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DNR

Volume 18, No. 1 March 2013



25th Annual SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series 2013 Tournament Schedule...

May 22 - 25 46th Annual Georgetown Blue Marlin Tournament

Contact: John Horton
P. O. Box 1704
Georgetown, SC 29442
(843) 546-1776, FAX (843) 546-7832
glmarina@sc.rr.com

June 5 - 8 Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament

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

June 19 - 22 Carolina Billfish Classic

Contact: Deidre Menefee
1625 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29407
(843) 345-0369, FAX (888) 758-3950
dm@fishcbc.com

July 10 - 13 MEGADOCK Billfishing Tournament

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

July 24 - 27 Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament

Contact: Becca Smith Jones
3702 Docksite Road
Edisto Beach, SC, 29438
(407) 463-2082, FAX (843) 869-3738
beccaesjones@gmail.com

For more information, contact:

Amy Dukes
SC Governor's Cup Tournament Coordinator
843-953-9365
dukesa@dnr.sc.gov <http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/>

Series Reflections

As we enter our 25th year, it is important to think back on those who went before us, and the fact that perhaps our single greatest accomplishment to date has been the conservation strides that have been made for highly migratory species, especially billfish. Through catch and release efforts and biological studies, we have a better understanding of the life history of these iconic species. Later in this newsletter, you will read about the billfishing community's latest opportunity to give back. The proposed South Carolina Memorial Reef will be placed in a deep water site that has been designated as a Type II Marine Protected Area (MPA), where both recreational and commercial bottom fishing is prohibited, but recreational trolling is allowed. Please take the time to read about the proposal on page 5 and consider helping out financially.

It is also important that we take a moment to thank the businesses that made the 2012 season such a success. As most of you know, the Series is a unique public/private partnership overseen by SCDNR. All expenses related to operation of the Series are funded through private donations. First and foremost, I want thank the businesses who stepped forward to make significant financial contributions to the Series in 2012. Atlantic Game and Tackle (Jeremy Burnham) in partnership with Release Marine (Jonathan Guarisco and Sam Peters), Palmetto Ford (Manly and Graham Eubank) and Superior Diesel/VolvoPenta (Arthur Bailey) were our three Corporate Sponsors last year, donating \$10,000 each; The APEX Automotive Group (Greg Smith), The Charleston Angler (Caroline and Malcolm Rhodes), HMY Yachts (Steve Moynihan and Tom Sanders) and Southern Lumber and Millwork (The Albrecht and Shuler

Families) were our Benefactor Sponsors, donating \$5,000 each; while Franks Carwash (Mike Hutchins) and Wells Fargo (Eric Burn) were our Patron Sponsor, donating \$2,000. In addition, the Newsletter which you are reading would not have been possible without the contributions of Blanchard Power Systems (Joey Coble), CCA South Carolina (Scott Whitaker), Citadel Enterprises (Pete Loy), Fairway Ford (Foster McKissick), Forrest Land Management (Coy Myers), Mangan Custom Homes (Mo and Thomas Mangan), Palmetto Props (Suzi and Nelson Durant), Pearce Law Firm (Dixon Pearce) and Spencer Yachts (Paul, Daniel and Stacey Spencer), each of whom donated \$1,000. Second, I would like to acknowledge not only the time and energy that each of our Advisory Board of Directors put into overseeing the program, but also their generous individual donations that were made toward operation of the Series. The five tournaments also made donations to the Wallace Pate Fund, based on the number of boat entries at their respective events. A number of other businesses also made varying donations toward the program. All of these

Sponsors are listed on our web site, <http://govcup.dnr.sc.gov/Sponsors/#sustain>. Take a look, and when you get a chance, thank each of them personally by spending your money at their place of business.

While 2012 was a great success, both from a fishing and operational standpoint, we cannot rest on our laurels and must begin fundraising anew. Each level of support comes with associated benefits. There are many levels at which to give; last year we had 32 donors and received contributions from \$100 to as large as \$20,000. Of course, there are varying benefits that accrue to you or your company depending on the level at which you give. First, everyone who donates a minimum of \$100 gets an invitation to the annual Awards Reception. Those donating \$500 also get mentioned on our website and in the Awards Reception program. Those donating \$1,000 (Newsletter Sponsor) get their logo in every Newsletter, in addition to the benefits mentioned above. Those donating \$2,000 (Patron Sponsor) are also included in all Series advertising, are allowed the use of the Governor's Cup logo in their own advertising, are given the opportunity to include their company brochures in boat registration packets for all tournaments, and they receive

recognition of appreciation at the Awards Reception. At the \$5,000 level (Benefactor Sponsor) companies get all of the above, plus a place to put an advertisement banner at each tournament and 3 passes to all tournament and Series events they choose to attend. Finally, at the \$10,000 level (Corporate Sponsor) your company will also be eligible for 50% discount on a single boat registration for all 5 Series Tournaments, or 6 tickets to all Series events they choose to attend but do not wish to register a boat, booth space at each tournament, and will be included in individual tournament brochures and advertising as a Corporate Sponsor of the Series. How can you afford not to take advantage of this opportunity to associate your company with the heritage and prestige of the SC Governor's Cup Billfishing Series? All you need to do to get started is fill out the pledge card included in this Newsletter and mail it in; it couldn't be easier! Finally, for those of you that have read this far, hopefully you have heard the news that the 90 day determination on the petition to list white marlin as an endangered species has been ruled to be unwarranted. Never mind that the 90 day finding took nearly a year, this appears to be one that NMFS got right.

Wallace Jenkins

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Tolers Cove Marina
 June 19th – 22nd, 2013
 (843) 345-0369
dm@fishcbc.com



WANTED!

Attention SC Billfish Anglers! Please report released billfish caught in SC waters throughout the 2012 fishing season. It's never too late to report a fish caught earlier this year! Anglers who release a billfish will receive a SCDNR Billfish Release Certificate. The boat reporting the most billfish releases will be named this year's "TOP CONSERVATIONIST BOAT OF THE YEAR"...will it be you? To report billfish releases or request billfish release cards, Please contact Amy Dukes at 843-953-9365, or email dukesa@dnr.sc.gov. The winning boat will receive a special award to be presented at the end of the 2012 fishing season. *Good Fishing!*



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"From the loss of one of our own, an idea was born to forever memorialize those who share a love for the ocean and the great sports fishing resource of South Carolina."

The South Carolina Memorial Reef is the vision of a group of volunteers committed to the idea of creating a **special place to honor and reflect on those we have lost** while building a unique structure which will provide a conservation benefit to all offshore marine resources.

The Reef will be a part of an artificial reef site called the **Charleston Deep Reef**, the state's first Type II MPA. Your donation will support the construction and placement of a large underwater structure that will be protected from commercial and recreational bottom fishing into perpetuity.

The South Carolina Memorial Reef is part of the Harry Hampton Foundation 501 C-3 charity. All donations are tax deductible.

South Carolina Memorial Reef Close to Reality

When the Charleston Deep Reef MPA was established over a decade ago, the intent was to dispose of the steel super structures from the Grace and Pearman Bridge (old Cooper River Bridge) and establish the first deep reef off the Atlantic Coast. The idea gained traction during a time when many snapper/grouper species were described as overfished, and scientists believed that a refuge from harvest could provide great benefits to the depleted populations. Unfortunately, the scrap metal prices at the time of demolition were a more attractive option, so none of the bridge's debris made it to the reef site. SCDNR's reef program also focused on the acquisition of a ship that could be deployed on the site, but to date none have been forthcoming and funds needed for preparing such a vessel would probably exceed what is currently available, even if such a vessel could be found.

Fast forward to 2008...a group of bluewater anglers banded together and approached DNR about using the MPA site to place a privately funded memorial reef. This concept was wholeheartedly endorsed by the agency, and in the intervening years many fundraisers have taken place to help

achieve this goal. To put it simply, the time is now; assets in the form of two large barges, a number of cranes, and other structures have been acquired/donated which will result in a structure that will provide the necessary vertical relief. Once placed on the site, it will accomplish the desired objectives of providing essential fish habitat in an area that will be protected from commercial exploitation. As all of you know, doing anything 52 miles offshore is expensive. Although much has been accomplished, the project is short of its fundraising goal and is in need of your help to be able to finance the final assembly and deployment. Other reefs have been built on our coast, but none will compare with the potential benefits for both bottom and pelagic species. Plus, it's strategic location near the 380 and 226 holes will guarantee that it will benefit those participating in future SC Governor's Cup events. So please visit the South Carolina Memorial Reef website (scmemorialreef.com) and donate to this worthy conservation project. Time is of the essence; this is your opportunity to ensure that the goal envisioned so long ago will be achieved by the proposed August 2013 deployment date!



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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.**



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.

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