

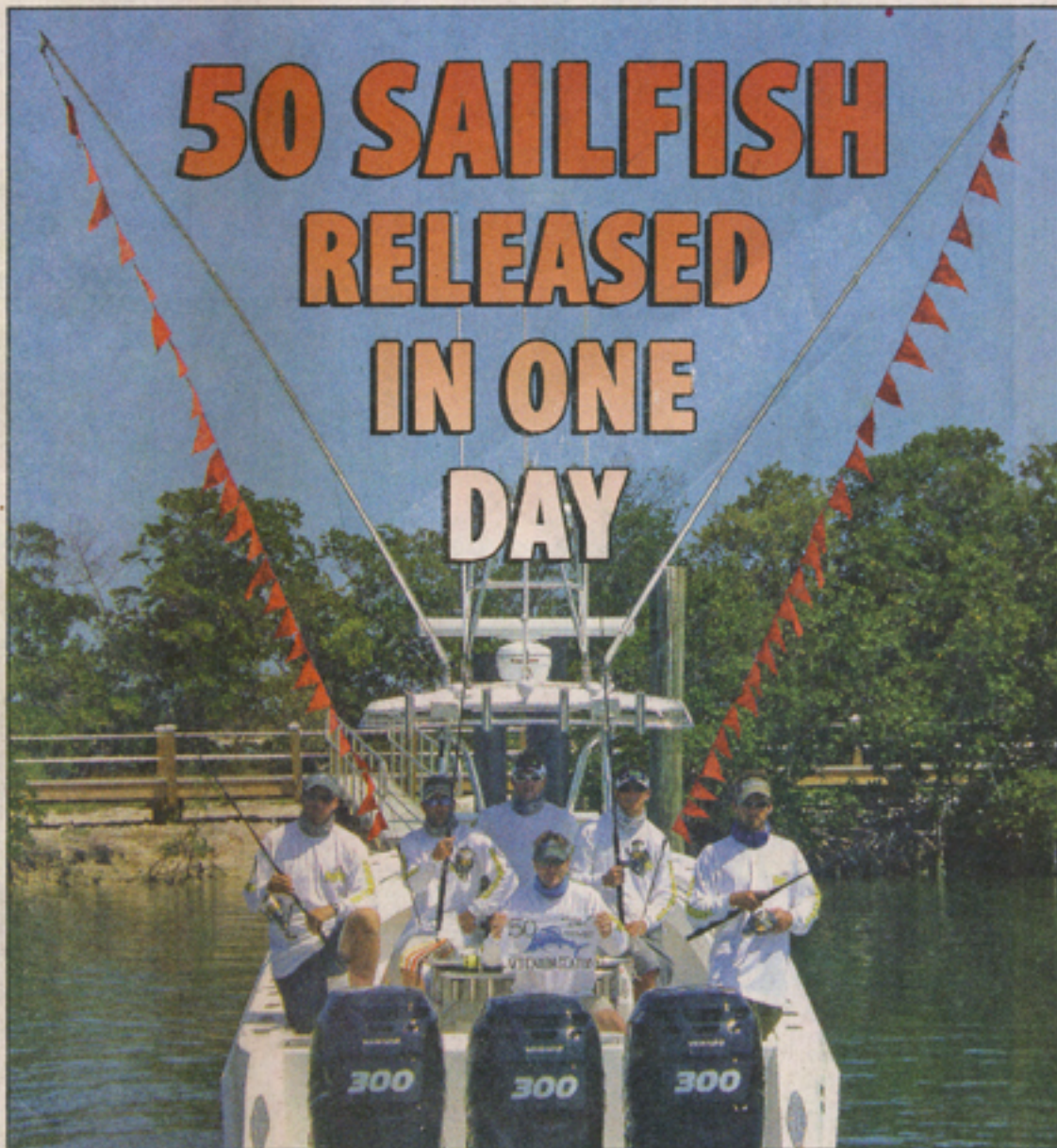
Weekly



Better News Means Better Fishing!

April 24, 2009 VOL. 4 ISSUE 17

\$ 2.00

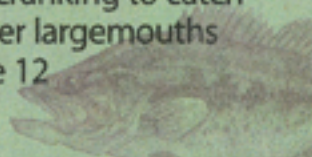


50 SAILFISH RELEASED IN ONE DAY

The team of anglers aboard *Vitamin Sea Too* released 50 sailfish in a single day of fishing off Key West while practicing for the World Sailfish Championship. On board the *Vitamin Sea Too* are Capt. Tim Maddock, Mike Dinnen, Mike Reisert, Jon Krieg, Chris Meeks and Chris Zidar. Check out Ray Roshier's column on page 26 for more. FF Weekly photo

FRESHWATER

Get cranking to catch lunker largemouths
Page 12



INSHORE

Ten Thousand Islands recipe for disaster
Page 16



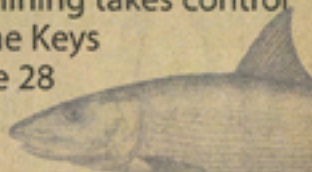
OFFSHORE

The Atlantic cobia run:
Part 2
Page 24



IN THE KEYS

Tidelining takes control in the Keys
Page 28



GREAT GEAR

Best of Florida
Page 27



RAPALA PHOTO CONTEST

Weekly
Winner
Page 18



8 55181 00100 7



So they thought 20 releases was good...

...Vitamin Sea Too finds a once-in-a-lifetime sailfish event, releasing 50 in one day

Another week of great springtime fishing has occurred, only this time I won't be talking about fishing in Miami. The big bite this week occurred a bit further south. An incredible record has been set in Key West, by a group of veteran fishermen from Fort Lauderdale.

The World Sailfish Championship Tournament happens every year in Key West, which wraps up our sailfish tournament season and challenges all of the teams participating in, what is for most, unfamiliar territory. Although there are many great Key West fishermen that participate in Key West, most of the teams that fish this tournament are not from those waters.

Because of that, several teams converge on Key West early to pre-fish almost two weeks before the tournament. Two of those teams are the Vitamin Sea, owned by Cliff Maddux, and the Vitamin Sea Too, owned by Tim Maddux.

Tim and his crew won the event in 2006, and are serious competitors in any event they fish. Three times in the 25 years that Tim has been involved in sailfishing, he and his team have released 19 sails in a day, but they could never seem to make it to that 20 fish mark.

On April 8 they finally accomplished that goal with 20 releases in a day. They were pretty ecstatic to achieve that milestone just a week before the tournament. Little did they know, the best was yet to come.

The next day, they started kite fishing at about 10:30 a.m., and by noon they had released six sails. By that time they started to see enough sails tailing that they decided to forego the kites and try sight fishing. It worked out pretty well!

Between noon and 6 p.m., they ran out of bait three times, beg-

ging and borrowing from his brother, Cliff, and Mike Weinhauser who were fishing nearby. When the smoke cleared, Tim and his crew had released 50 sails for what is most likely a Florida Keys record, and probably the record for anyone in the U.S. releasing the most Atlantic sailfish in one day.

There is a reported one-day record of 83 sails released by Capt. Albert Johnson III in the '70s while fishing in schools of sardines (referred to as balling bait). The difference is that catching sails in the schools of bait is generally much easier and quicker.

When sailfish are balling bait, especially sardines, they are many times not afraid of the boat. As a matter of fact sometimes the sardines will seek refuge under the boat causing the sails to literally follow your boat which is holding the bait.

You can imagine how quickly you can hook and cut a leader on a sail that eats under the boat and rises to jump. Many times the release happens in seconds. Not to take anything away from Albert and his crew, because that is an amazing record, which may never be broken. But I think the two catches should stand as records in two different categories.

What Tim and his crew accomplished by sighting the fish, presenting baits and fighting the fish in a normal manner is much more difficult and therefore deserves a big round of applause!

Tim and his crew are not only enjoying their once in a lifetime event, but hoping that this isn't the only highlight to their trip down south. All of us competing against Tim are hoping that we can hold our own against them.

The World Sailfish Championship Tournament can be found online at www.worldsailfish.com.

