

One BIG blue

■ Jim Lummis' 737-pound blue marlin is reward for patient crowd on slow second day

By Jay Hodgkins
Staff Writer

OCEAN CITY — When only 51 of 428 boats decided to head out on day two of the White Marlin Open prospects looked grim, but the crowd stuck around and let out a football stadium-worthy roar when Jim Lummis' 737-pound blue marlin was strung up.

The 130 inch monster would have won 27 of the previous 32 Open blue marlin divisions, and now ranks as the sixth biggest fish every caught at the multimillion dollar event.

Tournament organizer Jim Motsko immediately predicted the fish would hold up as the winner in the five day event, and if that holds true then it will send Lummis' boat — the Krazy Salt's from Cape May, NJ — home with about \$659,000.

Capt. John Orcutt said Lummis hooked the fish up around 2 p.m. The boat called it in to the docks, but at 7 p.m. many in the crowd had become restless waiting for more news as tournament announcers promised there would be more fish to see.

At 7:05 p.m., the Krazy Salt's pow-

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ered in to the Harbour Island boat dock off 14th Street after a one and a half hour fight with the fish.

"I figured since I got my hair cut yesterday I wouldn't have enough strength to pull it in," said Lummis after celebrating with his crew. Lummis is an old time White Marlin Open vet who fished the very first tournament in 1974.

However, the action wasn't just confined to the blue marlin division as an important move in the order of the lucrative white marlin division also took place.

The Cyntinory came home early right at the start of weigh ins with a 68-pound white marlin caught by Thomas Maddox to take the second place position currently worth

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Jack Watson photo

Dockhand Alex Davis rigs up a massive 737-pound blue marlin the boat Krazy Salt's reeled in Tuesday.



Jack Watson photo

Capt John Orcutt, left, of the boat Krazy Salt's gets a hug from mate Don O'neil, middle, and second mate Scott Stuempfig, right, after hearing the weight of the 737-pound Blue Marlin the boat reeled in Tuesday.

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\$150,000. Only the second white weighed in, Hog Wild's 71.5-pound white marlin still sits in first with a projected payout that was adjusted down to about \$1.5 million.

The only other money fish weighed in on the day was Tom Sisk's 45-pound wahoo that now sits in third place for that division.

With so few boats going out to

fish Tuesday, most of the action was spent dockside at a myriad of tailgate parties, but Motsko said the slowdown meant that Wednesday through Friday fishing would average about 300 boats out per day.

Motsko said with the weather forecast projecting nicely, the last three days of the tournament should be wild, especially with a wide open white marlin division currently being led with a fish that historically wouldn't weigh enough to win out.

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