



WEIGHTED MONKEY FIST ON HEAVING LINE

By Capt Arie Nygh - CHIRP Ambassador

When undertaking annual competency assessments in a New Zealand port I witnessed a heaving line being thrown from a raised fore' castle of a bulker in ballast onto the fore' deck of an ASD tug, landing right beside the seaman on the tug.

Without a moments hesitation the seaman had whipped his knife out and cut the Monkey's Fist off the heaving line, but then attached a new rudder heaving line weight to the ship's line, tied the tug's topline messenger line to it and sent the whole lot back up to the ship.

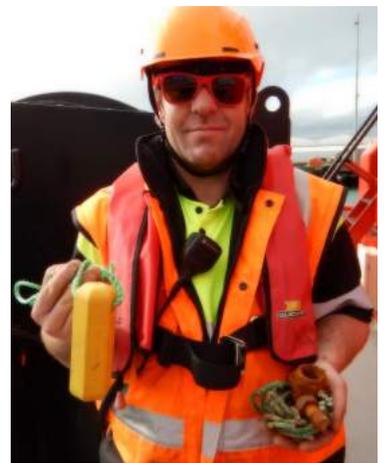
After the towage movement was complete we cut the, very heavy, monkey's fist open to find it had a large metal nut & bolt in its interior. If this hit a tug crewmember in the head it would be lethal.

I was most impressed that the seaman was so proactive towards safe operations but more so that the towage company had at their own expense manufactured a safe alternative to gift to the ship's crew.



The "green" Monkey's Fist was well made & very heavy!

The "yellow" rubber replacement heaving line weight is designed not to injure tug crews & not to bounce when hitting the tug's deck.



Note the large metal bolt & nut hidden in the centre of the Monkey Fist!

As an aside: note the "yellow" diver's knife. It is stainless steel so it won't rust, has on one side a serrated blade to cut Poly rope & on the other a normal edge to cut HMPE type rope.