

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

TUNA TOWER NEWS

FEBRUARY 2017
www.ftcfishing.com



EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.
Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton
Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan

AWARDS NIGHT! The Best Of The Best



NEXT GM
Thursday, March 9, 2017
at 7:30 pm
The Freeport Yacht Club
533 Guy Lombardo Avenue
Freeport, NY



President's Message

Hello Everyone,

As you know all know Mother Nature cancelled last months G.M. But the good news is The Groundhog said we can start fishing 6 weeks earlier. Speaking of fishing... this month's G.M. will be our 80th Annual Awards Night, where we will be honoring our members for their accomplishments throughout the year. Speaking of honoring our members - I would like to thank Gene Schettini, Bob Pandey, Joe Steiner, Rick Totten, Alan Evelyn, Kenny Kapner, Woody Anderson, Ray Geiger, Don Morin, Sharon Missan, and Charlie Goldstein for volunteering their time in helping out with all 3 Fishing Shows that the club participated in. Many of the people that signed up at the show will be attending our March G.M., so please give them a warm welcome and share your fishing experience and stories with them. We want these members to feel welcomed and become Lifetime Members in our 80 year old club. I would like to thank our new member Ken Donowski for stepping up to help organize new fishing trips. Please see Ken or Myself for more details. We also be making announcements and posting the upcoming trips in the newsletter and on the club website.



Finally, I am very happy to announce that our Marina is once again filled for this upcoming season, thanks to the great job by Alan Evelyn and the Property Committee. One of the reasons we filled up so early this year was thanks to my Vice President Matt Cardone, who posted the empty slip on Facebook - in less than 24 hours we had a response thanks to Pete Cefai. Special thanks once again to Chris Squeri, for setting up the Facebook Page and all his contributions to the club, along with all of our great members. Just another example of why our club has been around 80 years and is still growing. Thanks to a great bunch of people for always stepping up without having to be asked. So now I can say "Like Us" on Facebook. Sea Yah at the Awards Dinner on March 9 at the Freeport Yacht Club

Greatfully Yours,
Kevin Killelea



Fishing Report **Warm Weather, Cool Fishing**

This report is a lot like the last, but with nicer weather. February surprised us with many record setting days for high temperatures. Currently, the ocean temperature looks to be around 42 / 43 degrees, a couple of degrees warmer than usual. Unfortunately, the hot temps have not brought about any hot fishing. When the NJ head boats are running to Montauk to catch a few cod you know things aren't going well locally. Montauk, in fact has people scratching their heads. One day they find a few, the next two they strike out. Very strange. I did manage one trip on my Emily S in February which was remarkably like my last trip. My crew consisted of deck tech Chuckie Gifford, Steve Mellish, and noted Freeport fisherman Scotty Phillips. I had considered maybe running to the twenty mile wrecks but figured I'd give the inshore stuff another shot. Again working our way S/W we played catch and release with some small tog. Three drops produced a couple of cod each, and we finished up with 5 smallish cod in the box. Slim pickings, but comparable to what the local party boats are catching for a full crew so we held our own. It's nice to be out there when only one other private boat was spotted all day.

Looking ahead, there's not much on the immediate horizon. Winter flounder open April 1st . Not many to be had locally, and the long run to the west for flounder in Raritan Bay is no slam dunk as it has been in the past. Striped Bass open April 15. Our seabass and fluke regulations are being hammered out, and some changes may be coming to the blackfish season too, including rumors of a spring season which would be welcomed.

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

The bulletin committee is working to improve the picture resolution in the printed and online Tuna Tower News. It starts with the quality of your photos. Send at full size when possible.

Some Thoughts on Rigging for COD (2012)



Note : *This article was published in 2012 in the Tuna Tower News. The codfish outlook is not as bright as it was then, but many of these rigging and tackle suggestions still hold true today and apply to bottom fishing in general.*

We have been fortunate to see a resurgence of cod on Long Island. Montauk has enjoyed banner runs for several years 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 lb 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.

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 eye 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 "hangmans" 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 on

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 world 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. Happy New Year!

Sincerely, *Paul Hilton FM Emily S*

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Derby, Awards & Contests Report

Awards Chairman: Ray Geiger

Committee Team: Bob Benzenberg, Harry Sbaschnig and Bill Morrogh

I hope everyone can make it to the March GM Annual Awards Night at the Freeport Yacht Club. It has been one year since we came back and a big turnout always helps. Please support the club and all the well deserved winners of our 2016 Annual Awards!

Our first derbies on the menu this year are Cod and the elusive Winter Flounder. If your boat is still in it's winter shrink wrapping then get thee on a party boat or charter and give us a weigh slips. These are two great derbies to get the season going and pick up a derby or annual award.

The complete FTC Derby Calendar for 2017 is on our website thanks to the Morroghs Of Florida. It's time to start planning your season and winning strategies. Who knows, even yours truly might win something at last!

As a reminder, once the dates/regs are set by the DEC, we will have the Fish-At-A-Glance cards made available. If/when the dates do change I will let you know ASAP via the FTC website and The Tuna Tower News.

Just an few observations: IF you do not completely and legibly fill out your submitted weigh slips (yes sadly I did get a few without your names), it makes it tough or even impossible to win. I checked and re-checked and no members of our committee are clairvoyants.. You took the time, wet your lines, caught the fish and had them weighed. By taking the time to fill the slips correctly you might be taking home an award yourself.

Again, if at all possible please have your fish weighed. If we don't get a slip, your tasty catch was imaginary no matter how nice your pictures look on FaceBook or your phone!!

Best Fishes---*Ray Geiger*



Property Manager's Report

The status on the marina is as follows: 16 slips have been confirmed with deposits, 6 members have told me that their check is in the mail, and 9 captains from last year have not sent it their deposits. **I understand that there was no February meeting, but deposits were due on or before February 15th. Please send in your deposit or let me know if you are not renewing your lease.** There are several members interested in slips for the 2017 season. You will receive two invoices for the balance owed, one due on **April 1st** and the second payable on **May 31st**. Our goal is to keep the marina full!

I would like to welcome Glenn Youngblood, Mike Krol, and Frank Cefai as new captains to the marina.

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.

Capt. Alan Evelyn

Cell: 917-750-8710 | Work: 516-299-2523

Email: capt.al@fishtaxiny.com

FISH:

Cod (6 lbs.)
Flounder (1.5 lbs.)
Blackfish (3 lbs.)
Seabass (2.5lbs.)
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
Green Bonito

SPRING DATES:

March 11th – May 7th
April 1st – May 14th
Fall Only
TBD
May 6th – June 11th
May 6th – June 18th
May 20th – July 4th
May 20th – July 4th
May 20th – July 4th
June 24th – August 6th
June 24th – August 6th
Fall Only
Fall Only

FALL DATES:

September 30th – December 10th
Spring Only
October 14th – November 26th
TBD
October 7th – November 26th
August 13th – September 24th
August 19th – September 17th
September 16th – November 26th
September 16th – November 26th
August 12th – September 24th
August 19th – October 1st.
August 19th – October 1st
August 19th – October 1st

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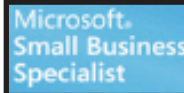


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Annual Awards 2016 Season

Final Results

- #1 Stephen L. Vanderveer Trophy Bowl:** Angler catching the largest Tuna over 100 lb. sailing out of Jones Inlet.
Not Awarded
- #2 Stephen Radi Sr. Memorial Trophy:** Angler catching the largest Bigeye Tuna sailing from Jones Inlet.
Not Awarded
- #3 Walter F. O'Malley Trophy:** Member catching the heaviest Tuna from any port except Freeport L.I.
Not Awarded
- #4 Bob Trapani Memorial Trophy:** Member catching the heaviest fish from any port except Shark.
Courtney Ramroop (63 lb. Yellowfin) "Rusty Testicle"
- #5 Fred W. Hollander Memorial Trophy:** Member catching the heaviest billed fish anywhere.
Not Awarded
- #6 Jack R. Neidorf Trophy :** (*24hr.) First Tuna of the season sailing from and returning to Jones Inlet.
Anthony Bollaci (46.5 Bluefin) "Hooker"
- #7 Jack R. Bode Ladies Trophy:** Awarded to the lady member catching the largest Tuna.
Courtney Ramroop (63 lb. Yellowfin) "Rusty Testicle"
- #8 Ada Berlin Memorial Trophy:** Lady angler catching the largest species of any fish from any L.I. Port.
Courtney Ramroop (63 lb. Yellowfin) "Rusty Testicle"
- #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 "Hooker"
- #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.
Anthony Bollaci (46.5 lb. Bluefin) "Hooker"
- #13 Guy Lombardo Trophy:** (*24 hr.) Angler catching the largest Tuna under 100 lbs. sailing from Jones Inlet.
Courtney Ramroop (63 lb. Yellowfin) "Rusty Testicle"
- #14 Freeport Marine Trophy:** Greatest weight fish per pound line sailing from any L.I. Port.
Harry Schroeder 37.81 lb. Striped Bass "Starwatcher" 15 lb. test
- #15 Harry Peters Memorial Trophy:** Angler catching the largest fish out of any L.I. Port.
Jim Krug (446.16 lb. Thresher Shark) "Sea Lark"
- #16 Harry Peters Memorial Trophy:** Captains Award for the largest Shark caught out of any L.I. Port.
Greg Kohareck (411 lb. Thresher Shark) "Ambition"
- #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.
John Kampa (23.31 lb.) "Mary Etta"
- #19 Fred Miranda:** Awarded to the person who tags the most Marlin.
Not Awarded
- #20 Marsden B.Candler Memorial Trophy:** Angler largest Striped Bass on any boat sailing from any L.I. Port.
Ralph Drewes (38.63 lb.) "Oceanic"
- #21 Jack Bode Ladies Memorial Trophy:** Lady Angler for the most outstanding catch north of Cape Hatteras.
Barbara Solomon (23.75 lb. Striped Bass) "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.
Not Awarded
- #24 Mako Marine Inc. Trophy:** Angler catching the heaviest Mako of the season.
Hank Jenet (217 lb. Mako Shark) "The Betty II"

#25 Lawrence Festa Memorial Trophy: (*24 hr.) Captain catching the first Mako of the season from Jones Inlet. Adam Bollaci (180 lb. Mako Shark) "Hooker"

#26 Norb Schlichtig Memorial Trophy: Member - outstanding service. Chris Squeri (FTC Property Support)

#27 Tim Kryscuk Memorial Trophy: Lady Member catching the largest Bluefish of the season.

Madison Kampa (13.75 lb.) "Mary Etta"

#28 Joe King Sr. Memorial Trophy: (*24 hr.) Largest Dolphin sailing from Jones, Fire Island or Debs Inlet.

Ralph Drewes (35.06 lb.) "Wasabi"

#29 John Shiel Spinning Tackle Trophy: Most outstanding catch caught on spinning tackle using 2-12 lb. line.

Mike Sullivan (19.44 Striped Bass, 3lb test)

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

#30 Global: Not Awarded

#31 West: Not Awarded

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

#32 Global: Madison Kampa (13.75 lb.) "Mary Etta"

#33 West: Madison Kampa (13.75 lb.) "Mary Etta"

#34 Ed Keneske Jr. Memorial Trophy: Awarded for outstanding service by a board member. Gene Schettini, (Membership Committee Leadership)

#35 Benjamin Mikoleski Memorial: Awarded to the member catching the largest Winter Flounder of the year. Not Awarded

#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 Ramroop (63 lb. Yellowfin) "Rusty Testicle"

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

Ralph Drewes (38.63 lb.) "Oceanic"

#39 Jack Kennedy Memorial Captains Award: (*24 hr.) Largest Bluefish (Debs, Jones, Fire Island).

John Kampa (23.31 lb.) "Mary Etta"

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

#40 Cod: Dave Pincus (18.25 lb.) "Laura Lee"

#41 Weakfish: Not Awarded

#42 Blackfish: Mike Zullo (7.5 lb.) "Magic Too"

#43 Sea Bass: Mike Zullo (5.0 lb.) "Magic Too"

#44 Fluke: Michael Vecchiarelli (7.3 lb.) "Sayonara II"

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

#45 Cod: Dave Pincus (18.25 lb.) "Laura Lee"

#46 Weakfish: Not Awarded

#47 Blackfish: Bob Pandy (10.04 lb.) "Prime Time III"

#48 Sea Bass: Glenn Grippo (5.5 lb.) "Inky"

#49 Fluke: Joe Polley (11.52 lb.) "Miss Montauk II"

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

#51 John V. Festa Memorial Tagging Award: Member who tags the most game fish of the season.

Mike Sullivan (104 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 "Magic Too"

#53 Anthony Testa Sr. Memorial Award: Angler - largest Fluke Jones Inlet

Michael Vecchiarelli (7.3 lb.) "Sayonara II"
