



Weighing the Anchor Or is it Waying?



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Sometimes, the simplest thing can take on monumental proportions - if you get it wrong. And setting a proper anchor, and retrieving (or "weighing it" so you can "make way"), can make all the difference in the world when the wind starts to stiffen and all the other fishermen around you start to look askance at you... as you drag your anchor towards them...

Setting the Anchor

The art and science of anchoring are closely akin. It is all about leverage and "scope". Scope is the ratio of the depth of the water (plus your freeboard, i.e., the distance from the water to your anchor's cleat) to the amount of line, i.e., "anchor rode", you've laid out. If you are in 7 feet of water and there is 3 feet from the water to the cleat, this is a distance of 10 feet. Lay out 70 feet of "ground tackle" - anchor, anchor chain, and line (rode) - and you have a scope of 7:1 (70/10). This happens to be the US Coast Guard's recommended scope for proper anchoring under "normal" conditions. In light air, you can reduce to 5:1. In heavy seas, you should lay out 10:1 or even more.

The leverage aspect has to do with how the "flukes" create the holding power. The flukes are those long blades that actually stick into the sand (I am describing the Danforth-style anchor, which is ideal for our sandy and muddy bottoms on the South Shore). Imagine your hand is the anchor for a second. Make a "claw" with your hand and your down-turned fingers are the flukes. They would bite in deeper and more firmly if your arm (what would be the "shank" if it were part of the ground tackle) was laying flat along the surface (try it down at the beach with some sand.) If you start to lift your arm, you can see how your claw/fingers/flukes start to pry themselves out of the imaginary sand/mud/ground. This is why a longer scope is better than a shorter one. It "de-levers" the flukes and keeps them pointing deeply into the holding surface. And the reason that chain (typically 6' but it can obviously be more) is encouraged as the connecting medium between the anchor itself and the line is to add more weight to the shank - keeping the flukes digging in deeply.

What Goes On Around You Matters

One of the toughest parts of anchoring is judging how much scope to put out when you are anchoring around other boats. All boats will swing downwind on their anchors. If you anchor 50' behind another boat, and you put out 70' of rode, pray that the wind doesn't clock around to the opposite heading. If so, prepare to be boarded by an angry crew!

Also, don't anchor from the stern alone. If you anchor from the stern alone, you are likely to sink "on the hook." Why? Well, your bow is now downwind and your stern, i.e., the flat transom, is into the wind. Water splashes against the transom and some splashes into the boat. The boat sits a little lower. The same size wave now splashes more water into the boat. The boat sits a little lower. You can see where this is headed. Down.

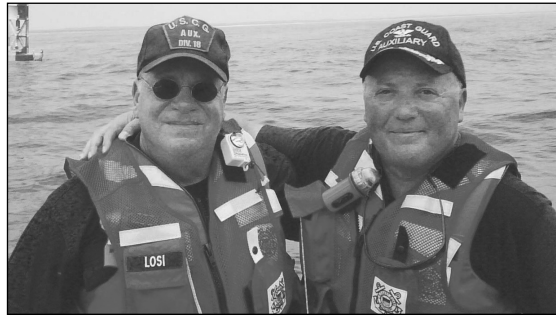
Weighing Anchor

If 7:1 scope is recommended for good holding power, and 10:1 scope is even better than that, what would be best for providing the least holding power? If you said 1:1, you get an "A" in anchoring. Here's how you do it...

Hopefully, you have a crew man who can go to the bow and take up the slack, flaking it on the deck as it comes in, while you slowly power up over the anchor. When the anchor line is lying straight up and down, your crew yells "stop" and then tries to "weigh" or retrieve the anchor. But maybe it is stuck! Well, re-cleat the anchor rode so that it is pointing straight down to the anchor (this is called "snubbing" the anchor.) If the line is going straight down to the bottom from your cleat, the scope must be 1:1! Now, back away - don't power forward! If the anchor suddenly breaks free, it could impale itself in your hull as it sweeps upwards under the force the boat surging ahead. Add power gradually astern and you will very likely break free. If you still haven't, while power is still being applied in reverse, turn the helm hard over. This will cause the boat to rotate around the anchor. You are unscrewing from the bottom, like a cork screw. 99 times out of 100, this will finish the job. If the anchor is fouled though on rocks or cables, your last resort is to cut yourself free...

Anchors away!

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux@aol.com or go direct to the D1SR Human Resources department, who are in charge of new members matters, at DSO-HR and we will help you "get in this thing..."



Jim Losi of San Francisco, USCGAux District 11, Division 12, Flotilla 91, and Vincent Pica of Westhampton, USCGAux District 1(SR), Division 18, Flotilla 06, at the sea buoy 1.1nm south of the Moriches Inlet. Jim and Vin have been friends since they were 10 years old and patrolled together on 23Jul11. Photographer: Rudi Pica, (son of Vincent), USCGAux D1(SR) 18-06



by TONY SALERNO

FISHING WITH TONY

FLUKE GALORE ON BOTH SHORES

Even as temperatures blistered into to the high 90s or the low hundred this past week, fluke fishing is equally as hot around the island as anglers are scoring well at all the usual haunts west, east, north and south.

Up north and to the west, the Port Washington based open boat the Angler II is experiencing some exceptional fluke fishing despite the calendar, as a new body of keeper size fish have moved into the area. Captain Bob is putting fares into nice catches and is hoping that the bite hangs on for a while. Moving east, both the Huntington and Port Jeff clan of open boats are enjoying great action with the summer flatties, unfortunately however, most have to be tossed back in order to grow a bit to become keepers. Nevertheless the action is fast paced with some keepers around to keep things interesting. In addition, there are plenty of porgies and sea bass around, which most of the open boats have been mixing in so patrons can go home with nice bags of tasty filets. Bluefish are also all over the north shore to spice things up.

Along the south shore, boats from Point Lookout, Freeport and Captree have really seen an influx of quality fluke in the past couple of weeks and by the look of it, the action shows no signs of letting up. Large schools of quality fish have made their way south of Jones and Fire Island Inlets from 80 to 90 feet of water where open, charter and private boats have been enjoying the bounty of fluke to 9-pounds. If the ocean is a bit to overwhelming for you, fret not as there is plenty of action and keepers inside the bays as well, particularly during the top of the tide.

Closer to home, the fluke fishing is getting better by the day in the Moriches area, while just inside and outside of Shinnecock Inlet has become the hottest spot for keeper and doormat fluke. On the top of the tide, the area west of the Ponquogue Bridge have produced many keepers to 8-pounds, while on any other tide, fluke to 13-pounds have been hanging out in 80-feet of water outside Shinnecock Inlet. This past Friday saw a fluke of 13.26-pounds taken aboard the Hampton Bay based open boat the Hampton Lady along with several other fish over 5-pounds. The big fish are here, now is the time to go and get them.



Tides for Moriches Inlet starting with July 27, 2011

Day	High/Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise/Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible
Wed. 27	High	4:43 AM	2.5	5:43 AM	Rise 2:21 AM	17
27	Low	10:33 AM	0.4	8:12 PM	Set 5:47 PM	
27	High	4:59 PM	3.2			
27	Low	11:33 PM	0.3			
Thur. 28	High	5:37 AM	2.7	5:44 AM	Rise 3:20 AM	9
28	Low	11:24 AM	0.3	8:11 PM	Set 6:35 PM	
28	High	5:49 PM	3.4			
Fri. 29	Low	12:20 AM	0.1	5:45 AM	Rise 4:25 AM	4
29	High	6:25 AM	2.9	8:10 PM	Set 7:17 PM	
29	Low	12:15 PM	0.1			
29	High	6:36 PM	3.6			
Sat. 30	Low	1:06 AM	-0.1	5:45 AM	Rise 5:35 AM	1
30	High	7:11 AM	3.1	8:09 PM	Set 7:54 PM	
30	Low	1:06 PM	0.0			
30	High	7:20 PM	3.7			
Sun. 31	Low	1:51 AM	-0.2	5:46 AM	Rise 6:48 AM	0
31	High	7:56 AM	3.2	8:08 PM	Set 8:28 PM	
31	Low	1:55 PM	-0.1			
31	High	8:05 PM	3.7			
Mon. 1	Low	2:35 AM	-0.3	5:47 AM	Rise 8:01 AM	1
1	High	8:42 AM	3.3	8:07 PM	Set 8:59 PM	
1	Low	2:44 PM	-0.1			
1	High	8:52 PM	3.7			
Tues. 2	Low	3:17 AM	-0.4	5:48 AM	Rise 9:14 AM	5
2	High	9:31 AM	3.5	8:06 PM	Set 9:29 PM	
2	Low	3:33 PM	-0.1			
2	High	9:42 PM	3.5			
Wed. 3	Low	4:00 AM	-0.3	5:49 AM	Rise 10:27 AM	12
3	High	10:23 AM	3.5	8:05 PM	Set 10:00 PM	
3	Low	4:23 PM	-0.1			
3	High	10:35 PM	3.4			
Thur. 4	Low	4:45 AM	-0.2	5:50 AM	Rise 11:39 AM	21
4	High	11:18 AM	3.5	8:04 PM	Set 10:34 PM	
4	Low	5:18 PM	0.1			
4	High	11:32 PM	3.2			
Fri. 5	Low	5:35 AM	-0.1	5:51 AM	Rise 12:52 PM	32
5	High	12:13 PM	3.5	8:02 PM	Set 11:11 PM	
5	Low	6:21 PM	0.2			
Sat. 6	High	12:30 AM	3.0	5:52 AM	Rise 2:03 PM	43
6	Low	6:34 AM	0.1	8:01 PM	Set 11:53 PM	
6	High	1:09 PM	3.5			
6	Low	7:31 PM	0.4			
Sun. 7	High	1:29 AM	2.9	5:53 AM	Rise 3:10 PM	54
7	Low	7:41 AM	0.2	8:00 PM		
7	High	2:07 PM	3.4			
7	Low	8:40 PM	0.4			