

Tuna Tower News

VOLUME ONE • JANUARY 2015
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Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton
Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan



NEXT GM
Thursday, January 8, 2015
at 7:30 pm
Cure Of Ars Auditorium
Merrick Avenue • Merrick
(Between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)
Come on down for some club history and find out what makes this club what it is today.

At the January GM we will be swearing in our newly elected Officers and Board for 2015. Chris Squeri and Bob Sabella will start off the festivities by highlighting some FTC Milestones and Anniversaries!

President's Message.....

Dear Members,

Firstly, I would like to wish all members and their families a very Happy and Healthy New Year. It is my honor to be your President this year and resolve to serve in the tradition of those who have led the FTC before me. I promise to carry out my duties and responsibilities this year in a manner becoming the office that I now hold.

I also would like to express my gratitude all the members of our Board of Directors for their confidence and all the assistance given me. They all are very important component of our club that sometimes is overlooked. I would like to thank our former Presidents in particular who have led by example and offered their sage advice to me. It means a lot to me as I sail these uncharted waters. Before Captain Larry Festa left us, he took me aside at a GM once and told me that in his opinion, someday I would be a fine club President. That was quite a revelation to me at the time and I thanked him for his kind thoughts. Thanks Larry, I remember.

I wish to thank my Executive Officers this year, John Rooney – 1st VP, Kevin Killelea – 2nd VP, John Daum – Treasurer and Bill Morrogh our Secretary for accepting their positions.

On a very personal note I wish to thank my best friend and FTC member Harry Sbaschnig. I met Harry a few minutes into our first day of high school together forty-

four years ago and been hunting and fishing together ever since. In fact it was his invitation that first brought me down to the FTC Captain/Anglers about 1994.

I did not become a club member unfortunately until my late father gifted me with the last boat he ever owned. He stopped by the club with me before his passing and enjoyed to see the camaraderie shared by members during his visit. My father was the first one to stick a fishing rod in my hands and share his love of the water with me. Thanks Dad.



I hope you all can attend our January GM and enjoy what is to follow. This club is the sum of it's members and it is meant to be shared together. If you feel you would like to join one of our committees, please speak to me or one of the Chairpersons and we will assist you. Your participation in your club is paramount. It exists for everyone to enjoy, so please do so!

Best Fishes,
Ray Geiger
President

FISHING REPORT COD ARE IT

Happy New Year ! Reports are few and far between, so first a quick recap of some of the highlights of the 2014 season that started with the one of the longest and harshest winters in memory. The weather and apparent lack of cod east and west kept the fleet tied to the dock for weeks on end making a dreary winter seem even worse. The flounder season opened with low expectations on April 1st. Reports of local flounder were virtually nonexistent. Raritan and Jamaica Bay provided the usual opportunities but a two fish creel limit made the 20 or 30 mile run to the west unattractive. While flounder fishing in the south shore bays remains in serious decline, the commercial fleet reported no shortage of blackback or winter flounder in the ocean. For the recreational angler, two years ago a nice run of fish took place at the Fire Island Reef. Flounder have been available for years to some sharpies who target them along the edges of wrecks from approximately 80 of water and deeper, usually in areas with mud bottom. The Jersey fleet reported a substantial bycatch of flounder this spring while targeting ling around wrecks in the mud hole area. This ocean fishery seems to be emerging, and with an increased bag limit could possibly fill the seasonal gap left by the spring blackfish closure.

The 2014 fluke season was met with great anticipation with the new and improved 18" size and 5 fish bag limit in effect. The season was fairly typical, with the difference being an increase in the keeper ratio and more fish in the cooler due to less restrictive limits. Fluking throughout Long Island did not disappoint in 2014 with plenty of action and a nice mix of qualify fish to those putting in their time on the hard bottom. Personally, I spent more time using bucktails and Gulp than ever before, finding it an effective and enjoyable way to fish.

Striped bass fisherman enjoyed one of the finest runs of large fish in quite some time. Bunker were abundant and the large bass were all over them, bluefish too. The abundance of bunker along our shores seems to have spawned an exciting and relatively new angling opportunity, inshore thresher fishing. Many are taking advantage of this developing fishery, and catches of 5 or more per boat were not uncommon, mostly within easy sight of the beach.

Offshore reports seemed hard to come by, with angler effort down substantially, possibly due to the high cost of fuel and erratic reports from the deep, feast or famine generally the norm unless you had the very best intel. If the lower fuel costs we are experiencing continue, I would expect greater angler effort in 2015, and hopefully plenty of good reports to share with our membership.



More recently, December 14 brought the close of the recreational blackfish season in NY. Excellent fishing was reported to the west, with seventeen fathoms, the new dump, and the sandy hook reef making the headlines and great fishing reported in Montauk as well. Striped bass closed on December 15th, leaving the offshore seabass and mixed bottom fishing as the only game left in town. Boats from Sheepshead Bay to Montauk sailed out to wrecks in the 25 – 35 fathom range with excellent fishing reported on large seabass and porgies along with a sprinkling of cod and pollock. The seabass fishery ended on December 31st, regulatory changes are expected for 2015 so stay tuned.

That leaves us with cod and ling for the hardcore winter anglers. I recently heard some good reports from Montauk at Block Island cod and even great jig fishing at Coxes Ledge. Montauk suffered last winter from the weather and lack of fish, perhaps the fishery will rebound this winter. Throughout Long Island, the inshore cod grounds are about to be put to the test. The Capt. Al has posted some decent reports with the better fishing taking place inshore. Hopefully the winter king will not disappoint. The whiting fishery has shown some signs of rebounding. This was once a winter staple of the west end fleet and an appearance would be most welcome and take some pressure off cod. We shall see.



For 2015, I encourage all FTC members to please bombard me with reports and pictures to share with our membership. Thanks to all who contributed last year, it makes writing the Tuna Tower News report far more enjoyable.

Please email your reports to philton@optonline.net; or text/call me at 516.721.8907.

Don't forget to send pictures and catch details for consideration by the Bulletin Committee for "Catch of the Month".

Finally, I want to wish everyone a safe and productive season in 2015!

~ Sincerely,

Paul Hilton F/V Emily S

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DECEMBER 2014 DERBY AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

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

The 2014 season ended with some tough weather conditions and hard to find keepers.

Congratulations to the anglers who sent in weigh slips and Mike Zullo in particular for his sweep of the Blackfish Derby!

We also have some leftover 2014 Derby awards to present. Harry Schroeder (Mahi) and Dennis Eberhart (Sea Bass), come on out and collect your swag!

Blackfish

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------------|
| 1st | Mike Zullo | 7.1 FV Magic Too |
| 2nd | Mike Zullo | 6.9 FV Magic Too |
| 3rd | Mike Zullo | 6.9 FV Magic Too |

Bluefish

| | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1st | Bob Sabella | 18.44 FV Sea Mist |
| 2nd | Robert Porter | 17.25 FV Shark III |
| 3rd | No Winner | |

Striped Bass

| | | |
|------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 1st | Nick Nero | 22.19 FV Dolce Vita |
| 2nd | No Winner | |

Shark

| | | |
|------------|-----------|--|
| 1st | No Winner | |
|------------|-----------|--|

Cod

| | | |
|------------|-----------|--|
| 1st | No Winner | |
|------------|-----------|--|

*** NOTE ON ANNUAL AWARDS ***

If you're holding weigh slips that you feel are eligible for consideration for Annual Awards you must get them in to the Committee by WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14th!!!!!! No weigh slips will be considered after this due date.



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PROPERTY

The club's winter storage program has resulted in 38 boats on the property. There are a few individuals with outstanding balances and the club would appreciate payment. Summer slip lease agreements will be sent in early January and hopefully we will fill all our slips in the 2015 season. I would like to thank all the members of the property committee for their efforts this past year in making our facility a valuable resource for all our members.

Please feel free to contact me with any property issues. Alan J. Evelyn, Property Manager: Work: 646-312-2208, Cell: 917-750-8710 or E-mail: alan.evelyn@baruch.cuny.edu.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Dr. John Weber's father is in the hospital in unstable condition. Congratulations to John and Elena Rooney's son John in recognition of a recent Lacrosse scholarship to Dominican College. "Go get em Junior." For information or to report any news please contact Jeff Squeri @ 516-652-5981.

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. They will be happy to assist you with your



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| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Bob Pandey | Capt. Bill Toohey |
| Chris Scarpantonio | |



Happy New Year

The editorial staff of the Tuna Tower News wishes the entire FTC membership

A Happy New Year

We thank all who have contributed your time, expertise and input.

This Year we look forward to more participation by you, the members, in continuing to make this publication the best in the fishing club community.

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