



Aquatic Consulting Services

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Boating Tip #4: Anchoring

Anchoring -- Primary Bow Anchor

- Look around, explore the harbor, note depths, wind direction, current, obstructions
- Furl the headsail
- Reverse then stop the boat, shift into neutral, and point into the wind
- Turn the windlass battery dial to the “on” position
- Move to the foredeck and untie the keeper line securing the anchor
- When directed, press the windlass switch to lower the anchor
- Kick the bow roller to release the anchor, if necessary
- Lower the anchor until it hits bottom. Note the depth.
- Snag the chain and make fast using the pipe and windlass brake if necessary
- Back down very slowly and let the anchor dig in and set
- Check that the line is set – the anchor line will be taut and the boat will face into the wind
- Let out chain slowly and count until scope is at least 3 – 5 times the depth of the water
- Brake the slack anchor rode
- Test hold by putting the engine into reverse
- Attach the snubber line – attach the hook to the bottom of a chain link and let out 15’ of line
- Cleat the snubber line
- Take bearings from shore, record and monitor drag
- Set the anchor drift alarm on the chart plotter
- Turn on the anchor light if after dusk

Anchoring -- Secondary Stern Anchor

- Place the stern anchor in the port stern roller
- Flake the chain and line on the port side of the boat
- Attach the bitter end of the anchor line to the toe rail
- After the primary bow anchor is set, slowly motor in reverse to the desired location
- When directed, lower the anchor overboard
- Feed out chain until the anchor hits bottom

- Put the chain on the stern roller and close the pin
- Snag and make fast
- Motor forward slowly while using the windlass to retrieve some bow chain
- Tie off the stern anchor line to a cleat

Retrieving the Stern Anchor

- Release the windlass brake
- Let out the bow anchor chain and back up toward the stern anchor
- Pull up the stern line and chain while backing up slowly, being very careful not to run over the line or chain
- When directly over the stern anchor, lock the windlass brake
- Loosen the anchor, and announce “anchor’s aweigh” when free of the bottom
- Dip the anchor to remove debris before bringing aboard
- Secure the anchor, or bring aboard and stow in the stern lazarette

Retrieving the Bow Anchor

- Start the engine, point toward the anchor, and rev the motor
- Make sure the windlass brake is locked
- Push down on the windlass button with your foot to engage the windlass
- Guide the chain into the anchor locker to prevent tangles
- Remove the hook and snubber line and retrieve
- Motor very slowly in the direction of the anchor while using the windlass to bring the anchor chain aboard
- When the anchor is directly below the bow, slow the windlass
- Loosen the anchor, and announce “anchor’s aweigh” when free of the bottom
- Bring the anchor up into the bow roller
- Rinse the anchor to remove debris
- Reattach the keeper line