

MARINE VHF DSC RADIO CIH FYC WSA CIYC 8/23/2025

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Local Recent Radio Comments

- A. Turning on fog horns: radio on ch. 81A; depress mic 5 times within 10 seconds
- B. Weather alert: Wednesdays 11:00 am – 12:00 (closer to 11)
- C. New ch. #: If ch. has an A, drop A & add 10 to beginning, ex: 22A becomes 1022
- D. NOAA weather transmitter: on Pt. Dume; WX 4
- E. Rescue 21 will hear a 1 sec. transmission from 1 watt w/ant. 6' above sea level
- F. Ch 27 radio check is down, Freighters may not answer on ch 16 in precautionary

Benefits of Digital Selective Calling (DSC) Radios

1. Red Distress Button: if you depress this button, the radio will:
 - a. transmit your GPS position to Coast Guard and other boaters within range
 - b. transmit your urgency and identification to USCG and local boaters
 - c. drag all local boaters' radios to channel 16
 - d. Radio will continue to transmit distress message automatically every 4 min
2. You can selectively call & drag another boater, or a group of radios, or all ships to the channel of your choice (**5 pleasure boat channels: 68, 69, 71, 72, 1078**)
3. Allows you to enter 100 or so Individual MMSI # and 20 or so Groups
4. You can define your own 8-digit Group number 032479463 = FYC (fairwind on phone), 097297297 = WSA wsa wsa ws, 019852492 = CIYC phone number.
5. You can request GPS position from other radios (although they may deny)
6. Call 'All Ships' Urgency (pan) or Safety (securite) (while at sea, to see if any boat is in range) to inform of a potential problem
7. Be sure you see Lat/Longitude on radio, be sure MMSI programmed in radio
8. Can enter waypoints and navigate to them, some radios also have MOB
9. Standard Horizon HX891BT has Group Monitor (radar screen, up to 9 boats), built-in scrambler, FM broadcast radio
10. May see distress and position requests on chart plotter, can save as waypoint
11. DSC 'Test Call' to Coast Guard: use MMSI 003669999; USCG will ack. your call

Requirements needed to use DSC

1. Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number— Boat US, US Power Squadron 338xxxxxx free or FCC 367xxxxxx (little over \$200 for 10 yrs)
2. Radio connected to a GPS, many handheld & some fixed radios include a GPS