

Shelter Island plaque dedicated to tuna fishermen

The Tuna Man's Memorial on Shelter Island is now complete after a plaque was dedicated on Sunday, June 28, to commemorate contributors to the statue and tuna fishermen lost at sea.

The plaque is made of black granite and lists the names of the "Founders" group, people of the tuna industry who made donations to help pay for the statue, the "Pioneers," tuna fisherman of the San Diego fleet, and "Men Lost at Sea," fisherman who did not return from commercial tuna fishing trips.

The bronze statue, to which the plaque is attached, was crafted by sculptor Franco Vianello, and depicts three tuna fishermen of different nationalities—Portuguese, Japanese and Italian—pulling in a large tuna. The memorial is intended to recognize fishermen who contributed to the tuna industry in San Diego, particularly those who used poles and barbless hooks, a technique introduced by the Japanese but perfected by the Portuguese.

The statue was commissioned by the Portuguese Historical Center and dedicated last October. Tuna boat captain An-



Pierce Harris/The Beacon

The Tunaman's Memorial statue and plaque

thony Mascarenhas, a member of the board of directors of the Portuguese Historical Center, was in charge of the project since its inception in 1981, but died in 1985 before

the statue was dedicated. His wife, Rita, and son Michael unveiled the new plaque and placed a wreath on the statue at the service on Sunday.