



# THE ATLANTIS ANGLE



The Official Publication of the Atlantis Anglers Association

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2013 8:15 pm**  
**IT'S PARTY TIME!**



## October 2013 Meeting

A lean group of 18 members & guest attended the meeting that was called to order by Reed at 8:30.

Ted read the minutes of the September meeting. Peter thanked everyone who attended the September club charter and reported that it came in lower than what was budgeted. Peter also stated there were still two spots open for the November Orient Point trip. He also pointed out that this meeting was our annual auction and it would be nice to exceed last year's profit of \$49.50 that was an all-time high. Rich had nothing to report.

Marc had nothing to report on membership, however did have some information for the members concerning fish poundage for the next two years. He also stated that there is still some state money available for the Sandy destruction. If anyone has unpaid bills for work done because of the storm, they might want to call Tom Doran at 631 404 9769. Mention Marc's name and Tom will send you an application to apply for some financial compensation.

Mike talked about our Web-site and asked for any information & photos that can be used.

Reed asked for weigh in slips and mentioned that any Black fish caught on the November charter can be entered in the derby.

Mike Lowenstein gave a fishing report stating last month's **Blue Fish Derby** openings were filled:

2 nd	John Lippi	10.2 lbs.
3 rd	Reed Riemer	4.10 lbs.

## This months Stripped Bass Derby:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Rich Kehoe	31.10 lbs.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Reed Riemer	6.14 lbs
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Open	

Reed stated that next month is election night for the Board and called for nominations. A motion was made and seconded to keep the present Board with the exception of Peter Granelli who will be leaving. Pat Keating was nominated for Treasurer by Marc Hoffman and Tom Wallace a returning member was nominated by Reed. Both nominations were seconded.

Immediately after the nominations, the annual auction took place. Unfortunately, a very small amount of items were brought in and with the small attendance, the event was not too successful.

First prize of a reel in the raffle went to Pete Barresi and second prize of a pair of pliers went to Bill Piemonte.

*(ed. note: Thanks again go to Bill Piemonte who took notes and photos in my absence. The motion made and accepted for the upcoming year was done without my presence and I would like someone else to take over the editorship of the newsletter. Unfortunately I will not be at the November election meeting but would hope someone (or a couple of someones!) will step forward and give me a break. I believe I am starting my ninth year and would like a respite. Thank you. Lynn Nathanson)*

### From Reed:

Two keepers caught on the Hempstead Reef late October.



**The fish dreams are made of....** This is Reed's brother and a Montauk catch 10/31. 14.6 and 10.5 – Trick or *Treat!*

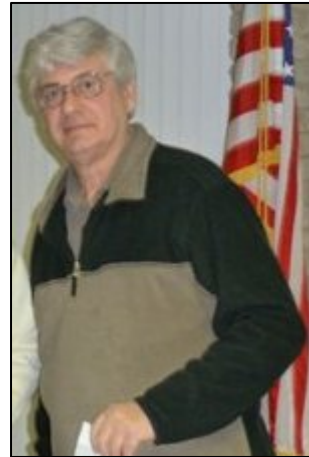


From Photographer Ray Spencer of another talented fisherman....



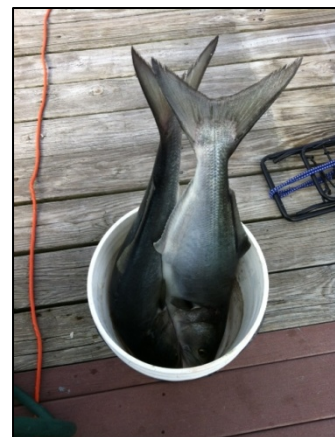
## THANK YOU, PETER!

For as far back as *I* can remember, Peter has sat at the front table at meetings, his Treasurer hat planted on his head, doling out and taking in checks and payments for all club dues, trips, petty cash, etc. etc. An unsung hero whose efforts allowed the club to run smoothly and stay “in the black!” And now, Peter is leaving us – moving to the north shore of Long Island. We will miss him and wish him well. Please do visit us, Peter, and thank you for all you’ve done for the Atlantis Anglers.



## LAST HURRAH...

The Forecast was fair but the day (11/9/13) turned out to be more than manageable and Marvin (of *Hi Doc* fame) and Bill Piemonte found the fishing to be a super way to end the season. Three stripers (36-40”) and two blue monsters gave them a reason to smile and ignore the cold!





## HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY

So sorry for last's month omission:

October 6	Sheila Patton
October 8	Kathy Foley Frey
October 11	Keith Bernot
October 21	Marvin Nathanson
October 24	Heather Bernot
October 28	Reed Riemer
October 29	David Goodman

*(The busiest birthday month yet, and you-know-who forgot to put it in!)*

## HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY

November 12	Mike Scully
November 13	Matt Bobetsky
November 22	Mike Lowenstein

## HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

December 8	Art Frey
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**There is no December meeting and no December newsletter. The next meeting after November 26 is January 28!**



Pete and Bill – raffle winners



## November Meeting:

It's Party Time! Sandwiches and salads courtesy of the club – desserts courtesy of the members ... that's you!

Elections will be held.

A very funny video has gone “viral” – two fishermen are showing off their trophy mahi mahi in Cabo San Lucas when a locally notorious sea lion jumps up and steals one of the fish right out of the man's hands! If you haven't seen it, go to “Google” and type in *Sealion Steals Mahi Mahi*. You will find the link there. Thanks Ted for sending it in.





## GROOPA.....

Last month Marvin and Lynn went in search of the elusive “keeper grouper” – 20” of incredibly good eating fish. They seem to know to stop growing at 19 ¾”!!! But this trip down to Florida, Marvin managed four keepers and we, along with our friends, managed to eat them all! (And some great snapper too!)



No keeper grouper for me – however I caught and threw back at least twenty respectable fish – and on another excursion, this little shark!



Don't forget our Club Website written and tended to by Mike Bobetsky:

[www.AtlantisAnglers.com](http://www.AtlantisAnglers.com)

### First Report in from the Blackfish Charter...

Good fishing and the weather held up for us. Marc Hoffman was high hook with 12 keepers and second place in the pool. First place was taken by guest Larry. Captain Phil and his mate did a great job as we fished somewhere off the Connecticut coast.

### Our Auctioneer Marc Hoffman...



**Thanks to Mike Lowenstein for sending in the following article:**

## The ocean is broken By Greg Ray

It was the silence that made this voyage different from all of those before it. Not the absence of sound, exactly. The wind still whipped the sails and whistled in the rigging. The waves still sloshed against the fibreglass hull. And there were plenty of other noises: muffled thuds and bumps and scrapes as the boat knocked against pieces of debris.

What was missing was the cries of the seabirds which, on all previous similar voyages, had surrounded the boat. The birds were missing because the fish were missing.

Exactly 10 years before, when Newcastle yachtsman Ivan Macfadyen had sailed exactly the same course from Melbourne to Osaka, all he'd had to do to catch a fish from the ocean between Brisbane and Japan was throw out a baited line.

"There was not one of the 28 days on that portion of the trip when we didn't catch a good-sized fish to cook up and eat with some rice," Macfadyen recalled. But this time, on that whole long leg of sea journey, the total catch was two. No fish. No birds. Hardly a sign of life at all.

"In years gone by I'd gotten used to all the birds and their noises," he said. "They'd be following the boat, sometimes resting on the mast before taking off again. You'd see flocks of them wheeling over the surface of the sea in the distance, feeding on pilchards."

But in March and April this year, only silence and desolation surrounded his boat, Funnel Web, as it sped across the surface of a haunted ocean. North of the equator, up above New Guinea, the ocean-racers saw a big fishing boat working a reef in the distance. "All day it was there, trawling back and forth. It was a big ship, like a mother-ship," he said. And all night it worked too, under bright floodlights. And in the morning Macfadyen was awoken by his crewman calling out, urgently, that the ship had launched a speedboat.

"Obviously I was worried. We were unarmed and pirates are a real worry in those waters. I thought, if these guys had weapons then we were in deep trouble." But they weren't pirates, not in the conventional sense, at least. The speedboat came alongside and the Melanesian men aboard offered gifts of fruit and jars of jam and preserves. "And they gave us five big sugar-bags full of fish," he said. "They were good, big fish, of all kinds. Some were fresh, but others had obviously been in the sun for a while.

"We told them there was no way we could possibly use all those fish. There were just two of us, with no real place to store or keep them. They just shrugged and told us to tip them overboard. That's what they would have done with them anyway, they said. "They told us that this was just a small fraction of one day's by-catch. That they were only interested in tuna and to them, everything else was rubbish. It was all killed, all dumped. They just trawled that reef day and night and stripped it of every living thing."

Macfadyen felt sick to his heart. That was one fishing boat among countless more working unseen beyond the horizon, many of them doing exactly the same thing. No wonder the sea was dead. No wonder his baited lines caught nothing. There was nothing to catch. If that sounds depressing, it only got worse.

The next leg of the long voyage was from Osaka to San Francisco and for most of that trip the desolation was tinged with nauseous horror and a degree of fear. "After we left Japan, it felt as if the ocean itself was dead," Macfadyen said. "We hardly saw any living things. We saw one whale, sort of rolling helplessly on the surface with what looked like a big tumour on its head. It was pretty sickening.

"I've done a lot of miles on the ocean in my life and I'm used to seeing turtles, dolphins, sharks and big flurries of feeding birds. But this time, for 3000 nautical miles there was nothing alive to be seen." In place of the missing life was garbage in astounding volumes."

continued...

"Part of it was the aftermath of the tsunami that hit Japan a couple of years ago. The wave came in over the land, picked up an unbelievable load of stuff and carried it out to sea. And it's still out there, everywhere you look."

Ivan's brother, Glenn, who boarded at Hawaii for the run into the United States, marvelled at the "thousands on thousands" of yellow plastic buoys. The huge tangles of synthetic rope, fishing lines and nets. Pieces of polystyrene foam by the million. And slicks of oil and petrol, everywhere. Countless hundreds of wooden power poles are out there, snapped off by the killer wave and still trailing their wires in the middle of the sea.

"In years gone by, when you were becalmed by lack of wind, you'd just start your engine and motor on," Ivan said. Not this time. "In a lot of places we couldn't start our motor for fear of entangling the propeller in the mass of pieces of rope and cable. That's an unheard of situation, out in the ocean. "If we did decide to motor we couldn't do it at night, only in the daytime with a lookout on the bow, watching for rubbish.

"On the bow, in the waters above Hawaii, you could see right down into the depths. I could see that the debris isn't just on the surface, it's all the way down. And it's all sizes, from a soft-drink bottle to pieces the size of a big car or truck. We saw a factory chimney sticking out of the water, with some kind of boiler thing still attached below the surface. We saw a big container-type thing, just rolling over and over on the waves. We were weaving around these pieces of debris. It was like sailing through a garbage tip. Below decks you were constantly hearing things hitting against the hull, and you were constantly afraid of hitting something really big. As it was, the hull was scratched and dented all over the place from bits and pieces we never saw." Plastic was ubiquitous. Bottles, bags and every kind of throwaway domestic item you can imagine, from broken chairs to dustpans, toys and utensils. And something else. The boat's vivid yellow paint job, never faded by sun or sea in years gone past, reacted with something in the water off Japan, losing its sheen in a strange and unprecedented way.

Back in Newcastle, Ivan Macfadyen is still coming to terms with the shock and horror of the voyage. "The ocean is broken," he said, shaking his head in stunned disbelief.

Recognising the problem is vast, and that no organisations or governments appear to have a particular interest in doing anything about it, Macfadyen is looking for ideas.

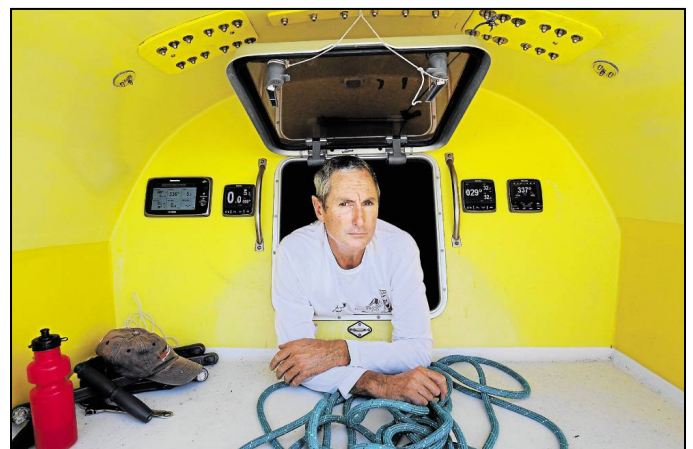
He plans to lobby government ministers, hoping they might help. More immediately, he will approach the organisers of Australia's major ocean races, trying to enlist yachties into an international scheme that uses volunteer yachtsmen to monitor debris and marine life.

Macfadyen signed up to this scheme while he was in the US, responding to an approach by US academics who asked yachties to fill in daily survey forms and collect samples for radiation testing - a significant concern in the wake of the tsunami and consequent nuclear power station failure in Japan.

"I asked them why don't we push for a fleet to go and clean up the mess," he said. "But they said they'd calculated that the environmental damage from burning the fuel to do that job would be worse than just leaving the debris there."

This article was reprinted from the *Newcastle Herald*, November 10, 2013.

*Ivan Macfadyen aboard the Funnel Web. Picture by MaxMason-Hubers*





## Schumer pledges to use clout to pass 'Fluke Fairness Act'

Written by Mark Harrington  
*Reprinted from Newsday*

Sen. Charles Schumer Monday fired another salvo in the battle against New York's disproportionately small share of the federal fluke fishery with proposed legislation that he said would "end the unfairness."

Surrounded by boat captains and advocates at the Captree State Park fishing dock, Schumer vowed to push a bill through Congress that would do away with what he said was the faulty data and uneven quota system on which New York's small share is based. And he said he would use his connections and clout in Congress to see to it.

"I've got a lot of friends in the Senate, I've got a lot of clout in the Senate," he said. "I will use it."

The so-called Fluke Fairness Act would require that federal fisheries managers use up-to-date research and data to set quotas, which now limit New York's share of the commercial fishery to 7.6 percent of the federal allotment. States such as North Carolina and Virginia get more than 20 percent. Out-of-state boats fishing in New York-area waters can sometimes take thousands of pounds of fluke, but must steam to home ports to unload their catch. Regulators recently shut down the commercial fluke fishery in New York because this year's quota was met. Other states that haven't met their larger quota fish through the fall.

"This has been an incredible injustice," said Bonnie Brady, executive director of the Long Island Commercial Fishing Association, which supports Schumer's proposal. Same for recreational fishing, Schumer said, where New York anglers' 17 percent quota means they can keep fewer fish than even neighboring states such as Connecticut and New Jersey, whose boats frequently travel into New York waters. New Jersey anglers fishing in season can keep five fluke of 17.5 inches compared with New York's four fish at 19 inches.

A regional approach Schumer and others have pushed would make the three states' recreational quota the same. Fishing boat captains say it's badly needed.

"We've always taken the blunt end of the rules," said George Bartenback, owner of the Captain Rod party boat moored in Captree. "If people could go home with a couple more fish, it's a big help."

Schumer and industry advocates have pushed hard at the federal level to change the rules within the existing federal fishing regulators. But fishing councils that dictate the rules have resisted, he said, because they are largely controlled by states that have no interest in change.

Rep. Tim Bishop is considering introducing companion legislation in the House, spokesman Oliver Longwell said. At the same time, he said, Bishop will explore the feasibility of incorporating the measures in a bill to reauthorize the Manguson Stevens Fisheries Act, which set the original restrictions. The current rules not only frustrate recreational fishing captains and their patrons, but they also are bad for the fish stock, fishermen say.

Jim Hutchinson, managing director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance, an advocacy group, said the rules force anglers to target the largest fish, often breeding females. Even worse, he said, the undersized fish thrown back have a 10 percent mortality rate -- about one in 10 that are tossed back die.

Emerson Hasbrouck, a senior educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension's Marine Program, said New York's more restrictive quota isn't about preserving a depleted fish stock.

"Summer flounder is fully restored, it's not overfished," he said using another name for fluke. The restrictions are in place, he said, because other states that have a larger percentage of the quota don't want to give it up -- even though some don't fully fish their allotment.

Hasbrouck said New York's low allotment is doubly unfair because the coastal fluke population is shifting -- to New York waters. "The population center has shifted northward," drawing boats from as far south as the Carolinas, yet, "New York fishermen are allowed the least fish."

