



## GMDSS Sea Areas

- Medium Frequency (MF), High Frequency (HF) and Very High Frequency (VHF) Coast Radio Station
- Medium Frequency (MF) and Very High Frequency (VHF) Coast Radio Station
- Very High Frequency (VHF) Coast Radio Station

**Sea Area A1**  
The radiotelephone coverage of VHF coast stations in which continuous alerting by Digital Selective Calling (DSC) is available.

**Sea Area A2**  
The radiotelephone coverage of MF coast stations in which continuous alerting by Digital Selective Calling is available.

**Sea Area A3**  
The coverage of Inmarsat geostationary satellites.

## NAVTEX Sea Areas

The station identity letter allows the NAVTEX receiver to be programmed to print out messages only for the desired service area.

- Ⓛ International Service on 518kHz
- Ⓤ National Service on 490kHz



# GMDSS Procedures For Small Boat Users

## INTER-SHIP

### – where the MMSI of the other vessel is known

Enter the MMSI into the controller, either from the Directory or manually. Indicate the inter-ship channel that will be used for the R/T communication.

When the called controller 'rings', the called vessel should start the conversation on the selected inter-ship channel. Assuming the vessel's name is 'Cloud Nine', the call will start like this:

*Station calling Cloud Nine  
This is Cloud Nine  
Over.*

## INTER-SHIP

### – where the MMSI of the other vessel is unknown

Call as now on CH16 using the same procedure. If no response is achieved call on CH13 which has been allocated in the GMDSS for bridge to bridge communications.

## Distress

Send a Distress Alert using DSC. Wait about 15 seconds for a DSC acknowledgement from the Coastguard or a ship station.

On CH16, on receipt of a DSC acknowledgement or after about 15 seconds, transmit the Distress call and message:

*Mayday, Mayday, Mayday  
'This is' name, spoken three times  
Mayday  
MMSI and name or callsign, spoken once  
Position*

*Nature of Distress  
Assistance required  
Number on board  
Other information  
Over.*

If no DSC acknowledgement is received, and offer of assistance is accepted from another vessel, cancel the DSC alert to prevent it automatically retransmitting.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF A DSC DISTRESS ALERT

When a DSC controller receives a Distress alert it will sound an audible alarm. Immediately cease any transmission that may interfere with Distress traffic and continue a watch on CH16.

Acknowledgements of a DSC alert by using DSC is made only by coast stations and vessels fitted with Class A or B DSC controllers. There is no facility on a Class D controller to acknowledge a distress alert by DSC. If there is no DSC acknowledgement after a short interval, acknowledge by voice on CH16:

*Mayday  
9 digit MMSI of the vessel in distress, spoken three times  
'This is' name of own vessel, spoken three times  
Received Mayday  
State the assistance you can give.*

## ALERTING BY INDIVIDUAL VESSELS TO 'ALL SHIPS'

If a vessel is outside of coast radio range and needs to issue a safety warning, this can be done by transmitting an

All Ships Safety Call by DSC. On Ch16, after about 15 seconds, transmit the Safety call and message:

*Securite, Securite, Securite  
'All stations' or called station, spoken three times  
'This is' MMSI and name or callsign of own vessel, spoken once  
The text of the Safety message.*

## COAST STATION CALLS

Calls to the Coastguard and other coast stations that use DSC for calling are carried out by entering the MMSI of the Coastguard station into the controller, either manually or from the Directory. There is no facility to enter a suggested working channel.

When the Coastguard acknowledges the call, they will indicate the working channel for voice communications and the radio will re-tune automatically. On the working channel pass your message by voice.

## CONTACTS

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