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Hampton
Wildlife Fund

Volume 24, No. 5

November 2019



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32nd Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2020 Tournament Schedule

May 6 - 9 Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament

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

May 20 - 23 53rd Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

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

June 17 - 20 Carolina Billfish Classic

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

July 15 - 18 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 2020 and will be unable to host a tournament, yet will return in 2021.

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

Series Reflections

Where did the time go? Over a month ago we held the annual awards reception at Founders Hall at SCPRT's Charles Towne Landing. The evening's festivities were well attended, and we had a great time recognizing the winners of various categories. The food was provided by the crew from A&P Catering and the Marina Variety Store, while DJ Trevor D. and Marshall with D&M Productions provided music that had people on their feet dancing. As usual, that day I got to drive to South Georgia to meet Chris Costello and pick up the trophies for a just-in-time delivery to the venue. After so many years, I look forward to our brief meeting each year on the side of I-95. Amy, Kayla, Cameron et al. spent the day getting the hall set up and decorated. When we finally packed up at around midnight Saturday morning, we had all put in a long day and were glad to have closed out another season.

Cameron had the pictures from the reception posted to our Facebook page almost immediately, and the newsletter has been ready for several weeks waiting for me to get around to writing this column. I apologize for the delay, it's totally my fault. You can see all the pictures of the winners accepting their awards on succeeding pages of this newsletter.

Everything went off seamlessly, with Governor's Cup Advisory Board Chairman Steve Mungo on hand to give out the awards and Interim SCDNR Director Robert Boyles serving as the Master of Ceremonies. As usual, Robert did an excellent job thanking everyone including our sponsors for their support and announcing two special recognition awards. The first award, for Mate of the Year, went to Thomas Garmany with the help of a strong nomination letter from Sean Dooley, captain of Jackpot, which stated, "Thomas is the first to offer a hand to anyone in the industry, performing tasks outside of his job description, and has proven to be a great teacher. He is always upbeat and positive and makes sure everyone around him has that same attitude as well. While there's more to being a mate than just fishing, we also can't ignore the fact that he is one of the best in the world in the cockpit and was an important piece to the Jackpot winning the Series, and we couldn't have even come close without him!" We congratulate Thomas not only on

a fine season, but more importantly, consistent excellence over many years.

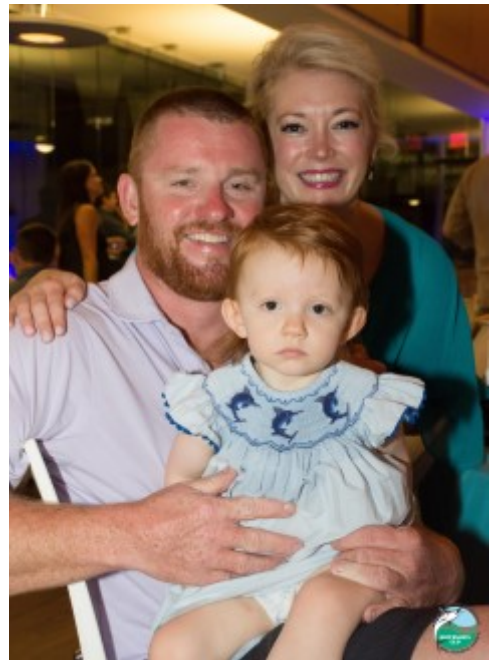
The other special recognition award, The Carroll A. Campbell Award, was given posthumously to Stan Hurteau for his unwavering support of the Series from its inception. He received this award from the GC Advisory Board in part because he was always ready and able to provide a practical perspective and a supportive shoulder to staff and the Series. He was a member of the Tournament Committee since the Series started in 1989 and served as Chairman from 1999 until his passing. In a touching moment, Sharon Hurteau, his wife of 53 years, was in attendance to accept the award on behalf of his family.

Back to fishing, as many of you know, I was scheduled to attend both the HMS and the US ICCAT Advisory Committee meetings in Washington, DC in early September. Unfortunately, Hurricane Dorian coincided with that meeting and I was unable to attend in person. The good news is it appears that in spite of a continuing 27 metric ton overage average in landings of Yellowfin Tuna by the purse seine fishery in the Gulf of Guinea, the population appears to be holding its own or growing, and for the first time in a decade is not classified as overfished or experiencing overfishing. The news is not quite as optimistic for white marlin, who seem to be unable to make any gains in

recruitment, despite a very robust suite of regulatory protections that have been in place for over 20 years in the North Atlantic. The conclusion of the latest stock assessment was that they are overfished but overfishing is not occurring. It is the Committee's hope that by maintaining current international fishing regulations, the population will slowly rebuild over the next decade.

As the end of the year approaches, I hope you and your families have wonderful and safe Thanksgiving and Holiday Seasons. You Clemson fans better hold onto some of your money for likely January travel in support your football team's next run at the National Championship. Until next time, safe travels.

~ Wallace 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>Jackpot</i> Owner: Joe McKinney Captain: Sean Dooley 3 blue marlin & 11 sailfish released 4,075 points
Outstanding Billfish Boat 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Blue Sky</i> Owner: Greg Smith Captain: Jay Weaver 2 blue marlin & 9 sailfish released 3,075 points
Outstanding Billfish Boat 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Home Run</i> Owner: Steve Mungo Captain: Grant Bentley 3 blue marlin, 1 white marlin, 1 spearfish & 3 sailfish released 3,075 points
Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	Boat: <i>Jackpot</i> Owner: Joe McKinney Captain: Sean Dooley 3 blue marlin & 11 sailfish released 4,075 points
Outstanding Billfish (landed)	N/A



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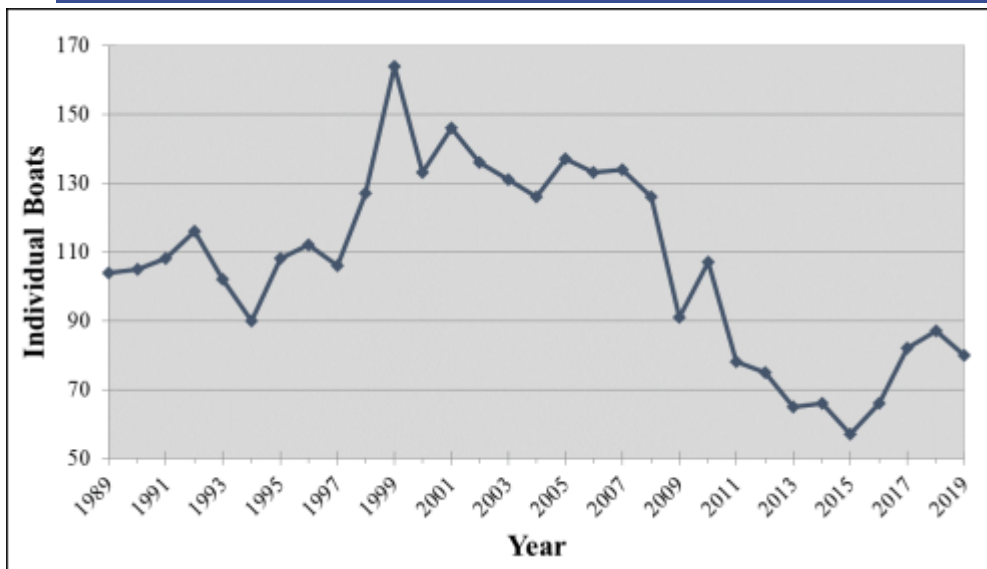
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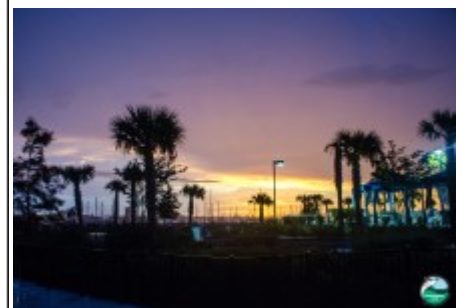
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The graph to the left depicts the number of individual registered boats by year. We hope to see that rising trend again in years to come!





AWARD		SERIES WINNER	
Outstanding Dolphin	Boat: <i>Full Pull</i>		
	Owner: John Floyd		
	Captain: Ryan Riggs		
	Angler: John Warren Floyd		
	44.0 pounds		
Outstanding Tuna	Boat: <i>Hydrosphere</i>		
	Owner: Peter Lorris		
	Captain: Geoff Rosenberry		
	Angler: Sean Pendarvis		
	24.0 pound Blackfin		
Outstanding Wahoo	Boat: <i>Soundwaves</i>		
	Owners: Robert Cauthen		
	Captain: Charlie Morrow		
	Angler: Matt Cauthen		
	71.0 pounds		
Blue Water Conservationist	N/A		



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Harry Hampton Fund - The SC Memorial Reef, C/O
Amy Dukes, PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422

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Donate online:

- <https://scmemorialreef.com/> - Blue Donate button on top right and fill out the form.
- <http://www.hamptonwildlifefund.org/> - Click the "DONATE NOW" button (via PayPal) on the left side of the page. After specifying donation amount, please write "SC Memorial Reef" in the instructions box to make sure it is accredited to the appropriate project. A tax-deductible receipt will be provided for your records for both online sources.

AWARD	SERIES WINNER
Outstanding Female Angler 1st Place	Boat: <i>Home Run</i> Owner: Steve Mungo Captain: Grant Bentley Angler: Hope Bentley 3 blue marlin, 1 white marlin & 1 spearfish released 2,400 points
Outstanding Female Angler 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Dan Woody Angler: Holly McAlhany 1 blue marlin & 4 sailfish released 1,400 points
Outstanding Female Angler 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Family Tradition</i> Owner: Ralph Massenburg Captain: Brad Bloser Angler: Carol Cannon 1 blue marlin & 1 sailfish released 800 points

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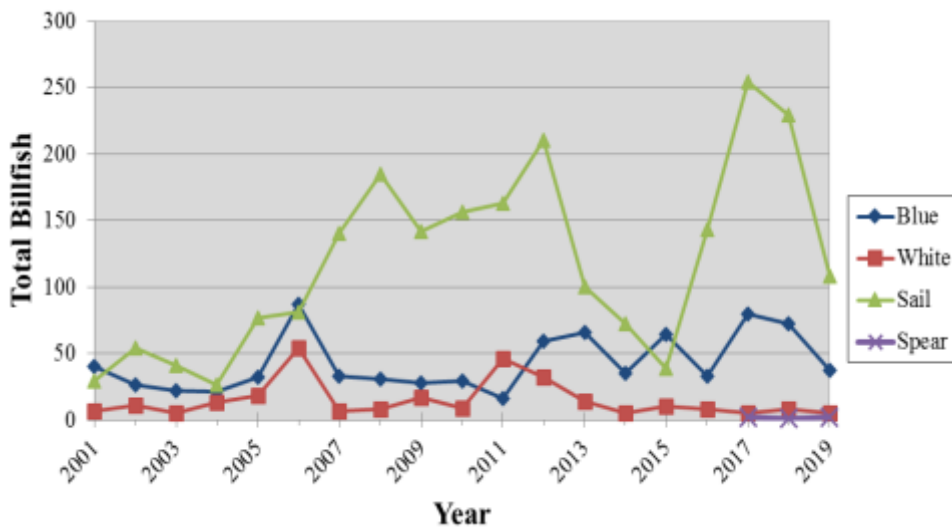
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To the left you'll see total catch by species per year. The Series got off to a slow start this season, with only a handful of releases during the 1st event, and only moderately better by the 2nd. The sailfish bite picked up by CBC, and with 14 blue releases at Edisto, we're hoping this slow start is simply due to different movement patterns this year. This could be from a multitude of reasons (water temps?), and we'll remain hopeful for another strong bite picking up again next year. Having three decades worth of data sets sure is helpful when it comes to population monitoring!



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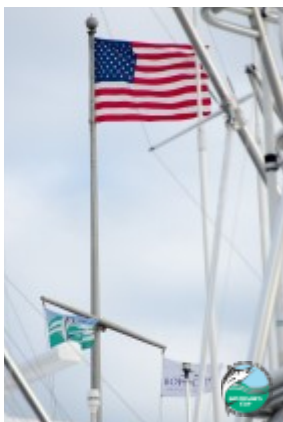
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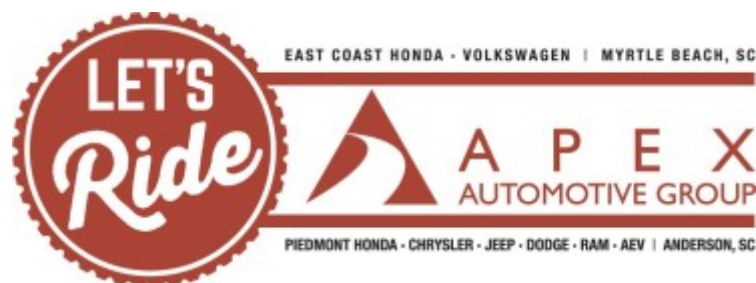
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AWARD	SERIES WINNER
Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place	Boat: <i>Tighten Up</i> Owners: Rick Burke & Kevin Overstreet Captain: Rick Burke Angler: Riley Overstreet, age 13 1 blue marlin & 1 sailfish released 800 points
Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Man Cave</i> Owner: Billy Gressette Captain: Billy Gressette Angler: Will Gredick, age 12 3 sailfish released 600 points
Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Man Cave</i> Owner: Billy Gressette Captain: Billy Gressette Angler: Julia Gressette, age 9 1 sailfish released 200 points



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2020 TOURNAMENTS



MAY 6 - 9



JUNE 17 - 20



Under construction 2020



JULY 15 - 18

This newsletter is 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.