored for their years of service to the Advisory Board of directors, as was Stevie Leasure (below), for which he served his last year as Chairman.





Stadium

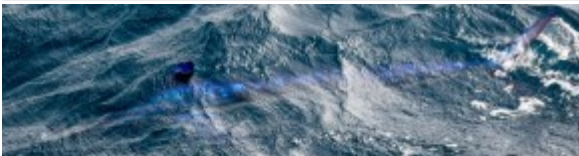


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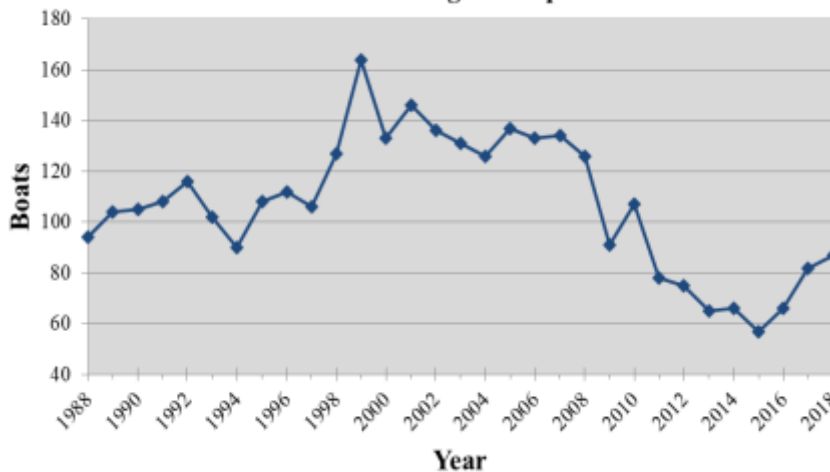


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Mr. Michael Larrow, owner of *Micabe*, had the high honor of receiving the Carrol A. Campbell Jr. Award for his stewardship and dedication to billfish conservation. His legacy to his grandchildren and his multi-faceted influences were acclaimed as part of the tribute given on his behalf during the ceremony.



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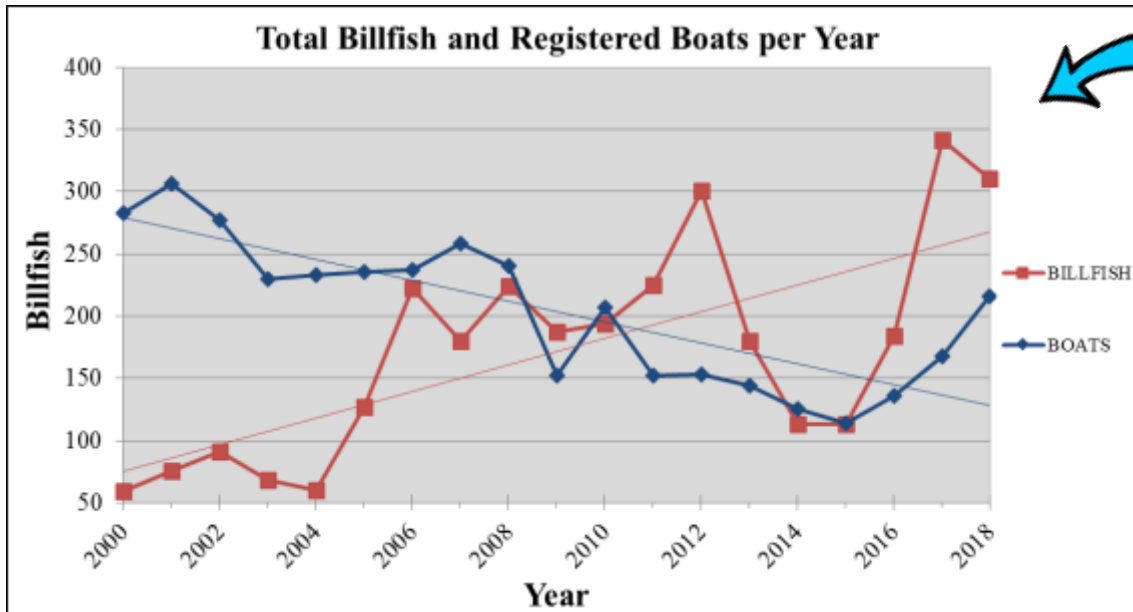
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George Campsen of *Mister Pete* was recognized as the 2018 Mate of the Year. George exemplified the many attributes of what this award represents throughout the summer, including not only fishing success, but sportsmanship, integrity, and the inclination to help others on the docks. Unfortunately, George was unable to attend the reception, so his parents accepted his award on his behalf.

GW WYATT

C O N T R A C T I N G



WE LIKE TWO THINGS HERE: PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN STEADILY INCREASING FOR 3 YEARS; AND EVEN AS THE TREND LINE (STRAIGHT, SKINNY LINE) FOR THE NUMBER OF BOATS THROUGHOUT TIME SHOWS A DECREASING TREND, THE NUMBER OF BILLFISH SHOWS A RISING TREND!



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MAY 22 - 25



JUNE 19 - 22



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JULY 17 - 20

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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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