Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

# Tuna Tower News



## **President's Message**

Well, July is here and so are the fish. Whether you are an inshore fisherman getting a few keeper Fluke, trolling spoons for Stripers or out in the deep getting in on the shark bite, it looks like our summer fisheries are pretty hot. I've also heard a few times that the canyons are holding some good size Tuna also!

A few exceptional sharks came on board some of our club members boats. Chris Bellizoni's 484 lb. Thresher, which I believe is a personal best for his boat and the crew of Four Bells. Also pulled from the deep on Paul Noto's Rocket Fish was a 292 lb. whiptail, congratulations to all the FTC captains and crews who have brought in their catches.

A reminder to the FTC members that our July General Membership meeting will be held at the Club property on Sunday, July 13th at our summer rodeo. Joe Steiner and the Captain Angler crew will be cooking a lot of delicious dishes for all to enjoy! The August GM will also be at the Club property on Thursday, August 14th which will also

be our Luau Dinner. Dress in your best Caribbean attire. Always a good time so come down and enjoy the festivities.

The FTC Salmon trip is the weekend of July 26 & 27 and is SOLD OUT! Tight lines to all involved.

The "Bragging Board" is up at the Clubhouse, so weigh in

some fish and let us see whose fish holds the #1 spot!

Last, but not least, please don't forget to see Jim Rooney about buying a few raffle tickets to help support our club.

Chris Scarpantonio

President



# FISHING REPORT Awesome June Fishing

June may turn out to be the best fishing month we experience in 2014. From inshore to the canyon action on bass, fluke, shark and tuna has been exceptional. Where to begin? Tuna of course, in late May and early June Captain Chris Gerhart of the Wasabi reported the following:

Fished Toms Canyon for a daytrip on May 25th and found a nice 5 degree break and worked it and inshore of it to connect with 5 Bluefin tuna from 30-90#. We kept out three limit (charter headboat), weighing two at Woodcleft Fishing Station, 69# and 41# dressed weights. These were the first fish on my boat this year.

Fished Hudson canyon on the first overnighter of the season on my boat and had an incredible trip with over 30 bites, landing 26 including 18 yellowfin, 3 longfin, 2 Bluefin, and 2 (small 110# and 100#) BIGEYES !!!!! Night action was slow with just one blue shark. Most of the yellows were very small and were released, but we did manage several in the 40-50# class. The longfin were very nice in the 40-50# range, and we had one 60# BFT, and one 30#. We got our bites on squid bars, green machine bars, small jets, squid daisy chains, and joe shute ballyhoo combinations. Fish were loaded with squid and sand eels. Four species of tuna in one trip in early June in the NY bite is unheard of, and I am stoked that we put it together. That is some impressive tuna fishing, great job Captain Chris and crew from the Wasabi.

Bass fishing along the beach under the bunker schools was nothing short of phenomenal. Captain Barbara Solomon reported on a trip where she and Pete Cefai worked the bunker pods to the west, catching and releasing many fish, up to thirty pounds, while keeping a few for the table. She described it as "insane". Captain Paul Noto of the Rocketfish had a June to remember as well. He reports, "June was a great Bass month fishing from Jones and west for us... all fishing was on live bait- some days it was an early am bite, some days afternoon and there were a few days when we left 30-45lb fish biting... INSANE... As of late it seems the pods have been giving up COWS on a regular basis"... There's that "insane" word again.

But it gets even better.
Captain Doug Toback,
fishing with his son DJ on
their Corazon sent me a
report for a trip where they
"hammered" the bass one
particular day in early
June. Topping off the
catch that day for Capt
Doug and DJ was Doug's
49.75 lb Striped Bass. This
is one of the largest bass
taken along the south
shore,congratulations on
an exceptional catch, your



hard work and dedication pay off once again!



Quick jump down south, from Florida, Sharon Missan reports a nice catch of mangrove, silver, and lane snappers averaging 3-5 lbs fishing out of Johns Pass, Madeira Beach, 25 to 30 miles out in the Gulf.

In the Jones Inlet area fluking has been steady on the open bottom around the Tankers / Kitchen / Trench area. The entire area has held a nice mix of fish, from shorts to an 8.5 pounder I heard about taken by Tom Schwender on Bob Sabella's Old

Sam. I made several trips on my Emily S where my family and I enjoyed great action, plenty of keepers and good times. No real big fish for us, but 4 to 5 lbers aren't too shabby and make for good eating. Just today my son Paul and I joined Captain John Jutt on the Red Dawn Rising putting 5 in the box in a short day with a tough drift. Paul had the hot hand, boxing 4 out of 5 keepers up to 4 lbs. In my opinion, the newly enacted 18" size limit and 5 fish per man bag limit is a huge success. Need proof? Just look at the number of boats enjoying this action. Let's hope it holds up. I know of some nice fish taken on structure further off recently so it may not be too early too early to hit Cholera, Middle Grounds, Angler, etc.

June is shark month and this June did not disappoint. The South Jersey Tournament started the season off with a bang, with threshers over 600 lbs and makes over 300 taking the money, a sign of good things to come here on Long Island.

In the Freeport Tuna Club. The "First Mako" award is highly coveted by sharking aficionados. As Captain Larry Festa used to say, "the first mako is tough to beat". Indeed, this year competition was fierce as many vied for the bragging rights for the first mako weighed in for the FTC. The Four Bells got it done, starting off a memorable month with a 208 lb specimen landed with Chris Bellinzoni on the rod, Steve Valenti on the wire, Christopher Bellinzoni on the flyer, and Al Casciano on the tail rope, (which had actually belonged to Capt Larry). Nice ...!

Adam and Tony Bollaci on the Hooker weighed in a nice 207 lb make during the Hudson. Captain Paul Note and crew of the Rocketfish continued their hot month by weighing in a nice 292 lb thresher, good enough to capture third place in the Woodcleft Tournamant. Congrats!



During the Point Lookout

Tournament, Capt Bill Morrogh and crew went east, than had to make a wiggle to find the right life. It paid off to the tune of 4 makos landed and lot's of blue dogs. One mako hitched a ride back to Jones. I was at the weigh in at Ted's, mesmerized by a seeming endless procession of threshers and makos in the

140 - 160 lb class being weighed in, topped off by a tournament winning 342 lb thresher. Thresher fishing is red hot, from the bunker schools along the beach and out to the deep. Many are taking advantage of this relatively new fishery and it is interesting to watch as it unfolds.

Just when I thought the things were wrapped up for the month the report comes in of a monster thresher landed by none other than the Four Bells. The 484 lb monster was weighed at Woodcleft Fishing Station. The red hot Capt and crew consisted of Chris and Christopher Bellinzoni, Al Casciano, with Steve Valenti on the rod. The fish treated the crew to 5 jumps through the 1 hour and 40 minute fight. The fish could not be wrestled onboard and had to be towed in. That's a real beauty, wow...



Thanks to all for contributing your reports! Please email your reports to 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".

Catch of the Month for June? Huge bass, first make, monster thresher? Pick one! Congrats to the Captains and crews on these fine accomplishments.

Sincerely, Paul Hilton F/V Emily S

## DUKE OF FLUKE TOURNAMENT

Comb's B&T in Amityville had the 20th Annual Duke of Fluke Tournament. There were 387 anglers and 120 boats. Capt. Bob Benzenberg's F/V Fish & Whitetails with crew of Bob Pandy, Harry Sbaschnig, and Mitch Vidur who caught a 6.97 lb Fluke took 5th place. Capt. Joe DeSalvo on his F/V Gail Warnings Took 11th place with a 5 lb. fish. -Bob Pandy

## CAPTAIN ANGLERS

Hope everyone is enjoying all the food and drinks. I want to thank Chris Bellinzoni for donating all the Shark meat. I want to thank everybody that participates in the 50/50 and the raffles it really helps Captain Anglers to be self-sufficient and not have to depend on the Club. Come on down to the clubhouse and have a great time every thursday. Bob Pandy

## **SAVE THE DATE**

Don't Forget the FLOTTILA AT ZACH'S BAY August 16th & 17th Everyone has a great time. Bring your boat and lots of eats to share with your fellow boaters.

**Bob Pandy** 



## **Tournament Committee**

Matt Errett

- 1. 12th Annual Noreast Mako-Thresher Big Dog Shootout visit www.noreast.com for details. As of this writing the 4 BELLS leads in the Thresher division with 484 pound slob. Nice fish!!
- 2. August 1st & 2nd. The 22nd. Annual Star Island Mako & Thresher Tournament
- 3. August 17th. 22nd. 23rd. Cape May Annual "The Mid-Atlantic" The richest Marlin & Tuna Tournament in the world.
- 4. 1st Annual Jones Inlet Invitational Tuna Tournament Captains meeting 9/11, fish any or all of the next 3 days, Fri, Sat, Sun. Contact Mordy Miltz 516 606-1282 for additional information.

Look to the ftc website for additional tournaments as the information becomes available.

Good luck to all & be safe!

#### MEMBERSHIP

The club has signed up 15 new members so far in 2014. There are several new members to be sworn in. Fred Ippolito from Massapequa is being sponsored by Ralph Drewes. Fred owns a 54' custom Blackwell called the Solivia Rose (a real beauty) and met Ralph in Cape May at the 2014 South Jersey Shark Tournament. Fred plies the waters from South Jersey to Montauk in pursuit of his passion. Ryan Yost from Lindenhurst often fishes with Fred when not on his own boat the Breakaway a 27 Pursuit that he keeps in Fire Island. Ryan is also being sponsored by Fred Drewes. I am also pleased to say that we have John Weber Sr., father of member John Weber Jr. (FDNY John) to swear in this month.

Please welcome Fred, Ryan and John to the Club.

## FLUKE CALCUTTA

Dr. John Weber is leading the 2014 Fluke Calcutta with a 9lb. 12 oz. fish that he captured on May 30 in Reynolds Channel. This is Deja vu all over again though John I'm sure is hoping for a different ending this time. So far, 73 members have joined the 2014 Calcutta. Entry fee is \$10-- winner take all. Fish may be caught from any port during the regular NY fluke season. All fish must be alive and free swimming at the time it is caught with hook and line. See Mike Sullivan or Charlie Goldstein if you wish to join.

## E-BULLETIN

Thank you for a strong response to last month's e-bulletin appeal. Thirteen new members signed up bringing the total to 23 taking advantage of e-bulletin. But that's just a little over one in 10 members meaning there is considerable room to grow this eco-friendly and club friendly method for bulletin delivery. Why not give it a try? Just email ftc1937@verizon.net and ask to go e-bulletin. If you don't like it, you can always change your mind.

## JUIY 2014 DERBY. **AWARDS &** CONTESTS REPORT

Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morrogh, Captain Michael Zullo

Congratulations to our **STRIPED BASS** derby winners. This year's derby went right to the wire. The fish kept getting bigger with each passing day. Many 30lb class fish were weighed in but it took over 38lb to show! We will present the STRIPED BASS trophies at our Rodeo BBQ/GM on 7/13 at the property. Congrats to everyone who participated in this derby!

There were no Weakfish slips entered. Hopefully, we'll see some in the fall derby.

It's **TUNA/MAHI** time! Get offshore and hand in those weigh slips. BTF have been reported to the east and canyon reports look good. You never know what you'll get in the deep!

SEA BASS season finally opens!. Our derby runs from 7/15 -8/17, too late to be part of our Rodeo. Reports of huge Sea Bass being caught (and released) while Fluking have been coming in all month!

The Fluke, Shark and Bluefish derbies run through the 4th of July weekend, ending on Sunday, 6/6.

Dr. John Weber leads the Fluke derby with a 9lb 12oz doormat. Steve Valenti leads the Shark derby with a 484 Thresher caught on the Four Bells. DJ Toback leads the Bluefish derby with a 15lb chopper.

#### **OUR JULY DERBY WINNERS ARE:**

Striped Bass

1st Place: Doug Toback 49.75lbs F/V Corazon 44.44lbs F/V Rocket Fish 2nd Place: Paul Noto 3rd Place: Gregg Magnifico 38.90lbs F/V Everything Zen

## THE FOLLOWING DERBIES ARE STARTING THIS MONTH:

Tuna (20 lbs.) June 28th through August 10th June 28th through August 10th Mahi (4 lbs.) Sea Bass (2.5 lbs.) July 15th through August 17th

## Raffle Committee

The committee would like to remind all members that they received raffle tickets with their membership renewal. We ask our members to please sell or purchase raffles to help support the club and have a chance to win a great gift (\$2,500 travel gift card). The raffle will be drawn at our holiday party, any question or if you need raffles contact me at 516 850-6772. Thank you Jim Rooney

## **House Committee**

A WORD FROM WOODY

Please see if all your friends and fishing buddies are attending the GM. If they are not please ask them to do so.

The club needs support of it's members.

Thanks,

Woody Anderson - Chairman, House Committee

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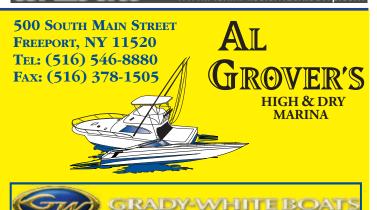
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