



# Safety First - In 10 Easy Steps

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 UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



The United States Coast Guard characterizes their Auxiliary corps as a "force multiplier", enabling the active-duty and reserves corps to do more with the budgeted dollars allocated by the US Congress. USCG Auxiliarists donate 100% of their time to the tasks authorized by the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. And no task is more important than promulgating and expanding the safety of life at sea. This column is about that.

## The Ten Commandments

Well, that might be a bit of an over-statement (these are hardly divinely inspired) and an under-statement (there are a lot more than 10 things you can do to enhance safety for you and your crew.) However, the numbers associated with these 10 steps that any skipper can do, or insist is done, are compelling.

**#1 - Thou Shalt Wear a Life-jacket** - If 16 mariners go into the water without a life-jacket - only 1 comes out. Conversely, if they fall overboard with a life-jacket, 15 come out. Which cadre do you want to be in? Always have an adequate supply of personal flotation devices aboard. Make sure that children are wearing life-jackets that fit correctly. Federal and State law requires that they have one on. Only you, the skipper, can insure that it fits them properly. (see SSP, "Do I Really Need To Wear a Life-jacket?", 9/24/08, and "Life-jackets Save Lives - Maybe Yours!", 2/11/09.)

**#2 - Never Shalt Thou Drink and Drive** - Whether a car or a boat, it is just plain crazy - and illegal - to drink and drive (see SSP, "Scotch & (Sea) Water - A Deadly Cocktail", 6/30/10.) Individual years vary but I have never seen alcohol account for less

than 25% of boating accidents in a given year.

**#3 - Taketh a Boating Safety Course** - Yes, something as simple as an 8-hour boating safety class can make all the difference. 70% of boating accidents involve skippers who have never taken a boating safety course. If you haven't, start here <http://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/> or email me below and we'll get you squared away.

**#4 - Safety Begins With Thou** - Adults between the ages of 40 and 49 account for the highest rate of boating fatalities. You set the tone for safety for the entire crew and her passengers. Come on, Bunky, get that life-jacket on.

**#5 - Thou Shalt Know The Rules of Navigation** - Can you imagine giving the keys to the family car to one of your children - and they have never opened the book of driving regulations, much less taken a course (see #3 above, Bunky.) You can get them online at the US Coast Guard's Navigation Center (<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/>) You can also get them from prior columns here. (see SSP, "What Side of the Buoys Do I Go On?", 10/22/08, for a starter.)

**#6 - Thou Shalt Keep A Good Look-Out, While Driving Safely** - You are required by law to always maintain a look-out. (see SSP, "Rule 5 - Proper Look-Out", 7/18/07.) You are also required to use all available means to do so. Have radar? Turn it on, Skipper. Speed is a another matter because, like driving a car, speed should always be reduced if visibility and/or weather demands it. (see SSP, "Rule 6 - Safe Speed", 10/10/07.)

**#7 - Knoweth Thy Weather** - Clearly, if you've ever left the dock under beautiful skies and then came home under heavy weather, you know how important is to know - before you go - what to

expect during the course of your journey. Particularly for skippers of open boats, this can be all the difference, even between life and death. (see SSP, "Drill, Baby, Drill - Weather Analysis", 8/04/10.)

**#8 - Haveth Thy Boat Meet Federal Standards** - Can there be any an easier way to ensure that your boat meets USCG requirements than getting a FREE vessel safety check? This is not a regulatory event - if the boat is missing some requirement, the examiner is very likely to give you his or her cell phone number and the advise to, "fix this and then give me a call - I'll come right down, complete the safety check and affix the safety sticker to your windshield." (see SSP, "No Fuss - No Muss - Free Vessel Exams!", 4/23/08 for details or just go to <http://safety-seal.net/GetVSC/>, put in your zip code and a vessel examiner will contact you directly.)

**#9 - Useth a Carbon Monoxide Detector** - If you have an enclosed cabin, equip it with a Carbon Monoxide detector. Nothing else will protect you from the odorless, tasteless gas that can kill you and yours. (see SSP, "Flu Symptoms But No Sniffles? Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Is a Killer - an update", 9/1/10.)

**#10 - Thy Shalt File a Float Plan** - The US Coast Guard recommends that you always tell a friend or family member where you plan to go and when you'll be back. Make it a habit before leaving on any boat trip. (see SSP, "Float Plans - Nothing but Upside", 10/04/06.)

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at [JoinUSCGAux@aol.com](mailto: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 May 29, 2013

Day	High/Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise/Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible
Wed. 29	Low	4:57 AM	-0.3	5:23 AM	Set 10:20 AM	81
29	High	11:20 AM	3.2	8:14 PM		
29	Low	5:12 PM	0.1			
29	High	11:39 PM	3.5			
Thur. 30	Low	5:52 AM	-0.2	5:23 AM	Rise 12:13 AM	71
30	High	12:19 PM	3.2	8:15 PM	Set 11:29 AM	
30	Low	6:15 PM	0.2			
Fri. 31	High	12:35 AM	3.3	5:22 AM	Rise 12:47 AM	60
31	Low	6:50 AM	0.0	8:15 PM	Set 12:36 PM	
31	High	1:15 PM	3.2			
31	Low	7:23 PM	0.4			
Sat. 1	High	1:30 AM	3.2	5:22 AM	Rise 1:19 AM	49
1	Low	7:50 AM	0.1	8:16 PM	Set 1:41 PM	
1	High	2:10 PM	3.2			
1	Low	8:29 PM	0.4			
Sun. 2	High	2:26 AM	3.0	5:21 AM	Rise 1:49 AM	38
2	Low	8:46 AM	0.1	8:17 PM	Set 2:43 PM	
2	High	3:04 PM	3.2			
2	Low	9:29 PM	0.4			
Mon. 3	High	3:22 AM	2.9	5:21 AM	Rise 2:19 AM	29
3	Low	9:36 AM	0.1	8:18 PM	Set 3:44 PM	
3	High	3:59 PM	3.2			
3	Low	10:22 PM	0.3			
Tues. 4	High	4:19 AM	2.8	5:21 AM	Rise 2:50 AM	20
4	Low	10:23 AM	0.2	8:18 PM	Set 4:44 PM	
4	High	4:51 PM	3.3			
4	Low	11:11 PM	0.2			
Wed. 5	High	5:13 AM	2.8	5:20 AM	Rise 3:24 AM	13
5	Low	11:07 AM	0.2	8:19 PM	Set 5:42 PM	
5	High	5:38 PM	3.3			
5	Low	11:57 PM	0.2			

Weather Forecast	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
E Moriches, NY (11940)	May 29	May 30	May 31	Jun 1	Jun 2	Jun 3	Jun 4	Jun 5	Jun 6
	Scattered T-Storms	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Scattered T-Storms	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy
	74°F 63°F	83°F 65°F	82°F 65°F	79°F 64°F	78°F 63°F	73°F 56°F	72°F 54°F	72°F 57°F	72°F 58°F

## FISHING WITH TONY

**CUOMO ANNOUNCES \$20 MILLION IN FISHING INDUSTRY GRANTS**

■ by TONY SALERNO

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo urged coastal fishing businesses harmed by Storm Sandy to apply for available funding through the State's recently approved Coastal Fishing Industry Grant Program this past week. Under the program, eligible businesses will be able to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 to cover uncompensated losses.

"The regions most devastated by Superstorm Sandy are also vital parts of our state's fishing industry, supporting thousands of local jobs and generating billions in economic activity," Governor Cuomo said. "With peak fishing season arriving, I am directing new federal funds to support this critical industry on Long Island and Staten Island as it works to reach full recovery."

Fishing businesses that suffered damage and/or economic hardship as a result of Hurricane Irene or Tropical Storm Lee are also eligible for funding through the program. The \$20 million program, designed to help the fishing industry recover, was part of the State's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Action Plan, which gained federal approval last month.

"New York's fishing industry is critical to our economy, supporting jobs," said Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams. "These funds are dedicated to helping this vital industry recover the losses they sustained during Sandy, and rebuild stronger than before."

Storm Sandy caused significant damage to the fisheries along New York's coastline. It is estimated that damages to the coastal fisheries industry totaled \$77 million (\$58 million to the State's recreational fishing sector and \$19 million to its commercial fishing sector) due to Sandy.

Recreational and commercial saltwater fishing is one of the many great treasures of Long Island. It's part of our history, and for many, it's a way of life. Following the recent elimination of the Saltwater Fishing License Fee, I applaud the Governor for building on several different steps forward by implementing the Coastal Industry Grant Program, which will help our fishing industry recover from the devastating effects of Superstorm Sandy.

"The recreational fishing industry provides close to 10,000 jobs, so it's important that this critical aspect of the overall marine-based economy is back up and running this season. From the staff at the New York Department of Environmental Conservation on Long Island all the way up to Albany, there has been a great deal of effort put into getting our local marine-based economy moving again after the devastating impacts from "Sandy."

Fishing businesses may be eligible for additional grants and funding support through the State's small business recovery program should uncompensated losses exceed \$50,000, or for special mitigation grants to help them prevent similar damage from future storms.