MMSI Working Group Summary Record

Sponsored by USCG and RTCM's GMDSS Task Force

Time / Date: Monday March 13th at 1:00 PM EDT, 10:00 PDT

Meeting documents available from [MMSI Working Group Repository](#)
Meeting was not recorded

1. Welcome, changes to and approval of the agenda

Attendees were introduced. Several new attendees, including from NTIA, Army and the USCG spectrum management office were present. Agenda was approved.

Gene Danko informed the group that George Hallenbeck, the US Power Squadron's long time MMSI expert, has passed away on Saturday morning, 11 March. The working group noted with gratefulness the long-standing and dedicated commitment George had made to address and resolve MMSI problems

2. Summary Record from 6 Feb 2023 Meeting

Summary record was approved.

3. Action Items from last meeting

Action Item	Description	Assigned to	Action
1	Boating Safety Advisory on MMSIs similar to FCC 2016 Enforcement Advisory	USCG	At the beginning of the boating season? o/a April. Start draft now. Agenda 7. Continued
2	Possibility of transferring FCC issued MMSI to user registered by a licensed-by-rule provider	FCC	Continued. Address long term custody. Internal deliberations.
4	Consider provisions for including MMSI transfer in boat Bill of Sale by brokers.	John Barry	Continued. Need to find YBAA POC.
5	Comments on USCG NAVCEN MMSI webpage to Joe Hersey	Everyone	Open. Agenda 6. Review revised draft before next meeting.
8	What to do when an MMSI provider decides to withdraw	FCC/USCG	Continue, but defer for now
9	Report how many FCC-assigned MMSIs have been registered	BOAT US	193 MMSI registrations ending in zero. Completed
10	Confirm whether and how BOAT US keeps track of MMSIs transferred to other organizations (e.g. clean hand-off)	BOAT US	Continue (BOAT US not at meeting)
11	Work with Shine Micro on FTP transfer of MMSI db to USCG, and USCG access to Shine db.	Ed Thiedeman	USCG working with Sea Tow. Continue.

12	Check whether IRAC Frequency Assignment Subcommittee can be waived for AIS Private AtoN license applications already approved by USCG.	Joe Hersey	See new Action Item #19. Continue
13	Consider including compulsory/non-compulsory to NAVCEN webpages	Joe Hersey	Completed.
14	Develop a table for webpages Category Vs required process	Stephanie Nevarez	Completed.
15	Confirm whether "tribal" needs to be included with State and local category	Katie Knox	Described in https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/systems-utilities/universal-licensing-system/wireless-fees/application-fee-exemptions. Completed.
16	Draft LBR Guide for reregistering vessel in a different state	Katie Knox	Being drafted internally. Continue
17	Confirm whether inactive ship station license is provided USCG	Katie Knox	Yes, with deactivated code. Unlikely USCG MISLE can read that code. Completed.

4.   Difficulties encountered on the operational side responding to this type of distress call - OSCS Kevin McGregor, Command Center Supervisor, USCG Sector LA/LB

Senior Chief McGregor listed the following most urgent problems related to MMSIs from a SAR controller's perspective:

1. Lack of registration. He recommended MMSI registration guidance be included by manufacturers with new radios.
2. Database issues. Portions of the data being provided are not being updated. He recommended CG inform providers when MMSI registration updates are not being received.
3. NAVCEN website should include information on how to contact the MMSI providers. This should include a section for USCG SAR watchstanders, on how they might directly contact MMSI providers.
4. MMSI registration information on transfers and reassignments needs to be better handled. USCG-accessible database includes multiple entries for the same MMSI.
5. Providers should be emailing registrants on a regular basis reminding them to update their registrations. Note that the MMSI providers MOU requires registrants agree "*to send out (email) queries to registrants to whom it assigned MMSI numbers between the second and third year of registration and biennially thereafter unless otherwise agreed by the parties, to allow registrants validate and update information and remove outdated information. If no response is received within 120 days, the "no response to query" field should be checked in the database record*". It was indicated that these reminders may not always be occurring.

Senior Chief McGregor also indicated that many DSC users, upon receiving a distress alert from another vessel, call the Coast Guard mistakenly believing they were the ones that sent a false distress alert.

5.   Transferring registered MMSIs to USCG C5ISC Kearneysville
-    And USCG access to provider database

Data Transfers: BOAT US and FCC data transfers appear to be OK. USPS data transfer has not been successful, possibly consequential to a change in static IP in January. Sea Tow data connectivity was being worked on at the time of this meeting. Shine is still waiting upon a USCG response to initiate data transfer. ITU ceased updating information.

Direct Access: BOAT US, FCC and ITU all offer direct web access to their MMSI database. USPS and Shine Micro for now both require SAR controllers to call or email when requesting registration data.

6.   Revising USCG NAVCEN MMSI webpage

The 13-page draft revision to the MMSI webpage, Word document *MMSI From USCG Web Site* with suggested edits by Kurt Anderson was reviewed. These thirteen pages are proposed to replace the existing single page at NAVCEN, organized such that recreational boaters and other users can more quickly find information pertinent to them. Two different Excel Tables were also reviewed, *MMSI Summary* from Icom and *MMSI decision matrix* from Shine Micro. The working group agreed to include *MMSI Summary* on the *MMSI Formats page* and the *MMSI decision matrix* on the lead-in page, noting that the NAVCEN web designers may need to adjust their placement. Senior Chief McGregor suggested a fourteenth page for SAR Watchstanders, recognizing that the NAVCEN website would be public.

It was agreed to distribute the draft by email for review and comments, and depending upon comments received and maturity of the draft, send the document to NAVCEN or return it to the next meeting of the Working Group.

Since the meeting had run over by 45 minutes, agendas 7 and 8 were deferred to the next meeting, and agenda 9 action items agreed during the meeting would be documented in the summary record.

7.   Education and reaching out

- Boating Safety Advisory on MMSIs
- Guidance on MMSIs for manufacturers and users
  as Informative Annex in draft IEC 62238
- Guidelines for including MMSI transfer in boat Bill of Sale by brokers
- Other matters

8.   Any other matters

9. Action Items for next meeting

Action Item	Description	Assigned to	Action
1	Boating Safety Advisory on MMSIs similar to FCC 2016 Enforcement Advisory	USCG	At the beginning of the boating season? o/a April. Start draft now. Continued
2	Possibility of transferring FCC issued MMSI to user registered by a licensed-by-rule provider	FCC	Continued. Address long term custody. Internal deliberations.
4	Consider provisions for including MMSI transfer in boat Bill of Sale by brokers.	John Barry	Continued. Need to find YBAA POC.
5	Comments on USCG NAVCEN MMSI webpage to Joe Hersey	Everyone	Open. Agenda 6. Review revised draft before next meeting.
8	What to do when an MMSI provider decides to withdraw	FCC/USCG	Continue, but defer for now
10	Confirm whether and how BOAT US keeps track of MMSIs transferred to other organizations (e.g. clean hand-off)	BOAT US	Continue (BOAT US not present)
11	Work with Shine Micro on FTP transfer of MMSI db to USCG, and USCG access to Shine db.	Ed Thiedeman	USCG working with Sea Tow. Continue.
12	Check whether IRAC Frequency Assignment Subcommittee can be waived for AIS Private AtoN license applications already approved by USCG.	Joe Hersey	Hold until Action Item #19 is complete.
16	Draft LBR Guide for reregistering vessel in a different state	Katie Knox	Being drafted internally. Continue
18	Confirm with C5ISC which providers FTP'd information is current and which are not. Did January change in static IP address affect connectivity?	Joe Hersey	Next meeting
19	Include coordination information in AIS GMF application OET sends to IRAC FAS	Katie Knox	Next meeting
20	Check into possibility of adding DSC MMSI info to boater's inspection checklist	Brian Moore	Next meeting
21	Indicate how SAR controllers can access USPS MMSI database	Gene Danko	Completed (contact Gene).
22	Indicate how SAR controllers can access Shine Micro MMSI database	Shine Micro	We have taken the action item regarding the process to USCG watchstanders for contacting us directly.
23	Confirm if a station license is needed for a vessel licensed by rule on an innocent voyage travelling to Bahamas (or Alaska)	FCC	Before next meeting
24	Confirm FCC regulatory issues as described in MMSI webpages	FCC	Before next meeting
25	Confirm "*U.S. Coast Guard users can obtain an MMSI through Commandant (CG-672) <link> in accordance with Commandant Instruction M2000.3 series, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary surface vessel operators should request assignment of MMSIs using the same method as a U.S. Non-Federal user.*"	Steve Godfrey	Confirmed; completed.

26	Can Commcom shift DSC auto test from 4 MHz to 8 MHz?	Steve Godfrey	Before next meeting
27	Confirm if and how regional MIDs have been used (eg Alaska, Puerto Rico, American Samoa)	Katie Knox	Before next meeting
28	Can USCG AUX provide MMSI registration info at boat shows or assist educator boaters with MMSI registration in some other way?	Brian Moore, Joe Hersey	Next meeting

10. Scheduling next meeting

Friday 21 April 1:00 PM EDT.

A calendar invitation would be included in the meeting announcement. The meeting closed at 4:15 PM.

Meeting attendees

Joe Hersey, chair	JoeCel Engineering	joe@joecel.com
Ray Novak	Icom America	RayNovak@IcomAmerica.com
Katie Knox	FCC Gettysburg	Katie.Knox@fcc.gov
Ghassan Khalek	FCC	Ghassan.Khalek@fcc.gov
Jeff Tobias	FCC	Jeff.tobias@fcc.gov
John Barry	Technical Marine	john@technicalmarine.com
Gene Danko	US Power Squadrons	Gene.danko@snet.com
Jorge Arroyo	USCG CG-NAV	Jorge.arroyo@uscg.mil
Brian Moore	USCG Boating Safety	Brian.M.Moore@uscg.mil
Gordon West	Gordon West Radio School	swmeow@aol.com
Joshua Smith	FCC Gettysburg	Joshua.Smith@fcc.gov
Mindy DeJesus	FCC Gettysburg	mreedenauer@nmea.org
Judy Johnson	Shine Micro	judy@shinemicro.com
Stephanie Nevarez	Shine Micro	snevarez@shinemicro.com
Kurt Anderson	MITAGS	kanderson@mitags.org
OSCS Kevin McGregor	USCG Sector LA/LB	Kevin.M.McGregor@uscg.mil
Lee Luft	Sev1tech	Leeluft1@gmail.com
Ron Blackmore	USCG C5ISC ESD	Ronald.Blackmore@uscg.mil
Steve Godfrey	Sev1tech	Steven.Godfrey@sev1tech.com
Darryl Randolph	USCG	Darryl.W.Randolph@uscg.mil
Tom Derenge	FCC	Thomas.Derenge@fcc.gob
CWO Sean Foster	USCG CG-672	Sean.r.foeter@uscg.mil
Wanda Cooks	NTIA Agency MMSI Coordinator	WCooks@ntia.gov
Stephen Harris	Army MMSI Coordinator	stephen.b.harris6.civ@army.mil
Patrick Gallagher	USCG CG-672	Patrick.j.gallagher@uscg.mil
Capt. Jack Fuechsel	GMDSS Task Force	gmndsstf@gmail.com