

10/06/2016

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

International Telecommunications Union has amended the VHF Maritime Radio Channels

Find Out More at: <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=mtVhf>

## U.S. VHF CHANNELS

Channel Number	Ship Transmit MHz	Ship Receive MHz	Use
1001	156.050	156.050	Port Operations and Commercial, VTS. Available only in New Orleans / Lower Mississippi area.
1005	156.250	156.250	Port Operations or VTS in the Houston, New Orleans and Seattle areas.
06	156.300	156.300	Intership Safety
1007	156.350	156.350	Commercial. VDSMS
08	156.400	156.400	Commercial (Intership only). VDSMS
09	156.450	156.450	Boater Calling. Commercial and Non-Commercial. VDSMS
10	156.500	156.500	Commercial. VDSMS
11	156.550	156.550	Commercial. VTS in selected areas. VDSMS
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. See our <a href="#">Watchkeeping Regulations page</a> .
17	156.850	156.850	State & local govt maritime control
1018	156.900	156.900	Commercial. VDSMS
1019	156.950	156.950	Commercial. VDSMS
1020	157.000	161.600	Port Operations (duplex)
1020	157.000	157.000	Port Operations
1021	157.050	157.050	U.S. Coast Guard only
1022	157.100	157.100	Coast Guard Liaison and Maritime Safety Information Broadcasts. Broadcasts announced on channel 16.
1023	157.150	157.150	U.S. Coast Guard only
24	157.200	161.800	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator). VDSMS
25	157.250	161.850	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator). VDSMS
26	157.300	161.900	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator). VDSMS
27	157.350	161.950	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator). VDSMS
28	157.400	162.000	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator). VDSMS
1063	156.175	156.175	Port Operations and Commercial, VTS. Available only in New Orleans / Lower Mississippi area.
1065	156.275	156.275	Port Operations
1066	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. VDSMS
69	156.475	156.475	Non-Commercial. VDSMS
70	156.525	156.525	Digital Selective Calling (voice communications not allowed)

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71	156.575	156.575	Non-Commercial. VDSMS
72	156.625	156.625	Non-Commercial (Intership only). VDSMS
73	156.675	156.675	Port Operations
74	156.725	156.725	Port Operations
77	156.875	156.875	Port Operations (Intership only)
1078	156.925	156.925	Non-Commercial. VDSMS
1079	156.975	156.975	Commercial. Non-Commercial in Great Lakes only. VDSMS
1080	157.025	157.025	Commercial. Non-Commercial in Great Lakes only. VDSMS
1081	157.075	157.075	U.S. Government only - Environmental protection operations.
1082	157.125	157.125	U.S. Government only
1083	157.175	157.175	U.S. Coast Guard only
84	157.225	161.825	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator). VDSMS
85	157.275	161.875	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator). VDSMS
86	157.325	161.925	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator). VDSMS
87	157.375	157.375	Public Correspondence (Marine Operator). VDSMS
88	157.425	157.425	Commercial, Intership only. VDSMS
AIS 1	161.975	161.975	<a href="#">Automatic Identification System (AIS)</a>
AIS 2	162.025	162.025	<a href="#">Automatic Identification System (AIS)</a>

**Note:** VDSMS (VHF Digital Small Message Services). Transmissions of short digital messages in accordance with RTCM Standard 12301.1 is allowed.

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

Note that the four digit channel number beginning with the digits "10" indicates simplex use of the ship station transmit side of what had been an international duplex channel. These new channel numbers, now recognized internationally, were previously designated in the US by the two digit channel number ending with the letter "A". That is, the international channel 1005 has been designated in the US by channel 05A, and the US Coast Guard channel 1022 has been designated in the US as channel 22A. Four digit channels beginning with "20", sometimes shown by the two-digit channel number ending with the letter "B", indicates simplex use of the coast station transmit side of what normally was an international duplex channel. The U.S. does not currently use "B" or "20NN" channels in the VHF maritime band. Some VHF transceivers are equipped with an "International - U.S." switch to avoid conflicting use of these channels. See ITU Radio Regulation Appendix 18 and ITU-R M.1084-5 Annex 4, [summarized here](#).

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.

### VHF Maritime Spectrum Chart

#### NOAA Weather Radio Frequencies

Channel	Frequency (MHz)
WX1	162.550
WX2	162.400
WX3	162.475

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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

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](#).