

How to enter your cradle on the Ramp at Grangers Point in 2026

Hauling a boat is easy. Just follow these steps, born of over 40 years' experience. You need two on board.

Preparation

Adjust your cradle's front and rear arms ('horns') to meet your boat's dimensions. The front horns act as a 'stop' to prevent your keel going too far ahead. The rear arms must be wide enough to allow the greatest width (beam) of your boat to pass through. Your cradle needs a bright coloured tape on the front starboard arm so the Yard Foreman knows how far to submerge the cradle. The tape shows the height from your keel to the waterline.

The boat owner is responsible for providing **three good ropes** (minimum diameter, 12 mm) which must be correctly attached to the cradle prior to hauling. Neatly coil the loose ends and attach firmly to the top of the cradle arms (you will collect them when floating in the cradle). **Rope 1** on the starboard arm, **ropes 2 and 3** on the port arm.

Ropes 1 and 2 ('Horn Lines') are attached correctly to the forward cradle arms. You must read 'How to measure your boat...'. The length of your boat determines where you attach the Horn Lines to the cradle.

When the boat is in the cradle, the Horn Lines are attached to cleats on each side at the aft end of the boat.

Rope 3 runs from the trolley. See below: in the cradle, you secure it to the bow cleat, with about 150 mm of slack.

Haul Time: You will be told a time for your Haul. By this time you must be tied correctly to the east pole (marked **E**).

How to arrive at the east pole

Allow extra time as there is a steady tidal flow from the east (red arrow).

Counter that tidal flow by approaching from further to the east (black arrow).

*Gently 'drift down' and then tuck inside the pole (marked **E**) easily.*

On the pole is a white rope. Attach this to the cleat on your starboard stern side, and **tie off**, as close to the pole as you can. Stop your engine.

If there is a boat at the east pole, kill time. Be ready to tie on as soon as the other boat is hauled.

Preparing to enter the cradle

*The key to your Haul is the **white rope** attached to the pole. Tie your stern as close as possible to the pole, feed most of the white rope into your cockpit.*

Call the Yard Foreman for slack if necessary - he is at the purple arrow.

Drape the remaining white rope along the starboard side of your boat and through the fairlead on your bows and **make fast**. There should be about 4 metres of white rope left in the water until the **blue rope** starts.

Your cradle will soon move down the ramp.

Remain tied to the pole until the cradle has stopped moving.

Remember that the white rope is 'draped on' your boat

Quite soon it will not be needed. You throw it overboard beyond the starboard side of the cradle.

How to enter the cradle

Pay attention to the Yard Foreman. Take a couple of turns on the white rope, around your stern cleat. When instructed by the Foreman carefully ease the white rope on the stern cleat as the Haulout Team pull on the **blue rope**. Watch how your boat is lying. Working together, the **blue rope** (them) and white rope (**you**) can keep the boat going straight into the cradle.

At the bows

Your second hand will help guide the boat onto the cradle.

Avoid snagging the pulpit and its light fittings on the cradle's arms.

When in the cradle ...

Three ropes prevent your boat falling backwards when going up the ramp.

1 and 2: Untie the Horn Lines and attach to cleats at the aft end of the boat. Tension each rope **firmly** but they should not be tight. Ensure the line of the rope is **straight** and **not snagged or bent** on an obstruction.

Ensure starboard horn line is under white rope draped along the side. It will soon be thrown overboard.

At the bows

3: Lead **Rope 3** over your bows and attach firmly, with about 150mm slack.

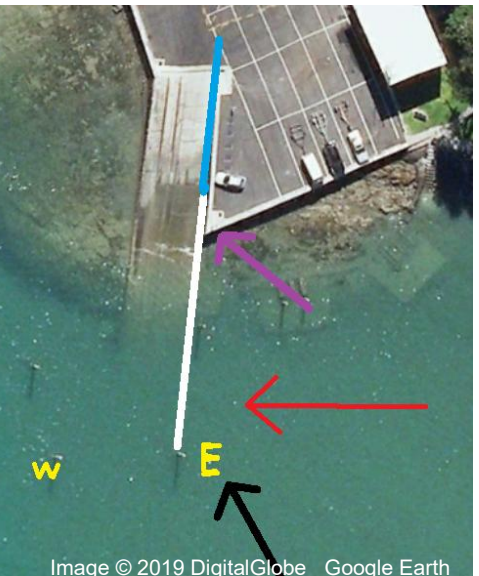


Image © 2019 DigitalGlobe Google Earth



(Photo above, black arrow shows bow rope).

Those blue and white ropes

When secure in your cradle and instructed by the Yard Foreman, detach the white rope from your boat and throw it overboard beyond the starboard side of the cradle. The blue and white ropes always remain tied together.

Moving up the Ramp

You will be told where to sit to keep boat upright. Hold onto shrouds or mast; the boat can jerk without warning.

Print this page and have it with you on board when your boat is hauled.