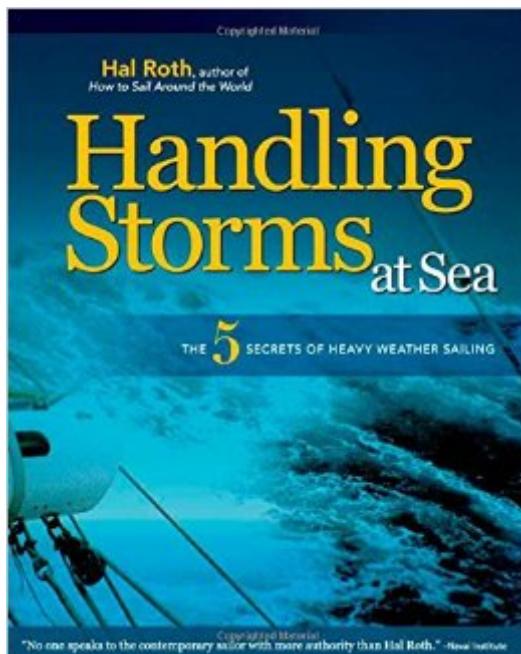


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# HANDLING STORMS AT SEA: The 5 Secrets Of Heavy Weather Sailing



## Synopsis

The definitive guide to a critical, hotly debated topic How should a sailor cope with storms at sea? Some advocate heaving-to, others running off. Some say trail a sea anchor over the bow, others a drogue astern. The stakes in the discussion couldn't be higher, or the consensus lower. Finally, preeminent sailor/author Hal Roth offers a practical strategy that can evolve and respond as storms grow stronger.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hal Roth writes extremely well and is as knowledgeable on this subject as anyone. After a well informed discussion of how unusual really bad weather actually is, the author gets on to what to do about it when you find yourself drawing the statistical short-straw. The book covers a number of different approaches for dealing with weather ranging from just a little too rough for comfort right up to a hurricane. As always the writing is well balanced and Roth openly discusses the opinions and data of other experts and compares it to his own observations. One good example of this is a good discussion of Lin and Larry Pardey's excellent work- 'Storm tactics handbook' and an extensive discussion on not only heaving to but also on the pros and cons of sea anchors deployed off the bow. The book is an excellent read and extremely informative. My only minor criticism is that much of the material is already covered by Roth's superb book 'How to sail around the world' and if you only want to purchase one book, I'd go with that one as it covers most of the storm handling

techniques discussed in the new book, plus much more. Still, I am very glad that Hal has published this new book and it will have a permanent place on my sailing bookshelf.

**HANDLING STORMS AT SEA: The 5 Secrets of Heavy Weather Sailing** I have read, with pleasure, Hal Roth's new book, "Handling Storms at Sea". I am quoted extensively in the book, so I am sure I am biased in its favor. However, I think he did a good job of describing the relative infrequency of serious storms, and he proposed a number of useful techniques for handling the storms. I have much enjoyed big seas and strong winds, especially when sailing in the high latitudes. I think books like this might help people enjoy the beauty and excitement of big seas while helping to limit the associated risks. Hal Roth was a great sailor and a great writer, and I think this book is a most useful addition to his list of titles.

There are a number of books for yacht skippers about heavy weather and storms at sea. I've read them all and have learned from each, but until Hal Roth's latest book, *Handling Storms At Sea*, no single source has presented the subject in such a comprehensive and concise manner. What distinguishes Roth's book from others on this subject is his meticulous research coupled with his vast, worldwide sailing experience. These qualities have also made his other technical sailing books superb reading and reference. As always, Roth writes with precision, clarity and appropriate humor, offering realistic advice based upon his experiences and those of others. Whether you have offshore experience already or are a relative beginner, this book will increase your theoretical skills, help you decide on the storm safety equipment you want for your boat, and boost your confidence level in dealing with strong winds and large waves. After the excellent, concluding chapter on fear and uncertainty, there is a brief glossary and the still-relevant and detailed *Barometer and Weather Guide (1858)* by Rear Admiral Robert FitzRoy. *Handling Storms At Sea* and Roth's previous book, *How to Sail Around the World*, should be required reading for those venturing offshore or dreaming about the possibilities.

You may be able to find much of what's in this book by searching for months or even years in the libraries, public and private, looking through stacks of magazines, talking to experts (real and assumed) and still never cover what Hal Roth has presented in his superb work. The first half is devoted to a number of different schemes for what to do if you're faced with 'handling a storm at sea' while offshore in a small vessel. The second half is devoted to how to reduce the probability of getting caught out in the first place. I can't recommend it highly enough for anyone with the desire to

sail off over that horizon -- or even for some first-class, hair-raising reading! Ocean voyaging in itself is not inherently dangerous, at least for those who have taken the time and trouble to make many of the common-sense preparations that Roth has covered. However, no matter how well-prepared you may consider yourself to be, there's always more! I've often said that circumnavigating the world solo is really no more risky than driving the length of I-95 just once -- it just takes different skills. I've done both. Ed Boden

Even so it is about monohulls, I found it useful for both mono- and multi-hull sailing boats. For recreational sailors with limited storm handling experiences, it could be a life saver. Takes mystery out of potentially (and truly) dangerous situations with detailed descriptions and sufficient theories behind it.

I am truly a novice to sailing, just beginning to learn with a Sunfish. Have acquired a number of books covering a number of topics (learning to sail; evaluating boats; repairing boats; reading charts). As Roth notes, being on the open ocean in heavy weather can frighten even an experienced sailor. As a novice, I found his treatment of what to do to manage a boat in that circumstance: enjoyably readable; concise and pragmatic; replete with facts and such science as exists as to the performance of boats using different heavy weather management techniques. Even though my actual sailing experience is virtually nil, I felt that the information provided in Roth's book gave me a good conceptual foundation about how to handle heavy weather, which hopefully I can build upon with actual experience (but also hoping never to find myself in an extreme weather situation, by, as Roth also notes, careful route and passage HANDLING STORMS AT SEA: The 5 Secrets of Heavy Weather Sailing timing planning). Highly recommend this book for anyone thinking about venturing offshore.

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