

NATIONAL GMDSS IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE/TIME: Thursday, 30 September 2021 at 10:00 AM EDT (2:00 PM UTC)
LOCATION: VIRTUAL MEETING
CONVENOR: Captain Jack Fuechsel, USCG (Ret.) 703-963-3747 (m)
REGISTER: Please register in advance for this virtual meeting by [clicking here](#). The registration will serve as our virtual sign-in sheet and allow us to accommodate a larger number of attendees.
Note: The registration link is the same for the RTCM Annual Update Meeting and upon registering you will be sent a “join” link for the meeting.
FOR INFO: Jack Fuechsel at 703-963-3747 or e-mail: gmdsstf@gmail.com
WEBSITE: <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=gmdssTaskForce>

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Distribute Documents and web access citations: See <https://joecel.com/GMDSSTaskForce>
 - USCG 2021 Cyber Strategic Outlook
 - Comsar Circ. 32 (NCSR 8 Markup)
 - Cessation of routine VHF Safety Broadcasts
 - Seacor Power never received Weather Warnings – Miami Herald
 - Element 7 DA-21-659A1.pdf
 - FCC-21-69A1 AIS Fishnet.pdf
 - Revision of MSC Circ. 803: Participation of non-SOLAS vessels in GMDSS
 - USCG Federal Register Notice on Dissemination of MSI Alerts & Broadcast NTMs
2. Coast Guard Reports on pending issues – Jerry Ulcek and others
 - Planning for NCSR-9 Conference – Patrick Gallagher
 - VHF Four-Digit Channel Number Update
 - Recommendations on Addressing DSC Problems (NCSR 8/Inf.9)
 - LED Lighting – Report from SC-137 – Joe Hersey
 - NOAA - Comments on EPIRB Return Link Service – Mark Turner (invited)
 - Report of: MMSI Management ad hoc Group -: Joe Hersey
 - NDAA Act re; AK F/V; & F/V use of AIS – Pat Gallagher
 - Proposed changes to Broadcast Notices to Mariners – Eugene Diotolevi (invited)
 - Current Canadian Maritime Issues – Alexandre Lavoie – (invited)
3. FCC Report on pending issues – Ghassan Khalek
 - WT Docket 21-230 Use of AIS to mark Fishing Equipment
 - FCC Rejection of NTIA Petition for Reversal of Ligado Decision & DOD Concern
 - Falsified Inspection Documentation found on some vessels
 - FCC Enforcement activity on Unauthorized AIS Devices
 - FCC Rules Change for new International EPIRB Specs Taking Effect in 2022
 - Update FCC Small Passenger Vessel Inspection Checklist to include Iridium
 - Waiver to allow Iridium to meet GMDSS Sea Area A4 Requirements

Report on FCC and Coast Guard meeting if held since April

4. Reports and Issues: Recreational Vessel Group – George Hallenbeck
 - Revised GMDSS Information Bulletin GMDSS and the Recreational Boater Supplemental Check Lists for MMSI & GPS during Voluntary Inspections?
 - Foreign Flag commercial vessels registered via USPS assigned block
 - USCG 2020 Boating Safety Statistics – Verne Gifford (invited)
5. Reports and Issues: Commercial Vessel Task Group – Johnny Lindstrom
 - USCG Outlook on Cybersecurity – CDR Mike Chien
 - Update on Iridium Implementation of GMDSS Services – Kyle Hurst (invited)
 - Update on Inmarsat including Orchestra and Elera – Peter Broadhurst (invited)
 - How can Task Force promote more shipboard environmental observations?
6. Reports and Issues: Service Agents & Manufactures Task Group – John Barry
 - Importance of meeting Regulatory and Safety Standards – John Barry
 - Carriage Requirements for Training Vessels, Equipment for all Sea Areas
 - DSC Radio Testing should ensure Position Transmitted when Requested
 - ITS Report on compatibility of solid state and magnetron radars – Joe Hersey
 - New reports that radar performance may be degraded by offshore Wind Farms
7. Reports and Issues: Training Task Group – Kurt Anderson
 - Further Revision of GMDSS Operator Question Pools
 - Effective date for use of new Question Pools
 - New Issue – Iridium and functional duplication of equipment
 - New Issue – Iridium and STCW Lab Proficiencies
8. GMDSS Modernization – Bob Markle
 - Comsar Circ. 32 for review by Experts Group in November
9. Review Summary Record of 13 May 2021 and Task Force Continuing Work List
10. Recent Maritime News Items of Possible Interest to Task Force
 - Bryant 5/21 USCG MSIB 07-21 alerting mariners to mental health issues re Covid-19
 - Digital Ship 8/06 - Inmarsat Analysis of Distress Alerts received 2018-2020
 - Maritime Executive 8/16 – Texas tour boat carrying 53 PAX capsizes in Lake
 - Maritime News 9/03 Conception Victims sue Coast Guard for poor oversight
11. Other Business: Confirm next meeting date, 13 January 2022 live at RTCA/RTCM HQ in Washington DC suggested.

GMDSS TASK FORCE CONTINUING WORK LIST

13 May 2021

1. Monitor FCC continuing action to update GMDSS Rules (TF)
2. Recommend actions to reduce false alerts in GMDSS systems (TF)
3. Monitor Coast Guard Port State GMDSS inspection program (TF)
4. Monitor programs that broadcast MSI for GMDSS Standards conformance (TF)
5. Review GMDSS Internet Web Sites and update Task Force portion of NAVCEN site (TF)
6. Support SOLAS Working Group planning for IMO NCSR and Joint Experts meetings (TF)
7. Advocate replacement or update of current Great Lakes Agreement with an MOU or equivalent document. (TF)
8. Advocate voluntary carriage of VHF and EPIRB/PLBs by all vessels offshore (TF)
9. Monitor USCG and FCC policy & practice on MMSI assignments (TF)
10. Monitor non-GMDSS systems: AIS, LRIT, SSAS, VDES, VMS, & E-Navigation (TF)
11. Recommend means to improve Distress Alerts by Cell Phone & Internet (TF)
12. Advocate mandatory Distress Beacons on R/V more than 3 miles offshore (TF)
13. Advocate use of the Alaska AIS Monitor Network for VHF Distress Guard (TF)
14. Monitor Developments in Cybersecurity and advise membership (TF)
15. Review GMDSS concepts and make modernization recommendations (MOD)
16. Monitor automatic response from USCG HF Commstas to test calls for validation of HF-DSC performance (CV)
17. Recommend Safety Radio and VMS Requirements for Small Fishing Vessels (CV)
18. Recommend Safety Radio & Navigation Requirements for Towing Vessels (CV)
19. Recommend Safety Radio & Nav. Outfit for Small Passenger Vessels (CV)
20. Advocate better FCC & USCG management of annual GMDSS inspections (CV)
21. Maintain Inspection Guidelines and Check Lists for selected vessel types (CV)
22. Advocate voluntary training programs for users of GMDSS systems (RV)
23. Encourage GMDSS handbooks and Internet and video training aids (RV)
24. Encourage users of VHF-DSC to Register for MMSI and connect GPS (RV)
25. Encourage Mfgs. to upgrade readability of GMDSS items in equipment manuals (SA)
26. Recommend proper interconnection of GPS receivers with DSC Radios (SA)
27. Coordinate with USCG-NMC on training uniformity (TR)
28. Maintain GMDSS Question Pools for FCC and Coast Guard Examinations (TR)

Key to cognizant groups:

- (TF) Task Force
- (CV) Commercial Vessel Task Group
- (RV) Recreational Vessel Task Group
- (SA) Service Agents and Manufacturers Task Group
- (TR) Training Task Group
- (MOD) Modernization Task Group

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