

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

TUNA TOWER NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2018
www.ftcfishing.com



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

NEXT GM

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13
@ 7PM
FREEPORT
YACHT CLUB**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As summer comes to a end August leaves us in a heatwave and September may bring us cooler weather but our fishing season is still going strong. Let the derbys begin. From what I've been seeing on Facebook and word around the club, members are having a great fishing season. And I hope that everybody's enjoying the summer boating and fishing with friends and family. Don't forget to turn in your way in slips.

As of new club business the last board of directors meeting has decided that new club members are required to pick a committee and work on that committee for their first year. The reason for this change it so that new members can find a way into the club and also have an opportunity to meet other members and see the other side of what the Board of Directors along with committee members do to make the Freeport Tuna Club an enjoyable club for our membership . Last but not least, the camera system is working and we will be sending out a letter form with the app along with directions on how to set it up on your phone. This is so you can view your boat from your cell phone.

This may be a little far off we also have Oktoberfest coming up If any club members are of German descent and are interested in preparing a German dish for the clubs Oktoberfest you could speak with myself, Jimmy Rooney or John Weber. All help is appreciated, thank you.

I would like to thank Richie Totton for taking over the Luau GM meeting this month along with the board and committee members who have been doing a great job with the captains and anglers along with other club duties. I hope everyone had a great Labor Day.

Thank you guys for a great job. See you at the next meeting

Thank you, *Matthew Cardone*



WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET

PLENTY OF BAIT PLENTY OF FLUKE



Alewife

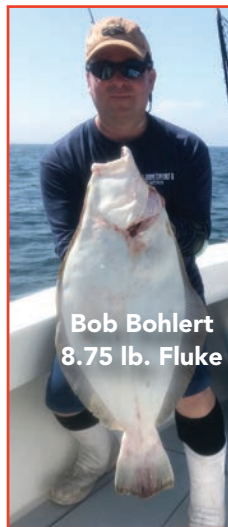
August is just about over and the ocean is loaded with life. Starting with bait we are loaded with bunker, it seems anywhere you stop the pods are there. Chub mackerel have been showing up the past few years, this year they seem thicker than ever. Many confuse them with traditional Boston mackerel, but the chub has a deeper body and larger eye. Like their cousins, they make good bait. Another fish



Chub Mackerel

that has showed up is the Alewife herring, some of the schools are easily confused with bunker. Be on the lookout. Add in squid, sand eels, etc. we have an ocean well stocked with forage.

West End ocean fluking is now in full swing. The last couple of weeks have seen a huge improvement with nice sized fish available on both hard and open bottom. Bob Bohlert snuck out to 80' of water between storms with a rookie crew of Adrian and Craig. As Bob said it was "hammer time," they had constant action with fluke up to 7 lbs and 7 quality seabass as well. More recently, Bob took his *Joint Effort* out to 75' of water with his brother Ron. Using snapper strips and peanuts Bob bested a 27" 8.75 lb beauty. Nice going Bob and crew.



Bob Bohlert
8.75 lb. Fluke

Our esteemed editor, Captain John Jutt made several trips on his *Red Dawn Rising* during some inclement weather. He reported good fluke and seabass action on the Hempstead Reef.

My own fluke trips have improved tremendously. On open bottom, lots of action and with some keepers in the mix, maybe 1 in 8. The hard bottom has a much better keeper ratio. On a recent trip

the ratio was more like 1 in 2, and half of the keepers were between 4 and 6 pounds. Nice quality fish are available just about everywhere, the AB, McAlister and Hempstead Reefs, plus Cholera, Middle Grounds and beyond. Get in on the action while the fluking is good. Seabass fishing remains red hot with fish in the 4-5 lb range readily available as bycatch or if you chose to target them. Throw porgies, triggers, and ling in the mix and your Gulp won't survive for long.

Good news on the seabass front is that NY seabass regulations change on September 1st, with an increase to **7 per person, 15" or greater, until December 31st.**

Besides the great bottom fishing, and without running too far, some other options exist. Spanish mackerel, green bonito, and false albacore are available from Jones Inlet on out. A little further out add mahi to the mix. To target Spanish mackerel troll a small (size 00 or 0) Clark spoon on an 8-10 foot fluorocarbon leader behind a bead chain drail. To target everything else that swims, try the larger sizes. On Long Island, I have personally caught fluke, bass, blues, green bonito, skipjack, false albacore, Spanish mackerel, crevalle, mahi, bluefin, and been bitten off by

mako or wahoo (not sure which) while trolling this setup. This is a deadly combination and will quickly let you know what kind of life is in the area.



Freeport Tuna Club Crew onboard the Hampton Lady

Fluking to the east has picked up as well. Kenny "Fishing Frenzy" Donowski reported a great turnout for the FTC Trip that he organized aboard the Hampton Lady. Lots of laughs with loads of seabass and fluke were caught. Everybody who attended had a great time with fluke mavens Ken and Bob "Panda Man" Pandey ending in a virtual tie for first place pool. They elected to split 1st and 2nd place pools 50/50. Great sportsmanship, sounds like a great trip!



Pete Cefai with Wasabi Yellowfin



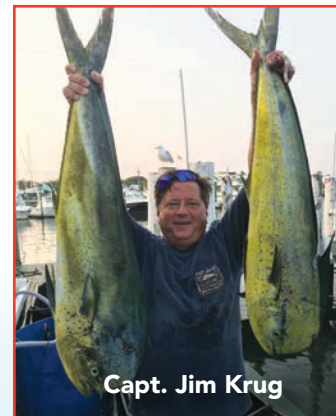
Frank Cefai with a nice Tilefish

Despite a ton of life reported offshore, quality tuna reports remain scarce. Occasionally, a crew runs into a few Yellowfin or Marlin in the canyons, or Bluefin from the Coimbra or Bacardi areas, but that's about it. Pete and Frank Cefai reported a successful trip with Captain Chris Gerhardt on the *Wasabi*. 4 YFT, 3

Mahi and some nice Tilefish. Nice looking fish, nice trip!

Finally, Captain Jim Krug reported on a trip to a distant Weather buoy where 46 large Mahi were landed. That's a lot of good angling and eats, nice going Jim and crew.

That's a wrap for now. Please share your results with our membership. Offshore reports, in particular have been lacking. Please send reports and pictures for inclusion in your club bulletin. Thanks to all who contribute

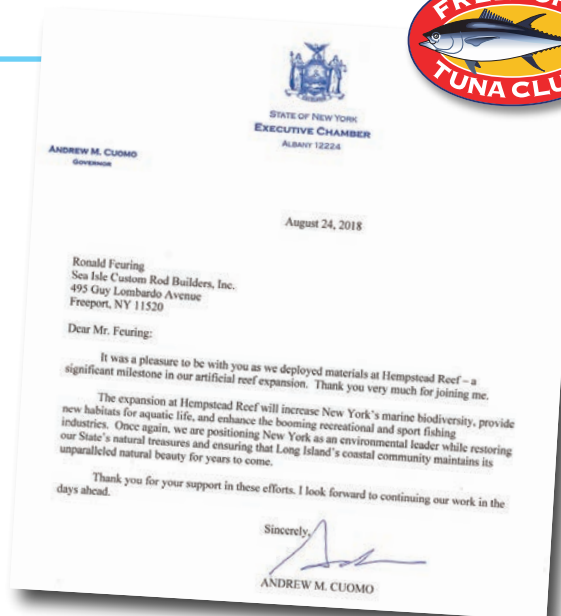


Capt. Jim Krug

Email your reports to philton@optonline.net or text/call me at 516.721.8907

Sincerely, *Paul Hilton* FN Emily S

PRESS & PUBLIC RELATIONS



Ronnie Feuring of Sea Isle and Chris Squeri (shown above) with Governor Andrew Cuomo, on a recent trip to expand the Hempstead Reef by dumping debris from the dismantling of the Tappen Zee Bridge. The reef was created by our FTC Board Emeritus - Ronnie Feuring being one of those who marshalled the creation of this reef to add to our local fishery. At the time of the Reef's creation in 1964, the work barges from the building of our Robert Moses Causeway bridge (1951-1964) were used. So, when you run into Ronnie, you might want to thank him for his past and present contributions. I personally thank you Ronnie, I've caught plenty of fish off this reef. It is great to see this expansion continue.

Capt. John J. Jutt, Editor

DERBIES, AWARDS & CONTESTS

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

We will present the following derby trophies at our September GM at the Freeport Yacht Club on Thursday, September 13th.

Please be sure to attend this month's meeting if you can. If you do, I promise you will witness something special that has never happened in storied history of our club. Yours truly actually won a derby award thanks to the hard work of Past President Ed Faza at the helm.

TUNA

1st Place: Dave Pincus 97.47 lbs F/V Canyon Lady
2nd Place: Anthony Bollaci 45.0 lbs. F/V Hooker

BLACK SEA BASS

1st Place: Ray Geiger 3.45 lbs. F/V WindBreaker
2nd Place: Mary Ellen Zullo 3.31 lbs. F/V Magic Too
3rd Place: Peter Groner 3.25 lbs. F/V Endless Summer II

Derbies Ending/Running/Starting This Month

TUNA	August 11th – September 23rd
WEAKFISH	August 12th – September 23rd
FLUKE	August 18th – September 16th
MAHI	August 18th – September 30th
FALSE ALBACORE	August 18th – September 30th
GREEN BONITO	August 18th – September 30th
SEA BASS	September 1st – October 7th
SHARK	September 15th – November 25th
BLUEFISH	September 15th – November 25th

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. Good Luck To All !!

Best Fishes, *Ray Geiger*

GOOD & WELFARE

It is with regret that I report the passing of member Jim Whalen. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family.

Jeff Squeri
516-652-5981

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



STRIPER DIARIES | EPISODE 7

"We're gonna need a SMALLER boat," I hear my brother yell from the bow. Skinny water striped bass fishing in late summer, when the bays are loaded with bait, can be a blast on light spinning tackle. On August 11, 2018, that was the mission. Typically, when fishing the flats, I use the lightest gear possible. I spend winter months canvassing fishing shows and flea markets to locate rods, plugs and gear at much cheaper prices. Last winter, I was lucky enough to land a pair of silver Shimano Voltaeus 7ft rods. A quick trip to Sea Isle and the rods were outfitted with Shimano Stratic FJ 3000s. It's great to have a second outfit rigged and ready to go. Both reels are spooled with 20 pound Spider Wire Ultra Cast, which I prefer over Power Pro. It's thicker and waxier and helps to prevent wind knots. Some people use lighter line, and that's fine too, but I found that the heavier line comes in handy when those pesky gator blues arrive. A quick "5 up/5 down knot" (which I learned in Baja Mexico) ties the braid directly to the fluorocarbon leader, without a barrel swivel, and I am ready to fish.

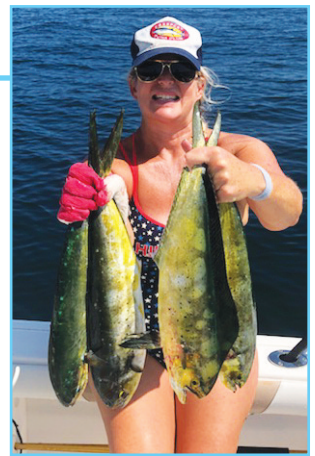
As we head down Reynold's channel and approach the Loop bridge in the dark, my brother swears he sees swishes and swirls along the marsh edges. Stop the boat and get closer he yells! Get closer - it's only 4 feet deep! Yes, we must be in 2 feet of water. With the tide running out, I am not sure how much closer we can get. Skinny water fishing requires just that... shallow water. On the outgoing tide, bait has fewer places to hide and stripers can easily target their prey. So further in we go. Sub-surface lures, top water plugs, and soft plastics always work great. Cast after cast, we throw one (1) ounce Cotton Cordell Pencil Poppers and Super Strike Poppers. It's a rush to see a striped bass crash the surface and attack a plug, and just like that the water starting bubbling!! BAM BAM we are on!!! Striped bass in shallow water! We caught and released over 8 bass that morning, the largest measuring 33 inches!! Back at the dock by 8 a.m. for bagels and coffee. What a morning!

With the talk of a "hot" fluke and Mahi Mahi bite, on August 30, 2018, we decide to take a ride out to the Cholera grounds. A quick check on Terrafin shows clean blue water. Blue water at the Cholera - I'm IN! We grab the light fluke rods, trolling gear, clam and feathers. Let's go! We get to the Cholera and to our surprise the water really was blue. We ride around to check the pots, but didn't see any fish under them. So, I made the decision to head south. Another 6 miles and we came across a Saragosa weed line and balloons floating. So we checked and checked and checked. Nothing! At this point, my plan was to switch gears to sea bass. As I checked my Garmin 7610, to figure out our next stop, we saw a large piece of floating cardboard. We approached slowly, and to our surprise the mother load of Mahi Mahi were swimming under it. Could this be a dream?? Was I hallucinating?? They were "chickens" but still fish! Grab the spinning rod, we will pitch out bait. One by one, we caught fish after fish. It was like bait fishing for perch. Every time I put the line in the water, a Mahi would grab the hook. We boated 7 fish. Truth is we left them biting, but I didn't want to kill any more, because conservation is just as important as catching. We never did fluke fish that day, but clearly it was a "fluke" that we came across that piece of floating debris!! What a day.

Our most recent trip was on Labor Day. With reports of ocean conditions at 2/3 foot, I knew we would be late to our family BBQ. We headed out Deb's Inlet, with plans of heading towards New Jersey. The idea was to sea bass fish and at some point reach the northern most part of the Mud Hole to "pot hop." As we left, the water was immediately blue. I mean, we must have reached blue water at 3

miles out. Unbelievable! We also heard reports of Skip jacks in the inlet!!! WHAT! Grab the deadly dicks. We motored towards "17" and stopped at every balloon we saw. But this time we decided to pick up the balloons, and put them in the garbage. We filled an entire bucket with debris. We stopped at several "wrecks" for sea bass, but only came across shorts. So we did what any fisherman would do. Head South.

When we reached 111 feet of water, we decided to stop and fish. Clam was the bait of choice. We caught sea bass and jumbo porgies. But something wild happened. When I was reeling up a sea bass, I saw flashing blue and yellow color. Two (2) Mahi Mahi had followed my sea bass up to the surface! Quick grab the spinning rod. I pitched out bait and bam - Mahi on!!! We landed both Mahi and quickly threw them on ice. It was incredible! We stayed and fished a while longer, but with the wind picking up and thoughts of missing the bbq, we decided to head back. What an adventure!



Until next time, Tight lines.

Capt. Barbara Solomon
F/V Legal Limits

GOT BAIT + TACKLE?















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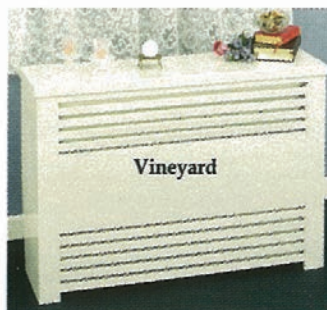
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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

I have been appointed by President Matt Cardone to chair the 2018 Nominating Committee. All information is listed in our club regulations listed below or on the FTC website. Any members in good standing looking to Participate please contact me. Remember participation is the key to a great club experince. Thank you.

Jim Rooney

(516) 850-6772 | JP5820@aol.com

ARTICLE VIII: Nominating Committee

Section 1. The annual election of Directors shall be held at the November meeting of the Corporation. Officers shall be elected by the newly elected Board of Directors prior to the Annual Meeting which shall be held in January of each year and shall be installed at such January meeting.

Section 2. There shall be a Nomination Committee which shall be appointed by the President at the October meeting of the Board of Directors. Such Committee shall consist of six (6) members of whom three (3) shall be members of the Board of Directors and three (3) shall be Regular Members of the Corporation. The Nominating Committee will select the required candidates for the Board of Directors from among the members who have been active in Corporation affairs and who have shown their interest by attending meetings and participating in the various activities of the Corporation. Directors and Officers may be re-elected for any office. The report of the Nominating Committee must be mailed to the members of the Corporation prior to the November meeting.

Section 3. Nominations for Directors will be entertained from the floor at the November meeting. The name of the candidate must be proposed by a voting member and seconded by ten voting members and presented to the Secretary in writing at least seven (7) days prior to the November meeting.



Please mark your calendars

CHANGE IN OCTOBER MEETING

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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