

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

# Tuna Tower News

SEPTEMBER 2016  
[www.ftcfishing.com](http://www.ftcfishing.com)

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



## NEXT GM

Thursday, September 8, 2016  
at 7 pm  
Freeport Yacht Club

We proudly present *Michael Martino* from the *Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant*.  
*If you care about your local waters -- you will want to attend!*

## President's Message

Well I guess it's official, this has been the summer from hell at least for my family and I. Let me explain for those who may not have heard. In July we lost a grandson to a drug overdose. The outpouring of condolences from the club was overwhelming as was the number of members who attended the wake. Last week while attending the overnight part of the raft-up we had a generator fire on our trawler SOO SLO which completely destroyed the boat. To Dave & Cristina Massa and Bob & Cora Pandy Joyce and I cannot thank you enough for all of your help that night. I'm dealing with the aftermath of the whole process. I'd be remiss if I didn't also give a big thanks to Chris Squeri who was invaluable with his help and advice at 1 o'clock in the morning. Again the response from the club has been very comforting. It's only a loss if money can't fix it! I'd trade 100,000 boats for my grandson, that is a loss.

As the saying goes, "Life goes on" and so will we. Now for some better news, don't miss this month's meeting at the Freeport Yacht Club. Our speaker is Mike Martino who is the man in charge of water quality for Nassau County. If you care about our bays and waterways now is the time to speak up and get some first hand information about our waters.

As we move forward I'm happy to report that at last count we had 192 members with a shot at 200. Financially we are doing well, there is only one area lagging and that is our raffle from Liberty Travel for the \$2500 travel package. In an effort to stir some interest I will be donating a custom made dingy which can be sailed, rowed or motor powered as a second place prize. So if you haven't purchased your tickets yet why wait for Santa Claus. This is a chance for the club to generate some big dollars. For more tickets see Jim Rooney or John Daum on any Thursday night or at the GM.



New member Chris James who manufactures lures will be giving a clinic at the 9/15 Captain Anglers meeting. Should be interesting so come on down.

PROPERTY: Just a reminder, one 5 gallon bucket of ice per day is what is allowed. It took a little while but sadly it's being abused. Please don't complain to the president because I have a solution!!!

*Old Sam*



# Fishing Report

## Tuna Absent, Bill Fish, Seabass & Fluke Present

The inshore scene in August on the west end of the island was largely limited to seabass and fluke and porgies. With the seabass bag limit at three per angler, most did not target seabass but rather caught them as a bycatch while fluking or to top off the catch. **We have survived the 3 fish limit, and now, as of September 1 and through October 31st the seabass bag limit will increase to a more reasonable 8 fish per angler.** On November 1st, the bag limit will increase once again to 10 fish per angler. The 15" size limit remains in place. Seabass are abundant, we should have some good fishing ahead of us.

Depending on where you do your fluking you may say it's a great season or you might think it's not so good. Fluking on structure like the Cholera, Middle Grounds, Hempstead Reef,



*Carl Cerruti with Fluke and Seabass*

Atlantic Beach Reef, and McAllister Reef has been solid. Open bottom fluking has been sketchy at best. I quickly limited on one trip fishing the Hempstead, on another focusing on open bottom with my family fishing was poor. A first hand report from Carl Cerruti: "Went out Friday on my good friend Joe Mazza's Little Bear 2, along with my son Brandon in search of our favorite eating fish, Seabass. Started out deep after hearing rumors of where the fish were hiding. 3 Sisters, Middle Grounds, and a couple of other deep spots, all with the same results; shorts, shorts, and more shorts. We decided to try the Hempstead reef on the way home. Low and behold we found a few keeper Seabass and Fluke hiding there that decided to cooperate. This picture is my 2 keepers of the day, including a 4 pound fluke that was lusting for my clam bait. All in all a great day, a few keepers, great company, and not being at work."



*"Pandaman" Fluke and Seabass*

Ray Geiger reports, "Had a great trip on Saturday courtesy of the Pandaman himself along with fellow members Bob Benzenberg and Joe DiSalvo. First drop of the day was at Cholera at 7am with a fast drift, 10oz+ of lead, squid and spearing and rather bouncy conditions at first. Once the weather settled and we had caught a few, we headed over to the Middle

house of Pandu about 4pm. Even with the fast drift (note to self - gotta get Bob Pandu a wind sock) we estimated to have caught over 140+ fish (with nary a tangle!). Swarms of small sea bass savagely attacked our baits all day too, but we did manage to keep 5 nice ones for the table. To top it off, once the boat was clean and our fish were bagged (thanks Joe!), our amiable host Bob Pandu treated us to a few refreshing vodka collins up on the deck. It was the truly the end of a perfect day. My right arm is still sore from reeling up for that many hours straight, but it's a good pain!" Nice trip ...

While many 5 and 6 pound fish fluke have been available, I have not heard of too many larger fish from the West End. Bob Bohlert now being the exception, he reports, "Had my brother Ron and brother in law Craig out on Joint Effort II for a day of fluking on Sat 8/20. After a slow morning in 85ft, headed further inshore to one of my favorite BLACKFISH holes. Lost a few rigs right off the bat but it paid off with a 27¼" 8lb. fish (on the boga) right out of the sticky stuff. White Gulp, fresh bunker strip and fresh peanut bunker was the bait of the day." Nice fish Bob, congrats! The fluke seem to be on the move, one good storm could send them packing, now is the time to fish and win the FTC Calcutta. Peanut bunker are readily available. On my last three trips, I had plenty in Woodcleft Canal and one throw of the net was all it took to fill the well. They make a great bait fished live or even dead for fluke and trophy seabass, a word to the wise ...



*Bob Bohlert with 8 Lb Fluke on his "Joint Effort II"*



*Hudson Squeri with Montauk Fluke*

From Chris Squeri a Montauk report, where the inshore fishing has been exceptional "Fished Montauk on the Hudson for Fluke and Sea Bass. Father-Son crew of Chris & Hudson Squeri, Rick & Logan Dillworth and Mike & Mikey Danon. Started our drift on South Side of mtk next to the OSearch Great White Shark Research Vessel. First drift was most productive and the longest with 6 keeper

Fluke. Action was steady most of the day as we picked through lots of shorts both fluke and seabass. Had over 12 keeper fluke and 8 seabass for the day. Great weather and family time! "Great Report!"





**Greg Koharek with 80 lb Wahoo on his "Ambition"**

Moving offshore, Tuna continue to confound and frustrate those looking for them. The Coimbra area continues to produce some mixed size bluefin and yellowfin, but the canyon action has been sporadic at best other than an odd good report here and there. Those who did try have been rewarded with other action though. Mahi fishing has been good with many large specimens reported and White Marlin, Blue Marlin, Swordfish, and Wahoo have kept the rods bent in the absence of Tuna. The reports from some memorable trips follow. Greg Koharek ran his Ambition out to the Hudson. While Tuna fishing was slow they did land a beautiful 80 lb Wahoo along with some nice Mahi. Nice

catch and thanks for the report!

Pete Cefai reported on a recent trip aboard Capt. Paul Noto's Rocket Fish. Leaving on a Thursday, they trolled all day until 11PM. They had a White Marlin take a ballyhoo but could not hook the fish. On the chunk overnight they managed a keeper Swordfish. Friday AM on the troll they had a couple of Mahi. Pete mentioned the green stick boats were having better success on the tuna.

**Pete Cefai with a Rocket Fish Sword**



**John Jutt, Jr. makes "The Marlin Book" shown with Nick Titus**

Our Tuna Tower News Editor, Captain John Jutt, had his 43' Viking Red Dawn Rising out to the deep on several trips. During a day trip to the Hudson they found beautiful water, but no tuna to be had. However, on the troll the crew raised approximately 8 white marlin, and a single blue marlin. They successfully hooked and landed and released three of the Whites making for an exciting trip.

On his next trip, "Capt Billfish" and crew continued their hot hand. Out in the Hudson once again they found nice water but no tuna.

On the troll, they raised and hooked a White Marlin during the day but pulled the hook. Settling in for a night chunk at the 100 Square. They set of a couple of deep rigs with light sticks for sword. Those did not get hit, but the tuna rig did, and the fight was on. The crew successfully bested a nice sword that took the ride back to

Jones Inlet. Congrats on these catches Capt. John and crew, your hard work and diligence are paying dividends.

There's nothing like first hand reports, please consider sharing your fishing tales and pictures with our membership by sending them in. Thanks in advance!

Please email your reports to [philton@optonline.net](mailto: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."



**Hog Tied Sword RED DAWN style**



**Dylan DeRosa makes "The Marlin Book" shown with Capt. John**

Sincerely, *Paul Hilton TV Emily S*



## Property Manager's Report

The winter storage season begins on **November 1st** and lease prices will remain the same as last year. The rates are \$14 per foot for members and \$17 per foot for non-members. For non-members there is a \$340 minimum. Winter storage leases will be mailed at the end of the month to all that leased last year. If you did not store with the club last winter and would like to this year, please either email or text me your mailing information and length of your vessel. Once I receive your contact information and boat length, I will send you a winter lease. Please remember that the availability of winter storage on the club property is on a "FIRST PAID IS FIRST SERVED" basis. **Proof of insurance is required for all vessels stored on FTC property.**

There are a few summer invoices outstanding so please get them taken care of as soon as possible.

If you have questions or concerns about the club property you can see me at the GM or Captain and Anglers. You can always contact me either by email or phone.

*Capt. Alan Evelyn*

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## OUR GUEST SPEAKER

The September GM will be held at the Freeport Yacht Club on 09/08/16. The speaker will be **MICHAEL MARTINO** from the **BAY PARK SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT**. He's a South Shore native and an avid fisherman and will talk about efforts to restore health to the local bays and wetlands. If you care about our local waters you won't want to miss this presentation!

## SEPTEMBER 2016 DERBY AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

*Awards Committee: Ray Geiger, Bob Benzenberg, Harry Sbaschnig and Captain Bill Morrrough*

We will present the following trophies at our September GM at the Freeport Yacht Club on Thursday 9/8/16. Congratulations to everyone who participated in these derbies!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DERBY WINNERS!

### TUNA

1st Place: Anthony Bollaci 46.50lbs F/V Hooker

### MAHI

1st Place: Ralph Drewes 35.06lbs F/V Wasabi

2nd Place: Nick Nero 15.0lbs Dolce Vita

### BLACK SEA BASS

1st Place: Glen Grippio 5.50lbs F/V Inky

2nd Place: Mike Zullo 3.2lbs F/V Magic Too

3rd Place: Carl Cerutti 3.0 lbs F/V Grady White

Please be sure to hand in/mail any weigh slips you are holding. Myself or a member of our team are usually present at all club functions.

## THE FOLLOWING DERBIES ARE OPEN OR STARTING THIS MONTH

WEAKFISH 8/14 - 9/25 • MAHI 8/20 - 10/2

FALSE ALBACORE 8/20 - 10/2 • TUNA 8/13 - 9/25

GREEN BONITO 8/20 - 10/2 • FLUKE 8/20 - 9/18

SEA BASS 9/3 - 10/9 • SHARK 9/17 - 11/27

BLUEFISH 9/17 - 11/27

Good luck to all and Get Out and Fish!

*Ray Geiger, Chairman*

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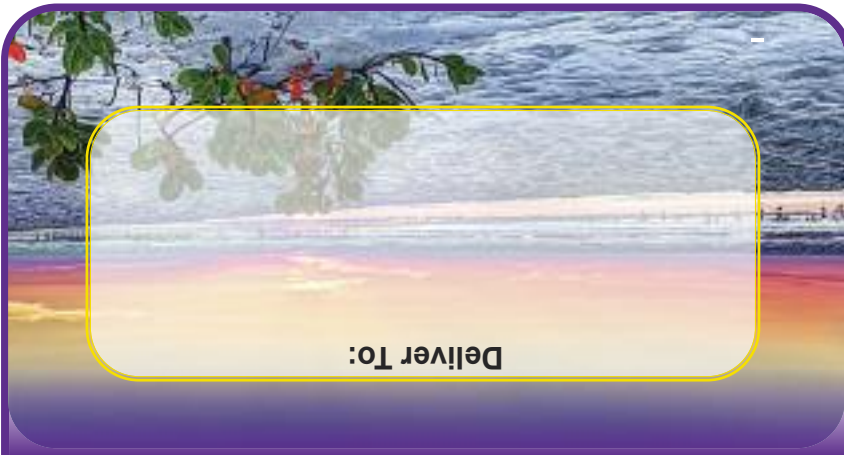
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