

# **BOAT CREW TRAINING Towing**

BCM 07-03 to -07 AUX

COXN 08-01 to -0

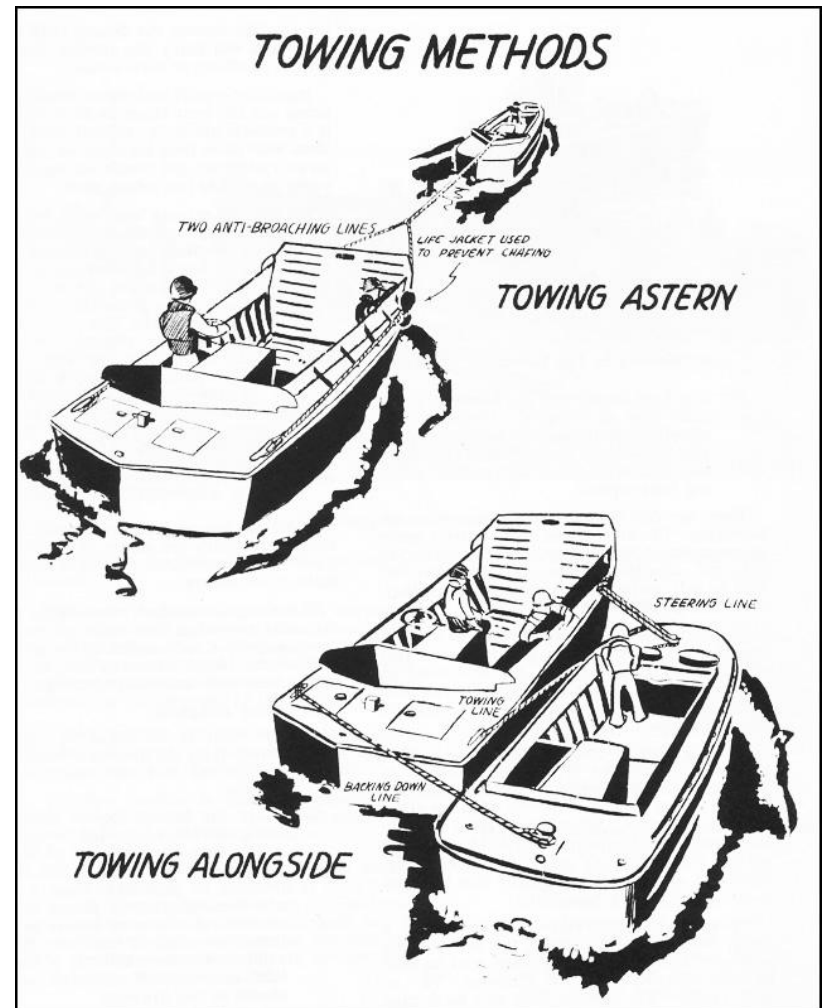
BCH 16114.1B Ch 2D & Ch 3

Drill Sheet: Towing

# Crew Duties: Towing

## Types of Tows

- Stern Tow
- Alongside Tow



# Preparations

- **Crew:**
  - Advise persons on disabled boat to don PFDs, sit on seats or in boat center
  - Ask for any injuries
  - Ask number of Persons on Board (POB)
  - Ask for any dangers (e.g., boat is taking on water)
  - Prepare lines
- **Coxswain**
  - Circles disabled boat, gains situational awareness
  - Determines stern tow or alongside tow
  - Bridle connections
  - Brief crew / distressed boat
  - Report / tow lights on

# Pass Heaving Line

## Coxswain :

- Maneuver boat to position
- Order pass heaving line " Take a shot



## Crew:

- Attach towline to heaving line (becket)  
(Attach one end to the towing cleat on your boat !)
- Instruct POB other boat to take cover "Heads UP!"
- Heave line (underhand, high arc) over other boat
  - "line in the water"
- Instruct disabled to pull in and attach the tow line

# Stern Tow

## Coxswain:

- \* Set initial course , safe towing speed ( 4 kts)

## Crew:

- \* Brief disabled on hand signals, safety instructions

- \* Tow watch

- Behavior of tow line & vessel

**Keep Coxswain Informed of Status**

# Crew Duties: Towing Watch

- Observe how tow is riding
  - Keep coxswain informed
  - Adjust scope of tow per coxswain order
- Ensure chafing gear is in place
- Stand to side of towline
- Be prepared for emergency breakaway
  - Knife to cut tow rope

## Transition to Alongside Tow

### Coxswain:

- Determine backdown or free approach
  - Backdown- towline remains attached to disabled
  - Free- towline pulled in
  - Brief crew

### Crew:

- \* Tend tow line
- \* Rig fenders
- \* Prepare towing lines

# Backdown Approach

- Cx / Cr:
  - Slow speed, shorten tow, determine side
  - Haul in towline as approaching closure
  - Keep towline away from prop
  - Leave boat lengths in water
  - Cx directs Cr to move towline to cleat on disabled or replace with another line



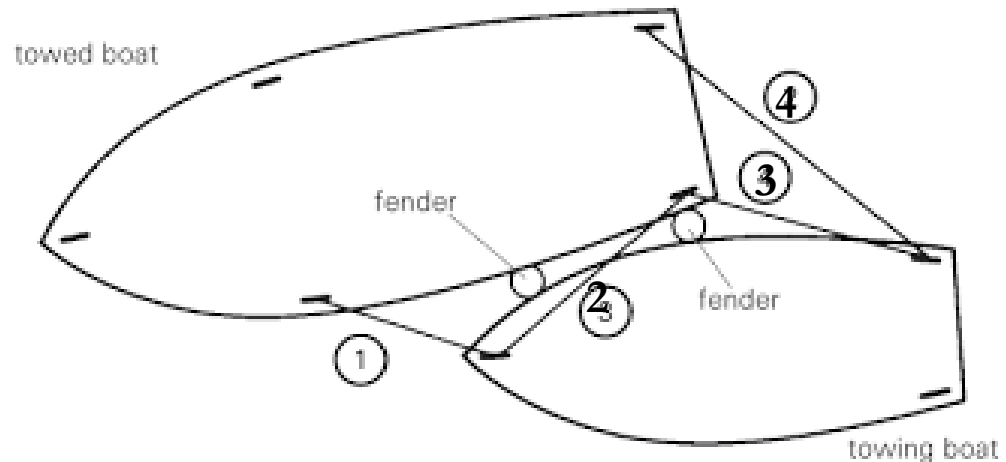
# Free Approach

Cx / Cr:

- Slow speed, shorten tow
- Cx directs break the tow on disabled.
- Cr hauls in line and fakes line out of way
- Cx maneuvers boat to enable Cr to pass towing lines (1 thru 4)

# Crew Duties: Towing Alongside Tow

- Rig fenders per coxswain order
- Make lines ready
  - #1- Bow line
  - #2-Towing strap
  - #3- Backing strap
  - #4- Stern line



# Rig Towlines

- Cx / Cr
  - Rig lines in order (eye to disabled)
  - 1 - 2 - 4- 3 (emergency: 1-2 –go)
  - Reverse slow, tighten forward lines (1, 2)
  - Forward slow, tighten aft lines (3, 4)
  - Check turn ability to starboard, port

# Moor Disabled Vessel

- Coxswain:
  - Determine approach
  - Brief crew & disabled re. procedures / communication
  - Assign pointer
  - Maneuver

Crew:

- May move to disabled to assist mooring

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AjEYW1QVDBUxqqgtPDakETCKyzA8Wd4q/view>