

NATIONAL GMDSS IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE/TIME: Thursday, 13 January 2022 at 9:30 am EST (2:30 pm UTC)
LOCATION: Virtual Only
SIGN-IN: Pre-Register [here](#). Non-registrants may be disconnected from the meeting.
CONVENOR: Captain Jack Fuechsel, USCG (Ret.) 703-963-3747 (m)
CALL IN CONF. No: +1 (804) 469-0625, code 575 017 580# (Mute when not speaking)
JOIN ONLINE: [Click here to join the January 2022 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>
 - Comsar Circ.32 (NCSR 8 Markup) (See item 2.i below)
 - Comsar Circ.33 on Coast Station Operators Certificate (See item 8.a below)
 - FCC-21-69A1 AIS Fishnet.pdf (in Doc. archive)
 - MSC Circ. 803: Participation of non-SOLAS vessels in GMDSS (in Doc. archive)
 - DHS Inspector General Recommendations re VHF Reliability in Alaska (in Doc.archive)
 - UK Study of Impact of Renewable Energy installations Offshore on shipping (See 2.l)
 - NTSB Collision Report on M/V Bow Fortune (See item 2.m below)
 - IMO/ITU Experts Group 17 (See item 2.n below)
 - USCG HF Voice Distress Watchstanding. proposed discontinuance (see 2.o below)
 - IMO Resolution A 1001, Proposed for revision (see 2.p below)
 - Revised GMDSS Information Bulletin for Recreational Boats (see 3.a below)
2. Coast Guard Reports on pending issues – Jerry Ulcek and others
 - a. Planning for June NCSR-9 Conference – Patrick Gallagher
 - b. VHF Four-Digit Channel Number Update – Patrick Gallagher
 - c. VHF Reliability in AK – Pat Gallagher
 - d. NDAA Act re; AK F/V; & F/V use of AIS – Pat Gallagher
 - e. NOAA - Position on EPIRB Return Link Service – Chris Hoffman
 - f. ViaSat buys Inmarsat – Peter Broadhurst
 - g. LED Lighting – Report from SC-137 – Joe Hersey
 - h. Report of: MMSI Management ad hoc Group -: Joe Hersey
 - i. Recommendations on Addressing DSC Problems (NCSR 8/Inf.9)
 - j. SC-101 Action on Class D DSC – Ed Wendlandt
 - k. UK Study of Renewable Energy Navigational Hazards Offshore -
 - l. China restricts dissemination of AIS signals collected terrestrially – Andrew Loretta
 - m. NTSB Report on collision in poor visibility, communications failure
 - n. Report of IMO/ITU EG-17 – Ed Thiedeman
 - o. Discontinuance of USCG HF Voice Watchstanding – Pat Gallagher
 - p. NCSR-9 Issue? Revision of IMO Resolution A.1001 – Bob Markle

- q. New Issue: Long Term Improvement in Arctic & Alaska Comms – Rudy Peschel
- r. Current Canadian Maritime Issues – Alexandre Lavoie – (invited)

3. FCC Report on pending issues – Ghassan Khalek
 - a. Falsified Inspection Documentation found on some vessels
 - b. FCC Enforcement activity on Unauthorized AIS Devices
 - c. FCC Rules Change for new International EPIRB Specs Taking Effect in 2022
 - d. Update FCC Small Passenger Vessel Inspection Checklist to include Iridium
 - e. Report on FCC and Coast Guard meeting in October 2021
4. Reports and Issues: Recreational Vessel Group – George Hallenbeck
 - a. Revised GMDSS Information Bulletin GMDSS and the Recreational Boater
 - b. Supplemental Check Lists for MMSI & GPS during Voluntary Inspections?
 - c. Foreign Flag commercial vessels registered via USPS assigned block
 - d. Should Task Force reopen Beacon proposal for R/Vs Offshore?
 - e. BOATUS News recommending Safety Gifts for boaters – Dave Kennedy
5. Reports and Issues: Commercial Vessel Task Group – Johnny Lindstrom
 - a. Further update on USCG Outlook on Cybersecurity – CDR Michael Chien
 - b. Update on Iridium Implementation of GMDSS Services – Kyle Hurst
 - c. How can Task Force promote more shipboard environmental observations?
6. Reports and Issues: Service Agents & Manufactures Task Group – John Barry
 - a. Update on NMEA Activities – John Barry
 - b. Carriage Requirements for Training Vessels, Equipment for all Sea Areas
7. Reports and Issues: Training Task Group – Kurt Anderson
 - a. Further Revision of GMDSS Operator Question Pools
 - b. New STCW Regulations if they affect Operator Training
 - c. New Issue – Iridium and STCW Lab Proficiencies
8. GMDSS Modernization – Bob Markle
 - a. Comsar Circ. 33 as reviewed by EG-17 on Coast Station Operators Certificate
9. Review Summary Record of 30 September 2021 and Task Force Continuing Work List
10. Recent Maritime News Items of Possible Interest to Task Force
11. Other Business: Confirm next meeting date, 17-19 May 2022 live at RTCA/RTCM HQ in Washington DC during the RTCM Annual Assembly. Follow-on meeting proposed with NMEA during their Annual Meeting in Anaheim CA September 21-24 2022.

Note also the upcoming Digital@Sea North America conference to be held January

25–26, 2022 in Tampa FL. The conference will focus upon the broadening application of the maritime information environment that digitalization is creating and the many initiatives that have advanced since the last North American conference in November of 2019. Please see <https://www.rtcn.org/digital-sea-north-america> for details.

GMDSS TASK FORCE CONTINUING WORK LIST

30 September 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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