

ANCHORING GUIDANCE – SMALL REACH REGATTA

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Every boat should have adequate anchoring equipment. The smaller hand carry boats need at least one anchor with rode attached that will not only secure the boat on a beach but also have adequate holding power if caught off shore in a thunderstorm. Larger boats should consider carrying two anchors.. For boats 15 to 20 feet in length in 60 knot winds which can easily happen in a thunderstorm you need a holding capacity of approximately 750 lbs, this can be achieved with any of the following provided there is an adequate rode. The rode should include a length of chain (10 ft of ¼ inch) and then 150 ft of 3/8 inch nylon line. Shackles should be one size larger than the chain used and should be seized to prevent the pin from backing out. These are minimum recommended sizes, larger is always better.

- 14 lb Danforth (Danforth anchors can break out of the bottom with a change in tide or wind and may not reset, as a result I do not like Danforth anchors for overnight anchoring)
- 20 lb Plow
- 16 lb Claw
- 13 lb Rocna

If you will be anchoring your boat unattended overnight in Herrick Bay off Atlantic Boat Company in Brooklin a length of anchor line to let out should be approximately 60 feet because the water is relatively shallow. The depths at low tide are 2 – 6 feet, so at high tide the water depth will be an additional 10 feet, so let's assume a water depth of 14 feet total. If we assume that the mooring cleat is 2 feet above the water this makes a total of 16 feet. A scope of 7 is recommended but is not possible in most anchorages so a scope of 3 or 4 is usually used to keep the swing circle at a reasonable size. Therefore a length of rode of 48 to 64 feet is needed. I suggest that most boat should use a scope of 60 feet.

Boats that will be hand carried ashore at night need an anchor and rode but because they will not be left unattended overnight and have less windage a smaller anchor can be used but it should be adequate to hold them in a thunderstorm when underway. For hand carry boats less than 15 feet in length the anchor can be one size smaller than that used for the 15 to 20 foot boats and the chain can be 10 feet of 3/16 inch chain and 150 feet of 5/16 inch nylon.