



TAG & *RELEASE*

Jim Goller, Editor Email: wildlife@sc.rr.com

Volume 6, No. 3 Summer 2001

2001 13TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S CUP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE...

- May 2-6** *Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Bill Hackett
3702 Docksite Rd.
Edisto Beach SC 29438
843-869-3504 FAX 843-869-3738
- May 16-20** *Bohicket Invitational Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Damien Zanetti
1880 Andell Bluff Blvd.
Johns Island SC 29455
843-768-1280 FAX 843-768-3481
- May 22-27** *Georgetown Landing Blue Marlin Tournament*
Contact: Ricky Ferdon
P.O. Box 1704
Georgetown SC 29442
843-546-1776 FAX 843-546-7832
- June 6-10** *Marlin Quay Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Charles Stone
P.O. Box 549
Murrells Inlet SC 29576
843-651-4444 FAX 843-651-7795
- June 27-July 1** *Isle Of Palms Marina Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Brian Berrigan
P.O. Box 550
Isle of Palms SC 29451
843-886-0209 FAX 843-886-0058
- July 11-15** *Charleston Harbor Marina Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Deidre Menefee
24 Patriots Point Road
Mt. Pleasant SC 29464
843-345-0369 843-856-9996
FAX 843-856-8540

For more information contact:

Wayne Waltz,
Office of Fisheries Management
843-762-5094 email: waltzw@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us

**A RELEASE TODAY
IS A
FISH TOMORROW!**

OVERSPRAY WINS AT MARLIN QUAY

"Overspray," owned by Foster McKissick of Greenville, captured the Best Billfish Boat award at the June 6-10 Marlin Quay Billfish Tournament.

Four billfish were tagged and released, including three blue marlin and one white marlin, among the 23 boats participating. John Cleveland of Easley tagged and released a blue marlin, as did Ted Ellefson of Greenville to earn "Overspray" 600 points, and securing the Billfish Conservation Award for this tournament.

Finishing second for tagging and releasing a blue marlin was "Big Game," owned by the angler Terrell Rhye of Charleston. "Rascal," owned by Norman Pulliam of Spartanburg, came in third when Patrick Knie of Spartanburg tagged and released a white marlin.

The biggest tuna was landed by "Aut-Top-Sea," owned by Del Dembosky of Bennettsville. The 41.8-pound yellowfin tuna was caught by Damon Smith of Reston, Va. The biggest dolphin (51.35 pounds) was landed Stan Dyer of Columbia by "Mistress," owned by Scott Boyd, also of Columbia.

The biggest wahoo was caught on board "Troublemaker," owned by Freddie Hyatt of Murrells Inlet. The 46.2-pound wahoo was landed by Will Tayloe of Myrtle Beach. Tayloe's mother, Lynn Tayloe, won her first Female Angler Award when she caught a 25.15-pound dolphin on "Troublemaker."

The top Youth Angler Award was captured by Austin Stone of Johnsonville. Stone landed a 42.85-pound wahoo on board "Reel Crazy IV," owned by Charles Stone of Johnsonville.

Jennie Davis
SCDNR, Marine Resources

BULLDOG WINS AT GEORGETOWN...



Another marlin gets tagged aboard Cookie Monster. SCDNR photo by Jennie Davis.

"Bulldog," owned by Lee Arnett of Spartanburg, captured the Best Billfish Boat Award in the May Georgetown tournament. Albert Boyles of Spartanburg tagged and released a sailfish while owner Lee Arnett tagged and released a blue marlin, securing the Billfish Conservation Award. A total of eight billfish were tagged and released including five blue marlin, one white marlin and two sailfish.

Former South Carolina Gov. Carroll Campbell, founder of the S.C. Governor's Cup Billfishing Series, participated in the tournament aboard the "Special Lady," which tagged and released one of the sailfish. A total of 64 boats participated in the tournament, with each boat fishing two out of the three days.

Finishing second for tagging and releasing a blue marlin was "Clear Cut," owned by Ronny Dempsey of Rowesville. The angler was Eddie Lee of Orangeburg. "Triple Play," owned by Jim, Art and Bubba Hightower of Moncks Corner, came in third. Jim Hightower tagged and released a blue marlin later in the tournament than the second place boat, earning "Triple Play" the third place in the tournament.

Georgetown played host to the biggest wahoo and yellowfin tuna caught so far in the series. A 74-pound wahoo caught aboard "Pipe Layer," owned by J. Pederson of Youngs Island, earned angler Chris Rowe of Walterboro the Biggest Wahoo Award. The Biggest Tuna Award went to James Bigby of Columbia who

reeled in an 86.6-pound yellowfin tuna aboard "Good Buddy," owned by Tommy Goodson of Hartsville. Angler Dan Stacy of Georgetown caught a 55.6-pound dolphin aboard "Big Sky," owned by Jim Johnston also of Georgetown, to take the Biggest Dolphin Award.

The Outstanding Female Angler Award went to Nancy Ravenel, who tagged and released a white marlin aboard "Cookie Monster," which she owns along with husband, Chris Ravenel of Mt. Pleasant. The Outstanding Youth Angler Award went to Nicki Holsburg of Charleston, who caught two dolphin on Saturday that totaled 59.4 pounds aboard "Billistic," owned by Dale Martin of Ridgeville.

Jennie Davis
SCDNR, Marine Resources

FROM THE CHAIR...

New Faces...

This July, the Governor's Cup will say good-bye to some old friends and welcome aboard new faces. I'd like to recognize the five who will serve on the Board for the next three years.

Francis Johnson, Sullivans Island, is vice president of Johnson and Johnson, Inc., a member of the Palmetto Society/United Way, President of the Charleston Youth Soccer Association and a CCA and Billfish Foundation member. He has been billfishing 25 years and fished five tournaments in 2000.

Nancy D. Ravenel, Mt. Pleasant, describes herself as a homemaker who also works with her husband Chris at Ravenel Marine & Land Management. She's a member of the Junior League of Charleston, Lowcountry Children's Center, IFGA and the Billfish Foundation. She fishes with husband Chris on their "Cookie Monster." She's billfished for nine years and fished six tournaments last year and is the first woman to serve on the Governor's Cup Board of Directors.

Norman F. Pulliam, Spartanburg, is chairman of Pulliam Investment Company and First National Bank of Spartanburg. He founded the Spartanburg Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and is an active member in SC Waterfowl

Association and Upstate SC Conservation League. Norman fishes on the "Rascal" and has billfished for 30 years. He fished five tournaments last year

William "Sam" Hiott, Charleston, is no stranger to the Governor's Cup. Sam is executive V.P./founder of the Bank of South Carolina. In addition to having served on the Governor's Cup Tournament Committee for years, he is a member of the state and local Chamber of Commerce, a board member of the Charleston Marine Institute, the Nature Conservancy and the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund. He has been billfishing for 30 years and fished three tournaments in 2000.

Edgar A. Buck Jr., Charleston, is employed with Buck Management. He is a Board member of First Union Bank and Charleston Exchange Club and is also a member of the IGFA and SC Sport Fishing Association. He fishes with his dad Edgar Buck Sr. aboard the Rookie IV. He's a tournament veteran and fished ten events last year.

Please join with me in welcoming this group of experienced anglers to the Board. I look forward to working with them to enhance the prestige, excitement and tradition that is the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series.

Bobby Hood, Chairman
SCGCB, Charleston

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2001

SC GOVERNOR'SCUP BILLFISHING SERIES LEADER BOARD

(Results through Isle of Palms...)



Sportin' Life, owned by Manly Eubanks, Charleston, is the current Series leader.
SCDNR photo by Jennie Davis.

TOP TEN BOATS	TOTAL
<i>SPORTIN'LIFE</i>	1150
<i>HOLYMACKEREL</i>	1045.0
<i>COOKIE MONSTER</i>	850
<i>BIG GAME</i>	700
<i>OVERSPRAY</i>	700
<i>TRIPLEPLAY</i>	500
<i>LEGAL HOLIDAY</i>	478.5
<i>BULLDOG</i>	450
<i>MAJORMOTION</i>	450
<i>HIDIN' OUT</i>	444.5

TOP BOAT
POINTS: 1150
BOAT: <i>SPORTIN'LIFE</i>
OWNER: MANLY EUBANK
CAPTAIN: MILE GLAESNER

LARGEST BILLFISH
FISH: 428.5 lbs. Blue Marlin
BOAT: <i>LEGAL HOLIDAY</i>
OWNER: FRED BERGEN
ANGLER: FRED BERGEN

BILLFISH CONSERVATIONIST
POINTS: 1150
BOAT: <i>SPORTIN'LIFE</i>
OWNER: MANLY EUBANK

BLUEWATER CONSERVATION

POINTS: 1850
BOAT: *PETREL IV*
OWNER: HARRY JOHNSON

LADY ANGLER

FISH: WHITE MARLIN T&R
BOAT: *COOKIE MONSTER*
ANGLER: NANCY RAVENEL
OWNER: CHRIS RAVENEL

YOUTH ANGLER

FISH: WHITE MARLIN T&R
BOAT: *HOTSHOT*
ANGLER: J.C. DARBY
OWNER: ERIC BURN

LARGEST WAHOO

WEIGHT: 113.6 lbs.
BOAT: *CHASIN'*
ANGLER: ROYAL SHORE
OWNER: TARHEEL SPORTFISHING

LARGEST TUNA

WEIGHT: 86.6 lbs.
BOAT: *GOODBUDDY*
ANGLER: JAMES BIGBY
OWNER: TOMMY GOODSON

LARGEST DOLPHIN

WEIGHT: 67.7 lbs.
BOAT: *Mar Jen*
ANGLER: WILTHORNHILL
OWNER: ROMO, Inc.

MAJOR MOTION WINS ISLE OF PALMS...

"Major Motion," owned by Bucky and David Morris of Charleston, captured Best Billfish Boat at Isle of Palms. Marshall Morris of Johns Island tagged and released a blue marlin, and Billy Walpole of Wadmalaw tagged and released a sailfish to also earn "Major Motion" the Billfish Conservation Award.

Sixteen billfish were tagged and released, including eight blue marlin, three white marlin and five sailfish.

The Walt Miller Sportsmanship Award, unique to the Isle of Palms event, went to "Petrel IV," owned by Harry Johnson, Jr. of Charleston, for tagging and releasing four yellowfin and 24 dolphin. The award will continue each year at Isle of Palms in honor of Miller, an avid billfisherman who recently passed away.

Finishing second for tagging and releasing a blue marlin was "Hap Hazard," owned by Hap Kinnerty of Charleston. The angler was Jerry Theimer of Charlotte, NC. "Palmetto Pride" came in third in the tournament when owner Anthony McAllister of Mt. Pleasant tagged and released a blue marlin later in the tournament, giving them third place.

The biggest tuna, a 59.0-pound yellowfin caught by Chris Smock of Greenville, was landed by "Aut-Top-Sea," owned by Del Dembosky of Bennettsville. The biggest dolphin, 67.7 pounds, was landed by 14-year-old Wil Thornhill of Sullivans Island on "Mar Jen," owned by Romo, Inc. of Mt. Pleasant.

The biggest wahoo was caught aboard "Chasin'," owned by Tarheel Sportfishing, L.L.C. of Greenville. The 113.6-pound wahoo was landed by 10-year-old Royall Shore of Mt. Pleasant.

The Outstanding Female Angler was Kimberly Smith of Walterboro, who tagged and released a sailfish aboard "Summer Girl," owned by Steven Leisure of Charleston. The Outstanding Youth Angler was J.C. Darby, who tagged and released a white marlin aboard "Hot Shot," owned by Eric Burn of Charleston.

Jennie Davis
SCDNR, Marine Resources



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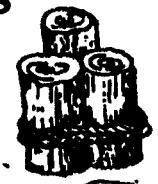


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GOVERNOR'S CUP MUSINGS...Page 1

Special Insert By Charlie Boykin

Bohicket Memories...

Bohicket, Bohicket, Bohicket. Try and say that three times really fast.

I'm told that the Bohickets were a sub-tribe of the Kiawah Indians around when the first settlers showed up in the 1600's. The beautiful river that separates part of John's Island and Seabrook Island from Wadmalaw is named after them. So is Bohicket Marina, site of the second tournament of the 2001 Governor's Cup Billfishing Series.

Bohicket was also the site of the first Governor's Cup Billfishing Tournament held back in 1989, and much has changed since that first event. This year, Bohicket was host to 33 boats. Tournament Director Damian Zanetti, assisted by Joshua Kennedy and others, launched the event with a wonderfully-catered captains' meeting on Wednesday night. The weather forecast was calling for temperatures in the low 90's, winds predicted to be SSE 10-15 knots with seas around 3-4 feet. As the sun disappeared behind Wadmalaw Island, the sky a crimson wash, captains and crews finished preparations for tomorrow's early departure.



Thursday was hot, hazy and calm at the docks. Twenty-nine boats ventured offshore the first day. The radio was quiet until around 5pm. Then we began to hear talk that "Legal Holiday" had hooked up to a big fish before the 3 p.m. lines out deadline and was still fighting the fish. By 5:30, the first boats began turning the bend into Bohicket Creek and heading for the marina. Dolphin became the big catch of the day and only one wahoo and one yellowfin tuna were weighed. "Cookie Monster," "Sportin' Life" and "Lucky Strike" had all tagged a blue in that order. As the evening continued, we

heard that "Legal Holiday" had actually hooked up at around 11a.m. and owner Fred Bergan had been closest to the rod when the fish hit. At 6:45 rumor had it that "Legal Holiday" had landed a 109-inch blue and would be in around 9pm, and a little after that, the boat rolled in. Even at that late hour (relatively speaking) a good crowd had assembled to welcome the crew as they weighed-in their 428.5 lb, 110 3/4" blue to take the lead on the first day. As the story unfolded, it appeared the fish jumped several times, became tail-wrapped and dove every time the crew got it close to the boat. In all, the fight lasted just under seven hours, but Bergan was one happy camper.

The Friday forecast called for a low pressure area to pass off the Virginia coast late in the evening with a weak cold front dipping south. With this in mind, expecting the seas and wind to kick up by Saturday, only 13 boats ventured forth on Friday. Despite intermittent power outages at the marina, the power was up to weigh in two more blues that afternoon. "Holy Mackerel" had a 370 pound beauty while "Hidin' Out" was just one-half pound shy with their 369.5 pound catch. "Bill Collector's" Brad Wright and Bryon Willingham took the lead in the dolphin and wahoo categories with a 61.4 lb dolphin and a 34.9 lb tuna. "Hey Doc" brought in the winning wahoo at 47.3 lbs. After an exciting day, it looked like most of the boats would fish Saturday trying to knock off the leaders.

As some of the boats headed out in anticipation of a rough day, the 5 a.m. forecast called for small craft warnings. This automatically canceled Saturday as a fishing day. While the leaders rejoiced, others were not as happy, feeling they had been robbed. The awards dinner consisted of one of my favorites, steak and baked potato, prepared the way only Marvin's Meats can, excellent. The crowd grew throughout the evening as Damien Zanetti announced the winners and presented awards. "Legal Holiday" became the boat to beat. "Cookie Monster" won the conservation award. Top female angler was Bryson Hills on the Mar Jen with no youth anglers at this event.

For the series overall, after two events,

"Holy Mackerel" led with 720 points followed by "Sportin' Life" with 650 points. On to Georgetown...

Georgetown Hospitality...

Georgetown Landing Marina, located on the Black and Pee Dee Rivers, was a beautiful setting for the 3rd tournament of the 2001 Governor's Cup Billfishing series. The 34th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament is billed as the oldest billfishing tournament in South Carolina and one of the oldest and largest on the east coast. After 15 years, tournament director Ricky Ferdon seemed to take everything in stride. Ricky was both a professional and gracious host, echoing the standards of Georgetown Marina, noted for its old fashioned service and southern hospitality. Participants sampled heavy hors d'ouevres and cool drinks at the Wednesday evening captains' meeting before dining on prime rib and grouper Alfredo at Lands End Restaurant. The meeting area was abuzz with talk about last weeks fishing and fishing yet to come.

Thursday began with blue-bird skies; sunny, clear and calm. Sixty of the sixty-



four participants headed for the high seas in search of Lady Blue. Fishing was hit or miss. One blue, one white and one sail by "Clear Cut," "Cookie Monster" and "Bulldog" respectively. Big wahoo and dolphin; "Pipe Layer" and "Big Sky;" 74 and 55.6 lbs respectively; hit the score boards on day one. Nancy Ravenel of "Cookie Monster" fame jumped in the

continued on reverse side...

GOVERNOR'S CUP MUSINGS...Page 2

Special Insert By Charlie Boykin

lead as Lady Angler by tagging the third white of the Series. "Petrel IV" had a tag in a big blue, but ended up disqualifying themselves because the fish hit the prop during the release. Everyone's hats are off to "Petrel" for setting the standard for sportsmanship and integrity that has become a part of the SC Governors Cup Series.



"Cookie Monster" at the docks.

On Friday, 19 boats ventured out to test their skills. Although it was breezy with rain threatening in the late afternoon, offshore was calm and peaceful. One blue and a sail were tagged by "Triple Play" and "Special Lady". Congratulations to former Governor Carroll Campbell, founder of the Governor's Cup Billfishing Series. Youth angler Sara Hightower made a showing with a 34.8 pound dolphin aboard the "Triple Play." "Mar Jen's" David Ingle matched the 74 pound wahoo landed on day one by "Pipe Layer." "Point Runner" weighted in a big bull dolphin at 53.4 lbs, but was still shy of the previous day's 55.6 fish. "Paradox III" had a 400+ lb blue on at 8:40 am that they fought for 30 minutes before it told them bye and headed for the deep blue. "Petrel IV" made their presence known in the Bluewater Conservation category by tagging and releasing 5 dolphin. Friday night fare was excellent...grilled T-bone under the tent.

Saturday began as a calm, sunny day. Highs were expected in the high 80s with a chance of afternoon thunderstorms. However, a series of thunderstorms didn't wait for afternoon to skirt the coast.

Several boats reportedly saw water-spouts produced in these storms. Forty-five boats fished the final day. "Summertime Blues," "Sportin' Life" and "Bulldog" each tagged blues. "Bulldog" took first place having tagged a sail on Thursday. "Good Buddy" brought in the winning tuna at 86.6 lbs, Nicki Holsburg took the youth category as well as the third place female angler with two dolphin totaling 59.4 lbs. Georgetown was a great event with five blues, one white and two sails tagged and released. A new series tuna leader, new series female angler leader as well as a new series billfish boat and billfish conservationist were established during the event. The awards ceremony was hosted by Ricky Ferdinand, who did a marvelous job. Plenty of food and cool drinks were on hand as everyone congratulated the winners and talked about getting ahead of them "next time."

From Georgetown to Marlin Quay. Stay tuned...

What's A Quay?

Rain started the fourth leg of the Governor's Cup at Marlin Quay. A few hours before the captains' meeting on Wednesday, isolated thunderstorms drenched Garden City and Surfside causing the Marlin Quay cooking staff to jockey the BBQ cookers under the tent. By 7 the sun was out and we were treated to some great BBQ with my favorite sauce, hot and spicy vinegar. Donnie Griffin, Charles Stone and Wayne Waltz were on hand to welcome the 23 entries and answer questions regarding rules. All eyes were looking west, wondering what impact tropical storm Allison might have on the tournament ahead.

Thursday, seas were calm and fishing slow. "Rascal" tagged a white to take the lead and "Troublemaker" came back with six wahoo, one tuna and six dolphin to lead those categories until "Mistress" showed up with a 51.35-pound bull dolphin. The catch du jour, unfortunately, was Chris Johnson aboard his boat "Persistence." While bringing a dolphin

aboard, the second hook of a double rig lodged in his right upper thigh. After shots to his leg, arm and butt, the hook was surgically removed.

By mid-afternoon Friday rain began to fall and fishing was again slow. "Big Game" took the lead by tagging a blue marlin. "Aut-Top-Sea" led the tuna category with their 41.8-pounder.

Saturday began hazy and calm. "Reel Crazy IV" planned an interesting Saturdays "kids" fishing day. Along with several youth anglers, Dyana Daniels, host of "Your Day" on SCETV tagged along to record the sounds of the trip for an upcoming show. "Chasin'" tagged two blue marlin with John Cleveland of Easley and Ted Ellefson of Greenville the happy anglers. So the event ended with "Chasin'" as the top billfish boat. Biggest Wahoo was taken by Will Tayloe, who's mom Lynn took the Female angler award. Seven youth anglers weighed fish

Did you ever stop and ask yourself what Marlin Quay means? Exactly what is a "quay?" Quay is French for "a waterfront platform or place where boats are loaded and unloaded." Even though no marlin were unloaded at Marlin Quay this time, Charles and Michael Stone, Lori and a host of others put on a great tournament!

Next up, Isle of Palms...



About the author:

Charlie Boykin is employed by the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston and a self-professed "tournament groupie" who loves to fish, hang around the docks and tell stories. Charlie volunteered to assist DNR staff at each tournament.

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