



Cleanliness is Next to Godliness

■ by VINCENT T. PICA, II

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This expression goes back to Biblical days – when there were fewer people and even fewer boats. If each generation wants to hand over these creeks and bays to their children and grandkids in the condition we were entrusted them, there are a few simple guidelines to follow – even if your neighbor doesn't.

How Many Fish Are In The Sea?

When we were kids, we thought that question had no answer. Now we know that the bio-mass is going down, in certain species faster than the bigger fish can make little fish. So, just take what you can eat. Use circle hooks to make it easier/safer (for the fish) to release those you throw back. Call local fisheries managers (I bet the Riverhead Aquarium is a good place to start) and offer to join their tag-and-release program to help with long-term data collection. Be part of the solution.

What To Do With "Do-Do"

A lot of mariners, half seriously and half in jest, justify off-loading human waste into our waters

based on the old saw, "You know what the fish are doing in these waters!" Admittedly, marinas now charge for pump-outs, but you can call the Southampton, and beginning this season, the Brookhaven "Pooper Boat" on channel 78 and he'll pump you out for free! If that isn't convenient, call 1-800-ASK-FISH to locate pump-out stations in your area.

Spillage, Garbage

Have you ever topped off at the fuel dock – just to see the extra fuel spill over the side? Forget Coast Guard regulations and fines; consider that those few extra ounces barely represent ten minutes of steaming. As for jerry cans, fill them on the hard, not on your boat where even a small wake can cause spillage in your boat or in the water (where your bilge pump will send it before you can spell "big trouble!"). Keep some absorbent pads aboard.

Like the sensible "hike it in, hike it out" policy in a wilderness area, if you bring something on board, take it back on land afterward. Don't throw anything over

the side, even if it is "bio-degradable." Treat as a temple God's great sea, and leave no mark behind after your wake subsides.

If you come upon flotsam, grab your boat hook and bring it aboard. Dispose of it properly back on land. Clean up, even if your neighbor won't. As Cicero

said 20 centuries ago, "Honor is the reward of virtue."

If you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at USCGAUX2006@aol.com or go direct to MaryJo Cruickshank, who is in charge of new members matters, at FSO-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing..."

January – Moriches Inlet

The Time Offsets mentioned in the column are as follows:

Tidal Time Offsets from Moriches Inlet:	USCG Station	Potunk Point	Mastic Beach	Smith Pt Bridge
High Tide	+45 min	+4.5 hrs	+4.5 hrs	+3 hrs
Low Tide	+2 hrs	+5 hrs	+5 hrs	+4 hrs

Day	High		Low		High	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Wed 24		04:25 AM / -0.06	10:44 AM / 2.95	04:44 PM / -0.26		11:19 PM / 3.05
Thu 25		05:31 AM / 0.10	11:41 AM / 2.74	05:41 PM / -0.11		
Fri 26	12:15 AM / 3.04	06:44 AM / 0.18	12:40 PM / 2.55	06:47 PM / 0.02		
Sat 27	01:13 AM / 3.00	07:56 AM / 0.17	01:43 PM / 2.42	07:53 PM / 0.07		
Sun 28	02:16 AM / 2.98	09:00 AM / 0.10	02:51 PM / 2.38	08:55 PM / 0.06		
Mon 29	03:22 AM / 3.00	09:57 AM / -0.00	03:56 PM / 2.44	09:52 PM / 0.01		
Tue 30	04:23 AM / 3.07	10:50 AM / -0.10	04:55 PM / 2.56	10:45 PM / -0.05		
Wed 31	05:16 AM / 3.14	11:40 AM / -0.18	05:45 PM / 2.68	11:35 PM / -0.10		
February						
Thu 01	06:02 AM / 3.20	12:25 PM / -0.24	06:31 PM / 2.77			
Fri 02		12:22 AM / -0.13	06:44 AM / 3.20	01:06 PM / -0.26	07:13 PM / 2.81	
Sat 03		01:06 AM / -0.13	07:24 AM / 3.15	01:44 PM / -0.25	07:54 PM / 2.81	
Sun 04		01:46 AM / -0.09	08:03 AM / 3.04	02:19 PM / -0.19	08:35 PM / 2.79	
Mon 05		02:24 AM / -0.01	08:41 AM / 2.89	02:51 PM / -0.09	09:15 PM / 2.74	
Tue 06		03:01 AM / 0.10	09:19 AM / 2.72	03:21 PM / 0.03	09:55 PM / 2.69	