

# Tag & Release

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

## Series Reflections:

February 2026  
Vol. 31 No. 1

Thanks to everyone for an incredible 2025 tournament series! We want to take one more opportunity to extend our deepest gratitude to our 2025 sponsors for the fabulous year! In 2025, we restructured our sponsorship levels to allow for additional opportunities. In our first year with our Platinum Sponsorship, we were able to fill three of the four titles. We want to sincerely thank Thompson Turner Construction sponsoring Top Billfish Boat, Grescon Development sponsoring Top Lady Angler, and Spencer Yachts sponsoring Top Youth Angler.

We received support from four Gold Sponsors this year, including Davis & Floyd, Inc.; Martech Research; Quantum Commercial; and Western Branch Diesel/Volvo Penta.

We also want to thank our Silver Sponsors, including Frierson Capital Management; HMY Yachts; Mack Boring and Parts; 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; Fairway Ford; G.H. Smith Construction, Inc.; Herring Enterprises, Inc.; Legal Holiday Fishing Team; Marine Diesel Inc.; McClam & Associates, Inc.; the Pate Foundation; 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 Governor's Cup participants, totaled nearly **\$148,000**.

The Series would not be possible without the generous support of each of these contributors. We would like to thank our 2025 sponsors that have already shown their continued support for the 2026 Governor's Cup! As we begin our 2026 season, we hope you will consider sponsoring the Series. 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 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 2026 season. See y'all on the docks!



# 38<sup>th</sup> Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2026 Tournament Schedule

**May 6 - 9**

**Charleston Billfish Invitational**

Katie Harriss & Claudia Holcombe  
49 Immigration Street  
Charleston, SC 29403  
(843) 790-4001  
billfish@seabreezemarina.com



**May 20 - 23**

**58<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament**

David Black  
P. O. Box 1704  
Georgetown, SC 29442  
(843) 546-1776  
dblack@georgetownlandingmarina.com



**May 27 - 30**

**HMY Lowcountry Cup**

Desiree Freeman  
7 Lockwood Drive  
Charleston, SC 29401  
(561) 972-0564  
LCC@HMY.com



**June 17 - 20**

**Carolina Billfish Classic**

Loyd Weston  
20 Patriots Point Road  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464  
(843) 568-5230  
td@fishcbc.com



**July 15 - 18**

**Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament**

Charles Yeomans  
3702 Docksite Road  
Edisto Island, SC 29438  
(843) 631-5055  
themarinaeb@gmail.com



**For more information, please visit:**

[GovCup@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:GovCup@dnr.sc.gov) • [govcup.dnr.sc.gov](http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov)

PO Box 12559 • Charleston, SC 29422



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Cup Billfishing Series



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# Thank you to our 2025 Platinum Sponsors!



Youth Angler Sponsor



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Construction

Top Billfish Boat Sponsor



GRESCON DEVELOPMENT LLC

Lady Angler Sponsor



# South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Advisory Board

We want to wish a warm welcome to the new members of the 2026 GCBS Advisory Board!

In January 2026, we welcomed three new members to the Advisory Board:

- \* Mr. Ben Wall, owner of the *Trash Man*.
- \* Capt. Bobby Garmany, previous Chairman of the Tournament Committee and captain of the *Dugga Boy*.
- \* Mr. Scott McCormack, owner of the *Spray Rig*.



Ben Wall



Bobby Garmany



Scott McCormack

We would also like to take this time to thank the three Advisory Board members who completed their terms in December 2025. We thank Mr. Billy Gressette, Mrs. Holly McAlhany, and Mr. Tim Gredick for their service and time spent on the Board.

As our Advisory Board Chair, Mr. Billy Gressette, and Vice Chair, Mrs. Holly McAlhany, finished their service on the board, we want to welcome our newly named Chair, Mr. Wesley Frierson, and Vice Chair, Mr. Fred Bergen. We look forward to the 2026 year with these men in leadership!

## 2026 Governor's Cup Advisory Board:

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Mr. Wesley Frierson—Chair                                  | Mr. Fred Bergen—Vice Chair |
| Mr. Douglas Jennings                                       | Mr. Robert Rodelsperger    |
| Capt. Sean Dooley  | Capt. Miles Herring        |
| Mrs. Deidre Menefee  | Mr. Harold Turner          |
| Capt. Michael Glaesner                                     | Capt. Bobby Garmany        |
| Mr. Scott McCormack  | Mr. Ben Wall               |
| Mr. Jay Reese, <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>     |                            |



Wesley Frierson



Fred Bergen

# South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series Tournament Committee

As our Tournament Committee Chair, Capt. Bobby Garmany, shifts to his position on the Advisory Board, we want to welcome our new Tournament Committee Chair, Mr. Jim Goller, and Vice Chair, Mrs. Shannon Smoak!



Jim Goller



Shannon Smoak (left)

## 2026 Governor's Cup Tournament Committee:

Mr. Jim Goller—Chair

Mrs. Shannon Smoak—Vice Chair

Capt. Reid Bost

Mr. Thomas DuPré

Capt. Bennett Griffin

Mr. David Isom

Capt. Ed Keelin

Capt. Cordes Lucas

Capt. Trey McMillan

Capt. Alan Neiford

Capt. Jordan Parker

Mr. Bryan Richardson

Mrs. Shannon Smoak

Capt. Dan Woody

Capt. Jay Weaver

Capt. Chase Merriman

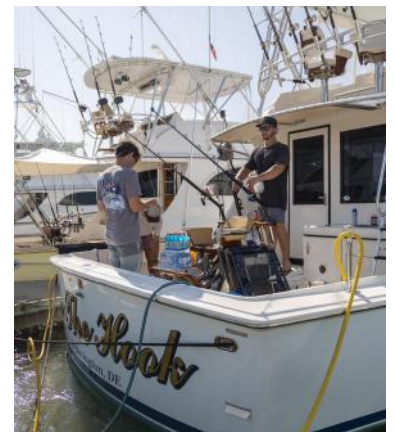
Ms. Katie Harriss and Ms. Claudia Holcombe, ex officio, Charleston Billfish Invitational


Mr. David Black, ex officio, Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

Mr. Loyd Weston, ex officio, Carolina Billfish Classic

Ms. Desiree Freeman, ex officio, HMY Lowcountry Cup

Mr. Charles Yoemans, ex officio, Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament






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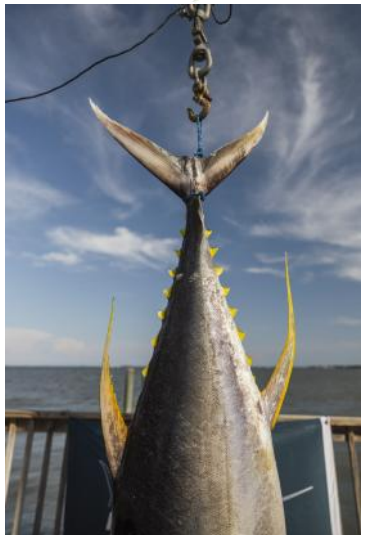
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# Become a Sponsor of the SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series



Please fill out the form below and submit it to:

SC Department of Natural Resources

SC Governor's Cup

PO Box 12559

Charleston, SC 29422-2559

[GovCup@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:GovCup@dnr.sc.gov)

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.

2026 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 (½ 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.

\*\*Category was not utilized in 2025; is available now for 2026 sponsorship.



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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:

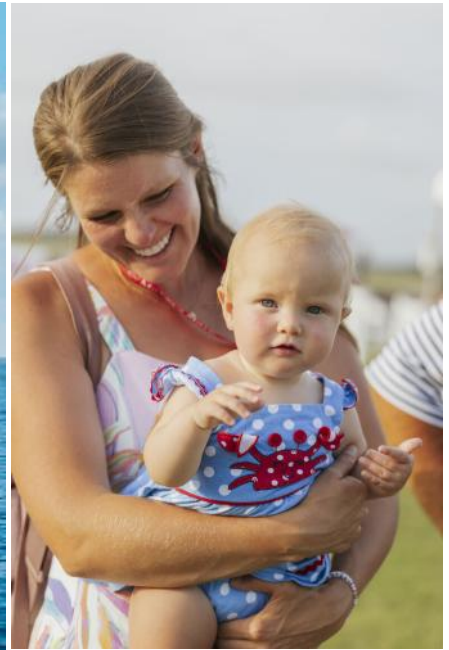
- \* Make checks payable to Harry Hampton Fund—SC Memorial Reef and send c/o Amy Dukes to PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422
- \* Donate online at <https://www.scmemorialreef.com/donate>
- \* All donations are tax deductible, and a receipt will be provided



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# Get Ready for the 2026 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/CustomerLookup.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/CustomerLookup.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/>.





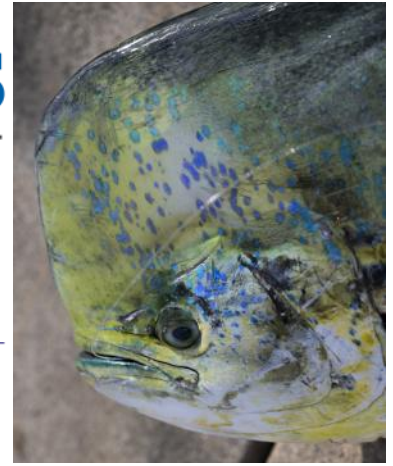
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## 2025 TOURNAMENTS



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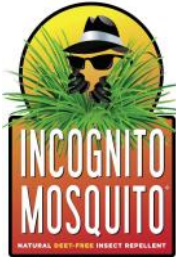


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