



Drill, Baby, Drill - Reading Weather Reports!

by VINCENT T. PICA, II

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OK, how many "hurry-canes" can we get (60mph winds and driving rain that last 20 gut-wrenching minutes) before we start paying better attention to the weather? And if you had drilled down a little, maybe there was more information that you could have used to your benefit - and an appreciation of the forecaster.

Weather on the Web

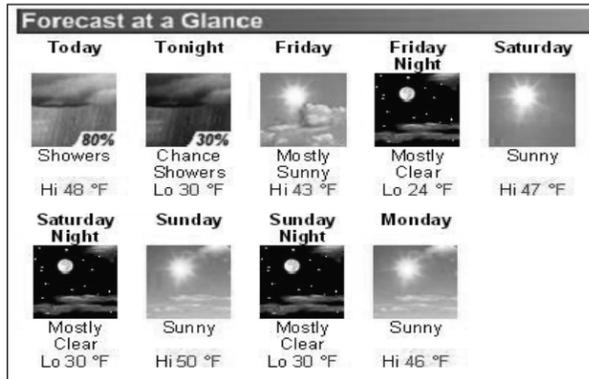
Clearly, the world is awash in web sites that can tell you the weather. Here is just a partial list:

- www.weather.com The Weather Channel
- www.accuweather.com AccuWeather
- www.weatherbug.com The Weather Bug
- www.wunderground.com Weather Underground
- http://forecast.weather.gov NOAA

The information providers all have a weather channel - AOL, Yahoo, etc. Each portrays pretty much the same information that you can get by opening the newspaper over a cup of coffee at the kitchen table. And you may be surprised to know that they all likely get their weather data from the same source - the US's NOAA - the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration. NOAA (www.noaa.gov) is part of the Commerce Department, which says a lot about what government thinks effects business the most! If NOAA's website has any fault at all, it is how much information you can get from it! But, as NOAA says, "NOAA's weather programs touch the lives of every American. Every day, decisions are made based on NOAA weather information - from the mundane "should I pack an umbrella today?" to the most critical and potentially life-saving." So, "more" is putting safety first. And that is where

safety must be. So...

If all the services get their basic data from NOAA, why don't you just go there and get the info? An example of what you can get directly from NOAA would be:



This probably looks amazingly similar to any of the weather reports you see in the paper or on your internet provider. So, maybe we all just should go to NOAA. It is free too!

But the real answer, going back to the intro of this column, is you want to be able to drill down and not every weather service gives you that ability.

Drill, Baby, Drill!

On any given day, you can get a weather report that tells you that the chance of rain is 80%, such as March 19, 2009 did. So, if you are planning to do anything outside, you might cancel or move it to another venue. But the 80% covers the whole day, i.e., there

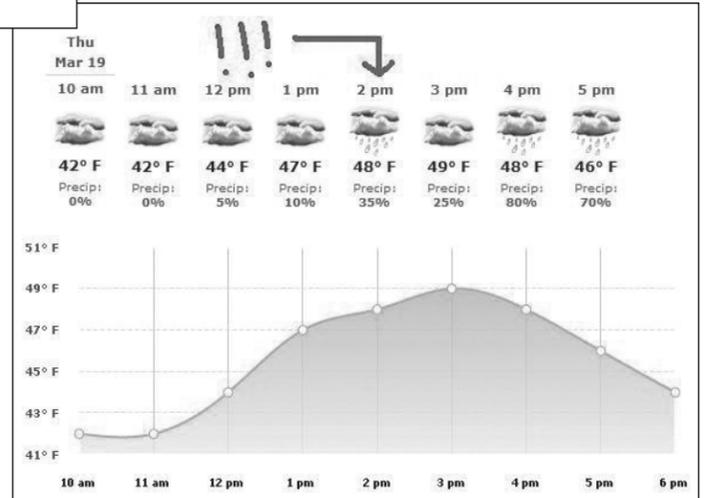
is an 80% chance that it will rain sometime today... When?

But what I really want to know is when the rain is likely to arrive and this still looks like all day! What happens if I drill down on hour-by-hour?

Bingo! If you look at the chances of precipitation (just above the graph of temperatures, see graph below), you'll see that the chances of rain before 2pm are about 1 in 3, or less! Even by 3pm, it is even money that no rain has fallen!

Drill, Baby, Drill - and how about we get some fishing in this morning!!!

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..."



by TONY SALERNO

FISHING WITH TONY TIME FOR FLUKE ALONG THE EAST END

Fishing during the doldrums of summer can be quite a bummer for the serious sinker bouncer as hot scorching temps and the beat of the sun can really test the mettle of man. However, humans aren't the only creatures of life that are affected by Mother Nature's heat waves. Drastic increases in water temperatures and the hot sun will change the behavioral and eating habits of most fresh and saltwater species that swim along this side of the Atlantic. For most of the waters that surround Long Island, July and August means the best time to fish is during the very early hours of the morning, or after dusk. That is unless the fishing is done from the deep cool waters of Montauk where for the past two weeks, the bite on fluke has been just incredible with both quality and quantity.



angler with a 7 and 9 pound fluke taken aboard the Miss Montauk Xpress

"It's the best fishing I have seen in many years" is the story from Captain Eddie Beneduci of the Montauk open boat the Marlin IV Princess. The Princess has seen pretty solid fluking thus far this season, however the influx of big fish for the past 10 days or so has been impressive. Captain Ed has seen many fish over 5-pounds climbing all the way to a very hefty 13-pounds. Most days see pool fish generally in the 6 top 8-pound ranges, and then there are days when the pools are settled with fish between 9 to 13-pounds. If that isn't enough to coax you to the Mecca, perhaps the sea bass to 6-pounds that are mixing in with the fluke is enough for you. In addition, porgies, blues and stripers are finding their way on board and spicing up catches nicely.

Down the block a bit at the Sea Otter Dock, the Miss Montauk Fleet and Captain Jamie Quaresimo have been enjoying similar results as is the rest of the fleet. "The past few days have been nothing short of incredible" states Captain Jamie. On Friday, one fare threw back 6 keepers over 6 lbs along with a few others keeping his 2 at 7.8 and 8.2-pounds. On Saturday, Ron J had a total of 6 keeping a 9.3 and a 7.8-pound flattie, and releasing another 7 plus pound fish. Sea bass are also coming over the rails in good numbers with fish up to 5.14-pounds

Both the Marlin IV Princess and the Miss Montauk Express are sailing full day fluke daily as well as half-day trips being run from the open boats the Ebb Tide, Flying Cloud and the Viking fleet. For info on the Montauk Open and charter boat fleet, log on to www.nyfisherman.net

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