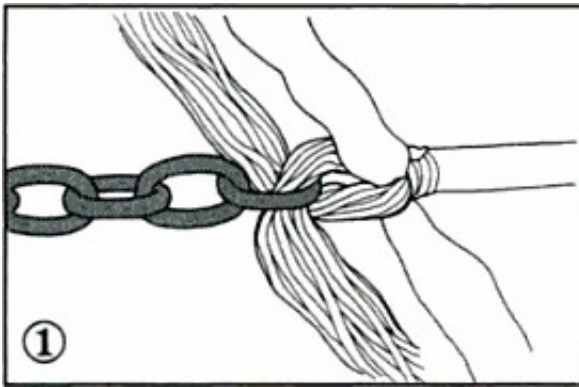Shovel Splice

If the rope portion of your anchor rode is double braid, or if it is Three Strand but you don't trust the Three-Strand Single-Link Chain Splice (and I don't), this is the chain splice for you. It involves separating the rope end into four equal-sized bundles and weaving them into the chain. Two bundles go back and forth through the links in one plane, two go back and forth through the links in the other plane.
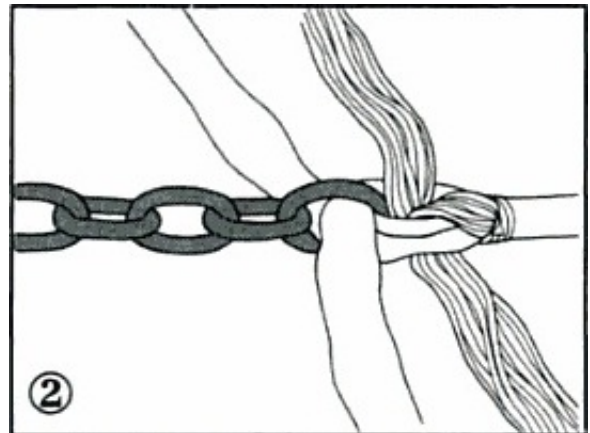
After a sufficient number of tucks for security, the splice is covered with Double Constrictors, drawn very tightly. This is a redundant-security alternative to the usual practice of "serving" (wrapping the splice with a single length of twine).

This is called the Shovel Splice, supposedly because if gets into the mud, it tends to bring up lots of mud with it.

1. Apply a very snug Double Constrictor to the rope about 15-18 inches from the end. Separate the yarns into 4 equal-sized bundles and tape the ends. Pass 2 opposite bundles through link 1, in opposite directions. Draw up and fair, so that all yarns are taking an equal strain.

2. Pass the other 2 bundles through the next link, in opposite directions. Draw up fair. Continue tucking alternate pair of bundles through alternate links, tucking each pair at least 6 times.

3. The finished splice, with several Double Constrictors along its length, and 2 Double Constrictors to secure the ends, which are removed nearly flush with the chain.