**Introduction**

This SOP is the response to recommendation b. from the review into the 2012 winter cruise grounding leaving Tadine Harbour, New Caledonia. There are many possible actions or strategies available to skippers. This SOP attempts to list some fundamental actions available to you. It is not a checklist. The strategy you use will depend on your knowledge of any obstacles in the anchorage, the conditions, and the experience of you and your crew.

**Prepare** **for escape** from an unfamiliar anchorage as you arrive and while it is still daylight or good weather.

* Save your in-bound track on the chart plotter (instructions page 2)
* Note your anchored co-ordinates on the chart and ship’s log
* Note the depth and predicted tides
* Note the weather forecast
* Note any lights, marks, other vessels or nearby features.
* Shape an emergency exit course on the chart and/or chart plotter. Record the details e.g. Steer 150°C until xx bears yy then...
* Place exit waypoint(s) on the chart and/or chart plotter and know how to navigate to them
* Prepare the yacht for a rapid exit:
  + Stow the dinghy and outboard motor,
  + Stow the sun cover joiner,
  + Tidy the halyards,
  + Tidy the cockpit,
  + Stow fishing rods and reels,
  + Locate the anchor winch remote control,
  + Locate a good torch,
  + Prepare the correct chart,
  + Ensure PFDs are accessible,
  + Tidy the galley,
  + Locate the hand bearing compass,
  + Locate a charged portable VHF radio,
  + Locate your glasses;
* Seek advice from the locals
* Brief the crew on what might happen and what might be required.
* Organise the crew to maintain an anchor watch if you are concerned about dragging.
* Set up the anchor drag alarm. However, this is not an alternative to a crewed anchor watch.

**If you have to leave or reset the anchor urgently**:

* Hasten slowly, don’t rush
* Determine your position. Are you in the same place you anchored? Modify your escape course if needed.
* Brief the crew, assign jobs. Set a timeframe. “Get ready to go in 10 minutes”.
* Insist the crew wear their PFDs and safety tethers, foul weather clothing if necessary.
* Get your glasses
* Turn the chart plotter and ST70 instruments on (instructions page 2)
* Confirm your escape course using any or all of these techniques:
  + Back track your inbound course (instructions page 2);
  + Use a Cursor course or Goto course on the chartplotter;
  + Navigate by waypoint(s);
  + Traditional chart navigation;
  + Navigate using your escape route notes.
* Do not use the Mini-ITX and OpenCPN software.
* Set at least one ST70 unit to display the Depth
* Open the magnetic compass cover and steer by it. Do not steer by the ST70 digital readouts.
* Turn off the cockpit, cabin and deck lights. Turn on your navigation and steaming lights.
* Discuss the escape route with your First Mate
* Look around for lights, marks, visual clues and other vessels
* Motor slowly with only enough speed to maintain control
* Consider keeping a tethered lookout up forward with a good torch and a tethered relay person at the mast.
* Keep your First Mate with you at the helm (or charts)
* Start the motor and thoroughly check for lines overboard or the dinghy line.
* When the anchor is up maintain head to wind control and position. Check with the crew that everything is ready before getting underway.
* Make sure nobody sits on, or covers the GPS Antenna

**How to save the in-bound track on the chart plotter**

* When you are sailing and before you arrive
* Navigation > Start Track
* Enter the anchorage
* Before you turn the Chartplotter and instruments off
* Navigation > Save track <this needs work, please can someone annotate the exact steps and advise Dave Holt>

**How to back track your in-bound track**

* Home Screen > MyTracks (at the top of the screen)
* Select your in-bound track
* Navigate visually following the track backwards
* <this needs work, please can someone annotate the exact steps and advise Dave Holt. Another way would be to turn the track into a route>

**How to turn the Chartplotter on**

* Turn on the Instruments switch at the 12V switch panel
* Accept the risk warning screen on the Chartplotter by pressing the UniControl centre Ok button
* Select the Chart Application screen
* Zoom in to an appropriate scale

**How to turn the Chartplotter screen brightness down**

* When the Chartplotter is on
* Lightly press the On/Off red power button
* The adjust brightness display will appear
* Adjust the brightness with the UniControl rotary wheel
* Press Cancel when done