



# Do I Really Need to Wear a Life-Jacket?

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"Do I really need to wear a life-jacket? I've been boating since dinosaurs roamed the Earth and it is always fine!"

How many of us have said that, or something like that? More than a few and more than would admit to it. It is a natural reaction to wearing something that might be considered "binding" versus the wonderful feeling of just being out on the water...

But think again. First, some activities require a life-jacket (more scientifically called a "Personal Flotation Device" or PFD). Water skiing regulations require the skier to have one on. The driver and passengers of a "Personal Water Craft" or PWC (often called a jetski) are required to have one on. If you are younger than 13 years old, you must have one on. If you are using the "Type-5" PFD, the kind that look like a set of suspenders that have buoyancy pouches that are inflated by a CO2 cartridge, you must have it on for the USCG to consider that it is on the boat (unless you are under 16 in which case it is illegal to wear it!).

But what about the fellow who just wants to tool away from the dock, quietly find his favorite fishing spot off the channel in Moriches Bay and just drop

two hooks - one for the boat and one for the fish...? How dangerous is that?

It can be plenty. Aside from weather changes, the rapid change from dusk to night and things like that, there are other boaters. And I don't mean the ones that drive into you, admittedly a rare albeit not unique occurrence. Here's the scenario...

You hook that fish that has been nibbling your bait away all afternoon. You finally have him on the hook. As you reach over with the landing net to get him in the boat, another boater races by and his wake hits your boat at just the wrong angle at just the wrong time. Into the drink you go...

And here are the statistics: 16 guys go in the water with a life-jacket and 15 come out. Sixteen guys go in the water without a life jacket?

One comes out. And, in concert with this, the USCG has instituted a "Kids Don't Float" program. Your local USCGAux flotilla works with a local marina to create a life-jacket loaner program. You drive up to the participating marina, sign out a life-jacket from the program and tool away with the kids and a safer day on the water... You're not a kid, you say? Ask. What can it hurt?

And lastly, to make the whole "PFD" thing seem friendlier and more meaningful, we can call them "life-jackets" again and not have some lawyer jump up and down and say, "Oooo - don't call them that!" They are what they are - life-saving jackets.

Do you have a boater who you love? Get him or her to wear a life-

jacket, especially if they are out there alone...

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux2008@aol.com or go direct to MaryJo Cruickshank, who is in charge of new members' matters, at FSO-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing..."

## Brookhaven Adopts "Pooper Scooper" Law

Brookhaven Town has adopted an initiative by Councilwoman Jane Bonner requiring dog owners to pick up their pet's waste from Town roads, right of ways, and recreational areas, including dog parks. The measure was approved by a 6-1 vote of the Town Board on September 9.

"The overwhelming bipartisan support of this measure by my colleagues shows that they care about the health and safety of our residents, and the environment with the impact that this waste has on our beaches

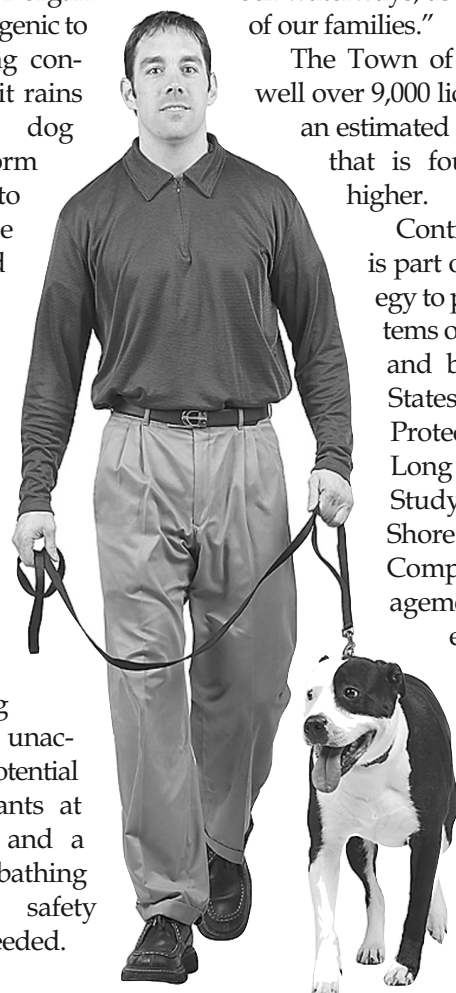
A recent federal study found that health-related beach closings have increased in the last five years, exacting a significant economic toll upon local governments and tourism-related revenues. In 2005 an aggregate of 1,518 beach days in Suffolk County were lost to such closures. In 2007 the monetary losses from Long Island beach closures have been estimated to exceed \$20 million.

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"Picking up after your pet is a responsibility that should be carried by each pet owner, because it benefits our environment as well as our residents' health," said Councilwoman Bonner. "Enacting this legislation is an important first step in protecting the fragile ecosystem of our waterways, as well as the health of our families."

and waterways," said Bonner. "Besides being unsightly and causing a mess, pet waste can spread disease when not picked up, and is a significant source of water pollution."

Dogs can harbor organisms that are pathogenic to humans, spreading contamination when it rains on uncollected dog waste, and the storm water washes to water that we use for swimming and recreation. Although these pathogens are not normally life threatening, they are serious and can be dangerous to vulnerable people. The Suffolk County Department of Health has an extensive sampling program to detect unacceptable levels of potential disease contaminants at bathing beaches, and a policy to close bathing beaches when safety thresholds are exceeded.



The Town of Brookhaven has well over 9,000 licensed dogs, with an estimated actual population that is four to five times higher.

Controlling pet waste is part of an overall strategy to protect the ecosystems of our rivers, lakes, and bays. The United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Long Island Sound Study, and the South Shore Estuary Reserve Comprehensive Management Plan, regional environmental planning initiatives on the north and south shores of Long Island, all advocate for measures to control pet waste.

### Tides for Moriches Inlet Starting With September 24, 2008

Day	High / Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise Sunset	Moon Time Visible	% Moon
Wed. 24	High	3:05 AM	2.8	6:41 AM	Rise 1:15 AM	31
24	Low	9:12 AM	0.4	6:44 PM	Set 4:22 PM	
24	High	3:28 PM	3.3			
24	Low	10:07 PM	0.2			
Thu. 25	High	4:10 AM	3.0	6:42 AM	Rise 2:29 AM	21
25	Low	10:13 AM	0.3	6:43 PM	Set 4:52 PM	
25	High	4:31 PM	3.3			
25	Low	10:57 PM	0.1			
Fri. 26	High	5:09 AM	3.2	6:43 AM	Rise 3:41 AM	13
26	Low	11:07 AM	0.1	6:41 PM	Set 5:18 PM	
26	High	5:27 PM	3.4			
26	Low	11:44 PM	-0.1			
Sat. 27	High	6:00 AM	3.3	6:44 AM	Rise 4:50 AM	6
27	Low	11:58 AM	0.1	6:39 PM	Set 5:41 PM	
27	High	6:15 PM	3.4			
Sun. 28	Low	12:27 AM	-0.1	6:45 AM	Rise 5:58 AM	2
28	High	6:45 AM	3.5	6:38 PM	Set 6:04 PM	
28	Low	12:46 PM	0.0			
28	High	6:58 PM	3.4			
Mon. 29	Low	1:08 AM	-0.1	6:46 AM	Rise 7:04 AM	0
29	High	7:26 AM	3.6	6:36 PM	Set 6:26 PM	
29	Low	1:31 PM	0.0			
29	High	7:39 PM	3.3			
Tue. 30	Low	1:47 AM	-0.1	6:47 AM	Rise 8:09 AM	0
30	High	8:06 AM	3.6	6:34 PM	Set 6:51 PM	
30	Low	2:14 PM	0.0			
30	High	8:19 PM	3.2			
Wed. 1	Low	2:24 AM	0.1	6:48 AM	Rise 9:15 AM	2
1	High	8:44 AM	3.5	6:33 PM	Set 7:18 PM	
1	Low	2:55 PM	0.1			
1	High	9:00 PM	3.0			
Thu. 2	Low	2:59 AM	0.2	6:49 AM	Rise 10:20 AM	6
2	High	9:23 AM	3.4	6:31 PM	Set 7:50 PM	
2	Low	3:35 PM	0.2			
2	High	9:43 PM	2.8			
Fri. 3	Low	3:33 AM	0.4	6:50 AM	Rise 11:23 AM	12
3	High	10:03 AM	3.2	6:29 PM	Set 8:27 PM	
3	Low	4:14 PM	0.4			
3	High	10:29 PM	2.6			
Sat. 4	Low	4:06 AM	0.5	6:51 AM	Rise 12:22 PM	19
4	High	10:47 AM	3.0	6:28 PM	Set 9:11 PM	
4	Low	4:55 PM	0.5			
4	High	11:18 PM	2.5			
Sun. 5	Low	4:42 AM	0.7	6:52 AM	Rise 1:15 PM	27
5	High	11:34 AM	2.9	6:26 PM	Set 10:02 PM	
5	Low	5:44 PM	0.7			
Mon. 6	High	12:10 AM	2.4	6:53 AM	Rise 2:02 PM	36
6	Low	5:27 AM	0.9	6:24 PM	Set 10:58 PM	
6	High	12:25 PM	2.8			
6	Low	6:45 PM	0.8			