

AQEC MEMORANDUM 2014-015

LINE HANDLING COMMANDS



QUESTION:

“Why doesn’t the USCG Auxiliary have standard line handling commands so we all know and use the same terminology?”

AQEC/SNC RESPONSE:

There is standard terminology for line handling commands; however most of the commands are for larger vessels. The attached is designed to be used for USCG Auxiliary non-standard vessels considered to be small to medium size vessels.

The goal is for the boat crew to communicate effectively so everyone understands the terminology for the task.

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11/01/2014*

From Quotations with Character by W. David Edman

“Teaching mariners about risk assessment is to explain their actions may affect their life expectancy.”

STANDARD LINE HANDLING COMMANDS FOR SMALL BOATS

COMMAND	ACTION
Hold (Line number)	Do not let out any additional line even if the risk of parting exists.
Check (Line number)	Hold tension on specified line, but render it as necessary to prevent parting.
Put Over/Pass (Line number)	Send over any line or towline (or with heaving line attached).
Ease (Line number)	Let out line until it is under less tension, but not slacked.
Make (Line number)	Depending on size of the cleat, place a round turn plus at least one figure eight on a bit (cleat) to hold the line in place.
Slack (Line number)	Allow line to go out without any tension on the line.
Take Slack Out (Line number)	Take all slack out of a line, but do not take a strain.
Pay Out (Line number)	Pay out amount (feet) of line stated by the Coxswain.
Working Turn (Line number)	Amount of turns on the bit (cleat) with line necessary to hold, but able to let out slack when needed.
Take in (Line number)	Allow line-handler enough slack to take the line off a fitting (bitt/cleat) and bring the line aboard.
Cast Off (Line number)	Cast off the line(s) when you leave the line on the pier or when using another vessel's line(s).

USCGA/SNC

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