

Windward Passage Anchoring Procedures

1. Untie the line holding the anchor tight to the bow.
2. Select the spot where you wish to drop the anchor.
3. Slowly motor a 360° circle about two boat lengths away from the spot where you intend to drop the anchor while watching the depth to ensure that there are no shallow spots you might drift over.
4. From directly downwind from the selected anchoring spot, motor slowly to the spot and bring the boat to a stop. Read the depth and add 5 feet to the depth. Multiply the resulting sum by four to get the minimum amount of chain to deploy (Example: for 8 ft. depth add 5 to get 13 then multiply by 4 to get 52 feet of chain to be deployed).
5. Using the anchor windlass deploy enough chain for the anchor to hit the bottom then let out an additional 3 ft. of chain. Let the boat drift astern and then slowly deploy chain until the first marker (plastic wire ties are used as markers) is just in the water. This marker is at 40 ft. of chain. Let the boat continue to drift astern until the chain is taunt. If the wind is very light it may be necessary to have the engine in reverse at very low (400 rpm) RPMs to bring the chain taunt.
6. After the first marker on the chain, the subsequent markers are placed every 15 ft. Continue to let our chain one marker at a time with a pause at each marker until you have deployed the calculated minimum amount of chain in the water. Pause in this state for a few minutes to ensure that the anchor is not dragging.
7. Have the person at the helm slowly increase the engine speed in reverse to 1000 rpm and check to see that the boat is not moving astern.
8. If the boat is moving astern (the anchor is dragging) put the engine in neutral and deploy chain until the next marker is in the water. Repeat step 7 until the anchor is not dragging.
9. Slowly increase the engine speed in reverse up to 1500 rpm and check that the anchor is not dragging.
10. Put the engine in neutral and deploy the snubber:
 - a. Tie one of the snubber lines to one of the bow cleats and take the snubber around the bow.
 - b. Holding the other snubber line, place the metal snubber on top of the chain past the bow roller so that it has a link on the chain caught in the slot in the snubber.
 - c. Take the free snubber line to the other bow cleat and attach it to the cleat at about the same length as the first snubber line. The snubber assembly should now go from one bow cleat to the anchor chain and then to the other bow cleat with about the same amount of line deployed on each side.
 - d. Slowly let out more chain until the snubber lines are both tight and the anchor chain is slack between the bow roller and the snubber.
11. Close the cover for the windlass.
12. Turn on the anchor light circuit breaker at the navigation station breaker panel.

Note: The anchor light is a combination anchor light/tricolor light. There is a circuit breaker for the anchor light and a circuit breaker for the tricolor light. If both breakers are in the on position, the light becomes a strobe light. This is not a legal navigation light and should only be used to attract attention in an emergency situation to alert rescue operations to your location.