



Fog!



by VINCENT T. PICA, II

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Jeez, is it me or have we been beset by fog more often than sun of late? For those of a more scientific-bent, fog that forms when water is warmer than the air is called "steam" fog (Fall). Think of that pot of spaghetti water you are boiling. Fog that forms when the water is colder than the air is called "advection" fog (Spring). There is a third kind of fog called "radiation" fog. That is the fog that you see float in across the backyard or linger in a dip in the country road...



But fog is fog. You can't see the land or the buoys or, worse, the bow! What to do?

Well, with the dropping price of radar, boats in the mid-20' range can now be found to have radar (see below for listing of SSP columns on radar) aboard. If you do have radar aboard, read the manual and get familiar with gain controls. I won't waste space in this newspaper lending advice to a skipper that already has a state of the art system aboard on how to use it. Not surprisingly however, the advice below holds for the 65'er with radar and chart overlay capabilities as well as the skipper in the 17' open boat with a 90-hp Merc on the stern. When the fog rolls in...

1. Slow down to "a slow bell", that is, with forward propulsion necessary to maintain steerage, but no greater. Put on life jackets. (see "Life Jackets - Do I Really Need To Wear One?", SSP, 9/24/08)

2. While underway and making way, that is, engine in gear, give 1 "prolonged" blast on your whistle (4-6 seconds). This is specified in the Navigation Rules, Rule 35(a) (see "COLREGs: What's That I Hear?", SSP, 10/3/07.) In fact, the Rules say "not more than 2 minutes apart." Let me make it plainer. No LESS than every 2 minutes.

3. While underway but not making way, that is, dead stop on the engine but not at anchor, give 2 "prolonged" blasts, separated by a couple of seconds apart, no less than every 2 minutes. This is Rule 35(b).

4. If necessary to anchor due to visibility (none!), "boats less than 39 feet 4 inches (12 meters) in length may make an efficient sound signal at intervals of not more than two minutes." In short, it is not specified for boats under 12 meters. Boats larger than 12 meters at anchor must clang their bell 5 times quickly followed by one prolonged and one short (~1 second) blast in the whistle.

5. Listen. Sound travels more efficiently through fog than clear air. Listen. Bring your engine to dead stop from time to time and listen. Listen for the sound of surf (move away from that!), buoy whistles/horns/bells (move towards that, carefully) or other engines (sound danger whistle right away and take all way off - but don't turn off the engine!)

So, now you are properly communicating with other boats but you do want to get in out of the fog if you can. How? Don't, as some old chestnuts might advise, hug the shore. As the fog intensifies and you draw closer and closer to shore, you know what will happen. (See column on what to do if you run aground "Hard Aground, Now What!?", SSP, 7/09/08.) Of far more danger, don't "hug the shore" when you are outside the Inlet. If you get caught in the surf line (see 5 above), you will be capsized and now there is imminent threat to life.

If you can't see, you must stop, drop the hook, sound your warning horn as specified and wait out the fog. If due to electronics (GPS, Loran) you realize that you are in a heavy traffic lane, get out - at a slow speed and just enough to be out of the traffic. But if you can't see past the bow and you are underway and making way, you are in extreme danger of having a collision at sea.

If you have some visibility, see #'s 1 and 2 above. The slower speed will help in another way as well - you can hear better. Lastly, if you have those canisters of compressed gas as your boat's horn/whistle, you will likely run out of compressed air before you run out of fog. Think about getting a simple whistle. Get the "pea-less" kind in case you have to worry about your spittle freezing one cold and foggy day... and blow, baby, blow...!

Radar Columns

"Radar: Your Eye Ayes!", SSP, 12/19/07

"Radar: Hi-Def Has Arrived", SSP, 9/10/08

"Radar: What's Blinding You?", SSP, 12/31/08

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..."



FISHING WITH TONY

IT'S A SUMMER MIX BAG ON BOTH SHORES

by TONY SALERNO

With graduation and Independence Day parties now behind us, it's time again to hit the water as the dog days of summer are producing some outstanding catches of a variety of species around the island just about around the clock.

Along the north shore, Candy Carafitis of Carafitis Fishing Station on Main Street in Port Jefferson reports plenty of porgies at Old Field Point and Crane's Neck as well as inside Port Jeff Harbor. Worms and clams are the tickets to slamming a limit of scup at these spots on the last of the incoming tide. If bass and blues are more of your forte, Candy advises casting tins and jigs by buoy 11 for the duo as plenty can be found in the area. Candy also states that cocktail blues are everywhere. Anglers bouncing bucktails among the shoals from Northport to Rocky Point are finding plenty of fluke are abound; however quite honestly, most of the flatties are shorts. On the other hand, boatmen and open boats such as the Celtic Quest heading east to the shoals between buoys 5 and 9 are finding a dramatic increase in the quantity and quality of keepers on bucktails tipped with spearing, squid or sand eels.



Captain Neil Falkner with a pair of big fluke taken aboard the Shinnecock Star

Along the south shore, sea bass and porgies have been on center stage as all the local reefs and rock piles have been producing plenty of action on the silver and indigo beauties. Open boats such as the Rosie out of Center Moriches and the Hampton Lady out of Hampton Bays have been putting their fares knee deep in action where just about everyday sees patrons leaving these boats with big smiles and full bags of tasty fillets. Meanwhile, the other Hampton Bay open boat the Shinnecock Star, has been having a blast keeping their patrons busy with nice big Shinnecock fluke. According to skipper John Capuano, the last 10 days have produced some of the best action of the season with plenty of keepers and tasty fillets to go around. The key to the fishing has been the top of the tide when the flatties are going ballistic for bucktails tipped with spearing.

During the evening tides, both Shinnecock and Moriches inlets are seeing good striper action on bucktails and live eels. The entire stretch of the outgoing tide has been producing bass to 27-pounds. In addition, bluefish have also been frequenting both inlets during the evening hours to spice things up. Plenty of action waits. Now is the time to cash in.

Tides for Moriches Inlet starting with July 13, 2011

Day	High/Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise/Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible
Wed. 13	High	5:54 AM	2.9	5:31 AM	Set	93
13	Low	11:52 AM	0.1	8:22 PM	Rise	3:45 AM
13	High	6:19 PM	3.7		7:11 PM	
Thur. 14	Low	12:40 AM	-0.1	5:32 AM	Set	97
14	High	6:47 AM	3.0	8:22 PM	Rise	4:48 AM
14	Low	12:44 PM	0.1		7:55 PM	
14	High	7:07 PM	3.7			
Fri. 15	Low	1:28 AM	-0.1	5:32 AM	Set	99
15	High	7:36 AM	3.0	8:21 PM	Rise	5:54 AM
15	Low	1:33 PM	0.1		8:32 PM	
15	High	7:53 PM	3.6			
Sat. 16	Low	2:13 AM	-0.1	5:33 AM	Set	99
16	High	8:22 AM	3.0	8:21 PM	Rise	6:59 AM
16	Low	2:20 PM	0.1		9:03 PM	
16	High	8:36 PM	3.5			
Sun. 17	Low	2:54 AM	0.1	5:34 AM	Set	97
17	High	9:08 AM	3.0	8:20 PM	Rise	8:03 AM
17	Low	3:03 PM	0.2		9:31 PM	
17	High	9:20 PM	3.3			
Mon. 18	Low	3:33 AM	-0.1	5:35 AM	Set	92
18	High	9:53 AM	3.0	8:19 PM	Rise	9:04 AM
18	Low	3:45 PM	0.3		9:56 PM	
18	High	10:03 PM	3.2			
Tus. 19	Low	4:09 AM	0.1	5:36 AM	Set	87
19	High	10:38 AM	3.0	8:19 PM	Rise	10:04 AM
19	Low	4:26 PM	0.4		10:21 PM	
19	High	10:48 PM	3.0			
Wed. 20	Low	4:44 AM	0.2	5:36 AM	Set	79
20	High	11:22 AM	2.9	8:18 PM	Rise	11:03 AM
20	Low	5:08 PM	0.6		10:45 PM	
20	High	11:32 PM	2.9			
Thur. 21	Low	5:19 AM	0.4	5:37 AM	Set	71
21	High	12:04 PM	2.9	8:17 PM	Rise	12:01 PM
21	Low	5:56 PM	0.7		11:11 PM	
Fri. 22	High	12:16 AM	2.7	5:38 AM	Set	62
22	Low	5:59 AM	0.5	8:16 PM	Rise	1:00 PM
22	High	12:46 PM	2.9		11:39 PM	
22	Low	6:54 PM	0.8			
Sat. 23	High	1:02 AM	2.5	5:39 AM	Set	53
23	Low	6:47 AM	0.6	8:16 PM		
23	High	1:29 PM	2.9			
23	Low	7:58 PM	0.8			
Sun. 24	High	1:51 AM	2.4	5:40 AM	Rise	43
24	Low	7:45 AM	0.7	8:15 PM	Set	12:10 AM
24	High	2:15 PM	2.9		2:59 PM	
24	Low	8:59 PM	0.8			