

MIAMI BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

Maddock crew, 'Vitamin Sea' are top anglers, boat

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MIAMI BEACH • Tim Maddock and his crew on *Vitamin Sea Too* made all the right moves in winning the Yamaha Contender Miami Billfish Tournament on Sunday.

In second place in the boat standings after the first day fishing off North Key Largo, Maddock decided to go north, between Fowey Light and Triumph Reef, Saturday and Sunday. That produced seven sailfish Saturday and sent *Vitamin Sea Too* vaulting over first-day leader *Freedom*.

Maddock and teammates Brian Eddington, Kenny McArthur and Chris Meeks, all of Pompano Beach, added three sailfish Sunday to win the top

boat title with 16 releases and 3,200 points.

Freedom, skippered by John Louis Dudas, had two releases Sunday to finish second with 14 fish and 2,800 points.

Vitamin Sea Too won \$15,000 as the top boat and picked up another \$55,000 in winnings in side-bet categories. Maddock also won \$2,000 as the tournament's top angler with 15 releases.

It was a fitting finish for the tournament career of *Vitamin Sea Too*. Maddock is changing his boat's name to *Patrice Marie* in memory of his mother, who passed away in December.

"I was saying prayers to my mom," Maddock said of his team's strong finish. "She and my dad were looking over my

shoulder."

Maddock said he needed all the help he could get competing against the big Miami charter boats.

The tournament did away with the Bimini start this year, allowing boats to check out at 7 a.m. and start fishing at 8. That meant fast center-consoles like Maddock's no longer had an advantage over slower sport-fishermen like *Freedom*.

It made Maddock's victory all the more meaningful.

"You've got the best sailfishermen in Florida down here," he said. "To win against the big boats, it's huge. You win a tournament like this against those guys, it's a blessing from God."

Vitamin Sea Too made the most of every opportunity. On Friday Maddock caught six of seven sailfish in a spot that was not very productive. At least not for the other boats.

"I feel pretty confident that we got lucky when we caught them because there were probably 30 boats around us and I saw two other fish caught," he said. "That's why I chose to go elsewhere Saturday."

Once again, *Vitamin Sea Too* could do no wrong. The boat started Saturday with a sailfish doubleheader one minute after lines in. Maddock caught both, and *Vitamin Sea Too* ended up seven-for-eight and moving into the lead.