

NATIONAL GMDSS IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE/TIME: 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM (EST) Thursday, 8 January 2026

LOCATION: Virtual

CONVENOR: Bill Cairns

CALL IN CONF. No: **+1 804-469-0625,, 668 978 817#** (*6 to Mute/Unmute after joining)

JOIN ONLINE: [**GMDSS TF 8 January 2026**](#)

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WEBSITE: [**https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/task-force-background**](https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/task-force-background)

AGENDA

1. Documents and web access citations: See [**https://joecel.com/GMDSSTaskForce**](https://joecel.com/GMDSSTaskForce)
2. Recreational Vessel Group – Gene Danko
 - a. National Safe Boating Advisory Committee – Brian Moore
3. Commercial Vessel Task Group – Johnny Lindstrom/Eric Weber/Bill Haynes/Eric Verdin
4. Service Agents & Manufacturers Task Group – John Barry/Abel Jarque
5. Training Task Group – Kurt Anderson
 - a. Review Elements 3, 8 & 9 Relating to GMDSS Maintainers
 - b. Iridium and STCW Lab Proficiencies and Operator Competencies – Mark Lawson
 - c. Task Force Information Bulletin on Iridium Services
 - d. F/V Exemptions, Waivers & Tonnage issues
 - e. GMDSS Operator Requirements, checks during Inspections
6. Coast Guard Reports
 - a. NCSR/MSC updates – Patrick Gallagher
 - b. ITU/IMO Joint Experts Group – Patrick Gallagher
 - c. ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group – Dave Edwards
 - d. NAVTEX outages – Pat Geddes
 - e. ITU-R WP5B Update – Johnny Schultz
 - f. Four Digit Numbering on VHF Channels – Joe Hersey
 - g. VHF-FM voice blocking AIS – Joe Hersey
 - h. Status of Class D DSC – Joe Hersey
 - i. Radar SART Performance and detection – Joe Hersey
 - j. AIS Mobile AtoN – Joe Hersey
 - k. Interpretation of USCG fishing vessel carriage requirements
 - l. Transition of SARSAT Program from NOAA to USCG – Ed Thiedeman/Layne Carter/Alan Knox

- m. Recommendation to IMO MSC that all mariners carry personal PLBs – Ed Thiedeman
- n. MSLDs - Ed Thiedeman
- o. Aqua Alert Bill in Congress – Ed Thiedeman

7. MMSI WG and related issues – Joe Hersey

- a. MMSI Management
- b. MMSI reset
- c. USPS assuming Seatow MMSIs
- d. Registering MMSIs used by autonomous vessels
- e. AIS display issues (duplicate MMSIs and SAR aircraft)

8. Satellite Systems

- a. COSPAS/SARSAT
- b. Iridium
- c. Inmarsat
- d. Orbcomm, Starlink, others

9. FCC Updates – Katie Knox/Kathleen Curameng

10. Reports from Other Government & International Agencies:

- a. NOAA/NWS Update – Melinda Bailey/Chris Landsea/Darin Figurskey
- b. CMTS – Ashley Chappell
- c. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) – Don Meyer
- d. NTSB - TBD
- e. Canadian Maritime Issues –Glenn Coady/Mickael Belfiore
- f. CIRM – Chris Jones

11. Review Summary Record of 10 Sep 2025 and Task Force Continuing Work List

12. Other Business: Confirm next meeting date.

GMDSS TASK FORCE CONTINUING WORK LIST

8 Jan 2026

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 voluntary carriage of VHF and EPIRB/PLBs by all vessels offshore (TF)
8. Monitor USCG and FCC policy & practice on MMSI assignments (TF)
9. Monitor non-GMDSS systems: AIS, LRIT, SSAS, VDES, VMS, and E-Navigation (TF)
10. Recommend means to improve Distress Alerts by Cell Phone & Internet (TF)
11. Advocate use of the Alaska AIS Monitor Network for VHF Distress Guard (TF)
12. Monitor Developments in Cybersecurity and advise membership (TF)
13. Review GMDSS concepts and make modernization recommendations (MOD)
14. Monitor response from USCG HF Commstas to test calls on HF-DSC performance (CV)
15. Recommend Safety Radio and VMS Requirements for Small Fishing Vessels (CV)
16. Recommend Safety Radio & Navigation Requirements for Towing Vessels (CV)
17. Recommend Safety Radio & Nav. Outfit for Small Passenger Vessels (CV)
18. Advocate better FCC & USCG management of annual GMDSS inspections (CV)
19. Maintain Inspection Guidelines and Check Lists for selected vessel types (CV)
20. Advocate voluntary training programs for users of GMDSS systems (RV)
21. Encourage GMDSS handbooks and Internet and video training aids (RV)
22. Encourage users of VHF-DSC to Register for MMSI and connect GPS (RV)
23. Encourage Mfrs. to upgrade readability of GMDSS items in equipment manuals (SA)
24. Recommend proper interconnection of GPS receivers with DSC Radios (SA)
25. Coordinate with USCG-NMC on training uniformity (TR)
26. 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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