

MMSI Working Group Summary Record

Sponsored by USCG and RTCM's GMDSS Task Force

Time / Date: Wednesday, 6 May 2026, 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM EDT

Location: Hybrid – RTCM 2026 Assembly Ft Lauderdale Beach FL
Meeting was recorded in part for notekeeping purposes
Meeting documents available from [MMSI Working Group Repository](#)

1. Welcome, changes to and approval of the agenda

Attendees were welcomed and the agenda noted

2. [Summary record](#) and consequential actions from December 17th, 2025 MMSI Working Group meeting, Noting [Action items requiring long term action](#)

Summary record for the December 2025 meeting and the long term action list were noted.

3. Action Items from last meeting (updated items in red)

Action Item	Description	Assigned to	Action
59, 71	Update on USPS assuming Sea Tow MMSI registrations. Seatow/USPS duplications will need to separately identified: 3423 duplicates found in MISLE. USPS is taking in 26,742 SeaTow registrations Tests with USCG Kearneysville completed. Need to capture late edits to Seatow MMSI registrations. Prepare advisory regarding suspension in updating existing Seatow MMSI registrations	Gene Danko	Completed. Close.
70	Clarify processes, terminology and definitions used in MMSI transfer process: 1. Administrative Change – update of information not changing vessel, owner, or license type (no transfer involved) 2. Agent Change – transfer of license-by-rule MMSI agent and also FCC 3. Ownership Change – Transfer of vessel and/or radio to new owner (MMSI user) 4. Combined Change – Combined administration and ownership changes, including license type change to/from NTIA or FCC	Joe Hersey, Ed Thiedeman, Gene Danko, Katie Knox, Mike Brown	Discussed under agenda 4. Only processes #2 and #3 were considered. Currently only BOAT US allows a change in agent. Since The MMSI allotment list does not include changes in agent, one can normally assume BOAT US is the new agent if there's been a change in registrant.

	5. Fleet Change—change in fleet ownership of multiple vessels (affects FCC only) 6. Inactive Vs Cancelled MMSI registration no distinction between terms		
73	Begin listing needed updates to MMSI MOA. Include MMSI providers decides to withdraw (Long Term AI 4), handling autonomous vessels.	Joe Hersey and FCC	Addressed under Agenda 5
74	LBR providers recommend autonomy designation	BOAT US, USPS, Shine	Deferred for now, until requirement established. Include in MOA list. Close.
75	Look for “000” MMSIs in LBR registrations	BOAT US, USPS, Shine Joe	Five identified so far.
76	Agree on what authority is needed from original owner to reassign MMSI	BOAT US, USPS, Shine, FCC, Joe	Addressed in Agenda 4 Close
77	Discuss MOA next edition in separate meeting Met on 18 March	BOAT US, USPS, Shine, FCC, Joe	Addressed in agenda 5. Continue on agenda. Close.

4. Clarify processes, terminology and definitions used in MMSI transfer process

- Ownership change (Action Item 70: #3 and #4)
 - It was agreed that a copy of a bill of sale that included the signatures of both buyer and seller would be considered sufficient proof in authorizing a change in MMSI registration from one registrant (seller) to the other (buyer).
 - If transfer of ownership occurred and the original owner is unknown, then the buyer (new owner) should arrange for MMSIs to be reset in any DSC-equipped radio and AIS before a new MMSI can be assigned and registered. Transfer of MMSI registration should not be permitted in this situation.
 - If transfer of ownership occurred and the registrant learns that the new owner is unknown, then the registrant shall enter “BUYER UNK” placed at the beginning of the Remarks field, both for visibility to the watchstander and to displace data from the trailing end of the field. Original contact information would be retained. The purpose of retaining this data is for historical purposes only.
- Agent change (Action Item 70: #2 and #4)
 - How to document change in MMSI allocation table? Since no apparent means exist to document this change in the MMSI allocation table, we will keep this on the agenda. Since BOAT US is currently the only MMSI agent accepting transfers of registration from another agent, one may for

now first assume that BOAT US is the new agent, if the agent listed in the MMSI allocation table is incorrect.

5. Needed updates to MMSI MOA

- Process for termination and registration handover
- Address VHF handled MMSIs. Noted that this should be an option, but providers not choosing this option would be restricted from issuing MMSIs to handhelds unless associated with a single vessel.
- Clarify requirements for biennial notification of registrants- including SMS text
- Address registration terminations and transfers
 - When you learn registration is invalid because vessel was sold: BUYER UNK in Remarks.
 - Shine suggested that a decision matrix be included. NAVCEN webpage has been addressing this.
- Review annexed data specifications.
 - Update vessel categories applicable to boaters
- USCG direct read-only data access to the data. FCC indicated that while they do not necessarily need direct access, they do need the provider to give a timely response to queries regarding registration. FCC indicated that has not always occurred.
- USCG Interconnection Security Agreement (ISA). Awaiting on response from FCC. USPS asked that any ISA agreement be reviewed by providers before going in to MOA. MOA should have a high level statement regarding need for ISA.
- Identifying MMSIs used for autonomous vessels.

When FCC is ready, they and USCG will bring a draft updated MOA for review and adoption by providers.

6. Manufacturer IDs for devices using a freeform number identity

- 9172T3X4X5M6P7P8Y9Y10Y11Y12 used on AIS Message #14

- CIRM Working Paper [draft](#) was reviewed by the MMSI WG for information. No changes were suggested. Time did not permit addressing the four key questions addressed in paragraph 28 of this document. The time was spent instead in understanding what these codes were and how they would be used as described in the IRU-R recommendations. Those questions can however be addressed when the MMSI WG next meets.

ITU adopted this additional three-character “MPP” codes for identifying AIS SARTs, AIS EPIRBs and AIS man-overboard devices in their update to ITU-R M.1371-6 and M.585-10. These three alpha-numeric characters (36 combinations available per character) are not part of the MMSI, but used with the MMSI to aid in differentiating multiple AIS emitters in the case of duplicated MMSIs. The “M” alphanumeric code supplements the existing “XX” numeric identity in identifying device manufacturers assigned by CIRM. The “PP” alphanumeric code supplements the serial numeric “YYYY” identity encoded by the manufacturer.

There was discussion about whether the supplementary identification code “PP” was or should be numeric (like “YYYY”) or alphanumeric. A later check with M.585-10 confirmed “PP” was alphanumeric.

There was also discussion without consensus on how these 12 characters should be displayed when received by AIS MSG 14. Some favored display of all 12 characters together as documented in M.585-10, and others favored separating “MPP” from the MMSI in the display, since “MPP” was not really part of the MMSI. Nevertheless, that decision would likely be made by the IEC TC80 maintenance team assigned to update the display standard IEC 62288.

Kurt Anderson noted this change may affect GMDSS instruction, where the meaning of 970, 972 and 974 is taught.

7. AIS AtoN and Mobile AtoN MMSI and license application

These points below were discussed and the Ofcom information noted. Jorge indicated that there was no change necessary to the AIS AtoN MMSI webpage. The US Army Corp of Engineers was given a block of AIS AtoN MMSIs which can be applied for any fixed or deployable AIS AtoNs. While no USCG review is necessary, and NTIA frequency assignment remains necessary. While the Army spectrum office no longer controls this MMSI block, NTIA is in contact with the ACoE office which does manage those MMSIs.

- UK Ofcom AtoN [AIS license applicaton](#) and Mobile AtoN [2026 Consultation](#)
- USCG [Private AtoN application](#) and FCC license application with waiver
- Needed updates to [MMSIs for AIS Aids to Navigation webpage?](#)

8. Guidance on registering MMSIs for use by autonomous vessels in U.S. waters

- FCC [FCC Notice DA 25-652](#)
- Updates from USCG Automated and Autonomous Vessel Policy Council or IMO?

No update.

9. Federal/NTIA MMSI issues

Mike Brown indicated there were no federal issues. Followup with FCC is necessary.

10. MMSI duplicate registrations

- MISLE duplicate MMSIs by entity [spreadsheet](#)

No update. Publishing duplicate MMSIs was discussed. While there was no agreement that duplicate MMSIs should be publicized, it was agreed that information should remain available. Will keep on the agenda.

11. Education and reaching out

No discussion.

12. Any other matters

No other matters.

13. Action Items for next meeting

Action Item	Description	Assigned to	Action
70	Clarify processes, terminology and definitions used in MMSI transfer process: 1. Administrative Change – update of information not changing vessel, owner, or license type (no transfer involved) 2. Agent Change – transfer of license-by-rule MMSI agent and also FCC 3. Ownership Change – Transfer of vessel and/or radio to new owner (MMSI user) 4. Combined Change – Combined administration and ownership changes, including license type change to/from NTIA or FCC 5. Fleet Change – change in fleet ownership of multiple vessels (affects FCC only) 6. Inactive Vs Cancelled MMSI registration no distinction between terms	Joe Hersey, Ed Thiedeman, Gene Danko, Katie Knox, Mike Brown	Discussed under agenda 4. Only processes #2 and #3 were considered. Currently only BOAT US allows a change in agent. Since The MMSI allotment list does not include changes in agent, one can normally assume BOAT US is the new agent if there's been a change in registrant. Confirm finding for #2 and #3 at next meeting, update NAVCEN website, then propose close.
73	Begin listing needed updates to MMSI MOA. Include MMSI providers decides to withdraw (Long Term AI 4), handling autonomous vessels.	Joe Hersey and FCC	Propose close.
75	Look for “000” MMSIs in LBR registrations Five identified so far.	BOAT US, USPS, Shine Joe	Follow-up search in MISLE planned,.

14. Scheduling next meeting

The next virtual meeting of the MMSI Working Group was scheduled for Wednesday,
2 SEP at 1:30 PM EDT, 10:30 AM PDT, 5:30 PM UTC



[NAVCEN MMSI website](#)

Attendees

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✓ in red indicates attended in person