



# The Dangerous Dock

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If I told you that statistics on boats sinking showed that the dock is four times more dangerous than the open waters, you might tell me to check my calculator, amongst other things. But study after study shows that four times as many boats sink at the dock than underway! Why is that?

**Real Time Reactions...**

Well, candidly, there are lies, damn lies and statistics... If you are underway and you see water coming up from below, you are going to do something about it right away. Thus, the underway problems are going to be dealt with in real time and the odds are way in your favor that you can save the vessel, even if you have to drive her on to the beach to do so. But why do so many boats sink at their docks? Why didn't the bilge pump save her, to start with?

Many people believe "big boat, big bilge pump. Little boat, little bilge pump." Wrong! Big boat, LOTS of bilge pumps. Little boat, BIG bilge pump. You need to get the water OUT of your 17' Seahunt as fast as possible. 500 gallons per minute isn't half as good as 1,000 GPM. It is less than half as good because, once she goes down, no bilge pump can re-float her. And experts estimate that it costs 40% of the original value of the boat to re-wire her and restore the engine. Oh, and throw out the radio, GPS and fish finder. So, your \$20,000 17' Seahunt will cost you as much as \$8,000 to repair/restore versus the \$200 1,000 GPM bilge pump. Is she worth that much today..?

**Buying Time**

And remember, bilge pumps don't save boats. They buy you time. Time from what? Well, again, the statistics say that boats sink at the dock for two major reasons. Half the time (50%), a thru-hull fitting gives up the ghost and water eventually overwhelms the battery/bilge pump arrangement. So, check the thru-



hulls with every lay-up. And check the screws around them. If the screws "rot" away, it is another source of water to enter that isn't so obvious. But it will add up.

The second most common source of sinking at the dock is snow and rain (30%). I had one happen to one of my boats because the self-bailing scuppers clogged from leaves... Rain followed... and followed... and followed... until I had a submarine... Also, many skippers believe that biminis and canvas covers prevent water from entering the boat. Wrong again... They slow it, but don't stop it. In the winter, stow them someplace dry and shrink wrap the boat...

So, over 80% of the boats sink for two reasons - all of which adds up to checking the boat from time to

time. Or paying the dock hand to... or your teenager that wants some extra spending money to go with his or her new driver's license... but check it. Would you leave a box with \$20,000 unattended on your lawn for months at a time...?

So, if four out of five boats sink at the dock, what about that other boat? Well, that is a story for another time - and soon... \* btw, marine screws don't rot. They get eaten away by electrical charges in the water. This is due to poor "galvanic isolation". More on that in the days ahead...!

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 15, 2012**

Day	High/Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise/Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible
Wed. 15	High	5:55 AM	2.8	6:02 AM	Rise 3:55 AM	8
15	Low	11:42 AM	0.3	7:49 PM	Set 6:20 PM	
15	High	6:05 PM	3.3			
Thur. 16	Low	12:28 AM	0.2	6:03 AM	Rise 4:58 AM	3
16	High	6:38 AM	3.0	7:47 PM	Set 6:55 PM	
16	Low	12:29 PM	0.2			
16	High	6:46 PM	3.			
Fri. 17	Low	1:10 AM	0.0	6:04 AM	Rise 6:04 AM	0
17	High	7:18 AM	3.2	7:46 PM	Set 7:27 PM	
17	Low	1:15 PM	0.1			
17	High	7:25 PM	3.5			
Sat. 18	Low	1:51 AM	-0.1	6:05 AM	Rise 7:10 AM	0
18	High	7:58 AM	3.3	7:44 PM	Set 7:58 PM	
18	Low	2:01 PM	0.0			
18	High	8:05 PM	3.5			
Sun. 19	Low	2:30 AM	-0.1	6:06 AM	Rise 8:18 AM	1
19	High	8:39 AM	3.4	7:43 PM	Set 8:29 PM	
19	Low	2:46 PM	-0.1			
19	High	8:47 PM	3.5			
Mon. 20	Low	3:09 AM	-0.2	6:07 AM	Rise 9:27 AM	5
20	High	9:23 AM	3.5	7:41 PM	Set 9:01 PM	
20	Low	3:31 PM	0.0			
20	High	9:33 PM	3.3			
Tues. 21	Low	3:49 AM	-0.1	6:08 AM	Rise 10:37 AM	12
21	High	10:11 AM	3.5	7:40 PM	Set 9:36 PM	
21	Low	4:19 PM	0.1			
21	High	10:25 PM	3.2			
Wed. 22	Low	4:32 AM	0.0	6:09 AM	Rise 11:47 AM	20
22	High	11:04 AM	3.5	7:38 PM	Set 10:15 PM	
22	Low	5:11 PM	0.2			
22	High	11:22 PM	3.0			
Thur. 23	Low	5:20 AM	0.1	6:10 AM	Rise 12:57 PM	30
23	High	12:01 PM	3.5	7:37 PM	Set 11:00 PM	
23	Low	6:13 PM	0.3			
Fri. 24	High	12:22 AM	2.9	6:11 AM	Rise 2:03 PM	41
24	Low	6:21 AM	0.2	7:35 PM	Set 11:51 PM	
24	High	12:59 PM	3.4			
24	Low	7:25 PM	0.4			
Sat. 25	High	1:25 AM	2.9	6:12 AM	Rise 3:05 PM	53
25	Low	7:35 AM	0.4	7:34 PM		
25	High	2:00 PM	3.4			
25	Low	8:36 PM	0.4			

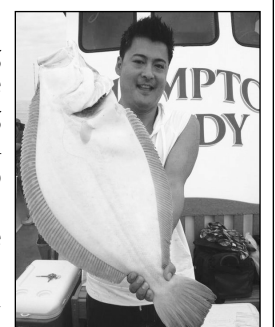


by TONY SALERNO

## FISHING WITH TONY

### BUNKER BUNKER EVERYWHERE

Thus far, it has been one of those seasons. Nothing wrong, mind you, as the local fluke population along the south shore bays and the ocean has been surrendering plenty of respectable catches for anglers fishing through the current heat wave. Sea bass and porgies are also adding to the fun on the local reefs outside all the inlets. Triggerfish and kingfish are rapidly making their presence felt for anglers looking to sock away some tasty fillets. Bluefish are all over the place along both the north and south shore, while striper fishing has become mainly a nighttime affair. Porgies have moved deeper into the Sound, resulting in plenty of fast paced action. Yep, just your typical August fishing scene with just one exception; bunker.



The 11-pound fluke was taken by Peter H aboard the Hampton Lady out of Shinnecock.

Whether it is east, west, north or south, bunker pods are swarming just about everywhere around the island. On the downside however, most pods are coming up with blanks as very few stripers and bluefish are under them. There are literally tens of thousands of pod swimming around Long Island, and realistically; it is the luck of the draw to find the pod with stripers or even bluefish on them. Then, of course, there are the pods in the ocean in 30 to 40 feet of water anywhere from Sandy Hook to Montauk that you may encounter, some giant thresher or Mako sharks instead of the gamesters. In fact, the latest reports on the ocean run pods is that you may want to swap out those striper rods for shark tackle instead, as sharks of assorted varieties to 500-pounds have spooked off any bass or bluefish that may have thought about ruining the sharks' mighty banquet. Get used to it, for as long as the bunker sticks around, so will Jaws.

Aside from all the hype of bunker and sharks, the south shore open boats have been doing a fine job both inside and outside all the south shore inlets this week. In addition to a great keeper ratio, many boats have been mixing the day up between sea bass and fluke, sending patrons home with plenty of tasty fillets. Along the north shore, porgies and bluefish have taken center stage while fluke fishing continues to hold up, but keepers are extremely hard to come by. Stripers are still falling for chunks and tins around buoy 11 during the middle of the outgoing tide.