



## Mal de Mer - Oh My Aching Stomach!

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As an avid student of the sea, I am always amazed when I read that even some of the 'round the world sailors get "mal de mer" - sea sickness. While they get over it in a few days, which everyone will if they are just out there long enough, I wonder how they can put to sea knowing with certainty that they will be sick as dogs for two or three days.



### What Is/What Causes Seasickness?

Seasickness starts in your inner ear. It is caused by the rocking of the boat at sea and, from my own observations, I believe that each boat has a certain rocking motion that is unique to itself and that each sailor has a unique tendency versus that. I have seen sailors on multiple configurations of boats, multiple sizes and various sea-states who get seasick without any predictability versus these mixes. Of course, there is the person who gets seasick at the dock as they get out of the car. While they are genuinely sick, they are not sick from the motion. They are sick from "emotion." They are convinced that they will get sick; they fear that; they get sick as soon as they slam the car door shut. I know of one sailor who only gets seasick in the English Channel. Of course, the first time he was there was during the Normandy Invasion and he crossed it sitting with plenty of other soldiers also getting seasick all over each other... To the sailor who gets chronic seasickness, it is like being in a cold, wet, rolling jail cell - plus the chance of drowning is never too far away, at least in their minds.

### How Can I Stop It?

First, don't get seasick. This means keeping your eye on the horizon as best you can. Watching the boat itself rock around is like reading in a car. It is going to cause problems because your mind and inner ear can't process all those rapid little motions. If you start to get the least bit queasy, stand up or lie down - but get out of that chair. Having your innards pressing on your stomach, which is reacting to the signals from your inner ear, is a recipe for projectile emissions.

Second, if someone around you starts to turn green, get away "at speed." If it is your wife, throw her bucket and your best wishes.\* You will rapidly follow the leader if you don't. Resist the temptation to have them or yourself avail yourself of the "puke deck", i.e., evacuating over-board. Your internal balance system is shot. One bad jibe by the boat and you will be following your lunch into the drink. But be aware of this. If you have gotten seasick, and you haven't started preventative measures the night before you set sail, pray that you can fall asleep. There is nothing you can do if you haven't started preventative measures well prior other than letting nature take its course. See above about those 'round the world sailors.

### How Do I Prevent It?

There are plenty of over-the-counter remedies (and I use remedies with a small 'r' because, for some people, they are just palliatives, not fixes) that come in pill or patch form - Dramamine, Marezine, Bonine, Scopolamine (ear patches), etc. If you are going to try one, you might want to start with Marezine, since it is the least likely to cause drowsiness. Scopolamine is probably the most effective and its effects also last the longest, about 72 hours. It can have some strange side effects, however, and requires a doctor's prescription. Phenergan, a suppository, can also be purchased over the counter.

A natural aid is ginger. You can stock up at the Japanese restaurant or just buy the tablets (or the cookies.) Many people swear by it and I have seen it work with my kids. But start the night before... One of the more "esoteric" types of remedy is the wrist bands. They are supposed to work on your acupuncture point that is about an inch and a half above your inner wrist. Hey, if it works for you, use it.

I am not a doctor. I am a sailor and a keen observer of the obvious - if it works for you, use it because seasickness is really a malady...

Oh, the asterisk (\*) above... One day a few years back, when transiting through the Montauk Rips with a goodly number of friends and family aboard, everyone (cept me of course) got seasick, including my wife, Jo, and my young daughter, Mariel. My wife got the bucket and a "here, use this." Mariel got a bucket, a warm towel and me holding her hand... My wife said, "Sure. It figures!" between gasps. I said, "Of course it does. She's only 9!" 'T'was a cold night for me that night... Aargh!

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..."



by TONY SALERNO

## FISHING WITH TONY

### RFA CALLS ON FISHERMEN TO UNITE

Because of obsolete NOAA harvest statistics and questionable assessment data, summer flounder (fluke) fishermen will take another hit in 2012 - in turn, coastal fishermen are planning to hit back at Washington, DC sometime later this winter.

A Northeast Fisheries Science Center report indicates that while the summer flounder stock was successfully rebuilt in 2010, angler harvest data compiled through the Marine Recreational Fishing Statistical Survey (MRFSS) and applied to NOAA assessment models predicts fishing mortality rate will be exceeded in 2011, once again causing statutory over fishing to occur. In addition to known flaws with the MRFSS data, independent scientists have also been critical of the assessment models used by the federal fisheries service.

Citing new findings, the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) warns that harvest limits originally recommended by council members for 2012 are actually too high and may need to be reduced. On top of recent reports from the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regional fishery management councils that sea bass and red snapper fisheries have also been closed to anglers due to flawed data, the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) said they are moving forward with another rally in Washington, DC later this winter like the one held during the winter of 2010.

In conducting stock assessments, NOAA Fisheries is using recreational harvest data deemed fatally flawed and woefully inaccurate by the National Academy of Sciences, which is exactly why Congress told them to stop using MRFSS as of 2009. Whether it's sea bass, red snapper or fluke, annual or semi-annual stock assessments don't mean squat when you're using illicit data and questionable models. Five years is long enough to wait for Congress to react, so if they're not coming to us, then it looks like we'll be heading back to see them this winter.

RFA has taken their lumps by some in the industry because they been so openly vocal about the issues with Magnuson while also rallying for more accountability from the federal government. Last week, a House Resource Committee hearing on behalf of America's coastal anglers, and specifically brought up the issue of NOAA's inattention to meeting requirements set forth by Congress. Two years ago, RFA brought a federal lawsuit against NOAA for closing the black sea bass fishery using data compiled through MRFSS. Based on the NOAA testimony, a federal judge determined that there would no future fishing closures based on MRFSS data given the fact that NOAA was no longer using MRFSS, rendering RFA's lawsuit moot.

There are several different Magnuson reform bills in Congress right now, including the more comprehensive version in HR3061. What we need is get the whole suite of legislation into committee for review and debate so that we can get the law fixed now to protect jobs."

Tides for Moriches Inlet starting with November 16, 2011							
Day	High/Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise/Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible	
Wed. 16	Low	3:29 AM	0.4	6:39 AM	Set 11:13 AM	77	
16	High	9:52 AM	3.0	4:32 PM	Rise 9:43 PM		
16	Low	4:25 PM	0.3				
16	High	10:51 PM	2.5				
Thur 17	Low	4:20 AM	0.5	6:40 AM	Set 11:47 AM	68	
17	High	10:49 AM	3.0	4:32 PM	Rise 10:50 PM		
17	Low	5:20 PM	0.3				
17	High	11:45 PM	2.6				
Fri. 18	Low	5:29 AM	0.5	6:41 AM	Set 12:18 PM	58	
18	High	11:48 AM	2.9	4:31 PM	Rise 11:57 PM		
18	Low	6:24 PM	0.2				
Sat. 19	High	12:41 AM	2.8	6:42 AM	Set 12:48 PM	47	
19	Low	6:47 AM	0.4	4:30 PM			
19	High	12:47 PM	2.9				
19	Low	7:26 PM	0.1				
Sun. 20	High	1:38 AM	3.0	6:44 AM	Rise 1:07 AM	36	
20	Low	7:57 AM	0.2	4:30 PM	Set 1:19 PM		
20	High	1:50 PM	3.0				
20	Low	8:22 PM	-0.1				
Mon. 21	High	2:37 AM	3.2	6:45 AM	Rise 2:18 AM	25	
21	Low	8:58 AM	0.1	4:29 PM	Set 1:51 PM		
21	High	2:54 PM	3.0				
21	Low	9:15 PM	-0.2				
Tues. 22	High	3:36 AM	3.5	6:46 AM	Rise 3:32 AM	16	
22	Low	9:55 AM	-0.2	4:28 PM	Set 2:26 PM		
22	High	3:56 PM	3.0				
22	Low	10:06 PM	-0.4				
Wed. 23	High	4:31 AM	3.7	6:47 AM	Rise 4:47 AM	8	
23	Low	10:50 AM	-0.4	4:28 PM	Set 3:07 PM		
23	High	4:54 PM	3.2				
23	Low	10:58 PM	-0.4				
Thur. 24	High	5:24 AM	3.9	6:48 AM	Rise 6:03 AM	2	
24	Low	11:44 AM	-0.5	4:27 PM	Set 3:55 PM		
24	High	5:48 PM	3.2				
24	Low	11:50 PM	-0.4				