

YCF BILLFISH CHALLENGE

Pair of kings is highest bid

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POMPANO BEACH • A faulty engine and two kingfish enabled *High Bid* to win the World Diamond Source YCF Billfish Challenge.

High Bid and *Vitamin Sea Too* each caught and released nine sailfish Saturday, but *High Bid* also had kingfish weighing 17.3 and 13.6 pounds to break the tie and win the fourth annual tournament out of Sands Harbor Hotel and Marina.

The key to *High Bid* catching those sailfish came early in the morning when one of the boat's two outboard motors shut down.

"We were going to run to Juno Beach, but we stopped at Lake Worth Pier," said owner Burt Moss, who fished with John Clarke, Hunter Craig Sr. and George Disbury. "We ended

up getting seven sailfish right there. I fixed the engine and we got two off Boynton Beach."

High Bid, which went nine for nine on sailfish, won a total of \$15,100 — \$4,500 for first, \$2,600 for winning the Leader's Board, which cost \$200 extra to enter, and \$8,000 for the winner-take-all High Roller's Club, which cost \$500 to enter.

Tim Maddock's *Vitamin Sea Too* won \$5,060 — \$2,500 for second in the tournament, \$1,560 for second in the Leader's Board and \$1,000 for Maddock winning the master angler title with seven sailfish releases.

Tutunas Wicked was third with eight releases to win \$1,250 plus \$900 for third in the Leader's Board. *Tin Man* was fourth with eight releases to win \$1,000. *Sea Walker* was fifth, also with eight sailfish, to win \$750 and Debbie David was the

top female angler with three of those releases.

Erik Downs of *Down Time* was the top junior with two releases.

Art Sapp borrowed *DeServ*, a 36-foot Glasstech, from Frank Desantis of Lighthouse Point and Paul Herdsman caught four sailfish off Palm Beach to win the value-added Sixty Sporty division for inboard-powered boats 31 feet and bigger, which paid \$5,400.

In all, the 48 boats competing released 90 sailfish. Fun fish — kingfish, dolphin and wahoo — were noticeably scarce at the weigh-in at Sands Harbor.

Brian Folder of *Career Path* had the biggest fun fish of the tournament, a 29.9-pound wahoo, to win \$3,400 for the winner-take-all Big Fish Bonanza plus another \$500 for the biggest — and only — wahoo.

Junior angler Robbie Clawges of *Sundance* weighed the only dolphin, a 15.8-pounder. Craig Fitschen of *Skipjack* had the biggest kingfish of the five, weighed in at 26.6 pounds. But Disbury had the most important ones.

Maddock, who fished off Lake Worth Inlet with Doug Kneer, Chris Zidar and Bryan Schultz, didn't catch any fun fish, but he acknowledged that he had more than enough shots at sailfish to win, going nine for 14.

"We ran up to Palm Beach first thing and within 15 minutes we were six for nine," Maddock said. "It was ridiculous. They were everywhere.

"All in all, it was a good day of fishing, but you can't win when you miss five fish. I don't care who, when or where, you can't win if you miss five."