

VHF Frequencies for Pleasure Vessels in the Pacific Northwest—14th Edition

Channel Number	Purpose and Use
SAFETY	
16	INTERNATIONAL DISTRESS AND CALLING. Used only for distress and urgency traffic, for safety calls and contacting other stations. Listen first to make sure no distress traffic is in progress; do not transmit if a <i>SEELONCE MAYDAY</i> or <i>SEELONCE DISTRESS</i> is declared. Keep all communications to a minimum. Do not repeat a call to the same station more than once every two minutes. After three attempts wait fifteen minutes before calling the same station.
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Example of proper calling: Blue Duck "Mary Jane this is Blue Duck, WAZ1234." Mary Jane "Blue Duck, Mary Jane." Blue Duck "Reply 68."</p> </div> <p>Use call sign, vessel name or registration number for identification. NOTE: The correct procedure if no response is heard, is silence—no need to say "no contact" or "negative contact."</p>	
6	INTERSHIP SAFETY. Only for ship-to-ship use for safety communications. For Search and Rescue (SAR) liaison with Coast Guard vessels and aircraft. All communications not related to the safety of life or property are prohibited.
22A	COAST GUARD LIAISON. A government channel used for Safety and Liaison communications with the Coast Guard. Also known as Channel 22 US. The U.S. Coast Guard does not normally monitor 22A so you must first establish communications on Channel 16.
70	DIGITAL SELECTIVE CALLING ONLY (NO VOICE) FOR DISTRESS, SAFETY AND CALLING

WASHINGTON MARINAS

- 66A PORT OPERATIONS. All marinas in Puget Sound are being encouraged to use this common frequency for arranging moorage. Do not call on 16.
- 78A INTERSHIP & SHIP-SHORE FOR PLEASURE VESSELS ONLY All marinas in Puget Sound are being encouraged to use this as a secondary working channel.

Radiotelephone Procedure Signals:

<i>MAYDAY</i>	Vessel threatened by grave and imminent danger and requests immediate assistance.
<i>PAN PAN</i>	Urgent message concerning safety of vessel or person on board or in sight.
<i>SECURITY</i>	Message concerning safety of navigation or meteorological warning.
<i>SEELONCE MAYDAY</i> or <i>SEELONCE DISTRESS</i>	Mayday in progress, do not transmit normal communications.
<i>SEELONCE FEENE</i>	Resume normal communications.

Recreational Boating Association of Washington

P. O. Box 23601 • Federal Way, Washington 98093-0601

Voice of Northwest Boating

and the

North Pacific Marine Radio Council

11410 NE 122nd Way, Suite 312 • Kirkland, Washington 98034-6927

Dedicated to Improvement of the Maritime Mobile Service



VHF Marine Channels for Pleasure Vessels in Washington

Channel Number	Purpose and Use
16	INTERNATIONAL DISTRESS AND CALLING. Used only for distress and urgency traffic, for safety calls and contacting other stations. Listen first to make sure no distress traffic is in progress; do not transmit if a <i>SEELONCE MAYDAY</i> or <i>SEELONCE DISTRESS</i> is declared. Keep all communications to a minimum. Do not repeat a call to the same station more than once every two minutes. After three attempts wait fifteen minutes before calling the same station. Pleasure vessels may also use Channel 9 for calling.
6	INTERSHIP SAFETY. Only for ship-to-ship use for safety communications. For Search and Rescue (SAR) liaison with Coast Guard vessels and aircraft.
22A	COAST GUARD LIAISON. A government channel used for Safety and Liaison communications with the Coast Guard. Also known as Channel 22 US. The U.S. Coast Guard does not normally monitor 22A so you must first establish communications on Channel 16.
70	DIGITAL SELECTIVE CALLING ONLY (NO VOICE) FOR DISTRESS, SAFETY AND CALLING

WORKING FREQUENCIES

9	INTERSHIP & SHIP-SHORE ALL VESSELS and CALLING & REPLY FOR PLEASURE VESSELS (optional, U.S. only).
67	INTERSHIP ONLY FOR ALL VESSELS (U.S. only, Puget Sound).
68	INTERSHIP & SHIP-SHORE FOR PLEASURE VESSELS ONLY.
69	INTERSHIP & SHIP-SHORE FOR PLEASURE VESSELS ONLY.
71	INTERSHIP & SHIP-SHORE FOR PLEASURE VESSELS ONLY (Not available in Canada).
72	INTERSHIP ONLY FOR ALL VESSELS (U.S. only, Puget Sound).
78A	INTERSHIP & SHIP-SHORE FOR PLEASURE VESSELS ONLY (Not available in Canada). All marinas in Puget Sound are being encouraged to use this as a secondary working channel.

NAVIGATION (Use LOW POWER only)

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|----|--|
| 13 | Vessel BRIDGE to vessel BRIDGE, large vessels. May also be used to contact locks and bridges <i>BUT</i> use sound signals in the Seattle area to avoid dangerous interference to collision avoidance communications between large vessels. |
| 5A | VESSEL TRAFFIC SYSTEM—NORTH OF BUSH POINT AND EAST OF WHIDBEY ISLAND. Vessels not required to participate are highly encouraged to maintain a listening watch. Contact with VTS is encouraged if essential to navigational safety. |
| 14 | VESSEL TRAFFIC SYSTEM—SOUTH OF BUSH POINT AND WEST OF WHIDBEY ISLAND. Vessels not required to participate are highly encouraged to maintain a listening watch. Contact with VTS is encouraged if essential to navigational safety. |

Columbia and the Willamette River

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 12 | Port Operations. |
| 14 | Corps of Engineers operated locks. |

Even though you may use alternate communication means, such as cellular phone, **MONITOR VHF 16.** The safety of yourself, your family and your friends is enhanced by a watch on 16 by *all* vessels.

REDUCE INTERFERENCE—USE LOW POWER

MARINE OPERATOR (Channels 1, 2, 3, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 60, 64, 84, 85, 86, 87 and 88)

Do not call the marine operator on Channel 16, they do not monitor 16. To place a call, select the telephone channel with the transmitter closest to your vessel location. Listen to see if the channel is clear of traffic, then press the transmit button for about five seconds and give your call sign. There should be a ringing sound. If not, change to another nearby channel or wait until your vessel is in another location.

Location	Ch.	Location	Ch.	Location	Ch.
<i>Alert Bay</i>	86	<i>Holberg</i>	60	<i>Prince Rupert (Mt. Hays)</i>	27
<i>Bamfield (Mt. Blenheim)</i>	27	<i>Hopkins Point</i>	24	<i>Qualicum</i>	25
<i>Bella Bella</i>	25	<i>Jordon River</i>	23	<i>Rennell Sound</i>	86
<i>Big Bay</i>	25	<i>King Isl.</i>	28	<i>Rivers Inlet</i>	3
<i>Brooks Peninsula</i>	87	<i>Kincolith (Pearse Is.)</i>	60	<i>Sarah Point</i>	60
<i>Burnaby Isl.</i>	3	<i>Kyuquot</i>	1	<i>Sayward (Newcastle Ridge)</i>	28
<i>Calvert Isl.</i>	23	<i>Langara</i>	3	<i>Sechelt</i>	86
<i>Campbell River</i>	27/64	<i>Louise Island</i>	64	<i>Swindle Isl.</i>	87
<i>Cape Caution</i>	2	<i>Maderia Park</i>	25	<i>Tasu</i>	25
<i>Cape St. James</i>	24	<i>Masset</i>	24	<i>Tofino</i>	24
<i>Coast Cone (Smith Sound)</i>	85	<i>Nanaimo Harbor</i>	87	<i>Trutch Isl.</i>	86
<i>Denny Isl.</i>	1	<i>Noble Mountain</i>	2	<i>Vancouver (Telus)</i>	23/25
<i>Dundas Isl.</i>	85	<i>Pachena Point</i>	87	<i>Vancouver (Bowen Isl.)</i>	24
<i>East Thurlow</i>	23	<i>Parksville</i>	28	<i>Vancouver (Fraser River)</i>	86
<i>Estevan Point</i>	23	<i>Patrick Point</i>	24	<i>Vancouver (Gabriola Isl.)</i>	88
<i>Ganges</i>	27/64	<i>Pender Harbor</i>	25	<i>Victoria</i>	86
<i>Gil Isl.</i>	60	<i>Port Hardy</i>	24	<i>W. Vancouver (Hood Pt.)</i>	85
<i>Grenville Channel</i>	24	<i>Powell River</i>	85	Whidbey Isl. (WA)	87
<i>Griffin Point</i>	85	<i>Prince Rupert</i>	25/27	<i>Winter Harbor</i>	27

Tips for US Vessels Cruising in British Columbia Waters:

Ship to Shore Public Correspondence: US vessels in British Columbia may make ship to shore calls through Telus stations. Contact the station on its working frequency as listed above. (Telus stations *do not* monitor channel 16.)

Shore to Ship Public Correspondence: Call your local telephone operator and ask to be connected to the Telus Marine Operator.

Channel Number	Purpose and Use
	CONTINUOUS WEATHER BROADCASTS
WX1	162.55 MHz, in Seattle(Cougar Mt.), Neah Bay and Portland, OR. <i>Canada: Aldergrove, Alert Bay, Eliza Dome, Klemtu, Texada, Van Inlet.</i>
WX2	162.40 MHz, in Astoria, OR. <i>Canada: Barry Inlet, Calvert Island, Dundas Island, Mount Gil, Nootka, Port Alberni.</i>
WX3	162.475 MHz, in Olympia. <i>Canada: Bowen Island, Cumsheewa, Estevan Point, Mount Helmcken, Naden Harbor, Port Hardy.</i>
WX4 (US)	162.425 MHz, in Puget Sound (Miller Peak), Forks (Mt. Octopus).
21B & WX8 (Canada)	161.650 MHz, <i>Cape Lazo, Discovery, Esperanza, Holberg, Kitimat, Mount Dent, Mount Hays, Mount Ozzard, Mount Parke, Rose Inlet.</i>
	Note: Some VHF's may number these channels differently. Check your radio manual.

REDUCE INTERFERENCE—USE LOW POWER

VHF Marine Channels for Pleasure Vessels in British Columbia, Canada

Channel Number	Purpose and Use
16	INTERNATIONAL DISTRESS AND CALLING. Used only for distress and urgency traffic, for safety calls and contacting other stations. Listen first to make sure no distress traffic is in progress; do not transmit if a <i>SEELONCE MAYDAY</i> or is <i>SEELONCE DISTRESS</i> declared. Keep all communications to a minimum. Do not repeat a call to the same station more than once every two minutes. After three attempts wait fifteen minutes before calling the same station.
6	INTERSHIP SAFETY. Only for ship-to-ship use for safety communications. For Search and Rescue (SAR) liaison with Coast Guard vessels and aircraft.
22A	COAST GUARD LIAISON. A government channel used for Safety and Liaison communications with the Coast Guard. Also known as Channel 22 US.
70	DIGITAL SELECTIVE CALLING ONLY (NO VOICE) FOR DISTRESS, SAFETY AND CALLING. [Effective August 1, 2003, it will be officially monitored by the Canadian Coast Guard.]

WORKING FREQUENCIES

- 9 INTERSHIP & SHIP-SHORE. All vessels.
- 67 INTERSHIP & SHIP-SHORE. All vessels.
- 68 INTERSHIP & SHIP-SHORE. Pleasure vessels.
- 69 INTERSHIP & SHIP-SHORE. Pleasure vessels.
- 72 INTERSHIP. All vessels.
- 73 INTERSHIP & SHIP-SHORE. All vessels.

CANADIAN MARINAS

Do not call marinas in Canada on Channel 16—they are not authorized to use 16. All marinas monitor a common frequency, depending upon their geographical location.

- 66A Effective January 2004 for all marinas.
- 68 Marinas south of Courtenay. (Until January 2004.)
- 73 Marinas Campbell River and north. (Until January 2004.)

VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE (Pleasure vessels less than 30 meters in length monitor only for vessel traffic.)

- 5A SEATTLE—Strait of Juan de Fuca west of Victoria.
- 11 VICTORIA— Strait of Juan de Fuca east of Victoria; Haro Strait; Boundary Passage; Gulf Islands; Strait of Georgia.
PRINCE RUPERT—Queen Charlotte Sound, Hecate Strait.
- 12 VANCOUVER—Vancouver and Howe Sound.
- 71 COMOX—East Coast of Vancouver Island, north of Parksville up to Cape Caution.
PRINCE RUPERT—Dixon Entrance to Prince Rupert.
- 74 VICTORIA—Fraser River.
TOFINO—West Coast of Vancouver Island.

To contact the Canadian Coast Guard call the station nearest you: Comox, Prince Rupert, Tofino, Vancouver or Victoria.

Even though you may use alternate communication means, such as cellular phone, **MONITOR VHF 16**. The safety of yourself, your family and your friends is enhanced by a watch on 16 by *all* vessels.

REDUCE INTERFERENCE—USE LOW POWER

Marine Distress Communications Form

Complete form now (except for items 5 through 8) and post near your VHF for use in distress.

SPEAK: SLOWLY — CLEARLY — CALMLY

1. Turn VHF on and select Channel 16 (156.8 MHz).
2. Press and hold microphone button and say: **“MAYDAY—MAYDAY—MAYDAY.”**
3. Say: **“THIS IS: _____.”**
Your boat name and call sign or registration number repeated three times.
4. Say: **“MAYDAY _____.”**
Your boat name.
5. **TELL WHERE YOU ARE** (What navigation aids, landmarks or other vessels are near?).
6. **STATE THE NATURE OF YOUR DISTRESS.** (Taking on water, fire aboard, etc.)
7. **GIVE NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AND CONDITIONS OF INJURED.**
8. **ESTIMATE PRESENT SEAWORTHINESS OF YOUR BOAT.**
9. **BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR BOAT:** _____ **FEET** _____ ; _____ **HULL;**
Length Type Color
_____ **TRIM;** _____ **MASTS;** _____ .
Color Number Anything else you think will help rescuers find you.
10. **SAY “THIS IS _____, OVER.”**
Your call sign/boat name.
11. Release microphone button and listen. Someone should answer.

IF THEY DO NOT, REPEAT CALL, BEGINNING AT ITEM NO. 2 ABOVE.

If there is still no answer, switch to another channel and begin again.

Consider having every one put on their PFD. If you are drifting without power, putting your anchor out may keep you off the shore. Have your flares or other visual signaling items available for use.

VHF Call Sign or Vessel Name _____

Vessel Registration No. _____

To report any corrections or suggested changes or to request additional copies, contact:

North Pacific Marine Radio Council
11410 N.E. 122nd Way, Suite 312
Kirkland, WA 98034-6927
Fax: 425-820-0126

REDUCE INTERFERENCE—USE LOW POWER

Proper understanding and use of VHF Radio Procedures is essential in order to ensure that VHF remains a useful and reliable safety and communications tool.

VHF Do's and Don'ts

- DO Use Channel 16 only for Distress and Calling.
- DO Call marinas on the working channel (66A or 78A) instead of 16.
- DO Keep all calling to an absolute minimum on Channel 16.
- DO Call coast stations on their working channel and not Channel 16.
- DON'T* Try to sneak in short messages on Channel 16.
- DO Listen before transmitting to make sure no distress traffic is in progress.
- DO Stop transmitting when a *Seelonce Mayday* is declared. Resume normal communications when *Seelonce Feenee* is declared.
- DO Instruct children on the proper use of the VHF and that it is not a toy.
- DO Call the same station no more than once every two minutes and after three tries wait fifteen minutes.
- DO Use low power at all times. It is required on 13, 14 and 5A.
- DO Keep all communications to the minimum necessary.
- DON'T* Use Channel 16 for radio checks with the Coast Guard. It is not permitted by FCC rules and the Coast Guard doesn't like them on 16. Do your radio checks on a working frequency.
- DO Pick a working channel appropriate to the type of intended communication.
- DO Eliminate idle chit-chat; keep communications to those necessary for the needs of the vessel.
- DON'T* Talk on Channel 70—it is reserved for Digital Selective Calling (DSC) for distress, safety and general calling using DSC techniques.
- DON'T* Use Channels 1–4 or 60–64 in Puget Sound. They are assigned to land stations only.

For additional information call the FCC Consumer Assistance Branch (888) 225-5322.