

## Digital Selective Calling

If you have a red “Distress” button on your VHF radio, there are amazing capabilities inside your radio. VHF DSC calling work similar to a cell phone with a Distress button for emergencies. You make calls from your address book.

**Distress calls** (*when your boat is sinking or someone on board is dying*) send out your Boat identification, location, and time, when you have a GPS connected. This can save significant time in getting help to you. Also, every boat on the water that has a DSC radio will know you are in trouble with a 5 second push of the Distress button.

**Urgent Calls** (Someone is hurt, engine died etc.) may be made via the radio’s DSC Menu “All Ships” call. With minimal effort, this will let everyone know you need help.

**Safety Calls** (Announce an obstruction or hazard to others) may be made via the radio’s DSC Menu “All Ships” call and let everyone know there is an issue that could cause damage to their boat.

**Routine Call** The best way to contact other vessels including friends and commercial vessels. Routine calls may be made via the radio’s DSC Menu. Pick an unused channel, go to the DSC Menu, select the vessel MSSI and press select or enter depending on the radio. While it is not a private call, it is much more private than getting on channel 16, calling a friend and saying “I have something important to tell you, go to 68” and the fleet followed.

**Group Calls** Similar to Routine calls you can call one or many vessels at the same time. A group call will alarm every radio that has the group number entered in the Group address book. This is an ideal approach for yacht club outings and races to keep the group well-coordinated.

**Create a Group Number** by selecting one of the group member’s MMSI and shift the number to the right one digit. (Put the zero on the front.) Everyone in the group will need to enter the number in their Group Address Book.

**Example: 366820740 becomes 036682074**

**Position Reports** Using the DSC Menu you can make a call to a friend’s MMSI number and request their location. The radio will ring on the other boat and they only need to push one or two buttons and you receive the exact Latitude and longitude of their boat.

**Very Special Group** – General group numbers by the area country responsible for the area were assigned in 2016 and called Worldwide Group Number (WGN).

This approach was reviewed, approved, and distributed by the US Coast Guard Global Maritime Distress and Safety Task force as an effort to keep boaters safer.

## Worldwide Group Numbers

The concept of worldwide group numbers (WGN) was developed to enhance the safety at sea of boaters.

WGNs provide an additional level of communications beyond the traditional “All Ships” Urgent or Safety calls.

A group call sounds an alarm instead of just a voice hailing for anyone on a specific channel, group calls can be valuable.

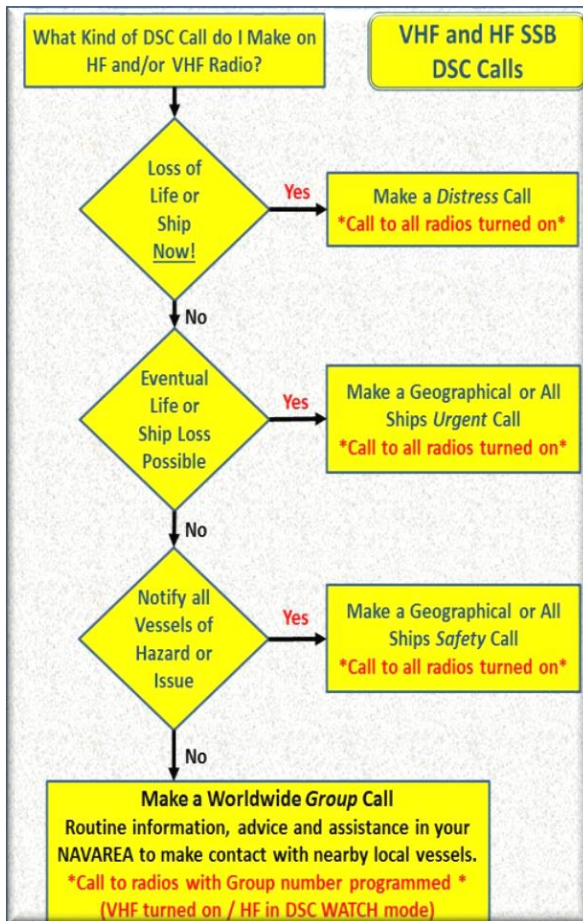
Example: *Coming into a new port and hailing on channel 16 for some local information. No one answers because the local net and hailing is on channel 69 for this port. With a “Group Call”, we do not care what channel other boats have selected. The Digital Selective Calling (DSC) feature will alarm all the radios that are on and have the group number programmed in the group address book.*

If boaters join together and program the WGN in their VHF and HF radios for their area, there will always be someone at the other end of the radio.

If you need help programming the number in your radio, send me a note with the radio model and I will do a custom procedure for your radio and email it back. [P-t on sunyside@live.com](mailto:P-t_on_sunyside@live.com)

**WGN: West Coast 036912000**  
**East Coast 036904000**

My MSSI: \_\_\_\_\_



## Are you making the right call?

### More Information:

[www.made-simple-for-cruisers.com/communications](http://www.made-simple-for-cruisers.com/communications)

## Digital Selective Calling (DSC)

If you have a red Distress button, on your Marine VHF Radio, the radio has many more capabilities than you may know about.



You can make Digital type calls that are a much better way to make contact than the voice calls: May Day; Pan Pan; Securite'; or even just trying to contact friends.

The DSC equivalent for the above voice calls are: Distress; Urgent; Safety; and Routine. In addition, you can also call a group of friends with one call; make general group calls; and even request the latitude and longitude of a friend's boat.

DSC communications uses the required vessel Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) numbers like telephone numbers. It is a digital communication. Digital communications can eliminate frequent need to repeat information like when using voice communications.



## Getting Help when you are having a *BAD DAY*

