



Tag & Release

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



Series Reflections:

**February 2025
Vol. 30 No. 1**

Thanks to everyone for an incredible 2024 tournament series! We want to take one more opportunity to extend our deepest gratitude to our 2024 sponsors for this fabulous year! We received support from five Gold Sponsors this year, including Davis & Floyd, Inc.; Martech Research; Quantum Commercial; US Brick; and Western Branch Diesel/COX/Volvo Penta. We want to extend a special thanks to Western Branch Diesel/COX/Volvo Penta (formerly Superior Diesel) for sponsoring the Series at the Gold level for over ten years.

We also want to thank our Silver Sponsors, including Apex Automotive, Grescon Development LLC, HMY Yachts, Sea Hunt Boats Inc, Southern Lumber and Millwork Corp, Sportsman Boats, Units Moving and Portable Storage, Viking Yachts, and W.W. Williams.

Additionally, we are sincerely grateful to our Bronze Sponsors, including Blanchard Machinery; Coastal Conservation Association of SC; Frierson Capital Management; G.H. Smith Construction, Inc.; Green Wave Contracting, Inc.; Legal Holiday Fishing Team; McClam & Associates, Inc.; Palmetto State Armory; the Pate Foundation; QEI Security & Technology; Sportfish Outfitters Marine Supply Co; and Yarborough Applegate LLC. Contributions from sponsors, as well as SC Governor's Cup Advisory Board of Directors members and Series participants, totaled nearly \$134,000.

The Series would not be possible without the generous support of each of these contributors. We would like to thank our 2024 sponsors that have already shown their continued support for the 2025 Series! As we begin our 2025 season, we hope you will consider sponsoring the Series. We have made some changes to the 2025 sponsorship structure and invite you to check it out. We included the sponsor form and additional information regarding each contribution level within the newsletter. We have already received a pledge for one of our four new Platinum sponsor levels, so there are only three left! We are looking forward to this year's tournaments, and we greatly appreciate your continued support!

Please remember to register for the five scheduled tournaments as soon as possible. Information regarding each event is included below. We cannot wait for the 2025 season. See y'all on the docks!

Thank you to our 2024 Gold Sponsors!

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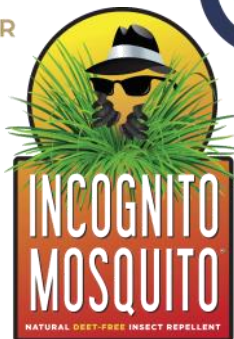
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37th Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2025 Tournament Schedule

May 7 - 10, 2025

Charleston Billfish Invitational



May 21 - 24, 2025

57th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament



May 28 - 31, 2025

HMY Lowcountry Cup



June 18 - 21, 2025

Carolina Billfish Classic



July 16 - 19, 2025

Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament



For more information, please visit:

GovCup@dnr.sc.gov • govcup.dnr.sc.gov

PO Box 12559 • Charleston, SC 29422



GRESCON DEVELOPMENT LLC



QEI
Security & Technology



South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Advisory Board

We want to wish a warm welcome to the new members of the 2025 GCBS Advisory Board!

In January 2025, we welcome three new members to the Advisory Board:

- * Mr. Frederick Bergen is a returning Board member and owner of the *Legal Holiday*.
- * Mr. Harold Turner is a new Board member and owner of the *Pistol*.
- * Mr. Michael Glaesner is a new Board member and captain of the *Sportin' Life*.



Fred Bergen



Hal Turner



Mike Glaesner

We would also like to take this time to thank the three Advisory Board members who completed their terms in December 2024. We thank Mr. William Justin Kohl, Mr. Robert McClam, and Mr. Chad Sanders for their service and time spent on the Board.

We want to thank Mr. Robert Boyles Jr., for his time at SCDNR, especially as Director, and wish him all the best in retirement. His dedication to the agency and the SC Governor's Cup will always be sincerely appreciated.

2025 Governor's Cup Advisory Board:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Mr. Billy Gressette—Chairman | Mrs. Holly McAlhany—Vice Chairman |
| Mr. Tim Gredick | Mr. Wesley S. Frierson |
| Mr. Douglas Jennings | Mr. Robert Rodelsperger |
| Mr. Sean Dooley | Mr. Miles Herring |
| Mrs. Deidre Menefee | Mr. Frederick Bergen |
| Mr. Harold Turner | Mr. Michael Glaesner |
| Mr. Jay Reese, <u>ex officio</u> | Mr. Scott McCormack, <u>ex officio</u> |
| Mr. James Oxner III, <u>DNR Board Chair—Liaison</u> | |
| Mrs. Blaik Keppler, MRD Deputy Director, <u>ex officio</u> | |
| Dr. Thomas Mullikin, SCDNR Director, <u>ex officio</u> | |



South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Tournament Committee

We also want to wish a warm welcome to the new member of the 2025 GCBS Tournament Committee!

- Mr. Cordes Lucas is a new member and captain of the *Buddy Rowe*, the 2024 Top Billfish Boat.




Cordes Lucas

2025 Governor's Cup Tournament Committee:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| Mr. Robert S. Garmany—Chairman | Mr. Reid Bost |
| Mr. Thomas DuPré | Mr. Bennett Griffin |
| Mr. Jim Goller | Mr. David Isom |
| Mr. Ed Keelin | Mr. Cordes Lucas |
| Mr. Trey McMillan | Mr. Alan Neiford |
| Mr. Jordan Parker | Mr. Bryan Richardson |
| Mrs. Shannon Smoak | Mr. Dan Woody |
| Mr. Jay Weaver | Mr. Chase Merriman |
| Mr. Stan Jones, <u>ex officio</u> , Charleston Billfish Invitational | |
| Mr. David Black, <u>ex officio</u> , Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament | |
| Mr. Loyd Weston, <u>ex officio</u> , Carolina Billfish Classic | |
| Ms. Deidre Menefee, <u>ex officio</u> , HMY Lowcountry Cup | |
| Mr. Charles Yoemans, <u>ex officio</u> , Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament | |






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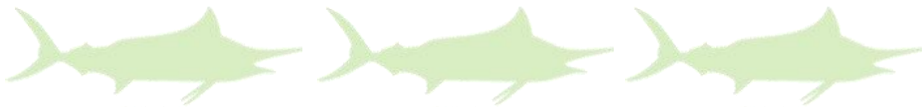
Our firm began with a passion for our community and the people in it, and an unwavering pursuit to design something that would last for generations. For over six decades, Davis & Floyd has collaborated to engineer critical infrastructure to enable, sustain, and empower communities. We create innovative solutions that enhance lives for generations to come.

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Become a Sponsor of the SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series

Please fill out the form below and submit it to:



SCDNR Governor's Cup
PO Box 12559
Charleston, SC 29422-2559
DukesA@dnr.sc.gov; 843-953-9365
GoodingE@dnr.sc.gov; 843-953-0119
BatesS@dnr.sc.gov; 843-953-8748

Name: _____

Business: _____

Street Address/PO Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Primary Contact Name (if different from above): _____

Contact Number: _____

Contact Email: _____

Donor Level: \$ _____

If including payment, please make checks payable to: Harry
Hampton Fund – GCBS

Please also submit your business logo to be included in the newsletter, on the website, and in other relevant publications. Preferred formats include PNGs or transparent background files.

After receiving your completed form, an invoice will be sent to you for payment. Once payment has been received, we will send you additional information and/or promotional items pertaining to your donor level.

2025 SC Governor’s Cup Billfishing Series – Sponsor Table

All sponsor donations are tax deductible through our 501(c)3 organization.

Bronze \$2,000	Silver \$5,000	Gold \$10,000	Platinum			
			Youth Angler Sponsor* \$15,000	Lady Angler Sponsor* \$15,000	Mate of the Year Sponsor* \$15,000	Top Billfish Boat Sponsor* \$15,000
Recognition in the Series newsletter	Recognition in the Series newsletter	Recognition in the Series newsletter	Recognition in the Series newsletter	Recognition in the Series newsletter	Recognition in the Series newsletter	Recognition in the Series newsletter
Invitation to and recognition at the Awards Reception	Invitation to and recognition at the Awards Reception	Invitation to and recognition at the Awards Reception	Invitation to and recognition at the Awards Reception	Invitation to and recognition at the Awards Reception	Invitation to and recognition at the Awards Reception	Invitation to and recognition at the Awards Reception
Logo link on website	Logo link on website	Logo link on website	Logo link on website	Logo link on website	Logo link on website	Logo link on website
Logo on Series banner	Logo on Series banner	Logo on Series banner	Logo on Series banner	Logo on Series banner	Logo on Series banner	Logo on Series banner
Social media (general coverage)	Social media (general coverage, minimum of 1 dedicated post during the Series)	Social media (general coverage, minimum of 2 dedicated posts during the Series)	Social media (general coverage, minimum of 2 dedicated posts during the Series)	Social media (general coverage, minimum of 2 dedicated posts during the Series)	Social media (general coverage, minimum of 2 dedicated posts during the Series)	Social media (general coverage, minimum of 2 dedicated posts during the Series)
Appreciation award presented at Awards Reception	Appreciation award presented at Awards Reception	Appreciation award presented at Awards Reception	Appreciation award presented at Awards Reception	Appreciation award presented at Awards Reception	Appreciation award presented at Awards Reception	Appreciation award presented at Awards Reception
Literature distributed in Series boat bags	Literature distributed in Series boat bags	Literature distributed in Series boat bags	Literature distributed in Series boat bags	Literature distributed in Series boat bags	Literature distributed in Series boat bags	Literature distributed in Series boat bags
Logo revolving on front page of website	Logo revolving on front page of website	Logo revolving on front page of website	Logo revolving on front page of website	Logo revolving on front page of website	Logo revolving on front page of website	Logo revolving on front page of website
Ability to use our logo in advertising	Ability to use our logo in advertising	Ability to use our logo in advertising	Ability to use our logo in advertising	Ability to use our logo in advertising	Ability to use our logo in advertising	Ability to use our logo in advertising
	Newsletter ad (¼ page)	Newsletter ad (½ page)	Newsletter ad (½ page)	Newsletter ad (½ page)	Newsletter ad (½ page)	Newsletter ad (½ page)
	Banner displayed at all tournaments	Banner displayed at all tournaments	Banner displayed at all tournaments	Banner displayed at all tournaments	Banner displayed at all tournaments	Banner displayed at all tournaments
	VIP passes to all tournament events (2 passes)	VIP passes to all tournament events (6 passes) OR \$1000 off tournament entry fee	VIP passes to all tournament events (6 passes) OR \$1000 off tournament entry fee	VIP passes to all tournament events (6 passes) OR \$1000 off tournament entry fee	VIP passes to all tournament events (6 passes) OR \$1000 off tournament entry fee	VIP passes to all tournament events (6 passes) OR \$1000 off tournament entry fee
	Large GCBS flag	Large GCBS flag	Large GCBS flag	Large GCBS flag	Large GCBS flag	Large GCBS flag
		Recognized by each tournament	Recognized by each tournament	Recognized by each tournament	Recognized by each tournament	Recognized by each tournament
		Display (where space is available) at all tournaments	Display (where space is available) at all tournaments	Display (where space is available) at all tournaments	Display (where space is available) at all tournaments	Display (where space is available) at all tournaments
		Ex-officio member on the Advisory Board of Directors	Ex-officio member on the Advisory Board of Directors	Ex-officio member on the Advisory Board of Directors	Ex-officio member on the Advisory Board of Directors	Ex-officio member on the Advisory Board of Directors
			First option for subsequent year sponsorship	First option for subsequent year sponsorship	First option for subsequent year sponsorship	First option for subsequent year sponsorship
			Highlighted as Youth Angler sponsor on all recognition posts	Highlighted as Lady Angler sponsor on all recognition posts	Highlighted as Mate of the Year sponsor on all recognition posts	Highlighted as Top Billfish Boat sponsor on all recognition posts

If none of these sponsorship levels fit your needs as an organization or individual, please contact us for further discussion on customizing a sponsorship. All social media coverage is at staff’s discretion

*Category preference is first come, first served, and only one sponsor per \$15,000 level.



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The SC Memorial Reef

The SC Memorial Reef continues to memorialize loved ones in the sportfishing community. We want to give a generous thank you to our many contributors!



When choosing to support the SC Memorial Reef:

- * Make checks payable to Harry Hampton Fund—SC Memorial Reef and send c/o Amy Dukes to PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422
- * Donate online at <https://www.scmemorialreef.com/donate>
- * All donations are tax deductible, and a receipt will be provided



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Get Ready for the 2025 Fishing Season!



Below is a list of some of the permits, licenses, and documentation that you will need to have in your possession so that boat owners, captains, and crew are ready for a successful fishing season.

****Double check 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://license.gooutdoorsouthcarolina.com/Licensing/CustomLookup.aspx>.

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. For vessel registration information, please visit <https://vessel.gooutdoorsouthcarolina.com/Vessel/CustomLookup.aspx>.

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. To obtain an HMS permit, please visit <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/>.



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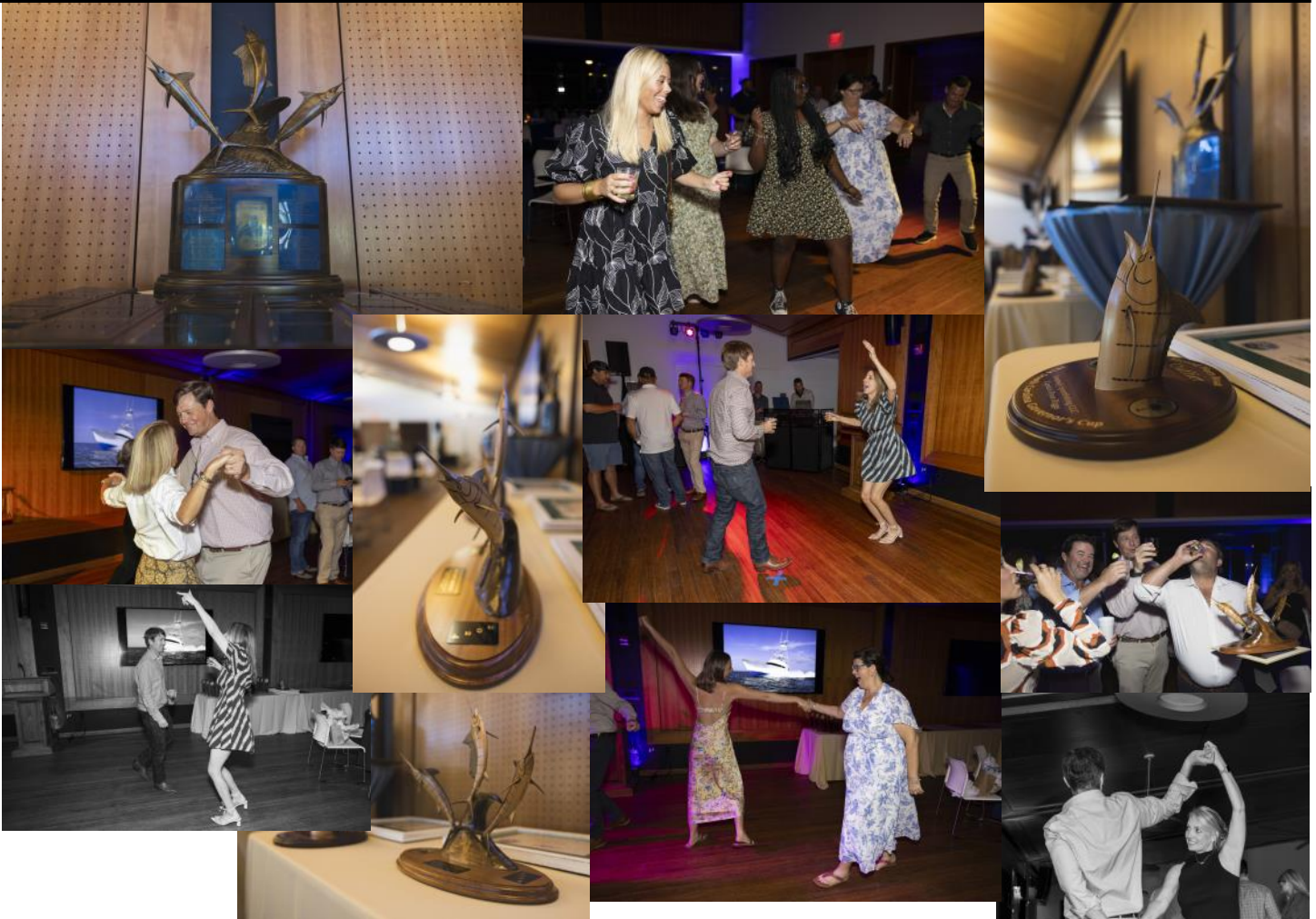
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Save the date!

SC Governor's Cup Series Awards Reception



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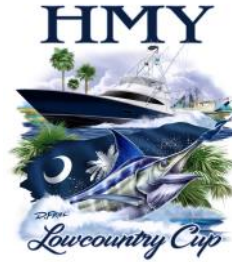
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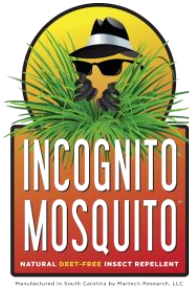
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The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, gender, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, PO Box 167, Columbia, South Carolina, 29202.