

Rescue Towing at Sea

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Rescue Towing at Sea



A Real Life Tow

After a 300-mile passage in the SW Pacific, our friends on s/v Shango found their starter was kaput.

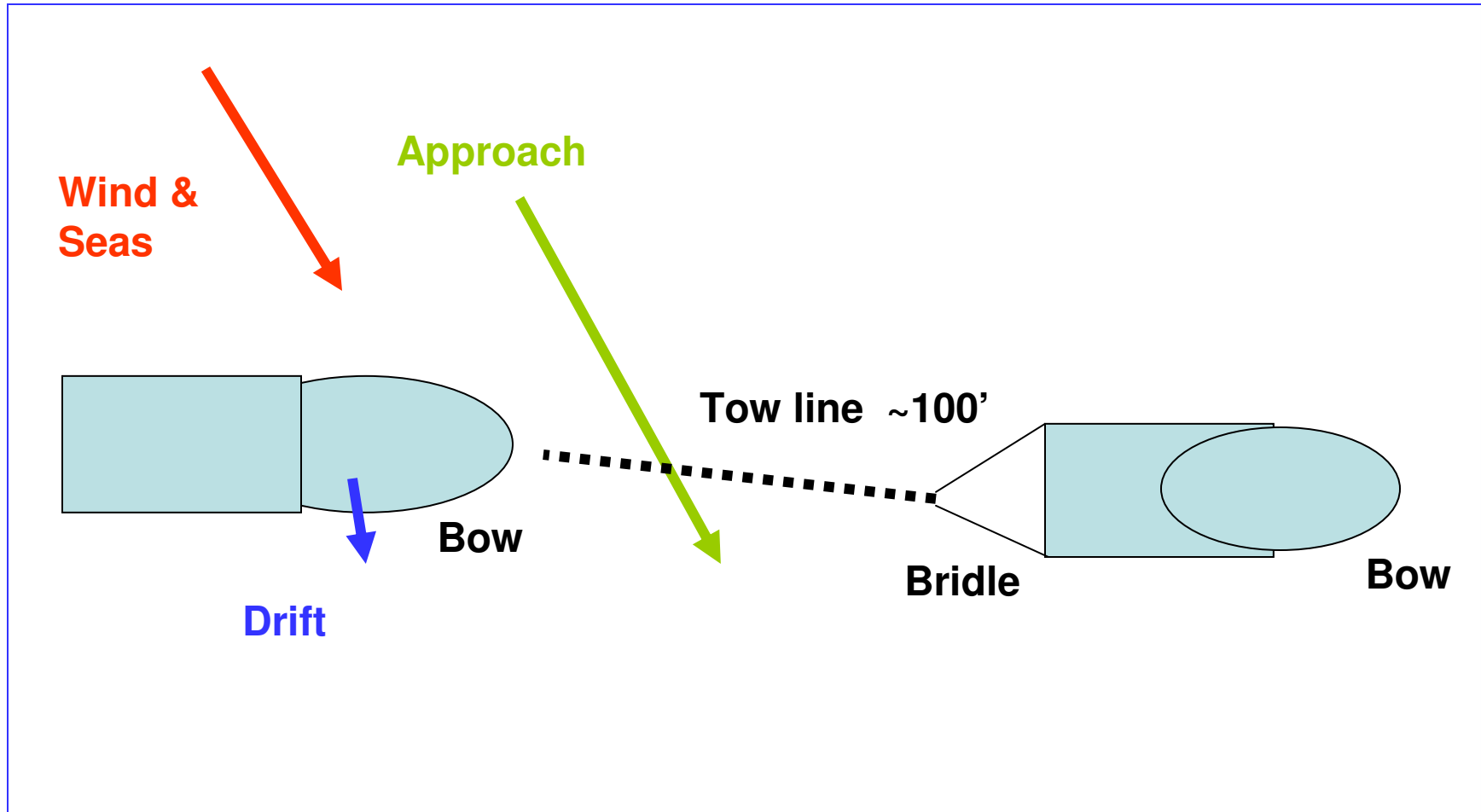
They sailed to the outer harbor in Neiafu, Tonga and waited for us to take them in tow.

Most of the pictures in this presentation were taken by Linda of s/v Chesapeake, who was standing by to assist.

Towing at Sea Considerations

- Establish VHF comms
- Rig bridle on your boat, no chafe
- Prep tow line, minimum ~100', size?
- Rig small diameter throw line to end of tow line
- Discuss approach w/ towed vessel
- Discuss tow line attachment to towed vessel, over bow roller or bridle to very strong point
- Very slow approach from windward, astern
- Drift in front, then very slow acceleration after hookup
- Tow speed based on sea conditions
- Towed vessel rudder amidships

Towing at Sea



SV Shango Rescue at Sea



**Approach from Windward & Behind
~~45 degree angle**

Shango Tow

Tossing the small line



← Bridle rigged to run free

Shango Tow



Shango Tow

Holding station just off bow

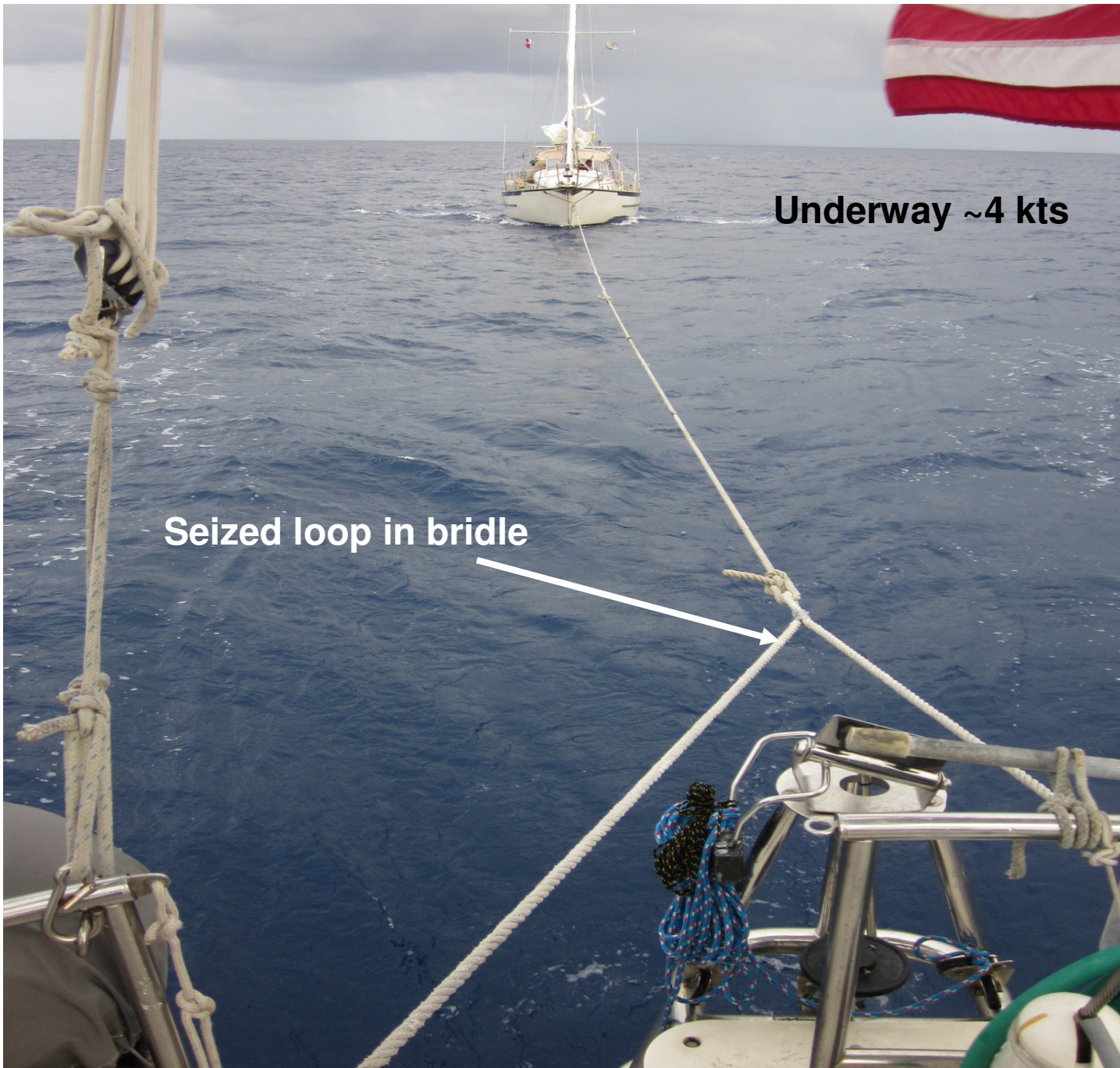
**Allowing time for towed
boat to secure towing line**



Shango Tow

Very slow acceleration starting tow





Underway ~4 kts

Seized loop in bridle





Shango Starter