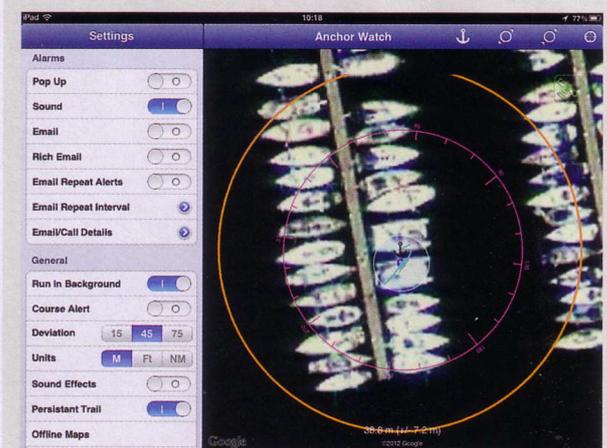**Yacht transport company Sevenstar** are making shipments from Singapore, Phuket and the Maldives to Marmaris and Genoa in March and May. Thirty-five yachts have already booked a place; their owners want to avoid the risk of piracy in the Indian Ocean when they return to the Med. To discuss practicalities and costs, contact info@sevenstar.nl

iDrifter screen showing position of anchored yacht as it swings

Anchor Watch in XL operation mode
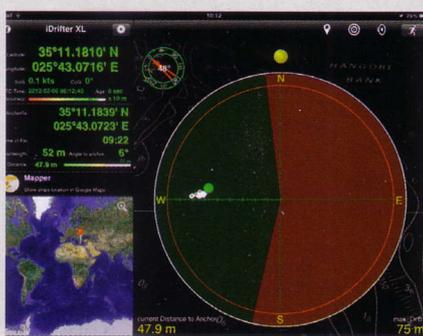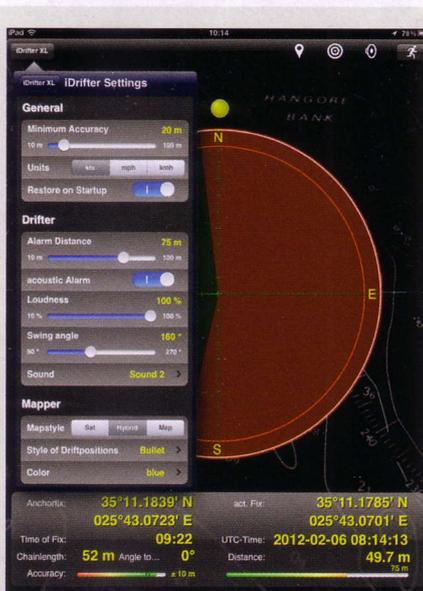
iDrifter's operating mode and (top) set-up menu

Underwater eye

Checking out your rudder or prop – indeed, anything underwater – while on passage involves getting in the water, a risky business even in flat seas. So I was very interested when I spotted a video on YouTube shot by Volvo Ocean Race entry *Camper* – www.youtube.com/ watch?v=FauUbMtxs-I

When the crew had a problem with their daggerboard bearings they checked out the board and keel by attaching a GoPro HD Hero camera to a pole and viewing the footage on a laptop.

This strikes me as potentially a really useful piece of kit for cruising. These tiny cameras, which are mounted in a shockproof and waterproof case, are popular with mountain bikers and skiers, who mount them on handlebars or helmet, and are used to make 'point of view' videos. They cost under £200, and a 32Gb SD card will hold up to nine hours of footage.

Could be useful hoisted up the mast or below the waterline, particularly if it saves you the trip yourself. http://gopro.com

skipper a fair view of the situation at the anchorage,' Svanberg finds. 'One really positive feature is the ability to gauge chain length and direction. You can also use Google Maps to view your position [if you have a data connection] and the settings are, in most cases, clear.

'On the negative side, the functions after you have dropped the anchor are possible to misinterpret, particularly after you have corrected your position and adjusted the chain length and direction.' The developer says some of these features can or will be improved.

A useful function of both apps is the ability to send an email automatically if the boat's position alters beyond a set radius – a useful reassurance when you are ashore, Svanberg says. The option

of SMS alerts may also be added.

He also says he recommends a laser range finder for anchoring alongside the depth sounder.

'We try to have at least 80m to the closest boat and more to the shore. One of the hardest things to do when you've chosen a place to drop the anchor is to estimate distance to closest boat(s) and to shore, especially if you have entered an anchorage at night. We use the range finder, a small single eyepiece capable of measuring distance, in our case up to 600m, and find it quite accurate.

'We also use the range finder when we are dropping anchor in a harbour and doing a stern-to Med-style mooring, so that we don't run out of chain and still have a couple of metres left before reaching the quay.'

iDrifter app is 'fast and easy to use and serves its purpose well'