

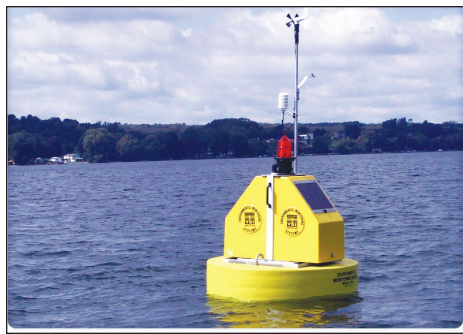


What Side of the Buoy Do I Go On???

by VINCENT T. PICA, II
 DISTRICT COMMODORE, FIRST DISTRICT, SOUTHERN REGION (D1SR)
 UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



One of the "great mysteries" of boating is "Good Lord, what side of this buoy do I go on?" While conducting a safety patrol last summer for USCG Forces, our crew came upon a skipper bringing a new boat down from Rhode Island, in Moriches Bay near the new buoy system south of Seatuck Cove. The skipper was concerned with his 4' draft and being able to make it to Massapequa in the Great South Bay from there. We advised him that, "Tide is near flood now so stay in the channel and be careful near Nun-18. It has been moved to the north due to shoaling in the original channel. Forget what your GPS says. Use your eyes." Naturally, he took the buoy on the wrong side and was grounded for a number of hours. So, let's re-address this now and forever! Here we go...



If the numbers were going up, would you be leaving the building or returning to our new home in the penthouse? If the numbers were going down, would you be returning to your new home in the penthouse or leaving to go to work? Clearly, if the numbers are going up, you are going up - returning home. If the numbers are going down, you are heading for the street level - leaving.

Reality TV - You've Won!

Imagine this. You are on one of those reality TV shows and you have won! In addition to the big job and the big bucks, the host throws in a beautiful penthouse apartment in a brand new 50-story condo overlooking the marina and harbor. You get so excited that you faint straight away. You wake up in the elevator and you see the elevator numbers flashing by.

And the same is true of the buoyage system in the entire United States! While certain pearls of wisdom work in local waters ("keep the reds and the ocean on the same of your boat"), they don't work everywhere and they also fail to educate you as a mariner as to "how the system works" and why.

Of course, many of us have heard and used the old saw of "red, right,

return" - meaning when returning from sea/to your harbor/home, keep the red buoys on your right. But when you leave Seatuck Cove to starboard, you are entering Tuthill Cove almost immediately. Are you returning to Tuthill or leaving Seatuck? So, let's extend the old saw and get it right forever more...

Red - Right, Return; Left, Leaving

Keep the red buoys on your right when returning and on your left when leaving. If the numbers are going up, you are returning (to your penthouse in the sky!) If the numbers are going down, you are leaving (to that great job you just won!)

Be wary of one thing - "discontinuous numbers", meaning big jumps between buoy numbers or the numbers starting to go the opposite way. This means you have entered a new seaway or road and you need to recalibrate the direction of the numbers. For example, if returning from sea via the Moriches Inlet and heading through the West Cut towards Forge River, you will see the following. You will pass red-4W (to starboard), red-6W (to starboard - see the #s are going up) and green-7W to port. Then you will see green-MOR-15. That is a big jump! If you were in the same channel, you should be seeing #8

or #9 - not #15! Now, what side? Quickly checking your chart, you will see that red-MOR-14 is about 1,000 yards ahead. The buoy numbers are now going down! You are in a new seaway that says, despite the fact that you are heading back to your slip up the Forge River, you are leaving as far as the buoyage system is concerned! Take green-MOR-15 to starboard (so that you can take red-MOR-14 to port (left leaving!). Never fails (in North America).

Want to know why our reds are on our right when returning from sea and not the other way around as in Europe? Well, when we were at war with the mightiest navy in the world 230+ years, the revolutionaries turned all the buoys around so that the English men-of-war would run aground... and we just kept them that way ever since...!

"Red - Right, Return; Left, Leaving." If the numbers are going up, you are returning as far as the rules of the road are concerned... Always...

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux@aol.com or go direct to the D1SR Human Resources department, who are in charge of new members matters, at DSO-HR and we will help you "get in this thing."

Tides for Moriches Inlet starting with August 14, 2013							
Day	High/Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise/Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible	
Wed. 14	High	12:26 AM	2.9	6:01 AM	Rise 2:00 PM	43	
14	Low	6:23 AM	0.4	7:50 PM			
14	High	1:06 PM	3.3				
14	Low	7:34 PM	0.5				
Thur. 15	High	1:27 AM	2.8	6:02 AM	Set 12:08 AM	54	
15	Low	7:40 AM	0.4	7:49 PM	Rise 3:04 PM		
15	High	2:06 PM	3.3				
15	Low	8:46 PM	0.4				
Fri. 16	High	2:34 AM	2.8	6:03 AM	Set 1:02 AM	65	
16	Low	8:53 AM	0.3	7:47 PM	Rise 4:04 PM		
16	High	3:11 PM	3.4				
16	Low	9:50 PM	0.2				
Sat. 17	High	3:43 AM	2.9	6:04 AM	Set 2:03 AM	76	
17	Low	9:58 AM	0.2	7:46 PM	Rise 4:59 PM		
17	High	4:18 PM	3.6				
17	Low	10:47 PM	0.0				
Sun. 18	High	4:50 AM	3.0	6:04 AM	Set 3:10 AM	85	
18	Low	10:58 AM	0.0	7:45 PM	Rise 5:49 PM		
18	High	5:20 PM	3.7				
18	Low	11:41 PM	-0.2				
Mon. 19	High	5:51 AM	3.3	6:05 AM	Set 4:21 AM	93	
19	Low	11:54 AM	-0.2	7:43 PM	Rise 6:32 PM		
19	High	6:15 PM	3.8				
Tues. 20	Low	12:33 AM	-0.4	6:06 AM	Set 5:33 AM	97	
20	High	6:45 AM	3.5	7:42 PM	Rise 7:11 PM		
20	Low	12:49 PM	-0.2				
20	High	7:06 PM	3.9				
Wed. 21	Low	1:23 AM	-0.4	6:07 AM	Set 6:45 AM	99	
21	High	7:35 AM	3.6	7:40 PM	Rise 7:46 PM		
21	Low	1:42 PM	-0.3				
21	High	7:55 PM	3.9				

Weather Forecast E Moriches, NY (11940)	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	Aug 14	Aug 15	Aug 16	Aug 17	Aug 18	Aug 19	Aug 20	Aug 21
	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Scattered Showers	AM Clouds / PM Sun
	77°F 58°F	77°F 60°F	79°F 62°F	79°F 64°F	77°F 66°F	78°F 68°F	79°F 69°F	80°F 70°F



FISHING WITH TONY

NYSF & RFA LOOKING FOR STRIPED BASS OPINIONS

If you fish for stripers in New York marine waters, New York Sport Fishing Federation and the RFA would like to hear from you. According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC), fisheries managers will not be taking any official action on striped bass management along the Atlantic Coast until a coast wide benchmark stock assessment is completed and peer-reviewed later this summer.

Jim Gilmore, director of the NYSDEC's Marine Bureau said his department has received several inquiries about the status of the striped bass assessments, but said he won't have anything to report or reply on until the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) finalizes the stock report and makes it available to member states. "Currently, we understand the assessment has been completed and is being peer reviewed; we have not seen the results," Gilmore said, adding "the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board will not be taking any action until the October meeting based upon the current schedule." Gilmore noted that many fishermen believed that results of the stock assessment might be available for review by the public this summer, but said it is not at this time, though as information becomes available, he will communicate back to the New York fishing community. The status of the striped bass population along the coast has been a heavily debated issue in recent years, as many coastal regions are reporting fewer striped bass catch reports in recent years, and in some cases a complete loss of fish. ASMFC in turn has been targeted by some anglers and writers as "turning a blind eye" to the situation, and "often siding with commercial interests."

According to feedback received by coast wide members of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA), in addition to the localized comments received by the New York Sport Fishing Federation (Federation), what will happen after the release of the stock assessment is just about anyone's guess - and the answers to any future problems will not be easy to find. "We've had numerous discussions among the Board of Directors at the Federation, and have heard various input from anglers throughout the New York marine district, and I can tell you that there is no common bond in terms of a recreational management approach to striped bass," said Jim Hutchinson, President of the Federation and the managing director of the RFA.

New York Sport Fishing Federation is interested in your thoughts on striped bass management in the New York marine and coastal district and will begin collecting opinions over the next couple of months. Would you like to see a change in bag, season or size limits to better conserve striped bass? What are your thoughts and opinions on striped bass management? Go to www.nysf.org/contact and put Striped Bass in the 'subject' field followed by 'your message.' You can also send thoughts by mail at New York Sport Fishing Federation, 72-11 Austin Street, Suite 144, Forest Hills, NY 11375.