

Freeport Tuna Club

Tuna Tower News



Internet Address: www.ftcfishing.com

VOLUME TWELVE • DECEMBER 2008

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CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: JEFF YAPALATER

NEXT GM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11 • 8:00 PM

CURE OF ARS AUDITORIUM

MERRICK AVENUE • MERRICK

(between Sunrise Highway and Merrick Road)

December Guest Speakers

Capt. Thomas Brown, Capt. Lynn Cox and crew of the scalloper, Jordan's Freedom, will share scallop, tuna and fishing stories with us. Hear shop talk on scallop guts, night fishing, and harvest regulations. Appearance is weather permitting-if it is too nice they will be out making a living!!

President's Message

Ed Faza

Happy Holidays ! Regretfully this is my last presidential message. I would again like to thank everyone that volunteered and sacrificed their personal time to rebuild our club's marina. It was not easy work, wallowing thru mud, carrying wood and swinging hammers .You can stand proud on this great accomplishment! I would also like to thank all the committees and club members that ran all of the great club events last year. Without your efforts the club would not be successful. I would like to wish the incoming president Joe Jahn and his newly elected board the best of luck in the coming year.

Our Holiday party is set for 12/14@1pm. Bob Benzenberg and his committee have done a great job preparing for this event. There will be entertainment for the kids , a dessert competition ,great food and fantastic raffle prizes. Santa will be stopping by, parents

please supply a gift for your children under \$25. Bring your family and let's all have a good time.

Due to substantial increases in the cost of our rent and food, the club has no choice but to raise the entrance fee of the monthly general meeting to \$10. The club Treasurer has determined that it now costs over \$10 per person to hold the meeting . Please keep in mind that this fee has not been raised in over 10 years. The club has done its best to keep the fee down as long as possible. The good news is that membership dues and summer dockage will not increase for 2009.

I wish the very best to all in the new year.



FISHING BULLETIN

Captain Harry Weinblatt



We are rapidly approaching the end of the 2008 season.

For most of us the season has come to a close, evident with the accumulation of boats now staged at our club property for the winter. Although the boats are coming out of the water our fishery is far from over. Our water temperatures are still in the low 50's, slightly higher than normal for this time of the year. This is about to change as the recent cold weather will help to lower the water to a more seasonable temperature. If the weather continues to hold out we can expect to see good fishing right up through the start of the new year.

I stowed my offshore rods in exchange for double anchors on my bow. Anxious to gun in on the offshore wrecks, I sailed the Blue Marlin over the Thanksgiving Day Weekend along with FTC crew of Tim Sherman, Peter McElvoy, Bruce Forester, Brian Dougherty and Bob Hindenlang. Looking to cash in on some large seabass our efforts were not rewarded as well as in prior years however good weather and FTC comradery were present aboard this trip. Out east Capt. Scott Schafer sailed his 50/50 to a wreck in 190 ft of water south of Montauk and reported a bang up job on the seabass with his largest reportedly tipping the scales in the five pound class and an assortment of cod to round out the catch. This fishery will continue all winter long as the fish stage themselves on the 60-80 miles wrecks.

Our fall blackfish season continues to be productive and the recent cold snap has put the feed bag on for them.. The action is taking place from our local reefs, west to the New Jersey reefs and as far south as 17 Fathoms.

Our East End club members have reported an excellent fall fishery to date. Anthony Testa has reported excellent bass fishing, now that the herring have arrived.

Our local striped bass action continues as well. Find the clouds of birds diving and most likely the bass will be underneath them. This traditional fall fishery has been taking place to the west along the Rockaways on a daily basis.

In closing, I hope that the membership has enjoyed reading my reports this past year. I enjoy serving our club by contributing my time and research to this column. I take an enormous amount of pride doing so for the best fishing club in our area.

Sincerely,
Captain Harry Weinblatt
F/V Blue Marlin

The New York Sportfishing Federation show will be held on February 13,14 and 15 at the Freeport Rec Center on Merrick Road just west of the Meadowbrook Parkway. The show hours are Friday 2-8, Saturday 8-6 and Sunday 9-2:30. The seminar series is led by Doc Miller, Andy Locascio, Tom Schlichter and Bob Rochetta.

On Sunday the auction will e highlighted by the trips to Tropic Star Lodge in Panama, Tanaku Lodge in Alaska and others to Key West, Florida and Cabo San Lucas Mexico. Visit the website or call Dennis Cataldo or Karen Carlson at 516-753-5433.

The Mid Atlantic Council will have its' recreational management meeting on Tuesday, December 9th at Gurneys in Montauk. The agenda is 8:30 to 11am fluke, 11am to 2pm porgies and 2pm to 4pm black seabass. Quotas and management will dominate the agenda. Please try to get everyone you know to attend these meetings.

Dennis Cataldo

ICCAT Tuna Meeting Spawns Dissent

The recent decisions at the ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) has spawned many bad feelings, once again, between Mediterranean and US tuna fishers. While there has been agreement to reduce the BFT harvest, it appears that the US will take the largest hit. Despite an 80% drop in populations of east Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna since the mid-1970s, and continued massive overfishing above agreed quotas, ICCAT, under pressure from fishermen in the European Community, on November 25 approved tightened 2009 fishing quotas that nevertheless exceed the recommendations of ICCAT's own scientists by 50%. Unfortunately the U.S. will be one of the couple of countries that actually abides by the rules while others will continually flagrantly disregard and overharvest BFT as in the past. Excerpt rewritten from Tuna News by ---Jeff Yapalater

Trivia:

Did you know that Fathom is now a nautical unit of length equal to six feet; it was once defined by an act of Parliament as "the length of a man's arms around the object of his affections." The word derives from the Old English Faethm, which means "embracing arms." Courtesy LI Boating Magazine.

DECEMBER 2008 DERBY, AWARDS & CONTEST REPORT

Awards Chairman: Captain Bill Morrogh
Committee Team: Captain Michael Zullo, MaryEllen Zullo,
Captain Chris Squeri, Joseph Jahn, Captain Lawrence J. Festa

Congratulations to Bob Porter on his 1st place fish in both the fall and spring Seabass derbies!
The Cod derby is the last derby of the year that is still open. Get out and catch-em-up if you can (6lb minimum)!

The Shark, Bluefish and Striped Bass derbies closed on November 30th. All weigh slips must be in to the committee by December 14th.

OUR DECEMBER DERBY WINNERS ARE:

SEABASS

1st Place: Robert Porter.....5.0 lbs F/V Shark III
2nd Place: Mike Zullo.....2.8 lbs F/V Magic Too
3rd Place: Eugene Pierce.....2.5 lbs F/V Blue Marlin

THE FOLLOWING DERBIES ARE IN PROGRESS

Cod (6 lbs).....October 4th ~ December 28th

Reasons for Poor Yellow Fin Season?

In response to a recent ICCAT ruling Jim DoNofrio of the RFA said the problems with tuna fishing go beyond the bluefins. Shore area canyon fishermen may have seen the evidence this season with the poor bigeye and yellowfin landings. This was the worst yellowfin tuna season in years, and the lack of yellowfins hurt charter and party boat revenue. "The biologists in ICCAT say the yellowfins are not overfished," Donofrio said, "but my concern is the juveniles. They're still hammering the small fish in the Gulf of Guinea." The African coast is the spawning and nursery grounds for yellowfins and bigeyes. Killing the small tuna there is not only against international law, but it is shortsighted fisheries practice. "Yellowfins are short-lived," Donofrio said. "They only live about eight years. Killing off the replacement fish is only hurting the fishermen in the long run."

So, this is another possible reason for the shortage of YFT this year. Some others contend that the is more due to the Gulf Stream water that entered our Canyons early and instead of bringing the tuna with it, may have driven them to the southern edge of the Stream outdistancing our fishing range.

Adapted from Tuna News by Jeff Yapalater

Up Coming Events

The New York Boat Show

The 104th Annual New York National Boat Show will again be held this year at the Jacob Javits Center, NY. The new dates for the show are from December 13 - 21, 2008.

The show hours will be: Saturdays: 10am-8pm; Sundays: 10am-5pm; Weekdays: Noon-8pm.

LI Fishing School

Following on the heels of the 2008 program, Vinnie of Fishin Mission announces the 2009 LI Fishing School program that begins Jan 11 and runs through April 5th. Capt John Raguso and guests will lead each of the 12 Courses on Sunday mornings from 9am through Noon. Each course will cost \$30 and topics range from inshore bass to offshore tuna techniques and all how-tos at MarineMax Surfside 3 in Lindenhurst. For more info contact Vinnie at 631-225-5700 or visit the store at 997 Merrick Rd, Copaigue.

Maritime Disasters Exhibit

Interesting and infamous maritime disasters are being displayed in one of the largest exhibits on the subject, "Claimed by the Sea," at the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities Gallery in Cold Spring Harbor through January. The exhibit includes the history of the U.S.S. Ohio, Oregon, General Slocum, U.S.S. San Diego, and more. The SPLIA Gallery is located at the corner of Route 25A and Shore Road (across from the firehouse) and is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$1. For more info 631-692-4664 or www.splia.org.

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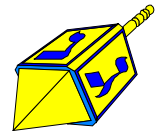
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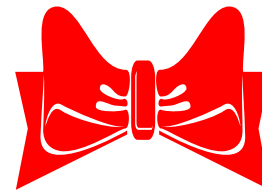
Deliver To:



**FTC
Annual
Holiday Party
December 14th
1:00 pm
Freeport Rec. Center**



**Please Note
Next GM
\$10 at Door**



CLASSIFIED:

Wanted 25 hp outboard long shaft with tiller. Call Joe, 516-851-8762

Looking for 13" Boston Whaler with or without engine,
contact Jeff 516-425-4645

Boat Slip for Rent. water@electric in Freeport Call Sy Karp 516 632 9770

WANTED: Great shape Penn 750SS or 7500SS. Bigmahi 516-425-4645

We currently have a basin slip available for the spring 2009 season. The slip will accommodate from vessel from 19' and up to 25' with inboard, outboard or I/O power. The slip has full floating docks, water & electric. Any member interested in this slip should contact me. It is being offered as first come first served bases.

We still have room for winter storage so get in on a great deal @ \$10.00 per foot for the winter time.

Woody is looking for help with house and Paul Hilton needs a volunteer to sell raffle tickets.

To place an ad in our classified contact Capt. John Jutt 516-546-2312 or email to: JJutt@mmpmk.com

