



## Capsize #2 - Can You Survive One?

by VINCENT T. PICA, II

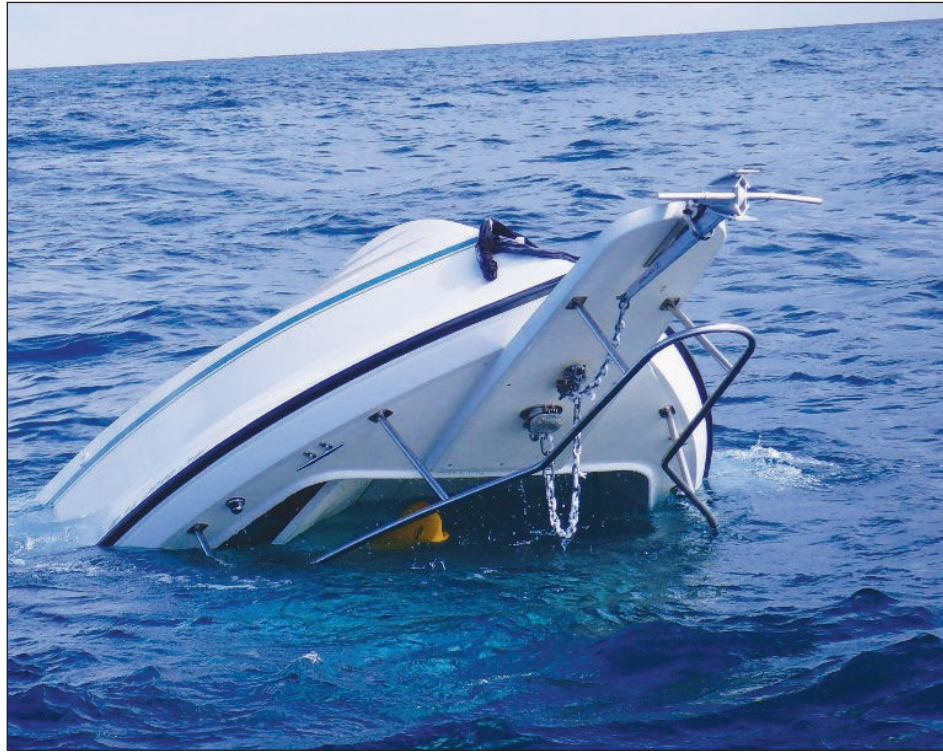
CHIEF OF STAFF, FIRST DISTRICT, SOUTHERN REGION (D1SR)  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIAR



Last week, you read here about what it would take to capsize a boat and, for most people, it is surprisingly little if the stars are lined up against you (see SSP, "Seamanship - What!? How Small a Wave Can Capsize My Boat!!?") But what if it does happen? Can you survive? Or if the boat "swamps", which makes a sinking even more likely, can you survive? (see SSP, "Seamanship - We're Sinking!") This column is about these questions.

### Thank God for the Cooler!

No one goes to sea thinking, "Well, if we capsize today, I'll just do the following." Every capsizing or swamping that leaves survivors starts with the same story, "the wave came out of nowhere - and hit us broadside." Thirty years ago, I was the tactician/navigator in a sailboat racing crew when a large wave, possibly a rogue wave, came back against a North Atlantic storm and hit us broadside. Thankfully, we didn't capsize nor did we swamp to the point that we foundered - but we did get battered. My scars still are visible. Of more recent vintage, you can speak to David Mull, senior editor for Lakeland Boating Magazine, who would tell you about a different outcome. Mr Mull spent 3 1/2 hours adrift on Lake Michigan, clinging to a Coleman cooler after the boat he was on swamped and then sank. Mr Mull and his friends



lived to tell the tale - but the story starts the same way. Calm day, catching fish. Kaboom.

Typically, this is how it happens. Capsizes often occur during daylight hours when weather and visibility are good, the winds were light, and the water was calm. In spite of this, someone reaches over the gunwale for the fish, gets toppled in from a wave hitting at just the right/wrong moment,

the propeller gets fouled (landing net, fishing line, etc.) and the danger curve sky-rockets upward. More than half of all boating fatalities are caused by man-overboard and capsizes.

### An Ounce of Prevention...

Consider this list:

- Avoid sitting on the gunwale, bow, seat backs, motor cover or any other area not designed for seating.
- When we patrol under USCG

orders, we are required to wear our life-jackets 100% of the time, dock-to-dock. Why don't you, and your crew, follow this "mil-spec"?

- If you go over the side, with the ignition-switch-lanyard attached, the boat and your only hope for survival, stops. Without it, you may watch it motor away.

- Don't overload your boat. Balance the load of all passengers and gear.

- Small boats are more susceptible to swamping than larger boats. Be sure you have your bilge pumps working. Remember, small boat, big bilge pump; large boat, LOTS of bilge pumps.

- Slow your boat appropriately when turning.

- Don't risk boating in rough water conditions or in bad weather.

- When anchoring, secure the anchor line to the bow, never to the stern. (see SSP, "Seamanship - Weighing Anchor - Or is it Waving?")

All of this could happen - to you. Wear your life jacket - they are hard to get out of the locker of a boat that has capsized or sunk. (see SSP, "SOLAS - Life Jackets Save Lives - Have It On?")

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 July 18, 2012

Day	High/Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise/Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible	
Wed. 18	Low	1:01 AM	0.2	5:35 AM	Rise	5:07 AM	1
18	High	7:08 AM	2.9	8:19 PM	Set	7:46 PM	
18	Low	12:54 PM	0.2				
18	High	7:13 PM	3.4				
Thur. 19	Low	1:43 AM	0.1	5:36 AM	Rise	6:08 AM	0
19	High	7:48 AM	2.9	8:18 PM	Set	8:22 PM	
19	Low	1:39 PM	0.2				
19	High	7:51 PM	3.4				
Fri. 20	Low	2:22 AM	0.0	5:37 AM	Rise	7:12 AM	0
20	High	8:27 AM	3.0	8:17 PM	Set	8:55 PM	
20	Low	2:22 PM	0.2				
20	High	8:28 PM	3.4				
Sat. 21	Low	3:00 AM	-0.1	5:38 AM	Rise	8:17 AM	3
21	High	9:07 AM	3.0	8:17 PM	Set	9:25 PM	
21	Low	3:04 PM	0.1				
21	High	9:08 PM	3.4				
Sun. 22	Low	3:37 AM	-0.1	5:39 AM	Rise	9:23 AM	7
22	High	9:51 AM	3.1	8:16 PM	Set	9:55 PM	
22	Low	3:47 PM	0.2				
22	High	9:52 PM	3.3				
Mon. 23	Low	4:14 AM	-0.1	5:40 AM	Rise	10:30 AM	14
23	High	10:38 AM	3.2	8:15 PM	Set	10:26 PM	
23	Low	4:32 PM	0.2				
23	High	10:41 PM	3.2				
Tues. 24	Low	4:54 AM	0.0	5:41 AM	Rise	11:38 AM	23
24	High	11:28 AM	3.2	8:14 PM	Set	10:58 PM	
24	Low	5:24 PM	0.3				
24	High	11:35 PM	3.0				
Wed. 25	Low	5:40 AM	0.1	5:42 AM	Rise	12:47 PM	33
25	High	12:21 PM	3.3	8:13 PM	Set	11:33 PM	
25	Low	6:27 PM	0.4				
Thur. 26	High	12:33 AM	3.0	5:42 AM	Rise	1:56 PM	44
26	Low	6:39 AM	0.2	8:12 PM			
26	High	1:16 PM	3.3				
26	Low	7:40 PM	0.4				
Fri. 27	High	1:33 AM	2.9	5:43 AM	Set	12:14 AM	55
27	Low	7:48 AM	0.2	8:11 PM	Rise	3:05 PM	
27	High	2:15 PM	3.4				
27	Low	8:50 PM	0.4				
Sat. 28	High	2:38 AM	2.8	5:44 AM	Set	1:01 AM	66
28	Low	8:57 AM	0.2	8:10 PM	Rise	4:12 PM	
28	High	3:18 PM	3.5				
28	Low	9:53 PM	0.2				



by TONY SALERNO

## FISHING WITH TONY

### FLUKE ACTION SOLID AT THE TOP OF THE TIDE

If you weren't aware, let it be known that the brown tide is back. Unfortunately, that muddy looking water is doing a good job at choking the local shellfish population, especially on the west end of Shinnecock and east end of Moriches Bays. All is not lost, however, as both bays are seeing nice clean ocean water entering in the vicinity of the inlets resulting in some exceptional fluke fishing around the period of high tide. In fact, the last two hours of the incoming and the first two hours of the outgoing has been the window of opportunity in both bays. In Moriches, the area south of buoy 15 and along the East Cut has been the hot spots in recent days. Try bouncing bucktails tipped with live killies for the best action in these areas. Over at Shinnecock, East Channel, the Basket Area and just west of the bridge, have all been doing well when conditions are right. Here, bucktails tipped with live killies will also work well, however, fresh spearing and squid combo have been seeing more keeper fish and more limits among anglers. The local open and charter boats are spending their time cashing in on the current run of bottom dwellers along the ocean floor during the off hours of the tides, and then coming into the bay at peak tide to take advantage of the current fluke run.



Striped bass action has been sporadic doing the day due to all the heat in recent weeks. However, the night tides are during quite well on live eels. If you're looking to load up on porgies, sea bass and ling, both the Shinnecock and Moriches reefs will oblige as the trio continue to make their presence felt on the obstructed rich bottoms.

Along the north shore, fluke are everywhere they have been all season long, but the problem is trying to find keepers. The fish are spread from buoy 11 to buoy 9, but to count on bringing home fluke dinner, you may want to change the menu to porgies. In fact, dawn and dusk are providing some great scup fishing at Cranes Neck and Old Field Points on worm and clams with a chum pot filled with frozen clam bellies really making a difference in filling a cooler or not with tasty pork chops. Bluefish and bass continue to be taken north of buoy 11.