

“Finally, a solution with the captain in mind”

AnchorGuardian – putting safety when anchoring first.

Swiss Ocean Tech spends much time speaking with captains, and listening to their concerns and hopes when it comes to the anchoring procedure. When we ask what safety when anchoring means to them, the answers usually revolve around three main categories: protecting the environment, the people on board and the vessel itself, not necessarily always in that order. According to YETI¹ research, 30 per cent of a yacht’s time is spent at anchor, so there is good reason to focus on this element. One captain’s answer was particularly revealing: “What my one deckhand interprets as 1 metre can easily be 10 metres for the next when anchoring. Safety to me is having confidence in the information I am receiving.”

Although anchoring is an age-old craft, it has not changed much over the centuries. An experienced captain still relies very much on skill, intuition and know-how. As the yachts get bigger and the crews larger, there is a strong element of trust and teamwork at play. Add to that an ever-increasing fluctuation in personnel and then, “I wish sleeping with one-eye open were not so literal”, as one captain told us. This is where AnchorGuardian comes in.

AnchorGuardian is bringing safety to anchoring for sailor, ship and sea. It offers a unique innovative solution combining proprietary and state-of-the-art sensors to move anchoring from reactive to proactive. The solution monitors the movement and position of a ship’s anchor, delivering intelligent data to support the crew while laying/lifting the anchor and during the entire anchoring procedure. Main functionalities include:

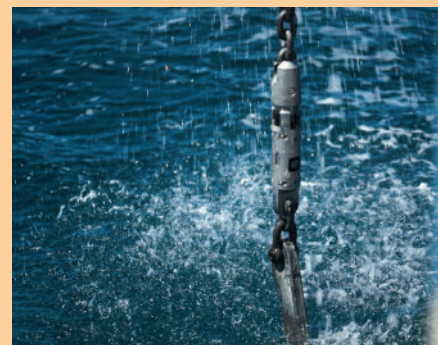
- Dragging distance
- Force at anchor
- Sediment detection
- Anchor roll angle
- Anchor position on electronic chart
- Chain angle at anchor
- Chain amount on seabed



- Anchor hold prediction
- Depth of anchor

The patented technology operates independent of GPS and any movement of the ship, all enabling the captain to make informed and safe decisions based on factual in real time data.

As the season moves into full swing, responsible captains must inform themselves of current regulations around the Med for both the protection of marine ecosystems but also the avoidance of heavy fines. Rash anchoring can come with a heavy price tag for both captains and owners alike. There once was a time boats could anchor freely in every and any destination they chose, but those times are changing and superyachts need to change with them. Dedicated platforms outlining existing laws should be the go-to resource when planning the travel schedule. Another captain we spoke said, “I think our oceans will be better off with AnchorGuardian because it will stop the anchor slippage situation where we are not dragging anchor enough to re-anchor, but we are ploughing up the seabed. By warning us before our anchor drags rather than



afterwards, it means we are not dragging this anchor through the seabed and destroying the environment we have come there to enjoy.” It is a coordinated effort to future-proof the industry.

To be clear, AnchorGuardian does not replace a captain or crew member, nor does it change how one anchors, what it does do is provide intelligence about what is happening with the anchor in real time. As another captain told us, “It is putting the power where it belongs – in the captain’s hands.”

1. waterrevolutionfoundation.org/activities/yacht-environmental-transparency-index/