



# **Anchors and Anchoring**

**A guide to anchors and tips on how  
to anchor securely**

# Introduction

**Many yacht skippers never anchor preferring to moor each night in marinas where there are often modern facilities and conveniences.**

**However, they are missing out on one of the greatest pleasures yacht cruising can offer.**

**The feeling of contentment to anchoring a yacht in a secluded cove or near a beautiful sandy beach is truly an experience to be savoured.**



# Types of Anchor

There are many types of anchor, many new designs claim superior holding power over traditional designs.

Some live up to their name but many do not.

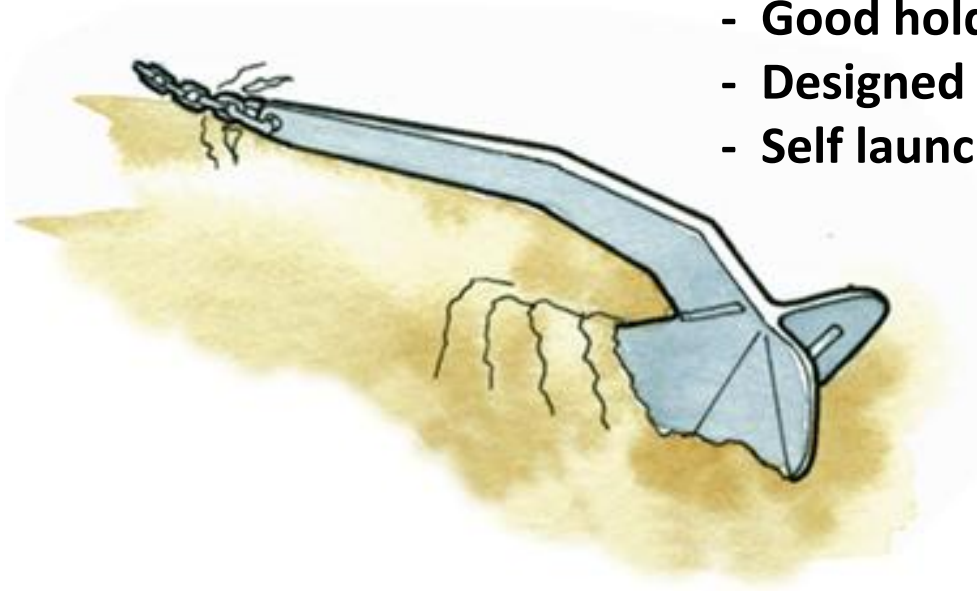
The safety of your vessel and those on board may be at risk if you use a poor performing anchor design.

Popular anchor designs are popular for a reason.....*they work!*

# Types of Anchor

## Delta

- Popular on modern boats
- One piece design
- Good holding to weight ratio
- Designed to stay on bow roller
- Self launching



# Types of Anchor

## Bruce

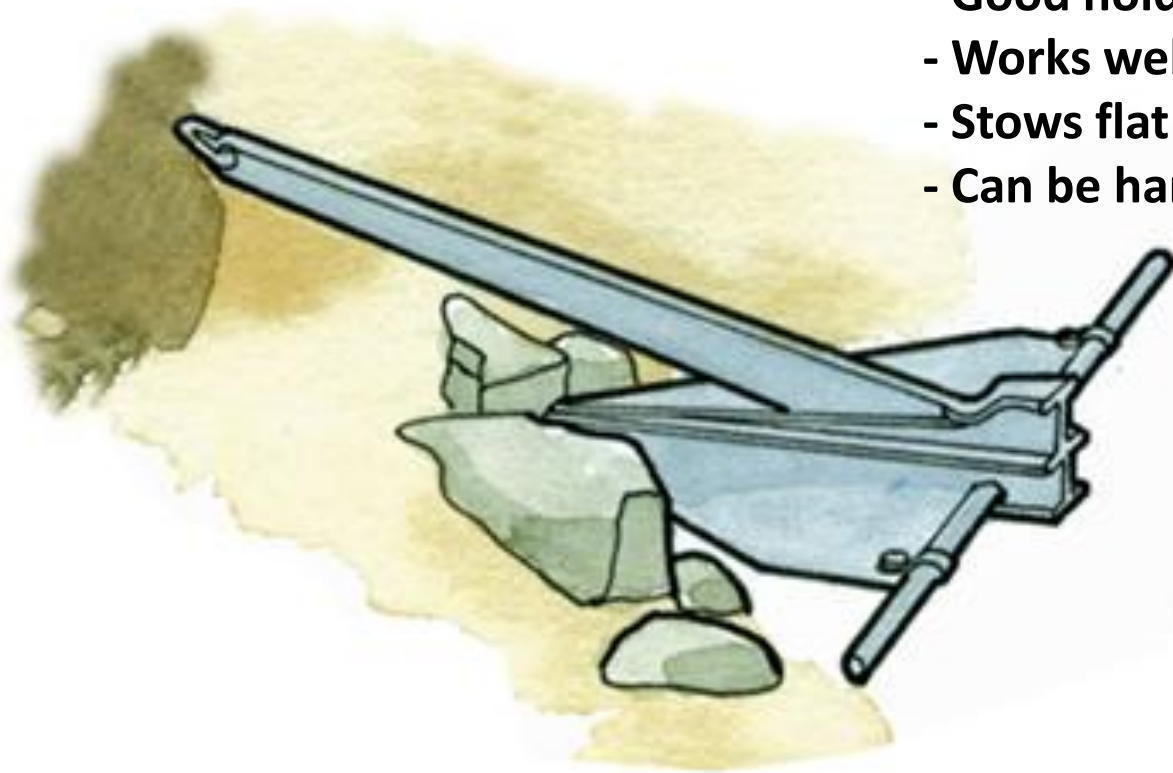


- Good holding to weight ratio
- Awkward to stow in small anchor locker

# Types of Anchor

## Danforth

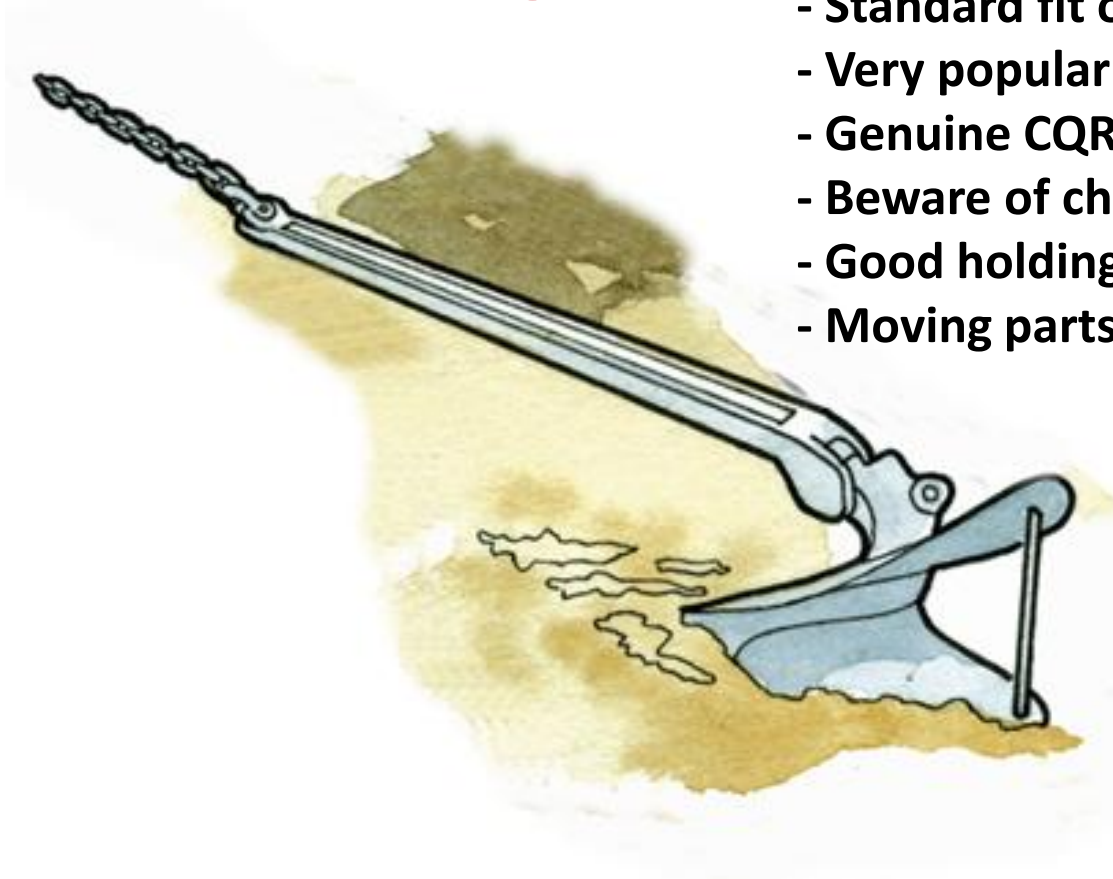
- Good holding to weight ratio
- Works well in kelp and sea-grass
- Stows flat
- Can be hard to break out of mud



# Types of Anchor

## CQR or Plough

- Standard fit on most boats
- Very popular
- Genuine CQR anchors are excellent
- Beware of cheap imitations
- Good holding to weight ratio
- Moving parts can capsize





# Types of Anchor

## Fisherman

- The traditional anchor
- Good for rocky/weedy seabeds
- Can get fouled by own rode
- Needs to be twice as heavy as other anchor types to be effective
- Awkward to stow
- Poor holding in sand and mud





# General Points

## Anchoring Arrangements

**Weight matters – it is better to have an over-sized anchor than an under-sized one**

**Find out the recommended size of anchor for your boat (new boats tend to be fitted with lighter anchors than are recommended)**

**Carry two anchors of different types**

**Have sufficient chain or rope for expected anchoring depths for both anchors**

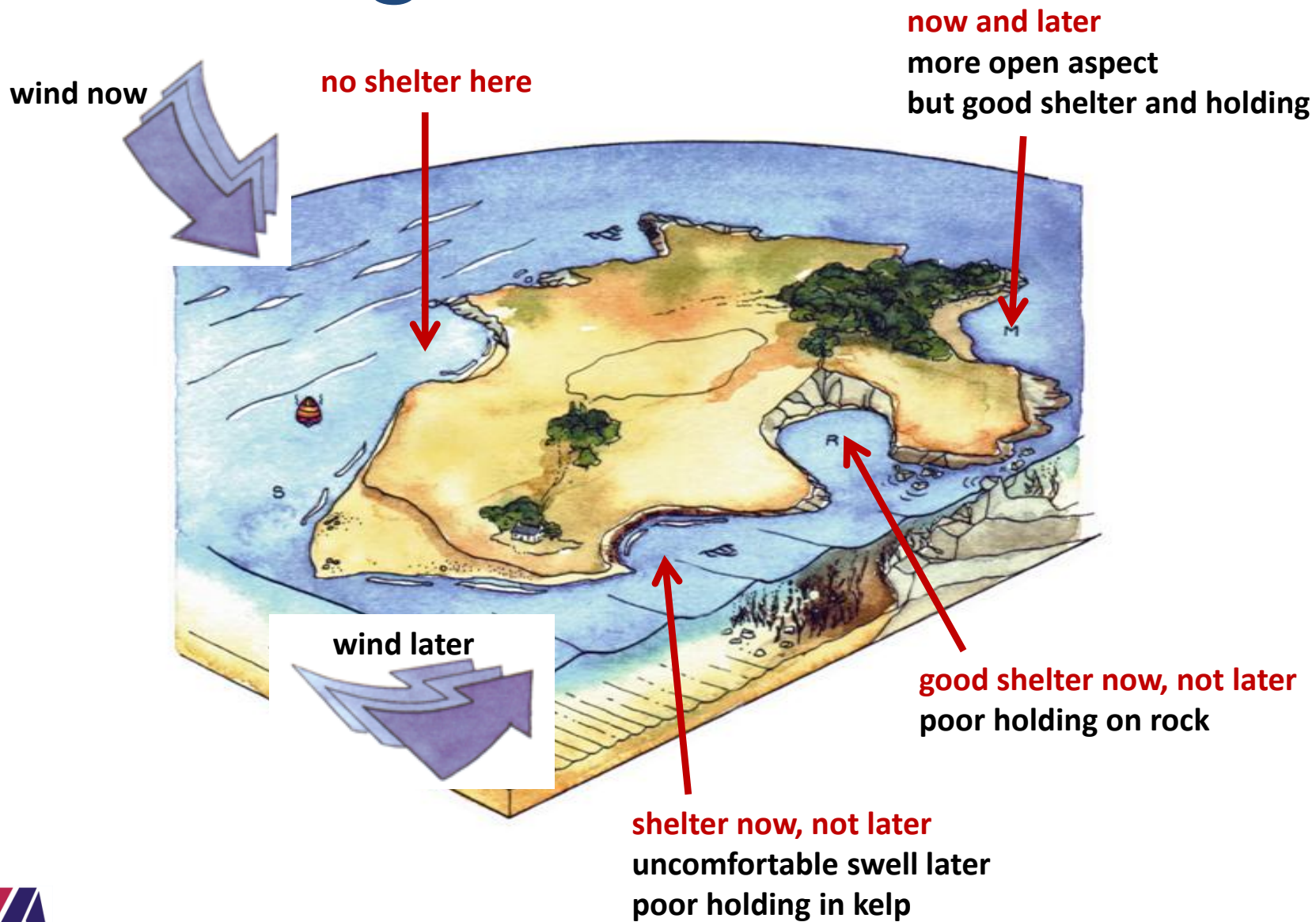
**Never have a 'rope only' rode – it may chafe though on the seabed**

# Selecting a Place to Anchor

## Considerations

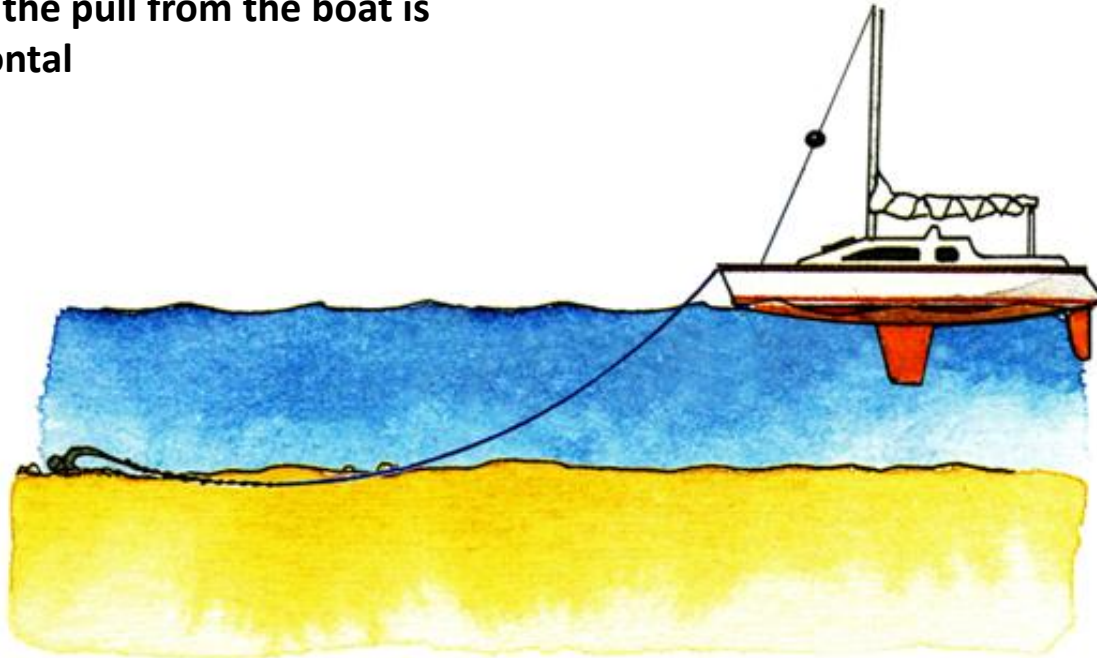
- Shelter from wind / swell / tidal stream / shipping
- Tidal rise and fall
- Nature of the seabed
- Swinging room
- Other boats
- Hazards, such as.....
  - Underwater power cables, etc
  - Old mooring chains, etc

# Selecting an Anchor Berth



# Scope

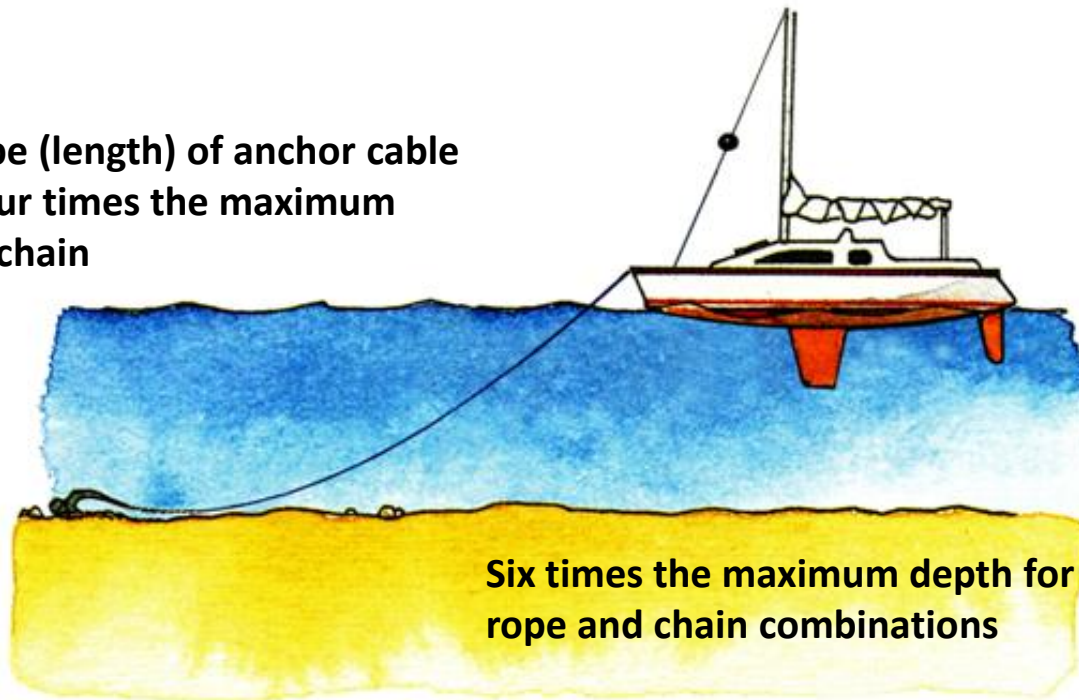
Remember an anchor works best when the pull from the boat is horizontal



# Scope

**Check the depth and tidal range**

**Use a scope (length) of anchor cable  
at least four times the maximum  
depth for chain**

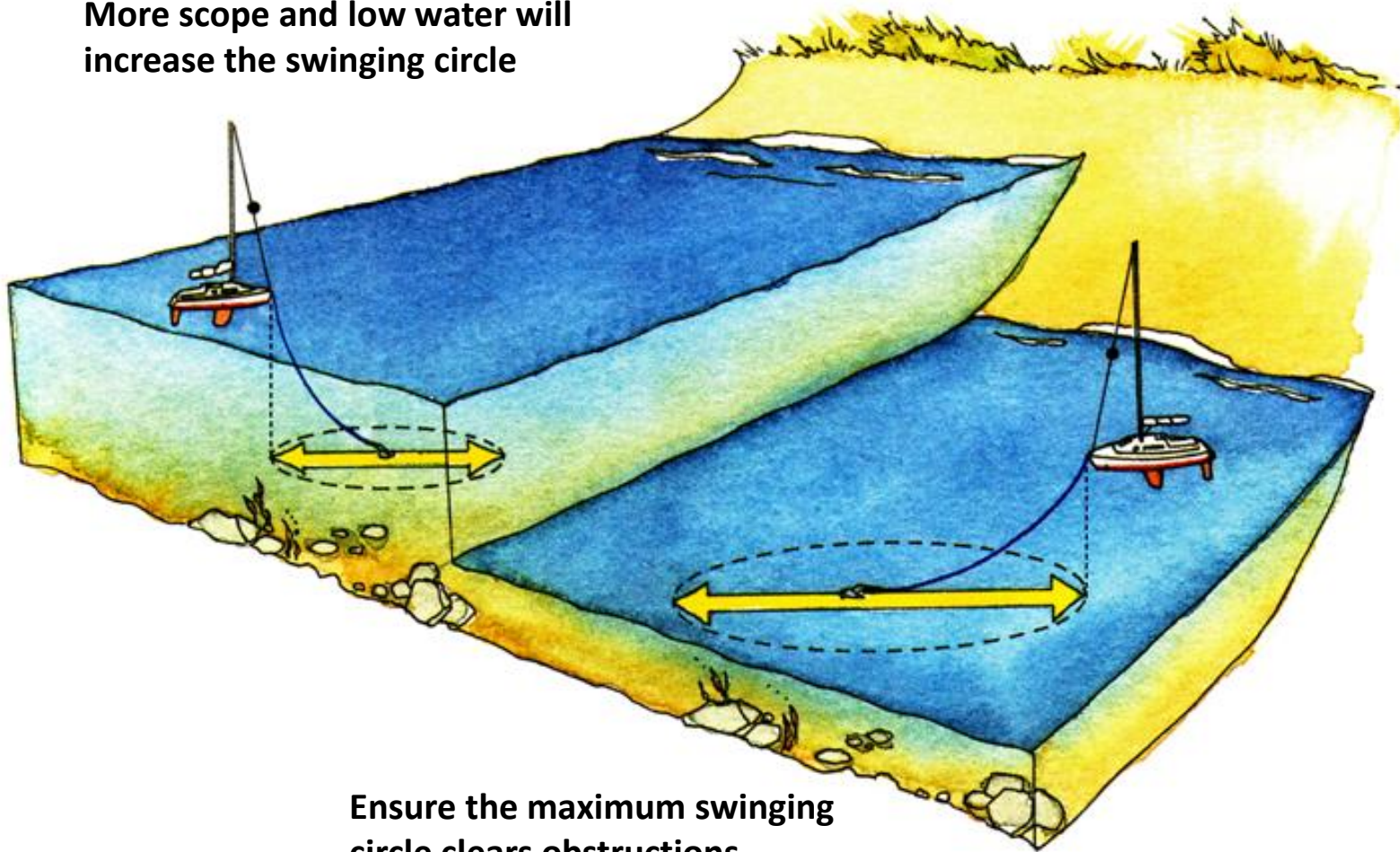


**Six times the maximum depth for  
rope and chain combinations**



# Swinging Circle

More scope and low water will  
increase the swinging circle

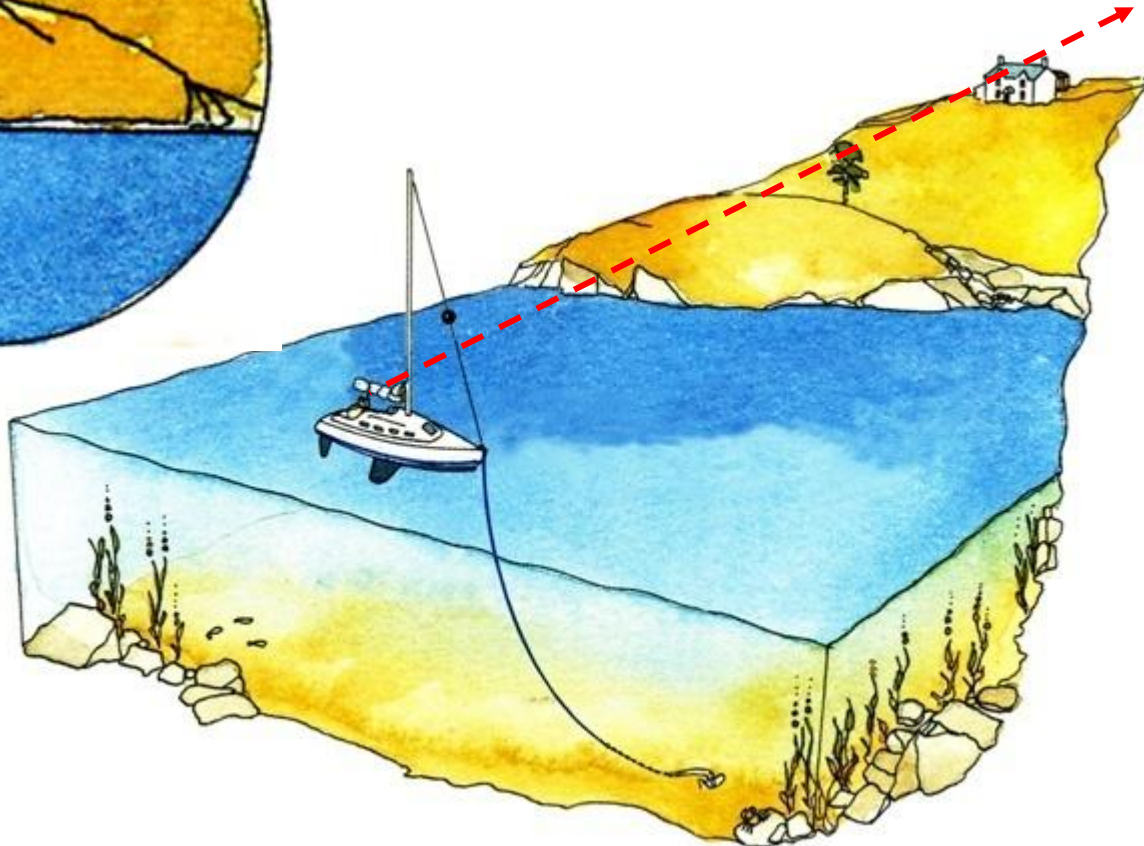


Ensure the maximum swinging  
circle clears obstructions

# Are we holding?

Take a transit to check the boat is not dragging

Holding

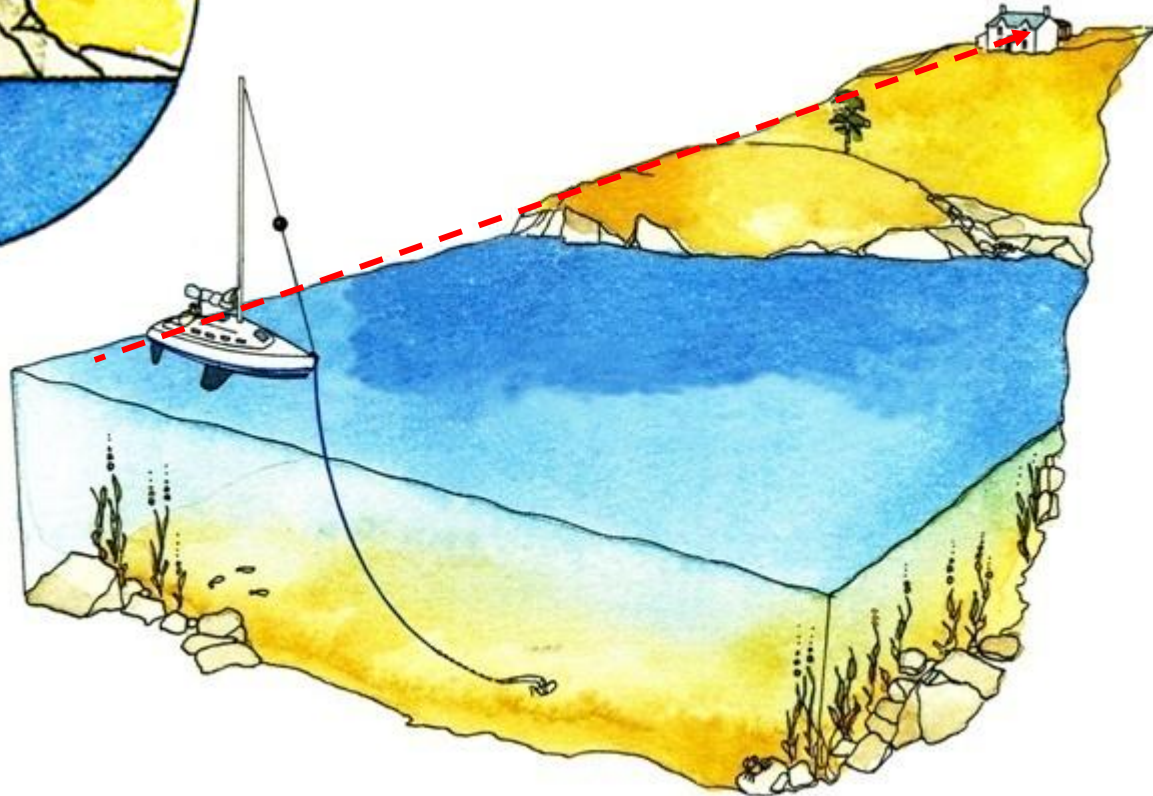




# Or dragging?



Dragging



# Once You're Satisfied

- **Hoist black ball on spare halyard**
- **Put the kettle on**
- **Remember to hang an anchor light if staying over-night**



# Top Tips



## TOP TIP

One often sees the male skipper on the helm shouting at his poor wife who is struggling on the foredeck with the anchor.....I am NEVER on the helm when anchoring and I am ALWAYS on the foredeck. This way I save my wife the hassle and strain and I can control how the anchor is set in the way that I want it to be.



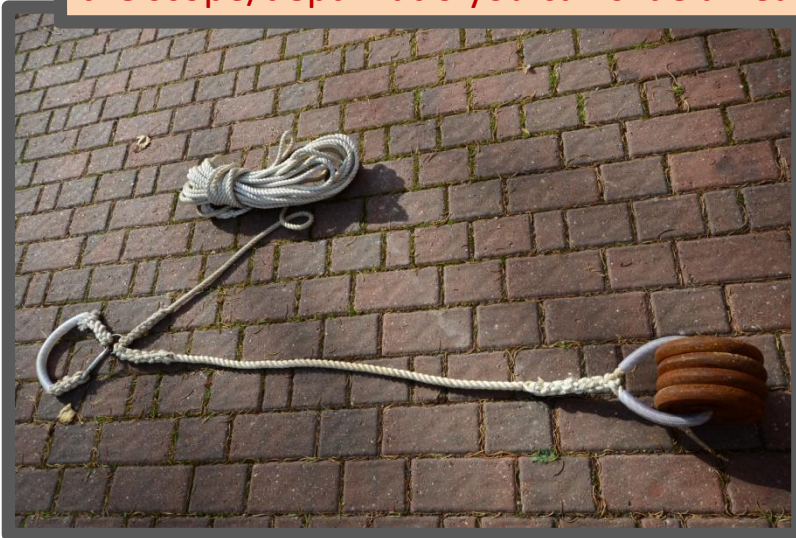
## TOP TIP

There's no point in keeping chain in the anchor locker if it can be put to good use on the seabed..... If I have enough swinging room and I'm staying overnight I put it ALL out as it increases scope/depth ratio which will improve the anchors holding power.

# Top Tips

## TOP TIP

In windy or stormy conditions or to reduce your swinging circle without compromising the scope/depth ratio you can slide a heavy weight or 'anchor chum' down the chain.



## TOP TIP

I made my own anchor chum from some old exercise weights.....they are heavy for their size and have a convenient hole in the middle to attach a rope.

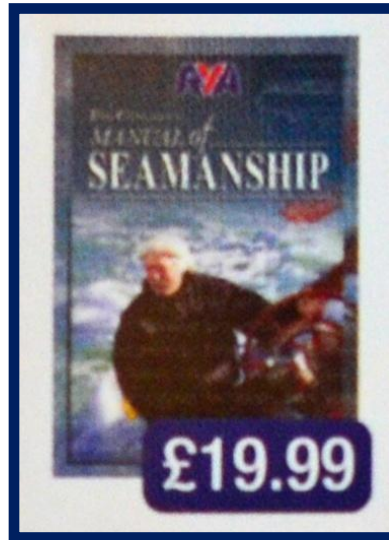


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## Further Reading



We highly recommend Tom Cunliffe's  
**RYA Seamanship Handbook (G36)**

You can buy a copy of this book by visiting our on-line shop

[www.penguinsailing.com](http://www.penguinsailing.com)

