



Hunkering Down - Hurricanes on Long Island 2012...



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Last week, Hurricane Isaac gave the southeast US and Gulf coast a pretty good dousing – and us a warning. Almost without exception, we get the tail, shoulder or rump of one or two of the dozen or so that form up in the Atlantic between the Caribbean and Africa and bring so much destruction and misery with them as they thunder west and north... and hurricane season still has time to run... And Isaac did most of his damage when he stalled over Louisiana – and dumped FEET of rain...

We live on an island. This column is about that.

Tidal Surges

For islanders, as bad as the winds will be (more on that below), it is the tides and tidal surges that will do most of the damage, which is why even these tails that go by every year leave so much trouble behind. The storm tide is added to the astronomical tides. And when those waves hit something solid, they generate force dozens of times more powerful than wind of the same speed. Andrew generated a storm tide of 17 feet. Camille in 1969? 24 feet.

Add to that the population growth in our area and the increase in the value of homes and it can spell either “an absolute disaster” or “they were prepared.”

What Is It?

A hurricane is, in the words of scientists, an organized rotating weather system that develops in the tropics. Technically, it is a “tropical cyclone” and it is classified as one of three states, with hurricanes being further classified into levels of destruction...

1. Tropical Depression: sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less

2. Tropical Storm: sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (34-63 knots)

3. Hurricane: sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or greater

Hurricanes are called typhoons in the western Pacific and cyclones in the Indian Ocean. Six of one, a half dozen of the other...

Categories of Hurricanes

We’ve all heard the weather reporter state that “Hurricane ‘x’ is now a Category 3 hurricane and headed for _____.” What does that mean?

CATEGORY	WINDS(MPH)	TYPE OF DAMAGE EXPECTED	EXAMPLES
1	74-95	Anything not tied down is going to be lost; don't get hit by it.	Irene, 1999
2	96-110	Trees will go down. Roofs in trouble.	Floyd, 1999 Georges, 1998
3	111-130	Many trees will go down, along with small buildings	Betsy, 1965 Alicia, 1983
4	131-155	Complete failures of some small buildings. Complete destruction of many structures	Hugo, 1989
5	156->	Catastrophe. Wrath of God.	Andrew, 1992 Katrina, 2005

USCG hurricane aircraft reported Andrew and Katrina had generated winds over 200mph at various times of the storms...

Are You Ready for the Glancing Blow?

Look, if a Category-4 or -5 gets up here like in 1938, there are no levels of preparedness except evacuation. A storm surge like Camille’s basically means that everything “south of the highway”, as real estate agents like to classify the choicest properties on Long Island, is gone for all intents and purposes. But what if the glancing blow like Ivan’s in 2004 or, Earl, who came by earlier in 2012, came in head-on? How can you be ready?

Before the Storm Arrives

1. Have a family action plan – if you’re caught at school or at work, who do you call? To grandmother’s house we go?

2. Flash lights working? Canned goods and water supplies? Cash? Portable radio?

3. Where ARE you going to move the boat? Don’t even THINK about staying on her... (more on that next week!)

4. How about your prescription medicines? A first-aid kit is WHERE...!?

During the Storm

1. Have the radio or TV on. If power goes out and you don’t have a portable radio, I’d get the kids in the car and “to grandmother’s house we go...!”

2. Propane tanks on your property? Shut them off, completely.

3. Turn the refrigerator up all the way and don’t open the door idly.

4. Fill the bath tub with water. How about the big spaghetti pot? Anything that can hold water and keep it clean.

5. If ordered to evacuate, do so. Immediately. And tell someone where you are going.

6. When evacuating, don’t drive across flowing water. 2’ of flowing water can carry your car away. Yes. Only 2’ of moving water. Turn around and go another way. If there is no other way – call 911 or the US Coast Guard.

After the Storm

1. If you’ve been ordered to evacuate, don’t go back until the area is declared safe.

2. If you see someone that needs rescuing, unless the threat of loss of life is imminent, call 9-1-1.

3. See standing water? Do you know if any power cables lie in it?

4. Never use candles and other open flames indoors. Keep the flashlight at your side...

This is by no means an exhaustive list. But Isaac just sent us a wake-up call.

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 September 5, 2012

Day	High/Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise/Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible
Wed. 5	Low	4:11 AM	0.3	6:22 AM	Set 11:26 AM	82
5	High	10:46 AM	3.1	7:16 PM	Rise 9:42 PM	
5	Low	4:51 PM	0.5			
5	High	11:13 PM	2.7			
Thur. 6	Low	4:47 AM	0.5	6:23 AM	Set 12:22 PM	74
6	High	11:30 AM	3.0	7:14 PM	Rise 10:20 PM	
6	Low	5:37 PM	0.7			
Fri. 7	High	12:02 AM	2.6	6:24 AM	Set 1:17 PM	65
7	Low	5:27 AM	0.7	7:13 PM	Rise 11:04 PM	
7	High	12:16 PM	2.9			
7	Low	6:33 PM	0.8			
Sat. 8	High	12:51 AM	2.5	6:25 AM	Set 2:07 PM	56
8	Low	6:19 AM	0.8	7:11 PM	Rise 11:52 PM	
8	High	1:03 PM	2.9			
8	Low	7:39 PM	0.8			
Sun. 9	High	1:43 AM	2.4	6:26 AM	Set 2:54 PM	47
9	Low	7:28 AM	0.8	7:09 PM		
9	High	1:54 PM	2.9			
9	Low	8:42 PM	0.8			
Mon. 10	High	2:38 AM	2.5	6:27 AM	Rise 12:44 AM	37
10	Low	8:36 AM	0.8	7:08 PM	Set 3:37 PM	
10	High	2:50 PM	2.9			
10	Low	9:36 PM	0.7			
Tues. 11	High	3:35 AM	2.5	6:28 AM	Rise 1:41 AM	28
11	Low	9:34 AM	0.7	7:06 PM	Set 4:16 PM	
11	High	3:47 PM	3.0			
11	Low	10:24 PM	0.5			
Wed. 12	High	4:30 AM	2.7	6:29 AM	Rise 2:42 AM	19
12	Low	10:26 AM	0.5	7:04 PM	Set 4:51 PM	
12	High	4:42 PM	3.1			
12	Low	11:08 PM	0.3			
Thurs. 13	High	5:20 AM	3.0	6:30 AM	Rise 3:46 AM	12
13	Low	11:15 AM	0.3	7:03 PM	Set 5:24 PM	
13	High	5:31 PM	3.3			
13	Low	11:51 PM	0.1			
Fri. 14	High	6:05 AM	3.2	6:31 AM	Rise 4:52 AM	6
14	Low	12:03 PM	0.1	7:01 PM	Set 5:56 PM	
14	High	6:16 PM	3.5			
Sat. 15	Low	12:34 AM	-0.1	6:32 AM	Rise 6:00 AM	1
15	High	6:47 AM	3.4	6:59 PM	Set 6:28 PM	
15	Low	12:51 PM	-0.1			
15	High	6:59 PM	3.5			



FISHING WITH TONY

HAIL TO THE KING

by TONY SALERNO

Every so often some pretty neat species of fish may take residence around the waters that surround Long Island during the summer and fall months and this year is no exception. The Northern Kingfish is popular with many saltwater anglers, and it's no wonder. These fish are known to put up a good fight, and their tasty, white meat is well worth the effort.

Northern kingfish are part of the drum family, which also includes weakfish, spot, Atlantic croaker, red drum and black drum. Since they lack an air bladder, Northern kingfish do not make typical "drumming" sounds like other members of the drum family, but they can vocalize somewhat by grinding their pharyngeal (throat) teeth.

Notable characteristics are the long spine on the first dorsal fin and a barbell on the chin. Dark, irregular bars are present along the body of the fish. The first two bars form two distinct V-shapes. The bold markings and a dark longitudinal stripe behind the pectoral fins distinguish it from the two other species of kingfish. The markings on Southern kingfish and Gulf kingfish are not nearly as prominent and do not form the V-shaped pattern.

Usually found in schools in shallow coastal waters, Northern kingfish prefer areas with a hard or a sandy bottom. They regularly appear along the Atlantic coast from late April to October. It is unknown where Northern kingfish migrate for the winter, but it is thought to be offshore and in deeper water. Northern kingfish can grow 18 inches long and can weigh up to three pounds, but greater lengths and weights have been reported. Commonly, these fish range from 10 to 14 inches long and weigh from one-half to 1.5 pounds.

Northern kingfish are bottom feeders that eat shrimp, small mollusks, worms, young fish, crabs and other crustaceans. Compared with other members of the drum family, the smaller eyes, barbell, inferior mouth and body shape indicate that Northern kingfish feed primarily by using their senses of smell and touch.

Late summer produces the best results, and fishing can be done in the surf or by boat close to shore. Small hooks and light tackle should be used and clams, bloodworms or squid cut into bite-size pieces are the most effective bait. Anchoring in shallow water about eight to 15 feet deep and chumming with clams can do fishing in the bay. Single or double hooks can be used, depending on your preference, with a small weight to assure you are fishing on the bottom. Some anglers like to use bobbers also. The same bait and hooks are used for surf fishing, which is the more popular method. Try retrieving your line slowly to improve your catch.