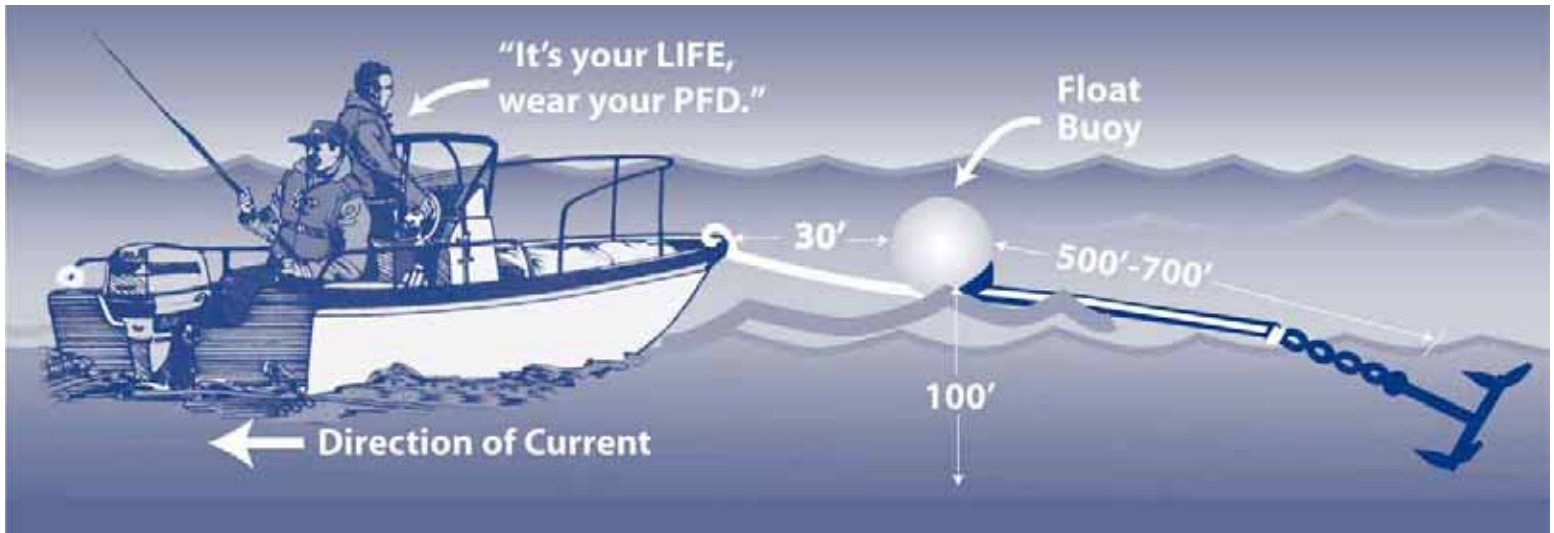




US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Portland District

Anchor Safely

in the Columbia River



Swift currents, high flows and cold water make the following procedures imperative.

1 Use anchor lines that are 5-7 times the depth of the water. River depth may exceed 100 feet in some places. Use a float for the anchor line to serve as a buffer and to reduce the risk of getting the anchor line tangled in the propeller. See the diagram above.

- Lower, do not throw, the anchor to avoid tangles in the line.
- Anchor only off the point of the bow. Anchoring off the stern or the side will capsize your boat.

2 Power upstream of anchor before retrieving it. Maintain position in line with flow of the current while retrieving anchor. Turning cross-wise to the current increases the risk of capsizing.

3 The Columbia River can become turbulent with little or no warning. You are advised to wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) at all times. Also, take precautions against hypothermia. River temperatures can range from 70 degrees in the summer to near freezing during the winter.

4 River users are reminded that although it is legal to anchor in the channel, it is illegal to block the right-of-way of a vessel that is restricted to using the channel.

5 Five blasts of a horn signify danger and you must take action to avoid that danger.

visit the Corps of Engineers National Water Safety site:
<http://watersafety.usace.army.mil>