

GMDSS Procedures For Small Boat Users

INTER-SHIP – where the MMSI of the other vessel is known

Enter the MMSI into the controller, either via the directory or manually. Indicate the inter-ship channel that will be used for R/T communication.

When the called controller 'rings', the called vessel should start the conversation on the selected inter-ship channel. Assuming the vessel's name is 'Cloud Nine' the call will start like this:

Station calling Cloud Nine

This is Cloud Nine

Over.

INTER-SHIP – where the MMSI of the other vessel is unknown

Call on CH16 using the above the same wording.

If no response is received call on CH13 which has been allocated in the GMDSS for bridge to bridge communications.

DISTRESS

Send a Distress Alert using DSC, wait about 15 seconds for a DSC acknowledgement from the Coastguard or a ship station.

On CH16, on receipt of a DSC acknowledgement or after about 15 seconds, transmit the Distress Alert and message:

MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY,

This is [name of own vessel]. Repeat twice more.

MAYDAY

Give following information once only – do not repeat:

[MMSI and name or callsign]

[Position]

[Nature of distress]

[Assistance required]

[Number on board]

[Other information]

OUT.

If no DSC acknowledgement is received, and an offer of assistance is accepted from another vessel, cancel the DSC alert to prevent it automatically retransmitting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF A DSC DISTRESS ALERT

When a DSC controller receives a Distress Alert it will sound an audible alarm. Immediately cease any transmission that may interfere with distress traffic and continue a watch on CH16.

Acknowledgement of a DSC alert via DSC can only be done by coast stations and vessels fitted with Class A or B controllers. (Class D controllers do not have this facility).

If there is no DSC acknowledgement after a short interval (five minutes) then acknowledge by voice on CH16:

MAYDAY

Give Name, followed by call sign or MMSI of the station sending the distress message.

This is [name of own vessel]. Repeat twice more.

RECEIVED MAYDAY

State what assistance you can give.

SAFETY MESSAGE BY INDIVIDUAL VESSEL TO 'ALL SHIPS'

If a vessel is outside coast radio range and needs to issue a safety warning, this can be done by transmitting an All Ships Safety Call by DSC and after about 15 seconds, transmit the safety call and message on Ch16:

SECURITÉ, SECURITÉ, SECURITÉ,
All stations (or called station). **Repeat twice more.**

This is [MMSI and name or call sign of own vessel].

Do not repeat.

Give your safety message?

COAST STATION CALLS

Calls to the Coastguard and other coast stations that use DSC are carried out by entering the MMSI of the Coastguard station to the controller, either manually or from the directory. There is no facility to enter a suggested working channel.

When the Coastguard acknowledges the call, they will indicate the working channel for voice communications and the radio will re-tune automatically. On the working channel pass your message by voice.

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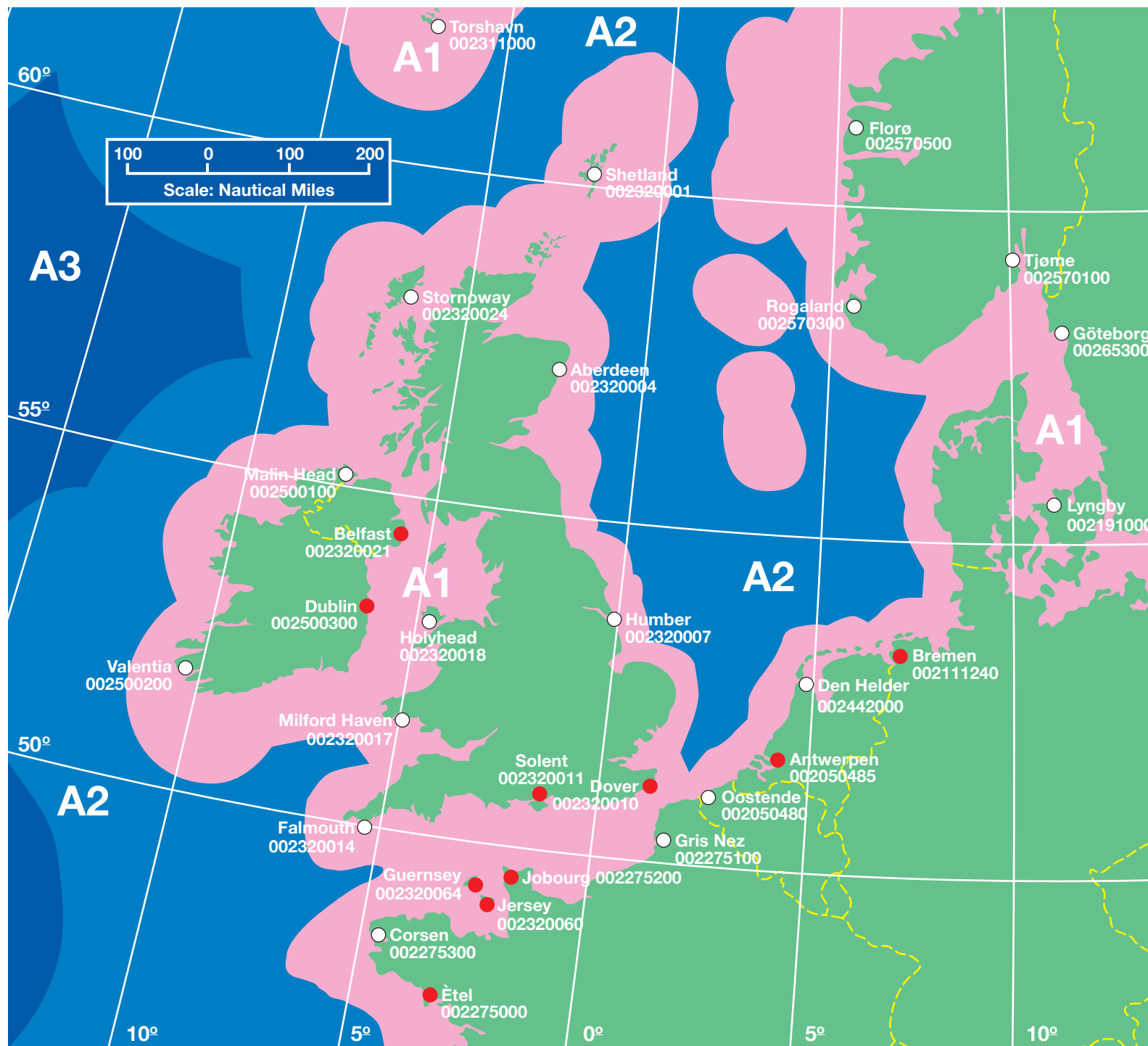
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**Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency**



GMDSS Sea Areas

- Medium Frequency (MF) and Very High Frequency (VHF) Coast Radio Station
- Very High Frequency (VHF) Coast Radio Station

Sea Area A1

The radiotelephone coverage of VHF coast stations in which continuous alerting by Digital Selective Calling (DSC) is available.

This area relates to a vessel with an antenna 4m above sea level. Where the antenna is lower or it is a portable radio, the area is smaller.

Sea Area A2

The radiotelephone coverage of MF coast stations in which continuous alerting by Digital Selective Calling is available.

Sea Area A3

The coverage of Inmarsat geostationary satellites.