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Anchoring

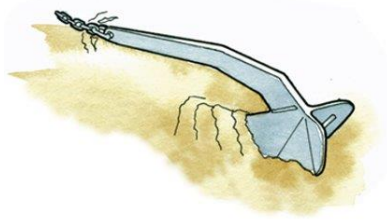
for Dinghies and Keelboats

Selecting an Anchor

There are several different types of anchor with different properties and uses.

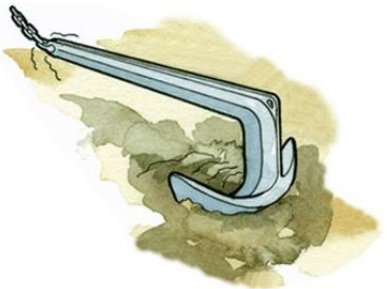
Delta

The Delta Anchor has a good holding to weight ratio. Its more suited to yachts and larger motorboats as it can easily be stored on the bow of a yacht or motor cruiser. Good in sand and mud.



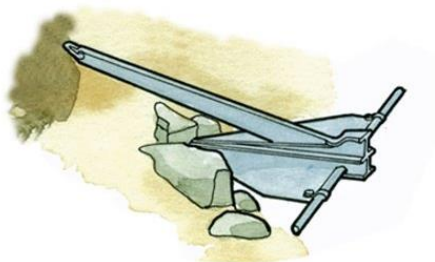
Bruce Anchor

The Bruce Anchor like the Delta anchor has a good holding to weight ratio, however, by virtue of its shape it is difficult to store in an anchor locker. Good in mud and sand. We use this anchor on our keelboat fleet.



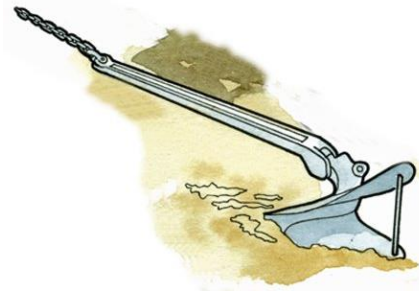
Danfort Anchor

The Danfort Anchor has a good holding to weight ratio. It folds flat, so is easier to store aboard the boat, but can be difficult to break free from mud sea-beds. Works well in rock.



CQR or Plough

The CQR anchor also has a good holding to weight ratio, and while more awkward to store onboard, it does have movable parts allowing it to collapse somewhat. Good in mud and sand.



Fisherman's Anchor

The immediate image that springs to mind, however, the Fisherman's anchor does not hold well in sand or mud, but instead works well in rocky or sea weed covered sea beds. Difficult to store on board.



Grapnel Anchor

An excellent all rounder, the grapnel anchor works well in mud and sand while still holding in rock. Sea weed can cause issues retrieving the anchor. While the holding to weight ratio in sand/mud is somewhat reduced, the grapnel's big advantage is that each spike (called a fluke) can be locked into a neat format for storage on board the boat. Our entire safety boat fleet utilises Grapnel Anchors, covering most of our operating areas.

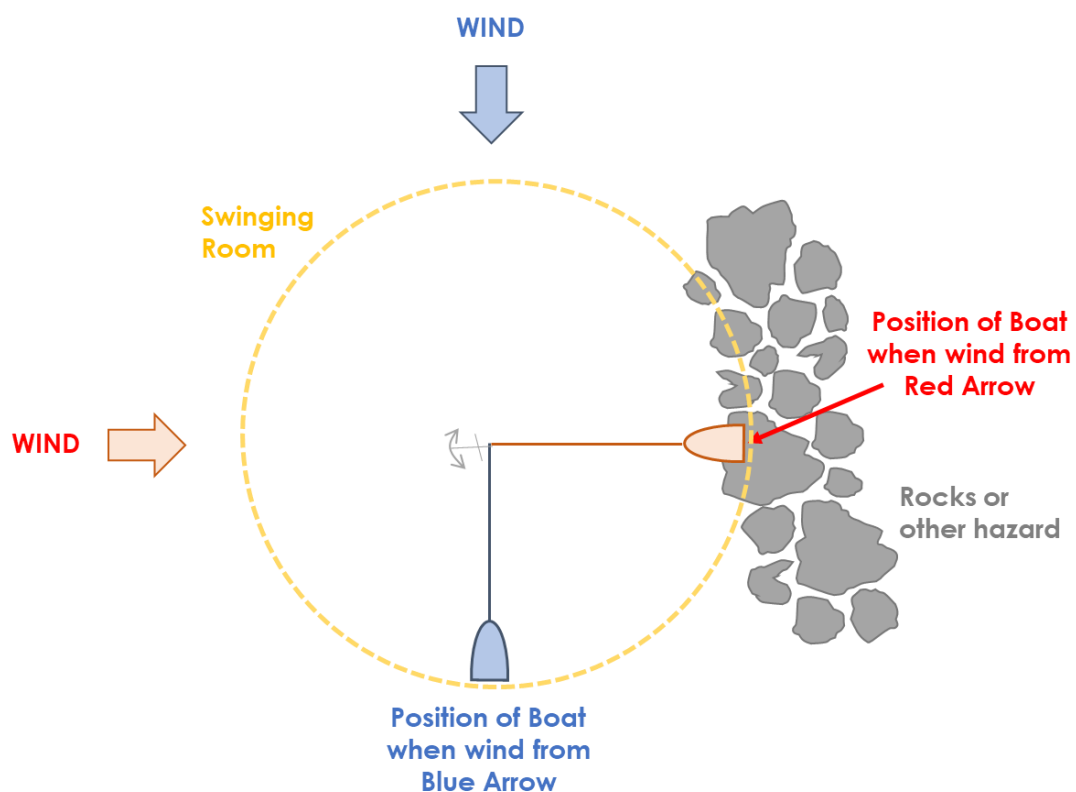


Selecting a location to Anchor

There are a number of considerations in regard with selecting a suitable site for anchoring. Firstly the bottom of the sea bed must be considered as this will affect the type of anchor that will be used.

Secondly, you'll want to consult a chart to ensure that where you anchor is a good idea. Examples of poor locations would include shipping lanes, on top of underwater cables or even munition dumps!

Next we must consider swinging room. An anchored boat will lie facing into the wind or tide, which ever of the two is stronger. As a consequence the boat is liable to change position if one of these forces changes. This is where the concept for swinging room comes into play. If there are objects such as rocks, other boats or shallow water within the area the boat could swing the location is not suitable for anchoring.



Procedure for Anchoring

Tie the end of the anchor line off. Follow the procedure for coming alongside (picking up a mooring). When the boat is at rest place the anchor over the side and count out how much line you pay out. If there is chain on the end of the anchor line let out three times the depth of water, if there is no chain and only rope let out five times the depth*.

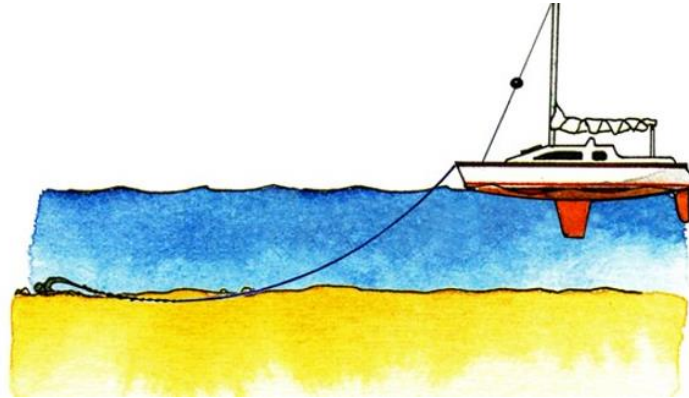
You may consider furling your jib and either dropping or unhooking the mainsail, as you don't want to begin sailing again while trying to set the anchor.

Once the anchor is down, you will take transits (see the next section).

** Please note, 3 or 5 times the depth is only a recommendation. It is our understanding that a more litigious boater attempted to claim off an different organisation when 3 or 5 times the depth was not sufficient to hold their boat. Letting out 25x the depth should cover you, so if the waters 3m deep you'll need 125m of line. We still don't accept responsibility if that's not enough, instead try another activity, like staying at home.*

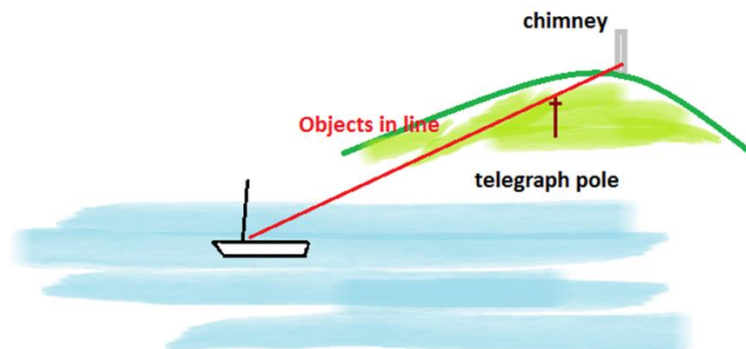
What difference does the chain make...

Anchors work best when the “pull” is horizontally along the sea bed. By adding a short stretch of chain at the anchor before switching to rope, the extra weight of the chain assists in keeping the “pull” in a horizontal direction.



Taking Transits

Transits are used to ensure the anchor is holding firmly. Select two immovable objects at right angles to the boat that are in line. If these objects stay in position relative to one another then your anchor is holding. If they have moved out of line then the anchor is not holding. Remember to check back every couple of minutes while you’re anchored.



And the tide...

The tide has a significant impact on anchoring. Firstly, if the tide is falling will you’re boat be aground in your chosen location? The second consideration is that as the tide falls the swinging room effectively lengthens and will come closer to objects on the outside of the swing!

