



District Captain, Sector Long Island Sound/South, D1SR

by VINCENT T. PICA, II

District Captain, Sector Long Island Sound/South, D1SR • United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



We've written a few times about what you should do to prepare for hurricanes, "hurry-canes" (as I call these squalls that blow through at 40-60mph and are gone in a 'hurry') and just good stiff blows... (see SSP, "Hurricanes on Long Island", 11/1/07; see SSP, "Preparing Again for Hurricanes", 8/20/08; see SSP, "Hunkering Down on Long Island - 2010", 9/8/10.) They were largely about what you and your family should do (like never stay on the boat nor drive through running water.) What about the boat? Tis the season of heavy weather. This column is about that.

Let Me Say It Again...

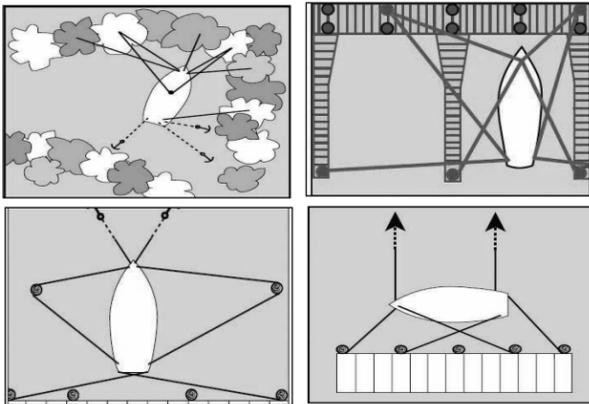
Never stay on the boat. I know. There are old timers that swear by it. "I've saved my boat every time when others were lost." With absolute certainty, it is simply because the winds - and seas - never exceeded the operational capacity of the engines. But when they do, you will be lost with the boat. The boat is just money. You are someone. If you care about the people who care about you, read on - and leave the boat behind while you take your loved ones to high ground.

The Spider Web of Lines

If you can't get the boat out of the water and on to "the hard", then you are compelled to protect her in her natural element - the water. But the sea presents forces magnified beyond the speed of the wind - it is the momentum of the wind-driven seas and the tidal surge. 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.

While nothing will save the boat from that, the vast majority of storm-driven tidal surges are significant but really fractions of that. So, with a "spider web of lines", you can create a fighting chance that your beauty will ride out the storm.

What is common to all these configurations is lots of lines and long expanses of them. In three of them,



you can also see that multiple anchors are used as well. The longer lines are there to address the tidal surge. The additional lines are there for back-up. Losing one line to stress doesn't completely undo everything you've done.

Chafe Guards

Without doubt, you will need chafe guards of some kind since the storm will put extreme stresses on the lines where they are wrapped around the cleats and chocks. Your ground tackle too will need additional chafe protection. Think of the storm as putting a summer's worth of stress on your lines - for every hour of 'blow.' If you go through a set of lines every two summers, they will never withstand a half-day of a serious 'blow.' And that is assuming that they are new.

What to use? The universal winner-take-all is old garden hose. Lay the line through a length of hose and lay that through the chock or along the toe rail where your line crosses the gunwale on its way to a cleat on the dock. In a pinch, duct tape (a TON of it) works really well. And it is more pliable than garden hose. For the aficionados, they will hate it because it looks like hell - but it works. BTW, while you can (now!), be sure that the cleats on the boat and on the dock are through-bolted with a backing plate. If not, they will

become high-speed guided missiles as they fly out of their bedding under strain. And the boat will be free... No garden hose? Improvise. Leather straps. Rags. Anything helps, just some things help more than others.

Cut Your Windage

Do whatever you can to lower the boat's profile to the wind. Take down the bimini cover and lash it. If you can't, open the windows. Take down the antennas. Even that little bit of additional windage can tip the balance. A sailboat? I know I don't need to say that you must stow all the sails, even the furled ones, below or ashore. If the boat has dorades or cowls, seal them. Wind - or wind-driven water - getting below at high speed can't be good. Duct tape... And take in all the electronics and seal the boat's electrical leads with tape.

Fenders and Fender Boards

Yes. As many as possible, put them out. I always suggest that they be secured to the boat, rather than the dock. If the boat does break free, at least she is taking some of her protection with her.

In Summary

Make a check list - now. If you need one, email me below and I will send you one. Do you want a copy of the BoatUS guide for boat and marina owners? Email me below and I'll send that too. And remember these words:

"The time for taking all measures for a ship's safety is while still able to do so. Nothing is more dangerous than for a seaman to be grudging in taking precautions lest they turn out to have been unnecessary. Safety at sea for a thousand years has depended on exactly the opposite philosophy."

- Admiral Chester W. Nimitz

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux2010@aol.com or go direct to John Blevins, who is in charge of new members matters, at FSO-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing..."



FISHING WITH TONY

OCEAN MAY BE OUT BUT BASS ARE IN

by TONY SALERNO

With all the weather fronts and wind that's been following each other this past week, it's needless to say venturing into the ocean has been rather challenging if not nearly impossible for small boat owners looking to knock heads with the breakers and sand bars that sit smack face in front of Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets. In fact, as I pen this weeks column, the marine forecast looks rather bleak for the remainder of this week with seas to eight feet predicted to at least Thursday. Therefore anglers looking to put away a few sea bass before the two week closure on October 11th will have to wait a few more days before thinking about targeting the tasty feisty treats.

In the meantime with blackfish season opening up this past Friday, anglers will find plenty of small to medium size tog taking up residence at all the inlet jetties where fiddler, Asian and green crabs at the top of the tide may land you a limit either by rock hopping along the jetties breakwaters, or anchored along the rough lair of the man made rock piles. My buddy Paul Nilsson was jetty jockeying along the West Jetty at Shinnecock Inlet this past Saturday where he enjoyed a good pick at the togs to 5-pounds on Asian and green crabs.

While the blackfish have set up along the jetties and the ocean out of the picture the next couple of days, striped bass fishing has been affected by all the wind and rough weather in a positive way. Anglers either chumming and doling fresh clam baits at anchor, or drifting live bait such as spot, porgies, snappers and eels are experiencing very good fishing with bass to 40-inches just inside both inlets and well from the realms of the treacherous breakers. In fact, large bodies of bass in the 20 to 25-pound class have moved inside the inlets and can be found on the backside of the inlets, the cuts, and directly in the inlet itself. The outgoing tide has been best, however on those windy and snotty days, both tides work equally as well.

Along the north shore, getting past the harbors have been much of a challenge as well. However on the days anglers can get out, there is plenty of bluefish for the taking at all the points and peninsulas as well as the Middle Grounds. Bunker chunks and diamond jigs work well on the choppers with fish to 12-pounds. Porgy season for private crafts is now closed; however if you decide to hit a head boat, expect to load up on the scup to 3-pounds.



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BOOKS-ON-TAPE HEADED TO WOUNDED WARRIORS WITH BISHOP'S HELP

Library staff member Liz Stokes initiated the donation effort at the suggestion of retired U.S. Army Major General Anthony Kropp and his son, Iraq War veteran U.S. Army Sergeant Tim Kropp. Once the donation was finalized, Stokes and Kropp contacted Congressman Bishop, who arranged for the 75 boxes of audio books to be shipped from Mastic Library to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC via UPS at no cost.

"I couldn't think of a better corporate donation on the part of UPS than to provide these materials that have been donated by a community organization with the help of people in all aspects of the community, to help entertain and to help ease the burden of our wounded warriors," said Congressman Bishop. "I'm glad that we were able to do it."

At the event, Bishop participated in a "bucket brigade" to load the boxes from the library's entrance onto a waiting UPS truck. The packages are expected to arrive at Walter Reed within the week. Stokes is also in negotiation with Best Buy and P.C. Richard and Sons to secure portable cassette players for the wounded warriors to listen to the audio books.

"Many of our heroes are lying in hospitals and have yet to come home from different shores where they're fighting for our freedoms. It is from that passion and love for America and the good of the community that this idea really came," said Liz Stokes.

"There's no doubt that our wounded military members in uniform will appreciate this effort," Major General Kropp said.

Bishop also accepted handwritten thank-you letters and keepsake items from inmates at Suffolk County Correctional Facility to be hand-delivered to Walter Reed patients.