

## **PRPA WINTER ANCHORAGE SOP 2.9**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this SOP is to establish the minimum anchorage cable scope used by deep sea vessels assigned anchorages within Prince Rupert harbour during the winter season.

### **Objective**

To minimize the possibility of vessels dragging their anchor by establishing minimum cable scope used within the inner harbour.

### **Effective Period**

October 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

### **Background**

Prince Rupert harbour has distinct geographical differences in wind patterns with the strongest winds historically in the fall and winter months. Historically winter winds have sustained speeds above 20 knots occurring nearly 3% of the time with high variability in wind direction and gusts above 50 knots over 1% of the time.

### **Overview**

Winter weather patterns and historical cable scope for effective holding has suggested vessels anchoring in Prince Rupert's inner harbour during winter months should consider using maximum anchor cable available to mitigate the risk of dragging.

### **Implementation**

**Anchor cable.** Given the winter storms experienced between October 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> in the Prince Rupert area along with the known anchor holding capability within the inner harbour, vessels should use the maximum anchor cable available given their anchorage position. Accordingly, vessels should use a minimum of ten (10) shackles at the waterline during the winter storm period to mitigate risk of dragging the vessel's anchor.

**Ballast.** Vessels shall retain full ballast on board to keep the ship's propeller and rudder below the water line while at anchor until a confirmed loading time has been arranged.

All vessels should keep their engines on standby when at anchor and be prepared to take appropriate action should weather conditions worsen during winter storms.