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Rods to Rowboats, Lures to Lights, Outboards to Outriggers Set-up time 6:00 am Open to public 8:00 am Unreserved spaces will be awarded first come - first serve

FREEPORT TUNA CLUB MARINA

275 HUDSON AVE. FREEPORT

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

**Saturday, May 19, 2012
(Rain Date Sunday, May 20th)**

Table space is available at \$50.00 per 10 ft. spot
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Tuna Tower News

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

NEXT GM
Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 7:30pm
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(Between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)
Entertainment
The Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 What Is It?
See inside for more details

President's Message

Dear Members,

It's in the air for sure---Spring, that is. Winter officially ended on March 20, and even though this was the mildest winter I can remember I am still glad to see it go. Every spring brings with it the anticipation of what lies ahead, because it is never the same from one year to the next. You may think you have it figured out, and then something happens that is totally unexpected. For example, we all know blackfish are slow growing—if you catch a big one that fish has been around for a long time. And there are just not that many big blackfish around—until last year, when suddenly blackfish weighing in the high teens began to be caught all around our area. Who saw that coming? Where were all these fish while they were growing to these sizes? The workings of nature are a mystery—that's a big part of the appeal of what we do.

So what can we expect this year? Well, we had school bluefins right off the beach in December, loads of bait all winter long, stripers caught on boats codfishing on inshore pieces, and plenty of mackerel and herring right outside the inlet. The water never really got cold, and there will be no snow melt runoff coming out of the Hudson River this year. I think that it's a good bet that all our regular inshore species will be caught earlier than usual this year, and as long as the bait stays here our offshore season should be good also. Of course, around this time last year I was opining that we probably would never see any big blackfish again, so my skills as a fish prophet are suspect at best.

What I do know is that regardless of whether the fishing is hot or cold or the fish are plentiful or scarce there is one thing that is absolutely certain: it's that you have to go regardless of what the prophets say---it's really about the fishing, not the catching. Good days and slow days, excitement and boredom, aggravation and satisfaction, association with people who share your likes and passions: it's all part of the experience of fishing, and it is what makes it unique and special.

April gets us all going. The boat owners are poking around under the

shrinkwrap and planning for that early launch. The Captains-Anglers crew is making preparations for our first Thursday night barbeque. The cod trip is sold out, the property never looked better, and the shootout committee has several events lined up for us. High fuel prices be damned—a great season lies ahead.

On a different note I want to mention that currently there are no members on the waiting list for our marina, and it looks like we might have a slip or two available this summer. Rather than leave these spots empty we are going to offer them to non-members, with the expectation that once they see all the Club has to offer they will soon be joining as a member. If anyone knows of a boatowner who is looking for dockage this season please give their contact information to Don Granger or John Gerrity.

I am going to be out of town on April 12, so 1st V.P. Bob Pandy will be taking the helm for the April meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone when I get back. In the meantime get ready—rods will be bending before you know it.

*The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness.
You have to catch it yourself.*

~ Benjamin Franklin

~ President 2012 ~ Bill Toohey



Fishing Report

Last month I opened my big mouth and complained to our editor that the greatest fishing club ever produced a monthly bulletin without a fishing report, "unacceptable" I said and John responded, "great you can write one next month," so here we go...

WINTER 2012: The old adage East is least & West is best certainly held true. East end cod fishing did not produce the results we have become accustomed to the last four years, at best most days were a slow pick and a real good day produced about 20 cod on the private boats fishing, with ling filling in. The water just didn't get cold enough as sea bass and porgies were C & R all winter. On the other hand the west end winter fishing was very good. Club boats Emily S, Dolce de Vita and Persuader fished the inshore grounds all winter putting together some fine catches of codfish, blackfish, ling and silver eels. It is unfortunate the DEC closed the blackfish season because they bit all winter and are still biting on the inshore pieces. Currently there is good action with ling and some cod at 17 fathoms and the mud hole.

HOLY MACKAREL: For almost three weeks we had phenomenal mackarel fishing at the J.I. Bouy. Mixed in with the macks were nice sized herring. This bite seems to have ended on 3/28. Imagine mackarel fishing in only 45 feet of water right outside the inlet, it was fantastic. The fleet consisted of the Starstream and club boats Dolce de Vita, Blue Marlin, Four Bells, Kristen and the Persuader. It was great to see junior club anglers Matt Edelmann, James Weinblatt, Jack and Bobby Krug enjoying this wild action with big smiles on their faces.

FLOUNDER: The season opened 4/1/2012. I did my annual opening day trip with my dad and some friends and we surprisingly limited out in three hours fishing Baldwin Bay with mussels... **I GUESS THE SEALS LEFT A FEW FOR US.** On a side note the bay is full of big spearing and there is still plenty of herring in the deeper holes as we were catching them on our flounder baits.

STRIPED BASS: Some of my notes 3/19 confirmed catch of bass to 34" caught in the western sound, 3/30 good friend reports jigging C & R bass under the birds outside debs inlet on the way to the cod grounds, 4/2 dropped my son off at FT Schuyler before I arrived home he had his first C & R bass casting from shore, way to go bob. The bass season opens on April 15, 2012 and I predict Chris Bellinzoni will have a keeper and plenty of action that day, no pressure Chris just go catch em.

In conclusion, fishing locally has been great and with the amount of bait around it should continue. Get out and fish you cant catch em sitting on the couch eating pie ala mode, and wait for my next report because hopefully there will be much more fish being caught.

*~ Captain Jim Krug
F/V PERSUADER*

Conservation Report

Springtime is here along with daylight savings time and a new fishing season. The last time I checked, the New York regulations were as follows:

Flounder now open through May 31st. We are allowed 2 fish at a 12-inch minimum.

Cod & Ling remain open.

Striped Bass will open April 15th. Recreational anglers are allowed 1 fish over 28 inches and 1 fish over 40 inches.

Bluefish are open with a bag limit of 10.

Blackfish remain closed until October 8th.

Fluke will open on May 1st. The limit is 3 fish. Minimum size 19 inches.

Sea Bass will open sometime in May, the actual date and limits are not yet official.

Porgies will probably open in May. Again the date and limits are not yet official.

We will put more updated information on the website when it becomes available.

*~ Dennis Cataldo
Conservation Chairman*

Good & Welfare

Mike Wengryn's Mom has passed away. Mike's mom was 88 years old, we send our condolences to him and our prayers go out to him. The FTC and myself wish all members and their families Happy Passover and Happy Easter. Good health to all.

~ Jeff

Membership

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

Fluke Calcutta

Fluke open early this year—May 1. Already 50 members have joined the 2012 Fluke Calcutta. This contest, which is open to club members only, provides a head-to-head competition to determine who the best fluke fisherman is. There are no limits on where to fish, \$10 entry fee, winner take all format (after all, who cares about second place)! Fish must be caught on hook and line. Last year, Charlie Sporing set out to win the Calcutta. He held an early lead in May but his 9lb. fish was bested in July by Joe Mangiapanello's 9 lb. 7oz. fish. Charlie, however, was determined to win. In August he came back with a 9 lb. 8oz. fish to walk away with \$730 and his name permanently displayed on the Winners' "Duke of Fluke" plaque. Charlie fished hard—he deserved to win. And so do you! With determination, a plan and a little luck-- you can win in 2012! Contact Mike Sullivan to enter @ ftc1937@verizon.net.

Remember you have to be in it, to win it.

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

Catch of the Month Mac Attack!

Our "Catch of the Month" goes to Jack Krug who got in on the great Mackerel action that occurred just outside Jones Inlet fishing with his dad Jim on their boat the Persuader.

This unprecedented run lasted several weeks with a good amount of herring in the mix as well. The fish have moved off and to the east but provided many with the opportunity to fill the freezers while they were here.

For bragging rights, please e-mail me at philton@optonline.net or text me at (516) 721-8907 to be considered for "Catch of the Month" by the bulletin committee.

Include a picture and some catch details. Thanks to all who submitted entries this Month and please keep them coming.

~ Paul Hilton / Emily S.



April 2012 Derby, Awards & Contests Report

Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morrogh

Committee Team: Captain Larry Festa,

Captian Michael Zullo

Our 2012 Derby season has begun! Good luck to everyone for the season. The weather is cooperating and the fish are there. Send in your weigh slips! have been good so get out there and win the Derby!

THE FOLLOWING DERBIES ARE IN PROGRESS:

Cod (6 lbs.) March 17th ~ May 6th

Flounder (1.5 lbs.) April 1st ~ May 13th

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

This year we will be adding a weigh slip mailbox down at the property for those who want another delivery option. We will also be mounting our "Bragging Rights" board on the house so everyone can see who's on top! The full Derby calendar is available on our website, ftcfishing.com.

Entertainment The Mid-Atlantic \$500,000.....what is it?



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Widely regarded as boat for boat, the richest billfish and tuna tournament in the world, the Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 continues to set the standard for world class fishing, rich purses, and warm hospitality. On April 12th the event coordinator, Mark Allen, will visit with the Freeport Tuna Club and discuss the Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 in detail. His comments will touch on:

- Genesis and evolution of the event
- World Class Fishing (White Hot handout)
- Tournament format, rules and boundaries
- Typical distribution of cash payouts
- Typical costs associated with fishing the tournament
- "Under the Tent" and dockside hospitality
- Conservation: Guy Harvey and Dr. John Graves
- A family affair in Cape May
- Club specific incentives

Come on out on the 12th and learn how you can blend great fishing with a unique family opportunity and maybe win some money in the process.

For more information, see the website: www.MA500.com

Mark Your Calendar For Upcoming FTC Events

May 19th
Garage Sale

June 28th

FTC 75th Anniversary Dinner Cruise

July 20th, 21st, 22th

**FTC Rodeo (July GM will be held
at the Rodeo)**

July 28th & 29th

FTC Salmon trip (sold out)

August 9th
FTC luau



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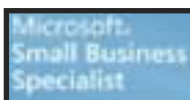


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