1. PURPOSE

To prescribe the proper procedure for lowering the anchor.

2. SCOPE

This procedure is applicable to crewmembers assigned to the special sea and anchor details.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

The primary responsibility for this procedure lies with the Chief Mate.

4. PROCEDURE

4.1 Anchoring will always be performed under the Master’s supervision and direction from the Bridge.

4.2 The Chief Mate will be in charge of the anchor detail on deck. His station is the anchor windlass in use, Port or Starboard, and he will be equipped with a VHF radio for communication with the Master. Before starting, communications should be established by an agreed on VHF working channel.

4.3 Prior to approaching the anchorage, the Chief Mate shall determine the depth of water, and ask the Master how much anchor chain to veer, where to stop the shackle, which anchor to use, and the nature of the bottom.

4.5 The Chief Mate shall be assisted by an Able Seaman. The AB shall operate the brake on the windlass.

4.6 Steps for dropping the anchor are as follows:

1. Engage the wildcat.
2. Release the chain stopper by loosening its turnbuckle and removing the devil’s claw from the anchor chain.
3. Raise the riding pawl.
4. Release the brake.
5. Ensure that the anchor is loose in the hawse pipe by walking the chain out not more than one foot.
6. Set the brake.
7. Stand by for word from the Bridge to lower the anchor. The command will be, “Walk out the anchor”.
8. At the command, the AB will begin walking out the anchor by pushing the button on the windlass marked “Lower”. The Chief Mate will direct with hand signals, and lower the anchor until it is below and clear of the bulbous bow of the ship.
9. DROPPING THE ANCHOR FROM ITS STOWED POSITION MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE VESSEL’S BULBOUS BOW BENEATH THE WATERLINE.

10. With the anchor lowered to below the bulbous bow, the Chief Mate shall signal the AB to stop lowering.

11. Set the brake, turning the handwheel fully clockwise.

12. Disengage the wildcat.

13. Stand to drop the anchor. The command from the Master will be “Let go the anchor”.

14. Release the pressure of the gear on the wildcat by running the gear in the hoist mode until there is enough clearance to disengage, about ½ inch.

15. Disengage the wildcat.

16. Ensure that the hand brake is ON, the handwheel being turned fully clockwise.

17. Disengage the wildcat.

5. **TRAINING.**

The Chief Mate will ensure that the Able Seaman is properly trained in this procedure.