



# Tag & Release

A newsletter following the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series



March 2020

Vol. 25 No. 1

**Supporting the conservation of billfish, ocean resources, billfish tournaments and coastal tourism for over 30 years...**

Since 1989, the Cup has promoted the catch and release of billfish, resulting in a shift from a 90% landing rate to a 99% release rate in the billfishing industry in the Palmetto State!



## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2020 Tournament Schedule

May 6 - 9



**Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament**

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

May 20 - 23



**53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament**

Contact: Ed Keelin  
P.O. Box 1704  
Georgetown SC 29442  
(843) 546-1776 Fax (843) 546-7832  
marinamanager@bohicket.com

June 17 - 20



**Carolina Billfish Classic**

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

July 15 - 18



**Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament**

Contact: Brian Bell  
3702 Docksite Road  
Edisto Beach, SC 29438  
(843) 631-5055 Fax (843) 631-5065  
bkbell1@bellsouth.net

**\*\*The Megadock will be under construction during the summer of 2020 and 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](mailto:DukesA@dnr.sc.gov) • [govcup.dnr.sc.gov](http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov) • (843) 953-9365  
PO Box 12559 • Charleston, SC 29422

## 2019 Corporate Sponsors



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## Series Reflections

As we begin a new year I want to once again thank all of our 2019 sponsors, whose names and ads are scattered throughout this newsletter. We had three Corporate Sponsors: Superior Diesel/Volvo Penta, Martech Research, and Holder, Padgett, Littlejohn & Prickett Law. I also thank our Benefactor Sponsors: Apex Automotive Group; HMY Yachts; The Island House; Prospec Electronics/Harman; Sea Hunt Boats; Southern Lumber and Millwork; and W. W. Williams/MTU. Our Patron Sponsors were: Blanchard Power Systems/CAT; CCA of South Carolina; El Tejano Partners; Founders Hall/SCPRT; Frank's Car Wash; Fuel Ox Marine; McClam and Associates; Mungo Homes; Palmetto Lures; Palmetto State Armory; The Pate Foundation; QEI Security and Technology; Sportsman Boats; and Team Tighten Up. Finally, the Newsletter Sponsors were: Dr. Rhett and Virginia Spencer; Carpet Baggers; Legal Holiday Fishing



Team; Fairway Ford; Haddrell's Point Tackle & Supply; and Spencer Yachts. These individuals as well as Advisory Board Members and other interested Series participants collectively raised \$81,000 for Series operations. Without the support of their support, none of what we do would be possible. With that said, we officially kick off fundraising for 2020! We hope each of you will thoughtfully consider supporting the Series and billfish conservation. There are forms and information on how to make a contribution later in this newsletter. We promise to make this another year to remember, and we look forward to your continued support.

As we move into a new year, I also regret to say that several members of the Advisory Board recently completed their terms of office, including David Sykes, Harry Johnson II, Chris Jennings and Hunter Edwards. I personally want to thank each of them for their guidance throughout their terms of service. We are fortunate to have found some willing and able prospects to take their places and I want to officially

welcome Holly McAlhany, Tim Gredick and Billy Gressette...you all should know them as regular participants in the Series.

There are a couple of new rules coming down the pipe for this summer as it relates to the Series, and we will feature them in our next issue. Finally, we are looking forward to a productive season and remind you that now is the time to check your

documents and permits to make sure you are ready for the fishing season. You'll find this information on page 3. I cannot wait until May to get the summer going! Don't forget to register as soon as possible for the four scheduled events so that organizers can plan accordingly. See you on the docks!

~ Wally Jenkins

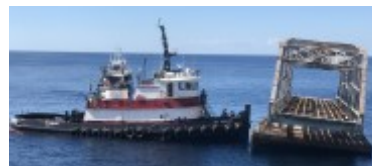


## THE SC MEMORIAL REEF

We are excited to announce that we have our sights set on a new project to sink a fourth structure in the SC Memorial Reef MPA! On the horizon lies an opportunity that is as massive as its opportunity to promote habitat growth for deep water species and fishing opportunity for pelagics. The Highway 21 bridge that connects Hilton Head with the mainland is set to be demolished, and staff and friends have been hard at work to sequester as much of the structure as possible to add to the reef site. Many details and negotiations are still at play, but we wanted to get you ready and eager for another fundraising effort coming your way soon!

### Donate now!

- \* Make checks payable to: Harry Hampton Fund - The SC Memorial Reef, C/O Amy Dukes, PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422
- \* Donate Online: A tax-deductible receipt will be provided for both online sources.
  - <https://scmemorialreef.com/>
  - <http://www.hamptonwildlifefund.org/> - be sure to write "SC Memorial Reef" in the instructions box to ensure it's accredited to the appropriate project.







Below is a list of some of the permits, licenses and documentation that you will/may need to have in your possession so that boat owners, captains and crew are ready for a successful fishing season. ***Double Check Your Expiration Dates!!!***

**1) SC Saltwater Fishing License – Every individual** (age 16 and above) aboard the vessel must have a valid official SC Saltwater Recreational Fishing License **in their possession**. These licenses can be purchased at <https://dnrlicensing.sc.gov/DNRLicensingSales/SalesCategories.aspx> or by calling 1-866-714-3611, and expire one year from the issue date.

**2) Current vessel documentation or state registration** – All vessels must possess current and valid state registration or US Coast Guard documentation in addition to being titled in the owner's name/business.

**3) Atlantic HMS [Angling (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 (HMS; 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 permit. These permits cost \$26.00, and will be valid from the date of issuance through December 31, 2020. Visit the NMFS website at <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/> to apply.



# JOIN OUR TEAM!

Those who donate a minimum of \$100 get an invitation to the annual awards reception. Those donating \$500 also get mentioned on our website and in the Awards Reception program.

## ◆ Newsletter Sponsor: \$1,000

- Logo in every newsletter, in addition to the benefits mentioned above

## ◆ Patron Sponsor: \$2,000

- Also included in all Series advertising
- Allowed the use of Governor's Cup logo in your own advertising
- Opportunity to include your company brochures in boat registration packets for all tournaments
- Receive recognition of appreciation at the awards reception

## ◆ Benefactor Sponsor: \$5,000

- All of the above mentioned benefits
- Advertisement banner at each tournament
- 2 passes to all Series events you choose to attend

## ◆ Corporate Sponsor: \$10,000

- All of above mentioned benefits
- Eligible for a 50% discount on a single boat registration for all 4 Series tournaments **OR** 6 tickets to all Series events you choose to attend but do not register a boat
- Booth space at each tournament
- Included in all tournament brochures and advertising as a Corporate Sponsor of the Series

**Want to become a sponsor?  
Fill out the donor card below  
and mail to:**

**SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series  
SCDNR  
P.O. Box 12559  
Charleston, SC 29412**

## **SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES SPONSOR DONOR FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ \$50

☐ \$100 (Contributor)

☐ \$500 (Donor)

☐ \$1,000 (Newsletter)

☐ \$2,000 (Patron)

☐ \$5,000 (Benefactor)

☐ \$10,000 (Corporate)

**Please visit [govcup.dnr.sc.gov](http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov) for more information. 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.





In the table below, you'll find results for CPUE, or Catch per Unit of Effort, for the 2019 season. To calculate this, we add the total fishing time for each boat, and break it down into "boat days" (7 hours). We then determine the total time boats spent fighting billfish based on called-in hookup times and interviews with the captains. This time is subtracted from their total fishing hours (since other lines are pulled in during a fight, that time doesn't constitute as fishing effort). Finally, the number of fish is divided by the number of "boat days" to get our CPUE. This is an easy tool to quickly compare catch rates from year to year. Hooray data!

2019	BOHICKET	G'TOWN	CBC	EDISTO	TOTAL
Blue Marlin - Released	3	9	11	14	<b>37</b>
Landed	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
White Marlin - Released	2	3	0	0	<b>5</b>
Spearfish - Released	0	2	0	0	<b>2</b>
Sailfish - Released	3	11	40	54	<b>108</b>
<b>Total Billfish</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>152</b>
<b>Total Billfish CPUE</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>0.52</b>
Dolphin - Retained	354	342	197	45	<b>938</b>
Released	280	166	231	22	<b>699</b>
Wahoo - Retained	1	1	4	23	<b>29</b>
Released	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
Tuna (all species) - Retained	1	6	11	16	<b>34</b>
Tuna (all species) - Released	4	5	8	3	<b>20</b>
<b>Total Non-Billfish Retained</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1001</b>
<b>Non-Billfish Retained CPUE</b>	<b>6.06</b>	<b>3.34</b>	<b>3.56</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>3.40</b>

2015 - 2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Total Billfish CPUE</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>0.74</b>	<b>1.39</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>0.52</b>

We're hoping this is an off year due to water temps, different migration patters, etc. and that the bite will be back in full force next year!



## 2020 TOURNAMENTS



MAY 6 – 9



MAY 20 – 23



JUNE 17– 20



\*under construction 2020\*



JULY 15– 18

## 2019 CORPORATE SPONSORS



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TEAM TIGHTEN UP



## 2019 NEWSLETTER SPONSORS



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.