

Californian Line Captain
Responsibilities and SOP
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Overall responsibility

Line captains organize and lead crews to set sails. During setting sail, they work with their belay crew person and the other line captain, and communicate with the mate, crew and guests that will haul the halyards to set sail. During sail dousing, line captains ease their individual halyards in cooperation with the other line captain under direction of the first mate.

Setting Fore/Main Sails

The mate will call “Hands to set sail. Man the Main/Fore sail gear.” Tell your hauling crew where to stand in line. Tell them what line they’ll be hauling.

When you are on the foresail be sure each halyard runs under the gaff vang lines. Ask for a volunteer to hold the vang turning block so it doesn’t hit crew and guests.

Check that your belay person has eased the downhaul and outhaul by taking them off their pins. Then your belay person will be first in line after you during hauling.

Tell your crew and guests: **You are on the main throat/main peak/fore throat/fore peak halyard. When I ask you if you are ready on the _____ halyard, I want to hear a hearty ‘Ready Aye’. Are you ready on the _____ halyard?**

Haulers respond with “ready aye.” If it’s not loud enough, ask them again. When your crew has answered satisfactorily, inform the mate: **Main throat/main peak/fore throat/fore peak halyard manned and ready.**

When the first mate orders “Ease the downhauls and outhauls, haul away the halyards” order your crew to: **Haul away.** When you are on the peak start hauling slowly and watch the aft end of the gaff to see that it is running fair between the two lifts. (If it does not, the mate will call Avast. Follow any subsequent commands.) You can say ‘smartly’ or ‘slowly’ to coordinate hoisting of the sail in normal fashion.

When the first mate orders “That’s well the _____ halyard. Pass the stopper and belay” you order your crew: **Hold the line.** You pass the stopper. To test whether it is secure and holding you order your crew: **Stopper’s passed. Easy up.** When you see the stopper is holding, order: **Stopper’s holding. Up behind.** Your belay person will then belay the line. You may need to tell your guest haulers to: **Drop the line.** When the line is belayed

securely, call to the mate: **Main throat/Main peak/Fore throat/Fore peak halyard fast.** Make sure your belay person makes up the outhaul and downhaul. If you have time remove the stopper from the halyard and make it up. If not, leave it in place and come back later.

Dowsing Fore/Main Sails

The mate will order ‘Hands to take sail. Man the _____ gear’, you go to your halyard. Your belay person will be in charge of finding crew/guests to man the downhauls and outhauls. Your belay person will take the downhauls and outhauls off their pins. Check that has happened. It is best to have regular crew handle the outhauls. Guests usually do well with the downhauls.

You take the halyard down to one and a half or two turns (whatever you are comfortable with) and call to the mate: **Main throat/Main peak/Fore throat/Fore peak halyard, manned and ready.** (When you are on the forepeak halyard the mate might order you to ease the peak ___feet or so. This is so he/she can take in on the fore sheet and secure it more tightly so the boom will not swing.)

When the mate calls out “On the Main/Fore sail, ease the halyards, haul away the downhauls and outhauls” you ease your halyard, controlling it around the pin. When you are on the peak halyard, while easing, keep the peak up a little above the throat. The throat leads. The two line captains must coordinate their actions.

When you are on a throat halyard, watch for the shoe as it comes down between the mast hoops and the mast. Allow the bottom of the shoe to slowly slip between the mast hoops and the mast. The boom should be supported by the throat halyard about 2-3” above the upper mast hoop. Call out-**Main/Fore throat halyard fast.**

When you are on the peak halyard, you will allow the gaff to settle onto the sail as low as possible. The mate will be pulling the button lanyard around the bottom of the boom and passing the button through its eye. When the mate has this done, he’ll order “Button’s made. Take a strain on the peak.” It will take a few hauls on your peak halyard to lift the aft end of the gaff so that the button lanyard becomes taut. When the mate calls out “That’s well the peak” you belay your halyard and call to the mate: **Main/Fore peak halyard fast.** Check to be sure your belay person makes fast the outhauls and downhauls.

Setting Headsails

The brace bench crew will be tending/manning the headsail downhauls and outer tack pendant. Your belay person will be first in line on your halyard to bring the halyard to the pin to sway. The mate will call, "Hands to set sail. Man the staysail/inner jib/outer jib gear." You go to your halyard. Your belay person will be first in line to haul the halyard. Instruct your crew which halyard they are on and ask if they are ready. When they have answered "Ready aye" sufficiently boisterously, call to the mate:

Staysail/Inner Jib/ Outer Jib halyard manned and ready. Then the mate calls "On the Staysail/Inner Jib/Outer Jib, ease your downhauls/tack pendant, haul away the halyard, tend your sheets." Order your crew: **Haul away.**

When the mate calls out "Take the halyard to the pin and sweat/sway it up" order your crew in sequence: **That's well. Hold the line. Easy up. Up behind.** These orders will enable your belay person to bring the halyard to the pin and take a turn around the top of the pin. The belay is not made until later. The belay person will get into position to tail the line while you and other crew sway the line. Make sure the belay person has their hands a safe distance from the pin. The Outer Jib halyard requires 3 or 4 crew to haul. You will not have a guest crew on the line.

When the sail is up, the mate will call: "That's well the halyard, make it fast." Once the line is belayed call to the mate: **Staysail/Inner Jib/Outer Jib halyard fast.**

Dousing Headsails

When the mate calls out "Hands to take sail. Man the Staysail/Inner Jib/Outer Jib gear" go to your halyard. Take your halyard down to 1 ½ or two turns, whatever you are comfortable with, and inform the mate: **Staysail/Inner Jib/ Outer Jib halyard manned and ready.**

When the mate orders "On the Staysail/Inner Jib/Outer Jib, ease the halyard, haul away the downhauls, tend your sheets" you ease the halyard. After the downhauls have been belayed the mate will give you an order to "Take a strain on the halyard and make it fast." You do that and call out to the mate: **Halyard's fast.**

Elements of the Line Captain Speech

Emphasize safety while handling lines

Describe how important it is to listen for commands from you line captain.

Spread out with about 3 feet between each guest crew

Haul means-Hand-over-hand pulling on the line

Main Commands

Preliminary: "We are on the (blank line). I am going to ask: Are we ready on the (blank line?) I want you to respond with a loud 'ready aye'"

Haul away- haul hand-over-hand; follow speed of line captain's hands

Hold the line- Stop hauling and hold on to the line with both hands until next command

Avast- means same as hold the line only more urgent

Easy up- hold onto the line and take 3 or 4 steps towards the line captain or until you hear that's well which means to stop where you are

Up behind- means let go of the line, let it fall to the deck, and raise your hands up to your ears to show that you have released the line

Easy- means go more slowly