

VHF Marine Radio Frequencies

Important Note

Anyone who intends to listen to radio transmissions should be aware that licence is not required for a radio receiver as long as it is not capable of transmission as well.

However, although it is not illegal to sell, buy or own a scanning or other receiver in the UK, it must only be used to listen to transmissions meant for GENERAL RECEPTION. The services that you can listen to include Amateur and Citizens' Band transmissions, licensed broadcast radio and weather and navigation broadcasts.

It is an offence to listen to any other radio services unless you are authorized by a designated person to do so. This means that it is illegal to listen to anything other than general reception transmissions unless you are either a licensed user of the frequencies in question or have been specifically authorised to do so. Also if communication is overheard it is illegal to tell a third party what you have heard or profit from the information.

The above is only a summary of the relevant guidance note on the OFCOM website issued some time ago by the now defunct Radio Communication Agency but should still be considered valid.

Should anyone have any doubt about the legality of radio reception they should visit the OFCOM website for further clarification and read the information note in full or contact OFCOM

SOLENT AREA VHF MARINE RADIO FREQUENCY LIST

Notes:

- 1 A simplex channel is where the A and B frequencies are the same. Both stations use the same frequency. If both stations are in range the conversation will be heard.
- 2 A duplex channel is where the A and B frequencies are different. The two stations use different frequencies. Only one side of the conversation will be heard.
- 3 With duplex channels, the ship station transmits on the lower (A) frequency and listens on the upper (B) frequency. The shore station transmits on the upper (B) frequency and listens on the lower (A) frequency.
- 4 Many of the duplex channels which were used for public correspondence are now being allocated for other services such as weather forecast broadcasts and AIS due to the increased use of mobile telephones and satellite services.
- 5 Some marine traffic may use other frequencies e.g. hire radios for special events and company private channels.
- 6 All frequencies in MHz.
- 7 For completeness USA channels are shown, 109 to 119 are actually duplex channels, but are used as simplex channels in UK.
- 8 Channels marked xx have no marine channel designation in UK, and the users may use their in house channel numbers.
- 9 At times of enhanced radio propagation usually during the summer months when high pressure systems dominate the weather ranges in excess of the typical expected line of sight are possible. Since most international channels are shared with other ports other ports maybe overheard from the Solent area i.e. Le Havre Port on Channel 12.
- 10 The information listed here is a compilation of information already in the public domain. The accuracy of the information cannot therefore be guaranteed or considered verified.
- 11 The information listed below is for information how the VHF Marine is organised and not a recommendation or incitement to listen to any transmissions that are not for general reception.
- 12 Generally international channels are Ch01-28 and Ch60-88 it is unlikely that transmissions for general reception will be found outside this range.

CH No.	A Frequency	B Frequency	Allocation	Usage in Solent	Comments
00	156.000	156.000	Ship to shore/ship/air search and rescue simplex	Solent Coastguard Portland Coastguard Coastguard Land based Units Coastguard Helicopter RNLI and inshore rescue Police Launch	Ch 00 is actually a duplex channel but used as 2 simplex channels
99	160.600	160.600	Ship to shore/ship/air search and rescue simplex	Coastguard/Auxiliary Coastguard non search and rescue	Used for training
01	156.050	160.650	Ship to Shore duplex	Wightlink Ferries	
01A	156.050	156.050	Simplex		USA Channel
02	156.100	160.700	Ship to Shore duplex		
02A	156.100	156.100	Simplex		USA Channel
03	156.150	160.750	Ship to Shore duplex		
03A	156.150	156.150	Simplex		USA Channel
04	156.200	160.800	Ship to Shore duplex		
04A	156.200	156.200	Simplex		USA Channel
05	156.250	160.850	Ship to Shore duplex		
05A	156.250	156.250	Simplex		USA Channel
06	156.300	156.300	Ship to Ship simplex	Water Taxi Cowes	Primary Intership
07	156.350	156.950	Ship to Shore duplex		
07A	156.350	156.350	Ship to Ship simplex		USA Channel Intership
08	156.400	156.400	Ship to Ship simplex		
09	156.450	156.450	Ship to Ship simplex	Pilotage communications for both Portsmouth and Southampton	
10	156.500	156.500	Ship to Ship simplex	Pollution Control Activity	Intership
11	156.550	156.550	Ship to Shore simplex	Occasional Tug Use Portsmouth QHM (Queens Harbour Master)	All harbour movements
12	156.600	156.600	Ship to Shore simplex	Southampton VTS (Vessel Traffic Service)	Primary port operations channel
13	156.650	156.650	Ship to Shore simplex	Portsmouth QHM (Queens Harbour Master)	QHM harbour dockyard admin, Serco Tugs

14	156.700	156.700	Ship to Shore simplex	Southampton VTS Portsmouth Harbour Radio Chichester Harbour Radio Itchenor Ferry	Navigation al broadcast hourly by VTS in summer. Secondary port operations channel.
15	156.750	156.750	Ship to Ship simplex low power	Yarmouth Water Taxi	
16	156.800	156.800	Calling and Distress simplex	Ship to Ship calling and Distress	
17	156.850	156.850	On board simplex	Bembridge Yachts Warsash Yachts Southampton VTS	
18	156.900	161.500	Port Operations duplex		Reserve Channel USA Channel FMT Primary USA Channel Primary Duplex channel. USA Channel
18A	156.900	156.900	Simplex		
19	156.950	161.550	Port Operations duplex	Esso Marine Terminal BP Hamble	
19A	156.900	156.900	Simplex		
20	157.000	161.600	Ship to Shore duplex	Southampton VTS	USA Channel Reserve Channel USA Channel
20A	157.000	157.000	Simplex		
21	157.050	161.650	Ship to Shore duplex		
21A	157.050	157.050	Simplex		
22	157.100	157.700	Ship to Shore duplex	Southampton VTS	USA Channel
22A	157.100	157.100	Simplex		
23	157.150	161.750	Ship to Shore duplex		
23	-----	161.750	Broadcast	Solent Coastguard Weather/Navigational Warnings Portland Coastguard Weather/Navigational Warnings	
23A	157.150	157.150	Simplex		USA Channel
24	157.200	161.800	Ship to Shore duplex		USA Channel
24A	157.200	157.200	Simplex		
25	157.250	161.850	Ship to Shore duplex		USA Channel
25A	157.250	157.250	Simplex		
26	157.300	161.900	Ship to Shore duplex		USA Channel
26A	157.300	157.300	Simplex		
27	157.350	161.950	Ship to Shore duplex		USA Channel
27A	157.350	157.350	Simplex		
28	157.400	161.000	Ship to Shore duplex		

28A	157.400	157.400	Simplex		USA Channel
29	157.450	157.450	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex	Portsmouth Continental Ferry Port Sunsail Yachts Southampton Patrol	
30	157.500	157.500	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex private		
31	157.550	157.550	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex private	RNLI non Search and Rescue/Training Cowes Coastguard Gosport Ferry	
32	157.600	157.600	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex private		
33	157.650	157.650	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex private	Dean and Dyball Ocean Village Marina	
34	157.700	157.700	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex private	Itchen Marine Towage	
35	157.750	157.750	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex private	Butchers Towing Channel 1	
36	157.800	157.800	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex private	Hovertravel Ryde Base Southsea Base	
37	157.850	157.850	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex private	Island Sailing Club Royal London Yacht Club Warsash Control Royal Southampton Yacht Club Seastart	
38	157.900	162.500	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex private		Various other Yacht Clubs Old yacht channel M1
38	157.900	157.900	Simplex		
39	157.950	157.950	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex private	Calshot Activity Centre	
40	158.000	158.000	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex private	Cowes Harbour Radio HM1/HM2/HM3	
41	158.050	158.050	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex private	Whittakers Tankers	
42	158.100	158.100	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex private		
43	158.150	158.150	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex private	Solent and Wightline Cruises	
44	158.200	158.200	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore duplex	Shipping Agents	
45	158.250	158.250	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex	Langstone Harbour Radio	
46	158.300	162.900	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore duplex	Shipping Agents	
46	158.300	158.300	Simplex		
47	158.350	158.350	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex	Northwood Dredging	
48	158.400	158.400	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex	Solent Towage	
49	158.450	158.450	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore simplex	Butchers Towing channel 2	

50	158.500	158.500	Ship to Ship/Ship to Shore	Ryde Rescue Sandown Rescue Gosport Rescue	Inshore Rescue Services
51				Not in Marine Use	
52				Not in Marine Use	
53				Not in Marine Use	
54				Not in Marine Use	
55				Not in Marine Use	
56				Not in Marine Use	
57				Not in Marine Use	
58				Not in Marine Use	
59				Not in Marine Use	
60	156.025	160.625	Ship to Shore duplex		USA Channel
60A	156.025	156.025	Simplex		
61	156.075	160.675	Ship to Shore duplex	Shipping Agents	USA Channel
61A	156.075	156.075	Simplex		
62	156.125	160.725	Ship to Shore duplex		USA Channel
62A	156.125	156.125	Simplex		
63	156.175	160.775	Ship to Shore duplex		USA Channel
63A	156.175	156.175	Simplex		
64	156.225	160.825	Ship to Shore duplex	Shipping Agents	USA Channel
64A	156.225	156.225	Simplex		
65	156.275	160.875	Ship to Shore duplex	Shipping Agents	USA Channel
65A	156.275	156.275	Simplex		
66	156.325	160.925	Ship to Shore duplex		USA Channel
66A	156.325	156.325	Simplex		
67	156.375	156.375	Ship to Shore/Ship/Air simplex	Solent Coastguard Portland Coastguard Coastguard Land based Units Coastguard Helicopter RNLI and inshore rescue Police Launch River Hamble Yarmouth Harbour Cowes Harbour Radio/HM1/2/3 Newport Harbour Folly Launch Ratseys Cowes Yacht Haven Mobile	USA Channel Small craft Safety channel
68	156.425	156.425	Port Operations simplex		
69	156.475	156.475	Port Operations simplex		
70	156.525	156.525	Digital Selective Calling (DSC)		
71	156.575	156.575	Port Operations simplex	Southampton Oil TerminalTugs to Pilot Berthing Master BPJ & FMT	No voice communic ation
72	156.625	156.625	Ship to Ship/Shore simplex	Ship to Ship	
73	156.675	156.675	Port Operations simplex	Solent Coastguard	

74	156.725	156.725	Port Operations simplex	Portland Coastguard Southampton Tugs Pilot Berthing Master	Mostly private leisure craft
75	156.775		Guard Channel	Ship to Ship comms Cowes Water Taxi Folly Waterbus Hamble Water Taxi	
76	156.825		Guard Channel		
77	156.875	156.875	Ship to Ship simplex		
78	156.925	161.525	Ship to Shore duplex		
78A	156.925	156.925	Simplex		
79	156.975	161.575	Ship to Shore duplex		
79A	156.975	156.975	Simplex		
80	157.025	161.625	Ship to Shore duplex		
80A	157.025	157.025	Simplex		
81	157.075	161.675	Ship to Shore duplex		Cowes Yacht Haven Island Harbour Ryde Harbour Bembridge Harbour
81A	157.075	157.075	Simplex		USA Channel
82	157.125	161.725	Ship to Shore duplex		USA Channel
82A	157.125	157.125	Simplex		USA Channel
83	157.175	161.775	Ship to Shore duplex		USA Channel
83A	157.175	157.175	Simplex		USA Channel
84	157.225	161.825	Ship to Shore duplex		USA Channel
84A	157.225	157.225	Simplex		USA Channel
85	157.275	161.875	Ship to Shore duplex		USA Channel
85A	157.275	157.275	Simplex		USA Channel
86	157.325	161.925	Ship to Shore duplex	Solent Coastguard Weather/Navigational Warnings Portland Coastguard Weather/Navigational Warnings	USA Channel No voice comms USA Channel No voice comms USA Channel USA CH89 USA CH90
86	-----	161.925	Broadcast		
86	157.325	157.325	Simplex		
87	157.375	161.975	Automatic Identification System		
87A	157.375	157.375	Simplex		
88	157.425	162.025	Automatic Identification System		
88A	157.425	157.425	Simplex		
xx	157.475	162.075	Duplex private		
xx	157.525	162.125	Duplex private		

xx	157.575	162.175	Duplex private	Solent Towing Centre	USA CH91
xx	157.625	162.225	Duplex private		USA CH92
xx	157.675	162.275	Duplex private		USA CH93
xx	157.725	162.325	Duplex private		USA CH94
xx	157.775	162.375	Duplex private		USA CH95
xx	157.825	162.425	Duplex private		USA CH96
xx	157.875	162.475	Duplex private		USA CH97
xx	157.925	162.525	Duplex private		USA CH98
xx	157.975	162.575	Duplex private		USA CH99
xx	158.025	162.625	Duplex private		USA CH100
xx	158.075	162.675	Duplex private	Portsmouth Continental Ferry Port	USA CH101
xx	158.075	158.075	Duplex private		USA CH102
xx	158.125	162.725			
xx	158.175	162.775	Duplex private		USA CH103
xx	158.225	162.825	Duplex private	Yacht Club	USA CH104
xx	158.225	158.225	Duplex private		USA CH105
xx	158.275	162.875			
xx	158.325	162.925	Duplex private		USA CH106
xx	158.375	162.975	Duplex private		USA CH107
xx	158.425	163.025	Duplex private		USA CH108
xx	158.425	158.425	Simplex private	Wightlink Ferries	USA CH109
xx	158.475	163.075			
xx	158.475	158.475	Simplex private	Marina	USA CH110
xx	161.125	161.125	Simplex private	Westminster Dredging	USA CH111
xx	161.150	161.150	Simplex private		USA CH112
xx	161.175	161.175	Simplex private		USA CH113
xx	161.200	161.200	Simplex private	Yarmouth Harbour	USA CH114
xx	161.225	161.225	Simplex private	Seaview Yacht Club	Old yacht channel
xx	161.250	161.250	Simplex private	Gosport Rescue	M3
xx	161.275	-----	Low power alarms		USA CH115
xx	161.300	161.300	Simplex private	Cowes UKSA Base	USA CH116
xx	161.325	161.325	Simplex private		USA CH117
					USA CH118
					USA

xx	161.350	161.350	Simplex private on board comms	Onboard ship P1	CH119
xx	161.375	161.375	Simplex private	Medina Valley Sailing Centre	
xx	161.400	-----	Radio Navigation		
xx	161.425	161.425	Simplex private		
xx	161.450	161.450	Simplex private on board comms	Onboard ship P2	Old yacht channel M2