

N.C. Governor's Cup and Saltwater Fishing Tournament Programs

Presented to N.C. Marine Fisheries
Commission
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"That's a citation!"
is a phrase commonly heard around coastal North Carolina, but do you know where it comes from?



N.C. Saltwater Fishing Tournament

- Commonly referred to as the "Citation Program"
- Purpose of the program is to recognize anglers for outstanding catches for fish common to North Carolina waters
- Saltwater state records are also kept as part of this program



The Basics

- The program runs annually from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31
- Citations are offered for 37 different species
- Each species has a weight and/or release requirement that must be met
- Inshore and Offshore Grand Slam Awards
- Fish must be weighed at an official weigh station



Weigh Stations

- Currently 102 Weigh Stations
- Weigh Stations provide certified scales and applications to anglers
- Handle weighed fish and released fish for anglers
- Oregon Inlet Fishing Center is the largest weigh station
- Participation in the program is used as a business tool



Popularity

- Annually between 8,000 and 10,000 citations are mailed
- Citation certificates have been mailed to six continents
- In 2011 citations were mailed to 49 states and 16 different countries



**OFFICIAL NORTH CAROLINA
SALTWATER FISHING TOURNAMENT**
Managed by North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries
Incomplete Forms Will Not Be Processed

N^o

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME (MI)	
ADDRESS		
City	STATE	ZIP CODE
(AREA) TELEPHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____	

**Check Type of Fish
(Please Note Minimum Weight & Minimum Release Length)**

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Albacore, False RELEASE ONLY *(34 in)
<input type="checkbox"/> Amberjack 50 lbs *(50 in)
<input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Bonito 8 lbs *(24 in)
<input type="checkbox"/> Barracuda RELEASE ONLY *(45 in)
<input type="checkbox"/> Bass, Black Sea 4 lbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Bluefish 15 lbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Cobia 40 lbs *(33 in)
<input type="checkbox"/> Croaker 3 lbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Dolphin 35 lbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Drum, Black 35 lbs *(40 in) | <input type="checkbox"/> Drum, Red RELEASE ONLY *(40 in)
<input type="checkbox"/> Flounder 5 lbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Grouper 20 lbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Jack, Crevalle RELEASE ONLY *(32 in)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mackerel, King 30 lbs *(45 in)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mackerel, Spanish 6 lbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Marlin, Blue 400 lbs *(any length)
<input type="checkbox"/> Marlin, White RELEASE ONLY *(any length)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mullet, Sea 1 1/2 lbs | <input type="checkbox"/> Pompano (Florida) 2 lbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Porgy (Silver Snapper) 4 lbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Sailfish RELEASE ONLY *(any length)
<input type="checkbox"/> Shark 150 lbs *(80 in)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sheephead 8 lbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Spearfish RELEASE ONLY *(any length)
<input type="checkbox"/> Spot 1 lb
<input type="checkbox"/> Striped Bass 35 lbs *(45 in)
<input type="checkbox"/> Tarpon RELEASE ONLY *(any length)
<input type="checkbox"/> Tilefish, Gray 10 lbs | <input type="checkbox"/> Triggerfish 5 lbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Trout, Gray 5 lbs *(24 in)
<input type="checkbox"/> Trout, Speckled 5 lbs *(24 in)
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuna, Bigeye 100 lbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuna, Blackfin 20 lbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuna, Bluefin 200 lbs *(70 in)
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuna, Yellowfin 70 lbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Wahoo 40 lbs |
|--|--|--|--|

Month	Day	Year
DATE REQUIRED		

For Released Fish:

Released fish live, please check here:

For the following, record length:

*False Albacore, Amberjack, Atlantic Bonito, Barracuda, Bluefin Tuna, Cobia, Black Drum, Red Drum, Jack, Crevalle, King Mackerel, Shark, Striped Bass, Gray Trout, Speckled Trout.
**Released fish of any length is eligible.

Release Length

Inches

The angler is responsible for ensuring that this application is accurate and complete. Fish shall be caught in accordance with NC State and Federal laws and regulations as well as NC Saltwater Fishing Tournament rules. By signing the above form the angler is consenting to release their information (for educational and/or informational purposes) and attesting that all rules, regulations, and requirements have been met.

If fish was kept, please record the following:

Pounds	Ozs.	Inches	Inches
Weight		Length	Girth

★ _____ ★
Signature of Angler

Name of charter boat, marina, or pier (if applicable): _____

Signature of Weighmaster or Release Witness

Weigh Station

Mail to: Division of Marine Fisheries, North Carolina Saltwater Fishing Award Program.
P.O. Box 769 • Morehead City, NC 28557-0769 • 1-800-682-2632 • 252-726-7021
For Questions, email: denr.dmf.citations@lists.ncmail.net

White: Original-DMF Canary: Weigh Station Pink: Angler

15,000 copies of this form were printed at a cost of \$1,320.16 or \$0.088 per copy.

All applications must be received by January 15 of the next year.



North Carolina Saltwater Fishing Citation

Carole Y. Willis

WHOSE CATCH HAS BEEN JUDGED
EXCEPTIONAL

FISH: WHITE MARLIN WEIGHT: 1 RELEASED DATE: SEP 22, 2012



Handwritten signature of Roy Cooper in black ink.

Governor
State of North Carolina



Handwritten signature of L. B. Williams in black ink.

Director
Division of Marine Fisheries



Recognizing State Records



- Each year several records are broken and new species are added to the program
- The program uses the guidelines provided by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) for maintaining records



NORTH CAROLINA STATE RECORD FISH

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

Certifies that

Benjamin Peterson

holds the current state record for

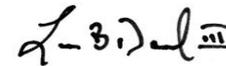
Species Queen Triggerfish

Weight 10 lbs 11 oz

On July 3, 2012



Governor
State of North Carolina



Director
Division of Marine Fisheries



Establishing a New Record

- The fish must be caught in accordance with program requirements
- The fish must be of an exceptional weight for North Carolina and within reasonable range of the world record
- The fish must be weighed at an official N.C. Saltwater Fishing Tournament Weigh Station



Current Records



- Currently 67 state records being maintained
- North Carolina currently holds five all-tackle world records recognized by the IGFA and countless line-class records





North Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Conservation Series



What is the Governor's Cup?

- Annual sportfishing series, managed by the Division of Marine Fisheries, operating cooperatively with the seven major billfish tournaments in North Carolina
- Participating boats or teams are awarded Series points for billfish caught and released and for billfish landed which met tournament minimum size requirements.
- Promote billfish release practices that give released billfish the best chance of survival.
- Collect data on billfish landed and released as well as information on dolphin, tuna, and wahoo



How did the Governor's Cup Start?

- Prior to 1991, most billfish above the legal minimum size caught in tournaments were landed
- Series started in 1991 by DMF, tournament organizers, and a group of concerned recreational offshore fishermen
- Series' tournaments raised minimum size for blue marlin landed and prohibited the landing of white marlin and sailfish



Rules!!!

Tournaments

- Registered with Highly Migratory Species
- Open to the public
- Charitable
- Assist with data collection
- Require HMS permits
- Require Coastal Recreational Fishing License
- Blue marlin 110 inches or 400 pounds

Boats

- Release forms
- 400 points for blue marlin
- 125 points for white marlin and sailfish
- Circle hooks for natural baits
- Safe release without removing from water



Governor's Cup Tournaments

- Hatteras Village Offshore Open
- Swansboro Rotary Memorial Day Blue Water Fishing Tournament
- Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament
- Cape Fear Blue Marlin Tournament
- Boys And Girls Club Billfish Tournament
- Ducks Unlimited Band The Billfish
- Pirates Cove Annual Billfish Tournament



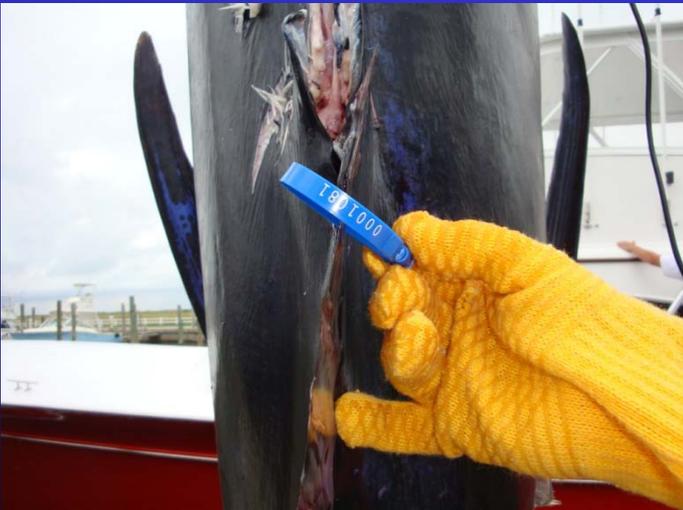
At the Tournaments

- Tournament registration
- Sign up for Governor's Cup
- Captains meeting
- Regulations and information to anglers
- Public education and outreach



At the Scales

- Serve as weigh master for the tournament
- Collect data on the landed fish
- Catch cards for landed blue marlin
- Release forms for released billfish
- Public education and outreach



Weigh-In Data

- Length/girth/weight
- Research
 - NMFS
 - N.C. State
 - UNC Wilmington
 - Duke
 - S.C. Governor's Cup



Release Forms





NC Governor's Cup Billfishing Conservation Series
Release Form
Please Return to the Whip Station

Please complete the form for each billfish released. The information from this form will be used to inform fishery management agencies about the billfish fishery in NC. The information will help NC anglers continue to enjoy the offshore fisheries in NC. Release data is needed regardless of the size of the fish or the gear used by the angler. Please be truthful with your answers. *Artificial lures may be used with entirely artificial lures only. Circle hooks MUST be used on any natural bait or natural artificial bait combination.*

Please complete all information on this form - incomplete forms may disqualify release

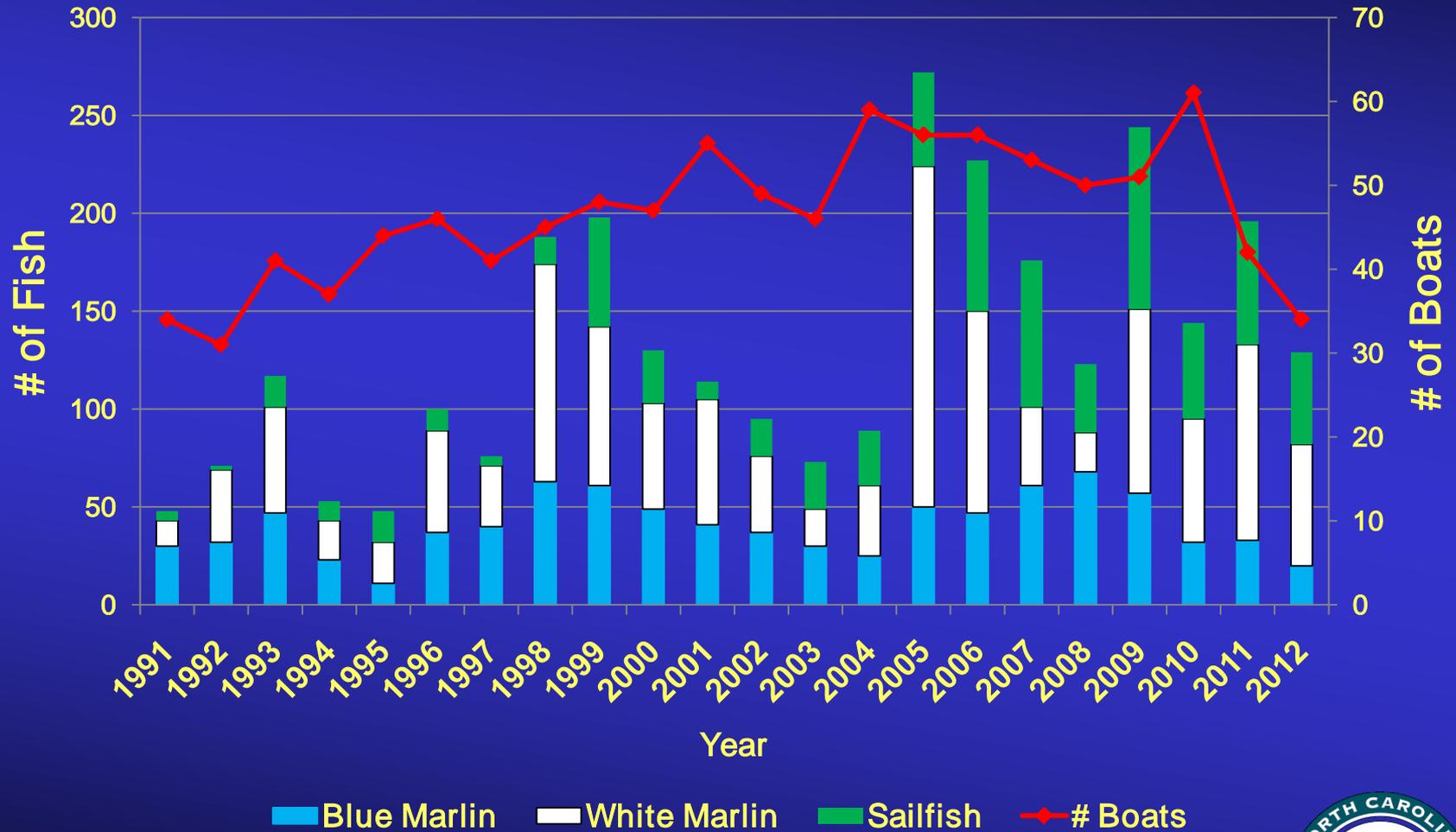
Boat Name <u>Peggy</u>		Species (circle one)	
Date <u>7/28/12</u>		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Blue Marlin	<input type="radio"/> White Marlin
Release Time <u>1:31 PM</u>		<input type="radio"/> Sailfin	<input type="radio"/> Spearfish
NC Gov. Cup Participant? (circle one)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	
Hook Type (circle one)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Circle Hook	<input type="radio"/> Hook	
Hook Size <u>8/0</u>	No. Hooks on Bait <u>2</u>		
Hook Removed? (circle one)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	
Hook Location (circle one)		Was the fish bleeding? (circle one)	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Jaw	<input type="radio"/> Corner of Jaw	<input type="radio"/> Bleed	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
<input type="radio"/> Side	<input type="radio"/> Deep (Gut)	<input type="radio"/> Foul	<input type="radio"/> No
Bait Species (circle one)		What was the condition of the fish?	
<input type="radio"/> Natural	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Artificial	<u>Excellent</u>	
Rig Information		Leader Type (circle one)	
Natural Dead		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Mono	
Natural/Artificial Combination		<input type="radio"/> Wire	
		Main Line Size <u>200</u> lbs.	
		Leader Size <u>280</u> lbs.	

All Must Sign: Angler Doug Abrams Date 7/28/12
 Captain Mike Smith Date 7/28/12
 Mate Kendall Shuckley Date 7/28/12

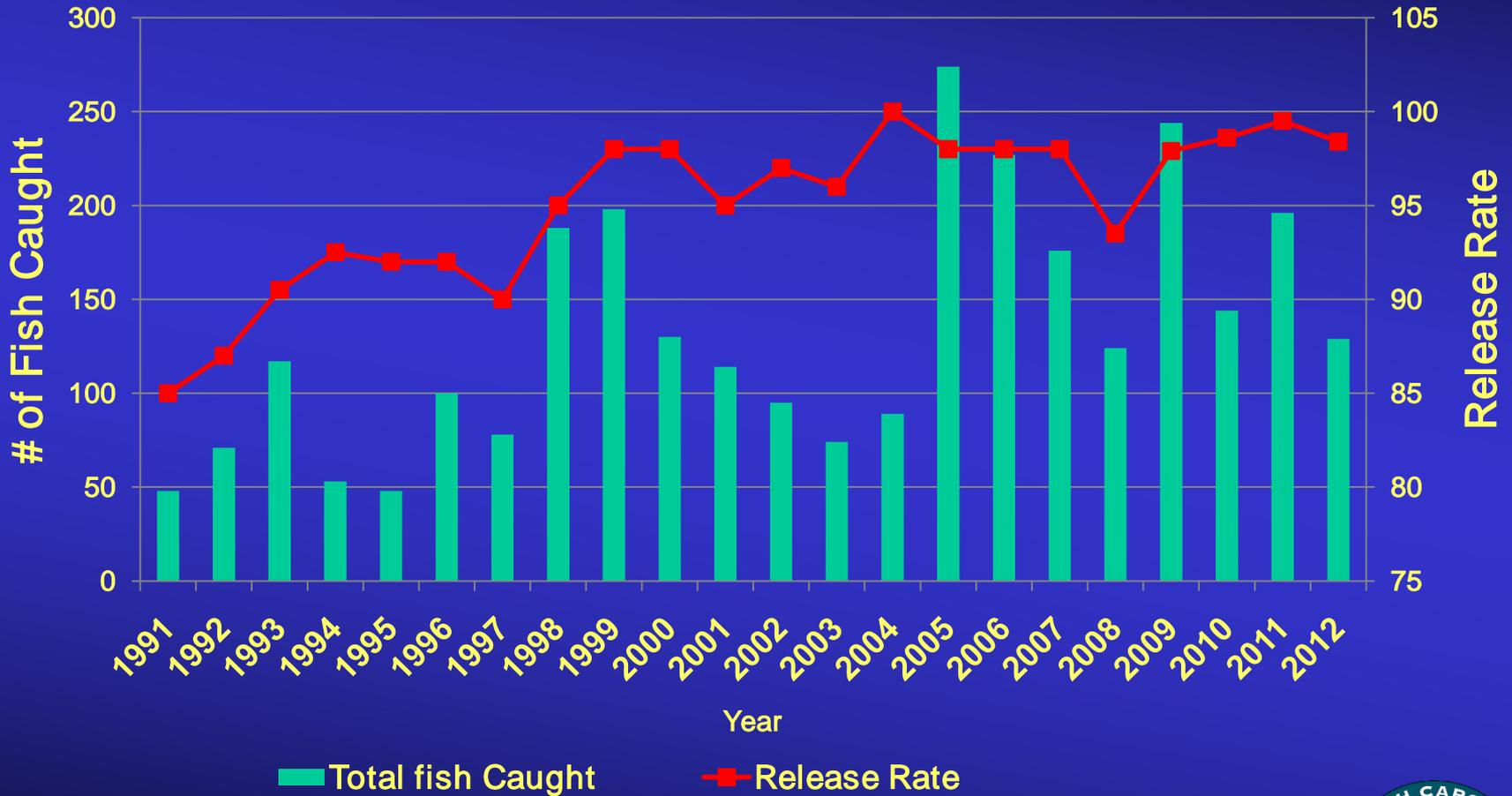
Check circle if applies: Lady angler Jr. Boy Jr. Girl Age



What Have We Learned?



More Fish – More Releases!



What is the Prize?

Anglers

- Competition
- Awards
- Shootout
- Conservation



Tournaments

- Endorsement
- Coastwide interest
- Weigh master
- HMS data



Conservation Fund

- \$100 per boat (\$25 per boat goes to Governor's Cup Operating Budget)
- Marine and estuarine conservation and management
- Recreational fishing brochure, Sea Grant fellowship, Zoo Files video, bumper stickers
- Balance available for funding \$208,000
- Staff funding is from Sportfish Restoration Grant F-42



Questions?

