



# anchorwitch

## Anchor Retrieval System

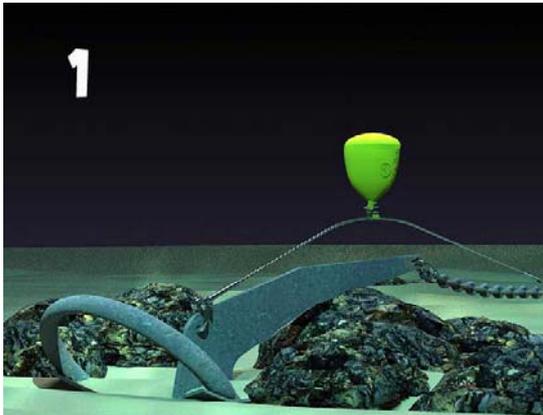
### User's Guide

AnchorWitch system is protected by international invention patents (pending). The AnchorWitch name is a registered trade mark. The patents and brand belong to Snipmac Innova SL ([www.snipmac.com](http://www.snipmac.com)), a company based in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. All rights reserved.

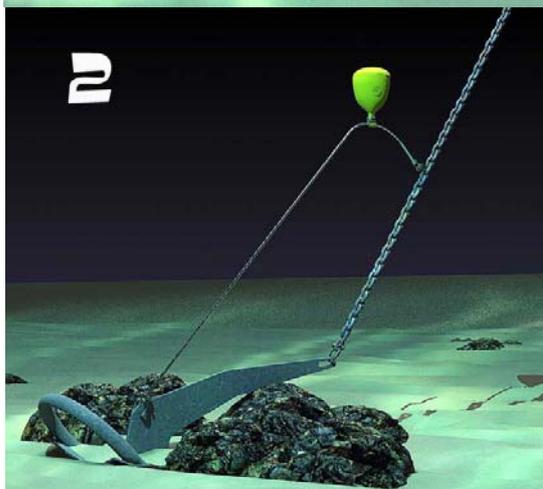
April 2012

**SNIPMAC INNOVA**

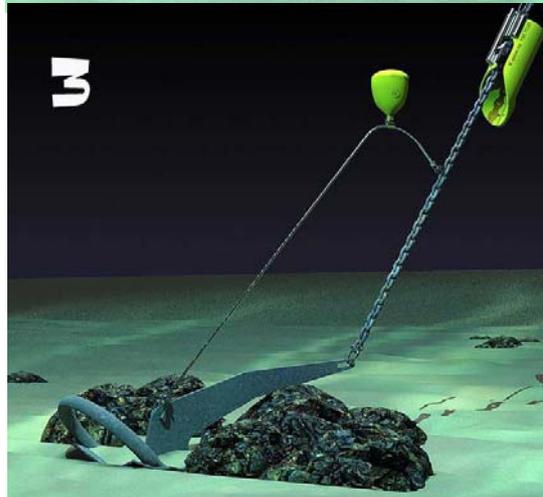
# How AnchorWitch works



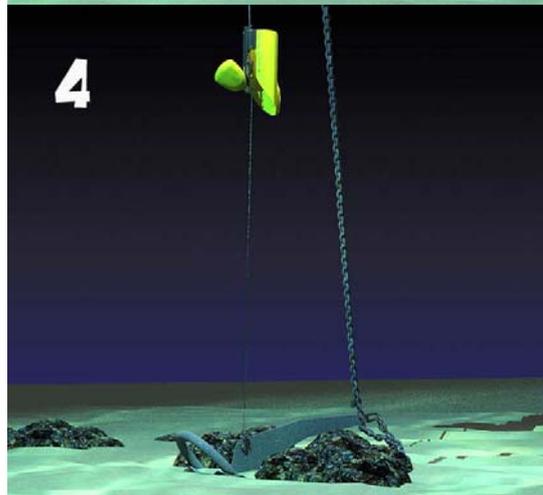
1. A small buoy slides freely along a stainless steel wire with appropriate swage eyes terminals, which connects the anchor crown to a point on the chain where a holder hook is mounted, at least 30 cm away from the anchor. The holder hook will only release the wire when pulled from the boat. These elements are permanently installed without hindering normal use of the chain or impairing the anchoring.



2. If we notice that the anchor resists being raised, this is the time to use the **AnchorWitch** rescue rig attached to a suitable line, pass the chain through the guide and allow the rig to drop down the chain.



3. The rescue rig drops down the chain until stopped by the wire, ready for coupling.

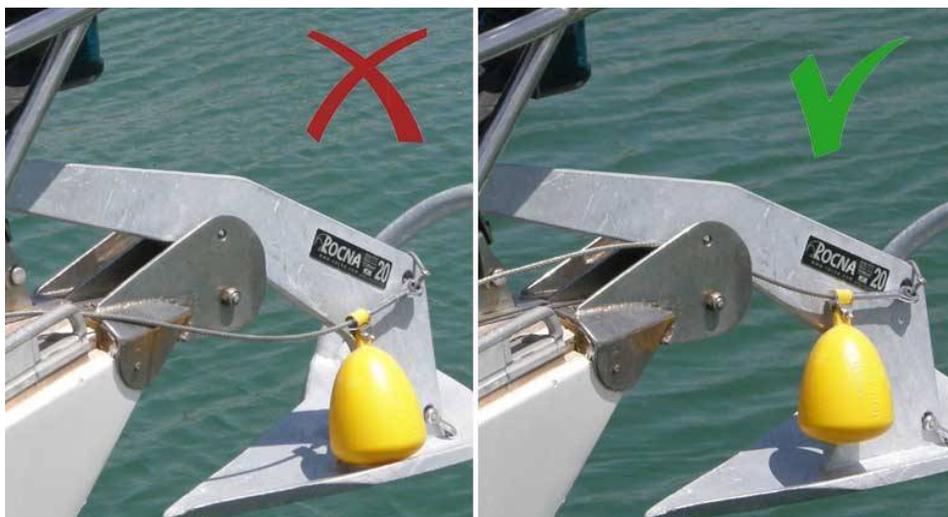


4. When the line is pulled, the wire is coupled to the rig and released from the chain. Now you can free the anchor by pulling on its crown, without any fear thanks to the system's high workload. The anchor is then retrieved normally and all that is left to do is release the rescue rig, reconnect the wire to the holder hook and everything is ready again.

***N.B. AnchorWitch will work properly on any fixed fluke anchor, i.e. anchors with well defined up and down parts, but it is not suitable for pivoting fluke anchors or grapnels. AnchorWitch M will fit the 8 mm (5/16'), 10 mm (3/8') and 12 mm (1/2') chain rode.***

## Operation tips

**Dropping the anchor** If your roller is not closed or not wide enough to ensure that the wire will be always well placed check that it is alongside the anchor before dropping it to prevent the wire getting caught, as shown in the photograph.



**Coupling the wire** You will need a 6 mm (1/4') good quality forged shackle and a line of sufficient length and resistance to tie the rig. When the boat is close to the anchor vertical, pass the chain through the guide and allow the rig to drop down the chain. When it stops, pull the line and you should have coupled the wire. If it does not couple after the second or third attempt, you will need to see if it is the chain rather than the anchor that is obstructed.

**Strong current** The rescue rig might become detached from the chain during lowering if the current is strong enough. To prevent this, close the rig as shown when needed, either with a twisted thin metal wire, a bent thicker wire or a thin nylon strap that will break loose when pulling from the boat.



**Deep anchoring** In this case it is advisable to add an additional weight near the end of the line that helps lower the rig more quickly minimizing braking caused by a long line. The same applies when the current is strong because it prevents the line being dragged horizontally.

**Freeing the anchor** If you cannot free the anchor by pulling vertically on the line with the windlass, let out a sufficient length of line and chain, tie the line to a cleat and motor slowly against the wind or current to pull the anchor horizontally.

**Two anchors in tandem** There is no problem, provided that the AnchorWitch wire and buoy is mounted on both and that the length of chain that joins the anchors is longer than the depth at the point where we are anchoring. If necessary we will retrieve the furthest anchor when the closest anchor is already on board.

# Installation

If a swivel connector is attached to the anchor, it should be moved first adding a suitable length of chain between the anchor and the swivel, where the wire holder will be mounted.

1. Let us check first the contents of the plastic bag. On the left hand side we see the pieces we need to mount the wire holder on the chain: the shackle, the hook, a 5 mm bolt and its self locking nut. On the lower part there is a cotter pin for mounting the buoy on the wire slider. On the right hand side we see a 2 meters length of stainless 0,5 mm wire.



2. Let us start the job by connecting the buoy to the slider on the wire. We only need to pass the cotter pin through the holes, and then properly fold the pin tips.



3. Now it is time to attach the wire's small terminal to an attachment point close to the anchor's crown, using a good quality forged stainless steel shackle no thinner than 6 mm (1/4') to match the wire's working load.



**4.** When selecting the chain link for attaching the wire holder, choose the first vertical link to which the wire strop can be connected without being taut when the chain is pulled, as in the photograph, since there is no need for additional slackness. When the anchor is parked on the roller, vertical links are normally on the same plane as the anchor's shank, and we select one of these so that the wire holder is always facing the anchor when submerged.



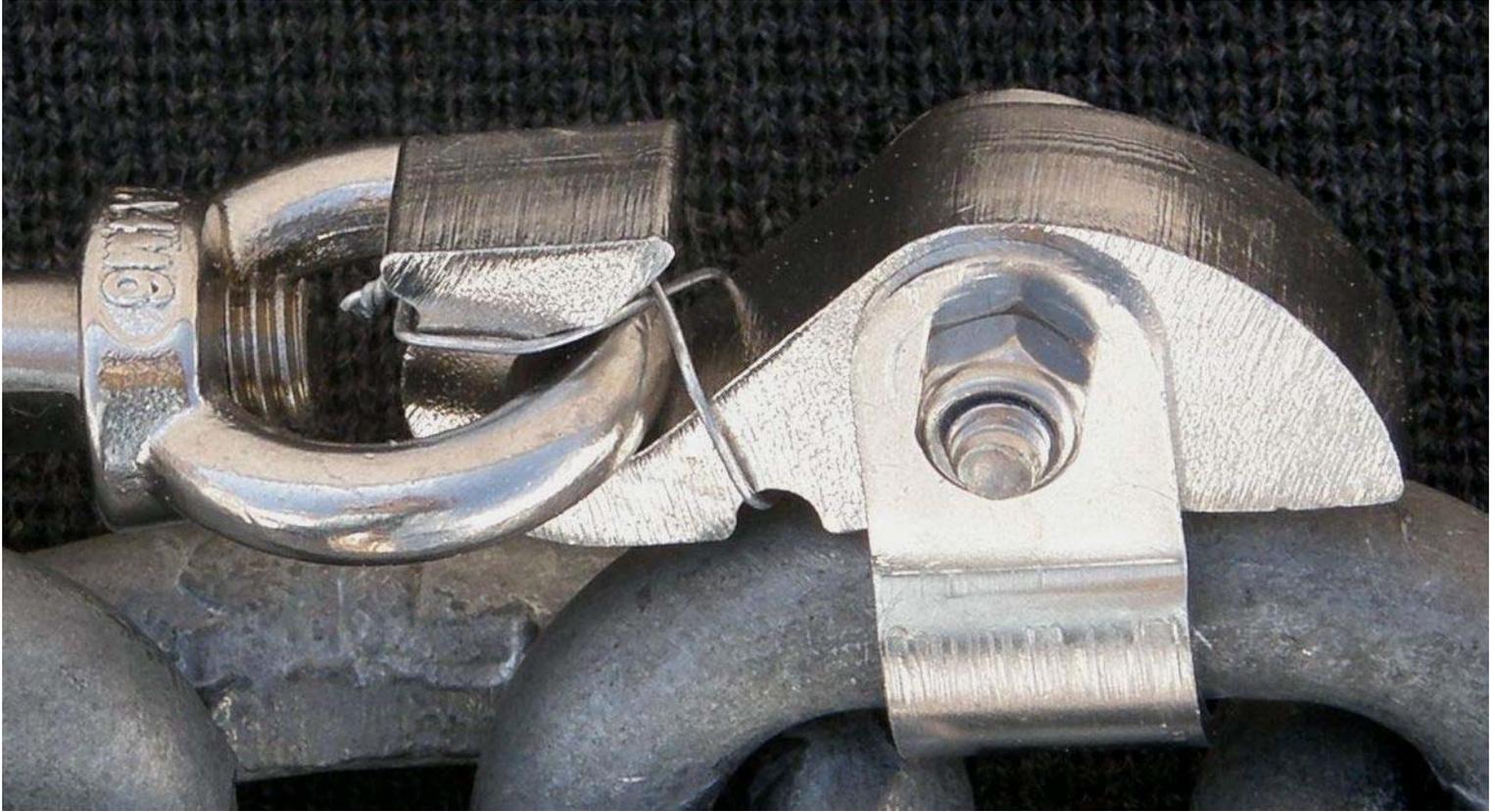
**5.** It is time to mount the wire holder on the selected link. To enable unrestricted movement, it is better to pass the shackle on the smooth side of the link, not on the welded one. If necessary we can turn the chain upside down to have the smoother part on the upper side.



**6.** Now let us pass the bolt through the shackle and the hook and tighten the nut.



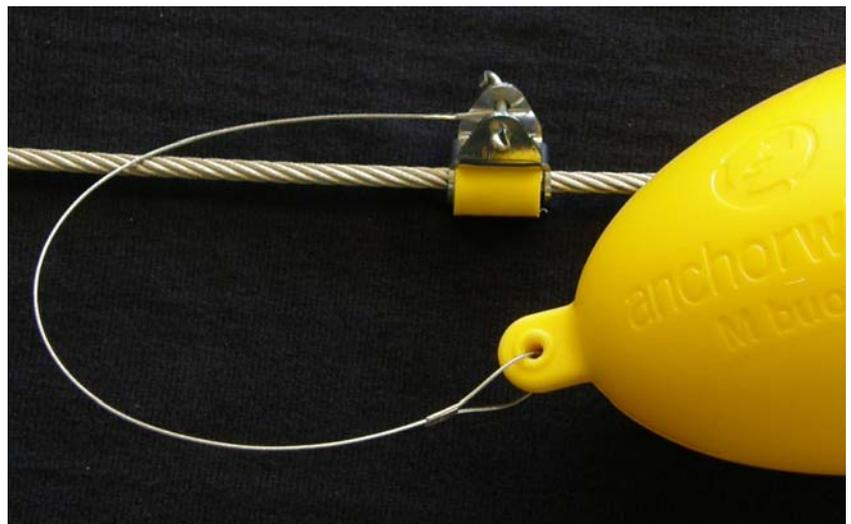
7. All that is left now is to close the holder with a length of the 0,5 mm wire tied with a few turns with the help of a pair of pliers as shown. This closing wire will be replaced after every use of the **AnchorWitch**.



### Installation tips

#### **Buoy attached with a wire trace**

If your roller is closed the buoy might prevent you from pulling the anchor in completely because it gets stuck. In this case you can use a length of flexible stainless steel wire of the type used in fishing rigs (not supplied) as long as you like and a pair of terminals that you can close easily with a pair of pliers, to attach the buoy to the **AnchorWitch** wire slider.



#### **Distance from the anchor to the hook**

30 cm (12") is the minimum distance to ensure the proper functioning of the system when the anchor is stuck and its shank is free of obstructions, but the lower part of the chain might also become obstructed though,

especially if we have had the misfortune of getting stuck in a deep crevice or a coral reef. In this case, the longer the distance the better your chances will be of coupling the wire to the rescue rig. If there is room enough between your anchor and your windlass choose a longer wire.

### **Undersize chain or rope only rode**

You should add a suitable length of either an 8 mm (5/16') or 10 mm (3/8') chain to your rode.

### **Chain and line joined by a thimble and shackle**

No problem provided the wider piece is less than 10 cm (4') wide.

## **Maintenance**

All the components are maintenance-free, because all the steel used is marine grade. However, it is advisable to look after the moving parts:

- After using the rescue rig, allow it to dry and apply a little oil to the spring's housing. Always leave the PVC tube inside to prevent any deformation during storage.
- As for the wire keep an eye out for the appearance of broken wires from the terminals, which may mean it needs replacing.

## **Guarantee**

Five years from the purchase date, as stated on the website. If any failure occurs during this period we will send you a new part free of charge.

## **Contact**

Contact us at any time at [contact@snipmac.com](mailto:contact@snipmac.com). We would be pleased to hear your experiences if you would like to share them with us. Our product web site ([www.anchorwitch.com](http://www.anchorwitch.com)) and our company web site ([www.snipmac.com](http://www.snipmac.com)) will be continually updated with news and press releases, and any question of general interest will be added to the FAQ list.

# AnchorWitch M specifications



## Rescue rig

**Part number**

3 mm electro-polished stainless A4 steel plate. 700 kg working load. Polyamide 6 (nylon) guide 10 cm inner diameter. Lead weights. Inner PVC black tube for storage on board.

**Suitable for 8 mm to 12 mm chain rode**

**AWMR**

## Holder hook

10 mm and 1.5 mm electro-polished stainless A4 steel plates.  
5 mm stainless A4 bolt and Nylstop nuts. 0,5 mm stainless A4 wire.

**Suitable for**

8 mm (5/16') chain
10 mm (3/8') chain
12 mm (1/2') chain

**AWH08**

**AWH10**

**AWH12**

## Buoy

High density polyethylene (HDPE) UV resistant, 10 cm diameter, 5 N buoyancy, 20 m maximum recommended depth.

**AWMB**

## Wire strop

5 mm 7 x 19 A4 stainless steel, 700 kg working load. Swage terminals.

**Standard lengths** Between 90 cm and 160 cm, with 10 cm differences

**AW5Wnn**

**Special lengths** Any length 80 cm – 200 cm , excepting standards

**AW5Wnnn**