



TAG & RELEASE

Volume 22, No. 5



December 2017



<http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov>



Series Reflections

Fort Johnson made it through early September with minimal damage from Hurricane Irma. A photo (pg. 6) taken during the height of the storm surge shows how narrowly we missed significant problems (credit SCNDR Law Enforcement Capt. Donnie Pritcher). We hope that all of you were equally lucky. The good news is that the Island House at Ross Marine also dodged that bullet, and the Awards reception on September 29th went off without a hitch. Once again, A&P Catering and the Marina Variety Store prepared the meal, featuring marinated filet and their secret recipe potatoes, both of which I personally love, and *Vinyl Daze* provided the live music. The event was well attended and we had a great time handing out trophies to all of the Series winners. As you all know, *Gryphon*, owned by Colby Griffin and captained by Chucky Moore, won the Series by releasing 8 blue marlin and 13 sailfish, accumulating 7,475 points. This point total eclipsed the previous record of 6,075 points accumulated by *Reel Passion* in 2011, and alludes to the excellent fishing opportunities off our coast, which seem to continue to improve every year. This is also a testament to the conservation efforts and successes of the Series over the last 29 years. We were privileged to announce that *In The Bite* magazine named Chucky Moore East Coast Division Captain of the Year and mates Bryce Bell and Mark McDevitt (both of *Gryphon*) 2017 Mates of the Year. In addition to the Series winners (outlined in this newsletter), some special recognition awards were also presented. Outgoing Chairman Mr. Mark Rogers received the Chairman's Award, acknowledging his 6 years of dedicated service to the Advisory Board, the last serving as Chairman. Next, the Series bestowed a Special Recognition award to Stevens Towing Company, without whose willingness to go above and beyond, the current and previous Memorial Reef projects and the great fishing opportunities they have provided would not have been possible. Sadly, Mr. Stevens passed away earlier this year, but his family and employees continue to carry on his legacy. Now in its second year, The Series Mate of the Year went to Douglas Miller, mate for many years aboard *Rascal*, owned by Norman Pulliam and Foster McKissick. The award is based upon attributes including:

30th Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2018 Tournament Schedule

May 9 - 12 Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament

Contact: Bryan Richardson
1880 Andell Bluff Boulevard
Johns Island, SC 29455
(843) 786-1280, Fax (843) 768-3481
Dockmaster@Bohicket.com

May 23 - 26 51st 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

June 20 - 23 Carolina Billfish Classic

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

July 11 - 14 Megadock Billfishing Tournament

Contact: McKenzie Hutaff
P.O. Box 759
Charleston, SC 29402
(843) 278-4920, Fax (843) 577-7704
mhutaff@megadock.us

July 18 - 21 Edisto Invitational Billfishing Tournament

Contact: Brian Bell
3702 Docksite Road
Edisto Beach, SC 29438
(843) 631-5055, Fax (843) 631-5065
BkBell1@bellsouth.net

For more information, contact:

Amy Dukes, SC Governor's Cup Tournament Coordinator
DukesA@dnr.sc.gov • <http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/> • (843) 953-9365
PO Box 12559 • Charleston, SC 29422

integrity, sportsmanship, reliability, leadership, fishing success, curtesy and willingness to go the extra mile to help others. Finally, the highlight of the evening was being able to present this year's Carroll A. Campbell Award for contributions to billfish conservation in SC to Jim Johnston, owner and captain of *Big Sky*. Jim was instrumental in organizing the first Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament along with Marshall Truluck and Bony Peace, not to mention he has also fished in all 50 of them! Unfortunately, Jim was on a hunting trip in Montana and not able to attend the ceremony, but Marshall Truluck accepted the award on Jim's behalf saying "I always wanted to be Jim Johnston - tonight is my chance!"

In late October, the Highway 41 bridge

addition to the Memorial Reef was sunk within the Charleston Deep Reef MPA. *Pisces IV*, owned by Rich LaVecchia, was kind enough to take Kayla and Cameron offshore to witness the sinking. The structure landed very close to the designated spot, and forms a triangle with the other two barges in the MPA, facilitating trolling in the area. The sinking was witnessed by several other vessels, including SCDNR's research vessel *Palmetto* and Law Enforcement's JEA vessel piloted by Willie Ladue. In addition, recreational vessel *High Yield* managed to catch and release a sailfish in the immediate area while awaiting the deployment! This was a good omen for things to come. Also of great importance, your contributions toward this project over the last 9 months allowed us to meet our goal of \$180,000. The Memorial

Reef Account will remain active as we continue to receive contributions in memory of loved ones. Please visit the web site (<https://scmemorialreef.com/>) and see the improvements and updates that have been made this year. Thank you for your continued support!

Finally, thanks to Hurricane Irma, our Advisory Board meeting that was scheduled for early September was cancelled and rescheduled for November. It wasn't until then that the 2018 schedule could be finalized, and we apologize for the delay and any inconvenience this may have caused. The 2018 schedule is on the front page, so mark your calendars and snap up your rentals!

I hope you all have a happy holiday season, and we'll see you for our 30th Anniversary!



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Looking forward to seeing everyone on the docks for the 2018 Governor's Cup Series



AWARD	SERIES WINNERS
Outstanding Billfish Boat 1st Place	Boat: <i>Gryphon</i> Owner: Colby Griffin Captain: Chucky Moore Catch: 8 blue marlin & 13 sailfish released 7,475 points
Outstanding Billfish Boat 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Mister Pete</i> Owner: Bob and Rusty McClam Captain: Alan Neiford Catch: 4 blue marlin & 16 sailfish released 5,675 points
Outstanding Billfish Boat 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Toast</i> Owner: Ron Martin Captain: Newt Cagle Catch: 5 blue marlin & 12 sailfish released 5,475 points
Outstanding Billfish Conservationist	Boat: <i>Gryphon</i> Owner: Colby Griffin Captain: Chucky Moore Catch: 8 blue marlin & 13 sailfish released 7,475 points
Outstanding Billfish (landed)	Boat: <i>Game On</i> Owner: Bubba Roof Captain: Trey "Cricket" McMillan Catch: 500.2 pound blue marlin 501 points



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Top Series Boats/Point Standings			
Gryphon	7,475	Blue Sky	4,675
Mister Pete	5,675	Rascal	3,475
Toast	5,475	Home Run	3,314
Anticipation	5,275	Jack Pot	3,075
Artemis	4,875	Electric Bill	2,475





AWARD	SERIES WINNERS
Outstanding Dolphin	Boat: <i>Dem Boys</i> Owner: Tommy Hancock Captain: Reid Bost Angler: Russ Tomlinson 55.9 pounds
Outstanding Tuna	Boat: <i>High Maintenance</i> Owner: Jeff Kubu Captain: Dennis Brookshire Angler: Stacey Kubu 25.0 pound Blackfin
Outstanding Wahoo	Boat: <i>Syked Out</i> Owner: David Sykes Captain: Bobby Garmany Angler: Bryson Turner 89.8 pounds



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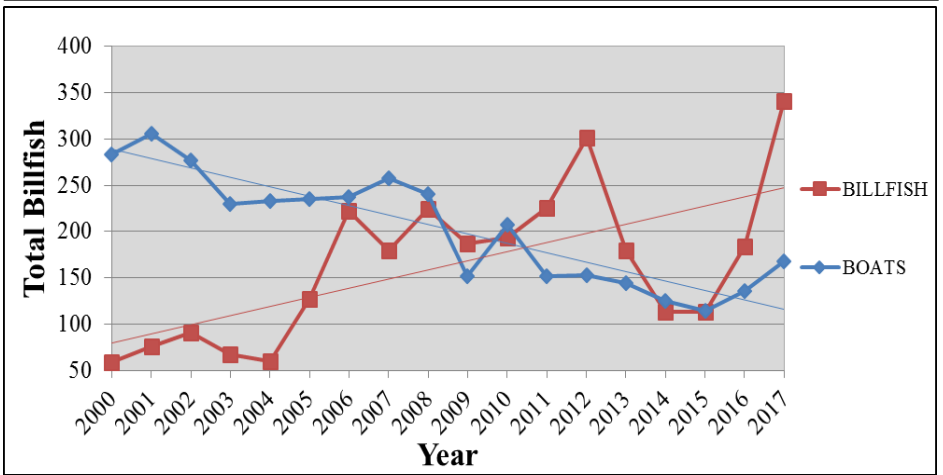


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AWARD	SERIES WINNERS
Outstanding Youth Angler 1st Place	Boat: <i>Gryphon</i> Owner: Colby Griffin Captain: Chucky Moore Angler: Chandler Griffin, age 15 Catch: 5 blue marlin and 12 sailfish released 5,400 points
Outstanding Youth Angler 2nd Place	Boats: <i>Petrel & Tighten Up</i> Owners: Harry Johnson, Jr. & B&O Boat, LLC Captains: Thomas Wynne & Kevin Overstreet Angler: E.J. Nettles, age 15 Catch: 8 sailfish released 1,600 points
Outstanding Youth Angler 3rd Place	Boat: <i>Salty Maintenance</i> Owner: Brad Truluck Captain: Brad Truluck Angler: Mackenzi Truluck Catch: 1 blue marlin & 5 sailfish released 1,600 points

AWARD	SERIES WINNERS
Outstanding Female Angler 1st Place	Boat: <i>Home Run</i> Owner: Steve Mungo Captain: Grant Bentley Angler: Hope Bentley Catch: 3 blue marlin and 5 sailfish released 2,800 points
Outstanding Female Angler 2nd Place	Boat: <i>Legal Holiday</i> Owner: Fred Bergen Captain: Lawrence Bradham Angler: Eugenie Barrow Catch: 6 sailfish released 1,200 points
Outstanding Female Angler 3rd Place	Boats: <i>Anticipation & Rare Breed</i> Owners: Paul Coury & Bubba Simmons Captains: Harvey Shiflet & Bubba Simmons Angler: Whitney Arnold Catch: 1 blue marlin landed (412.8 pounds) & 2 sailfish released 813 points



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SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

CBC honors Mr. Mike Altine

Deidre Menefee and the Carolina Billfish Classic has honored and remembered Mr. Mike Altine, Sr. through the creation of a perpetual trophy, which will be given to the top billfish boat at the CBC each year hereafter.



Stevens Towing Company

The Series recognized Stevens Towing Co. for their efforts on the last two Memorial Reef projects. Sadly, Mr. Stevens passed away earlier this year, but his family and employees will carry on his legacy.

2017 Mate of the Year

Now in its second year, the Mate of the Year Award is given to a Series mate who shows great dedication and hard work throughout the season. This year's recipient is Douglas Miller (pictured below) on *Rascal*.



Chairman's Award

Outgoing Chairman Mr. Mark K. Rogers (pictured left) was presented a small token of appreciation for his dedicated service to the Advisory Board as Chairman this past year and for his previous five years on the Board.

Special thanks were given to several boats who offered assistance to others this summer. Humidor boxes were given to *Voodoo Child* (pictured right), *Kobiyashi Maru*, *Nauti Girl* and *Sportsmann* as tokens of our gratitude.



Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. Award

This special award was created to honor individuals and families who have been leaders in the billfish conservation in our state. The 2017 Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. Award went to James S. Johnston, owner and captain of *Big Sky*. Johnston, who, along with Marshall Truluck and Bony Peace, was instrumental in organizing the first Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament and has fished in all 50 of them! Johnston was also featured in the May issue of Marlin Magazine this summer.

Unfortunately he couldn't be at the Awards Reception, so his lifelong friend Marshall Truluck (pictured left) accepted the award on his behalf.

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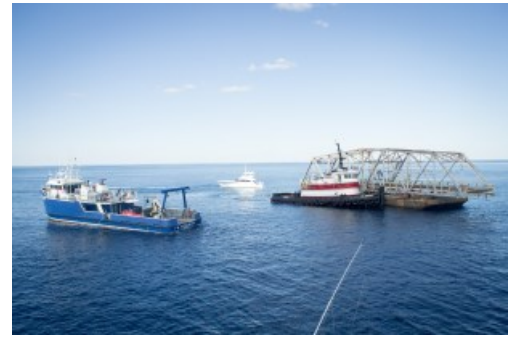
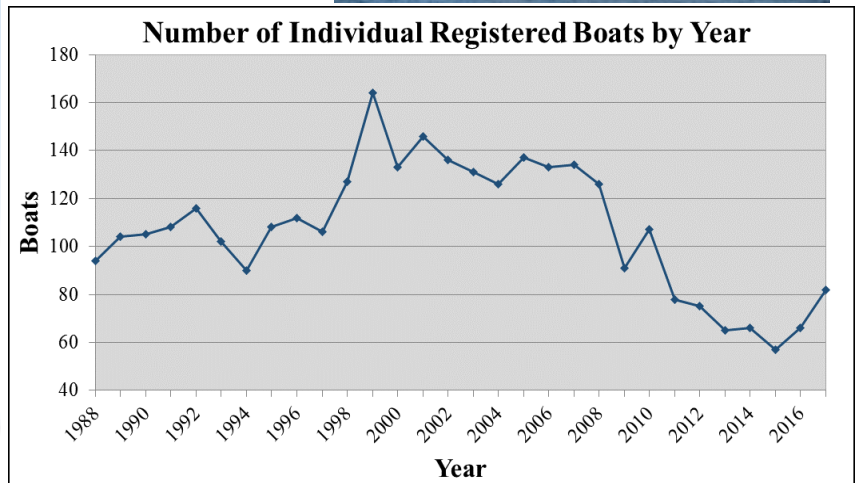


Photo credit: SCDNR R/V Palmetto

The South Carolina Memorial Reef

We did it! The Highway 41 bridge is now at the bottom of the ocean and is serving its purpose of creating critical habitat for imperiled snapper and grouper species. Undoubtedly, sea life has begun to take hold on the structure, and soon larger fish will recruit to the area, attracting our beloved pelagic species. As you may recall, the Charleston Deep Reef Project/SC Memorial Reef is a Type II Marine Protected Area, which can be trolled over, but bottom fishing is prohibited—which means increased opportunity for billfishing while protecting spawning grouper species. Our excitement flourishes in providing a more plentiful environment in an area otherwise devoid of any natural hard substrate. On to the next project!



Make checks payable to:

Harry Hampton Fund - The SC Memorial Reef, C/O Amy Dukes, PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422

Donate online:

- <https://scmemorialreef.com/> - Blue Donate button on top right and fill out the form.
- <http://www.hamptonwildlifefund.org/> and click the "DONATE NOW" button (via PayPal) on the left side of the page. After specifying donation amount, please write "SC Memorial Reef" in the instructions box to make sure it is accredited to the appropriate project.

A tax-deductible receipt will be provided for your records from both online sources.



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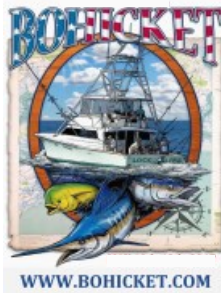
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2018 TOURNAMENTS



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JULY 18 - 21

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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.

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