

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

TUNA TOWER NEWS

JANUARY 2018

www.ftcfishing.com



EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.

Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton

Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2018



NEXT GM

Thursday, January 11

at 7:30 pm

Freeport Yacht Club

At the January GM we will be swearing in our newly elected Officers and Board for 2018

Incoming President's Message

First I'd like to wish a Happy New Year to all the Freeport Tuna Club members and their families. I would like to thank Adam Bollaci, his family and crew for making the Christmas party such a successful event.

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Matthew Cardone, I have been a Tuna Club member for 17 years and I consider it an honor and privilege to be the Tuna Club President this year. I've made a lot of friends, memories, had good laughs and some good fishing trips with friends and members throughout these years.

I would like to continue participating in making this club the great club it's been for the last 80 years. We have a great Board of Directors that keep this Fishing Club going forward in a great direction. Along with the great members that participate in all the club's events for 2018.

This year we look forward to a great fishing season. There will be fishing tournaments, fishing charter trips, Some of the fishing competitions earn prizes and bragging rights for the club and the anglers. The club will have its annual flotilla and other fun events that will be announced throughout the year. The Thursday night Captain Anglers is just around the corner for anglers that need weekend or weekday crew to fish with. I would love to see more mem-

bers at the general membership meetings which are now being held at the Freeport Yacht Club, so find your way down this month for some laughs and fun.

If you have friends that fish or hunt (or are looking to join the club), please feel free to bring them down to the upcoming general membership meeting. Feel free to speak with Gene Schettini, who is part of the membership committee, or me for direction on how to join the club.

If you have not given the club an email address, please follow up with membership. If you are on Facebook, the Club does have a Facebook group called Freeport Tuna Club. There are about 89 participants and it's another way of getting information for club events and fishing trips, (along with great angler postings!). Just ask to join.

We are looking forward to a great 2018 fishing/boating season.

See you at the club,

Matthew Cardone



Fishing Grinds to a Halt

Happy New Year to All! The weather always drives our fishing and it's fair to say that what started out as a mild winter has now turned into a cold stretch to remember with snow again in the forecast later this week. The tautog, striped bass and sea bass seasons have wound down. Looks like the weather will break next week and hopefully some cod will appear on the west end.

Striped bass obliged right until the season closure after December 15th. The late run saw smaller but mixed sized fish, with herring and mackerel in the mix. Dogfish became a nuisance, even on the jigs. I enjoyed some stupid fast "drop to the bottom and then you got-em" catch and release jigging with the school bass right in front of the JI West End jetty. I put on a mackerel tree and had bass, macks and herring on the tubes. Huge pods of bass and bait. It was a banner fall run of bass, very encouraging for the future.

Blackfish or tautog fishing left many largely disappointed this fall. I scraped together a few limits but it was tough. Some sharp commercial guys I know and the party boat skippers were scratching their heads, particularly to the west. 17 Fathoms never seemed to turn on and then the severe winter weather hampered the efforts of the commercial fleet. Maybe the fish caught a break. I believe we may be seeing even stricter regulations going forward. The east end enjoyed great tog' fishing, go figure.



A few cod mixed in with the mostly lackluster blackfish catches. Bob Bohlert and soon to be FTC member Kevin Carmody took Bob's *Joint Effort* in search of some tautog. They found nothing but dogfish out at Cholera. Moving inshore to a 55' wreck, they managed a nice 13 lb. cod, a keeper black, along with some shorts. They cut the day short due to deteriorating conditions. I was surprised they went that particular day. Great effort by the *Joint Effort*! Another friend fished a blackfish jig on a local reef. His first three fish (on the jig) were all keeper sized cod. On the west end, every cod I have heard of this year was a keeper, with nice fish up to 20 lbs, caught on some of the shallowest wrecks. I did try one trip out to 100' of water and worked my way in. Nothing but dogs on that particular day, shallow or deep, plus lot's of short tog. When the weather ever breaks, I'll be at the cod once again. Offshore seabass continued strong, right until the end. That fishery is now closed, until further notice.

2017 had its ups and downs depending on who you spoke to and where they fished. Offshore, a disaster for most, with a few good rounds with mixed Bluefin early on. Let's hope the offshore 2017 was an anomaly. Inshore, the east end always has the edge, but this year seemed to enjoy a particularly big edge on shark, fluke, seabass and blackfish. Weakfish appear to be on an upswing, showing up in some of the traditional spots. Many adult sized weaks seemed to join the seabass and porgies on the offshore wrecks during their migrations. Weakfish may make a good appearance next year.

Bill and Theresa Morrogh weighed in from sunny warmer Florida. Bill made four trips out of Stuart on a friend's 35' Henriques. The four trips tallied 3-5-0-2 on sailfish hookups. Lots of mahi, some kingfish and wahoo round out the catch along with tons of Spanish mackerel. Bill reports Dee Toohey had a nice 4 pound southern flounder taken on their boat last week. Sounds like the Morroghs and Tooheys are enjoying the fishing scene down in Florida and promise to send some pictures for next month. Bill used to mention living vicariously through my own winter fishing reports, now the shoe is on the other foot!

What will 2018 hold? You won't know unless you go out and try it! Please share your results with our membership. Especially warm water reports to help get us through the winter! Please send reports and pictures for inclusion in your club bulletin. Thanks to all who contribute, we need more of you to chime in. Happy New Year!

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

Sincerely,

Paul Hilton TV Emily S

Property Manager's Report

Happy New Year! There are a few outstanding payments due for winter storage so please send in your payment as soon as possible. The summer lease agreements for 2018 will be mailed in early January. The rate for 2018 remains at \$78 a foot with no minimum. All owners leasing a slip will be charged an additional \$175 if storing a trailer on the property. Freezers are \$175. A deposit of \$300 is required with your signed lease. In order to secure your slip for the 2018 season your deposit and signed lease must be received on or before February 15, 2018. You will receive two invoices for the balance owed, one due on April 1st and the second payable on May 31st. Before your Vessel can be in the Marina you will need to supply an updated insurance policy to the Property Business Manager. Please let me know if you are not renewing your lease so I can quickly determine which slips will be available. Any member interested in a slip should contact me as soon as possible. Our goal is to keep the marina full!

Capt. Alan Evelyn

C: 917-750-8710 | W: 516-299-2523 | alan4ftc@gmail.com

Save the Date! The FTC Game Dinner

Date:

Saturday, March 10th 2018

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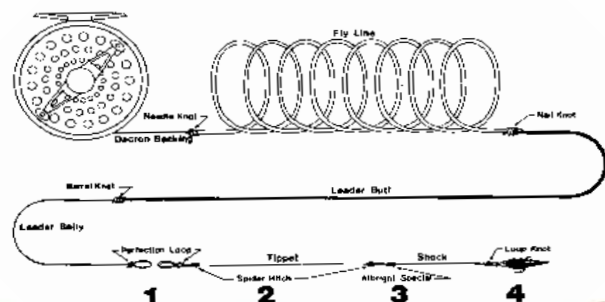
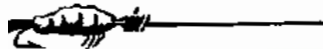
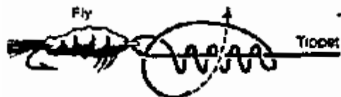
Bob Benzenberg (516) 521-7378

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Know your Knots Fly to Tippet

Thread tippet through the hook eye and pull out about six inches. Make five turns around the standing part with the tag end of the tippet. Push end through the loop created in front of the hook eye, then bring the end back through the big loop just formed. Wet the knot and pull steadily on the tippet to tighten the wraps against the hook eye. Trim.



The Freeport Tuna Club

*wishes to thank all the
contributing Members and Businesses
for their very generous time and donations
and for making our annual Christmas Party a success.*



DERBY AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

Awards Chairman: Ray Geiger | Committee Team: Bob Benzenberg, Harry Sbaschnig & Bill Morrogh

The 2017 season is officially over and what a season it was. We received over 130 of your weigh slips this past year. Well done to all of you!!

*** 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 SUNDAY, JANUARY 14th!!!!!! No weigh slips will be considered after this due date.

The following Derby winners will be recognized at the January GM:

Blackfish

1st Place:	Peter Groner	10.94	FV Endless Summer II
2nd Place:	Mike Zullo	8.50	FV Magic Too
3rd Place:	Peter Groner	6.31	FV Endless Summer II

Striped Bass

1st Place:	Anthony Bollaci	59.75	FV Hooker
2nd Place:	Don Morin	49.50	FV Mary Etta
3rd Place:	Andrew Herr	41.00	FV Southern Cross

Bluefish

1st Place:	Adam Bollaci	16.19	FV Hooker
2nd Place:	John Kampa	15.63	FV Mary Etta
3rd Place:	Rick Totten	14.88	FV Mary Etta

Cod

1st Place:	Dennis Caltaldo	8.06	FV King Cod
2nd Place:	No Winner		

Shark

1st Place:	No Winner		
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Best Fishes, *Ray Geiger*

WANTED

THE FREEPORT TUNA CLUB IS LOOKING FOR...

Members with or access to a Bucket truck, Trencher, and Labor to help with the installation of a Security System down at the Marina. Please contact Kevin at (516) 725-8907.

Volunteers to help set up, serve food, and clean up after the G.M.s over at the Yacht Club. Please see or call Kevin Killelea (516) 725-8907.

We are looking for some volunteers to have a discussion on Circle Hooks vs J Hooks one Thursday Night down at the Property. Please see Tim Sherman or Kevin Killelea if you're interested. .

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Capt. John J. Jutt, Sr.




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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