

Tides & Currents **Fast Facts**

- Tides – The vertical rise and fall of the water. Affected by the position of the Moon and Sun.
- Current – The horizontal flow of water. May be affected by tidal changes, wind, weather, etc.
- Spring Tide – Tides that coincide with the full or new moon phases. Leads to higher tidal swings & stronger tidal currents.
- Neap Tide – Tides that coincide with the 1st and 3rd quarter moons. Usually less tidal swing and weaker tidal currents.
- Flood Tide – An incoming tide, or rising tide. The water is getting deeper due to tidal flow.
- Ebb Tide – An outgoing tide, or falling tide. The water is getting shallower due to tidal flow.

Points to Remember

- As ambush predators flounder prefer to lie in wait in areas where food will be funneled toward them.
- To find the period of the most flow reference a tide chart and look for the most severe slope (see graphic to the right)
- Stronger currents tend to push more bait and forage into feeding zones
- During spring tides the water will often have more forage from areas that are typically dry land (crabs, shrimp). Adjust your baits accordingly.
- The stronger currents of Spring Tides are often considered better (easier) fishing conditions due to greater
- The height of the tide is often irrelevant when considering whether or not to fish.



Key Point

While finding periods with the most current is important, if the currents are too strong flounder will sit adjacent to the heaviest flow to avoid fighting the strong currents and wasting energy.

Look for areas where the currents are likely to "kick out" small baits fish an forage (crabs, shrimp, etc) into slower current areas.

