



# Hunkering Down - Hurricanes on Long Island 2010...

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Last week, as the shoulder of Hurricane Earl grazed by and graced us with 50knot winds, every pundit was out there with the "at some point, we'll get another one like '38..." That may be true but it is far more likely and far more common for us to get one like Noel in '07... and Beryl in '06... Cindy in '05... Ivan in '04... You get the picture... 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...

It is hard to walk in 50 knot winds... It is also hard to stay dry when you live along the edge of an island that lies across its path... This column is about that.

### 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?

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

### Tidal Surges

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

For Islanders, as bad as the winds will be, 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."

### 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 just left town, came in head-on? How can you be ready?

### Before the Storm Arrives

1. Have a family action plan - if you're at 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...

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.

### 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 Earl just tapped us on the shoulder.

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

### Fisheries Allocations Still Out of Whack

by TONY SALERNO

While the news from the most recent Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council meeting indicated a rosy future for scup, the Council's failure to seek an economic study of the way scup are allocated between the recreational and commercial sectors presages a far dimmer future for scup anglers.

After approving a 41 percent increase in total allowable catch for 2011, a move that was fully justified by the science and welcomed by the recreational community, the Council began a preliminary discussion on revisiting the allocation issue, as was suggested by the Council's own Scup Monitoring Committee. Commercial fishing interests immediately assailed Council members for raising the issue, and an acrimonious, hour-long debate, described as "really ugly" by one of the seated Council members, ensued. Ultimately, a motion recommending that the National Marine Fisheries Service conduct an economic study in order to determine the optimum allocation was indefinitely tabled. At the request of one Council member, the matter was finally referred to a Council committee for further consideration.

"The Council is allowing the scup fishery to follow the same disturbing path followed by summer flounder," said Dick Brame, CCA's Atlantic States Fisheries director. "The allocations for each of these fisheries have been frozen in time even though the fisheries themselves have evolved. The Council should be leading the charge for an economic study to determine where the greatest benefit from this fishery lies today, and not hiding from the fact that conditions change."

The current scup allocation, set back in the 1990s, gives 78 percent of the resource to the commercial sector, leaving only 22 percent available for public access. As a result of fisheries managers' success in rebuilding the stock, there is fear that increased landings will push down the price paid to commercial fishermen, while recreational fishermen still suffer under the strictest regulations in history.

"The Council should be proud that its conservative management has made scup a fishery success story. They have done a wonderful job here," said Charles Witek, Chair of CCA's Atlantic States Fisheries Committee. "What possible harm could a rigorous economic evaluation of the recreational and commercial scup fisheries do? Such information is currently required for proper management. The recreational community is asking that the Council fulfill all of its obligations, and forge ahead with an economic study that will free scup allocations from the shackles of the past, and shape a fishery that will provide the greatest benefits in the future."



## LEGISLATOR MURATORE URGES RESIDENTS TO BE "HURRICANCE READY"

Legislator Tom Muratore urges residents to take some measures in hurricane preparedness. "With the weather reports of Hurricane Earl this past weekend, it is imperative that we take measures to ensure the safety of our loved ones and our homes," stated Muratore.

Here are a few helpful tips, courtesy of the Commack Kings Park Rotary Club and FEMA:

### PLAN IN ADVANCE WHAT YOU WILL DO IN AN EMERGENCY.

Be prepared to assess the situation. Think of how you would use common sense and whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and your loved ones.

- Be sure to stock sufficient water, food, clothing, and other supplies, for each family member, for at least 3 days. If flooding is a possibility, be sure to move all your supplies "above ground level".

- Make sure to have a full tank of gasoline in your vehicle in case evacuation becomes necessary.

- Develop a family communications plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what course of action will be taken in certain situations.

- Make sure to have a battery powered radio to listen to local weather reports and emergency instructions.

- Secure your pets. If evacuation becomes necessary, bring them with you. Most pets would be unable to survive on their own.

There are several helpful websites that outline hurricane preparedness in greater detail. Please visit:

<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/>

<http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/hurricanes.html>

For more information about Hurricane Preparedness or other district issues, please contact Legislator Muratore's office at 631-854-9292, or [tom.muratore@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:tom.muratore@suffolkcountyny.gov).