

## **A Standardized Method to Use Mouse Lines to Secure a Colgate to its Mooring**

What are mouse lines?

The word mouse is a nautical term meaning to close.

What are they for?

Sail Chicago uses them to close the loop on the mooring line.

The system in use last year had a 1/8" mouse line secured to the mooring line loop with a bowline knot. It had a single length of line to mouse the loop and was secured with half-hitches, but sometimes to the horn cleat.

What are the new mouse lines?

The new system secures a 3/16" mouse line to the mooring line loop by passing it through the strands and securing it with a constrictor knot.

- This provides two ends to mouse the loop.
- The mouse line will be higher up on the loop making the mousing (closure) occur under the front part of the bow cleat.
- The larger diameter line will be easier to unknot.

### **This is how you will use the new mouse lines.**

The line configuration in the new system has two ends available for tying a more secure knot.

- One end will be wrapped 1 turn clockwise around the loop.
- The other end will be wrapped 1 turn counter-clockwise around the loop.
- The two ends will be pulled tight and secured with a square knot (It's like tying your shoes.) The knot will be under the horn part of the horn cleat, but tied on one side to facilitate easy undoing.

**To view the video instructions, [click here](#).**