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Welcome to Monty's Ark Logbook where we give all the exciting news and updates of Monty's Ark Adventures.

Visit Us

Spring Sea Trial Complete: Monty's Ark Is Ready for the Season

We're excited to share that **Monty's Ark has successfully completed her spring sea trial** — and all systems are a go for an exciting new charter season.

After winter maintenance and spring commissioning, Monty's Ark is back on the water, running strong, and ready to welcome guests aboard. This year's preparation included the installation of **new equipment**, including a new **autopilot system**, which is now installed, tested, and fully up and running.

The spring sea trial is an important part of getting ready for the season. It gives us the chance to test the boat under real operating conditions, confirm key systems, check performance, and make sure everything is ready before guests step aboard. We're happy to report that Monty's Ark performed beautifully.

For our guests, that means one thing: **the 2026 charter season is officially ready to begin.**

Whether you're thinking about a Manhattan Skyline Tour, a relaxing Dock and Dine, a Lady Liberty cruise, a fishing charter, or a special private celebration on the water, now is the time to get your date on the calendar.

Spring and summer dates are already beginning to move, and the best times — especially weekends, sunsets, holidays, and special events — will book quickly.

Monty's Ark is ready. The season is here. Now all we need is you aboard.

Book your private charter with Monty's Ark Adventures today and be part of an exciting season on Western Long Island Sound and beyond.

Explore Tours

Current Western Long Island Sound Fishing Report

Updated April 24, 2026

Western Long Island Sound is entering a strong early-season fishing window. The most timely targets right now are **striped bass** and **tautog / blackfish**, with **porgy / scup** and **fluke** opening in early May on both the New York and Connecticut sides of the Sound.

What's biting now

Striped bass

Striped bass are the main draw right now. The April 23, 2026 Long Island and NYC fishing report from *On The Water* says the **Western Sound received a good push of slot-size fish following April's new moon**, and reports from Port Washington described strong action, quality slot fish, overs mixed in, and bait beginning to show. The same report also noted that some Western Sound and back-bay areas were producing keeper-size bass, especially around the incoming tide and near sunset.

That lines up well with Monty's Ark Adventures' Western Long Island Sound operating area. This is the moment when bunker, warming water, moving tide, and migrating bass begin to come together.

New York reference: NYSDEC lists the New York marine striped bass season as **April 15–December 15**, with a **28–31 inch slot** and **1 fish per angler** in marine waters.

Connecticut reference: CT DEEP lists striped bass as open year-round, with the same **28–31 inch slot** and **1 fish per angler**.

Tautog / blackfish

Blackfish are still a timely early-season option, but the spring window is short. This is a classic structure fish, making rock piles, wrecks, ledges, and hard-bottom areas important targets.

New York reference: For the Long Island Sound Region, NYSDEC lists tautog / blackfish at **16 inches**, with a spring season of **April 1–April 30** and **2 fish per angler**. The fall Long Island Sound season runs **October 11–December 9** with **3 fish per angler**.

Connecticut reference: CT DEEP lists tautog at **16 inches**, with **April 1–April 30** open at **2 fish per angler**, plus summer and fall windows later in the year.

Porgy / scup

Porgy season is about to open, making May a strong time to get on the calendar for family-friendly, action-oriented fishing trips.

New York reference: NYSDEC lists scup / porgy season as **May 1–December 31**. For vessel-based anglers, the minimum size is **11 inches** with a general **30-fish possession limit**, with party/charter bonus rules later in the season.

Connecticut reference: CT DEEP also lists scup / porgy season as **May 1–December 31**, with **11 inches for boat anglers**, **9.5 inches for shore anglers**, and **30 fish per angler**, with a charter/party bonus season.

Fluke / summer flounder

Fluke opens May 4, which makes late April the ideal time to book prime May and early-summer dates.

New York reference: NYSDEC lists summer flounder / fluke season as **May 4–August 1 at 19 inches**, then **August 2–October 15 at 19.5 inches**, with **3 fish per angler**.

Connecticut reference: CT DEEP lists the same open periods and size structure: **May 4–August 1 at 19 inches**, then **August 2–October 15 at 19.5 inches**, with **3 fish per angler**.

When to fish

The current reports point to **incoming tide**, **sunset**, and **moving water** as especially productive for striped bass in the Western Sound. The April 23 report specifically noted keeper-size bass before sunset on the incoming tide, with larger fish chewing harder about three hours into the incoming.

For charter messaging, I would phrase it this way:

The best fishing windows are not random. They are tied to tide, bait, water temperature, and light. Early morning, evening, and moving-water tide windows often give anglers the best shot at active fish.

Why the bite is turning on

The Western Sound is coming alive because several things are happening at once:

The water is warming.

Bunker and other bait are showing.

Migratory striped bass are pushing into the Sound.

Back bays and shallow areas are warming faster.

Predators are using current, structure, and bait schools to feed.

On The Water noted that Western Sound back-bay areas can hold warmer water because mud flats absorb sunlight at low tide, creating attractive staging areas for fish as the tide comes in.

Why book your fishing charter with Monty's Ark Adventures

This is exactly the kind of early-season fishing window that rewards getting on the calendar now.

With **Monty's Ark Adventures**, guests get a private, small-group fishing experience on Western Long Island Sound — not a crowded party boat. The trip can be shaped around the best available conditions, including tide, bait movement, target species, and the experience level of the group.

Right now, the Western Sound is entering prime time for striped bass, the blackfish spring window is closing fast, and May opens the door to porgy and fluke.

That means this is the time to book before the most desirable tide windows, weekend dates, and early-season opportunities fill up.

Private Fishing Charters

New for the Season: Open Boat Fishing Charters Are Here

Great news for anyone who wants to get out fishing on Long Island Sound without booking the entire boat: **Monty's Ark Adventures is now offering Open Boat Fishing Charters.**

This new option is perfect for solo anglers, couples, friends, or small groups who want to enjoy a fishing charter but do not necessarily have a full party of six. You can book **one spot**, bring a few friends, or reserve multiple seats, subject to availability.

Here's how it works: each open boat fishing charter can accommodate up to **six passengers**, and the trip will run once at least **four customers** have booked. The cost is **\$100 per person**, making it an easy and affordable way to get on the water, enjoy the Sound, and fish with Monty's Ark Adventures. ([Monty's Ark Adventures](#)) Booking and payment are required at least **one day before the charter date**, and booking closes the day before departure. All booked customers will be notified the day before the trip whether the four-person minimum has been met and the charter is confirmed. ([Monty's Ark Adventures](#))

As with all boating, weather and conditions matter. If the captain cancels because the minimum number of passengers has not been met, or because of weather or mechanical issues, customers will receive a **full refund**. Cancellations made by customers the day before departure are non-refundable. ([Monty's Ark Adventures](#)) Open boat fishing charters are a great way to experience Long Island Sound, meet other anglers, and enjoy a shared fishing adventure aboard Monty's Ark. Whether you are new to fishing, getting back into it, or just looking for a fun day on the water, this is a simple way to grab a spot and go.

Book your seat, bring your excitement, and get ready to fish with Monty's Ark Adventures.

Open Boat Fishing Tour

'Tis the Season for Bachelor & Bachelorette Parties on the Water

Wedding season is almost here — and that means it's time to start planning the celebration before the celebration.

Whether you're organizing a bachelor party, bachelorette party, bridal party outing, or a fun day with close friends before the big day, **Monty's Ark Adventures** offers a private, memorable, and picture-perfect way to celebrate on the water.

Forget the crowded bars and predictable party plans. A private boat charter gives your group a chance to relax, laugh, take in beautiful views, enjoy the fresh air, and make memories together before the wedding countdown gets serious.

With room for up to **six passengers**, Monty's Ark Adventures is ideal for intimate groups looking for something more personal than a typical party venue. You can choose the date, gather your crew, and enjoy a private experience on Western Long Island Sound, with the possibility of skyline views, sunset cruising, dock-and-dine options, or simply time together on the water.

But here's the catch: **prime spring and summer dates book quickly.**

If you're planning a bachelor or bachelorette party, now is the time to pick your date and reserve your charter. Weekend afternoons, sunset times, and warm-weather dates are always in demand — and waiting too long could mean missing the perfect window.

Make the celebration unforgettable. Make it private. Make it on the water.

Choose your date and book your Monty's Ark Adventures charter soon. Your party will thank you.

Intimate Boat Tours

April Blog Roundup: The Season Is Here at Monty's Ark Adventures

April has been an exciting month at **Monty's Ark Adventures**, and our blog has been busy helping guests get ready for the 2026 charter season.

This month's posts focused on what makes a private charter such a special way to experience New York City, Long Island Sound, and the waters beyond. From spring commissioning to choosing the right charter, each article was written to help guests plan a more memorable day on the water.

Spring Commissioning Is Here

We started the month with the news that **Monty's Ark was entering spring commissioning and preparing to launch for the season**. The article reminded readers that spring is the time to start thinking seriously about private charters, fishing trips, skyline cruises, romantic outings, and custom adventures. It also highlighted that the charter calendar was open and that early-season demand was beginning to build.

How to Choose the Right Private Boat Charter

Another April post helped guests think through how to choose the right private boat charter in the NYC area. The article explained that the best charter starts with the kind of experience you want — whether that is sightseeing, celebrating, dining, fishing, photography, relaxing, or building a custom itinerary. It also emphasized the difference between private and public boat experiences, noting that private charters offer a more personal, flexible, and intimate alternative to crowded sightseeing cruises.

Best Things to Do In and Around NYC

Our most recent April blog explored why a private boat charter belongs on the list of the best things to do in and around New York City. The article covered skyline views, Statue of Liberty cruises, dock-and-dine outings, waterfront towns, lighthouse routes, celebrations, and custom excursions. It positioned Monty's Ark Adventures as a unique way to experience the city and surrounding waters from an unforgettable new perspective.

Keep Checking Back

And this is just the beginning.

We'll be publishing new blog posts on a regular basis throughout the season, following the content cadence we developed to keep guests informed, inspired, and ready to book their next adventure. Upcoming posts will continue to spotlight private charters, seasonal events, fishing opportunities, romantic cruises, family outings, lighthouse tours, dock-and-dine experiences, and special ways to enjoy New York Harbor and Long Island Sound.

So check back often, follow along, and keep an eye on the Monty's Ark Adventures blog for fresh ideas, timely updates, and new reasons to get out on the water.

The season is here — and there is a lot more adventure ahead.

Monty's Blog

Missed an Issue? Visit the Monty's Ark Logbook Archive

Great news for anyone who wants to catch up on past updates from **Monty's Ark Adventures**: our full newsletter archive is now available online.

Every past issue of **Monty's Ark Logbook** can be found in one convenient place.

Whether you missed a recent update, want to revisit a favorite article, or are just discovering Monty's Ark Adventures for the first time, the archive is a great way to see what we've been sharing with our community.

Inside past issues, you'll find updates on the charter season, special announcements, featured tours, fishing news, holiday and event opportunities, boating stories, and ideas for enjoying New York Harbor and Western Long Island Sound from the water.

It's also a great way to stay connected with what's happening aboard Monty's Ark. From spring launch updates to summer charter ideas, dock-and-dine adventures, lighthouse tours, fishing charters, and special event cruises, **Monty's Ark Logbook** is where we share the latest news, stories, and inspiration from the water.

So take a look, catch up, and check back often. New issues will be added to the archive as they're published.

Read the Monty's Ark Logbook archive here:

Read Monty's Ark Logbook Here



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