



## Digital Selective Calling (DSC) is a digital transfer

between radios versus voice transmission. It allows mariners to instantly send an automatically formatted distress alert to the Coast Guard

### What does it do?



- Allows boaters to privately hail other DSC equipped vessels or shore stations
- Decreases non-emergency radio traffic on emergency channels
- Changes radio transmissions to digital or 'voiceless' to prevent missed distress calls
- Continues to transmit distress until acknowledged
- Transmits MMSI with distress call
- If connected to GPS, transmits position of caller
- Provides a one touch button for distress
- Allows a non-experienced boater to send a distress message
- Notifies you of a call and automatically switches you to the channel your caller is waiting on

### What is an MMSI?



- Maritime Mobile Service Identities are formed of a series of nine digits which are uniquely encoded with the vessel/owner's information, used to identify and help find them in a distress situation
- It is like a phone number with emergency information encoded into it.
- You can store other vessel's MMSIs into your radio like a 'contact list'
- DSC radios **MUST** receive an MMSI to function
- MMSIs are kept in a database by the Coast Guard for distress information retrieval
- You have to know someone's MMSI to call them



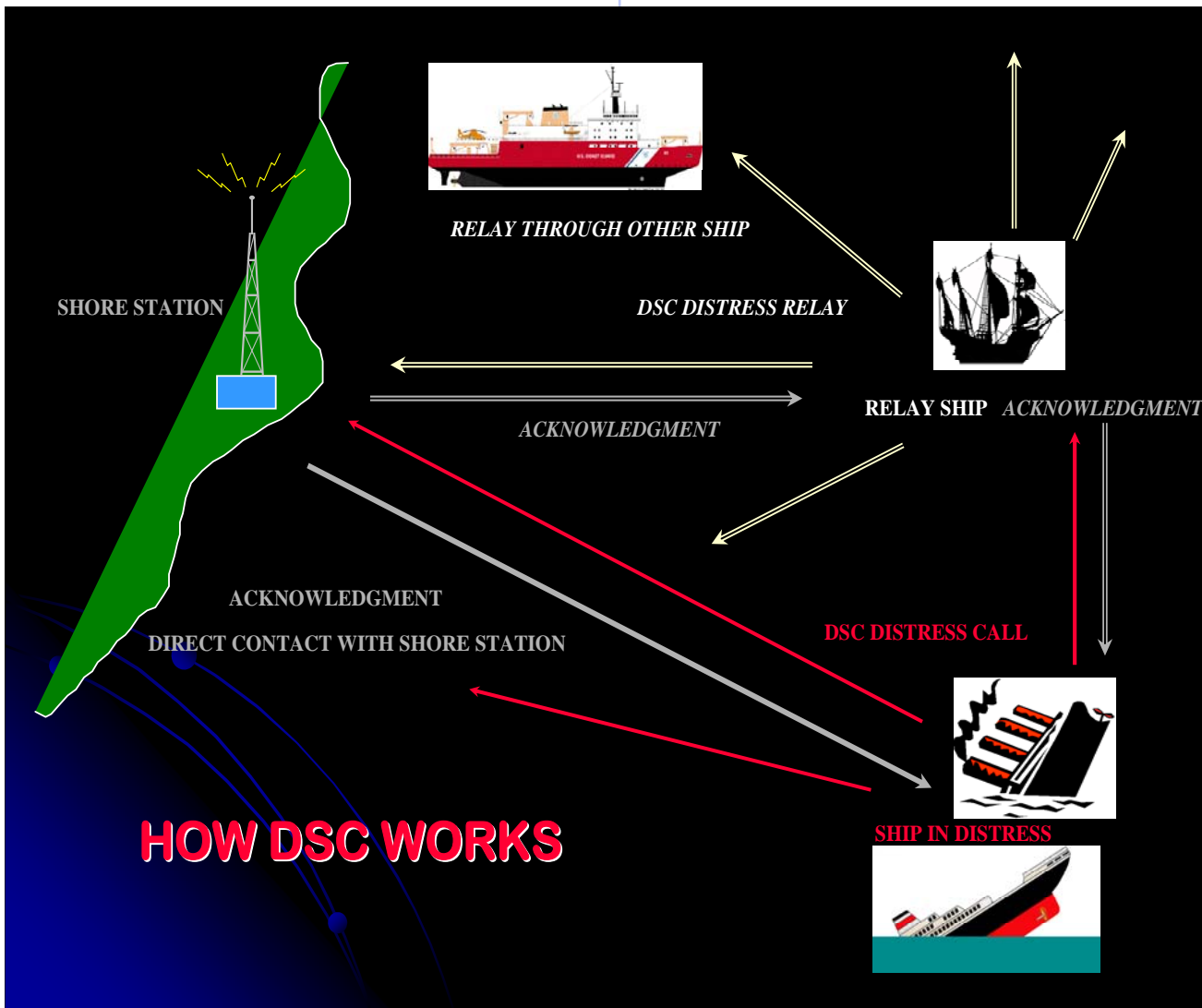
# United States Coast Guard

# Digital Selective Calling



U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
**United States  
Coast Guard**





## How to obtain an MMSI

- **BoatUS:** <http://www.boatus.com/mmsi/instruct.htm>
- **Seatow:** [http://seatow.com/boating\\_safety/mmsi.asp](http://seatow.com/boating_safety/mmsi.asp)
- **U.S. Power Squadrons:** [www.usps4mmsi.com](http://www.usps4mmsi.com)
- **FCC Online Licensing System:** <https://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsEntry/licManager/login.jsp>
- **U.S. Coast Guard Background on MMSI numbers:** <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/marcomms/Gmdss/mmsi.htm>



To contact the USCG SAR Program Office:

Commandant (CG-534)  
 United States Coast Guard  
 2100 Second Street SW  
 Washington DC 20593-0001

Phone: (202)372-2075  
 Facsimile: (202)372-2912

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-o/g-opr/g-opr.htm>

- It only takes a few minutes



- Once you obtain your MMSI, enter it into your radio

- Some radios only give you two chances before you have to contact the manufacturer for a re-set

