

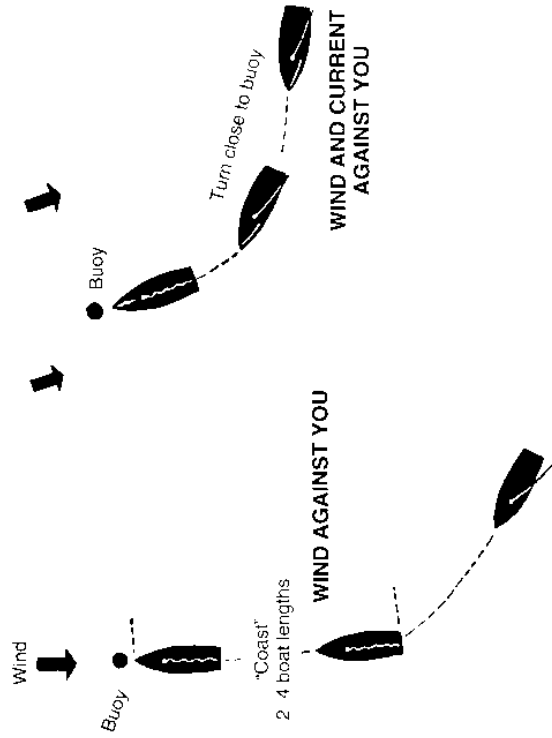
Mooring

Mooring is similar to anchoring, but a bit tougher, because you have to reach an exact spot—the mooring buoy—under the right conditions. The conditions are that you must approach from downwind, with sails luffed and with enough headway to get there but not to overshoot.

Ask yourself these questions before mooring: What is the wind direction and speed? Is the water surface smooth or choppy? What about the speed and direction of the current? Is the mooring area clear or crowded? Since these conditions can change from day to day, check them first and you'll make a safer, more accurate mooring.

As in anchoring, it's a good idea to get the jib out of the way and clear the foredeck for the person who will be securing the boat to the mooring.

If you're landing at a pier or dock, check the wind first. Rig *fenders* on the pier side. When you're landing on the windward side, run in at right angles to the pier. Then, a length or so away, bring the boat parallel to the pier. Drop your jib, let loose the main, and throw a line to someone on the pier. Let the wind carry you in.



Warning: Do not even *think* about trying a windward landing if the wind is heavy. The impact of your boat against the pier could do unpleasant things to the rigging and the hull, and to the crew.

When you're landing on the lee side of a pier, gauge your speed to give your crew on the foredeck time to jump to the pier with the docking line in hand. Your crew can then turn and fend off your bow.

Securing the Boat

The voyage is over—at least for a while. It's time to put everything neatly away—"on hold"—until next time.

Start by putting the *boom crutch*, if there is one, in place. Guide the boom into it as the crew prepares to lower the mainsail. First check the main halyard to make sure it's clear for running—no knots, no kinks, no surprises. Then haul the mainsheet in tight and cleat it so the boom won't work loose.

Lay the main halyard on deck, clear of obstacles, and make sure it uncoils from the top as the sail comes down. Gather the sail as it is lowered. Fold it neatly on the boom, or on the gaff and boom of a lateen-rigged boat. Remove the battens and store them. Remove the sail from the boom, then carefully stuff the sail headfirst into its bag.

Now for the tiller and rudder. Do not leave them in the steering position. Dismount them and lash them amidships. Tie a line under one deck, throw a hitch over the end of the tiller, and anchor the other end of the line under the opposite deck or to a cleat.

If your boat has an aluminum mast, secure halyards away from the spar so that they can't slap and rattle against it when the breeze blows or the boat rolls. Actually, it is always a good idea to secure halyards,

