Appendix: Maritime Radio Use in the VHF Frequency Range

Special Channel Assignments

Emergency Channel

If you are in imminent and grave danger at sea and require emergency assistance, use **VHF Channel 16** to send a distress call to nearby vessels and the United States Coast Guard. Transmit the following information, in this order:

1 "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY."

2 "THIS IS _____, CALL SIGN _____."

   *State the name of the vessel in distress **3 times**, followed by the call sign or other identification of the vessel, stated **3 times**.*

3 Repeat "MAYDAY" and the name of the vessel.

4 "WE ARE LOCATED AT _____."

   State the position of the vessel in distress, using any information that will help responders to locate you, e.g.:

   • *latitude and longitude*
   • *bearing (state whether you are using true or magnetic north)*
   • *distance to a well-known landmark*
   • *vessel course, speed or destination*

5 State the nature of the distress.

6 Specify what kind of assistance you need.

7 State the number of persons on board and the number needing medical attention, if any.

8 Mention any other information that would be helpful to responders, such as type of vessel, vessel length and/or tonnage, hull color, etc.

9 "OVER."

10 Wait for a response.

11 If you do not receive an immediate response, remain by the radio and repeat the transmission at intervals until you receive a response. Be prepared to follow any instructions given to you.

Non-Commercial Call Channel

For non-commercial transmissions, such as fishing reports, rendezvous arrangements, repair scheduling, or berthing information, use **VHF Channel 9**.

Operating Frequency Requirements

A radio designated for shipboard use must comply with Federal Communications Commission Rule Part 80 as follows:

- on ships subject to Part II of Title III of the Communications Act, the radio must be capable of operating on the 156.800 MHz frequency
- on ships subject to the Safety Convention, the radio must be capable of operating:
  - in the simplex mode on the ship station transmitting frequencies specified in the 156.025–157.425 MHz frequency band, and
  - in the semiduplex mode on the two frequency channels specified in the table below.

Note: Simplex channels 3, 21, 23, 61, 64, 81, 82, and 83 **cannot be lawfully used** by the general public in US waters.

Additional information about operating requirements in the Maritime Services can be obtained from the full text of FCC Rule Part 80 and from the US Coast Guard.

Table A-1: VHF Marine Channel List

Channel Number	Frequency (MHz)	
	Transmit	Receive
1	156.050	160.650
2	156.100	160.700
*	156.150	160.750
4	156.200	160.800
5	156.250	160.850
6	156.300	–
7	156.350	160.950

Table A-1: VHF Marine Channel List (Continued)

Channel Number	Frequency (MHz)	
	Transmit	Receive
8	156.400	–
9	156.450	156.450
10	156.500	156.500
11	156.550	156.550
12	156.600	156.600
13**	156.650	156.650
14	156.700	156.700
15**	156.750	156.750
16	156.800	156.800
17**	156.850	156.850
18	156.900	161.500
19	156.950	161.550
20	157.000	161.600
*	157.050	161.650
22	157.100	161.700
*	157.150	161.750
24	157.200	161.800
25	157.250	161.850
26	157.300	161.900
27	157.350	161.950
28	157.400	162.000
60	156.025	160.625
*	156.075	160.675
62	156.125	160.725
63	156.175	160.775
*	156.225	160.825
65	156.275	160.875
66	156.325	160.925

Table A-1: VHF Marine Channel List (Continued)

Channel Number	Frequency (MHz)	
	Transmit	**Receive**
67**	156.375	156.375
68	156.425	156.425
69	156.475	156.475
71	156.575	156.575
72	156.625	–
73	156.675	156.675
74	156.725	156.725
75	***	***
76	***	***
77**	156.875	–
78	156.925	161.525
79	156.975	161.575
80	157.025	161.625
*	157.075	161.675
*	157.125	161.725
*	157.175	161.775
84	157.225	161.825
85	157.275	161.875
86	157.325	161.925
87	157.375	161.975
88	157.425	162.025

*   Simplex channels 3, 21, 23, 61, 64, 81, 82, and 83 **cannot be lawfully used** by the general public in US waters.

**   Low power (1 W) only

***   Guard band

Note: A – in the Receive column indicates that the channel is transmit only.