



NAVIGATION CENTER

The Navigation Center of Excellence

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD



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Maritime Telecommunications

- Maritime Telecommunications
- Automatic Identification Systems (AIS)
- GMDSS
- CG National Distress System
- Digital Selective Calling
- HF Distress Frequencies
- U.S. VHF Channels & Freq
- International VHF Channels and Frequencies
- Electrotechnical Commission
- MF & HF Channels
- International Maritime Organization
- Marine Safety Broadcasts
- Maritime Mobile Service IDs
- Radio Info For Boaters
- Radio Watch Requirements
- Reference Information

Primary Mission Areas:

- Nationwide DGPS
- Long Range Identification and Tracking
- Nationwide AIS (NAIS)
- Local Notice to Mariners
- Light Lists
- Civil GPS Service Interface Committee
- Global Positioning System
- Electronic Navigation & Charting
- LORAN C (archive)

Services & Reporting:

- Receive Free LNM Updates
- Receive Free GPS Status Messages
- Receive NANU Updates
- Join CGSIC (free)
- Report an ATON Discrepancy or Outage
- Report a GPS Problem
- Report an NDGPS Problem
- Report an LRIT Problem
- Report an NAIS Problem
- Contact Us

Maritime Information:

- USCG 'Homeport' Website
- Maritime Telecommunications
- CG Nat'l Distress System
- Global Maritime Distress and Safety System
- Marine Safety Information Broadcasts
- MF & HF Channels
- Nav Pubs and Documents
- Radio Watch Requirements
- Vessel Traffic Services
- VHF Channels & Freqs

U.S. VHF CHANNELS

Channel Number	Ship Transmit MHz	Ship Receive MHz	Use
01A	156.050	156.050	Port Operations and Commercial, VTS. Available only in New Orleans / Lower Mississippi area.
05A	156.250	156.250	Port Operations or VTS in the Houston, New Orleans and Seattle areas.
06	156.300	156.300	Intership Safety
07A	156.350	156.350	Commercial
08	156.400	156.400	Commercial (Intership only)
09	156.450	156.450	Boater Calling. Commercial and Non-Commercial.
10	156.500	156.500	Commercial
11	156.550	156.550	Commercial. VTS in selected areas.
12	156.600	156.600	Port Operations. VTS in selected areas.
13	156.650	156.650	Intership Navigation Safety (Bridge-to-bridge). Ships >20m length maintain a listening watch on this channel in US waters.
14	156.700	156.700	Port Operations. VTS in selected areas.
15	--	156.750	Environmental (Receive only). Used by Class C EPIRBs.
16	156.800	156.800	International Distress, Safety and Calling. Ships required to carry radio, USCG, and most coast stations maintain a listening watch on this channel.
17	156.850	156.850	State & local govt maritime control
18A	156.900	156.900	Commercial
19A	156.950	156.950	Commercial
20	157.000	161.600	Port Operations (duplex)
20A	157.000	157.000	Port Operations
21A	157.050	157.050	U.S. Coast Guard only
22A	157.100	157.100	Coast Guard Liaison and Maritime Safety Information Broadcasts. Broadcasts announced on channel 16.
23A	157.150	157.150	U.S. Coast Guard only
24	157.200	161.800	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator)
25	157.250	161.850	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator)
26	157.300	161.900	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator)
27	157.350	161.950	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator)
28	157.400	162.000	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator)
63A	156.175	156.175	Port Operations and Commercial, VTS. Available only in New Orleans / Lower Mississippi area.
65A	156.275	156.275	Port Operations
66A	156.325	156.325	Port Operations
67	156.375	156.375	Commercial. Used for Bridge-to-bridge communications in lower Mississippi River. Intership only.
68	156.425	156.425	Non-Commercial
69	156.475	156.475	Non-Commercial
70	156.525	156.525	Digital Selective Calling (voice communications not allowed)
71	156.575	156.575	Non-Commercial
72	156.625	156.625	Non-Commercial (Intership only)
73	156.675	156.675	Port Operations
74	156.725	156.725	Port Operations
77	156.875	156.875	Port Operations (Intership only)
78A	156.925	156.925	Non-Commercial
79A	156.975	156.975	Commercial. Non-Commercial in Great Lakes only
80A	157.025	157.025	Commercial. Non-Commercial in Great Lakes only
81A	157.075	157.075	U.S. Government only - Environmental protection operations.
82A	157.125	157.125	U.S. Government only

83A	157.175	157.175	U.S. Coast Guard only
84	157.225	161.825	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator)
85	157.275	161.875	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator)
86	157.325	161.925	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator)
87	157.375	157.375	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator)
88A	157.425	157.425	Commercial, Intership only.
AIS 1	161.975	161.975	Automatic Identification System (AIS)
AIS 2	162.025	162.025	Automatic Identification System (AIS)

VHF Maritime Spectrum Chart

NOAA Weather Radio Frequencies

Channel	Frequency (MHz)
WX1	162.550
WX2	162.400
WX3	162.475
WX4	162.425
WX5	162.450
WX6	162.500
WX7	162.525

Channel numbers, e.g. (WX1, WX2) etc. have no special significance but are often designated this way in consumer equipment. Other channel numbering schemes are also prevalent.

The order of channels shown is the order they were established and is slowly becoming less "popular" over time than a numerical ordering of channels.

See [NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MARINE PRODUCTS VIA NOAA WEATHER RADIO](#) and the [NOAA Weather Radio Homepage](#) for more information.

Additional Information, Frequencies, & Charts

Frequencies are in MHz. Modulation is 16KF3E or 16KG3E.

Note that the letter "A" indicates simplex use of the ship station transmit side of an international duplex channel, and that operations are different than international operations on that channel. Some VHF transceivers are equipped with an "International - U.S." switch for that purpose. "A" channels are generally only used in the United States, and use is normally not recognized or allowed outside the U.S. The letter "B" indicates simplex use of the coast station transmit side of an international duplex channel. The U.S. does not currently use "B" channels for simplex communications in this band.

Boaters should normally use channels listed as Non-Commercial. Channel 16 is used for calling other stations or for distress alerting. Channel 13 should be used to contact a ship when there is danger of collision. All ships of length 20m or greater are required to guard VHF channel 13, in addition to VHF channel 16, when operating within U.S. territorial waters. Users may be fined by the FCC for improper use of these channels. See [Marine Radio Watch Requirements](#) for further information.

Also available are [International VHF Maritime Radio Channels and Frequencies](#), [Narrowband VHF Maritime Channels and Frequencies](#), [Radio Information for Boaters](#), and [U.S. Coast Guard VHF Distress and Safety Coverage Charts](#).