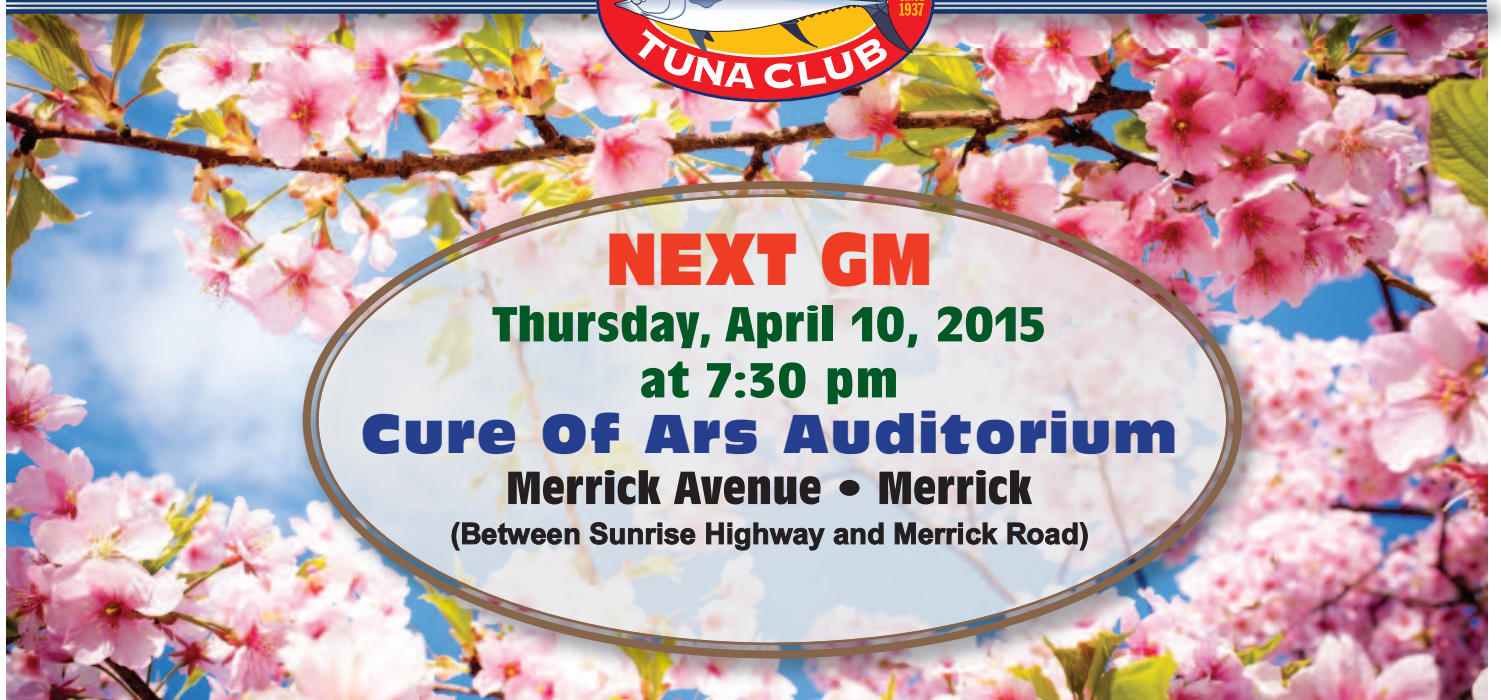


Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

# Tuna Tower News

VOLUME FOUR • APRIL 2015  
Internet Address: [www.ftcfishing.com](http://www.ftcfishing.com)

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



**NEXT GM**  
**Thursday, April 10, 2015**  
**at 7:30 pm**  
**Cure Of Ars Auditorium**  
**Merrick Avenue • Merrick**  
**(Between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)**

## President's Message .....

Dear Members –

Congratulations to all our recipients on our Annual Award Night during our March GM. It was a fantastic night! Thanks again to all of you who attended (and worked) this meeting to make it a very exciting and special night indeed. Our awards chairman Bill Morrogh ran a very tight ship and Bob McVey our Membership Director managed to bring in over a dozen potential new members to witness the festivities. A few joined right on the spot! The overall attendance was the highest turnout seen in quite some time. I certainly hope this is a harbinger of the great things to come this fishing season for our club.

I hope all of you have seen/heard by now that the NYS marine regulations were finally posted effective March 17. Recreational anglers get only one striped bass at 28" or larger this season. I really thought that a slot size for bass would finally come into play for NYS, but alas this was not in the cards.

With spring upon us and the lack of snow so far, there will be a flurry of activity I'm sure at our property. Once most of the boats get wet, I want to remind all that our annual Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 30th. Please come on down and support the club if possible, it will be a great day. I plan on being down crack of dawn to assist our crew and scope out some tackle deals.

I wish good luck and safe trip to three of our club members, Paul Cunningham, Gene Schettini and Kenny Kapner this month. They are off to Panama to fish hard and who knows, maybe break a few club records in the process. I hope they have enough weigh slips!



In closing, on behalf of the club I wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to members Bob Benzenberg and Joe Disalvo for their work again on the FTC Game Dinner this year. For those of you who were not able to attend our March GM, Bob announced a record receipt this year for our club. Nearly \$9,000 was raised due to the outstanding efforts of these fine gentlemen and their volunteers. I ask you all to thank them personally when the opportunity presents itself, they truly deserve it.

*Best Fishes*

*Ray Geiger*



# FISHING REPORT

## ANOTHER TOUGH MONTH, SPRING ANYONE?



The weather is looking up but still unseasonably cool and windy too. Reports are virtually non-existent other than some cod caught offshore and to the east. Many have the itch to hit the wrecks and hard bottom, a period of warm stable weather is the key, we just haven't had it quite yet. Montauk seems to have all but given up on a spring run of cod. Maybe a sign of things to come with severe restrictions now being imposed on the bottom fishing fleet up north...

Cabin fever has been hard to shake, what opportunities even exist? The winter flounder season has officially opened as of April 1st but I have heard of no reports east, west or otherwise. Look for the first reports to come from deep in the local back bays, Jamaica Bay (Head of Bay or Broad Channel area), and deep into the flats of Raritan Bay. From the Jones Inlet area, it's long run for two fish per man, so you might consider mixing in some ling fishing or catch and release blackfish along the way. Warmer weather and sunshine will get the flatties chewing.

Striped bass will officially open April 15th. Later in the month of April and throughout May I have encountered large schools of "jiggable" fish while making the run west for flounder. Keep your eyes open when patrolling along the beach, the usual signs will tip you off.

With the lack of spring fishing opportunities, everyone looks forward to the fluke opener on May 17th. Regulations, I believe, will be status quo, 5 fish per person at greater than 18". This seemed like a reasonable and popular size limit, I would expect continued good fluke fishing again this year. Despite a seeming healthy population of seabass, the nice spring runs we have enjoyed will once again be off limits to recreational anglers.

A shorter season and more restrictive bag limits are anticipated. The inshore and offshore season will unfold before we know it. For now, best to take advantage of weather windows and get your boat ship shape for the 2015 season.

From way down south in sunnier and warmer Islamorada Florida, Don Granger reports fishing with Mike Wagener (left) on Mike's Islamorada Girl. Don reports catching some nice yellowtail which provided great sport on light tackle, along with an estimated 200 lb. Nurse shark which crashed their party.



**Better weather and fishing lies ahead! I encourage all FTC members to please bombard me with reports and pictures to share with our membership.**

Please email your reports to [philton@optonline.net](mailto: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 F/V Emily S

*Larry Festa ~ March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

*~ In The Blink of an Eye ~*

*Amazingly, Amazingly, ~ over a year has gone by,  
since our phone rang and we heard... "It's Larry!" ~ What an incredible guy!  
Though his voice has been silenced, ~ at much too young of an age,  
with every Mako that's caught out in the deep, ~ it will still be Larry's stage.*

*That smile, ~ that positive attitude ~ that analytical mind,  
part a dedicated Captain and fisherman ~ and a better detective you couldn't find!  
So although a year has gone by, ~ and the memories are supposed to fade away,  
it just doesn't seem to be happening with Larry, ~ those great memories will always stay!*

*~Mike Jacobs*



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# APRIL 2015 DERBY AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

*Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morrogh,  
Captain Bill Toohey  
Captain Mike Zullo*

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Annual Awards night. We're hoping for a record number of weigh slips this year!

Our 2015 Derby season is underway! There have been reports of decent Cod catches lately. Note that you don't have to be on a club boat to win a derby.

We'll be resetting the Bragging Rights board for 2015 at the first Captain/Anglers get-together.

The At-A-Glance cards are at the printer. We should have them for the GM (or the first C/A at the latest).

The At-A-Glance cards list every Derby date for the year. Keep one in your wallet and one on your boat and you'll never miss a derby!

Good luck to everyone for the 2015 season!

## THE FOLLOWING DERBIES ARE OPEN OR COMING SOON:

**Cod (6 lbs.) • March 14th - May 10th**  
**Flounder (1.5 lbs.) • April 4th - May 17th**  
**Striped Bass • (15 lbs.) May 9th - June 14th**  
**Weakfish (5 lbs.) • May 9th - June 21st**

## Annual Salmon Trip



**Lake Ontario,  
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Contact Woody 516-236-1549  
for further details at the  
GM & posted in the FTC Bulletin

## House & Raffles

Big increase in  
raffle prizes for March,  
April & May We need  
your attendance.

## DERBY DATES 2015

### 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 14th – May 10th  
\*\*\*\*\*  
April 4th – May 17th  
July 15th – August 16th  
May 9th – June 14th  
May 9th – June 21st  
May 23rd – July 5th  
May 23rd – July 5th  
May 23rd – July 5th  
June 27th – August 9th  
June 27th – August 9th  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

### FALL DATES:

October 3rd – December 13th  
October 17th – November 29th  
\*\*\*\*\*  
September 5th – October 12th  
October 10th – November 29th  
August 15th – September 27th  
August 22nd – September 20th  
September 19th – November 29th  
September 19th – November 29th  
August 15th – September 27th  
August 22nd – October 4th  
August 22nd – October 4th  
August 22nd – October 4th

## Property Manager's Report

The invoices for the second payment for slips at the club property have been mailed. If you are not returning with your vessel for the 2015 fishing season, please let me know. As in previous years, your shrink wrap plastic cannot go into the club dumpster. Please recycle it! Also be courteous of your fellow club members as you prepare your boat for launch. If you have other questions or concerns about the club property you can see meet at the GM or contact me either by email or phone.

Note my new email address and work phone number. Capt. Alan Evelyn, Cell: 917-750-8710, [capt.al@fishtaxiny.com](mailto:capt.al@fishtaxiny.com) Work: 516-299-2523, Email: [capt.al@fishtaxiny.com](mailto:capt.al@fishtaxiny.com).

## Conservation New Shark Hook Law And Changes In Striped Bass Regulations

The New York State Legislature strikes again! This past September, with very little public notice, Governor Cuomo signed a new law requiring the use of non-stainless steel, non-offset circle hooks when fishing for sharks in New York state waters. Although this new law only applies within three miles of the shoreline it is likely that most shark tournaments will now require circle hooks to be used by all participants. It is also likely that in the near future the federal rules will be changed to require circle hooks be used in federal waters also.

The new striped bass regulations for 2015 have eliminated the second trophy fish. The limit is now one fish per day at 28 inches or more for all recreational anglers, including those fishing on party or charter boats. The season runs from April 15 to December 15.

Despite all the rumors of an extended flounder season the rules right now remain the same: two fish per day, 12 inches or more, with a season from April 1 to May 30.

## Good & Welfare

Kristen Festa and her Husband PJ have a baby boy named Nolan Lawrence. Congratulations to both grandma and aunt Allison... The Legend would be proud!



We wish Tony Froitzheim a speedy recovery.

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