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TAG & RELEASE

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

Volume 7, No. 1 April 2002

2002 14TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S CUP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE...

- May 1-5** *Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Susie Bost
3702 Docksite Rd.
Edisto Beach SC 29438
843-869-3504 FAX 843-869-3738
- May 15-19** *Bohicket Invitational Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Damien Zanetti
1880 Andell Bluff Blvd.
Johns Island SC 29455
843-768-1280 FAX 843-768-3481
- May 29-
June 2** *Georgetown Landing Blue Marlin Tournament*
Contact: Ricky Ferdon
P.O. Box 1704
Georgetown SC 29442
843-546-1776 FAX 843-546-7832
- June 5-9** *Marlin Quay Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Charles Stone/Lori Bryngelson
P.O. Box 549
Murrells Inlet SC 29576
843-651-4444 FAX 843-651-7795
- June 26-
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 10-14** *HMY - Viking Charleston Harbor
Marina Billfish Tournament*
Contact: Deidre Menefee
19 Forde Row
Charleston SC 29412
843-345-0369
FAX 843-406-4775

For more information contact:

Tom DuPre',
Office of Fisheries Management
843-762-5094 email: dupret@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us
<http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/etc/govcup/govcup.html>



The Shootout is an annual, all tag and release billfish event pitting the top boats from Georgia's, North Carolina's, and South Carolina's Governor's Cup Series.

The 2001 Governor's Cup Shootout will be held April 18-20, 2002 at Georgetown Landing Marina. Ricky Ferdon, marina manager, and his very capable staff promise a memorable event. He has promised much fun, a good time, and many, many fish. Ricky is a man of his word.

The Governor's Cup committees from Georgia: Andrew Dewitt and Tommy Williams; South Carolina: Wayne Waltz and Tom DuPré; North Carolina: Dale Ward and Randy Gregory. As hosts for the event, all the fine folks at Georgetown Landing Marina are looking forward to this event as the kickoff to the 2002 Series, not only in South Carolina, but in North Carolina and Georgia.

North Carolina won the first-ever Shootout and South Carolina won the last. South Carolina also holds the overall edge in overall Shootout wins. In a few, the weather ended up the victor.

Each year, the Shootout winner assumes custody of a slightly worn silver perpetual trophy until the next champion is decided. But perhaps more important than any trophy, bragging rights are at stake. With the trophy being passed back and forth a few times, the Georgia team has indicated it's their turn to take possession. The North Carolina and South Carolina response to that has been,

A RELEASE TODAY IS A FISH TOMORROW!

Shootout continued on page 2...

Shootout continued from page 1...

"Fat chance!" Some would take that as a challenge.

The teams are as follows:

Georgia

- "Lonesome Dove" 50' Hatteras
- "Evans B" 42' Gillikin
- "Trashman" 46' Buddy Davis
- "Coastal Mover" 50' Post
- "Rockin' Robin" 38' Bertram

North Carolina

- "Salty Fare" 54' Jarrett Bay
- "Builder's Choice" 48' Jarrett Bay
- "Magic Moment" 63' Ricky Scarborough
- "Anticipation" 61' Paul Spencer

South Carolina

- "Sportin' Life" 58' Whitaker
- "Holy Mackerel" 45' Viking
- "Cookie Monster" 46' Merritt
- "Home Run" 46' Viking
- "Bulldog" 30' Gamefisher
- "Big Game" 58' Mann

*Tom DuPré, Program Coordinator
SCDNR-Marine Div.*

FROM THE CHAIR...

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I'm happy to welcome you to the 14th Annual Governor's Cup Billfishing Series. 2001 was an outstanding year... significant in many ways.

146 boats participated in the six-tournament series. We documented 567 boat trips on which 113 billfish were hooked, 84 fought to the boat, and all but 3 were released alive. This is nearly a 96% release rate and all participants are to be congratulated.

2001 saw increased interest in the Blue water Conservation Award with 58 tuna, dolphin and wahoo tagged and released. For the first time ever, the winning billfish boat, Manly Eubank's "Sportin' Life" won by tagging and releasing all billfish. There were excellent catches from our youth anglers...Royall Shore landed a 113.6 lb wahoo and Wil Thornhill made his mark with a 67.7 lb dolphin.

2002 promises to be even better. With your help and that of our sponsors, folks committed to the program, we continue

to make headway in blue water conservation and education. The Governor's Cup series is supported by donations and sponsorships. The SCDNR provides the staff to coordinate the program, but the program operates on dollars from concerned citizens and companies.

We are happy to have with us sponsors like Carolina First, First Union/Wachovia, HMY, Williams Marine Power, Cummins Atlantic and Marine, Palmetto Props, Mike Brown/HMY, The Stover Company, and Cox Industries...companies who support the program and its values.

We are continually looking for new partners and ways to maintain a solid financial base. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the program we have a variety of sponsorship categories at many levels.

Also, please consider entering the new Carroll A. Campbell Sportsman Competition. This is a way to support the program and have fun while testing your fishing knowledge and skill.

I hope to see all of you on the docks and out in the water. Good fishing, good luck and be safe. Regards Bobby

*Bobby Hood, Chairman
SCGCBS, Charleston*

NEW TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES...

Recent additions & clarifications...

• White marlin and sailfish are tag and release only.

• A penalty of 300 points will be assessed against a boat for each blue marlin brought to the dock not meeting the minimum South Carolina Governor's Cup Series size requirements.

• White marlin and sailfish may not be brought into the boat. Any white marlin or sailfish boated for pictures or any other reason **will not** receive tag and release points. Blue marlin brought into the boat for measurement without the use of a gaff, harpoon or other device will qualify for

tag and release points provided they are returned to the water in a healthy condition and are meet the federal minimum size limit. (currently 99 inches).

Note: Federal law prohibits the boating of undersized billfish.

NEW! CARROLL A. CAMPBELL AWARD CATEGORY...

The Governor's Cup Board of Directors and staff are excited and proud to announce a new billfishing awards category, named in honor of, Series' founder Governor Carroll A. Campbell.

This new award category will be a grand slam tag and release tournament within the Series. The award will recognize the first boat and team to tag and release all six species; blue and white marlin, sailfish, tuna, dolphin and wahoo, during the Series. This is a competition of skill, experience, determination and team work. A donation of \$1,500 is required to participate and all donations are tax exempt. Participants will be invited to the awards ceremony, listed in the program and receive special perks and gifts not available to others. Participants may also display their business logo or message in each issue of our *Tag & Release* newsletter. Finally, the winning boat will receive a hand-carved trophy named in honor of Carroll A. Campbell. Additional information and rules will be forth coming. If interested call Wayne Waltz, (843) 762-5094.

*Wayne Waltz
SCDNR-Marine Div.*





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NEW REGULATIONS...

2002 and beyond...

• NMFS has implemented a system for recreational billfish anglers to report landings of Blue and White marlin, Sailfish and Atlantic Swordfish. Anglers must report all landings within 24 hrs to NMFS by calling 1-800-894-5528. This does not include fish landed during a fishing tournament already registered by the NMFS. Additionally, in regards to Atlantic swordfish, NMFS has established a one swordfish per vessel per day limit. This limit applies regardless of the length of the trip, no more than one Atlantic swordfish may be possessed on board a vessel.

• NMFS has received a petition to list Atlantic White marlin as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Within the next year, NMFS will determine if this action is warranted and if so, will publish a proposed rule and take public comment before developing and publishing a final rule. The billfish foundation has come out in opposition of this petition, citing that although the white marlin is overfished and in need of more recovery measures, the ESA rating was the wrong tool. It would have no impact on the mortality resulting from foreign fishing vessels

• Effective March 29, 2002, the US Coast Guard will implement new PFD requirements that will make it mandatory of children under 13 to wear a PFD. Children 12 and under aboard a vessel underway will be required to PFDs. The only exception will be if the child is below deck or in an enclosed cabin or if the vessel is not under way. Currently, in SC, children 12 and under are required to wear a PFD if the vessel is 16' or less.

Wayne Waltz
SCDNR-Marine Div.

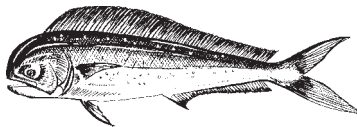
NEW NOAA WEATHER GUIDELINES ADOPTED FOR 2002

"SCGCBS Rules Governing Participating Tournaments"...

The SCGCBS Board of Directors, in an effort to avoid confusion concerning cancellations of tournament fishing due to weather, ammended the rules governing participating tournaments as follows:

10. In consideration for the safety of all participants, Series tournaments will adopt the use of a posted NOAA Weather Service "Small Craft Advisory" (winds 25 to 33 knots and/or seas 6 feet or higher) to cancel that day's fishing. Tournaments must set a specific time that can be no later than 5:00 am when a "Small Craft Advisory" will cancel that day's fishing. The safety of the participating vessel is ultimately the responsibility of the Captain.

All tournaments agreed to use the above weather rule, however, any tournament may still exercise discretion to cancel a day's fishing based on other pertinent information.





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Sportin' Life, owned by Manly Eubanks, Charleston, won the 2001 Governor's Cup.

TOP TEN 2001 BOATS	TOTAL
SPORTIN' LIFE	1150
HOLYMACKEREL	1070.0
COOKIE MONSTER	850
HOMERUN	800
BULLDOG	775
BIG GAME	700*
OVERSPRAY	700*
RISKY BUSINESS	700*
SKEE BO	700*
CLEAR CUT	675

*Listed in order of points earned the earliest in the Series.

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