

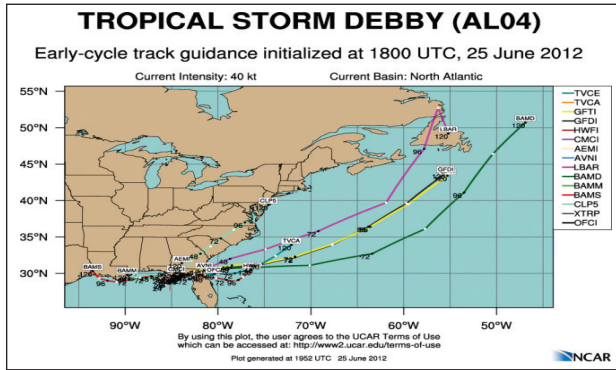


Hurricanes May Miss Us - and They Leave Deadly Rip Tides



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Hurricane season is in gear. Debby piled up water along the Florida Gulf coast last week - and headed into the Atlantic after that. This column is about rip tides, rip currents and undertows - which are what distant storms leave us. Lest one of us comes to grief...



Undertow v Rip Tide v Rip Currents

Anybody that has ever been to a beach understands undertow. It is the backwash as gravity returns a breaking wave to the sea. All but small children can stand against it - and its effect ends at the leading edge of the next breaking wave. While it might knock you down and thus "suck" you under, it won't pull you out to sea. Our mothers didn't know that because they confused undertow with rip tides and rip currents.

A rip tide is the result of tides and the egress and ingress of large volumes of water flowing through inlets, estuaries, and bays. As facts would have it, most people don't swim near inlets or where bays meet the sea. They swim near beaches, where sand bars often form, and where rip currents, "the killer current", form in concert.

The Anatomy of a Rip Current

Rip currents are by far the biggest killers of ocean swimmers. Rip currents form as waves disperse along the beach causing water to become trapped between the beach and a sandbar or other underwater feature. This water becomes the "feeder" that creates the deadly force of the rip current. The water converges into a narrow, river-like channel moving away from the shore at high speed. (see exhibit 1).

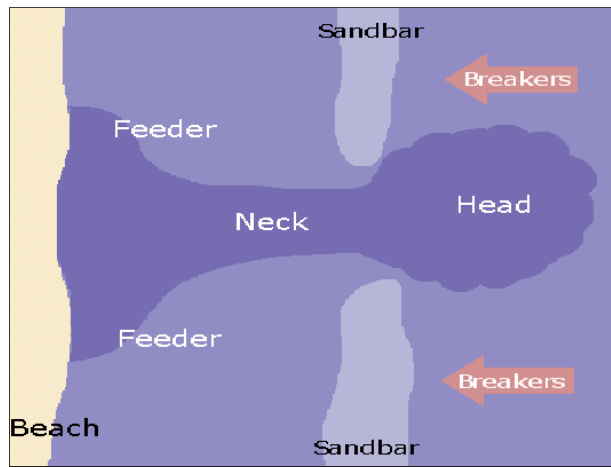


exhibit 1 - courtesy of Rip Current Information Center

Marine scientists define a rip current as having a "neck" (the river-like channel moving away from the shore) and a "head" that is often defined by an unusual disturbance or choppiness in the water and by murky discoloration caused by sand and debris. As the water, and swimmer, reaches the "head", the velocity and strength of the rip current circulation begins to weaken considerably.

Can I See a Rip Current?

Often, yes. As a result of the current's speed, sand is forced into suspension often causing a rip current to be associated with "dirty" water. It is characterized by a strong, localized current flowing seaward from the shore; visible as an agitated band of water, which is the return movement of water piled up on the shore by incoming waves.

Most Importantly, Can I Get Out of the Grip of a Rip Current?

If you don't panic, and play the water's power to your advantage, yes. Don't try to swim back to shore against the rip current that is dragging you out. Most likely, you will tire beyond recovery and drowning, flatly put, will follow as surely as night follows day. Swim with and across the rip current. Let it give you some speed - as you "exit - stage left!" Or right - but get out of the grip of the current and into "normal" water. Then, deal with the hand you've been dealt - swim back, or just tread water while waving your arms for help, or just float and rest. This is why swimming with a "buddy system" is so critical... (See exhibit 2).

IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- Don't fight the current
- Swim out of the current, then to shore
- If you can't escape, float or tread water
- If you need help, call or wave for assistance

SAFETY

- Know how to swim
- Never swim alone
- If in doubt, don't go out

We may miss Debby. But she isn't done with us yet.

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux@aol.com or go direct to the DISR 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 July 4 2012							
Day	High/Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise/Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible	
Wed 4	Low	1:49 AM	-0.4	5:25 AM 8:26 PM	Set 6:25 AM Rise 9:02 PM	99	
	High	7:55 AM	3.3				
	Low	1:57 PM	-0.2				
	High	8:15 PM	3.9				
Thur 5	Low	2:38 AM	-0.4	5:26 AM 8:25 PM	Set 7:36 AM Rise 9:39 PM	98	
	High	8:47 AM	3.3				
	Low	2:48 PM	-0.1				
	High	9:05 PM	3.8				
Fri 6	Low	3:24 AM	-0.4	5:26 AM 8:25 PM	Set 8:44 AM Rise 10:11 PM	94	
	High	9:40 AM	3.2				
	Low	3:37 PM	0.0				
	High	9:56 PM	3.6				
Sat 7	Low	4:08 AM	-0.2	5:27 AM 8:25 PM	Set 9:51 AM Rise 10:40 PM	87	
	High	10:32 AM	3.2				
	Low	4:25 PM	0.2				
	High	10:46 PM	3.3				
Sun 8	Low	4:51 AM	-0.1	5:28 AM 8:24 PM	Set 10:54 AM Rise 11:08 PM	80	
	High	11:23 AM	3.1				
	Low	5:14 PM	0.4				
	High	11:36 PM	3.1				
Mon 9	Low	5:34 AM	0.1	5:28 AM 8:24 PM	Set 11:56 AM Rise 11:35 PM	71	
	High	12:12 PM	3.0				
	Low	6:07 PM	0.5				
	High	6:07 PM	0.5				
Tues 10	High	12:24 AM	2.9	5:29 AM 8:23 PM	Set 12:56 PM	61	
	Low	6:21 AM	0.3				
	High	12:59 PM	3.0				
	Low	7:06 PM	0.7				
Wed 11	High	1:12 AM	2.7	5:30 AM 8:23 PM	Rise 12:04 AM Set 1:54 PM	52	
	Low	7:11 AM	0.4				
	High	1:45 PM	3.0				
	Low	8:08 PM	0.7				
Thur 12	High	2:02 AM	2.6	5:31 AM 8:22 PM	Rise 12:34 AM Set 2:52 PM	42	
	Low	8:05 AM	0.5				
	High	2:33 PM	3.0				
	Low	9:06 PM	0.7				
Fri 13	High	2:55 AM	2.5	5:31 AM 8:22 PM	Rise 1:07 AM Set 3:49 PM	33	
	Low	8:57 AM	0.5				
	High	3:23 PM	3.0				
	Low	9:58 PM	0.6				
Sat 14	High	3:51 AM	2.5	5:32 AM 8:21 PM	Rise 1:45 AM Set 4:43 PM	24	
	Low	9:47 AM	0.5				
	High	4:16 PM	3.0				
	Low 1	0:46 PM	0.5				

by TONY SALERNO

FISHING WITH TONY

STRIPERS ARE THE TALK OF THE TOWN

Normally as the start of summer kicks into gear, the fishing takes on a similar pattern. Local species situate into their summer residency as anglers pluck away in hopes of icing down a pile of tasty fillets for a meal or two. Fluke are settled onto the shoals and shallow flats feasting on a myriad of baitfish sharing residency. Porgies are putting on the finicky act during the day, while going on a savage bite just before dark. Sea bass eagerly awaits your baited hooks at all the local reefs and wrecks, while bluefish lurks in their never-ending quest to feed just about anywhere an easy meal is available at any given time. However, the real shocker has been the exceptional run of striped bass action that is going on up along the north shore, especially just inside and outside Port Jefferson Harbor and the buoy 11 area.

"We usually see a good shot at quality stripers throughout the month of May, particularly around the full moon, but this year the bass are showing no signs of stopping," States an ecstatic Candy Carafitis of Carafitis Fishing Station on Main Street in Port Jeff Village. "I believe the abundance of bunker in the area are what are keeping the bass in the area and with big appetites as well," Candy adds. Indeed, most of the north shore is seeing pods of bunker swimming inside and outside all of the bays and harbors, usually being chased by a school of stripers or bluefish. This bodes well for all the summer tournaments lined up in the near future.

Right now, your best shot at slamming away at a few linesiders is fishing around the buoy 11 area, Old Field Point and Cranes Neck, or of course right upon a pod of bunker you may encounter. On the pods, snag a bunker with a snag hook, then place it on a 5/0 live bait hook and then send it back as close as possible to the pod and hang on to that rod. Otherwise chunks, clams, worms and diamond jigs are getting the job done at buoy 11 and the points. The middle of the incoming or outgoing tide, when the current peaks at its fastest, has been best. Now is the time to get out there and take advantage of this run as there is a good chance that these fish will move off to the Middle Grounds in a couple of weeks, which will require a longer ride to the fishing grounds.