

Towing a Waka

Having first looked after the safety of your paddlers, if you are going to tow the Waka you need to be prepared.

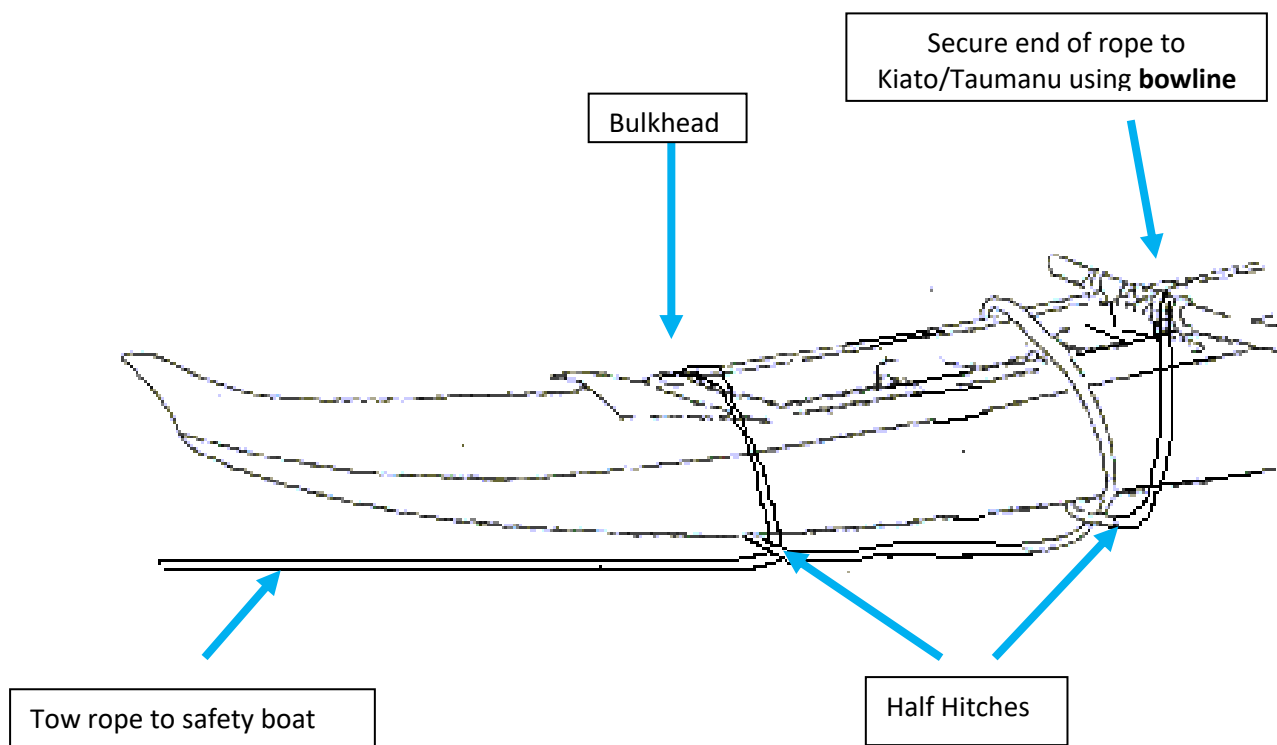
The most important part of equipment when towing a Waka that is recommended by Waka Ama NZ safety rules is 40m tow rope. In the event that a Waka has capsized and the crew is unable to re-right the Waka due to conditions, lack of energy etc. the Waka should be towed to shore as prompt as possible.



For long distance racing a towline should be fastened across the kiato, as part of setting up for the race.

To attach the tow line to the safety boat:

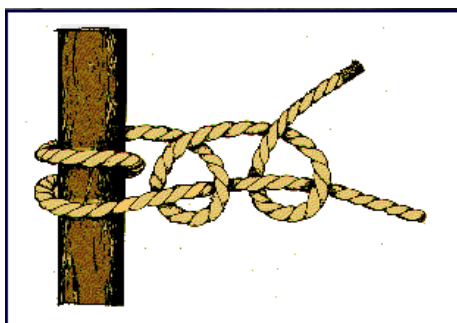
1. Seats 2 & 3 undo the tow rope from the kiato and pass to 1.
2. Place two half hitches in the rope and position one at the number 1 or 2 seat and the other at the bulkhead in front of seat 1.
3. Make sure the knots of the half hitches are at the bottom of the waka. This helps lift the waka when it is being towed. This is important as when the waka is towed the bow will otherwise tend to wander from side to side resulting in the waka travelling sideways, broaching and possibly flipping
4. Pass the rope to the Safety Boat that will be towing you.
5. It is advisable to have at least 1 person (Steerer) remain in the waka to help provide direction to the waka. It can also be handy to have seat 1 also sit in the waka if the weather is rough.
6. Before towing commences, the crew should try to bail as much of the water out of the hull as possible.
7. If waves break over the waka or water come in while towing the paddler in the waka should bail the water out as quickly as possible



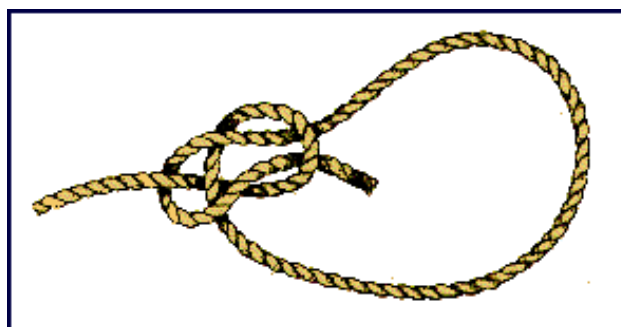
USEFUL KNOTS

To operate any boat you should be able to tie a couple of basic knots. The bowline and round turn & two half hitches are probably the two most useful knots. Either would be suitable when attaching a tow line.

Round turn & two half hitches:



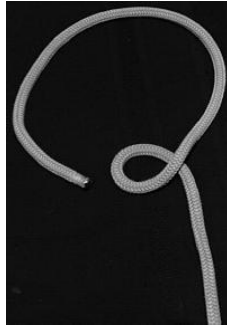
Bowline:



STEPS TO TYING A BOWLINE

Step 1

Arrange the rope as shown, with a small loop in the standing part and the end going around the object the loop is to be tied around.



Step 2

Insert the end through the loop.



Step 3

Pull the end around and behind the standing part.



Step 4

Insert the end back through the loop



Step 5

Dress and set the knot.



Rear View



Front View

