

Rendering Assistance & Towing





Learning Objectives:

By the end of this chapter the participant should be able to:

- Determine level of assistance to be rendered.
- Describe the equipment needed to safely tow a boat.
- Describe the types of towing approaches relative to conditions.
- Describe the types of tows and advantages and disadvantages of each.
- Describe key safety procedures for towing.



Risk Assessment

Do not let a perceived need to engage in a towing mission override a complete, honest risk assessment process that emphasizes personnel safety. (Use the GAR Model)



Towing

Towing - Responsibility:

- Duties related to marine casualty -
46 U.S.C. 2303
- Duty to provide assistance at sea -
46 U.S.C. 2304

Towing

When to tow :

- If immediate threat to life exists
- If a safe tow is possible - if it is both Safe and Reasonable



Towing

When NOT to tow :

- If disabled vessel is sinking, burning, or a danger to towing vessel
- If it is unsafe to tow
- If tow is only for personal convenience

**You can provide other forms of assistance:
use of radio, cellular phone, etc.**



Alternatives to Towing

- Anchor
- Call for commercial tow
- Standby and relay information (e.g., to USCG)



Towing

Other options:

- Rescue passengers if condition is life-threatening
- Protect life first, property second

Towing

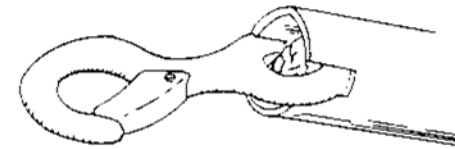
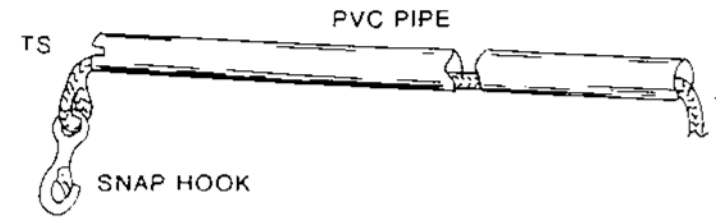
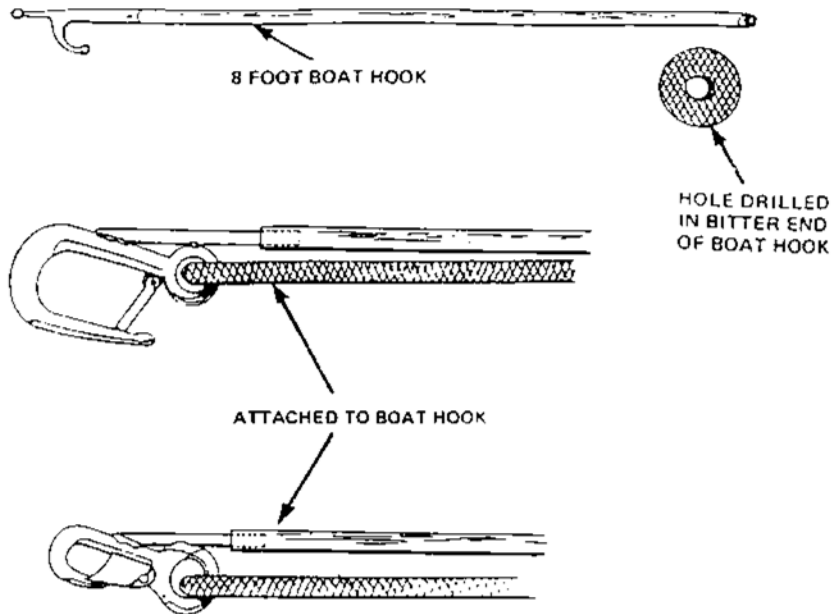
Factors to consider:

- Draft of both vessels relative to water depth
- Size and weight of vessel being towed
- Skill level of both crews
- Availability and condition of towing equipment
- Availability and condition of attachment points
- Numbers and condition of crew available
- All must wear a PFD

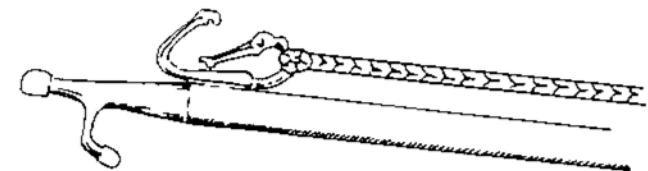
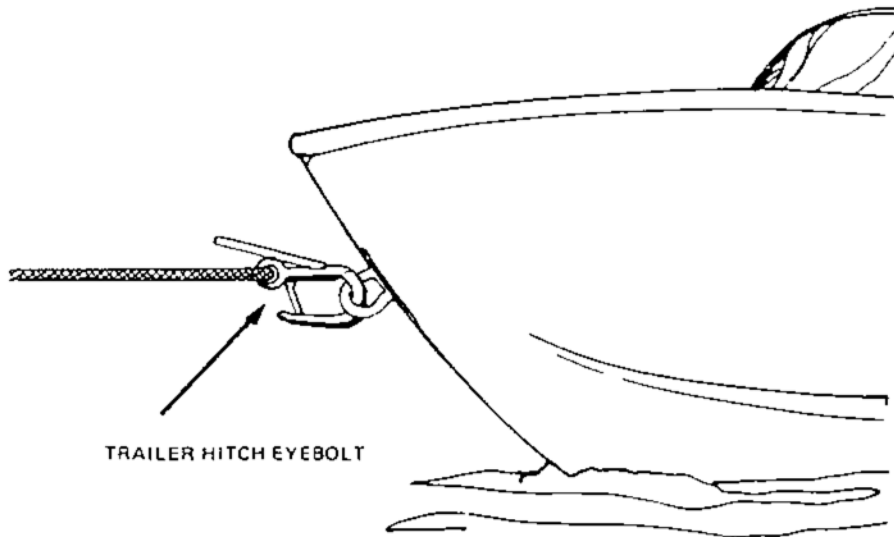
Towing

Towing equipment:

- Towline - 75 ft or more of $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ inch double-braided nylon or poly rope
- Hooks or carabiners - ensure breaking strength greater than line
- Bridles - rig these ahead of time; use same type of line as for towline
- Mooring lines, fenders, boat hook, lights, knife, axe
- Samson post or tow bit



PVC PIPE AND SNAP HOOK RIG



SNAP HOOK CLIP

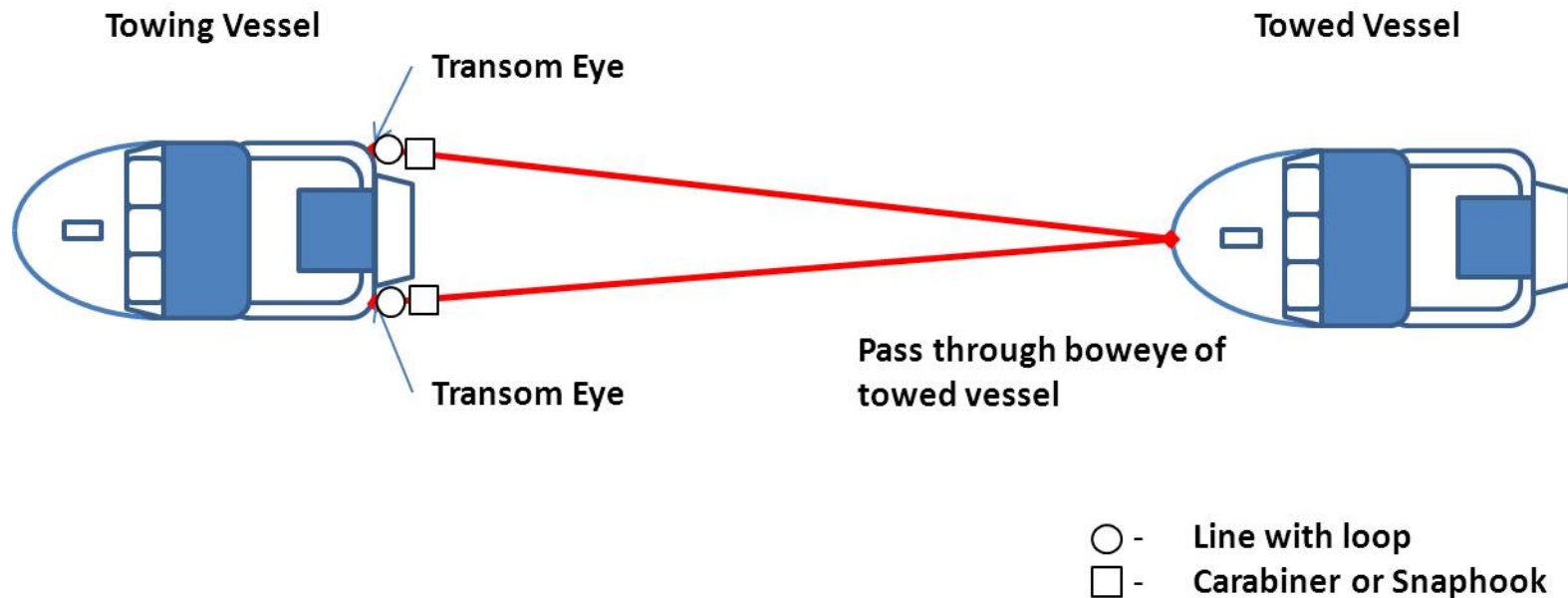
Towing

Single Point Tow



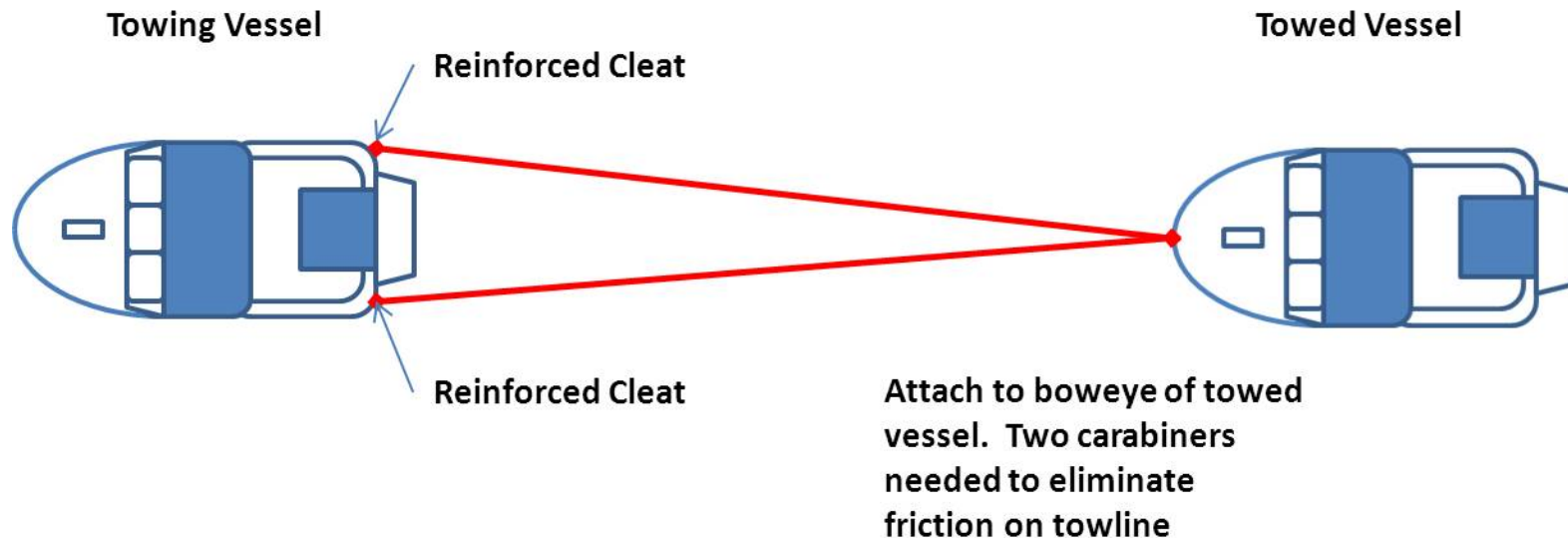
V Bridle Option 1

The length of the "V" section should be at least 2 to 3 times the width of the transom of the towboat



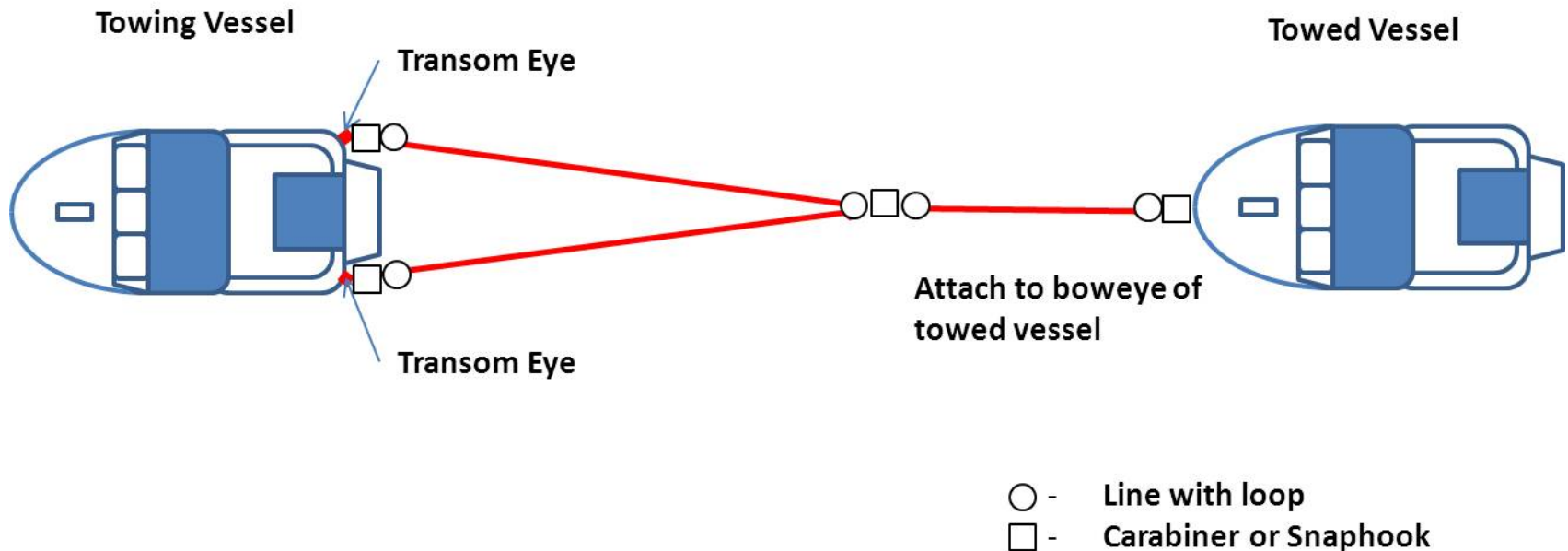
V Bridle Option 2

The length of the "V" section should be at least 2 to 3 times the width of the transom of the towboat



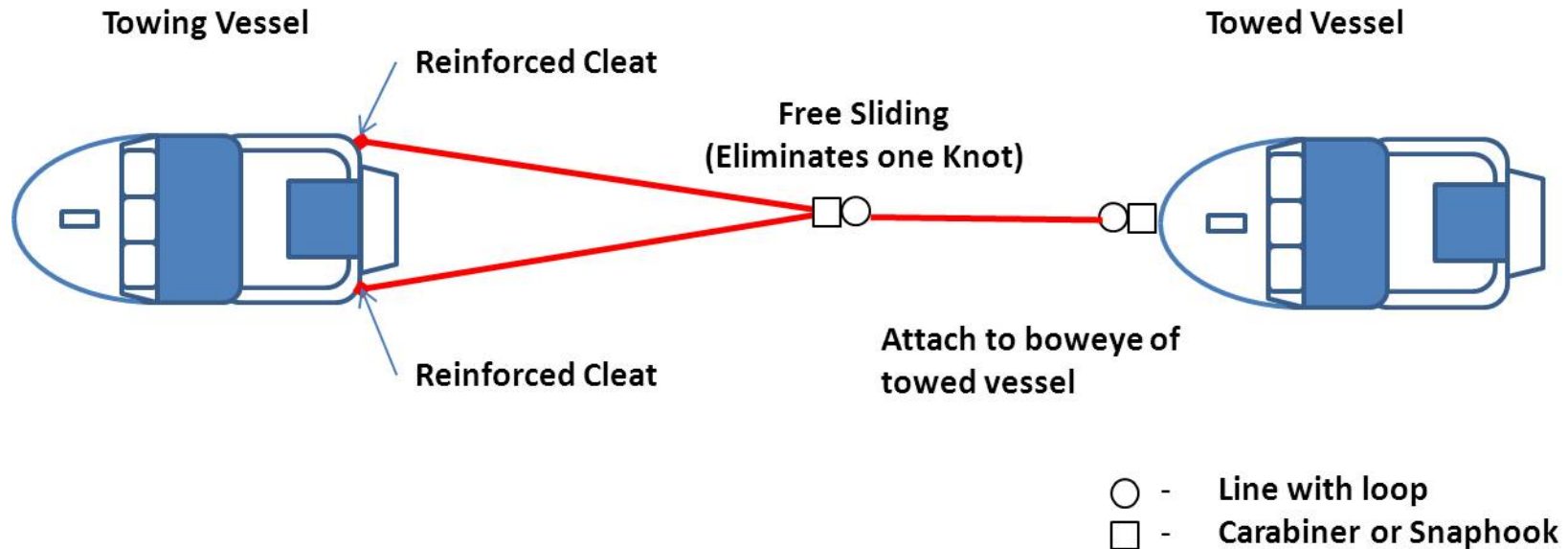
Y Bridle Option 1

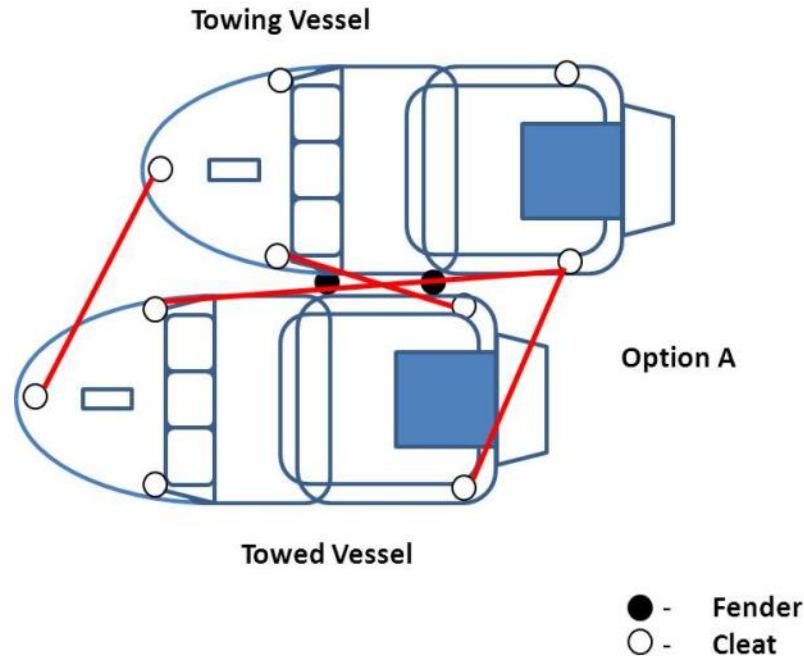
The length of the "Y" section should be at least 2 to 3 times the width of the transom of the towboat



Y Bridle Option 2

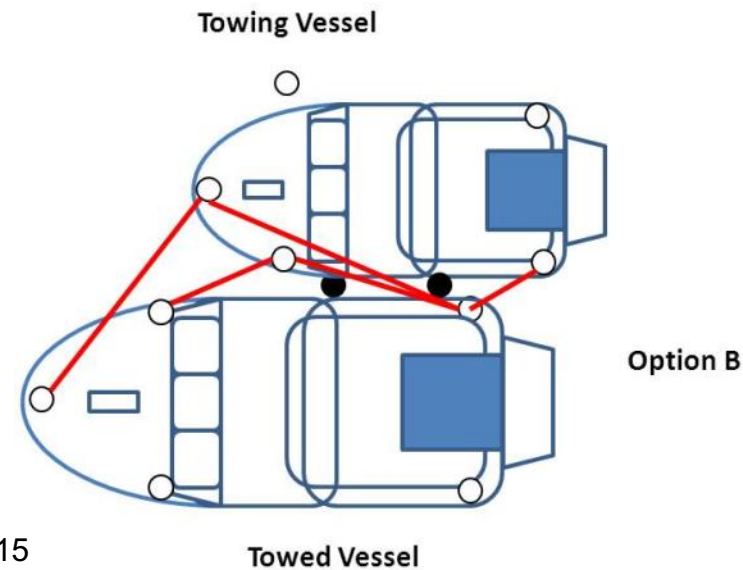
The length of the "Y" section should be at least 2 to 3 times the width of the transom of the towboat





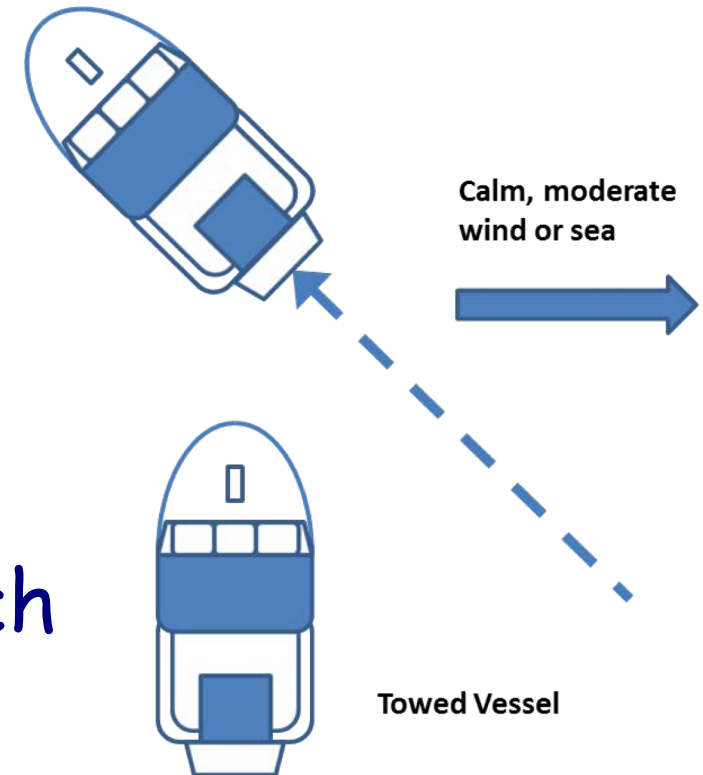
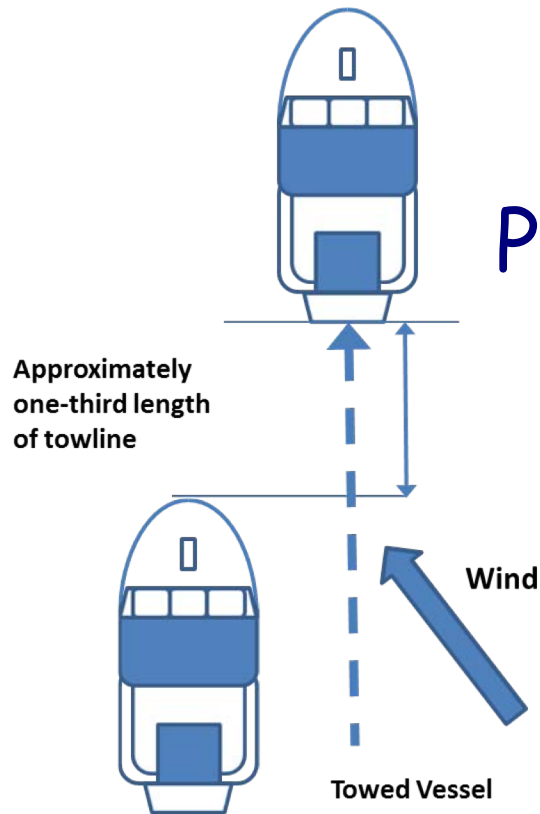
Alongside Towing Options

Towed vessel should be positioned on port bow of towing vessel.

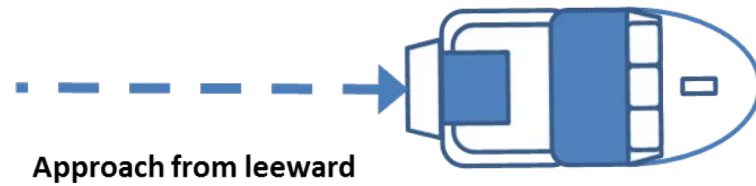


Option B is preferable when the towed vessel is larger than the towing vessel

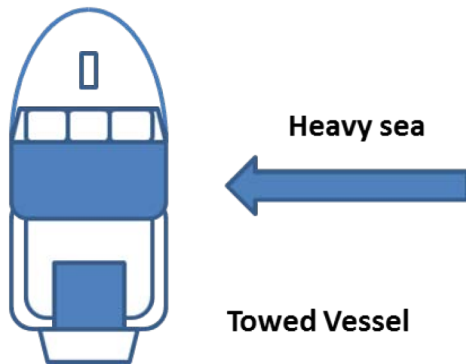
Parallel Approach



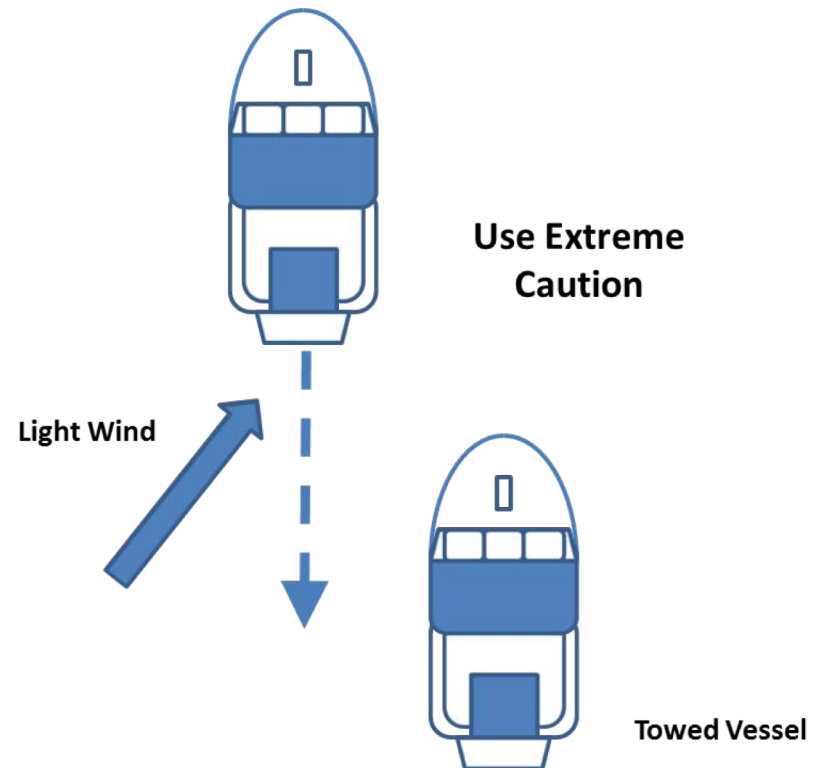
45 Degree Approach



Crossing the "T" Approach



Backdown Approach



Drift Approach

