### Freeport Tuna Club, Inc. Juna Jower News EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR. POR VOLUME TWO • FEBRUARY 2016 Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton Internet Address: www.ftcfishing.com Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan EXT GM Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 7:30 pm Cure Of Ars Auditorium Merrick Avenue • Merrick (Between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road) ome on down for some club history and find out what makes this club what it is today. Capt. Tom Mikoleski will present a seminar entitled "An Angler's Guide to Montauk Sport Fishing"

#### President's Message .....

There are several important items on this month's agenda! Starting with a major change that has been talked about for too long. We lose money every month because of poor attendance at GMs in recent years. In a cost-cutting measure we will NOT be serving an array of hot food at this month's GM. Instead we will return to heroes and salad, and of course, beer, soda and coffee will be available. In addition, the door will drop back to \$10, so to all those who complain at meetings about it not being the "old days," ... attending the February meeting is your chance to show your support for your club. We need numbers to increase at meetings in order to generate a positive cash flow. Next year we reach a milestone of 80 years in operation. With your help and participation we can continue for another 80 years.

Tim Sherman has lined up Capt. Tom Mikoleski to speak at this month's meeting. Tom is a former Tuna Club member who runs his charter boat from Montauk. Tom has spoken to the club in the past and he is very knowledgeable as well as being an excellent speaker. Let's get him a good showing and who knows? You just might learn something! Excuses for not attending are diminishing: door price down, back to heroes and a speaker on top of that, let's see some of those missing faces!

Next on the agenda is the Freeport Rec. Center show on Feb 12, 13 &14. Then comes the Huntington show followed by the East Meadow show. To assist in any or all of these shows see Bob Pandy at the GM. We are running a membership special for new members at the shows. Want to hear more? Come to the meeting!

One final item focuses on our raffle, which has the potential to make the club a significant amount of money. Just selling your book isn't going to cut it. So we are offering a substantial prize to the member who sells the most tickets. Let's not wait until the end of the year, a shot at winning a \$2500 vacation package of your choice shouldn't be too hard to sell to friends, neighbors and family. While we're selling things a couple of ads for the bulletin could never hurt!

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A HAPPY VALENTINES DAY TO ALL

Old Sam



#### THIS MONTH'S GM GUEST SPEAKER

Capt. Tom Mikoleski has fished and boated the waters of New York for over 35-years, receiving his first USCG captain's license in 1993. His present vessel, "Grand Slam" a 35' custom built Down-easter was built to target specifically striped bass, and has become a highly regarded Montauk, NY charter boat. Capt. Tom has been an Outdoor Writer for over 30-years, and has had well over one hundred of his articles published in various outdoor publications such as: The Fisherman, On The Water, and Sport Fishing Magazines. In 2013 Capt. Tom published his first book, Bass Buff- A Striper Fishing Obsession Guide, and this book has been very well received and reviewed by anglers up and down the "Striper Coast." Capt. Tom will present a seminar entitled "An Anglers Guide to Montauk Sport Fishing" at the Freeport Tuna club on 2/11/16.

# FISHING REPORT

### WINTER OPTIONS LIMITED

Weather always has a strong influence on the movements of fish and fishing, even more so in the winter. The big storm aside, this winter has been pretty tame and the water temps still in the forties. Unfortunately, the fishing hasn't been as good as the weather. West end cod fishing looked promising as many were taken by the offshore seabass fleet and a good winter run was anticipated. A review of the limited fishing reports frequently includes words like "a handful", "very slow", etc. Mackerel made a brief appearance around 17



fathoms and many thought the influx of bait might bring the cod fishery to life. It just hasn't happened, not yet anyway. The only first hand report was my own. I snuck in a few hours one Friday afternoon at the Hempstead Reef hoping to find some cod. The blackfish cooperated and at least I bent the rod catching and releasing some tog. No cod to be had. Blackfish season is open in New Jersey and some good catches have been reported from the Sandy Hook and Reef. To have a January bight in this shallow water is indicative of the warmer than normal water temps in the area.

Montauk started off with a nice run of fish and it looked like a strong winter was in store. Lately however, words like "very slow" have crept into the reports. We'll see if it bounces back.



SOME THOUGHTS ON RIGGING FOR COD

(reprint from Jan 2012)

We have been fortunate to see a resurgence of cod on Long Island with fish spreading all along the South Shore, down through Jersey all the way to Delaware. Large cows of 30 pounds plus are once again a distinct possibility on the deeper wrecks. With seabass and blackfish currently closed, many boats will be setting their sight on cod. On Long Island, most large cod are caught on rigs baited with slices of skimmer clam. Here are some observations and thoughts on effective bait rigs I have seen and used over the years.

### **BRAID OR MONO ?**

Braid has taken the fishing world by storm. It is durable and sensitive, it's limited stretch

letting you feel every move the fish makes, which many enjoy. It's thin diameter will let you hold bottom with less lead making the use of lighter, more comfortable tackle a viable option. One downside is the hellacious tangles that can occur with braid, inevitable while deep water bottom fishing on sometimes crowded boats. There are ways to deal with this however, discussed below. Some old school sharpies still like mono for certain shallow water (less than 120 or so feet) applications, but most would agree braid is the way to go. 40-60 lb braid is very strong yet still quite thin, many good choices exist, use the brand you are comfortable with.

Assuming you are using braided line, the real question is whether or not to use a mono shock leader and if so, how long? My preference is to use a mono shock leader since it does provide a nice cushioning effect on large, rolling fish, especially considering today's faster rod tapers and high modulus (stiff) graphite and composite blanks. The use of the shock leader will confine most of your tangles to the mono leader, which will simplify and hasten un-tangling the snarls that occur low in the rigging. I like a mono shock leader about twice the length of the rod I'm fishing, which will give you a couple of turns of mono on reel with a fish at the boat. On a party boat, you might want to go longer, 20-25 feet. Cod give a good tug, so any loss of sensitivity lost due to mono leader should not be an issue. A hard finish. durable mono like Ande or Big Game, 40-60 Ib will work well either as a shock leader or as your main line if you elect to go the all mono route.

To attach the mono to the braid, I prefer the uni-uni knot with the braid doubled up. The uni-uni is very simple to tie and ultra reliable.

Whatever knot you choose, you should be able to tie it proficiently with cold wet hands on a pitching boat.

If you elect to go all the way with braid, and forego the shock leader, simply use a Palomar knot to attach a barrel swivel at the end of you line. With mono an improved clinch knot is more than adequate and easy to tie. Some sharp fishermen do prefer to rig directly into the shock leader or mono main line with no hardware, but most will add a barrel swivel and rig into it. If you fish braid (recommended), like to pre-tie your rigs (your choice), and use the Palomar knot to tie your swivel to the braid (recommended), you might consider leaving the barrel swivel off the top of your mono rig until after it is attached to the braid via the Palomar knot, which must be looped completely over the swivel (hard to do with the rig attached). Then simply tie your rig to the bottom of the barrel swivel via the improved clinch knot or other knot of your choice.

### SINGLE HIGH HOOK OR HIGH / LOW ?

On sticky offshore wrecks, with the possibility of a very large fish, a single high hook would usually be the rig of choice, set at a height of about 30-40 inches above the sinker.

Large cod will pull some line and swim around when hooked, with the high / low rig you run the risk of having the free hook getting caught in the wreck potentially costing you a large fish. Some notable Captains are adamant about the use of a single high hook on deep wrecks citing large fish lost in the past, I have seen it happen. Still, for most applications the high / low rig is favored. The low hook can be approx. 4-14 inches above the sinker, the high hook 24-40 inches off the bottom. In any case, they should be far enough apart so that the leaders or dropper loops will not snag each other as you drop your rig to the bottom.

## February 2016 Derby, Awards & Contest Report

Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morrogh • Committee Team: Captain Michael Zullo

You'll find an insert in this issue listing our tentative 2015 Annual Award winners. Please look over the list and let us know if you have a question or see any error. Contact Bill Morrogh at the February GM or call @ 516-781-4667. I hope that everyone will make an effort to attend the March GM where we will recognize all these deserving anglers!

We have 3 new club records to post for the 2015 season. John H. Rooney landed an 11.5 lb. Rainbow Trout on Lake Ontario last July. Dr. John Weber brought a 3 lb. 6 oz. Stargazer to the scales locally in May. Sharon Missan landed a nice 5.38 lb. Mangrove Snapper in Florida in June.

Let's get those weigh slips in on time and fill them out completely! It's important that you fill out the date/time along with the species and vessel information so we can identify annual award winners based on our rules.

The committee would like to wish everyone a safe and productive 2016 Derby season.

-Bill Morrock

#### continued from page 2 DROPPER LOOPS OR LEADERS, STANDOFF/ HANGMAN'S KNOTS ?

I have fished all, each has advantages. In general, I like nicely formed, well lubricated dropper loops, about 5-10 inched in length for any of the rigs described above. The dropper are easy to tie and allow for easy baiting, allowing your slice of skimmer clam to easily slide up and over the eye of the hook without tearing up the bait. Some like a hook snelled with stiff, heavy 50-80 pound leader material since the length is easy to control, and it is very durable. Large cod sometimes take the bait deep, and can chaff the lighter line generally employed with dropper loops. On balance, the bulky snell knot does make it a bit harder to thread the clam or twister tail up and over the hook eve nicely, tearing them up a bit, a subtle yet real issue for sharp minded pool sharks. Droppers will allow you to easily add or remove colored beads or twister tails much more easily without changing rigs. These adornments sometimes make a difference, as discussed below. So, if you are proficient at tying dropper loops of various lengths, I would hang your hooks directly on them but in the end it comes down your personal preference.



If you decide to go with snelled hooks you have several choices when attaching the leader loop to your main line. You can tie short (2-4") dropper loop(s), or the sharpie preferred "standoff" or "hangman's" knot. Standoffs make for a nice presentation, but I can only recommend the use of standoff / hangmans knots when fishing a single high hook rig. The strength of these knots, BELOW the knot (on the tag end) is questionable in my opinion, possibly jeopardizing the integrity of the lower hook, on a high low rig. If you go with snelled hooks, and like the high low rig, simply attach your snelled hooks to the droppers, loop to loop.

In any case, I see no reason to ever use a three way swivels when baiting cod on Long Island, where we fish relatively shallow water and in light current. Always add an overhand knot above your sinker loop, it is an effective breakaway and could save you a large fish or some rigging if you hang up. Whatever rig you elect to fish, check it from time to time for nicks, cuts, etc. so you won't be disappointed when you hook the big one.

### **HOOKS AND ORNAMENTS**

Gamakatsu or Mustad 5/0 – 7/0 Octopus work well. If you like a bait holder style hook, the Mustad Beak 6/0 works well, but may need some sharpening out of the box. Simple Sproat hooks were common years ago, were very effective, but are no longer manufactured by Mustad according to some recent information I've seen. I have not used circle hooks but see no reason why they would not work well, if that's your preference.

Sometimes, the addition of color to your rig seems

to make a word of difference, other times it doesn't seem to matter. Whether South Shore cod fishing or Montauk open bottom fishing I will generally start with a plain rig, maybe a couple of pink/red beads on the top hook. If you don't feel like your catching your share of fish, try to observe who's catching, and what is unique about their rig (color, hook height, etc). Often, a certain color will be doing the damage, those catching may have a particular color bead(s), tube, 4-6" curly tail grub / twister tail, etc. on their line. In general, it seems cod like red and pink, white, grape, and sometimes chartreuse. Glow beads sometimes have their moments in deep water, or with slow fishing on a crowded boat.

Keep your eyes open, see what's working on any particular day and be ready to adapt if necessary. Good luck, catch them up, and be prepared to "bow to the cow" if you are fortunate enough to hook the big one.

#### Many FTC members take fishing vacations to warmer climates, please consider sharing your fishing tales and pictures with our membership by sending them in.

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".

~ Sincerely,

Paul Hilton HV Emily S

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Just a reminder for all those who have boats at the property for storage, in water or on land. Do not leave heaters and or battery chargers plugged in without being attended to. No overnight electrical devices are to be left on. Unattended electrical devices cause most marina fires during the winter months. On other note, only approved marine electrical cords are allowed. Hardware store extension cords are not aloud and will be unplugged if found. Your cooperation is appreciated.

## PROPERTY BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

The invoices for deposits and lease agreements for summer slips at the club property have been mailed. If you leased a slip last year and have not received this mailing or are not returning for the 2106 season, please contact me immediately. Last year at the end of the season we had 4 empty slips. So far this year we have 2 more members that were not at our marina last year that have sent in deposits. Both of these boats have outboard so we will probably need to add finger piers. But we will not know if this is necessary until the club knows exactly who is and is not returning. Please send in your deposit! The club is ready and willing to set up payment schedule to meet an individual member's financial needs. Please contact me if you need an accommodation.

Thank you to all that have sent in your deposits. Your timely response is greatly appreciated!

The club goal is to fill the marina! We need everyone's cooperation to succeed! If you have questions or concerns about the club property, you can see me at the GM or contact me either by email or phone.

Alan Evelyn, FTC Property Manager capt.al@fishtaxiny.com · Cell: 917-750-8710 · Work: 516-299-2523



## Meet Chrís Paparo **APRIL 14 GM GUEST SPEAKER**

Born and raised on Long Island (New York), Chris Paparo has been exploring the wilds of the island for over 30 years. As a wildlife photographer, writer and lecturer, he enjoys bringing public awareness to the diverse wildlife that calls the island home. His passion for coastal ecology, fishing and the outdoors led him to obtain a BS in Marine Science from LIU/Southampton and currently manages the new Marine Sciences Center at the Southampton campus of Stony Brook University.

In addition to freelance writing for several fishing and wildlife related publications, Paparo currently writes the monthly Naturalist's Logbook column for the NY/NJ edition of On The Water Magazine. Although his work tends to focus on marine life, everything in the natural world is fair game.



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## Winter Storage

The Freeport Tuna Club is now storing boats at its property for the 2016 Winter Season (11/1/15 to 6/1/16). The lease rates for this season will remain the same as last year @ \$14 a foot with a minimum charge of \$300 for both on land and in water storage.

#### LEASES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO PUTTING YOUR VESSEL ON THE PROPERTY! PLEASE CONTACT THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE BEFORE PLACING YOUR BOAT ON THE PROPERTY SO YOU CAN BE ASSIGNED A STORAGE LOCATION.

For more information or to sign a lease agreement, contact Alan Evelyn, FTC Property Manager: cell 917-750-8710 | work 516-299-2523 | email capt,al@fishtaxiny



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To place an ad in our classified Contact Capt. John Jutt (516) 546-2312 or E-mail to: JJutt@mmpmk.com

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