

## **Windward Passage Procedure for Shaking out a Reef in the Mainsail**

1. It is very difficult to shake out a reef in the mainsail with the wind aft the beam as the luff will bind in the track and the possibility of an inadvertent gybe is always present. Before removing a reef, steer a course to bring the wind forward of the beam, the closer to a tight reach (the best position) the better. If the wind is too strong to come into the wind, furl the Genoa while off the wind then come into the wind.
2. It is best to not bring the boat above a tight reach as the mainsail will luff badly and this can damage the sail.
3. Once on your course for removing the reef, take up on the topping lift so that the boom will not drop onto the Bimini when the main halyard is released.
4. Slacken the main sheet until there is a large bubble at the luff of the sail. This takes all the tension off the luff.
5. Have crew go forward to the mast and then release the main halyard just enough for the crew to remove the reefing cringle from the reefing hook on the forward end of the boom.
6. Release the reefing outhaul.
7. Carefully tension the main halyard and raise the sail. Watch the leech of the sail to ensure that the reefing outhaul is not binding and preventing the sail from going up. If it is, it may be necessary for crew to pull the reefing outhaul line out of the boom to provide slack.
8. When the sail is all the way up, fall off to your desired course and sheet the mainsail.
9. Carefully let off the tension on the topping lift and watch to see that the boom is not dragging on the Bimini. If it is dragging, increase the tension on the halyard and/or the outhaul.