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## Mary Agnes takes first at Bohicket OUTDOORS

**BY TOMMY BRASWELL**

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JOHNS ISLAND - Mary Agnes, owned by Mike Heisley and captained by Al Johnson, released two white marlin and a sailfish Saturday to slip past Caramba and capture first place in the Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament, the fourth event in the 2006 South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series.

Scoring in the series is one point per pound for blue marlin weighed (minimum size 115 inches), 300 points for blue marlin released, 150 points for white marlin released and 100 points for sailfish released.

Mary Agnes took advantage of the billfish bite and won despite not catching a blue marlin. The crew aboard the 58-foot Merritt caught one white marlin and one sailfish Friday for 250 points then added 400 points Saturday.

In addition to Johnson, also fishing aboard Mary Agnes were Fred Welch, Greg Welch, Dixon Pearce II, Diddy Pearce, Jamie Hurteau, Jayme Hurteau and John DeStefano.

The crew of Mary Agnes earned \$8,000.

Caramba, owned by Bob Faith of Mount Pleasant, released two blue marlin Friday and finished second, based on time, reaching the 600-point mark ahead of Syked Out, which released a blue marlin and two white marlin Friday. Caramba won \$4,000, while Syked Out, owned by Bob Sykes, won \$3,000.

Lock 'N Load, owned by Skipper Jellison, also reached the 600-point mark with a blue marlin Saturday to go along with the only blue marlin caught on Thursday's opening day of the event.

In the non-billfish categories, worth \$1,500 each, Chip Dukes aboard Syked Out had the top tuna, 46.9 pounds; Andy Fort aboard Caramba had the top dolphin, 40.7 pounds; and Allison Grooms, aboard Dickel Daze, had the top wahoo, 28.1 pounds.

Kegan Kennedy, aboard Sea Trace, was the top lady angler with a blue marlin release, while Thomas Garmany, 13, aboard Sportin' Life, was the top youth with a white marlin release.

The 17 boats entered in the tournament produced 18 billfish, including eight blue marlin, seven white marlin and three sailfish.

The overall standings in the series tightened considerably.

Sportin' Life, owned by Manly Eubank, leads the series with 1,350 points (not including participation points). Caramba and Syked Out both have 1,300 points.

After instituting a new minimum size limit for the Governor's Cup Series this year, only one billfish has been brought to the dock, while participants have released 51 blue marlin, 17 white marlin and 14 sailfish.

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