

007's and A17's. If your jig made it to the bottom, some bass were taken in these waters as well for those using clams. Some keeper fluke were caught off Buoy 9 with plenty of shorts mixing in and off the Mt Sinai pier both cocktail blues and scup were seen up and down the dock.

In a call to Stan of the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** we learned the local fishing is as good as it gets right now as anglers are having a ball out on the water and putting fishing the bucket. Starting with the bass, these fish are now being seen in a variety of spots as the linesiders have started to show off the Middle Grounds and are still being caught inside Smithtown Bay. The shop weighed in fish all week long in the 25 pound range and the bass are hitting chunks and clams on the bottom as well as being taken on the troll. The fluke bite continues to be good and despite the amount of shorts around the larger keepers are consistently falling in the 5 to 6-pound range. Porgy fishing is as good as it gets off the area beaches and rock piles and there are cocktail blues roaming all over the shorelines and the buoy line.

OFFSHORE  
REPORT



by John Raguso

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With great water both at the canyons and inshore, and the late spring shark migration getting busy right on schedule, it was an active week, so let's get right into our offshore report.

The big news from Montauk was the 25th running of the Star Island Yacht Club Shark Tournament. This two-day event (Friday and Saturday) had a nice turnout of 130 boats with over 800 registered anglers. A total of 20 eligible fish made the weigh-in ceremonies with one thresher entry that was DQ'd since it missed the deadline. The heaviest shark of the tournament was taken by the crew of the "Lady Irene 3" with a 325-pound mako, which was also the largest mako and the biggest shark for day two, so the crew won three cash prizes totaling \$38,500, plus whatever

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Calcutta money they had entered. The heaviest shark for day one was a 161-mako taken on the "Pension Plan", which netted the crew \$2,500. Second place mako was awarded to the crew of the "Small Fortune" with a \$5,500 payout. The crew of the "Pension Plan" came in third place with their aforementioned 161-pound mako, which was good for an additional \$3,500. There were no qualifying blue sharks (250-pound minimum) or threshers (150-pound minimum) that made weight.

Cord Sussner from Oakland's Marina & Restaurant in Hampton Bays reported that over the weekend, Capt. Paul Visentine of the "Provider" headed 28-miles southwest of Shinnecock Inlet in 30-fathoms and put angler Christopher Grech onto a nice 153-pound mako. Capt. Paul mentioned that there was plenty of sea life in the 66-degree water, with whales, porpoises, bait and birds aplenty. Capt. Jamie Hummel of Big-foot Sportfishing located at Jackson's Marina in Hampton Bays had an interesting week offshore. With his dad Capt. Jim Hummel from "Mad Hatter" fame coming up from Florida for Father's Day week, the duo teamed up with a few of the regulars from Jackson's on Jamie's 48 Egg Harbor "Sasquatch" and headed to a 70-degree warm core eddy positioned just west of the Dip. The crew went 8-for-12 on yellowfins to 45 pounds trolling squid spreader bars and ballyhoo. Later in the week on Thursday, Jamie took Allen Schneider from Si-Tex Marine Electronics, Boating Mag Editor Kevin Falvey, Saltwater Sportsman Editor Glenn Law and Cali boy Ron Ballanti on a near offshore

shark trip to the Coimbra area and the boys were entertained by waves of big blue dogs. Kevin Falvey estimated that they tagged and released over 20 blue sharks that ranged from 50-pound rats to a few big dogs that were in the 200-to-250 pound range. They also had a visit from a few passing schools of bluefin tuna that were chasing baits on top but didn't stay long and were just passing through. On a more mundane note, although I missed out on this Thursday blue-water trip due to some last second business commitments, I did go out with the same cast of characters on Capt. Jamie's smaller 25 Parker "Yeti" on a Wednesday inshore trip and we bailed them, with over 20 stripers, an equal number of big sea bass from the reef, a 4-pound fluke that I jigged from deep water and a few bay blues that will be recycled later this season for mako bait...Capt. Jamie is the man! Capt. Bob Lehnart of North Fork Adventures went shark fishing Sunday out of Shinnecock Inlet with Capt Joe Lemerise, on his 30 ft Henriques "High Hook", from Cutchogue. The crew was Capt Joe, his friend Bill, John Knoud and Capt. Bob. The boys went 8 for 10 on big blue sharks ranging from 100-to-200 pounds. The blues were swarming around the boat the entire drift, with the first shark hitting within five minutes of setting up. They fished in about 160-feet of water south of the inlet and also spotted tuna busting on top, but trolling the area produced zero hits.

From the Fire Island Area, Peter Ruziecki of Suffolk Marine Bait & Tackle called to report that on Sunday Tom Savino fished onboard Capt. Tom Boniberger's 23-Regulator CC

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"Krista" and the boys went 1-for-2 on bluefin tuna, keeping a 60-pounder with a NMFS tag in the fish. They also caught and released five blue sharks to 125-pounds working the waters southeast of FI Inlet. Capt. Jim Sposato from the South Shore Marlin & Tuna Club in Bay Shore took his 31-Jupiter "Lady J" out for the first Canyon trip of the season on Thursday with some mild success. They crew of Capt. Jim, Ted Schwarting, Steve Moore and birthday boy Jimmy (55) Fields dropped in at the Virginia and decided to troll to the Bacardi/Texas tower area. The baits weren't wet for more than 15 minutes when they had a 30-pound schoolie bluefin hit a purple and black jet head. Continuing their troll southeast to the Hudson's Tip, they had two more runoffs, but lost both tuna. As they approached the West Elbow, the water temp jumped to 71-degrees, but there was no action, so they dropped in and did some tilefish drifts. The crew landed seven tiles to 13-pounds in an hour of drifting and decided to troll back northwest on the way home. They iced the first yellowfin of

the year near the Tip, a 35-pounder and then packed it in and headed home to FI Inlet.

LI Fishing School Grad Capt. Garrett Moore from Sea Tow did a Thursday shark trip aboard fellow LIFS grad Dr. Richard (Rick) Michaelis' 27-Whaler "Bite Me", along with Dr. Rick's son Corey out of the Bay Shore Marina. After trolling up some fresh bluefish baits outside FI Inlet, the trio headed southeast of the Linda wreck in about 140-feet of water to try their luck. It didn't take long for the blue sharks to find their slick and within a short time, they were totally covered up with big, hungry blue dogs. After tagging and releasing approximately 15 of the blue sharks that ranged from 75-pounds to huge 747 size, they headed northwest to the 20-fathom fingers in the hopes of finding a mako. After drifting and dreaming for 45-minutes waiting for the new chum slick to take effect, they were brought back to life by the screaming drag on one of the Penn 30 VSWs. It took 15 minutes to bring the big shark to the boat and it was staying deep during the entire fight, so they had no idea

what it might be. Finally they spotted yet another big blue shark coming to boatside and the boys cut him free. From that point on, it was blue shark city, so the boys tagged and released four more, bringing the day's total catch up to 20 blue dogs before calling it quits...that's a lot of hooks and leaders boys. However, it was a good trip with plenty of action and helped shake off the long winter doldrums and it was good to see that the crew learned their lessons well at this past winter's LI Fishing School. Vinny Cusumano from Fishin' Mission Bait & Tackle in Copiague emailed me that the blue sharks seem to be swarming just about everywhere from 20-to-50 miles offshore. Rob From RJ Limo In Seaford took his tricked out Luhrs offshore to 30-fathoms last Tuesday and bagged a nice 200-pound mako and then the rest of the day were covered up in big, hungry blue dogs. Store regular Ronnie and a buddy d took his Scout out Wednesday for a shark trip and reported nothing but blue dogs. A surprise catch 50-pound bluefin was caught over the weekend on a sinker bouncer's boat while sea bass fishing in 100-feet of water on a local wreck when a pod of 50-pound thunnus invaded the area. It's good to have a jigging rod ready to go whenever opportunity knocks. On fishable days anglers making the run out to the canyons are still scoring with the yellowfins at the 100-Square, Dip and Fish Tails. Having a recent satellite sea temp chart is critical to success and it seems that the yellowfins are hanging on the warmer side of the temp breaks with 70-71 degrees getting the most action last week.

From the Babylon area, Chris Madonna on "Insufficient Funds" took his 36-Yellowfin out to the Chicken Canyon area on Wednesday to troll-up a six-pack of bluefins that were in the 50-pound range. Once the morning action slowed down, the crew decided to drift the area and nailed a nice 100-pound mako. Also getting in on the action was Capt. Skip Erickson, who ran Ed Mooney's "Road to Happiness" out to the same Chicken Canyon area with a crew of Ed, Kevin Brennan and Henry. The boys trolled from the Chicken, to the Texas Tower and to the Hudson's Tip boating five bluefins to 50-pounds, keeping their limit and releasing the rest. They also had a big bluefin hit one of their Wild Rabbit Rainbow colored Green

Machine bars, but after a short but violent argument, the leader parted and they lost everything...bummer dudes.

And speaking of tuna, my good bud Capt. Chris Gerhart of the "Wasabi" out of Jones Inlet continued his season-long assault on the thunnus with a heck of a Father's Day trip. Taking his 35-Henriques out to the Chicken Canyon area, Capt. Chris teamed up with his nephew TJ and TJ's dad Tom and the crew went a perfect 21-for-21 on bluefins trolling Green Machine spreader bars and rigged ballyhoo. All of the fish were between 40 and 47 inches and ranged from 40-to-60 pounds, so the boys iced one tuna and released the rest to grow up. They pulled in the lines at 1pm and headed back for a great Father's Day Sunday BBQ.

This past Saturday was the running of the 39th Annual Freeport Hudson Anglers shark tournament, which had a total of 135 boats in the competition. A 398-pound Thresher shark caught on the "Reel Games" skippered by Capt. Glen Kapoosuzian and angled by Steve Spatenga won the top prize of \$131,071 in cash and Calcutta money. The Thresher was one of about 50 sharks weighed in at the Town of Hempstead Guy Lombardo Marina. Other prize-winning fish included a 332-pound thresher shark that took second place with \$27,341 in cash/Calcutta by Capt. Paul Pacheta and the crew on the "Green Eyes". Third place with \$9,901 in cash/Calcutta went to Capt. Mike Livingston and the crew on the "Game On" with a 292-pound mako. They landed on the right spot with a small mako that picked up the first bait as they were letting it out and was quickly tagged and released. The larger mako came only a few minutes later and put up a much stronger fight that lasted the better part of an hour...but they were still back at dockside by 10:45 am. The \$1,130 fourth place money was awarded to Capt. Daniel Furrer and the crew on the "Double D's" for a 273-pound thresher. Fifth place with \$904 in cash went to Capt. John B. Arceri and the crew on the "Sarah Pauline" for a 267-pound thresher. As is the norm for this tournament, four of the top five fish were threshers, with the majority of them coming from the Mud Hole/Glory Hole areas. A total of 55 other sharks were tagged and released, with three \$452

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tagging awards drawn from these tagging boats.

Fisherman subscriber Keith Andreski ran his 28 Albemarle "Reel Love" from Massapequa in the FHA shark tournament out of Freeport on Saturday and set up 30-miles southeast of Jones Inlet with a crew of Chris Magistro, Dan Young, Anthony Caggiano and Keith Seluga. They fished a small temp break where there was a slight change in water clarity. As they were dragging their first bucket of chum at idle speeds to start out a slick, they put out a bait and within three minutes had their first blue shark of the day. In 9 hours of fishing, which covered a 7nm chumslick, they had dozens of blue dogs swarming around the boat practically all day long. After the first few shark tags, the crew just couldn't fill out the cards and tag them quick enough. The blue sharks ranged from 5-to-8 feet in length, so none were taken by the crew to weigh in back at Freeport. Some of them ate live bluefish which were caught in the slick and recycled for makos, but were gobbled up by the appreciative blue sharks. Also fishing the Hudson Anglers shark contest was Fisherman subscriber Capt. Ted Prager on his 36-Contender "Fishin' Addiction," with

a crew of his son Teddy Jr., Alex Asquino, Dave Kuehn, Mikey (half a mako) McKeon and Anthony Romeo. They targeted a spot 60 miles southeast of Jones Inlet and only minutes into the first can of chum had a blue shark to boatside. After a steady pick of blue dogs, the crew boated and released a nice mako of about 140 pounds, since they surmised it would probably be too small to place in the tournament (they were right). After a couple of more blue sharks they had another mako, this one around the century mark, which was also tagged and released. With more blue dogs entertaining them for the next few hours, they finally had a visit from "the man in the blue suit". Teddy Jr grabbed the pole and the fight was on. After a couple of hot runs and a jump, the big mako was boatside where Capt. Ted sank the gaff and the fish was secured with a few tail ropes for the ride home. Back at the Guy Lombardo Marina the mako tipped the scales at 201-pounds, which was just out of the money. Bummer dudes, but a nice day anyway with numerous mako and blue shark releases.

Richie Rosenkranz of the Woodcleft Fishing Station reported that an honorable mention goes out to Free-

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Monday evening June 27th at the marina at 7 pm. With all these tournaments going on and the sharks obviously in the area, I am expecting some dynamite reports for next week's column, so stay tuned.

Well, that's it for this week's Offshore Report. If you have any bluewater catch info to share with our readership, please call or fax it in to me by 8pm on Sunday nites to my Fisherman hotline number at 631-499-8140, or send it via email to [capt.john@att.net](mailto:capt.john@att.net).

**FRESHWATER REPORT**  
  
 by Tom Melton  
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I'm back from Black Lake and all I can say is that I can't wait to go back! The action was super as my brother-in-law Howie Larvin and I had over 200 fish for the six days of action. Most of the bass - small and largemouths, were in the 1-1/2 to 3-1/2 pound class, while the pike were up to 5 pounds. On the week, my buddy Steve Schneider had a largemouth of 4.9 and smallie of 3.7. The biggest fish of the week went to Ken Leuck, who had an 8-plus pound catfish. On the pike end, most were under 5 pounds, but tons were caught. In fact, if you wanted pike, all you had to do was use a white buzzbait, frog or large spinnerbait. I had one blow-up on a buzzbait that if I had caught, I might have cut my line. The thing was immense looking. I also had a bowfin of 4.5 pounds... that's one scary looking set of chompers.

In an e-mail, I heard from James Larvin (Howie's brother) who let me know that his son Russell fished Brookwood Hall this past week and caught a 14-inch largemouth using a Senko in brown, rigged wacky style.

In another e-mail, Kevin Poppel fished a small Nassau County pond for bass to 3 pounds and three pickerel to 25 inches. All his action was on Spro Bronze-Eye and Stanley Ribbit frogs.

Jude Santoro gave me a ring after several good outings this past week. Fishing a South Shore Lake, Jude had bass to 4 pounds, while an East End Lake produced bass to 4.2 pounds, which was weighed on a Berkley digi-

port Tuna Club member Capt. Larry Festa of the "Kristen", who was out Thursday doing some prospecting for the FHA shark contest and landed a nice 223-pound mako...unfortunately two days too early.

Confirming something that we have talked about in the Offshore Report on numerous occasions, makos and threshers have no qualms about invading inshore waters if the bait they seek is in abundant supply in this neighborhood. Proving this point yet again was Freeport's Capt. Joe Augugliaro from the "Jean Marie" who took a crew out on a fluke trip earlier in the week to the Hempstead Reef in 60-feet of water southeast of Jones Inlet. His cousin Sally "nine toes" boated an estimated 30-pound mako that hit a squid jig adorned with a long fluke belly strip bait... and he sent me the pictures to prove it. The small mako was quickly returned unharmed to the water after the photo op. Don't forget, last year a bunch of 100-to-200 pound threshers were mixed in with the bunker schools southeast of Debs Inlet in

30-feet of water and I would expect more of the same this season too, so keep a sharp eye out for fins close to the beach and be prepared.

Don't forget, there are a trio of shark tournaments coming up next week. The big daddy of these is the 50th Bay Shore Mako, which is LI's oldest and original shark tournament and will be held on Saturday June 25th out of Fire Island Inlet in Bay Shore. If you are interested, you can sign-up at the Captain's meeting at Nicky's by the Bay at the Bay Shore Town Marina Friday night June 24th @ 6:30 pm. I will be there helping out with the rules/regs and door prizes, so come by and say hi. If you are located more to the west, Richie Rosenkranz is hosting his annual Mako & Thresher shark tournament out of the Woodcleft fishing station. There is no captain's meeting, but you can sign up Friday or Saturday morning. Oakland's Marina & Restaurant is hosting its annual Wally Oakland Memorial Shark Tournament on Tuesday June 28th and you can sign up at the Captain's meeting which will be held