

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

TUNA TOWER NEWS

MAY 2018

www.ftcfishing.com



EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.

Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton

Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan

N E X T G M

THURSDAY,
MAY 10
7:30 PM

FREEPORT
YACHT CLUB



OUR GUEST SPEAKER

JEFF DEMENT

Fish Tagging Program Director for American Littoral Society will be providing an in-depth review of the benefits, how-tos and results of fish tagging and our local fisheries.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Finally we can open our boat and wash the winter off of it. The smells of gel coat, coconut wax, and the hint of fuel ... smell that, and you know summer is coming.

Our fishing season has started as Jimmy Krug has picked up some early-season striped bass and Kenny Donowski found his way out to the deep and has picked a load of Tilefish. Not a bad start for spring's miserable April. But the sun has reared its head for us.

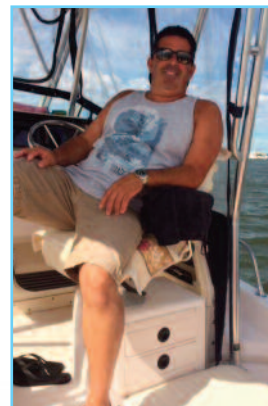
Derbies that are opening this month are: May 5 - weakfish and striped bass and May 19 - bluefish, fluke and shark. Derbies that are closing this month are cod on the 6th and flounder on the 13th. Don't forget to get your weight slips to Ray Geiger.

May 19 we have a club property cleanup all members are invited. This cleanup is done every year so that we can enjoy our club's property. So, if you have tools: power washers, mops, brooms... whatever you're good at, please find your way down to the club. The more members that show up the faster this task gets done. It's more of a day to get out of the house, have a couple beers and some laughs, and lie about the fish we didn't catch. Hope to see a lot of you guys down there because Bobby Sabella and his committee can use the extra help.

Big thanks to the Board of Directors and their committees as always for doing a great job for our membership. The Board of Directors are always looking for new members to help with their committees, so please feel free to inquire. It's another part of the club that you could have fun and a laugh, we're always looking for new ideas.

See everybody at the next general membership meeting.

Thank you, *Matthew Cardone*



STRIPERS LEAD THE WAY IN MAY



April has been pretty typical, cooler and breezier than you think it should be, with plenty of rain too. The boat yards have sprung to life, and suddenly you can't get ready fast enough. My boat is 100% ready and I'm itching to get fishing. The ocean is still chilly at 47 degrees or so, but most of the fish don't seem to mind, they have been on the move.

April 1st saw the opening of the winter flounder fishery. This has got to be the worst flounder season on record for the south shore and west end. Reports are practically non-existent. A few in Raritan, a few in Jamaica Bay very little angler effort and slim results.

The North Shore fishery seems to be in a little better shape, but the flounder continue to decline and they are sorely missed. Since so few are being caught, I hope the DEC would consider extending the season and giving anglers another bycatch species while summer bottom fishing in the deep. Keep it at two fish, just extend the season. Jersey has March 1 to December 31st.

Blackfish aka Tautog also opened April 1st. Angler effort was light and the cold bottom temps kept the catching to a minimum. Today is the close of the Spring season, and the good news for the fish is that very few were harvested. Some say the April opening was like the DEC was "giving away ice in the winter and selling heat in the summer." But I still think it was a good gesture and April fishing can vary from year to year. The pogy season will open May 1st. Last year was a banner year, the fishery appears to be in good shape and this season should be a good one for anglers who enjoy a good tussle and meat in the pail. Some nice cod and Pollock are being caught by the party boats, primarily out in the deeper water, 25 fathoms and up.

The party boat fleet from New Jersey to Montauk has been running numerous tile fish trips (due to a lack of spring cod). The fishing has been good when conditions are favorable. Ken "Fishing Frenzy" Donowski, Dave Pincus, Dave Ritchie and John Gravana decided to get in on the action and hit it just right. They were treated to great fishing on the Starstream VIII out of Freeport, fishing in 650 to 800' of water that day. That's a lot of cranking, nice going guys!

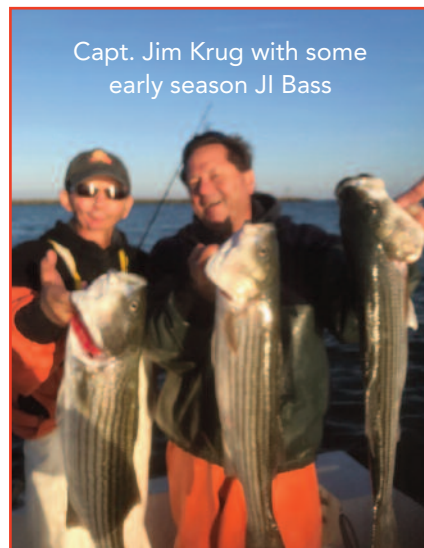


↑ FTC Crew
↑ Starstream VIII Tile Trip

Nice catch of tile fish
taken 650' to 800'
of water →



With bottom fishing options limited and offshore season not yet underway, many have turned their attention to striped bass. Last year was a good one and 2018 is off to a great start. The marine waters (south of George Washington Bridge) season opened April 15th. From the very start bass have been caught up in NY Harbor, Raritan Bay and Jamaica Bay. The hot method to the West has been trolling with mojos, plugs, and spoons but plenty of fish are caught on bait too. Fish up to 30 lbs. and beyond have been taken. It didn't take long for them to show locally, in the back bays and Jones Inlet. East or West Captain Jim Krug is never far from the fish. He and some buddies had nice fish clam chumming Jones Inlet. The fish have now spread east to at least Fire Island Inlet, the Cap-



Capt. Jim Krug with some
early season JI Bass

tree fleet is reporting good catches primarily on clams and clam chum. Plenty of keepers to be had. Striper season is well underway, limits are the norm. Go and get them.

Our fluke season will open May 4th and run through the end of September. 4 fish per angler, 19" or better.

I can tell you the fluke are here already and being caught by the commercial pin hook fleet. The fishing was described to me as "pretty good." The best early season action tends to be in the back bays and Reynold's channel. Fluke are one of our most popular species. Good luck to all in your quest for a doormat and the hotly contested "Duke of Fluke" crown.

I don't believe final word in the seabass regulation for 2018 has been announced yet, so we wait. For now it's bass, cod, and very soon fluke.

Please share your results with our membership. Please send reports and pictures for inclusion in your club bulletin. Thanks to all who contribute.

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

Sincerely

Paul Hilton
F/V Emily S

STRIPER DIARIES | EPISODE 3



Spring-time striped bass fishing, is notoriously great in Raritan and Jamaica Bay. For those members with a trailer, launching at the Inwood Park, Motts Basin, boat ramp is ideal. Part of the Eisenhower Park's system, the ramp is available with a Leisure Pass and permit. Once launched, the possibilities are endless. You can follow Grass Hassock Channel and in two (2) minutes set up on a drift next to Kennedy Airport's Radar Pier. Usually loaded with bunker, one throw of the cast net should produce enough bait for the day. For those who have not mastered the art of throwing a cast net, giving \$20.00 bucks to the "bunker boat" will get you a bucket of fresh bait. From there, you can fish North Channel, Runaway Channel, or you can cruise past Breezy Point through Rockaway Inlet. If Raritan Bay is your desired stop, you must navigate across the Coney Island flats. The channel is well marked and will take you past Norton Point. To cross into the "lower bay" you must navigate Ambrose Channel. Proceed with caution, as big tug boats and ships are entering and exiting New York Harbor. A few more miles and you will pass the Verrazano Bridge and Staten Island. I have done this trip a few times, and it's a great option.

As I started planning this year's excursion, I checked NOAA's forecast. Could this be possible?? Seas 1-2 foot with light south-west winds. Its go time. So, after telling Pete Cefai, to grab the gear, and our winter coats, we loaded the boat. It was our first journey of the season. The plan was to navigate my 24 foot center-console at 6:00 a.m. to Raritan Bay on April 22, 2018.

As we broke Jones Inlet, with hats and gloves, my face lit up. The sun was rising, the water glassy and flat calm. Not even a ripple, so we pointed the Everglades west at 270 degrees. Truth is, I wasn't exactly sure how many miles it was to Raritan Bay, but I didn't plan on stopping until we found it. After about 1 hour and 30 minutes at 27 knots, the smart gauge read 35 miles. I thought to myself, did we pass it? Nope, all of sudden, I saw a fleet boats. We slowed down and looked around, but didn't see much happening. We decided to keep moving. Before we knew it, the gauge read 43 miles, and we were near Keyport Harbor, New Jersey. I thought to myself, I think we are crazy, its freezing, and maybe we should start to fish.

Lines in, we started to troll. Deep diving swim plugs and Mojoes were our choice. Within minutes, we landed our first bass. It was a keeper!! So in the live-well it went. From there we trolled and trolled in only 12ft of water. And just like that, landed bass after bass. It was strange fishing - - the water murky brown and my Garmin 7610, not marking bait or fish. But the bite continued. At 12 noon, I thought, what if the winds picks up, how will we get back. So I made the call, lines up.



By 2:00 pm., we entered Jones inlet and made our way to Richie's fishing station. The Yamaha gauge read 86.8 miles. I was stoked to bring my "first bass of the season" to the scales. It weighed in at a healthy 13 pounds. As "onlookers" watched, I carefully placed her back in the water and

with a quick tale spin she swam away. At that moment, I over heard someone say, "hey that chick just ran 80 miles for nothing." I thought to myself, no I ran 80 miles, with my best friend, to follow the striper migration. Because when you love a sport, you will do just about anything to enjoy it.

I am not sure where our next adventure will be. But I will keep you all posted. Tight lines.

Capt. Barbara Solomon
F/V Legal Limits



GOOD & WELFARE

Our sincerest condolences go out to: John Daum on the passing of his father, Daniel J. Daum., and Joe DiSalvo on the passing of his father.

Jeff Squeri 516-652-5981

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PROPERTY MANAGER'S REPORT

PROPERTY CLEAN UP

All FTC members are encouraged to join us for our cleanup days:
SATURDAY 05/19/18 AT 9AM: we will be pressure washing the marina docks. Bring a pressure washer if you have one.

SATURDAY 06/02/18 AT 9AM: this is a general cleanup day. Bring a pair of gloves.

PREPARATION AND LAUNCH

All captains will need to do some advanced planning when prepping and moving their vessels. Chris Squeri will need about a week's notice if you are moving your vessel off the property or need other yard adjustments to work on your boat. The best way to reach Chris is to text him at 516-377-7720.

REMEMBER - NO USED SHRINK WRAP IN THE DUMPSTER!

Please be considerate of your fellow member when getting your boat ready for the new season. Let myself or another member of the property committee know if you have questions or concerns.

TRAILER STORAGE

There is limited space at the facility and in order to keep the marina full the storage spaces need to be available to the captains with FTC slips. **Only members leasing slips at the FTC marina will be able to store their trailers on the property this summer.**

CAMERAS

The Board has authorized the installation of security cameras at our marina. Instructions and details will be available soon.

PAYMENT

The 3rd and final payment is due May 31st. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns about your payment. At this time, you should have received your invoice.

Capt. Alan Evelyn

C: 917-750-8710 | W: 516-299-2523 | alan4ftc@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

SHOOTOUT It's that time of year. The Freeport Tuna Club will fish against the Martinecock Hunt and Fish Club and the Atlantis Anglers this year for bragging rights. Our first shootout will be May 25-28. This is a four day shootout for striped bass. The three heaviest fish from each club will determine the winner. After you weigh in your fish you can call the weights in to my cell phone at 516-721-8207. Just remember if the weather is bad then start the blender.

John Rooney

CAPTAINS & ANGLERS Mother nature has finally decided to release her winter grip and grace us with some warm weather. Starting Thursday, May 3rd at 5 o'clock we will have our weekly Captains and Anglers. Come down and join us for some evenings of good food, great conversation, camaraderie and fun



ENTERTAINMENT

MAY 10TH MEETING Jeff Dement, Fish Tagging Program Director for American Littoral Society will be providing an in-depth review of the benefits, how tos and results of fish tagging and our local fisheries. A retired ironworker and avid angler, Jeff is in contact with many clubs, charter boat captains and individual anglers from Florida to Maine. His presentation is both informative and entertaining. Come out, learn something about this process and get engaged in the conversation!

JUNE 14TH MEETING Chris Laporta, Coordinator, Marine Access & Artificial Reef Programs for the DEC will be discussing marine access and the DEC managed reefs. We have TEN reefs within reach of Jones Inlet, from Shinnecock to Rockaway. This talk could improve your catch and your knowledge of our local reefs.

Regards,

Bruce C. Forster

(212) 925-7405 - (516) 887-8953



DERBY, AWARDS & CONTESTS

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

If you are holding any slips, please remember we must have them in hand no later than 14 days after the derby close in order to be eligible for awards. Also, please be aware there is a minimum weight requirement for all species. These weights and all FTC fishing regulations are available at:

<http://ftcfishing.com/FTCFishingRules.htm>

We will be posting updates and info in our Fishing Reports section on our website as the season moves along. Remember, you must be a registered member of our site in order to view this section.

The following derbies will be awarded at our June GM:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| BLACKFISH (3 lb min) | April 1st – April 30th |
| COD (6 lb min) | March 10th – May 6th |
| FLOUNDER (1.5 lb min) | April 7th – May 13th |

The following derbies are open or will be opening soon:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| STRIPED BASS (15 lb min) | May 5th – June 10th |
| WEAKFISH (5 lb min) | May 5th – June 17th |
| FLUKE (3.5 lb min) | May 19th – July 4th |
| SHARK (125 lb min) | May 19th – July 4th |
| BLUEFISH (8 lb min) | May 19th – July 4th |

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Ray Geiger

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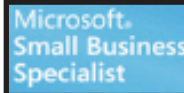


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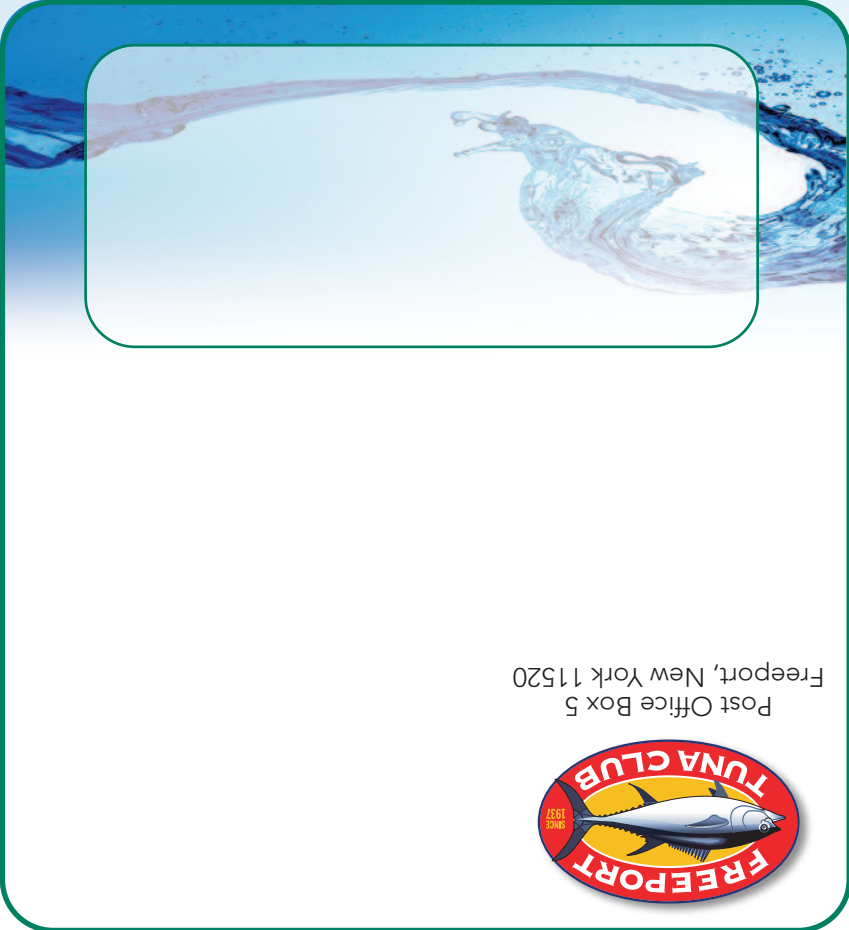
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Rodeo

Friday, Saturday & Sunday
July 13-15

AT THE PROPERTY
FIRST, SECOND & THIRD PRIZES

Species: Fluke, Striped Bass, Bluefish, Tuna & Shark.
Children under 12 years old: Sea Robbins
All Club Minimum Weights Are In Effect

Giveaways and More For All Kids
Weigh-In Slip at Property by 4 PM

Bake Off: First and Second Prizes
Winners must be present to receive awards.

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PRIMETIME 3 - SATURDAY, APRIL 28 - 6am - 3:30pm
We will be blackfishing. Fare is \$100 per man + tip and pool \$140.00 total. Mike Bochio is running this trip himself as I was told he knows where we will find some big tog!! **This trip is sold out!** If you want to get on a waiting list let me know!

MARILYN JEAN - MONDAY, MAY 21 - 6:30pm-12:00am
\$60 a man, tip and pool included... open boat fishing we will be strip-bassing and bluefish!

MISS MONTAUK - SUNDAY, JUNE 10
\$105 a man, tip included. Open boat we will be fishing for doormat fluke!

HAMPTON LADY - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1 - 6am-3pm
\$105 a man... \$50 deposit required to hold spot, tip included... limited to 30ppl we will be seabassing, porgy and fluking... mix bag!

PRIMETIME 3 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28 - FULL DAY
Orient Point blackfish and seabass. this trip will be a hell of a lot better than the club's last trip!! Mike assured me on this! \$50 deposit required to hold your spot \$140.00pp, pool and tip included!

MISS MONTAUK - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 6am-4pm
\$110 a man .. \$50 deposit required to hold spot. Limited to 35 ppl. Last year's trip was super lock and load fishing. We had seabass to 5 lbs, blackfish to 12lbs, codfish to 10 lbs, and porgys in the mix.

Kenneth Donowski

kenbase2006@1cloud.com | 917-231-5699 best after 3pm