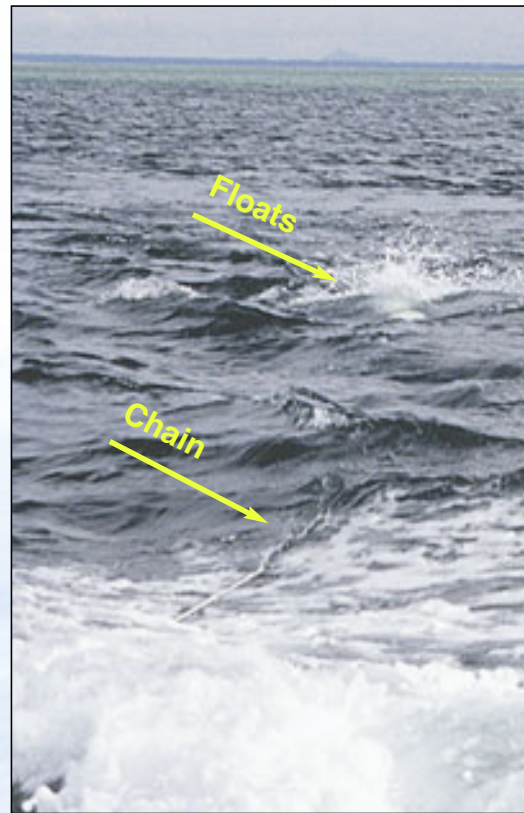
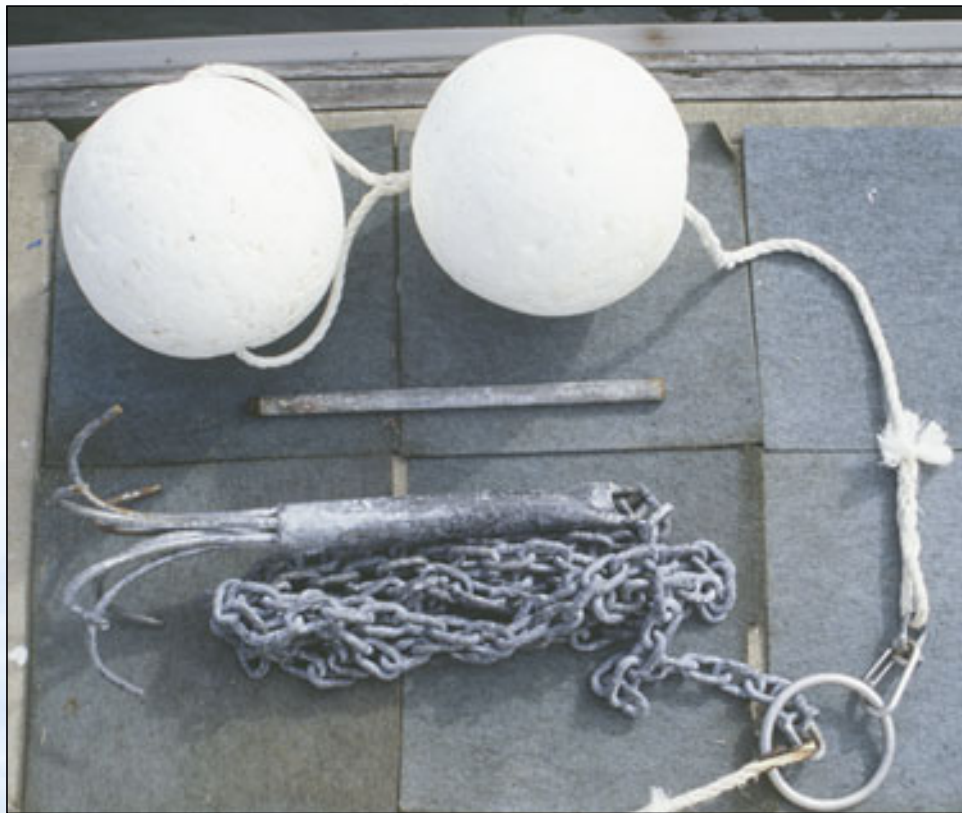


Offshore Anchoring Techniques

This special report and pics by Damon Olsen covers what many fishermen believe is the absolute key to successful offshore reef fishing.



Top Right: Way to go - the anchor lifted right up to the surface using the boat's power, not your back.

Above: Typical reef anchor set-up complete with length of gal pipe to keep bending the tynes of the anchor. A lot of fishos prefer one big poly ball - but it's a lot harder to stow.

Right: The technique here is simplicity itself - the boat moves forward, pulling the anchor warp (rope) through the ring securing the floats to the warp. The float(s) end up right over the anchor exerting a powerful lifting force directly above the anchor, and finally sliding all the way back down to the anchor tynes. Sure beats trying to heave it up yourself!

PS: Make sure you do what John Olsen is doing here - keeping a hand on the anchor warp right through the procedure to keep the rope out of the prop(s) and to 'feel' what is happening down the bottom.



With increased sales of 5.5-7.0m trailerable fishing boats over the last few years, more people are wanting to travel to the far away deepwater reefs in search of the prized reef fish which are becoming all too rare in the closer, shallow reefs and bays.

Many people who, 'once upon a time' could go down to the local estuary in their trusty 12' tinnie and catch a good feed of fish, are now finding this previously simple pleasure very hard to achieve. Some of the people have simply given up, or are now just fishing for the pure pleasure of fishing itself. Others have moved to larger boats, having heard of the fabulous catches of snapper and morwong their offshore mates achieve.

It is definitely true there are far more - and bigger - fish to be had on the deep water offshore reefs compared to the coastal estuaries and bays. But people new to these offshore areas are confronted by the need to master new skills before they can take advantage of the fishing potential contained in the



Bigger boats require bigger anchors, and often, two floats are needed to lift them - especially if the anchor stock has been filled with lead to create a lower scope angle for better holding power.



This is a new, regular section of interest to all boatowners, no matter where they fish, or the size and type of boat they use. In the coming months, we'll be tackling some of the unmentionables; the really scary stuff and issues that have even driven people away from boating. The object is to develop a healthy respect for the sea, and a much better understanding of how to use your boat more safely, for more fun and long term satisfaction.