



Tuna Tower News

Website: www.ftcfishing.com



Editor: CAPT. JOHN J. JUTT, Sr.
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: JEFF YAPALATER

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



*To all members and their families
May the new year bring health, happiness, prosperity and peace.*

NEXT GM

THURSDAY DECEMBER 13, 2007 • 8:00 PM
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President's Message

Jim Rooney

December is here and the Holidays are right around the corner. I would like to start my last president's message by congratulating FTC's own Dave Denenberg on his reelection to the Nassau Legislator, Good luck Dave. Our condolences also go to Dave and the Dennberg family on the passing of Dave's father Julian. I would also like to thank Chris Squri for his many years of service to the Board of directors (thank you Chris). I would like to welcome aboard new board member Jeff Yapoliter and the re-elected incumbents (keep up the good work gentlemen). Congratulations also go to our new president Ed Fazza and his executive board (good luck Ed I look forward to serving the club under your administration). I am sure I am leaving the club in great hands. As my tenure comes to a close I went back and read my first presidents message. I was very happy to see that many of our goals have been addressed; this could not be possible without the hard work and dedication of so many members. It is this dedication that makes me to be so very proud to have been your president the last two years. In this time we held three successful open seminars, reinstated Thursday night clinics, and started our bulkhead project, just to name a few of our accomplishments. Membership participation has gone up and needs to continue to go up. With our improvement project moving forward the club will need it's members to

be more active than ever before to insure we stay the best club in NY. I also ask our membership to support our annual raffle; this raffle benefits the whole club and gives you a chance to win some great prizes. The drawings will be held at our annual Christmas party on December 9th at the Freeport recreation center.

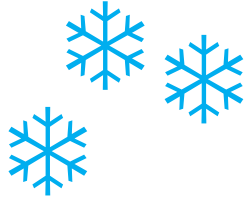


In closing I want to thank my family for their support, encouragement and sacrifice during my two terms a president; for without them I would not have been able to for fill my obligations. I am very grateful to the board of directors, committee heads and committee personal, and the general membership for your hard work and love for this club which enabled me to have a successful presidency. I thank each and ever member in this club for the Honor and privilege to let me serve as your president for the last two years. And as always remember that participation is definitely the key to a great club experience. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season



Jim Rooney
President

FISHING BULLETIN



Our 2007 Season will be ending in just a few more weeks. For most club members fishing related activities have already ended. Our club property is staged with boats that will reside their for the winter, concurrent with the bulk-head replacement that will commence in the not to distant future. Although the season has ended for most it has only begun for the angler who enjoys fishing at this time of the year. The fishery at this time of the year requires the angler to be able to adapt to tougher conditions as well as to focus when the opportunity presents itself at the end of your hook. With the local waters still at about 50-degree range, our winter fishery is still far from over. If the weather continues to hold out we can expect the fishing to be excellent right up through the start of the New Year, a repeat of last year.

Our resident shark expert, Larry Festa was on a major fall shark-fishing quest this season. Quite determined to land a monster his weekly trips proved lackluster until the one that took place on November 12. Accompanied by crew of Mike Sullivan, Matt Errit and George Senirco they bested a Thresher of 339 lbs after a spirited ninety-minute battle by angler Mike Sullivan. Congratulations from all of us on your fine fall trophy.

I traded in my offshore rods in exchange for a pair of double anchors on my bow. Noting it was that "time of the year"; I crewed up with Bob Hindenlang, Paul Hilton and Brian Dougherty. We sailed the Blue Marlin to a few wrecks in 25 fathoms of water and were treated to the finest kind of Seabass fishing. When the day was over and our limit was had, our largest Seabass, caught by Paul Hilton weighed 6.10 pounds. Bob Hindenlang also had one of 6.6 lbs. A sprinkling of Cod rounded out the catch, the largest was 13.6 lbs.

Further offshore and to the east Capt Scott Schafer also knew that is was that same "time of the year". Accompanied by Co-Capt. Darin and FTC crew of Larry Festa, Anthony Testa Sr. and Jr. and Jr. Angler Bobby Krug, they headed offshore to the Capt's "favorite" stop in 30 fathoms of water. Once anchored they got right to business

and on this particular day the fish were cooperative and bit their "heads off". Final tally was twenty Cod to 33lbs, Pollack to the mid-twenties and a load of Seabass up to the six-pound range.

Closer to shore and still out east the Blackfishing is as good as it gets. On many of his recent trips Capt. Jim Krug sailing aboard his Persuader has been able to put his crew "on the meat" He reported that his catches have been excellent with his largest to date, 10.5 lbs. A sprinkling of cod have also been caught on the same grounds.

Back to the west and closer to home the Blackfishing has started in earnest. On a mid November day Bob Bohlerl skippered his Joint Effort, accompanied by fellow FTC member Paul Marcy. Once anchored on the spot, Paul's rod took on the bend of its life.

A short while later a 12.7 lb. Blackfish lined the inside of his fishbox. Congratulations on one fine "tog". Our other bottom-fishing experts Magic Too and Tin Man have reported that fishing has been excellent on all of their recent outings.

Closer to shore striped bass and bluefish continue their fall migration with reckless abandon. On a recent blustery Sunday, John Campa skippered his Mary Etta to an area west of our inlet under a sky full of diving Gannets. Before the jig hit the bottom it was fish on, the largest that day was 31.1 lbs. Many other club boats have taken advantage of the same action, Nikki Ann, Bunker Dunker, Four Bells all have reported excellent bass and blue action under the birds.

I once again hope that the membership has enjoyed reading my reports this past season. I enjoy serving our club by contributing my time and research to this column. I am looking forward to sharing the 2008 season with all of you "reel" soon.

Have a safe and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Captain Harry Weinblatt

F/V Blue Marlin



New Head for DEC Department of Marine Resources



James Gilmore was appointed by Commissioner Grannis as the new Chief of the DEC Marine Resources in the NYS Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources. Gilmore has spent many years working New York in different capacities within the DEC since 1994. Gilmore was educated in NY and received a Masters in Marine Biology from SUNY Stonybrook. He currently lives in Amityville. His current responsibilities include the management of living marine resources and their habitats within the Marine and Coastal District of New York State.

CONSERVATION

The New York Sportsfishing Federation is planning to represent The Freeport Tuna Club and all recreational anglers at the upcoming meetings and hearings on fluke, porgies, sea bass and blue fish. At the last meeting we passed the Recreational Anglers Bill of Rights around for approval. This will be the basis for our "negotiations" at the upcoming licensing meeting held by the Marine Reserve Advisory Council focus groups. Together we can make a difference. Please confirm that you have rec'd this information.

Sincerely,
Dennis M. Cataldo

Recreational Angler's Bill of Rights

In 2008 we are about to face much tighter fluke and blackfish regulations than we already have.

By 2009 the Federal Government requires our enrollment as recreational anglers. By 2011 we will have to pay for this registration if we have not been forced to do so sooner.

The New York Sportfishing Federation is the only organization that represents only the "recreational anglers" in New York and no one else. We have one primary agenda:
Protecting the rights of recreational anglers.

We are advocating a Bill of Rights for Recreational Anglers in New York. We need to know if the club is for it or opposed. Does your club support the Bill of Rights?

1. The Recreational Angler has the right to utilize a license that provides for the exclusive right to fish for blackfish and striped bass.
2. The Recreational Angler has the right to be free from MPA's without scientific data supporting evidence that recreational fishing is detrimental to the habitat in question.
3. The Recreational Angler has the right to be free from seasonal closures without scientific data independent of MRFSS.
4. The Recreational Angler has the right to establish a more active reef program with the allocation of resources (through a license or independent fund) for substantial reef building habitat for recreational anglers in New York.
5. The Recreational Angler has the right to a salt-water license with a dedicated fund for preserving our fisheries.
6. The Recreational Angler has the right to be represented on all official organizations having authority over the allocation of marine resources and habitats.

Membership

Letters will be going out in the first half of December for renewal of your membership. The 2008 dues, which are \$225 for family members and \$200 for regular members, are due on January 1, 2008. Membership dues have been raised \$50. The increase is to assist with providing the funds necessary to improve the Club's property.

Ethanol & Winterization

Ethanol has been touted as a salvation to OPEC manipulation. But as with every good thing there is some bad. Gasoline fuel left in the boat's gas tank over the winter can have some bad side effects from the condensation that can occur. This condensation results from too little fuel in the tanks and can lead to something called phase separation. This is an actual separation like oil and water but it is gasoline and ethanol, which absorbs water and therefore can potentially create condensation buildup. If this does occur, and it is not definite but just sort of depends, the residue from the ethanol sinks to the bottom of the gas tank, and can rust them out and also clog some of the engine filters.



Midwest boat owners have used Ethanol for years and they recommend that at least one-half of the tank remains filled to minimize the condensation process. This phase separation occurs more as the boat is left unused. So while the actual damages to your boat of this chemical reaction are unclear the usage of your boat greatly reduces this potential damage.

Good and Welfare

Our condolences go out to member legislator Dave Denenberg on the recent loss of his father. His dad, Julian, is survived by his wife Daisy and their three children.

Congratulations to Christopher Bellinzi on his acceptance to Binghamton school of management MBA program (way to go stp) Chris was awarded an academic scholarship.

Congratulations to Mike Zullo on the completion of his third NYC marathon. Mike completed this year in under 3 hours and 45 minutes

Property

As this is being written, our contractor, Hancock Contracting, has been given verbal assurance by the Army Corp that we will have the required permits to begin construction of the bulkhead by December 15. That will be a nice holiday present. Let's all hope that the Corp lives up to its promise. This being the case, boat owners are advised to remove all of their belongings that they do not wish damaged or discarded from the construction zone which extends back 40 feet from the bulkhead and encompasses the entire south end of the property beginning at the gate.

Summer contracts will be mailed out in January. You should expect an increase in dock rates to bring the rates in line with fair market rates for marinas in the area.

INLET DREDGING

The good news is that it appears that both the Jones and Fire Island Inlets are planned to be dredged after months of public confusion and political indecision. Jones Inlet will be dredged and completed by April 1st. Senator Skelos's office is supportive and all the paper work is done and the RFP for the contractor was sent out last week. Expect the job to start after the New Year but no definite start date has been set - only that everyone is on board and the project will be completed by April 1 for the Piping Plovers, according to a FTC member involved in the maritime industry.

According to the Army Corp of Engineers, the Fire Island Inlet is scheduled to be dredged with a projected beginning the second week in November 2007. This is a periodic maintenance of the Inlet as established by the Rivera and Harbors Act of 1962. The dredged material will be placed as beach nourishment at Gilgo Beach to west of the inlet. The NYSDEC project allows for a channel 14 feet deep with a width of 450 feet covering a distance of 1.8 miles in the Fire Island Inlet.

Recreational Boating Act of 2007-Caution!

Please take a few minutes and contact your one Representative and two Senators, even if you have already done so. We need them to support and co-sponsor "The Recreational Boating Act of 2007" (House Bill #2550 and Senate Bill #2067). Boating groups are working to pass this legislation, which will eliminate (for recreational boats only) the new court-imposed EPA permit. We know that boating depends on

clean water and healthy natural resources. However, a boat permit will not create a tangible environmental benefit, and it will be another inconvenience and tax for you

Inshore Buoy Problems

Inshore buoy problems continue to occur mainly due to Captain's accidents or recklessness. As you know our 23 mile out buoy 44025 went out of service during the summer due to a hit by a boat. A replacement hull is being readied as a replacement. It will be deployed as soon as the Coast Guard provides support for the exchange which is expected sometime before next fishing season. Maintenance for all buoys is only scheduled every 24 months! It is costly and time consuming on a regular basis and getting emergency work is as difficult. An innocent bump in the fog by an inconsiderate boater can siphon tens of thousands of dollars from our taxes! The Ambrose Light Station, ALSN6, was hit by a vessel about 5 weeks ago and is in very bad shape. The C-MAN station continues to operate, but the Coast Guard has determined the tower cannot be repaired and must be destroyed. There is no schedule for this, but they say it will be done as soon as possible. They are looking at alternatives for a replacement. This is not the first time Ambrose has been hit. It has already been rebuilt at least twice after being hit many years before. If you have had a chance to see this towering structure it is hard to believe that large vessels cannot see it! From the CG report "On November 3, the structure reportedly suffered substantial damage to its legs, stanchion and the revolving light which was bent and no longer rotating after it was reportedly struck by The Axel Spirit, a 799-foot tanker ship operated by the Teekay Shipping Company, while it was going to the Chevron facility in Perth Amboy, N.J."



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DECEMBER 2007 DERBY, AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

Awards Chairman: Captain Lawrence J. Festa
Committee Team: Captain Michael Zullo, Mary Ellen Zullo,
Captain Chris Squeri, Joseph Johns, Bill Morrogh

On behalf of your committee I wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I commend our Second Term President, Jim Rooney for his two successful terms leading our club.

The FTC Awards Committee is very proud to announce that Senior Board Member Bill Morrogh will be heading up the FTC Awards Committee for 2008. Bill brings years of experience to the committee and I welcome him aboard as our new Chairman for the Awards & Contest Committee. I thank all of the members who I served over the passed seven years as committee head for working with me in making our Awards & Contests the "BEST of THE BEST!" I will be staying on with the committee during this changing of the guard to keep the transition seamless.

The following derbies are closed and will be awarded at our GM.
Final Result are:

Fall Tuna (25 lbs.)..... September 1st ~ October 7th

The following derbies are closed, winners will be awarded at our December GM:

Fall Seabass (02 lbs.).....September 22nd ~ October 21st
1ST Place: Peter Cefai..... 5.25 lbs. F/V "Emily S"
2ND Place: Mary Ellen Zullo.....3.8 lbs. F/V "Magic too"
3RD Place: "Not Awarded"

Fall Black fish (03 lbs.)..... October 21st ~ November 25th
1ST Place: Paul Marcy..... 12.43 lbs. F/V "Joint Effort II"
2ND Place: Michael Zullo.....8.50 lbs. F/V "Tin Man"
3RD Place: Bobbie Hindenlang.....8.30 lbs. F/V "Tin Man"

Fall Striped Bass (15 lbs.)..... October 14th t ~ November 25th
1ST Place: Paul Noto.....36.44 lbs. F/V "Rocket Fish"
2ND Place: John Campa.....31.10 lbs. F/V "MaryEtta"
3RD Place: Paul Hilton.....25.12 lbs. F/V "Emily S"

The following Derbies are in progress this month:
Fall Cod (10 lbs.).....September 29th ~ December 9th

Awards, Contests & Derby News: As we start to wind down our season, here is a little preview at some of our largest of each species, based on weigh slips submitted:

Bluefish: Don Morin 14 lbs.
Codfish: Scott Schafer 33.00 lbs.
Fluke: Joe Fanora 13.00 lbs
Shark (Mako): Fred Reuhman 178 lbs.
Mahi: Sean Libby 16.18 lbs.
Striped Bass: Paul Grippo 45.5 lbs.
Tuna (Big Eye): Sean Libby 237 lbs.

Blackfish: Paul Marcy 12.43 lbs.
Flounder: Bobbie Krug 3.37 lbs.
Tuna (Yellowfin): Bobbie Hindenlang 195
Shark (Thresher): Michael Sullivan 339 lbs.
Weakfish: None
Seabass: Paul Hilton 6.8 lbs
Billfish (Sword): Paul Noto 95 lbs.

Please come to our December GM to be recognized for your outstanding achievements in the art of sport fishing.

No other club does it better then we do.



USGC Local Web Page

Here is the link to the
Coast Guard NY District PR

Page:<http://www.uscgnewyork.com/go/site/802/>

Lawrence J. Festa
Tuna Tawren News



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Season's greetings

The editorial and production staff of the Tuna Tower News wishes the entire FTC membership the best of holidays and a Happy New Year. We thank all you who have contributed your time, expertise, and input. Next year we look forward to more participation by you, the members, in continuing to make this publication the best in the fishing club community.