



The Catamaran Cleat Conundrum

1. Loads on this stern cleat probably won't align with the three-bolt pattern, potentially transferring a tremendous amount of load to the hull skin and backing below. Whether this backing and the bolts can withstand the load is worth considering.

2. Hmm... Without dwelling on the precarious security of this eyesplice, it's clear that this cleat presents several challenges. It is not oriented or placed where it can best distribute the load.

And then there's the bigger question: How is one to handle this line without going swimming?

3. Relying on the solid laminate at the hull-to-deck joint to beef up a cleat can raise other issues. Here, the line-handler must lean over or through the lifeline and, hopefully, will restrain the impulse to step on the slick curved deck that leads to the briny below.