

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

TUNA TOWER NEWS

AUGUST 2018
www.ftcfishing.com



EDITOR: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, SR.
Co-Editor ~ Capt. Paul Hilton
Contributor ~ Mike Sullivan

NEXT GM

at our

13TH ANNUAL LUAAU

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9
@ 7PM ON THE PROPERTY

*Come say
Aloha*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we are in the middle of the summer.

So far the weather has been great I hope the club members are enjoying the club and this great fishing season. The weather has cooperated for us to enjoy our days drifting at sea.

Our competition for the rodeo was a lot of fun, unfortunately it didn't go in favor of the Tuna Club. Our event that took place at the club was a success. Big thanks to Adam Bollaci and his family for putting in the time along with committee members that came down and made it fun event. The food and drinks were great thank you.

The next club events coming up is the big luau... always fun and a lot of laughs! Find your way down to the club on August 9, 2018.

There are still a lot of derby events coming up: Mahi, Tuna, Weakfish, Seabass, Albacore, Fluke and Bonita. All great game fish get out there set the hook rip some lips. Don't forget your weight slips.

A big thank you to all board directors and committees that participate in making our Tuna Club a great place and fun time.

Everybody enjoy your summer fish hard and hope to see you on the water.

Thank you, *Matthew Cardone*

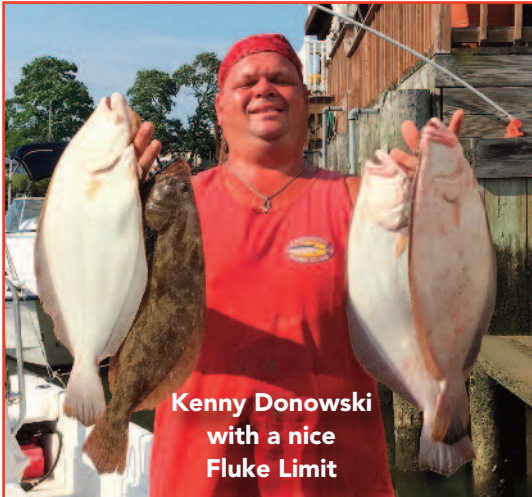


HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER

LOOKING GOOD FOR AUGUST



July has just about passed and a series of storms and SE winds kept angler participation in the ocean down a bit. As I write this, looking at the week ahead I see moderate south and southwest winds and hopefully some typical, stable August weather. I am not tuned into the offshore scene, and received no first hand reports from FTC members. I did hear of some exceptional bites primarily from the eastern Canyons like the Fishtails and Atlantis on Bigeye and YFT. The Hudson had some moments but seemed slow overall. Some BFT were reported in the Coimbra area, but that's about it. All this can change in a moment, I hope that August brings calm seas and plentiful tuna within range of our offshore anglers.



Kenny Donowski
with a nice
Fluke Limit

For most of July, West end ocean fluking has been disappointing this season. The best catches have come from patient anglers working deep structure. With a good effort, you can put it together. Just recently, the ocean fluking started to heat up and with some good weather we should see some good action. August is generally our best month of the year for fluke.

During the FTC Rodeo, Bob Pandy, Ken Donowski, and Anthony Donowski fished hard, with Ken catching his limit of fluke and sea bass. In addition, he took second place with a 3lb 13 oz. fluke with Bob Pandy taking third place with a 3.7 oz. flattie. Nice going guys.

Seabass fishing remains very good and should remain that way. You may need to pick through the little guys but limits are readily available. One day while I was fluking



Maryellen Zullo with a beauty Magic Too Seabass

in the bay, Mike and Maryellen Zullo pulled up in their newly repowered Pursuit, *Magic Too*. We spoke about the incredible numbers of seabass around. Mike said they been "pushing off" a bit for better quality fish. Sounds like good advice, there is less pressure in deeper water, further away from the half day boats which relentlessly pound our local bottom. So fishing a little deeper, and attempting to fish lightly hit structure (always a good idea) is sound advice. The boat looks great with those shiny new 300 Yami's, I'm sure they will serve you well, best of luck with them!!

As a reminder, seabass regulations stand at 3 fish, greater than 15" June 23rd to August 31st increasing to 7 fish, September 1st to December 31st. Besides seabass, mixed porgies, ling, and triggers are available and round out the catch.

The news at Montauk has been the excellent run of big bass available in the Montauk rips. Live porgies do most of the damage. Several of our club members have sailed charters with Captain Jim Krug on the *Persuader* with outstanding results. Mike Sullivan reported some great fishing on his *Blue Jacket II* as well. Other Montauk news involves continued great seabass fishing and up and down fluking. Like our west end, August should see some fine fluking assuming the weather remains stable.

Ken Donowski reported that Kenny Kapner took his *Real Catch II* to Montauk for the month of July. They enjoyed outstanding fishing in Montauk two weeks in a row, with Ken Kapner's crews rewarded with quality fluke and seabass. Bob McVeigh had a nice 8.8 lb. jumbo and Marty Downing has



Bob McVeigh
with 8.8 lb
Fluke

grabbed the lead in the FTC "Duke of Fluke" tourney with an impressive 9.9 lb. fatty flattie. Nice going all and thanks for sharing the reports.

That's a wrap for now. 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* FN Emily S



Marty Downing with Jumbo Fluke

DERBIES, AWARDS & CONTESTS



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

Our first Tuna, Mahi and Sea Bass Derbies are running until Sunday August 5th. If you have any slips, please bring them to the Luau (GM) or mail them ASAP. We must have the physical slips in hand.

I know it may seem hard to believe, but our Fall Derbies begin this month. I hope we all get better weather to fish this time around and thanks to all that managed to get their catch weighed.

FLUKE

- 1st Place: Bryon King** 9.06 lbs. F/V Kingfisher
- 2nd Place: Charles Goldstein** 5.63 lbs. F/V Splitshot
- 3rd Place: Ken Donowski** 5.47 lbs. F/V Canyon Lady

SHARK

- 1st Place: James Weinblatt** 188 lbs. F/V Blue Marlin

BLUEFISH

- 1st Place: Chris Bellinzi** 9.38 lbs. F/V Four Bells

Please note that this month's awards will be presented at our GM/Luau being held on Thursday, August 9th at our property. Please make an effort to come on down and support your club. As always, coconuts are optional.

The Following Derbies Will Be Starting Soon

- TUNA** August 11th – September 23rd
- WEAKFISH** August 12th – September 23rd
- MAHI** August 18th – September 30th
- FALSE ALBACORE** August 18th – September 30th
- GREEN BONITO** August 18th – September 30th
- SEA BASS** September 1st – October 7th

Best Fishes,
Ray Geiger

PROPERTY MANAGER'S REPORT

The charge for summer storage of vessels on the property is \$5.00 per day or \$150 per month. When you receive your invoice for summer storage, please pay promptly. We no longer accept trailers for summer storage. **Only members leasing a slip from FTC may store a trailer on the club property during the summer.**

Winter storage lease agreements and invoices will go out in September to all FTC captains that stored their vessels with us last year. If you did not store with the club last winter and wish to do so this winter please email me your name, address, and length of your vessel.

Winter storage rates will increase this year to \$15 per foot with no minimum. Starting in 2018 only FTC members will be allowed to store their vessel on club property during the winter.

If you have other questions or concerns about the club property you can see me at the GM, or at Captains and Anglers. I am always available either by email or phone. My cell number, email address, and work phone number are below:

Capt. Alan Evelyn

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

13TH ANNUAL FLOTILLA

Zach's Bay | Sunday, August 19th

Overnight Starts Saturday, August 18th

Contact Bob Sabella for more information

TOURNAMENT LINEUP

46th Annual White Marlin Open Ocean City Maryland August 6-10
South Jersey Annual Mid Atlantic August 20-24

Good luck, be safe, and remember, CIRCLE HOOKS are required for shark tournaments, and we now have an 83" min. fork length size on Mako!!!

CHARTER TRIPS

PRIMETIME 3 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28 - FULL DAY

Orient Point blackfish and seabass. This trip will be a lot better than the club's last trip!! Mike assured me on this! \$50 deposit required to hold your spot \$140pp, 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 12 lbs, codfish to 10 lbs, and porgys in the mix.

Kenneth Donowski

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



A VISITOR FROM THE SOUTH

Yes, a pelican resting on the JI Buoy waiting for a drive by...

Photo credit: Pete Cefai



STRIPER DIARIES | EPISODE 6

With all the buzz of Tuna, Team Striper Sniper decided to switch gears. I mean who doesn't want to target Pelagics?? Long range trips on a single engine 24ft center console can be tricky. With that in mind, I check and triple check the weather using websites such as TerraFin - a paid service for only \$99.00 per year, which provides satellite images of chlorophyll levels, water clarity, and temperatures. It also gives coordinates and nautical mile distances. This is extremely beneficial. NOAA and sites such as Sail flow, dial in on wind speeds and direction. Safety gear, including a portable 6 man life raft are a great investment, and an Epirb, which I have mounted on my hard top. Finally, I always leave a "float plan" with a buddy back home. Fuel, bait, tackle, ice, food - check, check, check, we are ready!!!



On the morning of July 3, 2018, we woke up with enthusiasm of landing a Tuna. But something strange happened. FOG! As we motored down Reynolds Channel, we couldn't see 20 feet in front of the boat. Oh boy, this is going to make for a long ride. We broke the inlet using radar, and although I have been in pea soup fog before, it is still nerve rattling. Our first stop was the Virginia, roughly 41 miles South East of Jones Inlet. We were greeted with clean blue water, sea turtles, porpoises and birds. Now that's a good sign. Lines in! We trolled Sterling tackle spreader bars, green machines and joe shutes with ballyhoo. As the hours passed, we made our way towards the Rock Piles, and south to the Schooner. By 5:00 p.m. without any hits or knock-downs we started to wonder if we should get the heck out of there. So we made a decision to switch gears. Just a few miles away, in approximately 170 ft of water, we dropped clam on some deep water wrecks. Thank goodness we brought light tackle. Bam! Just like that double headers over the rail. It was lock and load fishing. Two (2) and three (3) pound sea bass on every drop. It was unbelievable! Within minutes we caught our limit. By 6:30 p.m. with the late-day sun and the wind picking up, we realized we had a very long ride home. Lines up and we headed back entering Jones Inlet around 8:30 p.m.

With Tuna still on the brain, we were already mentally planning our next trip. Truth is, you must go whenever you have a weather window. For us, the next chance was Friday July 20, 2018. With reports of fish caught at the Coimbra, we decide to head in that direction. The ride out was beautiful and the water was calm. After 30 miles, we noticed massive amount of birds and good clean blue water. A quick look at the nautical chart, showed we had arrived at the Linda. We stopped, looked around and decided to see if there were any fish around. So we set our spread out. Trolling squid bars and green machines seemed to do the trick and BAM just like that fish on!!! Could it be a Tuna? I started praying to the fish gods and with sheer excitement yelled "grab the gaff". As the fish got closer, and we could see color, we realized it was a Bonito. Okay, not a BFT, but still a fish. Ill take it! We trolled and trolled without another tap. But, we stayed the course because of the old saying, "never leave fish to find fish." By 1:30 p.m. we began to think that was an "old wives' tale", so we packed up and took a ride west. Suddenly, we came across a weed line and a giant piece of floating wood. Stop the boat! Sure enough, we saw tropical fish and baby Mahi Mahi swimming around!!!! Grab the spinning rod and toss out a spearing, quick! Please fish gods, bite the line. I just wanted a picture. But we couldn't get the Mahi to bite. So, we played catch and release with small tropical fish that looked like they belonged in an aquarium. It was awesome! Another quick ride west to about 120 ft and we were back on the sea bass grounds. Lock and load sea bass again! We must have caught over 20 keepers, only keeping our limit. By 5:00 p.m. the wind started to pick up out of the east and we knew we had to start the journey home. We approached Jones Inlet by 7:00 p.m. and headed straight to Jordan's for some lobster and a cold beer. What an adventure!

Until next time, Tight lines.

Capt. Barbara Solomon

F/V Legal Limits

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NOTICE TO ALL

The Village of Freeport will be replacing the old storm drain which runs along the north end of our property they will be taking down the fence on the north end of the property and digging from the street to the water. The trailers will be moved to allow access to that end of the property. Until we know the extent and time frame of the work do not park near the north end of the property. The ice machine is working great, but just a reminder to all, it's one bucket of ice per trip.

PS whoever borrowed the tuna club bucket by the ice machine please return it to the machine, it says FTC on it.



Please mark your calendars

CHANGE ON THE OCTOBER MEETING WILL BE THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH (THE 11TH) NOT THE SECOND THURSDAY.. THIS CHANGE IS FOR OCTOBER ONLY

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