

his dad.

"We've got a first-time angler," declared Miller. "I can't believe he never caught a fish! It's a Daily News fishing Festivus!"

The pair kept casting and catching, casting and catching, eventually reeling in 30 of the fish and tossing 10 back.

Angelo, 20, wasn't the only Dimino relative to benefit from the haul: 25 pounds of fresh mahi mahi fillets were delivered to his cousin's restaurant Vigneto's Italian Grill in Plantation, Fla.

"Putting Angelo on his very first fish was extremely rewarding to me," said Miller. "The smiles and cheers that erupted when the fish finally broke the surface was second to none."

"It was a moment that neither he nor his dad Anthony will forget."

The crew's next target: Catching a sailfish, a complicated and difficult quest. Miller blasted some Eminem as he steered the ship to the edge of the ocean current, a prime spot for sailfishing.

The captain sent up a green kite, with three fishing lines from their rods attached, the bait on the hooks dangling down to the ocean surface.

And then they waited. Angelo's fishing rod jerked suddenly, and his eyes widened as he looked down into the water to see a shark on the end of his line.

Miller hustled over to lend a hand, with the two men pulling the

25-pounder out of the ocean. They snapped a quick photo of their catch before releasing the shark back in the water.

"It's so fat and chubby!" said a thrilled Angelo. "It was exhilarating."

Snagging the shark was fun, but Anthony remained intent on bringing in a sailfish. The 30 mph winds rocked the boat as water splashed across the deck and thunder roared across the sky.

No sailfish? No problem.

This time it was dad Anthony feeling the pull of a ginormous fish on the end of his line.

It was a 150-pound hammerhead shark. Miller rushed to Anthony's aid, and the two men fought for an hour with the mighty shark.

"I knew we were surrounded by rain, lightning and waves," recalled Anthony. "I ignored every factor, and just concentrated on reeling him in."

They finally managed to bring the beast to the surface, where the shark enjoyed the last laugh of the long day.

"He looked up with his left eye, smiled and said, 'See ya!'" recalled Anthony after going head-to-hammerhead with the shark. "And then he bit through the line."

Once the epic struggle was done, the Yellowfin headed back to shore around 10 p.m., the end of 11 memorable hours on the high seas.

"I'm in awe, I still can't believe it," continued dad Anthony. "It's like going to Disney World for the first

time."

Miller was as impressed by Anthony's persistence as he was by their haul of mahi mahi.

"Anthony did an amazing job on that hammerhead," said Miller. "This fishing trip had to be one of the most exciting fishing trips I've had in a long time."

By day's end, the Diminos shared their captain's sentiments about Florida and its fishing.

"Miami is considered the fishing capital of the world for many reasons," said Miller. "Five-star hotels and restaurants, beautiful beaches, and home to the most sought-after game fish in the world."

"My all-time favorite fishing destination."

Angelo Dimino (left) shows off his catch with pro Peter Miller from a News-sponsored fishing trip of a lifetime, a daylong excursion off the coast of Miami. Angelo's father, Anthony, was the prizewinner.



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