

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

TUNA TOWER NEWS

APRIL 2021
www.ftcfishing.com



EDITOR:
CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.

N E X T G M

THURSDAY,
MAY 13
7:30 PM

AT THE
PROPERTY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May is finally here! All projects are nearing completion.

The boardwalk has been completed and is looking good, and is safe for everyone. I would like to give a sincere thank you to all that have helped in the completion of the Boardwalk. Without your help it couldn't have been done so quickly.

The General meeting with the award ceremony is planned for May 13th come on down and join us and see the new boardwalk. We will not be attaching the dock boxes to the new boardwalk. The dock boxes can be put on cinderblocks or woodblocks on the blue stone next to the boardwalk.

Members are in the process of putting their boats in the water and the yard is emptying out. We also hope to have the awning up soon.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon at the club for a good fishing season.

Be safe and stay healthy, *Rick*



1ST VP MESSAGE

Hello FTC Members, The Fluke Shootout Tournament will be on July 10th. Rain date is July 11th, and the Captains meeting will be July 9th. The rules are Debs Inlet, Jones Inlet to Fire island. Weigh-ins will be held at FTC club house from 3pm-6pm. Anyone weighing in a fish must be on line no later than the 6pm sharp with registration ticket and number. Don't forget to sign up! A portion of the proceeds are going to Hooks For Heroes. We have a fisherman and women signed up already and great raffles are coming in. As always, be safe and see you all soon. Tight lines. Semper Fi

Robert Cincotta

F/V The Flounder Flopper



2nd Annual FLUKE SHOOTOUT
Cash Prizes, Calcuttas AND More!

JULY 10 2021 RAIN DATE JULY 11

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
CAPTAIN'S MEETING * JULY 9, 2021 * 6-9PM
START FISHING @ 6AM * WEIGH-IN @ 3PM
ENTRY FEE \$40 * CASH ONLY * THURSDAY NIGHTS
275 HUDSON AVENUE, FREEPORT, NEW YORK, 11520
New this year! Women's and Kids' Divisions
ANY QUESTIONS CALL: ROB @ 516-987-4850
OR ADAM @ 516-322-0030
FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: FREEPORTTUNA CLUB@GMAIL.COM
Come enjoy a friendly bbq & entertainment

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO HOOKS FOR HEROES

FREE T-SHIRT FOR FIRST 100 PARTICIPANTS!

ENTERTAINMENT

I am working on speakers and live music for upcoming events. We will also have an opportunity to have your vessel inspected by the Coast Guard Auxiliary at a Captains and Anglers night. Please stay tuned to your email and the FTC Facebook page for details.

As always, I am looking for assistance with Entertainment; so if you are willing to help, please call me at (516) 443-4680.

Bruce C. Forster F/V Oh Reely

FLUKE CALCUTTA

The NYS fluke season opens on May 4 and runs through September 30, 2021. Charlie Goldstein and Mike Sullivan will once again be running the Fluke Calcutta. For those who are new, here is how it works. Entry is open to all members and their immediate family members -- \$10 per person.

Largest fluke caught from anywhere by an entrant during the NYS season takes all. The fish must be caught on hook and line while free swimming. The rules are simple. But you've got to be in it to win it.

Last year Scott Novick won \$670 with an 11.3 lb. fish caught aboard his vessel Naida. I know he is planning to beat that this year. So are a lot of you. We will see.

If you want to enter you may do so in one of three ways:

- Pay Pal- send \$10 to bluejacketii@verizon.net
- Check- Send \$10 to Mike Sullivan
19 Loines Ave, Merrick, NY 11566
- Cash- See Mike or Charlie.

Thank you, *Mike Sullivan*

CAPTAINS & ANGLERS

Captains & Anglers Committee is anxiously awaiting favorable weather to install the awning and begin our Thursday night BBQs. Please keep an eye on your email, Facebook and the website for updated information. On another note, due to rising costs, Captains & Anglers will have a slight increase to \$20 per person. See you then.

Thank you, *Jim Rooney*

DERBIES, AWARDS & CONTESTS

Awards Chairman: Ray Geiger | Committee: Harry Sbaschnig & Bill Morrogh

We hope that everyone will make an extra effort to attend our Annual Awards Night on Thursday, May 13th. This year we will be recognizing our well-deserved anglers of 2020 at our property. So, get out, come on down and get some fresh air!

We ask you again to please make a concerted effort to get your weigh slips in on time and fill them out **legibly/completely!** It's important that you fill out

the date/time along with the species and vessel information so we can identify annual award winners based on our rules.

On behalf of our committee would like to wish everyone a safe and productive 2021 Derby season.

Best Fishes, *Ray Geiger*

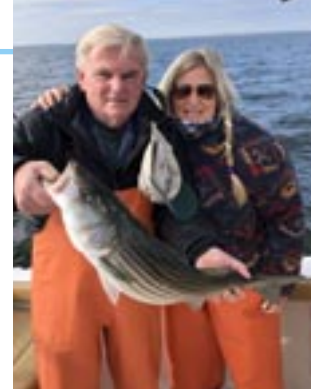




STRIPER DIARIES EPISODE 29

Ready, Set, Go!!! With reports of striped bass being caught in Raritan Bay, the plan was to head there on April 15, 2021 - opening day. The slot size is 28-35 inches and 1 fish per angler. With that in mind, it is time to load the boat and head out.

We broke East Rockaway (Deb's) Inlet at first light with the water flat and calm. The plan was to head west in about 30 feet of water, follow the beach and look for signs of life. I had not been to Raritan Bay since last spring, so I had my Raritan Bay/Jamaica Bay waterproof navigation chart in hand. Although my Garmin 7610 does adequately display my location, I prefer to keep a paper chart in arms reach when in unfamiliar territory. As we approached Breezy Point, we saw several boats in the distance. We decided to navigate across the "lower bay" slowly and look for birds and other signs of fish.



Once inside the lower bay, there are several things to be mindful of. The first is Ambrose Channel and Romer Shoal. As you continue inside the bay, you have to decide whether you will fish closer to Staten Island or New Jersey. As we slowly approached, we saw several boats fishing off Great Kills Harbor and Old Orchard Shoal. It's extremely important to watch your depths, as the water drops down to 4ft off Old Orchard Shoal. Another great option is to fish near Round Shoal, which is off Red Bank Beach. For those who want to fish closer to New Jersey, several great areas are Union Beach, Keansburg, Ideal Beach, or you can simply fish by the "hook."



Although I saw a fleet of boats, most of you know that I never fish in a fleet. I decided to look around and find my own fish. This is where learning your instruments is extremely important. We searched and searched and finally I saw marks! Set the lines up! We launched yellow and white mojos and started to troll. Within minutes the line peeled off. We were in!!! Fish on!!! We landed fish after fish of quality bass up to 27 inches. Fish were clean and healthy. What a great way to start the season!

By lunchtime we packed things up to head home. Safety is my number 1 priority and I am always concerned that the wind may pickup. We followed our tracks back to Deb's Inlet, and safely navigated home. Stay safe and until my next adventure, tight Lines.



Capt. Barbara Solomon

F/V Legal Limits



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Property committee reports repairs at the property are moving forward well. The committee would like to remind members wintering their boats on the property to take used shrink wrap with them to dispose of properly, stack cinder blocks neatly on the pallets along the fence and police up the area where your boat was stored. Members with outstanding balances are urged to make those payments. Members wintering on the property are also reminded winter leases end May 31st, boats must be removed or incur summer storage fees.

Thank you,

Your Property Committee

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FISHING REPORT



With a few boats in the water the reports are starting to slowly trickle in.

Striped Bass locally has seen the schoolie action pick up in all the back bays. For those making the run West to Raritan there has been a mixed body of fish from schoolie's to fish hitting the 50lb. mark. Trolling and live lining have all been producing. These fish should be outside our inlet any day now — you will only know if you go. The bunker schools have also arrived and are as thick as they were last year.

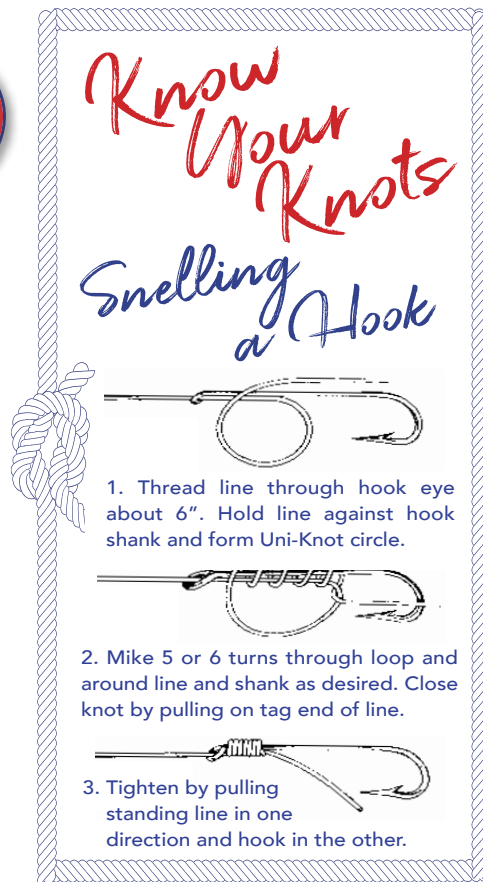
Local reef action has seen good numbers of cod shorts and keepers, Ling and blackfish have all been caught as well.

There was some bluefin in the eastern canyons a few weeks back following a warm eddy. Other Canyon news has good catches of Golden Tilefish, Capt. Dave Pincus has had some quality catches on his past trips. Now is the time to make sure all your tackle and gear are in tip top shape.

For any North Shore members the western sound from Oyster Bay to the Throgs Neck bridge has been coming to life. Good quantities of school size striped bass are being caught in the shallow warm waters around docks and rock piles. Artificially fished slowly have been very successful. Bunker has also been in the area as well.

Please send me your catch info to be featured in the report.

Tightlines, *Capt. Adam* 516-322-0030 | adambollaci@gmail.com



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEC

Some members are reporting dead and/or laboring Bunker in our back bays and canals. Apparently this has been going on since October '20. Christopher LaPorta from the DEC passed on the following information:

This observation is likely part of an ongoing marine mortality incident involving dead and dying Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*), also known as bunker, around Long Island, the Hudson River, and extending from Rhode Island to New Jersey. Throughout the region some menhaden have displayed irregular swimming behaviors (circling/twirling) or have been found dead. DEC and neighboring state agencies have been investigating, monitoring, and tracking this event since Fall of 2020.

DEC sent samples of tissue from collected fish to Stony Brook University's Marine Animal Disease Laboratory and Cornell University to test for a viral infection often associated with the observed, irregular, swimming behavior. New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) also sent samples of menhaden to Pequest Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory. Samples of menhaden collected by both states tested negative for the virus.

Additional investigations of affected fish by NJDEP found internal signs of disease associated with the presence of a *Vibrio* bacteria in most samples. This bacterium is a possible

cause of the mortality event. DEC is working to confirm this with additional samples from fish found in New York this Spring. *Vibrio* bacteria are a naturally occurring bacteria in coastal waters that are typically present in elevated concentrations between May and October.

The specific bacterium identified by the NJDEP is not typically known to be harmful to humans. However, as a precaution, DEC recommends treating the situation the same as you would with any dead, wild animal. If you need to come in contact with dead fish to clean them up, make sure to wear appropriate protective equipment, including gloves.

There have been no reports of other fish or wildlife species being impacted by the suspected bacterium causing this mortality event. Menhaden occupy estuaries and coastal waters from northern Florida to Nova Scotia and are an important prey species for a wide range of wildlife and are typically used by humans as bait. It is still safe to eat fish that prey on menhaden. As always, it is recommended that all fish and shellfish be cooked to the proper temperature and fish that are dead or appear sick should not be collected or eaten.

DEC will continue to work with state and regional partners to further investigate this mortality event. As new information unfolds, the DEC will provide information to local governments and the public as necessary. Please continue to report fish kills by email to fishkillmarine@dec.ny.gov or call 631-444-0495 for marine waters or 845-256-3199 on the Hudson River.

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very low hours 64 hrs on Koehler generator dual Raymarine C-80s dual radios stand up head and shower sleeps 4, too many extras to List. Boat in water at Atlantic Yacht Haven.

\$50,000

Serious inquiries only Bob O'Brien FTC member
917-417-7756 flame9545@gmail.com

SHIP STORE

Spring is around the corner and Captain & Anglers will be starting up.

We are going to be taking orders for embroidered hooded jackets, so please come see me at our next C & A. or you can call me at 516-987-4227 to discuss getting this custom apparel with your name and boat name.

See you soon.

Jim Azzi

516-987-4227 or
email: blackcloud@yahoo.com



SLIP AVAILABLE

**We have one available slip
down at the property**

*If you are interested please reach out to
Don Grainger, Bob Sabella or Jim Rooney.*

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