



WHEN THERE ARE NO #ALTERNATIVES TO ANCHORING WHAT CAN YOU DO?

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LIVEBOARDS ON HOW TO DROP AN ANCHOR WITH MINIMAL DAMAGE

Courtesy of Explorer Ventures Liveboard Diving Fleet - Caribbean Destination

The reality is that not ALL dive sites have mooring lines, and anchoring can be the only option.

Liveboards travel far and wide to some of the most distant locations. If there are no #AlternativesToAnchoring, here you can find some guidelines on how to drop your anchor avoiding at most any damaging contact with marine life.

The following instructions will help your team be prepared to ensure minimal risk to the coral reefs from the anchor through direct contact or dragging:

1 Plan for anchorage

- Appropriate speed - slowing down
- Determine direction / strength of Wind & Current
- Establish tidal stream - direction and flow
- Appropriate selection of anchorage location. Anchor should only be dropped on sand bottom to prevent damage to coral reefs (unless it is an Emergency Anchorage)

2 Brief anchor team

- Anchor position on vessel
- Anticipated scope
- Anticipated final maneuver prior to letting go or walking back
- Method for letting go or walking back
- Communications plan
- Escape / abort route should circumstance dictate

3 Prepare equipment for use

- Anchor(s), lights/shapes, anchor marking buoy, etc.
- Remove the safety clip from the anchor and clip it onto its own base
- Turn on the windlass (anchor winch)
- Test that the anchor will go out freely by operating the winch down a bit. Free up anchor if required

4 Forecastle

Final check/ visual inspection before bridge begins procedure

- Check brakes are on and clear the voyage securing devices
- Confirm power to the windlass
- Check anchor shape / light
- Check general appearance of visible components such as "D" shackle, crown shackle, swivel, kenter link and short chain
- Ensure "D" and crown shackle pins in place and tight
- Check communications / signal bridge deck is ready for anchoring

5 Position the vessel forward of where you wish to anchor

6 Note your depth

7 Maneuver the vessel to have the bow pointing into the wind/current/opposite drift

8 Note the direction you are pointing

Use a landmark or compass bearing

9 Upon release of the anchor, slowly reverse vessel straight backwards

10 Ensure engine remains on but out of gear until the anchor has made contact and got a hold of the substrate then wait 5 minutes

Check on GPS / landmarks / etc. to see if boat is drifting before finally turning off engine.

11 Record location on GPS to allow possible return to same site in the future, once known site is good and appropriate for anchoring

12 Prepare anchor watch instructions

- Setting GPS to alert on drift (for multiple GPS units)
- Regular checks of anchor position (visually) from Forecastle
- Ensure crew are prepared for immediate raising of anchor should drift occur
- Plan for engine start in case of drag
- Plan if weather deteriorates and when engines should be started

* Even if you follow all of these steps the WEATHER can be your enemy and biggest challenge

Be aware of sudden changes and prepare your team in case of an emergency.

Explorer Ventures Liveboard Diving Fleet's Caribbean vessels are the first liveboards to voluntarily adopt the Green Fins Code of Conduct. Explorer Ventures is also supporting the International Year of the Reef 2018 Campaign to educate people on sustainable dive practices and operations. They are one of The Reef-World Foundation's Symbiotic Partners to help create a more sustainable SCUBA diving industry and protect the marine environment for future generations. www.explorerventures.com