

ANCHORING

Setting the Hook

The best anchorage offers a good holding bottom, suitable depth, and protection from wind, waves and passing craft. Setting your anchor properly is critical to holding your boat in place. Follow these steps to anchor your boat:

1. Select an area of little current, protected from the weather, preferably with a flat bottom. The area should be well upwind of where you want the boat to end up. Make your approach slowly into the wind or current. Look at other boats in the anchorage and follow their lead in using either a single anchor or bow-and-stern anchors. Determine where their anchors lie so you will not foul them, and select a position that will allow you to swing with the wind or current without bumping into other boats.

When anchoring, remember that the best holding bottoms are mixtures of mud and sand, mud and clay and firm mud and sand. Gravel or hard sand bottoms will hold well if your specific anchor can penetrate them. Loose sand or gravel or soft mud should be avoided.

2. Prepare Your Crew. Nothing marks a novice as much as yelling orders at your crew, and a briefing beforehand will let your crew know what you expect of them, as well as help you to sort out the anchoring procedure in your own mind.

3. Be Quiet. Because it is often hard to hear over wind and engine noise,

4. Be Courteous. If you are not sure how a nearby boat is anchored or where their anchor lies, cruise past and ask them. It's much better to find out now, before you have to re-anchor in another location.

5. Don't Splash. Never throw the anchor over the bow: it is a sure way to both tangle your anchor and mark yourself as an amateur. And be sure that the boat has stopped all forward motion before lowering the anchor, or you could tangle your propeller.