

## Some useful VHF Channels

Channel 11 (156.550 MHz) Miami VTS

Channel 12 (156.600 MHz) FT Lauderdale VTS

Channel 14 (156.700 MHz): In some areas, this channel may be designated for communication with VTS.

Channel 16 (156.800 MHz): This is the international hailing and distress frequency.

It's monitored by the US Coast Guard and serves as the primary channel for emergency communication and initial contact between vessels.

Channel 9 (156.450 MHz): This is the primary calling and distress frequency for recreational boaters. It's often used for non-emergency communication and for monitoring by the US Coast Guard.

Channel 22A (157.100 MHz): This channel is designated for US Coast Guard dispatching and vessel traffic information broadcasts (VTIB).

Channel 68 (156.425 MHz): This is a common working channel for non-commercial vessels in the area. It's used for general communication, including coordinating movements and sharing navigational information.

Channel 69 (156.475 MHz): Similar to Channel 68, this is another working channel used for non-commercial vessels.

Channel 71 (156.575 MHz): This is a commonly used channel for communication among commercial vessels and commercial service providers in the area.

Channel 6 (156.300 MHz) is primarily used for commercial ship-to-ship and ship-to-coast safety communication. May be used in SAR operations

Channel 70 (156.525 MHz) DSC Digital Selective Calling

AIS1 (161.975 MHz) and AIS2 (162.025 MHz) AIS two dedicated VHF channels

Wx-1 (162.55 MHz) NOAA Weather channel 1

Wx-2 (162.4 MHz) NOAA Weather channel 2

Wx-3 (162.475 MHz) NOAA Weather channel 3

### Additional channels

Channels 9,68,71,72,78,79,80 are used as Working Channels for Public (NON COMMERCIAL)

Channels 24,25,26,27,28,84,85,86,87,88 are used to contact Coast Stations

Channels 1,5,12,14,20,63,65,66,73,74,75 are used for Port Operations (COMMERCIAL)

USCG MMSI Number: 003669999

### Test your Radio

1. Enter this MMSI number into your DSC Radio memory
2. Select TEST CALL
3. Press the CALL or ENTER key

MMSI stands for Maritime Mobile Service Identity. It's a nine-digit number that identifies a boat for marine traffic monitoring systems. MMSIs are used by maritime digital selective calling (DSC), automatic identification systems (AIS), and certain other equipment.

Miami	003669919	NYC	003669929	Key West	003669918
New Orleans	003669908	San Diego	003669913	Boston	003669901
Charleston	003669907	Norfolk	003669922	N. Carolina	003669906

For non-distress purposes, however, a one-to-one call to your nearest Coast Guard sector can be initiated using the routine call function, using the individual MMSI

FCC Form 605 is used to apply for a Marine Operator License  
Use the Universal Licensing System

Go to CORES ( FCC Commission Registration System ) <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>  
Register or Log in

Register an FRN for yourself ( FCC Registration Number ) if you don't have one.

Your licenses will be associated with this FRN

An FRN is a 10-digit number that is assigned to a business or individual registering with the FCC. This unique FRN is used to identify the registrant's business dealings with the FCC. The FCC will use the FRN to determine if all of a registrant's fees have been paid. You are encouraged to register with the Commission as soon as you expect to do business with the FCC. This way, you will be ready to access any of the electronic licensing systems without having to go through the registration process at the time you submit an application.

Log into the FCC License manager at <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp>  
with your FRN number and password

This is where you apply, add, remove, update licenses.

## WHO NEEDS A LICENSE

You do not need a license to operate a marine VHF radio, radar, or EPIRBs aboard voluntary ships operating domestically.

The term "voluntary ships" refers to ships that are not required by law to carry a radio. Generally, this term applies to recreation or pleasure craft.

The term "voluntary ships" does not apply to the following:

Cargo ships over 300 gross tons navigating in the open sea;

Ships certified by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry more than 6 passengers for hire in the open sea or tidewaters of the U.S.;

Power driven ships over 20 meters in length on navigable waterways;

Ships of more than 100 gross tons certified by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry at least one passenger on navigable waterways;

Tow boats of more than 7.8 meters in length on navigable waterways; and,

Uninspected commercial fishing industry vessels required to carry a VHF radio.

Ships required to carry an Automatic Identification System (AIS) transceiver by the U.S. Coast Guard regulations enacted pursuant to the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2000.