



## Boat's Ready - Is It Safe As Can Be?

by VINCENT T. PICA, II

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If you saw the movie "Marathon Man", you will surely remember Sir Laurence Olivier holding a dentist's drill over Dustin Hoffman's tooth and asking, "Is eet safe? Is eet safe?" Poor Dustin Hoffman kept asking "safe about what??" - until he started screaming... Your boat may pass its vessel safety check - which means it at least meets Federal minimums... But is eet safe...? This column is about that...

### Safe For What?

Admiral Halsey is famous for many things but one is noting that, for a thousand years, safety starts at the dock. What are you intending to do with this boat, on this passage, with a certain mission or task in mind - and is it properly outfitted for that? Certainly, meeting Federal minimums sounds more than a little short of the mark if you're intending to head out to the Hudson Canyons for an over-night fishing trip... OK, you've got your required number of flares for the size of your boat and a life jacket for everyone... but are you really prepared for what God's Great Ocean can throw at you...? What are the "optional" items that could open up the safety window for you while the USCG comes charging out to get you...?

### Cell Phone v VHF Radio

In my mind, the greatest piece of safety gear that you have on your boat is a simple VHF radio (see "Sounding Smart on the Radio", SSP, 8/01/07; see "Your Radio - Installed Right?", SSP, 4/09/08; see "Radio Gain - Shot Gun or Rifle", SSP, 4/16/08; see "Rescue-21 - 21st Century Savior", SSP, 4/23/08.) Several Sunday's ago, the USCG saved six sailors off a sinking sailing vessel. The skipper pressed the "Digital Selective Calling" button on his radio (they all come with that button now) and, since he had connected it to his



GPS, it sent his GPS coordinates directly to USCG rescue personnel. Station Shinnecock dispatched one of their vessels (USCG Auxiliarist Joe Tarlantino of Center Moriches was aboard and part of the rescue team) directly to the stricken vessel. The boat sank to the bottom but all six mariners were saved. What if they hadn't had a GPS hooked into their DSC-equipped radio? Frankly, much the same result would have happened. Rescue-21 would have been able to generate a line of bearing to the boat and the USCG would have raced down that line until they came upon the vessel. What about a cell phone call?

To who - your wife? "Honey, send help!" How about the fishing vessel that is a half-mile away - but you don't have his cell phone number... Maybe you can strap the cell phone to a rocket flare and try to hit him with it.

### Getting Back Aboard

If you do manage to lose a crewman overboard, or even yourself, how will you get back aboard? If you don't have a collapsible boarding ladder attached to your stern or your swim platform, you'll never get back aboard unless you can pull a "Flipper the Flying Porpoise" and jump into the boat. (See "Man Overboard!", SSP, 11/8/06.) Get a good one, with at least three steps that pull out so you can get your cold and cramped legs onto the bottom step. If you have to pull yourself up to steps that are just too high, you may find it impossible to save yourself...

### Money No Object..?

It always strikes me as penny-wise and pound-foolish to skimp on safety equipment - such as a GPS (see "Gee, GPS!", SSP, 01/02/08) or an EPIRB (see "EPIRBs, GPIRBs, PPIRBs!", SSP, 11/29/06) - but the reality is that not everyone is in a position to afford \$5/gallon gasoline and a \$500 GPS or \$900 EPIRB. Of course, we are talking about saving the life most important to you - yours!

### Back Copies...

If you want to get copies of the articles referenced above, email me and I'll send you a copy...

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..."

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## FISHING WITH TONY

PORGIES AND FLUKE  
GALORE ON BOTH SHORES

by TONY SALERNO

Despite all that gusty wind this past week, fluke action has been on fire along the north and south shores this week. The best part is there are plenty of keepers around allowing many anglers to go home happy with hefty bags of tasty filets.

Up along Port Jeff this week, Candy Carafitis of Carafitis Fishing Station on Main Street reports plenty of fluke being caught off of Crane's Neck, Flax Pond and Cedar Beach. Although the majority of fish continue to be shorts, the keeper ratio has finally increased to about 8 to 1, with fish to 8-pounds. Spearing and squid combos are working great, however bucktails tipped with striped fluke belly or sea robin are slamming the larger keepers.

Aside from the fluke, Candy reports porgies are right outside the harbor in 30 to 35 feet of water drifting in front of the pink house. Some of these porgies are true jumbos to 16-inches and can be found gobbling up clam strips on hi-lo rigs. The scup are also just off Old Field Point biting best at the turn of the tide. Bluefish and a few school stripers can make an appearance just about anytime around the boat. Therefore a few tins and plugs in the arsenal can go a long way.

Down along the south shore, lots of short fluke dominate the oceanfronts along Moriches and Shinnecock. However inside these two bays have shown a dramatic increase with keepers with a ratio of about 6 to 1. Some of these bay flatties are bordering near the doormat size. In fact, my good pal Paul Nilsson fished near the buoy 14 area inside Moriches this past week for a pair of 7-pounders and one that flopped on the scale at 4-pounds. Paul drifted bucktails tipped with spearing through the area at the top of the flood tide.

As for the area head boats, Captain James Russo of the Center Moriches based open boat the Rosie has been finding plenty of action and plenty of keepers for his patrons fishing inside the bay as well with fish to 8-pounds. Just a reminder that aside from the usual full day 7:30 A.M. trips, the Rosie has included their popular summer time 5 to 9 P.M. fluke and sea bass combos. Over at Shinnecock, both the Shinnecock Star and Hampton Lady are keeping rods bending with quality fluke and sea bass action.



A couple of anglers with nice fluke caught aboard the Rosie.