

You Know You've Been Anchored Too Long When...©2006

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Obviously, cruisers love to travel. That's why we have sailboats! But after so many days of beating to windward, getting caught in fish traps, dealing with surly custom officials, negotiating harrowing reef-strewn channels and dragging anchor in the middle of the night, it is time to find a safe, sheltered anchorage to rest, recharge and recuperate.

Some cruisers find the perfect spot, throw down the anchor and seem to take up residence in their new little world. When asked if they ever plan to leave, these same sailors look askance, as if saying "we haven't been here that long!" How can one determine if they have been anchored too long in one place and it is time to move on in search of brighter horizons?

Here is a list of sure-fire examples to help you decide if you have been in one place too long:

You know you've been anchored too long when...

- You have replaced your shaft zinc for the fifth time in Chaguaramas
- The boat boys in the Tobago Cays routinely bring you fresh bread and lettuce every three days without asking
- The bottom of your boat anchored in the lagoon on St. Maarten looks like a spectacular snorkeling reef
- Your anchor chain lying on the bottom of Falmouth Harbour looks bright and shiny when you see it come out of the water because the critters have eaten the galvanized coating off the links
- The local fishermen from Union Island greet you as "my brother"
- The supply ship "Deliverance" comes to your boat first on Norman Island insuring that you get the freshest vegetables before the charter boats stock up
- The highlight of your Sunday afternoon is eating at Roger's BBQ in the Hog Island anchorage
- The "Daffodil" fuel barge in Bequia offers to change their fuel filter **before** pumping your weekly allotment of diesel
- The oyster fishermen in Tyrell Bay don't even bother to ask if you would like any fresh seafood from the mangroves

- The Prickly Bay anchorage in Grenada doesn't seem so rolly
- Cobwebs have formed on your pedestal and wheel
- You dream of Super Walmart stores lining the Carenage in Trinidad
- The French checkout woman at Champions in Marin greets you by name, in English!
- The mega yacht's have all hired completely new crew members
- You have a groove worn into the wooden plank beneath the cleat at Island Water World on St. Maarten
- The water color in Jolly Harbour reminds you of the Bahamas
- Jesse James and all of his drivers instinctively honk their horns to say Hi! as you take your daily walk to Budget Marine in Chaguaramas
- The people's heads getting in the way on the pirated DVD you bought in St. John's, Antigua doesn't seem to bother you anymore
- The food court at Spiceland Mall in Grenada is starting to look appetizing
- You want to buy chicken at the KFC at JQ's Shopping Center near Rodney Bay Marina
- Paying \$45 for a steak dinner sounds reasonable at Crew's Inn Marina
- You think that charging \$67 by the laundry lady in English Harbour for three loads of laundry is fair
- The Bay Hosts at St. John don't tell you about the pay station any more

I'm sure you can continue this list with your own ideas to help decide if you have been in one place too long. If you agree with two or more of the above criteria then it is time to raise those big white shapes that are attached to those long pointed things sticking up into the sky from the middle of your boat. Remember that you are a sailor looking for **new** adventures. Sail on!

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