

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

Tuna Tower News

VOLUME ONE • JANUARY 2014
Internet Address: www.ftcfishing.com

EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.

Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton

Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan

Contributing Editor ~ Capt. Lawrence Festa



NEXT GM

Thursday, January 9, 2014
at 7:30 pm

Cure Of Ars Auditorium
Merrick Avenue • Merrick
(Between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)

At the January GM we will be swearing in our newly elected Officers and Board for 2014. Chris Squeri and Bob Sabella will start off the festivities by highlighting some FTC Milestones and Anniversaries!

President's Message

Let me start off by wishing all FTC members and their families a Happy & Healthy 2014. With the new year here, I am very enthusiastic about being President of the FTC. I believe we have a very strong and confident Board of Directors that will put forth their best effort to have a banner year.

Following our past President, Bob Pandey and his officers, will be a challenge. They did a great job in less than ideal times. The club property was beaten by Sandy, but with help from our dedicated members it is back to being a beautiful clubhouse and marina.

For 2014, I'm very happy to announce the return of the Wild Game Dinner in February hosted by Bob Benzenberg and Ray Geiger. The Game Dinner is always an enjoyable night with fellow FTC members, so come out and support the club. We will also be organizing a few Thursday night clinics which are always very informative which helps put aside the cabin fever of winter and starts us thinking of the upcoming fishing season. We

will be raffling off a \$2,500.00 vacation with Liberty Travel, tickets are only \$10.00 each.

It has been said by many Presidents before me, participation is key to keeping our club running as the well oiled machine that it is. It also enhances our members experience within the club, so please consider joining one of our many committees and get involved.

Again, a happy and healthy new year, tight lines and calm seas.

~ Chris Scarpantonio
President



FISHING REPORT

OFFSHORE REPORTS

These riveting canyon report just missed our December Newsletter.

A report from Captain Ralph Drewes:

"I received an invite to fish on a 61' Viking enclosed bridge to get in on the hot bluefin tuna bite in Hudson Canyon on Friday 12/7. There was a tight window weather between fronts and this was probably going to be the last shot at the big horse mackerel. Similar to last year at this time vessels with a commercial license and general category permits were allowed to cull 5 giants per day because the landing quota remained unfilled. The bite had been fairly consistent since Thanksgiving both trolling and chunking on the East elbow, with the majority of the fish in the 250 to 400lb range. The larger fish have been mostly taken on the chunk and the bite had been so good on some days it was not possible to fish more than one rod at a time, not to mention trying to get a line past the ravenous blue sharks that took up residence in the area.

We meet at the owners Lawrence yard at 1:00 AM for a 2:00 AM departure and cleared Debs Inlet at 2:30 AM. For me it was a busman's holiday as I slept the entire ride out as captain Artie navigated to the grounds at 30Kts in the dark in a Southerly swell. Upon arriving at the East elbow in the dark I was amazed to see over 30 boats in the area in heavy fog and drizzle. I had heard earlier in the week there were over 70 boats including 30' center consoles fishing the area - 84NM from the JI in December with limited day light.

As we pulled up to the grounds I heard many boats talking about how many fish they landed and/or released and saw two boats fighting fish out of the rod holders. We marked fish 175 to 250' deep and started to chunk herring and mackerel. Drifting we set out two 80 Wide bent butts loaded with 250lb Spectra and 200lb Momoi top shots. The standard rig was a 10' 200 lb. fluorocarbon leader crimped to a 12/0 circle hook attached to the main line with a 300 lb Spro swivel. 8 oz. sinkers were attached to the mainline with a fish finder. Bait of choice was fresh Herring.

We set one bait down 200' and the other at 150'. A third rod was readied in case the fish came up top. The bait and fish readings remained consistent and you could smell fish oil in the air. Chickens and shear waters were all over the place. It just smelled and looked fishy in the fog and drizzle. It didn't take all of 20 minutes before the far balloon went down and the rod bent in half. FISH ON! After a 40 minute battle I sunk the dart in a beautiful 84" CFL Giant Bluefin Tuna. We quickly deployed the baits and within 15 minutes we had our second fish on. However due to angler error we broke this fish off. As we were setting out the lines a third time I could see the tuna eating the chunks right below the surface. I got the far line set down 200' about 50' from the boat, grabbed another rod and while free floating it down and out with the chunks it got ripped out of my hand not 20' down and 10' from the boat. I was fighting the fish when the other rod got bit while the crew was reeling it up. Now we had TWO giants on at the same time. We broke the second fish off and 30 minutes alter the mate stuck the dart in a 88" CFL Giant that later weighed in at 394 lbs dressed. At this point we decided to fish only one rod and had the tuna right behind the boat. I boated a second fish on my accurate 50W two speed hand feeding the tuna right next to the boat. All in all we managed to boat five bluefins between 250 and 394 lbs dressed, and broke off two others. We were done fishing

by 1:30 PM and headed for port at 30Kts in what was now heavy rain, fog and a building SW swell. Most of the boats out that day had their limit."

A report from Captain Chris Gerhart:

"We did two trips for the giants. First one really rough weather. Most boats turned back. We didn't. Had two bites at the same time. Fought both to the boat. Broke one off at the boat, landed the other. 68"

Second trip, great weather. Got to the west elbow in the dark. 50 or so boats on the east elbow. Put one line in and down to 175 feet, still dark, while we were getting our stuff all set up. Not chunking, just stretching leaders out, rigging baits. Our one line in the water gets bit, rod doubles over, and we come tight. Ten minutes on scene and we are hooked up. Fight the fish for 45 minutes, with 42# of drag, get him to the boat. He's huge, but out of harpoon range, as I didn't want to throw the harpoon. I should have. Boat rocked, fish went deep at same time, didn't back off drag, snapped leader. Happened in a split second. One other bite that didn't come tight. Then got a 40# LFT later in day. I still haven't gotten over losing the giant, he was at least 400#. Going to spend the spring and summer throwing the harpoon at anything we hook."

Inshore Action:

Blackfish report from Captain Bill Mannino:

Captain Bill is still reporting excellent catches of blackfish to ten lbs. Bill has been fishing the western spots such as the "911" dump & 17 fathoms with limits every trip.

Out East Report:

Report from Captain Anthony Testa:

Moriches 12-26 last trip of the year,

"We have been trying to squeak in one last trip of the season but the weather has had other ideas. We had a weather window today and we jumped on it. Fished on the Charter Boat King Cod of of Moriches for some offshore wreck fishing as the plan. Light winds and not so cold temps were great to see as we pushed off the dock at 6am with my sons and 2 friends. Steamed 40 miles offshore and captain put the boat on the drift. For the next couple of hours we slammed some of the best quality sea bass this year. One cod and 4 Pollack rounded off the catch. One stop shopping today and we were back at the dock at 2:30 with the weather turning sour as we approached the inlet.

Great way to end the 2013 season".

That about wraps it up for this report. If you had a good catch drop the Awards & Contest Committee a line we would love to hear about your catch and share it with our membership: E-Mail captainlarry84@aol.com.

~ Sincerely,

Captain Larry Festa



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A best of luck to our incoming president Chris Scarpantonio. We thank Chris for taking the helm to lead our club as our new year kicks off. Any members wishing to get involved in club functions please contact Chris and he will direct you in the right direction. Once again thank you Chris!!

Next month we will list our committee chart which will also direct our General Membership on who's who & who does what!



DECEMBER 2014 DERBY, AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

*Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morragh
Committee Team: Captain Larry Festa,
Captian Michael Zullo*

Here are the final Derby winners to top off the 2013 season! Don't sit at home. Come out to the January GM and let's talk fishing! The awards to be handed out at the January GM are:

Blackfish

1st	Mike Zullo	7.88	Magic Too
2nd	Maryellen Zullo	5.44	Magic Too
3rd	Nick Nero	5.38	Dolce Vita

Bluefish

1st	Yukio Fujii	18.00	Sand Pebble
1st	Peter DiThomas	16.56	Rocket Fish
3rd	Yukio Fujii	15.75	Sand Pebble

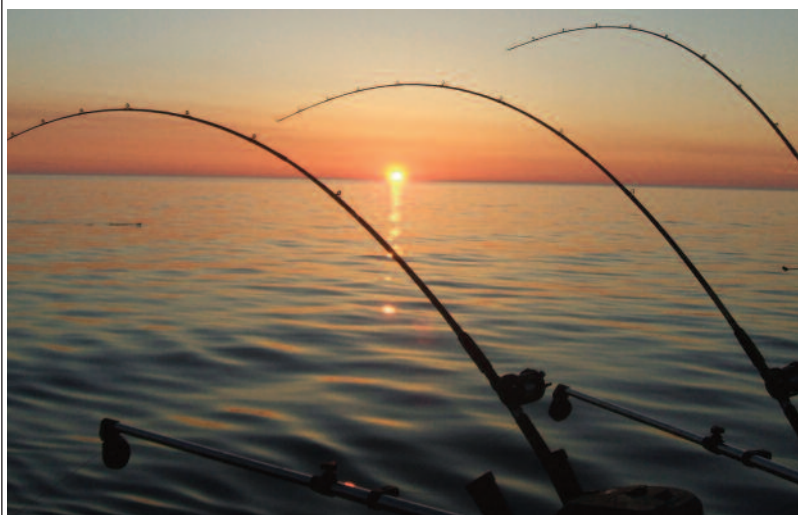
Striped Bass

1st	Jim Azzi	38.50	Black Cloud
2nd	Paul Noto	32.25	Rocket Fish
3rd	Rick Totten	32.19	Hooker

Cod

1st	Gene Schettini	17.63	Truce
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LAST CALL FOR 2013 WEIGH SLIPS! If you have any weigh slips that might contend for an annual award, bring them to the January GM. Don't be a holdout! All slips must be in the committee's hands by 1/14/14.



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PROPERTY

All quiet at FTC property with 31 boats tuck away for the winter. Waiting for spring to come.

I would like to thank everybody for there cooperation at the property. This will be my last report. Let's welcome all Alan Evelyn, as the new property manager.

Happy New Year

~ Don Granger

GOOD AND WELFARE

Harry Pour's mom has passed away, our thoughts and prayers go out to him and his family. Paul Cunningham's wife has been hospitalized, we wish her a speedy recovery. Happy New Year to all Jeff. Any member with Good & Welfare report contact Jeff 516-221-6343 / 516-62-5981

MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal letters were mailed out in late December. You should have received yours by now. If you do not receive one, please contact the membership committee at ftc1937@verizon.net. They will be happy to assist you with your renewal. Contact Jeff Squeri at 516-221-6343 or 516-652-5981.

NEW PROPERTY MANAGER

Alan Evelyn, is the new Property Manager. FTC members can contact him by cell phone (917-750-8710) at his office (646-312-2208) or by email (alan.evelyn@baruch.cuny.edu).

Anyone wishing to lend a hand on property please Contact Alan.



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