

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

Tuna Tower News

VOLUME THREE • MARCH 2016
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Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton
Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan



AWARDS NIGHT! The Best Of The Best



NEXT GM
Thursday, March 10, 2016
at 7:30 pm
The Freeport Yacht Club
533 Guy Lombardo Avenue
Freeport, NY



****PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE ****

President's Message

Let's make March "Be kind to awards and contests chairman, Bill Morrogh" month. How do we do that? If you are a winner, and most of you know who you are, just show up at the meeting; that way Bill doesn't have to carry a whole pile of plaques and envelopes around all year in the hope that you might show up at a meeting some day.

This month marks a milestone for the club, For this meeting, we will be returning to the Freeport Yacht Club. This is the chance for all those who say we should go back to the Yacht Club to show up, voice your opinion and support your club. February's meeting attendance was a pleasant surprise with over 50 in attendance. That's a good start, but we can do much better. Seventy plus at this meeting would put a big smile on the president's face (It could also lead to a possible change in venue). So, come on down and enjoy an evening with fellow club members to applaud those whose fishing efforts resulted in winning one of our many awards. Remember, you can't win it if you aren't in it! I hear it all the time, I had a bigger fish than

that but I didn't weigh it in. Weigh 'em all and send in the slips... you never know!

Joyce and I had the pleasure of visiting with Paul and Rosemary Schuber at their new ranch in Texas. They wish all in the club good health and good luck. They would love to hear from FTC members via phone, e-mail or even snail mail.

Also new is our apparel department led by Jim Azzi and Paul Cunningham, they have some new items, so bring some money to get ready for the upcoming fishing season.

We had a great deal of interest in the club at the recent flea markets we attended with many prospective members showing interest and signing up to come to a meeting. A great job by the membership committee and all those who helped at the booth.

See you all at the meeting!

Old Sam

FISHING REPORT

THE FISHING CAN ONLY IMPROVE

As I write this it is sunny and 55, not bad for February 28th. The northeast, in general, has experienced a relatively mild winter with a few notable storms. It seems like we have had a lot of wind though, and this had made fishing reports of any type hard to come by.

Locally, the only reports are from the Capt Al and they report a limited amount of "catching" going on, with just a handful of cod and ling on the good days. Some of the Shinnecock boats had some decent trips recently with cod and pollock. They have deep water closer to shore and I'm guessing those fish were caught in at least 150' of water.

Montauk has been slow, again weather being a major factor in getting off the dock. Hopefully a run of spring cod will develop east and west.

A quick glance at the 44025 Weather Buoy shows water temps above 40. The water never go that cold so things may break open early. Other than cod, pollock, and ling, our options are extremely limited, particularly with Spring blackfish season no longer an option and winter flounder so scare.

So what lies ahead in the near term? Looking through the current regulations I see winter flounder would be up first opening on April 1st and running through May 30th with a 2 fish bag limit. From Raritan Bay all the way east to Shinnecock Bay, winter flounder fishing is so poor that few are targeting them. Will 2016 be any better? The only way to find out is to try. There is talk of greatly extending the season since so few are actually being caught. This might be a good thing since fishing in the ocean for winter flounder has become quite successful and popular in New Jersey and the same opportunities exist for New York Anglers and it would add a couple of fish to the coolers during seasonal closures of other species.

Striped Bass would open next, starting April 15 and running through December 15th. One fish at greater than 28" per angler, status quo from 2015 I believe. April 15th options for bass are pretty much limited to soaking worm or clam baits in western LI sound, possibly Jamaica Bay too. We will need to be patient in this neck of the woods. The earliest fish usually show along the beach, presenting jiggging opportunities or clam bellied in south shore inlets.

Options provided below are subject to change and approval by the NYSDEC and various bodies of the ASMFC.

Note: Federal Wave 5 closure in 2016 will be Sept. 22 – Oct. 21

OPTION	POSSESSION LIMIT	OPEN SEASON
2015	8/10	July 15-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31
1	3	July 16-Dec.31
2	3/10	July 17-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31
3	4	July 22-Dec. 31
4	4	July 21-Dec. 15
5	4	July 15-Oct. 17
6	4/10	July 23-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31
7	5/10	July 16-Sept. 21 and Oct. 22-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31
8	5/10	July 28-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31
9	2/8/10	July 12-Aug. 31/Sept. 1-Oct. 31/Nov. 1-Dec. 31

Note: All options above include a 14.0" minimum size

FLUKE EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE



is fluke and the season opener is greatly anticipated. The most recent regulation I saw had status quo, or nearly so with a season running approximately May 17th to

September 21st. The dates may be adjusted to align with weekends. 5 fish per angler with an 18" minimum size. I think this size and season worked well for western south shore anglers, let's hope they don't mess with it too much.

Another possible option is if the mackerel show up this spring. This gives everyone a chance to shakedown their boats, bend a rod, and fill the freezer with great bait. Fingers crossed on this one, maybe this will be the year they return for a traditional spring run.

SEABASS ARE POPULAR

Seabass have become increasingly popular due to their abundance, good eating qualities, and availability as bycatch while targeting fluke over rough bottom. Despite this abundance of seabass in our waters someone feels that they are in decline and being overfished. A reduction in



harvest by approximately 23% is being considered, some options for achieving this are shown in the table below:

Last years (2015) limits are highlighted above, NYDEC is looking for angler input as to the preferred options for 2016. One way I know to cast your vote is on the Noreast Saltwater web site. Too bad none of the options have an earlier season opener, we've had some huge seabass during early ocean forays for fluke in May and June. Unfortunately, without proper venting of the swim bladder, seabass release mortality is very high. Maybe let us keep a few even earlier than mid – late July ?

That's about all for now. My boat is ready to go, just need to obtain some bait and will hopefully test the waters soon!

There's nothing like first hand reports. 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 FTV Emily S

Derby, Awards & Contests Report

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

I hope everyone can make it to the March GM Annual Awards Night! A big turnout always helps so come on down and support the club and the winners of our 2015 Annual Awards! Note that we're meeting at the Freeport Yacht Club for the March GM.

We start off 2016 with Cod and Winter Flounder. These are 2 great derbies to get the season going and pick up a derby or annual award. Boat not ready? Jump on a party boat or a charter!

The Following Derbies Are Starting Soon!

Cod (6 lb. min): March 12th - May 8th

Winter Flounder (1.5 lb. min): April 2nd - May 15th

The complete Derby calendar for 2016 is on our website NOW! It's time to start planning your season. We may have to modify the Sea Bass and Blackfish dates based on the regs (as usual...).

Bill Morrogh



FISH:

Cod (6 lbs.)
Blackfish (3 lbs.)
Flounder (1.5 lbs.)
Seabass (2.5 lbs.)
Striped Bass (15 lbs.)
Weakfish (5 lbs.)
Fluke (3.5 lbs.)
Shark (125 lbs.)
Bluefish (8 lbs.)
Tuna (20 lbs.)
Mahi (4 lbs.)
False Albacore (6 lbs.)
Green Bonito (4 lbs.)

SPRING DATES:

March 12th – May 8th
Fall Only
April 2nd – May 15th
To be determined
May 7th – June 12th
May 7th – June 19th
May 21st – July 4th
May 21st – July 4th
May 21st – July 4th
June 25th – August 7th
June 25th – August 7th
Fall Only
Fall Only

FALL DATES:

October 1st – December 11th
October 15th – November 27th
Spring Only
To be determined
October 8th – November 27th
August 14th – September 25th
August 20th – September 18th
September 17th – November 27th
September 17th – November 27th
August 13th – September 25th
August 20th – October 2nd
August 20th – October 2nd
August 20th – October 2nd

**THE MARCH GM ON 3/10
WILL BE AT
THE FREEPORT YACHT CLUB**

****PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE ****

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 status on the marina is as follows: 22 slips have been confirmed with deposits, 4 members have told me that their check is in the mail, 3 captains from last year have not committed. That leaves at least 2 slips available. The rate for 2016 has been reduced to \$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. Please let me know if you are not renewing your lease so I will know if more than 2 slips are available. Any member interested in a slip should contact me as soon as possible. Our goal is to fill the marina!

I would like to welcome new member Paul Grilli to the club. Paul will be docking his 20 ft. center console at our marina this year!

There are a few outstanding payments due for winter storage so please send in your payment as soon as possible.

My cell number, email address, and work phone number are below:

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

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GOOD AND WELFARE

Congratulations Tony and Anthony Testa on passing their captain's license examinations.



A new member, Alexander James Bellinzoni hit the deck on Monday 2/15/16 weighing in at 7lbs., 19.5 inches.

WELCOME ABOARD AJ!
Congratulations to your grandparents Lisa & Chris and Aunt Joey. Special congratulations to Kristen and Christopher Bellinzoni, Jr. We hope you have the best of luck with your boy and he brings you as much joy and happiness as you gave and continue to give your parents. May God bless him and give him plenty of fish!



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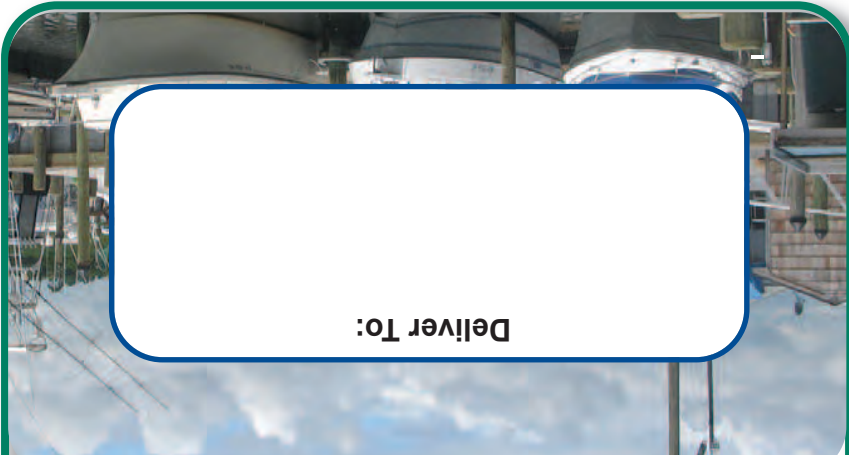
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The FREEPORT TUNA CLUB would like to extend an invitation for you to participate in our annual garage sale to be held at our marina located at 275 Hudson Ave. Freeport 11520

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Annual Awards 2015 Season

Final Results

- #1 Stephen L. Vanderveer Trophy Bowl:** Angler catching the largest Tuna over 100 lb. sailing out of Jones Inlet.
Dave Pincus (170 lb. Bigeye) "Canyon Lady"
- #2 Stephen Radi Sr. Memorial Trophy:** Angler catching the largest Bigeye Tuna sailing from Jones Inlet.
Dave Pincus (170 lb. Bigeye) "Canyon Lady"
- #3 Walter F. O'Malley Trophy:** Member catching the heaviest Tuna from any port except Freeport L.I.
Jack Krug (235.2 lb. Bigeye) "Third Wish"
- #4 Bob Trapani Memorial Trophy:** Member catching the heaviest fish from any port except Shark.
Jack Krug (235.2 lb. Bigeye) "Third Wish"
- #5 Fred W. Hollander Memorial Trophy:** Member catching the heaviest billed fish anywhere.
Marty Dowling (130 lb. Swordfish) "Somewhere in Time"
- #6 Jack R. Neidorf Trophy :** (*24hr.) First Tuna of the season sailing from and returning to Jones Inlet.
Anthony Bollaci (35.38 lb. Bluefin) "Hooker"
- #7 Jack R. Bode Ladies Trophy:** Awarded to the lady member catching the largest Tuna.
Not Awarded
- #8 Ada Berlin Memorial Trophy:** Lady angler catching the largest species of any fish from any L.I. Port.
Theresa Morrogh (20.56 lb. Striped Bass) "MargaritaBill"
- #9 Henry Von Elm Inc. Trophy:** Angler catching the largest Tuna during any IGFA Tournament.
Not awarded
- #10 John J. Miles Trophy:** Captain of the Year Adam Bollaci
- #11 Mel Elderd:** Member catching the largest Tuna of the season in the Babylon/FTC Shootout.
Not Awarded
- #12 Philip Ehrhart Memorial Trophy:** (*24 hr.) Largest Bluefin caught sailing from Jones, Debs or Fire Island.
Peter DiThomas (109 Bluefin) "Rocket Fish"
- #13 Guy Lombardo Trophy:** (*24 hr.) Angler catching the largest Tuna under 100 lbs. sailing from Jones Inlet.
Joe Mangiapanello (94.5 Bluefin) "Rocket Fish"
- #14 Freeport Marine Trophy:** Greatest weight fish per pound line sailing from any L.I. Port.
Joe Mangiapanello 32.31 lb. Striped Bass "Crazy G" 30 lb. test
- #15 Harry Peters Memorial Trophy:** Angler catching the largest fish out of any L.I. Port.
Brian Brown (364 lb. Thresher Shark) "Kingfisher"
- #16 Harry Peters Memorial Trophy:** Captains Award for the largest Shark caught out of any L.I. Port.
Bryon King (364 lb. Thresher Shark) "Kingfisher"
- #17 Harry Berns Memorial Trophy:** Captain whose boat tags the most amount of Tuna.
Not Awarded
- #18 George Beitterick Memorial Trophy:** (24 hr.) Angler catching the largest Bluefish sailing from Jones Inlet.
Joe Mangiapanello (19.06 lb.) "Crazy G"
- #19 Fred Miranda:** Awarded to the person who tags the most Marlin.
Adam Bollaci (1 White Marlin) "Hooker"
- #20 Marsden B.Candler Memorial Trophy:** Angler largest Striped Bass on any boat sailing from any L.I. Port.
Chris Macropoulos (38 lb.) "Overbite"
- #21 Jack Bode Ladies Memorial Trophy:** Lady Angler for the most outstanding catch north of Cape Hatteras.
Barbara Solomon (8.31 lb. False Albacore) "Legal Limits"
- #22 Harry Schwarze:** Captains Award for the most Tuna caught during the Babylon /FTC Shootout.
Not Awarded
- #23 Marine Center, Inc Trophy:** Captains Award for the boat catching the heaviest billed fish.
Gene Schettini (130 lb. Swordfish) "Somewhere in Time"
- #24 Mako Marine Inc, Trophy:** Angler catching the heaviest Mako of the season.
Peter Cefai (126 lb. Mako Shark) "Dolce Vita"

#25 Lawrence Festa Memorial Trophy: (*24 hr.) Captain catching the first Mako of the season from Jones Inlet. Nick Nero (126 lb. Mako Shark) "Dolce Vita"

#26 Norb Schlichtig Memorial Trophy: Member - outstanding service. Bob Benzenberg/Joe DiSalvo

#27 Tim Kryscuk Memorial Trophy: Lady Member catching the largest Bluefish of the season. Theresa Morrogh (10.69 lb.) "MargaritaBill"

#28 Joe King Sr. Memorial Trophy: (*24 hr.) Largest Dolphin sailing from Jones, Fire Island or Debs Inlet. Jim Azzi (12.69 lb.) "Second Chance"

#29 John Shiel Spinning Tackle Trophy: Most outstanding catch caught on spinning tackle using 2-12 lb. line. Not Awarded

Paul Grippo Memorial Equalizer Trophy Fluke: Children's Award for largest Fluke (12 and under).

#30 Global: Sophia Bollaci (3.25 lb.) "Hooker"

#31 West: Sophia Bollaci (3.25 lb.) "Hooker"

Paul Grippo Memorial Equalizer Trophy Bluefish: Children's Award for largest Bluefish (12 and under).

#32 Global: Not Awarded

#33 West: Not Awarded

#34 Ed Keneske Jr. Memorial Trophy: Awarded for outstanding service by a board member. Alan Evelyn

#35 Benjamin Mikoleski Memorial: Awarded to the member catching the largest Winter Flounder of the year. Bill Burk (3.15 lb.) "No Time"

#36 Bob Neuman Aventura II" Memorial Trophy : Largest Winter Flounder caught by a child or grandchild. Not Awarded

#37 Jack Kennedy Memorial Captains Award: Largest Tuna (Debs, Jones, Fire Island). Dave Pincus (170 lb. Bigeye) "Canyon Lady"

#38 Jack Kennedy Memorial Captains Award: (*24 hr.) Largest Striped Bass (Debs, Jones, Fire Island). Chris Macropoulos (38 lb.) "Overbite"

#39 Jack Kennedy Memorial Captains Award: (*24 hr.) Largest Bluefish (Debs, Jones, Fire Island). Joe Mangiapanello (19.06 lb.) "Crazy G"

Ed Schuh Memorial Angler Awards Jones, Debs, Fire Island: Cod, Weakfish, Blackfish, Sea Bass & Fluke.

#40 Bob Pandy (19.76 lb.) "Laura Lee"

#41 Weakfish: Not Awarded

#42 Blackfish: Peter Groner (11.38 lb.) "Endless Summer II"

#43 Sea Bass: Maryellen Zullo (5.75 lb.) "Magic Too"

#44 Fluke: Charles Goldstein (6.5 lb.) "Splitshot"

Jigsy Silber Memorial Global Anglers Award: Cod, Weakfish, Blackfish, Sea Bass & Fluke.

#45 Cod: Bob Pandy (19.76 lb.) "Laura Lee"

#46 Weakfish: Not Awarded

#47 Blackfish: Peter Groner (11.38 lb.) "Endless Summer II"

#48 Sea Bass: Maryellen Zullo (5.75 lb.) "Magic Too"

#49 Fluke: Ken Donowski (11.06 lb.) "Miss Montauk"

#50 Ed Swanson Memorial Angler of the Year: Member obtaining the most points for twelve different species. Dave Pincus

#51 John V. Festa Memorial Tagging Award: Member who tags the most game fish of the season. Mike Sullivan (88 tags)

#52 Barry Simon Captains Award: Awarded to the member captain, most points achieved for Sea Bass, Codfish & Blackfish sailing from Debs to Fire Island Inlet. Mike Zullo

#53 Anthony Testa Sr. Memorial Award: Angler - largest Fluke Jones Inlet Charles Goldstein (6.5 lb.) "Splitshot"
