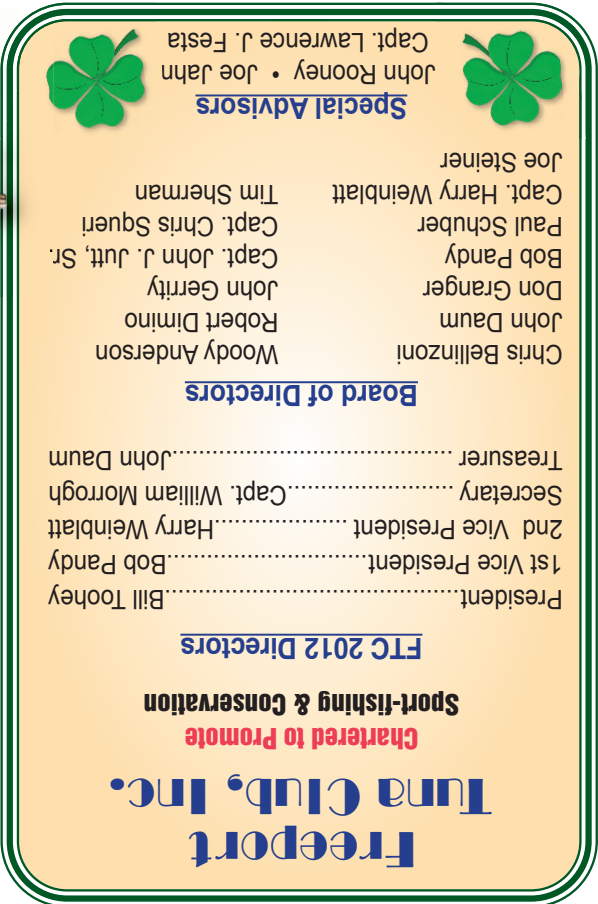




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Tuna Tower News

VOLUME THREE • MARCH 2012
Internet Address: www.ftcfishing.com



EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.

Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton

Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan

Contributing Editor ~ Capt. Lawrence Festa

AWARDS NIGHT! The Best Of The Best



NEXT GM

Thursday, March 9, 2012 at 7:30pm

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President's Message.....

Dear Members,

AWARDS NIGHT!

There are so many great things about the Freeport Tuna Club it is hard to pick out what one likes the best. As the year progresses different things catch our attention, but one thing always stands out: the annual awards presented at the March meeting.

We are, after all, a fishing club, and this night showcases our greatest asset: the best anglers in the region. This year 38 individual awards will be presented, including awards for four new club records. From tuna and shark to bass and flounder, from the old hands to the children and grandchildren, there is an award that recognizes their achievements during the past year. Be sure to attend the meeting to show your support for all our winners.

Although it is hard to believe, the coming of March also means that 2012 is already one-fourth behind us. This may be the off season, but our members have been busy nonetheless. Once again this year First VP Bob Pandy led up the club's display at the NYSF Freeport show in February. A special effort was made this year to highlight all our club has to offer, and I want to thank all those who gave their time and effort to make this presentation a success. Another special event that members eagerly anticipate is the wild game dinner, headed up by Bob Benzenberg and Dave Massa. Work on this event begins in the early fall, and continues throughout the winter as members comb fields and woodlands for entrees and appetizers. Always a sold out event, the hard work of all involved pays off in an outstanding evening of food and fun. If you missed out this year be sure to get your ticket early next time!

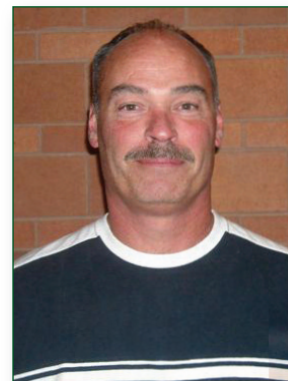
The next special event on our calendar is the annual cod trip organized by our Second VP Harry Weinblatt. Special should be put in capital letters for this one, because the fun and camaraderie of two days at sea fishing with fellow club members has to be experienced to be appreciated. Mere words really can't capture it; reserve a spot if you can. You won't regret it.

On a sadder note, I have to report the passing of past president Paul Sposato, who lost his battle with cancer at the end of February. Paul was a great guy, a fixture of the club for many years and originator of the Thursday night Captain-Anglers barbecues. He lived life to the fullest, and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family at his loss.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the GM. Watching all the winners collect their awards really whets one's appetite for the coming season, and fuels the hope that next year you'll be in the winner's circle!

The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope. John Buchan.

~ President 2011 ~ Bill Toohey



Passing of Past President Paul Sposato

We regret to inform you of the passing of Past President Paul Sposato. Paul was a familiar face, friend and a great contributor to The Freeport Tuna Club. He is the original founder of the Captain/Angler Thursday Nite Bar-B-Ques.

Paul is survived by his wife Linda and daughter Jessie. He will be sorely missed by all. May he rest in peace ...and may his tides still come and go.



March 2012 Derby Awards & Contests Report

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

Everyone should mark their calendars and make a special effort to attend the March GM Annual Awards Night! It's time to review the 2011 season and recognize the exceptional anglers and catches that made 2011 memorable. A big turnout always helps so come on down and get in gear for the upcoming season! We'll also be presenting 4 new club records!

Spring will be upon us before we know it and so will our Derby season! We start off with Cod and Winter Flounder. The local Cod reports have been good so get out there and win the Derby!

THE FOLLOWING DERBIES ARE STARTING THIS MONTH:

Cod (6 lb. min.)	March 17th ~ May 6th
Winter Flounder (1.5 lb. min.)	March 31st ~ May 13th

Derby Rules Update: We have modified a Derby rule which we believe will simplify our weigh slip policy.

Protests & Disputes of Fish

5. It is the Captain/Angler's responsibility to get their weigh slips to the Awards Committee within

14 days of all Derby closings in order to be eligible for a Derby prize.

All weigh slips must be submitted by January 14th of the following year to be eligible for any Annual Award. No exceptions to this rule will be allowed.

Good & Welfare

Dr. John Weber is recovering from his surgery and our best wishes to him. Gene Schettini is home doing well and waiting to proceed with the construction of his new ankle. My wife Elaine has recovered and doing well. Camille Mazzilli is continuing with her therapy in her fight. Best Wishes everyone.

~ Jeff

Property

We have 5 slips open on the line. If you are interested or you know a person looking for a slip have them contact me: property@ftcfishing.com We need to fill the Marina!

~ Don Granger

Property Business Manger

Membership

Reminders for membership renewals were mailed out on February 17th. Please take a moment to return your membership dues, if you haven't already done so. Anyone who needs a membership renewal can contact the membership committee at ftc1937@verizon.net. Membership dues effective January 1, 2012 are \$225 for regular members and \$250 for family members.

~ Mike Sullivan

Property

Summer contract have been mailed. If you did not receive your contract contact property@ftcfishing.com. We have #3 slip available on the outside line. Contact: Property@FTCfishing.com.

~ Don

Fluke Calcutta

We will begin accepting entry into the 2012 Fluke Calcutta at the March GM meeting. Same \$10 entry. Same winner take all format. See Mike Sullivan to enter.





Ling is the Thing

Both locally and out east, our winter cod fishery to date has been somewhat of a disappointment, likely due to the unusually warm winter we have enjoyed. Our water temps have not gone much below 45 degrees, where we'd normally be looking at temps well below 40 at some point during the winter. Cold water normally signals the arrival of cod and drives off the dogfish, which remain a big problem in many areas. Reports from New Jersey and east along the South Shore of Long Island out to Montauk feature Ling, also known as Red Hake, as being the day savers and providing the bulk of the catch.

Those who frown upon Ling sometimes refer to them as "puss-bags". Ling don't grow to mammoth proportions, are generally sluggish, and if not iced down quickly will turn into a soft mushy mess. On the other hand, if iced down immediately and well cared for, the resulting white flesh fillets can be a culinary delight.

Most Ling are targeted on wrecks and rough bottom, but will be found on open mud or sand bottom during the spring spawn. Depths can range from 30 – 300 feet. A simple tandem hook bottom rig with 3/0 – 4/0 hooks will suffice. The most common bait is skimmer clam, but fish strips (especially bergall) work well, the smaller varieties of "Gulp Alive" have been making headlines of late, often out-fishing the natural stuff.

- **Distribution of roughly Gulf of St. Lawrence to North Carolina, most abundant from Gulf of Maine to New Jersey.**
- **Scientific Name: Urophycis chuss**
- **IGFA Record: 12 lbs. 13 oz., "Mudhole Wreck" 2010.**
- **FTC Record: 6.0 lbs., Matthew Edelman, Montauk N.Y. 2007.**
- **Current Regulations: Open Season, No size or bag limit.**

~ Paul Hilton, Emily S.

Freeport Tuna Club

Committees

President • Bill Toohey • February 24, 2012

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Ships Store Paul Schuber* Rosemary Schuber	Awards & Contest Bill Morrogh* Michael Zullo Lawrence Festa	Derbies Bill Morrogh* Michael Zullo Lawrence Festa	Yearbook Pending
	Conservation Dennis Cataldo* Bill Toohey	Fishing Reports Harry Weinblatt*	Nominating & Rules Pending
	Rodeos Jim Rooney*	Tournaments Mat Errett*	Captain/Angler Bob Pandy* Bob Sabella Jim Rooney Jimmy Azzi Joe Steiner Ralph Ortiz John Koenig Paul Noto Bill Hines Woody Anderson John Rooney Joe Jahn Sharon Missan Ken Kapner Ken Donin Don Morin George Sinerco

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