



# Safety Advisory Bulletin: Deep Water Anchoring

## Spill Prevention, Preparedness & Response Program

### Anchors have been lost when anchoring in Puget Sound.

Puget Sound ports are naturally deep-water ports, and anchorages can be in excess of 40 meters. Designated anchorages in Commencement and Elliott Bays can exceed 100 meters. When designated anchorages are full, ships may have to anchor in depths approaching 125 meters.

A bulk carrier attempting to anchor in 125 meters of water walked out three shackles of chain and then attempted to drop the anchor the remaining two shackles to the bottom. The brake had no effect, and the anchor was lost.

In other cases, anchors were walked out under power to within 15 meters of the bottom in depths of 100 and were still lost. The condition of the anchor windlass was suspect in these losses.

Losing an anchor is expensive and a runaway anchor can cause injury to the anchoring equipment and the foredeck crew. In a crowded anchorage in bad weather, a lost anchor can lead to close quarters situations, or worse. It is extremely important that ship owners, operators, and masters ensure the anchor windlass and ground tackle are properly maintained and the anchor is deployed following proper procedures.

### Additional Information:

- Knight, A. M. (1991). *Knight's Modern Seamanship*. 18th ed. edited by John V. Noel, Jr., associate editors, Frank E. Bassett, Carvel Blair, Dee Fitch.
- Dudley, J.; Scott, B.; Gold, E. (1994). *Toward Safer Ships & Cleaner Seas*.
- DNV (2022), <https://www.dnv.com/maritime/anchor-loss-prevention.html>.



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