

Tuna Tower News

VOLUME FIVE • MAY 2015

Internet Address: www.ftcfishing.com

EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.

Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton
Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan



NEXT GM

Thursday, May 14, 2015
at 7:30 pm

Cure Of Ars Auditorium

Merrick Avenue • Merrick

(Between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)

The Art Of Bucktailing

Keene and JP are expert bucktail fisherman specializing in FLUKE.
They have given many seminars to various clubs and swishing shows to RAVE reviews
They make and sell their bucktails and will have many types at the GM

President's Message

Dear Members,

Well Spring is official now. April 23rd marked our first Captains and Anglers BBQ this season at our property. Thanks to Bob Pandy and his crew and to all the hardy members who showed up to help kick-off this year's fishing season. We even have a few catches listed already on our Bragging Board, so as Capt. Bill Morrogh always suggests, "get those fish weighed!!" and you too can become the current leader of the club (specie wise that is).

You can pick up weigh slips and all the friendly banter/advice you need at either the C&A BBQ or our GM. Please check our website ftcfishing.com for the latest news and calendar of all events. I would like to remind all members that if any of our meetings are cancelled, the notice will be posted on our homepage for you viewing pleasure. If you have not joined our website forums, I suggest you do so. You will be able to view forum sections that are FTC member only including fishing reports.

Our speaker for this month's GM (May 14th) will be the Bucktail Boys, Keefe Vallaro and J.P. This is one meeting you do not want to miss if you enjoy fluke fishing. Their presentation will give you some real inside tactical info on one of our area's

highly predatory species. So, come on down to the GM and share your passion with some new and some old friends as we start spring off with a good one!

Remember that our annual yard sale will be on held on Saturday, May 30th this year. Space only runs \$50 per 10 ft. space and once again it is BYOT (bring your own table). We will be opening the gates at 6:00am for setup so plan on having a great day. Please contact Kevin Killelea (516-725-8907) or Bob Pandy (516-376-3671) for more info.

I just got word yesterday there were gannets diving on bait outside of the inlet, maybe herring. Wonder what the ocean looks like tomorrow. Boy do I love when the seasons change, don't you?

Best Fishes

Ray Geiger



Fishing Report

The 2015 Season is Underway

April started where March left off, cold, nasty and with virtually no fishing opportunities. Everything has now changed. Early in the month cod fishing was just about the only game in town. Boats from NJ north and east to Shinnecock took advantage of the



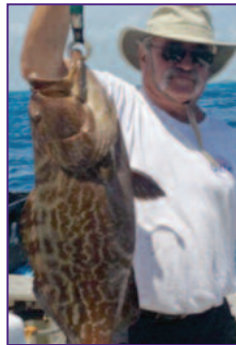
surprising numbers of large cod inhabiting the wrecks from 140' on out. Equally surprising remains the almost complete lack of cod available to the Montauk fleet.



A group from the Freeport Tuna Club took a ride on the Laura Lee out of Captree. Departing late at night they headed well offshore and enjoyed good cod fishing. Bob Pandy took second place in the pool with a nice 19.7 lb cod.

Flounder fishing, especially locally was virtually non-existent. Some fish are being caught in Raritan Bay out to Roamer but with bluefish making a presence it usually ends quickly.

Captain Barbara Solomon attempted several striped bass hunts with the season opening on April 15th. She fished Jamaica bay and the north shore but struck out. More recently, she took an exploratory trip down to Raritan Bay and reported "all the bluefish you wanted", but still no bass. The fish were caught on swimming plugs. Bass fishing, particularly to the west, has opened up with nice sized fish reported in Raritan Bay, Flynn's Knoll and Roamer Shoal. Early on, clam chumming was best but the fish are now responding to bunker spoons, stretch plugs and rubber shad on the troll or live / chunk bunker on the hook. Schoolies have been reported in Jones Inlet on clam chum so bass fishing is fully underway.



Blue fishing is phenomenal from NJ east to at least Fire Island Inlet, and probably even further east by the time you read this. Loads of bait and jigging opportunities exist just off the beach, look for the bait, diving gannets, etc. and you can "get the blues".

Tim Sherman reports a blackfish trip to Cape May NJ "to get their share of huge tog" with club member Pete DiThomas and Chris and Jeff from Cauaseway B&T. "Unfortunately, huge Tog did not show. We did however catch 70 total Tog and got our limit of legal size fish. Pete was high hook and had the largest fish at 6.0 lb. The 70 fish was a grind, the Capt. made at least 8 drops". They fished with Capt. Phil of Duckwork Sportfishing.

Finally, the water is warming and bottom fishing is coming to life. Captain Jim Krug reported that his son Bobby and some friends had good cod fishing on inshore wrecks locally. Seabass and blackfish made an appearance for them as well. Ling fishing is on the upswing too.

A couple of reports from down south before all the snowbirds come north. Mike Wagner fishing his Islamorada Girl took a nice 20 lb. black grouper on 10lb test on his yellow tail rod. The fish was released as black grouper were not in season.

Paul Cunningham, Ken Kapner and Gene Schettini took a trip down to Panama, fishing from April 5th to April 12th. The highlights of the trip were Gene with a 130lb. yellow fin, Paul with a large pompano, and Ken with a 50 lb. cuberra snapper and large grouper. Congrat's on a very nice trip guys !



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

The 2015 Season is in full swing. I encourage all FTC members to please bombard me with reports and pictures to share with our membership.

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



Catch of the Month

Local Flounder!

Flounder fishing in the JI and backbay vicinity has been virtually non-existent the last two years. That doesn't mean that they can't be taken however, with enough effort and know how. That's exactly what Captain Jim Krug deployed, persevering after a skunk or two to land this fine specimen.



Congrats on the "Catch of the Month".

Send in those pictures !

For bragging rights, please email 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 pictures and some catch details. Thanks to all who submitted entries this Month and please keep them coming.

- Paul Hilton / Emily S

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MAY 2015 DERBY AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

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

It's Derby Time!

The Cod Derby Runs through May 10th. DON'T FORGET: Cod slips also figure in some annual awards so send them in even if you don't win the derby! There are some quality weigh slips coming in, what do you have!?!

The Winter Flounder Derby ends on 5/17 (The start of the Fluke season!).

The Striped Bass Derby starts on 5/09 and ends on 6/14. The Weakfish Derby starts on Saturday, 5/09 and runs through 6/21.

THE FOLLOWING DERBIES ARE OPEN OR COMING SOON:

**The Fluke Derby starts on 5/23
and runs through 7/5.**

**Shark and Bluefish start on 5/23
and both run through 7/5.**

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Captain/Angler meetings.**

**See you at the May GM.
Good luck on the water!**

— Bill Morrogh

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HAVE
ARRIVED.
WILL BE
AVAILABLE
AT GM.**



Paul Schuber

Conservation

The Shark Circle Hook Law

The new circle hook law has caused a lot of confusion, mostly due to a lack of information about what the law requires and how much jurisdiction New York State has over the shark fishery. Here's the entire text of the new law, known as Environmental Conservation Law Section 13-0338(5):

"Sharks, excluding spiny dogfish, shall not be taken for commercial or recreational purposes by baited hooking except with the use of non-stainless steel non-offset circle hooks. In addition, no person shall conduct, sponsor or participate in any shark tournament unless said tournament's rules and regulations require the exclusive use of non-stainless steel non-offset circle hooks."

New York's jurisdiction over the marine waters extends only three miles from the beach, so the law cannot be enforced while fishing offshore. However, the state regains jurisdiction once you return to shore, so the law could be enforced against a fisherman landing a shark at any dock in New York. The state also has jurisdiction over events that are based and conducted in New York; that is why they can force the tournaments to require circle hooks. An interesting footnote to the statute provides the law is automatically repealed on December 31, 2016, so unless the legislature amends the law again we will be stuck with these rules this year and next season, and then go back to no circle hook requirement in 2017.

So what can they do to you for the heinous act of using a non-circle hook to catch a shark? Violation of 13-0338(5) is punishable by a fine of up to \$250, or fifteen days in jail.

Shoot-Out Dates for 2015

Fluke: June 12, 13 and 14 Fishing against Atlantic Beach and Martinecock.

Shark: June 20, Atlantic Beach.

Striped Bass: July 10, 11 and 12, Atlantic Beach, Martinecock, Staten Island.

Black Fish: October 9, 10 and 11, Atlantic Beach, Martinecock, and Staten Island.

**Remember is the weather is bad stay at the docks
and turn on the blender.**

John Rooney

Annual Salmon Trip



**Lake Ontario,
Rochester,
New York
July 25th & 26th**

**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.**

The Fishing Connection

New to the Captain Anglers Meetings, we are creating an interactive board that brings together FTC Captains and member Anglers. Every Thursday night Captains will be able to write down dates and times of fishing trips in need of additional crew members for both offshore and inshore trips. On the other side of the board, FTC members can show their availability to fish on specific days and times. New members are encouraged to come on down to meet fellow members and become part of the FTC experience.

Membership

Current members can now earn \$ 100 off next year's membership fee by signing up new paying members between now and September 1st. If you have questions, you can contact Bob McVey at 516-864-9140 or email him at FTC1937@Gmail.com

Fluke Seminar

The Freeport Tuna Club will be hosting a Fluke seminar at the property on June 4, 2015 at 7 PM. Our own Michael Sullivan and Bob Sabella "between the two of them have over 100 years of Experience" will be presenting different ways on how to catch that door-mat. This seminar will be open to everyone for Twenty dollars. This will include two tickets for hotdog or a hamburger or a drink. It will also include a ticket for a door prize. There will be also a raffle during the seminar.

Property

The invoices for the second payment for slips at the club property have been mailed. Please send in your payment as soon as possible. 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 me at the GM or contact me either by email or phone Alan Evelyn, capt.al@fishtaxiny.com or Cell: 917-750-8710.

Raffle Committee

FTC will be holding it's annual Raffle. This years prize will be a \$2,500 Gift card from Liberty Travel, Raffles will be \$10 and members will receive raffles in the mail or at all club events. We ask all members to sell or buy Raffles to help keep dues down and get a chance at a great prize.

Thank You

Jim Rooney

Entertainment

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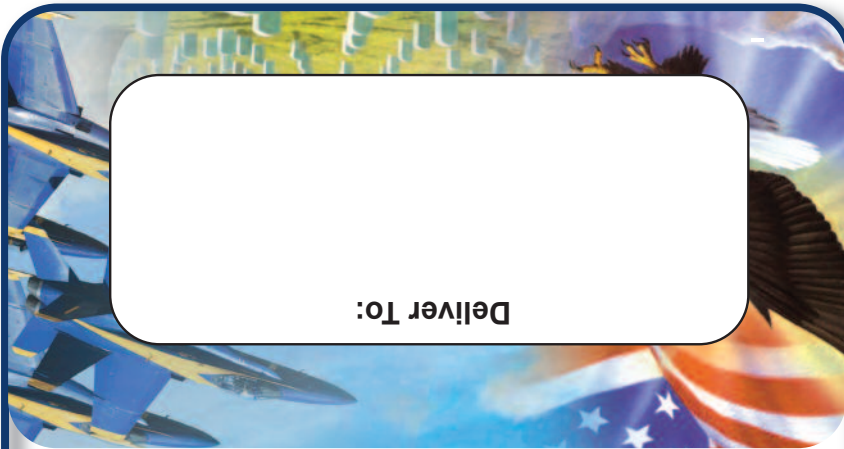
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