



# Tag & Release

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



August 2020

Vol. 25 No. 3

## Supporting the conservation of billfish, ocean resources, billfish tournaments and coastal tourism

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\*

\*All tournaments except the Carolina Billfish Classic were cancelled due to COVID-19.

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 Docks Road  
Edisto Beach, SC 29438  
(843) 631-5055 Fax (843) 631-5065  
bkbell2009@gmail.com

July 29 - Aug. 1



#### Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament

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

August 12 - 15



#### 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  
ed@georgetownlandingmarina.com



\*\*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 • govcup.dnr.sc.gov • (843) 953-9365  
PO Box 12559 • Charleston, SC 29422

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## Series Reflections

It has been four months since I last sat down to write this column. At that time, Bohicket had already been rescheduled for late July and tentative plans were in the works for a backup date for Georgetown, should it become necessary. Normally by this time of the year, we would have already put out an additional newsletter and countless Facebook posts. However, most of what we have been doing to manage this situation does not make for very interesting reading. In addition, the only real news we had in May was that Edisto had decided to cancel after much discussion with Town leaders and tournament staff. We did however have one brief bright spot in June when everything came together among federal, state and local governments and all the permits required to host one of these events were awarded for the Carolina Billfish Classic. For those of you who participated in the tournament, I think we all would agree that organizer Deidre Menefee and the staff and management of The Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina put on a very nice event for 47 boats. They followed the lead of the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament, which was held the previous week, by having the Captains' Meeting and awards ceremony via Facebook Live. In addition, marina staff also helped by placing boats fishing out of the marina in such a way as to maximize the potential for social distancing and even delivered meals to the boats. Crowds were also closely monitored and dispersed as necessary. Finally, our staff accomplished virtually all catch and release data collection and points verification via phone and email. In addition, I had a personal security guard to protect me from the public. At that time, I felt perfectly safe; I also thought it worked

great and was hopeful for both Bohicket and Georgetown to be held in a similar manner. My only disappointment from the event was that I did not get to meet Michael Jordan, or practically anyone else. The CBC staff, participants, and winners are to be congratulated for sticking with it, and a summary of the results is featured throughout this newsletter.

As cases spiked in early July, it became less and less clear as to whether local permits would be granted for either of the rescheduled Bohicket or Georgetown events. In the end they were not, so both events were subsequently cancelled.

That brings us to mid-August. The Governor's Cup Advisory Board recently met virtually to reconcile a couple of outstanding issues related to this year. The meeting was attended by nearly every Advisory Board member as well as our DNR Board Chairman Mr. Norman Pulliam, DNR Director Robert Boyles, and Marine Resources Deputy Director Phil Maier. Discussion centered on how to move forward with sponsorship, awards, and the latest proposed Memorial Reef project. To be as concise as possible, we are reaching out to sponsors to see how they want move forward, and the Tournament Committee and Advisory Board agreed that one tournament does not constitute a Series; thus no Governor's Cup awards will be distributed this year. We have already taken steps to rollover our reservations at various tournament venues as well as PRT's Founders Hall. This is certainly not the outcome everyone had hoped for back in April, but it was necessary to guarantee the financial stability of the Series and safety of its participants. Finally, we discussed the fact that the Highway 21 bridge construction and removal project in Beaufort county is ahead of schedule, and the contractors are asking for a formal commitment to finalize and define the path forward. The plan approved at an in person Advisory Board meeting in February, called for raising about \$300,000 in funds over the summer at Series events and from various sources in orders to pursue the option of lifting the entire span, attaching it to a barge, and sinking it within the 4X6 mile Charleston Deep Reef site. After discussing the benefits anglers have observed from the

previous structures placed in the site, the Advisory Board instructed us to begin fundraising in earnest with the same end goal, and a timeline for deployment in August 2021. During this discussion, five Advisory Board members also pledged \$10,000 each to kick off the effort! In the coming weeks, you will hear more about how each of you can contribute to this important recreational fishery development project. Although there are lower cost options for deployment of the structure, our goal at present is, as Dabo would say, to go ALL IN!

To be frank, this was the most upbeat and optimistic meeting that I

have been involved with during this pandemic, and is an indicator of the faith that our board members and the billfishing community have in the economy and the country going forward.

I closed my last column with "until we meet again." That wish has been delayed, but I am looking forward to that reunion with each of you in the future.

~ Wally Jenkins





|   |  |
|---|--|
| Outstanding<br>Billfish Boat<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Place | Boat: <i>Grander</i><br>Owner: Terrell Rhye<br>Captain: Sean Dooley<br>1 blue marlin & 4 sailfish<br>released<br>1400 points |
|---|--|

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| Outstanding<br>Billfish<br>Conservationist | Boat: <i>Grander</i><br>Owner: Terrell Rhye<br>Captain: Sean Dooley<br>1 blue marlin & 4 sailfish<br>released<br>1400 points |
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| Outstanding<br>Billfish Boat<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Place | Boat: <i>Mister Pete</i><br>Owner: Bob & Rusty McClam<br>Captain: Alan Neiford<br>6 sailfish released<br>1200 points |
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## THE SC MEMORIAL REEF

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. There are 3 options on the table of varying degrees of complexity, and the more money we're able to raise, the more structure we'll be able to sink! Demolition has also been pushed up to next March, almost a year ahead of schedule, so the time is NOW to donate! With many of the Governor's Cup and Harry Hampton events cancelled during 2020, we are calling upon you help spread the word for this great cause!

### 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/> - write "SC Memorial Reef" in the instructions box to ensure it's accredited to the appropriate project.



# SEA HUNT



# BOATS

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**803-755-6539**

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|---|--|
| Outstanding<br>Billfish Boat<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Place | Boat: <i>Reel Hook Up</i><br>Owner: Michael Carter<br>Captain: Randy Ragland<br>6 sailfish released<br>1200 points |
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| <p>Outstanding<br/>Tuna</p> | <p>Boat: <i>Fox Trot</i><br/>Owner: South River Boats LLC<br/>Captain: Keegan Bird<br/>Angler: Dan Rimmer<br/>16.3 pounds</p> |
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| <p>Outstanding<br/>Wahoo</p> | <p>Boat: <i>Groggy's Girl</i><br/>Owner: Gordon Darby<br/>Captain: Gordon Darby<br/>Angler: Mitch Avant<br/>81.0 pounds</p> |
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| <p>Outstanding<br/>Dolphin</p> | <p>Boat: <i>Lights Out</i><br/>Owner: Rob Carmichael<br/>Captain: Newt Cagle<br/>Angler: Tucker Carmichael<br/>55.3 pounds</p> |
|--------------------------------|--|



# Welcome to Maximum Uptime

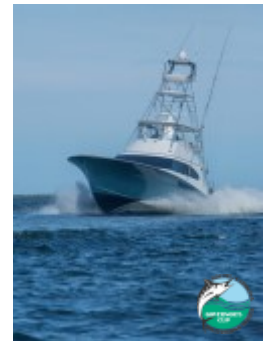
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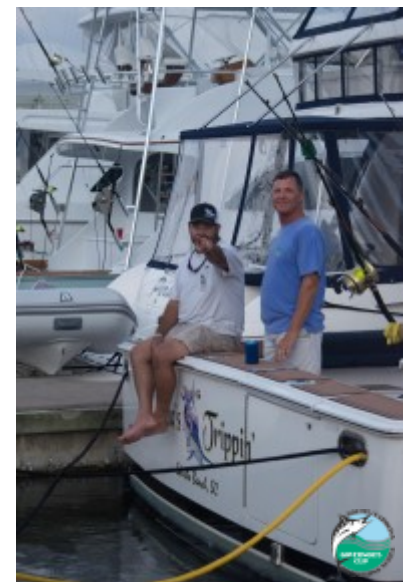


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| Outstanding<br>Youth Angler<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Place | Boat: <i>Glazed</i><br>Owner: Miles Herring<br>Captain: Miles Herring<br>Angler: Woods Herring, age 11<br>1 sailfish released<br>200 points |
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| Outstanding<br>Youth Angler<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Place | Boat: <i>Man Cave</i><br>Owner: Billy & Sara Gressette<br>Captain: Billy Gressette<br>Angler: Anna Gressette, age 12<br>1 sailfish released<br>200 points |
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| Outstanding<br>Youth Angler<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Place | Boat: <i>Tighten Up</i><br>Owner: B&O Boat LLC<br>Captain: Kevin Overstreet<br>Angler: Riley Overstreet, age 14<br>1 sailfish released<br>200 points |
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| Outstanding<br>Female Angler<br><br>1 <sup>st</sup> Place | Boat: <i>Man Cave</i><br>Owner: Billy & Sara Gressette<br>Captain: Billy Gressette<br>Angler: Sara Gressette<br>1 blue marlin released<br>600 points |
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| Outstanding<br>Female Angler<br><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Place | Boat: <i>Syked Out</i><br>Owner: David Sykes<br>Captain: Dan Woody<br>Angler: Holly McAlhany<br>2 sailfish released<br>400 points |
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| Outstanding<br>Female Angler<br><br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Place | Boat: <i>Full Pull</i><br>Owner: John Floyd<br>Captain: Ryan Riggs<br>Angler: Heather Olmr<br>1 sailfish released<br>200 points |
|---|---|

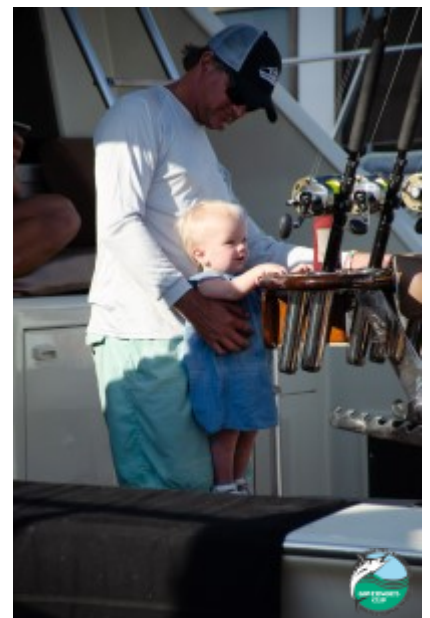


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