

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

# TUNA TOWER NEWS

APRIL 2019

[www.ftcfishing.com](http://www.ftcfishing.com)



EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.

Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton

Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan

N E X T G M

THURSDAY, APRIL 11 AT 7:30 PM

FREEPORT YACHT CLUB

Steven Drew, fisheries liason for Equinor  
the cotractor likely installig the windfarm off our South Shore

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Congratulations once again for the distinguished captains and anglers who received an annual award for their efforts in 2018. Special thanks also need to go out to Ray Geiger and the Awards Committee for hosting a great night for our members and guests. Check the FTC website for a list of updated spring derbies that are getting underway.

April 1st marks the opening of a month-long spring blackfish season along with winter flounder and striped bass on our favorite day of the year April 15th. You can see all the recreational seasons and limits on the NYS DEC website, [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7894.html). A good site to keep handy so that you always have up to date information as seasons and regulations change frequently.

With the weather warming the activity at the club will start to pick up, when working on your boat please keep in mind the following. No shrink wrap in the dumpster, a tarp must be put down when applying bottom paint and please take any trash with you. Once we get some boats out and in the water, we will be doing our yearly spring clean up of the property. Please stay tuned as we will be recruiting help to get this done.

See everyone April 11th at the Yacht club.

Tight lines, *Capt. Adam Bollaci*



*May you and your families  
have joyous and blessed holidays*



# LET THE SEASON BEGIN



Not much changed on the saltwater fishing front as we head into April. The ocean has warmed up a couple of degrees and with a little nice weather some fishing opportunities will present themselves. For most, April means getting the boat in shape for the new season. I actually got off the dock and fished for a couple of hours one nice Sunday afternoon. I started on the reef and found no life whatsoever. When I encounter this situation, I generally head a little deeper until some life is found. A quick move to Cholera had me drifting and dreaming. I didn't really expect anything but was enjoying a calm sunny day, all alone on the ocean drifting around High Rock. I was startled by a hit, and a bucking rod sharpened up my senses. Sure felt like a cod and a few minutes later I released the keeper cod, not wanting to mess up the boat. The next drift produced another, but that was all for that spot. I did some quick drops at Middle Grounds and Angler Banks and never had a touch. It was good to get out anyway. Some cod remain available in the deep, particularly on wrecks well to the east. The Montauk fleet remains quiet, I don't remember a year with no boats sailing (to my knowledge) in February or March.



The winter flounder season opens today (April 1st). I checked out the web sites and Facebook pages of a few of the party boats in areas where some flounder are likely to be caught (Jamaica Bay) but couldn't find a single mention of anyone targeting flounder. Very sad. One exception is western North Shore (City Island area) that has continued to produce flounder the past few years. I have a friend who is knowledgeable in this fishery and hope to hitch a ride and catch a flounder or two this spring. The season remains open through May 30, 2 fish per angler greater than 12". Spring blackfish season is now open as well, throughout the month of April. Two fish per angler greater than 16".

Striped bass (marine waters) will open April 15th. As I mentioned last month, the best way to catch very early stripers is to go flounder fishing! The early bass like grubbing the bottom until the water (and their body temperature) warms up a bit. Bunker have been spotted in some of the bays already.

I have been privileged to contribute to the Tuna Tower News for over 10 years, starting off with the Catch of the Month and writing the fishing reports since the untimely passing of Captain Larry Festa. I am hanging up my keyboard, but will remain on Captain John's Bulletin Committee. I thank you all for sharing your tales and pictures and I hope to continue to share some of mine with you.

See you on the water and hopefully at an event or two. Have a safe and successful 2019

Sincerely *Paul Hilton* FN Emily S

## DERBY, AWARDS & CONTESTS



Awards Chairman: Ray Geiger | Committee Team: Bob Benzenberg, Harry Sbaschnig & Bill Morrogh

We wish to thank all of our members and guests who attended or Annual Awards night last month. You all did your club proud by attending and showing why we are the premier fishing club, both on the water and on land.

I would however be remiss, if I did not send a personal special thanks down to Bill and Theresa Morrogh. Without their assistance, we could not have had the great night we did.

As a new season is already upon us, we remind you that the weigh slips you submit have ALL the fields completed. Quite a few had no line test and even worse were illegible, so please make an extra effort this season..

The current/accurate NYS DEC marine regulations dated June 20, 2018 are available as a pdf and are located at:  
[https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish\\_marine\\_pdf/fishlimitsfish.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/fishlimitsfish.pdf)

FTC current derby dates and the link to our club fishing regulations are located at:  
[http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish\\_marine\\_pdf/fishlimitsfish.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/fishlimitsfish.pdf)

Once we have received the 2019 Fish-At-A-Glance cards, we will make them available.

We will have the Bragging Board wiped and awaiting your catches by the time Captains and Anglers night starting (hopefully) this month.

**The following derbies are open and will be awarded at our June GM:**

<b>BLACKFISH</b> (3 lb min)	<b>April 1st – April 28th</b>
<b>COD</b> (6 lb min)	<b>March 9th – May 5th</b>
<b>FLOUNDER</b> (1.5 lb min)	<b>April 6th – May 12th</b>

We will be posting updates and info in our Fishing Reports section on our website (<http://ftcfishing.com>) as the season moves along. Remember, you must be a registered member of our site in order to view this section. Good luck to all!!!

Best Fishes! *Ray Geiger*

# PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Be advised that all notifications for delinquent payments from last years obligations have been sent out. Those in arrears are well aware of their obligations at this time. If you have any questions as to amounts owed from last year (summer or winter) contact Bob Sabella @ 516-941-8773. Send all payments to: FTC PO Box 5, Freeport, NY 11520. Just a few reminders; WATER IS ON and please no shrink wrap in the dumpster or on the ground next to the dumpster. Be sure to put down a tarp if you are going strip or paint the bottom of your boat. The boats are tight together on the property so be courteous to fellow members when moving or working on your boat. It is the boat owners responsibility to clean up under and around their boat upon launch, that means put away cinder blocks and wood cribbing. To those who have a slip in our marina, if you are not planning to keep your boat there for the 2019 summer season please let us know immediately so that we can keep a full marina. On a final note, June 1st is fast approaching and all boats must be off the property by that date.

**Bob Sabella Don Granger Charlie Goldstein**

*Your Property Committee*

# GOOD & WELFARE

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my son Chris on his election to the Board of Trustees of the Village of Freeport. Good luck son and keep Freeport moving forward.

Also, Dominic Amendolaro of Freeport Garage doors is home recuperating from a Hip injury. Get well soon Dom.

*Jeff Squeri 516-652-5981*

# ENTERTAINMENT

Last month Ray Geiger did a fabulous job on the awards presentation. We had quite the turnout with Club Members and Guests considering joining our fabulous club. Congrats to the winners.

**APRIL** 11th we will hear from Stephen Drew, Fisheries Liason for Equinor, the contractor likely to be installing the windfarm off our South Shore. This is a very big deal and I encourage all members to bone up on this matter and be prepared to participate. I will post some info on the club Face Book page. Bring a guest if you like.

In **MAY** we will have our second installment of the Master Angler Series. We will be working on back bay Bassin' with "Striper Stories" Barbara Solomon, tide and anchoring techniques for Sea Bass from sharpie Mike Zullo and a Fluke presentation (TBD).

In **JUNE**, News 12 Weather Guru Bill Korbel will talk about weather patterns, how they affect fish and what Mariners should watch out for with our weather.

I am still looking for members to join my committee. Get involved, it's your club too!

*Bruce C. Forster FV OH REELY*

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# FROM THE EDITOR

Paul Hilton, F/V Emily S., will be hanging up his keyboard after the May Tuna Tower News Edition. I spend a lot of time with Paul, he is not only a good fisherman and a good writer, but a close personal friend of mine. With respect, I give thanks for his many years of service to me and the club with his contribution of the fishing report. He has said to me over the last year that this train would be coming. With this said, I am reaching out to any members who might want to step up and contribute to the bulletin with the fishing report. There are many advantages to this position especially the first hand reports from the guys out there fishing. Please feel free to contact me if you're interested. Once again, a special thanks to my friend and contributing Editor, Paul Hilton

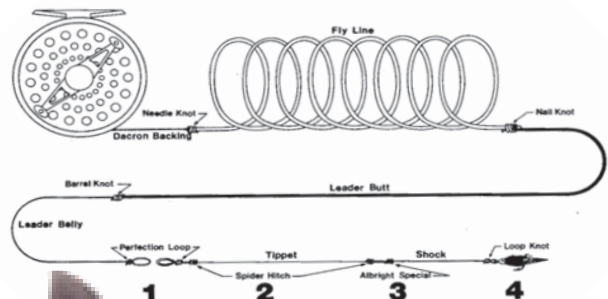
*John J. Jutt FV RED DAWN RISING*  
EDITOR, TUNA TOWER NEWS

## Know your Knots

Thread tippet through the hook eye and pull out about six inches. Make five turns around the standing part with the tag end of the tippet. Push end through the loop created in front of the hook eye, then bring the end back through the big loop just formed. Wet the knot and pull steadily on the tippet to tighten the wraps against the hook eye. Trim.



## Fly to Tippet



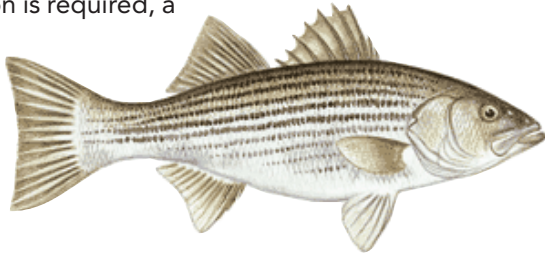


# STRIPER DIARIES | EPISODE 12

With opening day of Striped Bass right around the corner, most people are scurrying to cut the shrink wrap off their boats, and begin the spring season. Before my boat is ready, I typically have a couple of trips where I hit the open road and grab my 10ft Ron Arra surf casting rod. Last Sunday, I

did just that. Although the season wasn't officially "open", I decided to take a ride out to Breezy Point. There are many four wheel beach permits that are available to purchase offered by New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The first is the Four Wheel Beach Vehicle Fishing Permit which costs \$80.00 for NYS residents and \$125.00 for non-residents. A valid motor vehicle registration is required, a

driver's license and proof of enrollment (free) in NYS DEC Recreational Marine Fishing Registry. This permit allows 4-wheel drive access for fishing at the following parks: Hither Hills, Montauk Point, and Napeague year round, 24hr access. You can also fish Robert Moses, but there are certain restrictions. For Democrat Point you must enter before 7:00a.m. or after 5:00p.m. during the summer months from Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. All other times is 24 hour access. For Sore Thumb you can enter from April 1 - December 31 with 24 hour access. A quick stop at Robert Moses and with my necessary paperwork and Bam I have my permit and I am ready! This permit includes all of the privileges of the Night Sport Fishing Permit listed below.



For those who simply want to fish the "night bite" there is a Night Sport Fishing Permit. It is \$35.00 for residents and \$60.00 for non-residents. Again, you will need a valid motor vehicle registration, driver's license and proof of enrollment in the NYS DEC Recreational Marine Fishing Registry. This permit allows after sunset parking for fishing only. This does not give you 4-wheel drive access. There are also many rules that apply to this permit. Okay, here is the simplest way I can describe them. Fisherman can access Captree at the Main field, Overlook Field and Captree Drawbridge (north side only). Hither Hills, except Friday of Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Jones Beach: Fields 6, 10, West End 2, West End Boat Basin, West End Work Docks (24 hr access) and Green Island (24 hr access). You can also fish Montauk Point: lower parking lot only. Robert Moses: Field 2; Field 3 from September 15 through December 31- 24 hour access

and Field 4 from April 1 through June 23 from 7p.m to 7a.m. and September 15- December 31, 24 hr access. This permit also give access to Sunken Meadow: Field 1, Field 3 - 24 hr access and the Main Field. Lastly, if you are not entirely confused and can remember all these rules, you can fish Wildwood in the Main Field.

For those Montauk enthusiasts, there is a Camp Hero Fishing Permit. You will need the standard registration, license and enrollment in the DEC registry. This permit allows access to following areas for fishing only. Camp Hero: upper bluff parking area after sunset parking only. Lower bluff parking lot, 24 hr access. The permit is valid from April 1 through December 31 and is sold at the Montauk Downs Park office and the State Park Headquarters in West Babylon.

Don't wait to get in on the action! Until next time, Tight lines.

*Capt. Barbara Solomon*  
F/V Legal Limits

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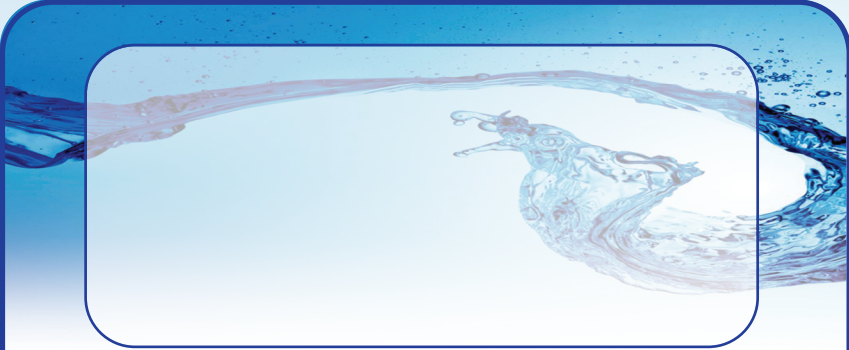
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Final 2019 updates to be included in next issue

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