

DRAGGING ANCHOR

ACTION (NOT NECESSARILY IN ORDER)
Inform Master
Post additional lookout
Inform engine room to keep engine ready for use and windlass machinery ready for use
Keep anchor party stand by
Check cutting gear and anchor slipping tools in in position or available at short notice
Alert vessels in the vicinity
Check the distance from the other vessels at anchor
Inform Port Authority / VTIS / Pilot as applicable
Inform office
Check proximity of navigational hazard
Maintain situational awareness
Use main engine and steering to maintain position and to avoid close quarter situation
Establish cause of dragging the anchor i.e. poor holding ground, strong current/tidal stream, excessive wind speed etc.
Consider paying out more cable or shifting anchorage or drifting offshore depending upon the prevailing circumstances.
Cast off the barge or any craft alongside after stopping the operations if applicable
Second anchor may be used to avoid imminent danger due to dragging
If dragging still continues, heave up anchor and shift to safer location to re-anchor or proceed to sea
In adverse weather, heave up anchor and proceed to sea for drifting. When heaving up anchor in adverse weather, use engine and steering to reduce tension on the chain and keep chain as vertical as possible in order to avoid the overloading of the windlass motor. Stop heaving up anchor when excessive tension on chain is noticed and resume heaving up as tension is released.
Request for pilot and tug assistance if required (depending on anchorage location)
As last resort when unable to heave anchor, after quick assessment of the risks involved, cut the chain taking appropriate safety precautions or slip the anchor from the bitter end to avoid imminent grounding or collision with other vessel/structure. Tie up an anchor buoy to assist in recovery later where possible.