



Glowfast Tether

The most intriguing feature of Glowfast Marine's Glowfast safety tether isn't its glow-in-the-dark striping; it's the high-load release system that allows the wearer to free himself in situations when a standard snap shackle would fail to open (something PS explored in the April 2011 issue; see online). Using a slip-ring release similar to what's used in extreme sports and parachutes, the Glowfast is the only tether we've tested that releases effortlessly at loads over 250 pounds. The problem is that once you trip the release, you're advised to take it to an authorized dealer so it can be repacked. However, you can repack it yourself—we did—and Glowfast's website links to a video that shows how to do it.

What caught our attention was the lack of a snap shackle at the harness end. This keeps cost down, but should you need to release yourself in a non-emergency—disentangle yourself from a genoa sheet, for example—you cannot quickly clip yourself back in. Testers also noted that the release can trip accidentally in confused conditions on deck, when you need it most.

Bottom line: If you like the Glowfast tether concept, add a snap shackle at the harness side.