

Maritime Radio

USING THE MARITIME RADIO SERVICE

Instructions

The details of correct radio procedure are contained in a publication by Maritime New Zealand called *Radio Handbook for Coastal Vessels*. This should be consulted if in doubt about procedure. The local Coastguard organisations provide courses and certificates for using VHF radio. The basics of VHF radio procedure are outlined below, but these are not comprehensive instructions or a substitute for a Coastguard radio operators course.

When not communicating with other stations, all VHF radios should be switched on and set to channel 16.

Any calls will be initially made on channel 16. After initial contact, further communications are carried out on another channel. There are defined uses for the maritime channels, and the correct one should be selected for the subsequent conversation. Consult the handbook or the radio manufacturer's literature for more details.

To initiate a routine (non-urgent) call, stay on channel 16 and transmit the call sign of the station being called, followed by the call sign of the station initiating the call. When the other station responds, arrange to retune to another channel, and use this channel to continue the conversation. At the end of the conversation, all stations tune back to channel 16.

To initiate a distress/emergency call, stay on channel 16, transmit the station call sign, position and the nature of the problem. Listen for a response. The phrase "Mayday Mayday Mayday" is internationally recognised as the start of a distress call. Only use these words if you or your vessel are in serious danger and require immediate assistance.

Private Messages

Because of its primary role as a distress and safety service, Maritime Radio cannot accept private messages. Commercial and private stations in New Zealand and Australia exist which can pass on messages. Tairaroa Head Radio near Dunedin is commonly used by visiting pleasure boats.

Equipment

Commercial Vessels

Commercial boat/ship operators are obliged by law to carry various type of radio communications equipment. The type of equipment required depends on the area of operation of the vessel in question. Contact the Maritime Operations division of Maritime NZ for more details on radio equipment.

Recreational Vessels

Radio equipment for pleasure boats is optional, but it is strongly recommended that all pleasure boats carry at least a maritime VHF radio and users familiarise themselves with the equipment and radio procedures. There is a big variety of maritime VHF equipment available. All will work with Maritime NZ's VHF radio network. Maritime NZ recommends that all mariners purchase a VHF radio with a Dual Watch function. This will allow listening on channel 16 and another channel (such as a Coastguard channel) at the same time.

Unwanted Noise

Some VHF radios can produce random noises for extended periods when used in some harbours (near lots of other radio transmitters). This is a receiver problem, and occurs when other high-power radios are operating (legally) nearby. This does not affect the transmitter, and the radio can still be used to send distress calls if necessary.

Legal Requirements

From the 1st of February 2001, radio equipment and use requirements for commercial vessels can be found in Maritime Rules Part 43 and the Maritime Rules Parts 40A, B, C and D.

Cellphones

A maritime VHF radio is much better than a cellphone for distress communications.

Maritime VHF radio is an "open channel" system. A distress message sent on channel 16 will be heard immediately by Maritime NZ's Maritime Operations Centre and any other VHF radio within range. This gives the best chance of rapid assistance being given to the vessel in trouble.

A call on a cellphone only communicates with one other party. There is no provision to make a general call for help to anyone close by. This usually adds a lot more delay in summoning assistance (which in many cases has proven fatal) compared to a call on maritime VHF radio.

Also, the VHF coverage around the New Zealand coast is generally better than cellphone coverage.

However, the cellphone system is better suited for private phone calls.

If you must use a cellphone as the only means of communication, put the phone number of Maritime NZ's Maritime Operations Centre (0800 MARITIME/627 484) into the memory. If in distress dial 111, or Maritime Operations Centre for non-urgent assistance.

Buoys & Beacons

APPLICATION FOR DIRECTOR'S CONSENT TO INSTALL, ALTER OR REMOVE A NAVIGATIONAL AID - 16006

No. _____

Pursuant to section 200(7) of the Maritime Transport Act 1994, I _____
on behalf of _____

hereby apply for the approval of the Director of Maritime New Zealand to carry out the work described below:-

Brief description: _____

Reason for application: _____

Type of aid to navigation: _____

Position: _____

Name or identification number: _____ Light list number: _____

Details of light - Colour: _____ Nominal Range: _____

Intensity: _____ Candals Character: _____

Visibility Arcs: _____ Elevation: _____

(MHWS/Focal plane)

Details of Structure - Description: _____ Colour: _____

Height: _____ Topmark: _____

Other details (e.g. fog signal, radar reflector): _____

Estimated date of commencement of work: _____

Estimated date of completion of work: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

WHEREAS

1. PURSUANT to section 200(7) of the Maritime Transport Act 1994 no person shall erect or place or alter or remove any light, signal, buoy or beacon without the sanction of the Director of Maritime NZ.

AND

2. Pursuant to section 443 of the Maritime Transport Act 1994 the power to sanction such erection, placement, alteration or removal has been delegated to me.




I _____ (name) _____ (Designation)

of Maritime NZ HEREBY approve the work specified in this application subject to the following modification:

Dated at Wellington this _____ day of _____ 20__ (Signature)

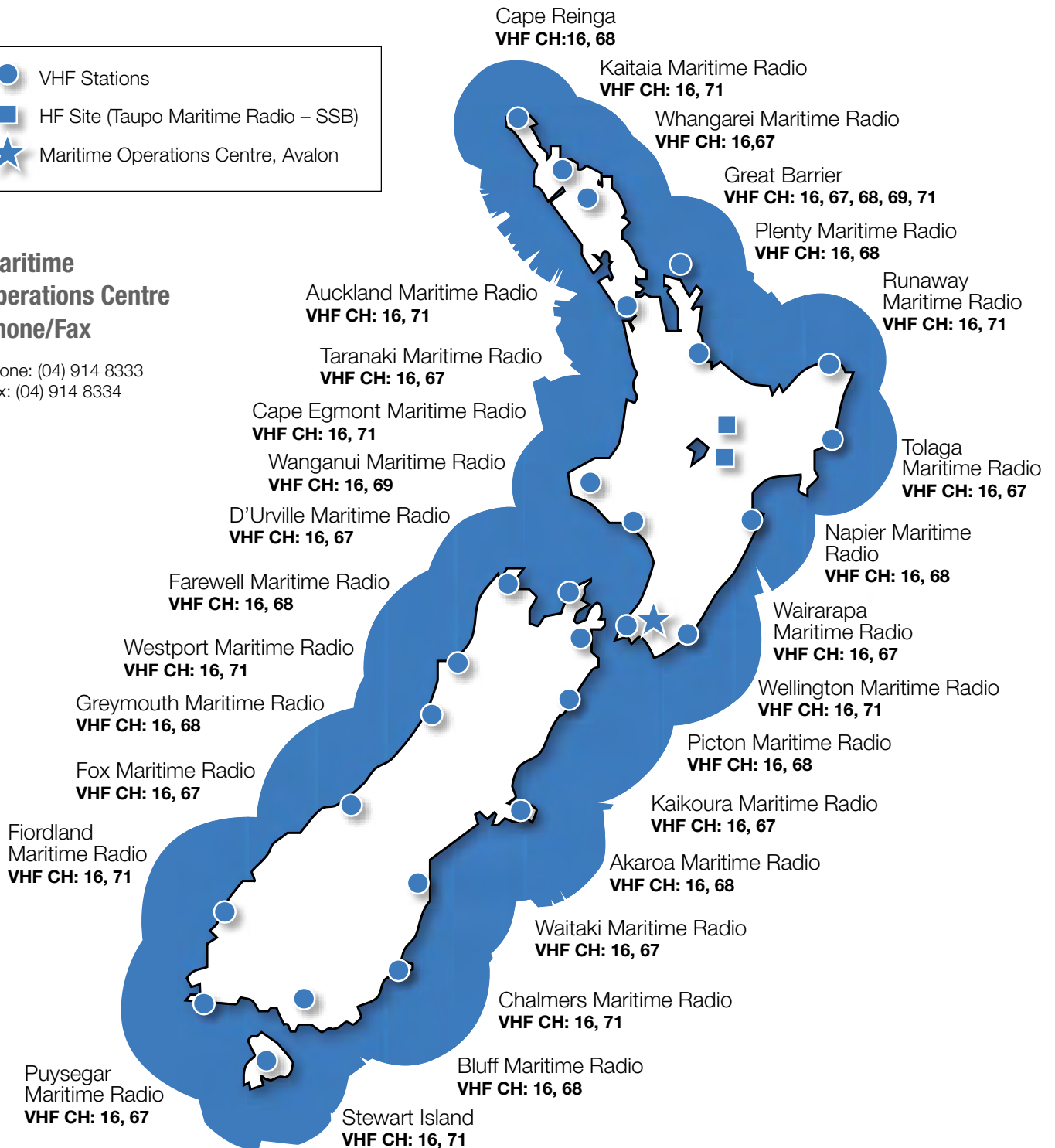
Maritime Radio

MARITIME RADIO VHF COVERAGE & WORKING CHANNELS

	VHF Stations
	HF Site (Taupo Maritime Radio – SSB)
	Maritime Operations Centre, Avalon

Maritime Operations Centre Phone/Fax

Phone: (04) 914 8333
Fax: (04) 914 8334



Note: This map represents approximate location and coverage of Maritime New Zealand's VHF radio stations. From time to time gaps may exist within the areas shown due to terrain shadows and system maintenance. Terrain shadows can occur close to the shore under cliffs or in bays and fiords.

- 24hr/day listening watch is kept by all VHF stations on channel 16.
- The coverage shown above is for vessels with a 25W radio working into a correctly installed antenna mounted 4m or more above the waterline.

#	CALLSIGN OF STATION	WORKING CHANNEL
1	CAPE REINGA Maritime Radio	68
2	KAITAIA Maritime Radio	71
3	WHANGAREI Maritime Radio	67
4	AUCKLAND Maritime Radio	71
5	GREAT BARRIER Maritime Radio	67
6	PLENTY Maritime Radio	68
7	RUNAWAY Maritime Radio	71
8	TOLAGA Maritime Radio	67
9	NAPIER Maritime Radio	68
10	WAIRARAPA Maritime Radio	67
11	WELLINGTON Maritime Radio	71
12	PICTON Maritime Radio	68
13	KAIKOURA Maritime Radio	67
14	AKAROA Maritime Radio	68
15	WAITAKI Maritime Radio	67
16	CHALMERS Maritime Radio	71
17	BLUFF Maritime Radio	68
18	STEWART ISLAND Maritime Radio	71
19	PUYSEGUR Maritime Radio	67
20	FIORDLAND Maritime Radio	71
21	FOX Maritime Radio	67
22	WESTPORT Maritime Radio	71
23	GREYMOUTH Maritime Radio	68
24	FAREWELL Maritime Radio	68
25	D'URVILLE Maritime Radio	67
26	TARANAKI Maritime Radio	67
27	CAPE EGMONT Maritime Radio	71
28	WANGANUI Maritime Radio	69

