

Tuna Tower News

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.

Internet Address: www.ftcfishing.com



Volume Seven • JULY 2005

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, July 14, 2005

CURE OF ARS CHURCH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Merrick Ave., Merrick

(south of Sunrise Highway between Sunrise Hwy. & Merrick Road)

SEA TOW Captain Alan Bregman

**Importance of Sea Tow on our waterways
Safety on the water, Proper Towing, Towing or Salvage**

President's Message ===== Capt. John J. Jutt, Sr.

FTC's performance in the June shark tournaments was extraordinary. Congratulations to father and son team Ray and Kevin Staneck on their 1st Place finish in the 33rd Annual Hudson Anglers Tournament aboard their new vessel "Adventure". They captured 1st Place with a very impressive 285 lb. Mako. In addition, Captain Sean Libby captured second place and won the Calcutta in this event, leading to a FTC sweep of the top prizes. One week later the icing was on the cake when another father and son team Anthony and Tony Testa bested the fleet in the annual Woodcleft Fishing Station Tournament capturing 1st with a 321 lb. Thresher. What a way to go guys! Obviously these guys paid attention at the June GM and picked up some tips from Larry the Legend during his Shark Presentation. Thanks to all for putting the club on the top of the charts!

For those of you who attended the June meeting you may have noticed that the ship store has been re-opened. FTC apparel will be available at all GM and Captain Angler meetings. Thanks to Rose and Paul Schuber for taking on this committee.

A special thanks also to Joanne and Harry Schroeder. Their

many years of dedication to this committee will always be appreciated.

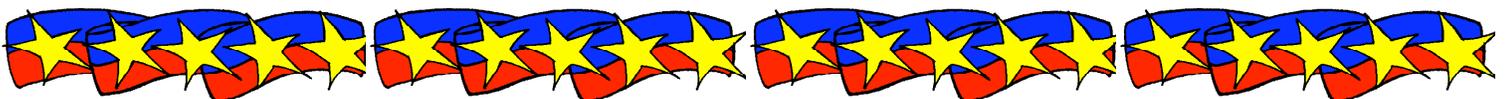
Sea Tow Captain Alan Bregman will address the July GM meeting on the importance of the presence of Sea Tow on our waterways. I believe the presentation will be very informative and look forward to hearing from Captain Alan.

As July rolls around usually so do the summer doldrums. However, for those who have been fishing, that's not been the case. According to some local reports the fishing has been very productive.

I urge all members to get out there and enjoy your boating with family and friends. Whether you are fishing or soaking up the sun, just remember SAFETY FIRST. Enjoy your summer and good times. Thanks for your support and I look forward to seeing you at the next GM, Captain Angler meetings, or just passing by on the water.

As, Henry David Thoreau once said "Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not the fish that they are after".

Capt. John J. Jutt



CLUB AWARDS & DERBY DATES



Capt. Lawrence J. Festa F/V Kristen

The following derbies are in progress or starting this month:
Tuna (25 lbs.).....July 2nd ~ July 31st
Mahi (04 lbs.).....July 2nd ~ July 31st

The following derbies are closed this month:
Fluke (02 lbs.).....June 4th ~ July 7th
Shark (125 lbs.).....June 4th ~ July 10th
Bluefish (08 lbs.).....June 4th ~ July 3rd

The following derbies are closed & the winners are:
Seabass (02 lbs.).....April 23rd ~ June 5th
1st Place: Ron Leonardi.....4.81 lbs F/V Aphis
2nd Place: Mary Ellen Zullo.....4.81 lbs. F/V Magic Too
3rd Place: Captain Michael Zullo.....4.0 lbs. F/V Magic Too

Striped Bass (15 lbs.).....May 14th ~ June 19th
1st Place: Anthony Testa.....35.25 lbs. F/V Stefani Ann
2nd Place: Gabbie Toback.....28.76 lbs. F/V Corazon
3rd Place: Captain Doug Toback.....26.80 lbs. F/V Corazon

Weakfish:.....May 21st ~ June 26th
Sorry no winners

Derby Updates: Congratulations to some of our junior anglers: John Weber Jr. with a Whopper 8.12 pound Equalizer west and number one derby contender. Gabbie Toback with a 28.76 pound westend striper.

Welcome back Ray & Kevin Staneck on their all new F/V Adventurer. What a nice break in..... with a 285 Hudson Angler Tournament winning MAKO!

Backup by Anthony Testa's Woodcleft Blockbusting 321 Thresher, Angler Glen Oberwiler Two major Tournaments in Freeport won by the FREEPORT TUNA CLUB!!!

Any outstanding catches or updates on fish you might like mentioned, just drop me an E mail @ Captainlarry84@aol.com

August 26, 27 & 28, Friday, Saturday & Sunday - Freeport Tuna Club Vs Babylon Tuna Club,
Tuna-Shoot-out. If any member has a fish that was weight in during any of the shoot-out dates please contact
John Rooney at (516) 721-8207

ORGANIZED CRIME AND DWINDLING BLUEFIN TUNA STOCKS

With a single bluefin worth as much as \$150,000 on the Tokyo market, Italian and Russian organized crime is now involved, U.N. experts say "Only one of these big tuna can be worth as much as the most expensive Mercedes-Benz," Garcia said. "How do you expect criminal organizations not to want to be in on it?" He said Mafia-owned fishing operations launder money from other activities and exploit official fishing subsidies. Other operators, he added, push for quick and maximum profit in case enforcement is tightened. "It's warfare out there, complete with military technology," Garcia said. Within 20 years, he predicted, only the wealthiest will be willing to pay the necessary prices for the best cuts of tuna. Even worse, international law experts add, little is being done to stop it. Despite all the evidence, high-tech fleets probe the last deepwater refuges, hardly troubled by authorities. Legal quotas are too high, specialists say, and in any case are often pointless because too many crews lie about their catch. University of British Columbia researchers sounded the alarm in 2001, reporting that some fish populations had fallen by as much as 85 percent. They said China drastically underreported its catch. The report, directed by Daniel Pauly, said declassified Cold War technology, aircraft, and U.S. monitoring of water temperatures and ocean bottoms help fisherman find hideouts once beyond their reach. Marine biologists say not only bluefin tuna but also other fish stocks are plummeting across the world, upsetting delicate natural food chains. Some fear irreversible damage has already been done. "This is no sudden crash, but rather an extremely slow-speed fatal collision," said Carl Safina, founder of the conservationist Blue Ocean Institute on Long Island in New York. Some are more optimistic, arguing that careful management can restore stocks to sustainable levels, but none dispute that urgent action is essential. Scientists blame worldwide overfishing by private fleets, often with their governments' complicity. Even where laws and accords are in place, they say, there is seldom more than token enforcement.

Not all tuna in danger

Tuna is a particular problem. Such common varieties as skipjack, found canned in supermarkets, fetch lower prices and are not in immediate danger. But prized bluefins are hunted down for sophisticated worldwide net-

works of Japanese buyers. About 20 percent of the world's dwindling supply is caught in the Mediterranean, where tuna stocks are most threatened. And bluefin are also endangered in the Atlantic and Pacific. The competition is fierce. At remote ports in Maine, boats that bring in bluefin find Japanese agents on their cell phones, eager to bid for the fish and ship them to Tokyo in coffin-like containers packed with ice.

Since these giant tuna might live 30 years, their plight affects an entire complex food chain, which already suffers from other types of overfishing. In the early 1950s, the global tuna catch was less than 500,000 tons. By 2001, it had surpassed 3.7 million tons.

A counting issue

Garcia said the main problem is that since ocean fish cannot be accurately counted, no one can be certain about numbers. As a result, fishermen and conservationists push data to opposite extremes. But, he said, scientists have a clear idea of the downward trend. "I don't think it is wise to wait until this is proven right beyond any doubt," he said. "By then, it will be too late." He calculated that fleets should be reduced by 30 to 40 percent to preserve stocks.

Now most bluefin are caught on long lines. Other tuna are scooped up by purse-seine nets which catch whatever enters their broad openings. Huge numbers of untargeted fish are dumped back, dead in the water. Using almost weightless nylon-Kevlar lines up to 2,500 feet long and equipped with lights and tiny cameras, Garcia said, fisherman can locate giant old tuna hiding in underwater caves.

Tuna ranches a new trend

Some experts put hope in tuna ranches, which have grown fast since 1997. These are not breeding centers, as are common for salmon, but rather holding pens for wild tuna that are caught but not landed. At 30 Mediterranean sites, captured tuna are held in net corrals for five to 20 months until they fatten.

Proponents say this allows prices to stabilize and adds more meat to the market. But in practice, the WWF says, tuna penning wreaks its own sorts of havoc by disrupting natural cycles and seasonality, and by opening new markets for tuna. These, a WWF report says, have "made the situation of wild stocks even more perilous."

Reprinted from on-line news sources. Abridged and edited.

Freeport Tuna Club

f i s h i n g

b u l l e t i n

Our offshore season started out with a bang for the Freeport Tuna Club. Congratulations are in order for Team Staneck with a first place victory, by capturing a 284-lb. mako, during this years Hudson Anglers Tournament. Coming in a solid second and with the big bucks to prove it was club member Sean Libby. His 190-lb. blue shark earned his crew a very handsome prize by taking home the Calcutta. The following week Team Testa lead the way during the Woodcleft Shark Tournament, their 321-lb. Thresher was good enough to take that tournaments first place slot. With finishes like this it should make you proud to be a member of the Freeport Tuna Club.



The offshore action was not just limited to sharks. When an eddy of Gulf Stream water spilled onto an offshore canyon, Scott Schafer ran his 50/50 140 miles to Hydrogropher Canyon. His efforts were well rewarded his crew captured the first tuna of the season which were brought back to Montauk. Their best fish of that trip was a 110 lb. yellowfin tuna. Closer to home the school bluefin tuna have invaded our area with vengeance. From south of Cholera to 25 fathoms of water double-digit catches have been reported with fish in the low twenty-pound range. Be mindful of the current regulations in effect prior to harvesting fish for your cooler. Currently the bag limit is one fish per boat with a 27-inch minimum length. Trolling cedar plugs or small ? ounce feathers or jets have been the lures of choice.

On the local front fluke fishing has been reported to be good in the local bays. Although the fish are smaller they are certainly accounting for lots of action. If one works hard enough at it, legal sized fish can be taken home in the cooler.

Bluefish are everywhere, they can be caught from just outside our inlet to 50 miles out. They continue to plague shark-fisherman and have ripped up their fair share of tuna lures.

Striped bass action has continued to be strong as well. The fish are still reported to be on the bunker schools. Further to the west off of the Rockaways can be caught by fishing with whole clams and chumming with bellies.

Our season is well under way so get on out there and catch some fish.

Sincerely,

Captain Harry Weinblatt
F/V Blue Marlin



PROPERTY

The Board of Directors voted on rules that consolidate and in some cases clarify the rules that have governed the property. A copy is posted at the property for anyone wishing to review them.

FLUKE CALCUTTA

There are 71 members in the Fluke Calcutta. Fluke fishing along the entire south shore has slowed considerably. No fish have been weighed this month. Let's hope that things pick up later in the season. Scott Schafer's 10 lb.1 oz. fish leads the Calcutta.

GOOD & WELFARE

Joseph Jahn's wife Lynda gave birth to a handsome baby boy on June 13th. Nicholas Joseph weighed in @ 5lb 15oz 19inches. Both mother and son are doing well.

BULLETIN DELIVERY

One hundred and four members have signed up for e-mail delivery of their bulletin. This is in addition to the postal delivery you are already receiving. Members find e-mail delivery timely as it eliminates the inefficiencies in the postal delivery system.

Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the bulletin by e-mail who has not already signed up may e-mail their request to ftc1937@optonline.net. Every effort is taken to maintain the privacy of your e-mail address.

CONSERVATION

Please remember Blackfish are out of season until 10-01-05. Flounder closed 6-30-05. Porgies opened 7-01 at 25 fish 10 1/2 inches. You are allowed 2 striped bass, the second must be over 40 inches, the first must be 28 inches or more. Yellowfin tuna are 3 per person. Bluefin tuna was one per boat over 27 inches and is supposed to change



Deliver To:

Post Office Box 5
Freeport, New York 11520



Capt. John J. Jutt Sr. President
James Rooney..... 1st Vice President
Chris Squeri..... 2nd Vice President
Mike Sullivan Treasurer
Chris Bellinzoni..... Secretary

2005 Officers

Freeport Tuna Club, Inc.
Chartered to Promote
Sport-fishing & Conservation



Winners of the 33rd annual Freeport Hudson Anglers Shark Tournament. "Adventurer II" 284 lb mako

Ray & Kevin Stanek, Bob Matos, Ed Kudder

FIRST PLACE WOODCLEFT SHARK TOURNAMENT



CLASSIFIED:

- 1984 Tiara Pursuit 27, cabin, stand up head, twin 220 crusaders, GPS, Depth finder, radio, out riggers, \$20, 000 Also, 16 ft. heavy fiberglass dingy \$200. Call Michael 516-535-4085, embroidme@optonline.net
- 12' Barneget Duck Boat by Aero Marine. Locking hard cover and spray shield, 15 h.p. Mariner w/ sting ray jr., 3 yr. old trailer \$2,250.00 Call Ron 516-593-6560
- 1 28x24 4 blade nibril prop. like new condition, reasonably priced 516-632-9770.
- For Sale - 78 chriscraft 23' I/O v8fvc chevy/volvo low hours. Handyman special \$1,000.00 or B/O Chrysler engines or parts call for your needs/3,1 3/8" shafts by 89" \$200.00 1 onan 7.5 gas generator needs work \$600.00 or BO Call Joe 917-731-4466
- WANTED - Mate on offshore & inshore trips - clean boat after trips - prep boat before trips -perform misc tasks during the week Contact: JEFF 516.377.2677
- Dock Space: deep & wide canal, Freeport - off Hudson Canal for boat up to 30' Call Sy 516-632-9770
- FOR SALE: 28ft. Bertram 1976 Flybridge T170 Yanmars Full Enclosure with radar arch. Furuno/Radar/GPS/Fishfinder \$47,000 Call Matt 917-617-2068.
- For Sale: Raymarine RL-9 marine radar 7" LCD screen 2kv antenna, spare display, power and antenna cable. Recently serviced and upgraded by Raymarine. Currently installed on my boat, can demonstrate. Best offer. John Weber 516-379-8935 eves.