

# High Hooks, Happy Anglers



Three dudes from Florida State University won a new boat, after winning the El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament in Jacksonville.

*Sails a' popping;  
sheepshead  
score; one-jig  
tourney rules.*

By JOE RICHARD, Assistant Editor

**T**alk about a switcheroo. The **Bob Lewis Billfish Challenge** in Miami saw a complete switch from the previous year. The fishing vessel *Uptight* went from dead last to hero status this time, releasing 14 sailfish in two days to win first place and \$51,580. They won top boat honors and their 16-year-old angler Jeffrey Fiorentino won top angler, top male and top junior prizes.

On top of that, Capt. Neil Orange Sr. won this year's event, after his son, Capt. Neil Orange Jr., won the 2005

Bob Lewis. This year, Junior placed sixth and had to buy the drinks.

Coconut Grove's *Rod Holder* came in second with 12 sailfish releases, followed by *Wound Up* with 11 fish and third place. A total of 68 boats logged 142 sailfish releases on the first day alone, plus one blue marlin caught by the *Snap Bean*.

Rough seas and a hard east wind made for a very nice sailfish bite in the Fifth Annual **World Diamond Source/YCF Billfish Challenge**. The offshore teams can now use three different inlets from—Lake Worth, Hillsboro and Government Cut—which helps in choppy seas.

*Reely Tight*, a 54-footer based out of Lighthouse Point, ran down to Government Cut looking for a hot bite in the Miami area. Given the sea conditions and the fact that their home inlet was Hillsboro, it was certainly a gamble. But you have to bet big to win big, and that's exactly what Jim Lambert and the rest of his team did. They fished between Triumph Reef and Pacific Light in the midst

of a sailfish bite that most anglers can only dream about having during a tournament day. *Reely Tight* released 19 of 26 fish on Saturday in a bite that was filled with quads, triples and double-headers on numerous occasions.

For the majority of the day they were in a horse race with *Triple X*. The two traded leads several times until late in the day when *Reely Tight* popped a quad to establish a comfortable lead. They earned \$32,000 for their win in this one-day tournament. *Triple X* finished the day solidly with 15 releases.

Veteran angler Tim Maddock brought his 6-year-old son Timmy along for his first tournament experience. "We never expected he'd become part of the crew," said Tim, "but it was complete chaos in the pit at times and Timmy jumped right in to help release fish, take pictures and anything else we needed him to do. He's a natural."

Team *Insomniac* dominated the meat fish division of the tournament with 130 pounds of kingfish and the heaviest