



We're Sinking!

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 UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



Amazingly, four out of five boats sink at the dock. It is the fifth boat – the one that sinks underway – that is far more dangerous since you and your crew are aboard and not driving up to the marina to find your mast light sticking up out of your slip...

Why Do Boats Sink at Sea?

Before we get into the other percentages, why's and wherefore's, the single most reported reason is water coming aboard from the stern through the out-board engine cut-out. While fine for the bays, be extremely cautious about taking a boat so configured onto the high seas. A following sea can easily "poop" you from behind and overwhelm your capacity to off-load the water.

As to the other percentages and categories, roughly one in five sinkings at sea (18%) are due to direct leaks in the vessel itself, not caused by violent contact with the bottom or the sea itself. Areas of ingress, in order, are:

1. Through-hull fittings that give way;
2. Stuffing box leaks (the spot under the boat where the drive shaft exits the engine space of a cruiser and enters the water);
3. Knot-meter plugs;
4. Bait well discharge back-ups.

Roughly one in eight sinkings at sea (12%) are caused by raw (sea) water cooling and exhaust systems failures. These parts, subjected to high heat from engine exhaust gases and the corrosive effects of salt water, simply wear out – and you are now pumping water from the sea into the engine spaces... Hitting something, often rocks, accounts for another 10%. This

is called "holing the boat", i.e., you just put a hole in it... Roughly one in 20 sinkings at sea (6%) are caused by excess force/excessive speed and the hull comes apart...

What Do I Do Now??

1. Put Your Life Jackets On – Right away, direct everyone to don their life jackets. As I have noted before, on my vessel, I have a heavy weather/type-1 life jacket on the back of my helm seat. Across the back, where the crew can read it, it says, "If you see the captain put this on, try to find one for yourself."

2. Don't Be Bashful – Immediately get on the radio and call the USCG. Tell them where you are, how many people are aboard and where the water is coming from. Why how many people? Because if they get there after the boat goes down, make sure they pick up everybody. No one gets left behind.

3. Stop the Leak – If water is coming through a hole in the hull, try to stop it. Jam towels, cushions, extra life-jackets – anything – into the hole. Brace the plug with a shoulder only if you have to (you want to avoid having anybody below when the boat sinks...). Use a spar, oar, bimini cover pole, boarding ladder – anything – to jam your plug(s) into that hole. An old sail boater's trick is to jam a sail into the hole from the outside. Let the sea pressure work for you. Not a lot of power boaters carry sails on their Bayliner – but it may give you an idea. You won't stop the water but you will likely slow it. It is going to take time for help to arrive so you have to start doing things to buy yourself more time. Buy time by slowing the ingress of water... You may have to slow down to contain the water pres-

sure on your plug so you are doing a trade-off here – less water but more time to shore. Start with less water and evaluate who is winning – you or the sea.

4. Trim the Boat – If you hit something, it is likely that the hole is in the forward part of the boat and possibly near the water line. Trim the boat up and try to get the hole out of the water. If you can, you win and the sea loses.

5. Any Port in a Storm – If you are losing the battle after doing everything above, beach the boat if you can. Who cares what happens to the boat at this point. We might be talking about living or dying now. Life first, property last.

6. Create a Ditch Bag – If the situation continues to deteriorate, say your prayers but don't leave the boat until it sinks out from under you. But have a "ditch bag" ready – cell phone, handheld radio, fresh water, dry clothes, medical kit, flash light, flares, etc – come immediately to mind. It is always good to have a ditch bag ready whenever you go "outside". Hit a 45' container that fell off a ocean-going cargo ship on its way from Brazil to Maine and you won't have to take your shoes off to count the minutes you have left on your boat.

When you have a leak in your boat, secure the crew, call for help and try to stop the leak... You're the captain.

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 July 24, 2013

Day	High/Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise/Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible
Wed. 24	Low	2:35 AM	-0.5	5:40 AM	Set	98
24	High	8:47 AM	3.5	8:14 PM	Rise	
24	Low	2:51 PM	-0.3			
24	High	9:06 PM	3.8			
Thur. 25	Low	3:22 AM	-0.5	5:41 AM	Set	93
25	High	9:40 AM	3.5	8:13 PM	Rise	
25	Low	3:42 PM	-0.2			
25	High	9:58 PM	3.7			
Fri. 26	Low	4:08 AM	-0.4	5:42 AM	Set	86
26	High	10:33 AM	3.5	8:12 PM	Rise	
26	Low	4:32 PM	0.0			
26	High	10:51 PM	3.4			
Sat. 27	Low	4:53 AM	-0.2	5:43 AM	Set	78
27	High	11:26 AM	3.3	8:11 PM	Rise	
27	Low	5:25 PM	0.2			
27	High	11:43 PM	3.2			
Sun. 28	Low	5:40 AM	0.1	5:44 AM	Set	68
28	High	12:17 PM	3.3	8:11 PM	Rise	
28	Low	6:22 PM	0.4			
Mon. 29	High	12:35 AM	3.0	5:45 AM	Set	58
29	Low	6:31 AM	0.2	8:10 PM		
29	High	1:07 PM	3.2			
29	Low	7:25 PM	0.5			
Tues. 30	High	1:26 AM	2.8	5:46 AM	Rise	48
30	Low	7:26 AM	0.4	8:08 PM	Set	
30	High	1:56 PM	3.1			
30	Low	8:27 PM	0.6			
Wed. 31	High	2:19 AM	2.7	5:47 AM	Rise	39
31	Low	8:23 AM	0.5	8:07 PM	Set	
31	High	2:48 PM	3.0			
31	Low	9:24 PM	0.6			

Weather Forecast E Moriches, NY (11940)	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	Jul 24	Jul 25	Jul 26	Jul 27	Jul 28	Jul 29	Jul 30	Jul 31
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Isolated T-Storms	Mostly Cloudy	T-Showers	Scattered T-Storms	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
85°F 66°F	78°F 67°F	78°F 67°F	81°F 71°F	81°F 70°F	83°F 67°F	83°F 68°F	85°F 70°F	



by TONY SALERNO

FISHING WITH TONY

STRIPERS AND SCUP ARE THE BEST CHOICES IN TOWN

It's been quite a good season thus far. Some of the best fluke fishing took place in early May; weakfish made a strong showing in Peconic and Great South Bays. Stripers and porgies were headline worthy from early May along the north shore with exceptional catches with both size and quantity. And while the heat wave of mid-July usually brings a slowdown of most local species, the bass and scup have not been deterred by the rising water temperatures. In fact, even with the change of water temps, the fishing for the two has continued to be as strong as it was in early May, which has angler's delighted and coming out in droves.

"The jumbo porgies never departed as they normally do by late May. In fact, anglers targeting the scuppers are having a ball filling coolers with the feisty fighters," says Candy Carafitis of Carafitis Fishing Station on Main Street in Port Jeff Village. Rental boats as well as private crafts have been slamming the scup over at Cranes Neck and Old Field Points on both moving tides with the nod of the best action going to the start of the outgoing tide. Clam chumming and fresh clams on the hook equates to icing down a good amount of quality fish. Candy also tell us that the striper fishing continues to delight anglers fishing whole fresh clams, fresh bunker chunks, or working jigs at all the points as well as the Middle Grounds and buoy 11. The outgoing tide has also been most productive to add a few bass to a cooler of porgies. Candy also noted that if you are going to fish the Middle Grounds, bring along some insect repellent as the black flies are out there in force and making life miserable for those without repellent. Along the south shore, fishing has abruptly switched into summer mode especially fluke fishing. Although when the tide is ideal, which has been the stage surrounding high tide, there are loads of action, however the problem is not everyone are catching keepers. In fact, you may have to cull through 30 or 40 shorts to find a keeper or two. Then again, anglers with a little lady luck on their shoulders are limiting or coming close to limiting on the flood tide. Along the waters of both Moriches and Shinnecock, all the open boats in both bays are mixing the day with some sea bass fishing when condition permits. The hot boat as of late has been the Hampton Lady where Captain Jim Foley has been sneaking away to a few private wrecks where patrons have been enjoying good catches of big sea bass and porgies.