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“Artemis wins Bohicket and Governor’s Cup”  
By Tommy Braswell

JOHNS ISLAND — Game On needed a phenomenal day Saturday to move back into first place in the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series and ended up with what could only be considered a very good day.

When Artemis, owned by John Darby, caught three blue marlin Friday, Darby's boat took the lead in the Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament and surged into first place overall in the final event of the Governor's Cup. Having already used their two days of fishing, they had to sit back and see what Game On would do Saturday.

Points for Governor's Cup tournaments this year are: 600 points for a tagged or released blue marlin, 200 points for a tagged or released white marlin, and 100 points for a tagged or released sailfish. Boats receive one point per pound for blue marlin that are brought to the dock. In addition, boats are awarded 25 participation points for each series tournament entered up to a maximum of three events.

Artemis finished the Bohicket tournament with 1,900 points with its three blue marlin and a sailfish and unofficially had 2,875 points for the year. Game On, which went into the Bohicket tournament with the series lead and caught a blue marlin Thursday, needed a combination of billfish Saturday that would add up to 850 points to retake the lead but ended the day with one blue marlin worth 600 points and finished the year with 2,625.6 points.

Artemis won \$30,464 for its first-place finish at Bohicket. Game On won \$15,232 with its two blue marlin releases. Third-place Heavy Iron earned \$6,744 with six sailfish releases for the tournament, including one Saturday.

The fleet managed one blue, one white marlin and five sailfish Saturday. Bentley's Best earned 350 points with a white marlin and two sails. Shark Byte and Russell Hatt were the other boats releasing sailfish. For the tournament, the 30 boats caught and released five blue marlin, one white marlin and 21 sailfish.

"It was a stellar day. I still have to pinch myself," Artemis captain David Copleston said of Friday's fishing.

Copleston said he spent the day with his family and turned off his cell phone, not wanting to hear any rumors or gossip.

"It was like Christmas Day. You stay away from the presents until it's time," he said.

Copleston said he talked with Darby, who attended a friend's wedding Saturday evening, and said the owner of the 50-foot Sea Island Boatworks was extremely excited.

Artemis finished the Governor's Cup with four blue marlin and four sailfish.

"It's a great feeling," Copleston said. "I've been fishing the Governor's Cup for seven years and had seconds and thirds, but never finished first in a tournament."

Jason Corley, aboard Mutts & Jeff, had the top dolphin at 38.8 pounds; Palmer Owings, aboard Northstar, caught the top wahoo at 45.5 pounds; and Keagan Kennedy, aboard Sea Trace, had the top tuna at 29.0 pounds. The three non-billfish winners earned \$1,500 each.