

WORLD SAILFISH CHAMPIONSHIP: DAY 1

# 130 TAKE THE BAIT



MARTY RICHARDSON/Special to The Citizen

The crew from Vitamin Sea Too return to the Key West Harbor Wednesday with six red flags heralding their catches on the first day of the World Sailfish Championship. Vitamin Sea Too finished the day unofficially in first place.

## Pompano Beach's Vitamin Sea Too best of 110

BY PATRICK MOONEY

Citizen Staff

KEY WEST — The roughly 100-mile stretch between Sombrero Key Light and Dry Tortugas became a kind of parking lot on Wednesday, with 110 boats waiting on the sailfish.

Working beneath the bright sun on flat, calm water, anglers notched 130 catches on the first day of the World Sailfish Championship. Vitamin Sea Too returned to Key West Harbor with six red flags flying, putting owner Tim Maddock of Pompano Beach and his crew unofficially in first place with six sailfish catches.

Spanglish, a Redken sponsor boat led by anglers Pat Parenty and Jeff Cohen, recorded five catches to finish the day in second place. Fishing continues

*"It was nice and flat... Sailfish like a little rough weather."*

Capt. Bob Milligan  
In Reel Deep

today and Saturday, though results don't become official until all the photos of catches are reviewed and selected competitors pass lie detector tests.

The tournament opened on a calm, hot day that was not particularly suited to sailfishing. Strong winds and current were absent, though several teams managed to rack up multiple catches.

Five crews trailed Vitamin Sea Too and Spanglish atop the leaderboard with four catches. Those crews are separated by time, with Main Attraction I

in third place because its fourth catch came before the final catches of its other competitors also stuck on four: Grander, Money Shot, Owls Nest and Freedom.

"They're gettin' it," said tournament director Mike Weinhofer.

Weinhofer credited the 110 crews for battling on a day few would have chosen for sailfishing. The field has kept pace with Rod Holder, which won the 2005 championship with 14 total sailfish catches over the three days.

"It was nice and flat," Capt. Bob Milligan said before adding, "Sailfish like a little rough weather."

Milligan's In Reel Deep team began fishing off

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# Sailfish

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Key West last week to prepare for the tournament, a popular option for the competitive field. Milligan himself came down from Fort Myers to fish Key West every weekend since January, and it resulted in a couple of catches on Wednesday.

A long day began at 4 a.m., when In Reel Deep ventured out to catch bait. Trolling and kite fishing followed until lines out at 3:30 p.m. Two more long days await.

"We got to chase 'em down," Milligan said.

Eight boats snagged three catches to unofficially round out the top 15. Wet Dream placed eighth and was trailed by Rod Holder, Sea Wolf, L&H, Contender One, Advance Roofing, Wound Up and Relentless.

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