

Things to check before Anchoring

Item	Remarks
Weather forecast for the period of anchoring	
Good shelter from wind and waves at the intended position, e.g. prefer windward, not directly around peninsulas to avoid confused seas etc.	
Position as charted free of any underwater obstructions	
Available swinging room at the intended position (other boats, shore, dangers)	
Steepness of the sea bottom and effect on anchor holding	
Depth of water at the position, at both High and Low water times	
State of tide ebb/flood determined for the time of anchoring	
Intended anchoring position clear of through traffic	
Holding ground for the anchor: sand (best), mud (ok), weed (poor), rock (risky as it might snag the anchor)	
Ability to escape adverse conditions	
Amount of cable to pay out depending on various factors, e.g. amount of chain available, expected weather, type of seabed, tides, proximity to other vessels	
Approach towards the anchorage position	
Position monitoring system confirmed	
Anchor operation checked including manual release	
Communication between helmsman and bow crew operating the anchor checked and agreed, e.g. hand signals, radio	
Report the anchoring to appropriate authorities and request permission if needed	

While at Anchor

Item	Remarks
Ensure that the anchor lights are burning properly and anchor ball is displayed by day	
Make the appropriate sound signals in fog or poor visibility	
Take all possible steps to detect a dragging anchor by taking bearings of fixed navigational marks or readily identifiable shore objects	
Reset the anchor if dragging	
Make sure a second anchor is ready for letting go	
Observe all boats arriving at and leaving the boat	
Record in the logbook: the depth of water at the anchorage, the amount of cable veered, the nature of the bottom, the anchor bearings or transit bearings etc.	
Post extra lookouts in poor visibility and commence a radar watch	
Monitor swinging pattern	
Ensure that a proper look-out is kept	
Keep GMDSS watch	
Ensure that the state of readiness of the engine	
Modify AIS status	
Observe meteorological and tidal conditions and the sea state	
Take measures to protect the environment from pollution, e.g. use holding tank	
Make inspections rounds of the boat periodically	
Ensure boat access control precautions in respect of boat security	
Set anchoring alarms in the chart plotter / smartphone (position within determined range)	