### Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

# Tuna Tower News



### President's Message ·

Dear Members.

If you have not been out fishing yet, stop whatever you're doing and get out and wet a line! Our annual club Rodeo starts on Friday night July 10th culminating with our General Meeting, BBQ and Rodeo awards at our property on Sunday July 13th. Be sure to get your weigh slips back to the property no later than 4:00pm and I wish everyone good luck this year More details are available of course on our website ftcfishing.com. Please come on down and celebrate what we do best!

Also, please remember that our annual club Luau will be on Thursday August 13th. It'll give you all another chance to break out you finest Hawaiian apparel and enjoy another night under the stars.

Based on some of the reports I have heard, this could be the Year of the Shark. Captain Tommy Weiss of the Captain Al reported they had small makos wreaking havoc on everyone's lines until they high tailed it for safer waters. Our members Nick Nero and Pete Cefei did catch one and kindly supplied our Captains and Anglers BBQ with fresh steaks for all. I can attest that all the evidence was eaten. Thanks again!

Some of you may not have heard the news that Rose and Paul

Shuber will be setting sail for the great of Texas. They will be sorely missed by us all. This means we have an opening for one (or more) of you members to head our Ship's Store. Please speak to one of our Board members if you wish to become the new purveyor of all things FTC.

Lastly, member and friend Jonathan Wade life was taken last week at the

n e e e first time at the RFA show a member. Jon was a very at members/supporter of this and kindest men I have ever

young age of 55. I met him for the first time at the RFA show where he signed up to become a member. Jon was a very accomplished fisherman and a great members/supporter of this club. He was one of the friendliest and kindest men I have ever met and we and his family are truly diminished with his loss. I ask you all to please keep him and his family in your prayers.

See you all at the Rodeo!!

Best Fishes,

Ray Geiger



### Fishing Report

#### **Shark Month**

Well the calendar says late June but the weather is still fluctuating. At least one weatherman forecasted a cool summer, so far, he has been on the mark. Striped Bass fishing is off the hook for those chasing the

bunker schools with live bait or even trolling bunker spoons. I've heard of fish east and west, but the west maybe gets the nod. Several reports of charters limiting out with fish in the forty pound class really got my attention. Several fifties have been landed as well. I have not heard from our usual bass hounds but presumably they are on the bite.

Fluke remain abundant in the bay with the western end of Reynolds Channel seeing the best action inside. I did an inside trip that with an all FTC crew of Capt. John Jutt, Nick Nero, and Steve Bassford. Under a lot of pressure to produce, I succeeded only in showing them where not to fish that particular day. Bob Pandy was surprised by a Sand Tiger while Fluke fishing Merrick Bay in early June. These are southern visitors and rare this early in the season. You just never know.



Bob Pandy with a Sand Tiger

Outside, the Fluke are settling in to the usual open bottom and structure from

35 feet on out to the Cholera. This fishing should break open soon. While everyone waits for seabass to open, jumbo porgies have made a welcome appearance on all the inshore structure.



Steve Bassford "Bassman" with a 229 Thresher

June is shark month but the weather has been a factor, limiting angler participation. As I write this the Woodcleft has been postponed until July 4th, and this weekend looks lost.

Trips were made and the best catches seemed to come from the S/E, with dirty water reported west. Several notable catches to report however, starting with

Steve Bassford who fished his Grady "Bassman" in the Hudson Anglers Tourney, where they weighed in a nice 229 Thresher.

Chris Bellenzoni ran his "Four Bells" 43 miles south of Jones to 65 degree water with an all FTC crew of Steve Valenti and Bob Bohlert onboard. Using bunker on the circle hook, Steve bested his first Mako, large enough to take the ride home.

One annual event has FTC members staying awake at night, dreaming of the fame and accolades that would accompany one particularly coveted award, should you be skillful and lucky enough to win it. No, it's not the FTC Duke of Fluke, it's the "Lawrence Festa Memorial Trophy-Awarded to the member Captain of the boat catching the first Mako Shark of the season. This shark must be weighed in at the Freeport Tuna Club Official Weighing Station. To qualify



Steve Valenti with a "Four Bells" Mako

for this trophy, a F.T.C. member must sail and return through Jones Inlet within a 24 hour period, not having called at any other port."

The first Mako has been weighed and the winner is Nick Nero who ran his Dolce Vita S/E to the 25 fathom shark grounds with Pete Cefai and Pete's Dad as crew.



"First Mako"
Pete Cefai on the "Dolce Vita

With Pete on the rod, and after two jumps, they were able to best a Mako that later tipped the scales at 126 lbs. at Woodcleft Fishing Station. Congrats on the First Mako, Captain Larry would be proud of you Nick!

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.

Please email your reports to <a href="mailto:philton@optonline.net">philton@optonline.net</a>; 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."

Sincerely,
Paul Hilton F/V Emily S

### Catch of the Month

### Double Digit Doormat Fluke

Congrats to Kenny "Fishen Frenzy" Donowski who made the trip out east to fish on the Miss Montauk where he was able to land his limit of fluke.

Included in his catch was this very impressive 11.06 lb. "Triple D" Double Digit Doormat Fluke. The fish currently leads the coveted "Duke of Fluke" Calcutta. This will be tough to take down, good luck to all who try!



"Fishen Frenzy" Donowski with "Triple D" Double Digit

## Congrats on the "Catch of the Month"! Send in those pictures!

For bragging rights, please email me at <a href="mailto:philton@optonline.net">philton@optonline.net</a> or text me at 516-721-8907 to be considered for "Catch of the Month" by the bulletin committee.

Include pictures and some c atch details. Thanks to all who submitted entries this Month and please keep them coming.

~ Paul Hilton / Emily S



# JULY 2015 DERBY AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

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

#### Congratulations To Our Striped Bass Derby Winners!

We will present the STRIPED BASS trophies at our Rodeo BBQ/GM on Sunday, 7/12/15 at the property. Congrats to everyone who participated in this derby!

1st Place:Chris Macropoulos38.00lbs F/V Overbite2nd Place:Joe Mangiapenello32.31lbs F/V Crazy G3rd Place:Joe Mangiapenello32.00lbs F/V Crazy G

Annual Award Update – The "First Mako" has been brought in on Nick Nero's boat, "Dolce Vita". Pete Cefai was on the rod. The fish went 126lb. Congrats!

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. BLUEFIN TUNA have been reported to the east. You never know what you'll get in the deep!

SEA BASS season finally opens on Wednesday, 7/15/15! Our derby runs from 7/15 - 8/16, too late to be part of our Rodeo. It's a safe bet that these fish will be hit hard on opening day since they've been around locally for a while with the season closed.

The FLUKE, SHARK and BLUEFISH derbies run through the 4th of July weekend, ending on Sunday, 7/5/15.

You'll need 4.25 LB for FLUKE, 13 LB for BLUEFISH, and a minimum weight of 125 LB for SHARK to place in the derbies.

### THE FOLLOWING DERBIES ARE OPEN OR STARTING THIS MONTH

Tuna (20 lbs.)

Mahi (4 lbs.)

June 27th through August 9th

June 27th through August 9th

Sea Bass (2.5 lbs.)

July 15th through August 16th

A Message from the Ship Store



Happy 4<sup>th</sup> to You and Your Company!

A Safe and Peaceful Summer to All!

Paul Schuber

# Tournament Committee IMPORTANT NOTICE

The NYS legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law a bill requiring the mandatory use of Circle Hooks in NYS waters and in all Shark Tournaments in NYS.

Sharks not caught on circle hooks in NYS Tournaments may be disqualified.

#### Noreast Mako Thresher BIG DOG SHOOTOUT

June 1st - July 31st

Go to www.noreast.com - offshore discussion board.

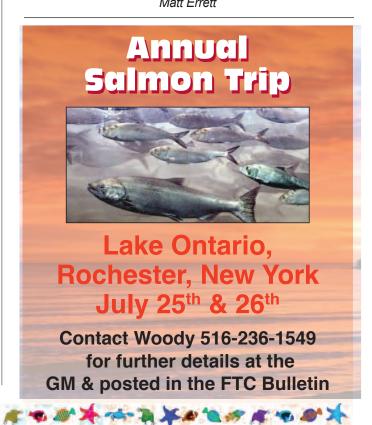
Montauk Marine Basin Carl Darrenberg Memorial Shark's Eye All Release Tournament

**July 18th - 19th** 

24th Annual South Jersey Mid-Atlantic

August 16th - 21st

Be Safe And Good Luck To All!!



### Membership

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

### **The Fishing** Connection

The new Captain Anglers fishing board is now up and in use every Thursday night. FTC Captains have listed their dates and times for fishing trips in search of additional crew members. Now is the time for all NEW and existing members to sign up to go fishing. This is an opportunity for you to get to know other members and share your knowledge of local fishing, both inshore and offshore.

### **Property**

**SLIPS ARE AVALABLE!!!** Call or email for more information.

FTC Property Manager, Alan Evelyn.

E-mail: capt.al@fishtaxiny.com or call Cell: 917-750-8710.

#### **Good & Welfare**

No news is good news? Hoping every one is having a enjoyable summer.

~ Jeff



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