

**LOWRANCE**

# Link™-6S

## Fixed Mount VHF

### User Guide

ENGLISH



# Preface

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## Disclaimer

As Navico is continuously improving this product, we retain the right to make changes to the product at any time which may not be reflected in this version of the manual. Please contact your nearest distributor if you require any further assistance.

It is the owner's sole responsibility to install and use the equipment in a manner that will not cause accidents, personal injury or property damage. The user of this product is solely responsible for observing safe boating practices.

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## Warranty

The warranty card is supplied as a separate document.

In case of any queries, refer to the brand website of your unit or system: [www.lowrance.com](http://www.lowrance.com)

## Licensing Information

- The user is advised to check the radio operating licensing requirements of your country before using this VHF radio. The operator is solely responsible for observing proper radio installation and usage practices.

In some regions/countries, a Radio Operator's license is required and it is your responsibility to determine whether such a license is required before operating the radio.

- The frequencies used by this radio are reserved for Maritime use only and those frequencies must be included on your Radio Operator's license.
- A valid USER MMSI number must be entered into this radio before DSC functions can be used. You must apply for an MMSI number which is usually obtained from the same authority that issues the radio operator's license. Contact the appropriate licensing authority in your country. If you're unsure who to contact, consult your Simrad dealer.
- A valid ATIS ID number must be entered into this radio before ATIS functions can be used. An ATIS ID number is issued by Ofcom when you add one or more pieces of ATIS equipment to your Ship Radio License.

## **RF emissions statements**

### **European Union**

This Link-6S complies with CE under RED Directive 2014/53/EU. The relevant Declaration of conformity is available in the product's section at the following website: [www.navico.com](http://www.navico.com)

### **United States**

Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

### **Warning**

The user is cautioned that any changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

### **RF Emissions notice**

This equipment complies with FCC radiation exposure limits set forth for an uncontrolled environment. This device's antenna must be installed in accordance with provided instructions; and it must be operated with minimum "place number here" m spacing between the antennas and all person's body (excluding extremities of hands, wrist and feet) during operation. Further, this transmitter must not be co-located or operated in conjunction with any other

antenna or transmitter.

- **Note:** This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that the interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:
- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
  - Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
  - Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that of the receiver is connected.
  - Consult the dealer or an experienced technician for help.

## Canada

This device complies with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's (ISED) licence-exempt RSSs. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

1. This device may not cause interference; and
2. This device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.

Le présent appareil est conforme aux CNR d'Innovation, Sciences et Développement économique Canada (ISDE) applicables aux appareils radio exempts de licence. L'exploitation est autorisée aux deux conditions suivantes:

1. l'appareil ne doit pas produire de brouillage, et
2. l'utilisateur de l'appareil doit accepter tout brouillage radioélectrique subi, même si le brouillage est susceptible d'en compromettre le fonctionnement.

## Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)

Under Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) regulations, this radio transmitter may only operate using an antenna of a type and maximum (or lesser) gain approved for the transmitter by ISED Canada. To reduce potential radio interference to

other users, the antenna type and its gain should be so chosen that the equivalent isotropically radiated power (e.i.r.p.) is not more than that necessary for successful communication.

Conformément à la réglementation d'Innovation, Sciences et Développement économique Canada (ISDE), le présent émetteur radio peut fonctionner avec une antenne d'un type et d'un gain maximal (ou inférieur) approuvé pour l'émetteur par ISDE Canada. Dans le but de réduire les risques de brouillage radioélectrique à l'intention des autres utilisateurs, il faut choisir le type d'antenne et son gain de sorte que la puissance isotrope rayonnée équivalente (p.i.r.e.) ne dépasse pas l'intensité nécessaire à l'établissement d'une communication satisfaisante.

This radio transmitter (Link-6S) has been approved by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) to operate with the antenna types listed in "ACCESSORIES" on page 44 with the maximum permissible gain and required antenna impedance for each antenna type indicated. Antenna types not included in this list, having a gain greater than the maximum gain indicated for that type, are strictly prohibited for use with this device.

Le présent émetteur radio (Link-6S) a été approuvé par Innovation, Sciences et Développement économique Canada (ISDE) pour fonctionner avec les types d'antenne énumérés (reportez-vous à "ACCESSORIES" à la page 44) et ayant un gain admissible maximal et l'impédance requise pour chaque type d'antenne. Les types d'antenne non inclus dans cette liste, ou dont le gain est supérieur au gain maximal indiqué, sont strictement interdits pour l'exploitation de l'émetteur.

## **Australia & New Zealand**

Complies with the requirements of level 2 devices of the Radiocommunications (Electromagnetic Compatibility) standard 2017 and Radiocommunications (VHF Radiotelephone Equipment – Maritime Mobile Service) Standard 2014.

## Countries of intended use in the EU

AT - Austria	HU - Hungary	PL - Poland
BE - Belgium	IS - Iceland	PT - Portugal
BG - Bulgaria	IE - Ireland	RO - Romania
CY - Cyprus	IT - Italy	SK - Slovak Republic
CZ - Czech Republic	LV - Latvia	SI - Slovenia
DK - Denmark	LI - Liechtenstein	ES - Spain
EE - Estonia	LT - Lithuania	SE - Sweden
FI - Finland	LU - Luxembourg	CH - Switzerland
FR - France	MT - Malta	TR - Turkey
DE - Germany	NL - Netherlands	UK - United Kingdom
GR - Greece	NO - Norway	

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## Notes on MMSI and DSC

The user MMSI (Marine Mobile Service Identity) is a unique nine digit number. It is used on marine transceivers that are capable of using DSC (Digital Selective Calling). Digital Selective Calling offers significant safety and convenience advantages over older VHF radios without this functionality.

- ➔ **Note:** Many countries do not have radio repeaters that support DSC message relaying. However DSC can still be useful for direct ship-to-ship communication, where the other vessel is also equipped with a DSC capable radio.

You must obtain a user MMSI and enter it into your radio in order to use the DSC functions. Contact the appropriate authorities in your country to obtain an MMSI number - charges may apply. If you are

unsure who to contact, consult your Lowrance dealer.

- **Note:** DSC distress calls generated by this radio are limited to the same range restrictions that apply to regular VHF transmissions. The vessel sending a distress can only rely upon DSC if within range of a GMDSS Coast Radio Station. Typical VHF range may be about 20NM, though this varies greatly depending upon installation, antenna type, meteorological conditions, etc.

## About this manual

This manual is a reference guide for installing and operating a Link-6S VHF radio. Important text that requires special attention from the reader is emphasized as follows:

- **Note:** Used to draw the reader's attention to a comment or some important information.



**Warning:** Used when it is necessary to warn personnel that they should proceed carefully to prevent risk of injury and/or damage to equipment/personnel.

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# 1

## General Information

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Your Link-6S provides the following useful features:

- Prominent channel display
- Built-in GPS receiver and antenna
- With external GPS antenna connection
- Adjustable contrast settings for the LCD
- Adjustable keypad backlighting for easy night-time use
- Waterproof and submersible to comply with IPx7
- GPS latitude and longitude (LL) and time display (when connected to a GPS source)
- Choice of High (25 W) or Low (1 W) transmission power
- 4 key handset mic with built-in speaker
- Powerful 4 W external audio output
- Access to all currently-available marine VHF channel banks (USA, Canada, International) including weather channels where available (model dependant)
- Dedicated CH16/9 key for quick access to the priority (international distress) channel
- TRI key to select DUAL/TRI scan
- Dedicated Wx (Weather) key
- DSC (Digital Selective Calling) capability that meets Global DSC Class D Standards
- Separate CH70 receiver included built in
- DISTRESS call button to automatically transmit the MMSI and position until an acknowledgement is received
- Contacts list that stores up to 50 names with MMSI numbers
- MMSI storage for three favourite groups
- Group Call and All Ships Call facility
- LL position polling information
- Weather alert facility where available (US mode)
- ATIS facility for inland waterways (EU mode)
- With DSC Auto-Switch disable and DSC Test function

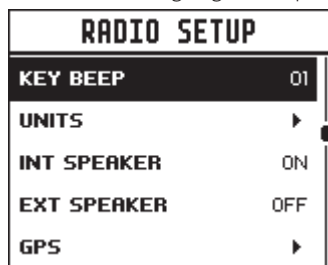
## How to display and navigate menus

The majority of the buttons, and both of the rotary knobs, can open menus with multiple options.

The channel knob is used to scroll through the options. The currently selected option is indicated by a black highlight bar, and the text is inverted to white.

Selection of a highlighted option is made by pressing the channel knob.

If a list of options is too long for the page, a scroll bar is shown on the right side of the screen. The black rectangle on the scroll bar indicates the highlighted options relative position in the list.



Scroll bar indicates further options above and below displayed text

Press the Exit button to step backwards to the previous menu page, or exit the menus completely.

## Entry of alphanumeric data

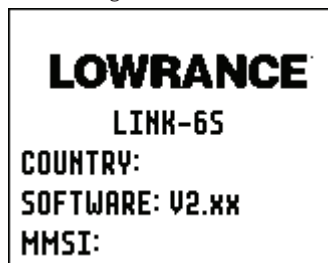
Rotate the channel knob to scroll through the alphanumeric characters.

Press channel knob, to select and step to the next character.






















To step backwards, press the MENU button. Press X to cancel entry and return to previous menu.

## LCD symbols and meanings

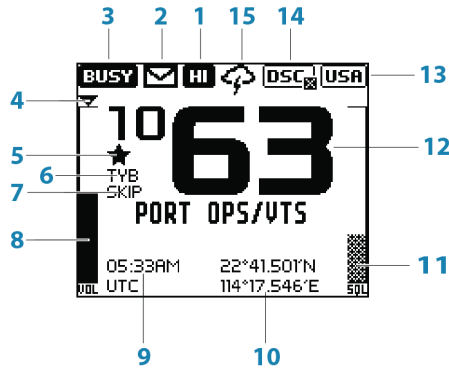
When the Link-6S starts up it momentarily displays the brand, model, region, software version, and MMSI.



During normal operation, the following icons may be displayed on the screen depending on setup:

Symbol	Meaning
	Transmitting
	Transmission power
	Weather channel stored by user (EU & INT only)
	Weather alert enabled (USA/CAN only)
	Receiver Busy with incoming signal
	Missed DSC call
	Duplex channel selected (off when Simplex)
	Local mode enabled (used when in areas of high radio traffic, ie inner harbour)
	Channel can only be received on
	DSC functionality is enabled
	DSC functionality is enabled, auto switching is turned off
	EU models only - must be enabled when in European inland waterways
	Low Battery warning (activates at 10.5 V)
	Channel bank is set to USA
	Channel bank is set to International. (Channels available depends on selected Country mode)
	Channel bank is set to Canada
	Weather channel bank active replaces channelbank icon temporarily (USA/CAN only)
	Channel is saved in the MY CHANNELS list
	Track your Buddy feature is active
	TRI watch or DUAL scan is active
	GPS simulator is active

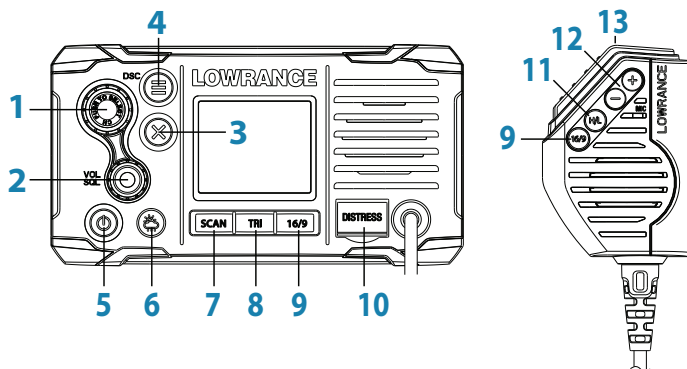
A typical display:



1. Channel is set to high power transmit
2. Missed call in the DSC call log
3. Channel is busy
4. Volume is under active control
5. Current channel saved in 'My Channels'
6. Track your buddy is enabled
7. Current channel will be skipped during a scan
8. Volume level indicator
9. Time (derived from GPS) - UTC offset is applied
10. Latitude/Longitude
11. Squelch level indicator
12. Channel number (2 or 4 digits)
13. The USA channel bank is active
14. DSC functionality is enabled, but autoswitch is off
15. Weather alert function is enabled

## Key functions

The following describes the direct functions of the keys/knobs. Where necessary, additional detail on any menus accessed by keys is covered in following chapters.



### 1. Channel knob / PUSH TO SELECT

Turn knob for channel selection, menu scrolling, alphanumeric entry, and fine adjustment of backlight level (dependent on active menu).

**Short press** to make selections in menus.

**Long press** to open MY CHANNELS.

### 2. VOL / SQL

Volume and Squelch level.

**Short press** knob to select which control to adjust. Which is currently selected is indicated by a small triangular arrow above the level bar for each option. **Turning** the knob clockwise increases setting, anti-clockwise decreases it. Volume control is common to internal and external speaker.

**Long press** to open SHORTCUTS.

### 3. EXIT

**Press** EXIT when navigating menus, to clear incorrect entries, to exit from a menu without saving changes, and to back up to the previous screen.

### 4. DSC CALL / MENU SELECT

**Short press** to enter the DSC Call Menu and make DSC calls.

**Long press** to open the MENU SELECT page.

### 5. Power / Backlight

**Short Press** to adjust backlight level sequentially.

Repeated short press of the power button will step through large backlight adjustments. The channel knob can be used to make finer

adjustments.

**Long press** to turn radio on or off.

## 6. Weather Channel

**Short press** (US/CAN models): press to hear the most recently selected NOAA/Canadian weather station.

For all other models, changes channel to user programmed choice.

**Long press** (non US/CAN models): to store current channel as the weather channel.

## 7. SCAN

**Short press** to enter ALL SCAN mode.

ALL SCAN sequentially scans all channels for activity.

When a signal is received, scanning stops at that channel and the BUSY icon appears on the screen. If the signal ceases for more than 5 seconds, the scan automatically resumes.

Turn the channel knob to temporarily skip over (lock out) a busy channel and resume the scan. The direction turned determines if the scan goes up or down the channel numbers (ie 'forward' or 'reverse'). If it is still busy when the scan completes a full cycle, it will stop again at this channel. Note that it is not possible to skip over the priority channel.

Press ENT to permanently skip over the channel. The SKIP icon will show on the LCD for this channel.

To cancel a skipped channel, select the channel while in normal mode (non-scan mode) then press the ENT key - the SKIP icon will disappear. Repowering the radio also restores all skipped channels. Press SCAN or EXIT while scanning is active to stop at the current channel and return to normal operation.

**Long press** SCAN from normal operation to enter the SCAN menu.

## 8. TRI (WATCH)

**Short press** to start DUAL WATCH or TRI WATCH (if 'watch' channel set)

**Long press** to set the current channel as the watch channel.

When a short press is made on the TRI key, the radio will either switch to DUAL or TRI watch mode depending on whether a watch channel has been setup.

Without a watch channel the radio will go to DUAL WATCH, where the channels 'watched' are the current channel and the priority channel (the distress channel, CH16 for most countries).

With a watch channel selected, TRI WATCH is enabled, where the channels 'watched' are the current channel the 'watch' channel, and the priority channel (the distress channel, CH16 for most countries).

If the radio is set to 'Country: USA', two priority channels are watched - Channel 9 and Channel 16.

## 9. 16 / 9 (radio and handset)

**Short press** to change to priority channel. Press again to return to original channel.

**For US models: Long press** to make Channel 09 the priority channel.

The default Priority Channel is CH16.

## 10. DISTRESS

**Short press** to start a distress call, where the nature of distress can be selected from a list.

**Long press** the distress button to initiate an 'undesigned' distress call.

This call is broadcast to all DSC equipped radios, so will create an alarm on every DSC radio within range.

If position information is available it will be included in the transmission.

## 11. H/L (handset mic only)

Transmission Power.

**Press** to toggle between high (25 W) or low (1 W) transmission power for the entire channel bank. The HI or LO selection is shown on the LCD.

Some channels allow only low power transmissions. Error beeps will sound if attempting to change the transmission power while on one of these channels.

Some channels allow only low power transmissions initially, but can be overridden to high power by **pressing (and holding) H/L after depressing PTT**. Keep the H/L button pressed down after releasing the PTT button, if wanting to transmit again on high power.

## 12. + / - (handset mic only)

Channel change.

**Short press** (+) goes up one channel, or (-) goes down one channel.

Holding either key will, after a short delay, step rapidly through the channels.

## 13. PTT (handset mic only)

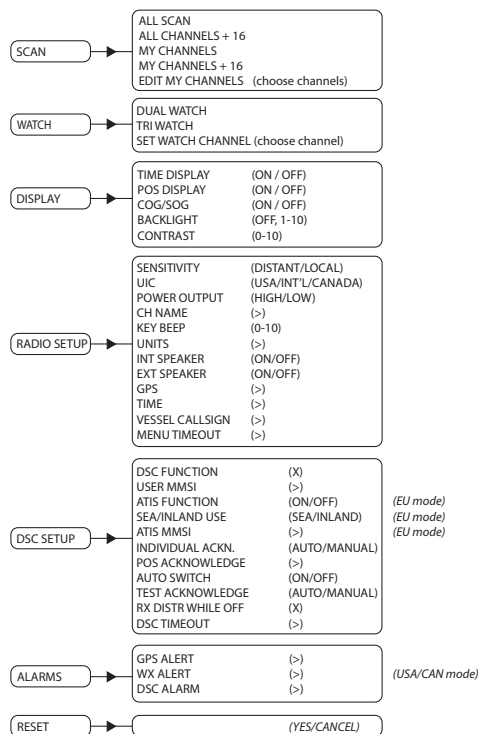
Push-to-talk button.

Press button to transmit. Only depress for duration of message to be broadcast. Radio can't receive while it is transmitting.

# 2

## The radio menus

A long press of the MENU button opens MENU SELECT page. The following shows the menu structure (top and 2nd level only):



Key:

(>) further menu options

(X) toggle selection. 'X' means option enabled.

## Scan

This menu is for choosing a scan mode to enable, as well as selection of the channels scanned per the MY CHANNELS list.

➔ **Note:** Scanning is not available if ATIS mode is turned on.

## All scan

Scans all channels cyclically.



## All channels + 16

Scans all channels cyclically, but checks the priority channel after every channel step

## My channels

Scan all channels selected in EDIT MY CHANNELS

## My channels + 16

Scans all channels selected in EDIT MY CHANNELS, while also checking the priority channel after every channel step.

## Edit my channels

Allows creation of a custom list of channels - used in a MY CHANNELS scan.

MY CHANNELS		
SELECT ALL		<input type="checkbox"/>
1001	PORT OPS/UTS	<input type="checkbox"/>
1005	PORT OPS/UTS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
06	SAFETY	<input type="checkbox"/>
1007	COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Watch

This menu is for choosing a watch mode to enable, as well as selection of the watch channel. Watch modes can be thought of as a channel scan on a subset of channels, where scanned channels are 'listened' to briefly every 3 seconds, to determine if there is any active radio communication.

→ **Note:** Watch modes are not available if ATIS mode is turned on.

## Dual watch

Select this to watch the current channel and the priority channel (Channel 16).

## TRI watch

Select this to watch the current channel, the user selected 'watch' channel, and the priority channel (Channel 16).

## Set Watch Channel

Allows a watch channel to be selected from all available channels. Selected channel is used by TRI WATCH mode.

- **Note:** If the radio is configured for USA market, two priority channels are watched: Channel 9 and Channel 16.

## Display

This menu allows the user to partially customize the screen information displayed, and adjust the screen for best visibility to suit the user and operating conditions.

### Time display

Select to switch the display of Time to ON or OFF.

If turned ON, the display of COG/SOG is turned off, due to screen space constraints.

LOC (Local Time) is displayed below the time if a UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) offset has been entered; otherwise UTC is shown in it's place if no offset has been applied.

### POS display

Select to switch ON or OFF the display of position provided from connected GPS.

### COG/SOG

Select to switch ON or OFF the display of COG/SOG provided from the selected GPS source.

If turned ON, Time display is turned OFF, due to screen space constraints.

### Backlight

Select to make adjustment to the backlight level using the channel knob. Range is OFF, then 1 to 10.

Press MENU SELECT button to activate night mode (inverts display).

### Contrast

Select to make adjustment of the screens contrast, using the channel knob. Range is 00 to 10.

## Radio setup

The Radio setup menu covers settings that are typically configured at installation, and seldom need changing.

### Local/Dist

Use LOCAL/DIST to improve the sensitivity of the receiver either locally (LOCAL) or over distances (DIST).

LOCAL is not recommended for use in open sea conditions. It is designed for use in areas of high radio noise; for example, close to a busy port or city.

### UIC

Select between USA, International or Canadian channel banks. The selected channel bank is displayed on the LCD along with the last used channel. All the channel charts are shown in chapter 8.

→ **Note:** UIC may not be available on all models.

### Power output

Select to toggle between high (25 W) or low (1 W) transmission power for the entire channel bank. The HI or LO selection is shown on the LCD. Low power transmission draws significantly less current (about 1/4) from the battery, so is recommended for short range communication, and where battery capacity is limited.

→ **Note:** Some channels can't be switched to high power, and will show LO regardless of power output setting in menu.

### CH name

CH NAME gives you the option to edit or delete the channel name descriptions displayed on the screen.

Select to edit the existing description of the channel currently in use. It can be a maximum of 12 characters long.

### Key beep

Select to allow adjustment of key beep volume.

Volume can be set from 00 - 10 (where 00 is off, and 10 is loudest).

### Units

Select SPEED to choose whether displayed in KNOTS, MPH, or KPH

Select COURSE to toggle between displaying in MAGNETIC or TRUE.

A true north heading is corrected for magnetic declination. A magnetic north heading source must also output magnetic variation data if the heading is to be displayed as a true north value.

### Int speaker

Select to switch the radio's internal speaker ON or OFF.

### Ext speaker

Select to switch the radio's external speaker ON or OFF.

## GPS

### MANUAL

Select MANUAL to enter a GPS position (and time) from another source when radio is not receiving position data from an external antenna, or no antenna is connected.

The manually entered GPS position can be used in DSC calls.

If POS Display is turned ON, the latitude and longitude are shown on the screen with a prefix 'M' indicating manual entry.



→ **Note:** The manual entry is cleared if a real GPS position is received via the NMEA 0183 or Internal GPS, depending on the GPS SOURCE setting.

### GPS SOURCE

- Choose NMEA 0183 to have the radio listen for GPS data on its serial NMEA 0183 port
- Choose BUILT-IN to use the internal GPS system. You then have a choice of using the INTERNAL GPS antenna built into the radio, or an optional EXTERNAL GPS antenna connected to the radio external GPS antenna SMA port.

### CHECKSUM

Select to toggle ON or OFF. When ON, NMEA 0183 data received is validated. If the checksum does not match, the data will be ignored. When OFF, there will be no tolerance to data corruption.

## GPS SIM

Select to toggle ON or OFF.

Whenever the GPS Simulator is turned ON, simulated Speed Over Ground (SOG), Course Over Ground (COG), and LL position appear on the screen. This is for the purpose of demonstration only. The SIM icon is displayed to warn the user it is in this mode.

### → **Notes:**

- It is not possible to send a DSC transmission when in Simulator mode.
- The GPS Simulator is set to OFF whenever the radio has the power cycled, or real GPS data is available.

## Time

### Time Offset

Select TIME OFFSET to enter the difference between UTC and local time. 15 minute increments can be used with a maximum offset of  $\pm 13$  hours.

- **Note:** Does not automatically adjust for Daylight Savings Time.

### Time Format

Select to toggle between 12 and 24 hour format.

## Vessel call sign

Select to enter vessel callsign. Not used by radio - purely for record keeping purposes.

## Menu timeout

An inactivity timeout can be set up to return the radio to normal operational mode when no activity is seen from the radio operator while radio is displaying a menu.

Select between NONE, 5 MINS, 10 MINS, and 15 MINS.  
(default is 10 MINS).

- **Note:** A different timeout is used when the radio is left in a DSC call. See "DSC timeout" on page 24

## DSC setup

### DSC Function

It's recommended DSC functionality is always enabled, unless operating the vessel in an ATIS region. An MMSI number must be entered in radio before the DSC function can be enabled.

### User MMSI

Enter an MMSI number to access the radio's DSC functionality. This unique identifier must be supplied a local radio spectrum authority.

**DO NOT** enter a random 'made up' number.

→ **Note:** Contact a Lowrance dealer if you need to change your MMSI after initial input.

### ATIS function (EU ATIS radios only)

ATIS must be enabled when navigating inland waterways in signatory countries of the RAINWAT agreement. It should NOT be used outside these regions. DSC functionality is not possible when ATIS is turned on.

### Sea/Inland mode (EU ATIS radios only)

Toggles between DSC (Sea) and ATIS (Inland) modes. Does not allow both to be selected at the same time.

### ATIS ID (EU ATIS radios only)

Enter an ATIS number to access the radio's ATIS functionality. This unique identifier must be supplied a local radio spectrum authority. DO NOT enter a random 'made up' number.

→ **Note:** Contact a Lowrance dealer if you need to change your ATIS ID after initial input.

### Individual acknowledge ("INDIVIDUAL ACK")

The radio can be configured to automatically acknowledge an incoming 'individual' call, or require manual intervention:

#### AUTO

After a 15 second delay, radio will switch to requested channel, and send an automatic acknowledgement, ready for conversation. US model default.

### **MANUAL**

Operator must manually choose to send acknowledgement, as well as change to requested channel. EU model default.

→ **Note:** This does not apply for calls types other than 'Individual'.

### **Position request acknowledge ("POS ACK")**

The radio can be configured to automatically acknowledge an incoming position request, require manual intervention to acknowledge, or simply ignore them:

#### **AUTO**

Sends current position automatically to calling radio.

#### **MANUAL**

Operator must manually choose to send position information.

#### **OFF**

All incoming position requests are ignored.

### **Auto channel switch ("AUTO SWITCH")**

This setting only relates to All Ships and Group DSC calls.

When a DSC call is received, it may include a request to change to a specific channel for subsequent communications. With AUTO SWITCH set to ON, the radio will switch channels after a 10 second delay. The radio will also display options to switch immediately, or reject the request and stay on the current channel.

With AUTO SWITCH set to OFF, any channel change request will require manual confirmation.

### **Test acknowledge ("TEST ACK")**

The radio can be configured to automatically acknowledge an incoming test call, or require manual intervention:

#### **MANUAL**

Operator must manually choose to send acknowledgement, or cancel.

#### **AUTO**

The DSC test call is automatically acknowledged after a 10 second delay.

## Receive distress while off

Enabling this feature will allow the radio to raise an alert for DSC distress calls, even when the DSC feature is turned off. This will work regardless of whether or not an MMSI number has been entered.

## DSC timeout

An inactivity timeout can be set up to return the radio to normal operational mode when no activity is seen from the radio operator while radio is engaged in a DSC call.

Distress calls have a discrete timer from that used for all other DSC calls:

### Distress

Select between NONE, 5 MINS, 10 MINS, and 15 MINS. (default is NO TIMEOUT).

### Non Distress

Select between NONE, 5 MINS, 10 MINS, and 15 MINS. (default is 15 MINS).

## Alarms

### GPS alert

The GPS alert is a warning to the user that the selected GPS source is not outputting valid position data.

It comprises of an audible alarm and visual alarm (screen flash and warning text).

### GPS alert function

Turns ON or OFF all alerts for missing GPS data, including audible alarm, screen flash, and warning text.

### Alert volume

Select between HIGH, LOW, and OFF.

### Screen flash

Select between ON and OFF.

### WX alert (US/CAN only)

The WX alert is a warning to the user that a special weather station alert has been received.

It comprises of an audible alarm and visual alarm;



**WX alert function**

Turns ON or OFF the radios response to weather alerts. This includes; automatic switching to the last used weather channel, audible alarm, screen message, and flashing backlight.

**Alert volume**

Select between HIGH, LOW, and OFF.

**Screen flash**

Select between ON and OFF.

**DSC Alarm**

The alert volume and screen flash for some incoming call types can be altered.

SAFETY, ROUTINE and URGENCY calls can individually be set to have:

**Alert volume**

HIGH, LOW or OFF.

**Screen flash**

ON or OFF.

→ **Note:** it is not possible to alter distress call alert settings

**Reset**

Use this setting to return every setting to the factory defaults except all MMSI settings, entries in your buddy list and any customized channel names.

# 3

## DSC call menu

DSC (Digital Selective Calling) is a semi-automated method of establishing VHF, MF, and HF radio calls. One big advantage that DSC enabled radios offer is that they can receive calls from another DSC radio without being on the same channel as the calling radio. The calling radio will provide details on what channel to switch to so that voice communication can be established. There are various types of DSC calls - the type of call made determines information sent with the call, and how other radios respond to the incoming call.

The following options are available when the DSC button is pressed;

### DSC calls

There are four call types, as well as related options, that can be accessed from this menu;

#### Individual

Used to place a call to a single other vessel.

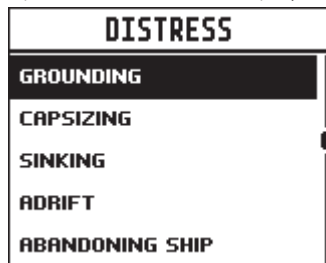
The call can be initiated by selected an existing vessel in the CONTACTS; by entering in a new vessel's MMSI (MANUAL); or by selecting a vessel in the RECENT list.

When the SEND TO page is displayed, turn the channel knob to select the channel to use for voice communication.

#### Distress

The distress menu can be accessed via the DSC Calls menu, or directly by a short press of the Distress key on the front of the radio.

The nature of the distress call must be selected from the list of options - this will be displayed on other radios receiving the call.



After the Distress Call is sent, the radio waits for an acknowledgment.

<b>CALL SENT</b>
<b>DISTRESS UNDESIGNATED WAITING FOR ACK RESEND IN 03:38</b>
<b>≡ OPTION    × CANCEL</b>

The Distress Call is automatically re-sent every 3.5 to 4.5 minutes until a distress acknowledgement is received.

Alternatively the operator can select:

**RESEND** (under OPTION - access by pressing the Menu/DSC button) used to immediately resend the Distress Call

**PAUSE** (under OPTION - access by pressing the Menu/DSC button) used to pause the automatic Distress Call resend timer

**CANCEL** (press 'X' button) to cancel the Distress Call

If a distress cancel is sent, the display shows PTT --> REASON, prompting the operator to state the reason for the cancellation.

<b>CALL SENT</b>
<b>DISTRESS CANCEL SENT PTT --&gt; REASON</b>

After a DISTRESS ACK is received, the alert should be silenced, and the reason for distress should be clearly stated, pressing the 'PTT' on the MIC and talking.

The following information (if available) is contained in the Distress Call:

- Nature Of Distress (if selected)
- Position information (the latest GPS or manual input position is held for 23.5 hours, or until the power is turned OFF).

## Group

Used to place a call to a known group of vessel, all using the same 'Group Call ID' (GCID) number.

The call can be initiated by selecting an existing group from the group list, by entering a new GCID, or by selecting a group from the RECENT list.

When the SEND TO page is displayed, turn the channel knob to select the channel to use for voice communication.

## **All ships**

Used to place a call to ALL DSC equipped vessels in range, much like a distress call. The nature of the call must be selected, and can be either SAFETY or URGENCY.

When the SEND TO page is displayed, turn the channel knob to select the channel to use for voice communication.

## **Call logs**

Shows a record of SENT, RECEIVED, and DISTRESS calls.

## **POS request**

Used to send a position request to another vessel. The call can be initiated by selecting an existing vessel in the CONTACTS, by entering in a new vessel's MMSI (MANUAL), or by selecting a vessel in the RECENT list.

As no voice communication is required, no option is given to select a ship-ship channel.

## **POS report**

Used to send a position report to the vessel being called.

## **DSC test**

Used to place a TEST call to a single other vessel. The call can be initiated by selecting an existing vessel in the CONTACTS, by entering in a new vessel's MMSI (MANUAL), or by selecting a vessel in the RECENT list.

Comms channel selection is not possible.

## **MMSI/GPS**

Shows entered MMSI number and GPS fix information.



## **Track buddy**

Up to 5 vessels from the Contacts list can be sent recurring position requests, at an adjustable time interval. The buddy list is saved permanently in memory, and tracking can be turned on and off as required.

<b>TRACK BUDDY</b>
<b>SELECT BUDDY</b>
<b>START TRACKING</b>
<b>INTERVAL</b>

## Select buddy

Shows any existing 'buddies' already selected, and the option to add more. Selecting a 'buddy' already in the buddy list will remove them.

<b>BUDDY LIST</b>
<b>ADD/UPDATE BUDDY</b> ▶
ABCDE 
HMS SUPRISE 

Choose ADD/UPDATE BUDDY to view the full contacts list, and choose who to add for tracking.

## Start tracking / Stop tracking

Selecting START TRACKING option initiates tracking of buddies in the Track buddy list that have been set to tracking ON. The radio will show a screen indicating which buddy is being called. If there is no acknowledgement, the radio will retry the call after a few seconds. Only one retry is made per tracking interval. If tracking is already taking place, the START TRACKING text is replaced with STOP TRACKING.

## Interval

The frequency that 'buddys' are polled with position requests can be adjusted, varying between 5 to 60 minutes.

## Contacts

Used for the administration and calling of all individual Contacts as well as Groups.

## View/Add Contact

Use this to store the names and associated MMSI's of up to 50 vessels to be called regularly using DSC. Contacts are stored by name, in alphabetical order.

Select ADD NEW to create a new contact.

Selecting an existing name in the Contacts list gives the options to place a DSC call, make a position request, edit the contact, or delete the contact.

## View/Add Group

Use this to create, edit, or delete up to 20 vessel groups, which are stored in alphanumeric order. Only a name and a Group Call ID (GCID) are required to set up a group. A GCID always starts with 0; the remaining digits can be set to whatever the user desires. All vessels intended to be in the same group must have a suitable DSC radio, and have the identical GCID number entered.

Selecting an existing name in the group list gives the option to edit, delete, or call the group.

- ➔ **Note:** Adding a group to this list will in turn make the radio respond to a group call made from any other radio with the same group number in it's memory.

# 4

## My channels

The MY CHANNELS page is accessed by a long press of the channel knob.

This page provides a shortcut to frequently accessed channels.

The first time this page is opened, the entire channel list is shown so that the desired shortcut channels can be selected.

MY CHANNELS		
SELECT ALL		<input type="checkbox"/>
06	SAFETY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
08	COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/>
09	CALLING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/>

Subsequent opening of this page will show a list of only the selected channels. Choosing one of the channel options immediately exits the page and sets the radio to that channel.

MY CHANNELS	
EDIT MY CHANNELS	
06	SAFETY
09	CALLING

The available shortcut channels can be changed at any time using EDIT MY CHANNELS.

- **Note:** Channels on this list are also used in some SCAN options. Access to edit the MY CHANNELS list is also available from the SCAN menu.

# 5

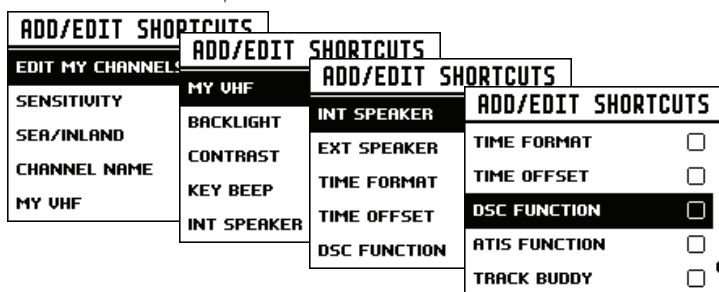
## Shortcuts

The Shortcuts page is accessed by a long press of the VOL/SQL knob.

This page is provided as a shortcut to frequently accessed settings. The shortcut options available on this page are subject to selections made in ADD/EDIT SHORTCUTS.

### Add/Edit shortcuts

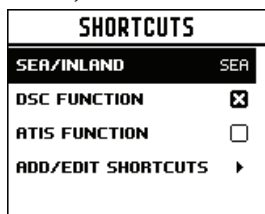
Choose from the list of options which menu options should be added as shortcuts;



→ **Note:** The MY VHF page is only available to the operator when enabled as a shortcut - it can't be accessed via another menu. Its purpose is solely for displaying radio information in one easy to access location.

It provides detail on the MMSI number, GPS data status, and Vessel Callsign (if entered).

Once the desired shortcuts have been selected, they are accessible directly from the Shortcuts page:





# 6

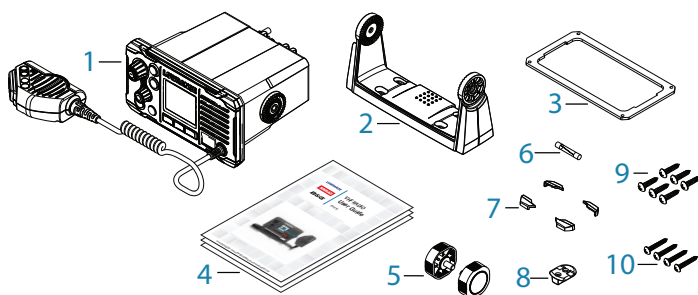
## Installation

This Lowrance DSC VHF radio is designed to generate a digital maritime distress call to facilitate search and rescue. To be effective as a safety device, this radio must be used only within the geographic range of a shore-based VHF marine Channel 70 distress and safety watch system. The geographic range may vary but under normal conditions is approximately 20 nautical miles.

### Checklist

The following items should be supplied in the box. Check before starting the installation and contact your dealer if an item is missing.

→ **Note:** An antenna is not provided. Consult your Lowrance dealer for advice on selecting the correct antenna for your installation:



1. VHF radio with hand mic
2. Bracket for gimbal mounting
3. Gasket for recessed mounting
4. Documents:
  - user's manual
  - warranty card
  - mounting template
5. Knobs for bracket
6. 8 A (3 AG) spare fuse
7. Mounting screw hole covers
8. Bulkhead mount for hand mic
9. 6 pcs 3.5 x 20 mm, stainless steel, panhead pozi
10. 4 pcs 4 x 25 mm, stainless steel, panhead pozi

## Installation options

There are two mounting options for the radio:

- **Bracket mount:**  
Using the supplied gimbaling bracket the radio can be mounted to either sit on top of, or hang underneath any flat horizontal surface. The radio can be removed for storage and the viewing angle can be adjusted.
- **Flush mount:**  
The radio is recessed into a cavity, showing only the face of the radio. The radio fixture is permanent and the viewing angle cannot be adjusted.

## Selecting a suitable mounting location

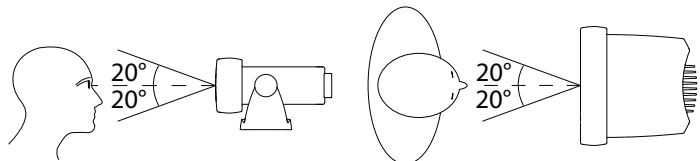
Whichever installation method you choose, please check the following before doing any cutting or drilling. The chosen location must:

- Be at least 1 m (3') from the antenna
- Allow easy access to the rear of the radio for connection to the 12 V DC electrical source, the antenna and any network wiring
- Be at least 45 cms (1.5') from a compass to avoid creating magnetic deviation of the compass.
- Have a suitable space close by for installing the microphone bulkhead mount
- Provide easy access to the controls on the front panel
- If intending to use the built-in GPS antenna, it must be in a location that provides optimal GPS performance, see "Built-in GPS considerations" on page 35.

## Viewing angle

The VHF radio has a large LCD screen with the optimum horizontal and vertical viewing angles within approx.  $\pm 20^\circ$  deg. Ensure the chosen location provides a suitable view of the display. Ideally, the user should be directly in front of the display or no more than  $\pm 20^\circ$  deg from the front of the display.

- **Note:** If unsure, temporarily power up the radio and ensure the location is suitable.



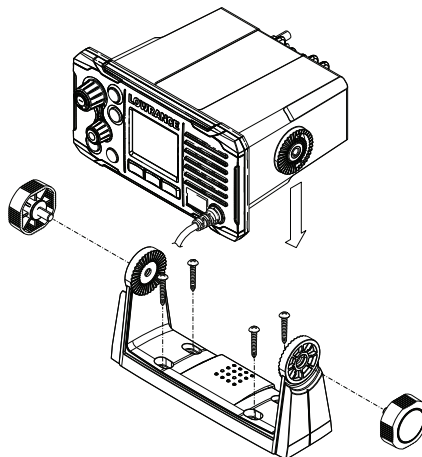
## Built-in GPS considerations

1. The built-in GPS antenna is mounted in the front face of this radio above the speaker grill.
2. If you intend to use the built-in GPS Antenna in this radio, you must ensure a suitable mounting location that allows optimal GPS performance.
3. There must not be any metallic or large obstacles in the path between the radio and the sky. The more obstacles in the way, the weaker the GPS signal getting to the antenna.
4. If the radio is mounted in an alloy or ferrous boat, or below decks, then an external GPS antenna is recommended. Seek professional guidance if unsure.

## Bracket installation

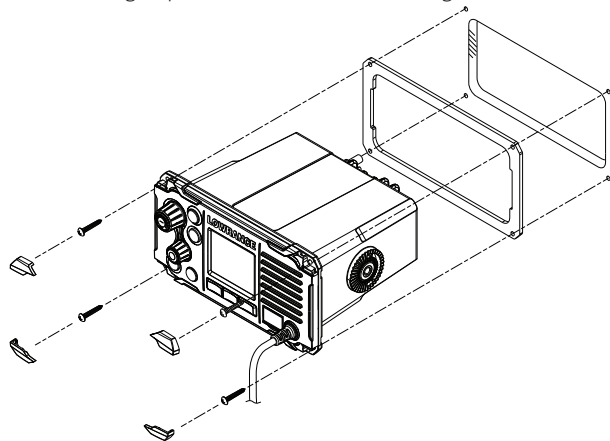
The gimbal bracket provides an adjustable viewing angle with a 20° tilt range, so ensure the selected mounting location will provide the desired viewing and operating conditions:

1. Hold the bracket at the chosen location and use a soft pencil to mark the screw hole positions onto the mounting surface.
2. Use a 3 mm (1/8" ) drill bit to drill the 4 pilot holes.
3. Using a Phillips screwdriver, secure the bracket using the supplied 4x25 mm selftapping screws to the mounting location.
4. Fit the radio into the bracket.
5. Insert the two mounting knobs through the holes and tighten them sufficiently to hold the radio at the desired viewing angle.
6. Fit the mounting clips to the front of the radio to cover dash mount screw holes.



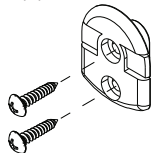
## Flush installation

1. Tape the installation template onto the chosen mounting location.
2. Cut out the area marked by the solid dark line (the dashed line indicates the total area that will be covered by the radio fascia after installation).
3. Use a 2.5 mm (3/32" ) drill bit to drill the 4 pilot holes.
4. Remove the installation template.
5. Fit the gasket to the radio.
6. Slide the radio into the cavity.
7. Using a Phillips screwdriver, secure the radio using the supplied 3.5x20 mm selftapping screws to the mounting location.
8. Fit the mounting clips to cover the 4 mounting screws.



## Install the hand mic bulkhead bracket

1. Hold the hand mic bulkhead bracket at the chosen location and mark the screw hole positions on the mounting surface.
- **Note:** Ensure that the microphone curly cable will comfortably reach this location BEFORE you drill.
2. Use a 2.5 mm (3/32" ) drill bit to drill the 2 pilot holes.
3. Using a Phillips screwdriver, secure the Mic mount using the supplied 3.5x20 mm selftapping screws to the mounting location.



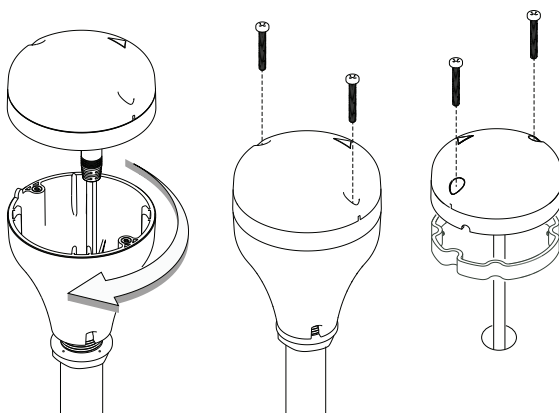
4. Hang the fist mic on the mount.

## Install the external GPS-500 Antenna (optional)

It is not recommended that the GPS antenna is mounted up a mast where the motion of the vessel will cause the antenna to swing and potentially reduce the accuracy of the GPS position.

Also, do not mount the antenna in the direct path of a radar transmitter.

Mount the GPS-500 to either a pole or hard surface then run the cable to the transceiver. In all cases, ensure the selected location enables the antenna to have a clear, unobstructed view of the sky.



To **pole mount** the external GPS-500 antenna, you will require a 1-inch 14 TPI thread pole:

- Screw the pole adapter onto the threaded portion of the pole.
- Feed the cable attached to the GPS antenna through the adapter and pole.
- Mount the pole into position.
- Fit the GPS antenna to the pole adapter using the 2 small screws.

To **surface mount** the external GPS-500 antenna, select a flat clean surface area that has a clear view of the sky. Mount the antenna using the supplied gasket and the 2 small screws:

- Mark and drill the 2 mounting holes and a further hole if necessary for the GPS cable.
- Install the gasket by firstly threading the attached cable through the centre of the gasket.
- Screw the GPS antenna to the mounting surface.

→ **Note:** Ensure the surface mounting area is clean with no dirt, old paint or debris.

- Run the GPS cable to the transceiver:
- Route the cable to your VHF transceiver unit, adding any necessary extension cables.
- Connect the cable from the GPS antenna to the GPS connector (SMA) on the VHF transceiver as shown below.

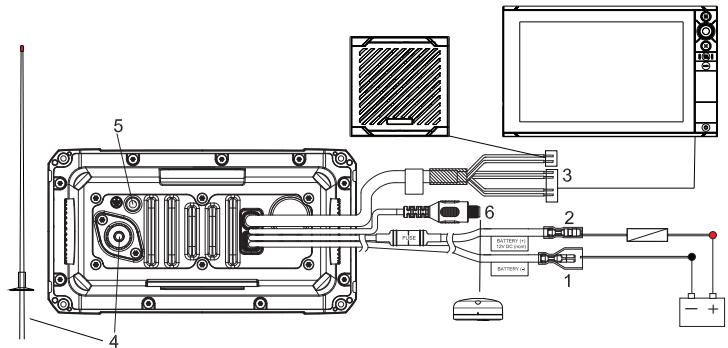
## Connect the radio wiring

All wiring on the radio should be done with the vessel power supply turned off. While radio power is polarity protected, the fuse will blow if connection is made wrong way round. Ensure any unused bare wires are isolated from each other, to prevent the potential of a short circuit.



**Warning:** Never operate the radio without the antenna connected. This may damage the transmitter.

The connectors are on the rear of the base unit, as follows:



1. Battery - (black): connect to vessel's negative busbar
2. Battery + (red): connect to vessel's 12 V DC, via a switch panel or breaker (comes with inline 8 amp fuse ready fitted)
3. 6 wires to be connected as follows:
  1. External speaker + (gray): connect to 4 Ohm, 4 Watt (minimum) external speaker positive
  2. External speaker - (gray/black): connect to 4 Ohm, 4 Watt (minimum) external speaker negative
  3. NMEA 0183 RX\_A (yellow): connect to TX\_A of chart plotter, or active GPS antenna
  4. NMEA 0183 RX\_B (green): connect to TX\_B of chart plotter, or active GPS antenna

5. NMEA 0183 TX\_A (white): connect to RX\_A of chart plotter
  6. NMEA 0183 TX\_B (brown): connect to RX\_B of chart plotter
  4. Antenna: connect to a marine VHF antenna using 50 ohm cable fitted with a PL-259 connector
  5. GND: optional ground connection. May help with induced noise issues
  6. Optional External GPS Antenna connection (SMA).
- ➔ **Note:** External speaker and plotter connections are optional.

## First startup configuration

The first time the radio is powered up, the user is prompted to make a series of setting selections in order to allow the radio to perform to its full potential. Some steps must be completed; some are optional and can be completed later. The steps are outlined below for reference:

COUNTRY MODE	US MODE
USA/CAN ▶	US(DSC) ▶
EU ▶	CAN(DSC)
INT ▶	

Select the region and country the radio will be operated in.

USER MMSI	USER MMSI
ENTER MMSI: _----- PRESS TRI TO SKIP	ENTER AGAIN: 999_----- PRESS TRI TO SKIP
≡ ← × BACK	≡ ← × BACK

Enter MMSI number if known, or skip to next step. Re-enter number to confirm correct entry.

- ➔ **Note:** MMSI entry can only be done once. Changing the MMSI requires radio be returned to a Lowrance dealer.

USER ATIS ID	USER ATIS ID
ENTER ATIS: 9_----- PRESS TRI TO SKIP	ENTER AGAIN: 9111_----- PRESS TRI TO SKIP
≡ ← × BACK	≡ ← × BACK

For some EU region radios only: Enter the ATIS ID number. Re-enter  
Installation | [Link-6S User Guide](#)

number to confirm correct entry.

<b>VESSEL CALL SIGN</b>	
ENTER: ABC_----- PRESS TRI TO SKIP	
☰	← × BACK

Enter vessel call sign if known, or skip to next step.

<b>GPS SOURCE</b>	<b>NMEA 0183</b>	<b>NMEA 0183</b>	<b>BUILT IN</b>
NMEA 0183 ▶	CHECKSUM ON	CHECKSUM ON	INTERNAL ANTENNA
BUILT IN ▶			EXTERNAL ANTENNA

Select a GPS source

<b>TIME OFFSET</b>	<b>TIME FORMAT</b>
-04:00 88:88 PRESS TRI TO SKIP	12 HOUR
☰ OK × BACK	24 HOUR

Set the time offset for your region. Choose whether to display time in 12 or 24 hour.

**MMSI and ATIS ID**

The MMSI is a unique 9 digit number and the ATIS ID is a 10 digit number. They are used on marine transceivers that have DSC (Digital Select Calling) functionality.

- An MMSI remains with a vessel, even if the vessel is sold on.
- An MMSI has 9 numeric digits (xxxxxxx). Your MMSI must not commence with a '0'.
- A Group MMSI begins with '0' followed by 8 numeric digits (0xxxxxxx).
- A Coast Station MMSI begins with 00 followed by 7 numeric digits (00xxxxxxx).
- By law, you are not able to change your MMSI once it is entered into the radio. This is why there is the confirmation screen when entering the MMSI.



- An ATIS ID is only required in certain EU countries when navigating some inland waterways. It is usually a different number to your MMSI.
- If you need to have the MMSI in the radio changed, the radio must be taken back to your Lowrance dealer.

## **ATIS**

Automatic Transmitter Identification System (ATIS) is required for vessels making VHF transmissions whilst on the inland waterways of the Regional Arrangement Concerning the Radiotelephone Service on Inland Waterways (RAINWAT) signatory countries.

RAINWAT is an agreement to implement common principles and rules for the safe carriage of people and goods on Inland Waterways. The signatory countries are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, the Slovak Republic and Switzerland.

Where a VHF is required on the inland waterways of the signatory countries, this must be capable of ATIS transmissions, and have the feature activated. An ATIS number is required which is issued by Ofcom when you add one or more pieces of ATIS equipment to your Ship Radio Licence.

If you don't have a user MMSI or ATIS ID, contact the appropriate licensing authority in your country. If you're unsure who to contact, consult your Lowrance dealer.

# 7

## Specifications

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### GENERAL

Power supply:	12 V DC battery system
Nominal operating voltage:	+ 13.6 V DC
Low battery alert:	10.5 V DC +/- 0.5 V
Over voltage protection:	> 15.8 V +/- 0.5 V
Current drain (Transmit):	≤ 6 A @ 25 W / 1.5 A @ 1W (12 V DC)
Current drain (Receive):	Less than 450 mA in standby
Replacement Fuse:	8 A, Glass type 3 AG; 32 mm (1.25")
Temperature range:	-20 °C to +55 °C (-4 °F to 131 °F)
Usable channels:	International, USA, Canada, Weather (country specific)
Mode:	16K0G3E (FM) / 16K0G2B (DSC)
DSC mode:	Class D (Global) with dual receiver (individual CH70)
Frequency range (Transmitter):	156.025 - 157.425 MHz
Frequency range (Receiver):	156.050 - 163.275 MHz
Channel spacing:	25 KHz
Frequency stability:	± 5 ppm
Frequency control:	PLL

### PHYSICAL

LCD display (viewing):	42 mm x 34 mm (1.65" x 1.3"), FSTN
Contrast control:	Yes
Backlight control:	Yes
VHF antenna connector:	SO-239 (50 ohm)
GPS antenna connector:	SMA (female)
Waterproof:	IPx7
Dimensions:	W=166.7 mm (6.56") x H=89.2 mm (3.5") x D=161.4 mm (6.35") - without bracket
Weight:	1.18 kg (2.6 lbs)
Compass safe distance:	0.5 m (1.5')
NMEA 0183 port:	Yes
NMEA 0183 input:	RMC, GGA, GLL, GNS
NMEA 0183 output:	Yes, DSC ( for DSC call), DSE (for enhanced position)

NMEA 2000 port:	No
External speaker:	Yes

## FEATURES

Flush mount kit	Yes
Local/Distant control:	Yes
Position polling:	Yes
Group call:	Yes
Call logs:	Yes - 20 individual and 10 distress
Channel naming:	Yes
Tri watch:	Yes
Favourite channel scan:	Yes
All scan:	Yes

User programmable MMSI:	Yes
MMSI and NAME directory:	Yes - 20 numbers & group

## TRANSMITTER

Frequency error:	$\leq \pm 1.5$ KHz
Output power:	25 W ( $23 \pm 2$ ) / 1 W ( $0.8 \pm 0.2$ )
Transmitter protection:	Open / short circuit of antenna
Max Frequency deviation:	$\leq \pm 5$
Spurious & harmonics Hi/Lo:	$\leq 0.25$ $\mu$ W
Modulation Distortion $\pm 3$ KHz:	$\leq 10$ %
S/N at 3KHz Deviation:	$\geq 40$ dB
Audio Response at 1KHz:	+1 to -3dB of 6 dB/octave from 300 hz to 3 KHz
DSC TX deviation at 1.3K:	$2.6 \pm 0.26$ KHz
DSC TX deviation at 2.1K:	$4.2 \pm 0.42$ KHz
ATIS TX deviation at 1.3 KHz:	$1.3 \pm 0.13$ KHz
ATIS TX deviation at 2.1 KHz:	$2.1 \pm 0.21$ KHz

## RECEIVER

12dB SINAD sensitivity:	0.25 $\mu$ V (distant) / 0.8 $\mu$ V (local)
20db SINAD sensitivity:	0.35 $\mu$ V
Adjacent CH selectivity:	more than 70 db
Spurious response:	more than 70 db
Intermodulation rejection:	more than 68 db

Residual noise level:	more than -40 db unsquelched
Audio output power:	2 W (with 8 ohm at 10% distortion) 4 W (with 4 ohm external speaker)

### **BUILT-IN GPS RECEIVER**

Receiving frequency:	1575.42 MHz
Tracking code:	C/A code
Number of channels:	72 channels
Horizontal accuracy:	<10 m
Position fixing time:	Warm start: 30s, Cold start: 90s
Position update interval:	1 second typical

### **ACCESSORIES**

VHF Radio antenna type:	Dipole. Gain value: 6 dBi
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➔ **Note:** Specifications are subject to change without notice.

# 8

## Channel charts

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The following channel charts are provided for reference only and may not be correct for all regions. It is the operators' responsibility to ensure correct channels and frequencies are used for local regulations.

### EU and International channel chart

With reference to Appendix 18 (Rev.WRC-15) (See article 52).

- **Note:** For assistance in understanding the table, see Notes a) to zz) below. (WRC-15)
- **Note:** The table below defines the channel numbering for maritime VHF communications based on 25 kHz channel spacing and use of several duplex channels. The channel numbering and the conversion of two-frequency channels for single-frequency operation shall be in accordance with Recommendation ITU-R M.1084-5 Annex 4, Tables 1 and 3. The table below also describes the harmonized channels where the digital technologies defined in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.1842 could be deployed. (WRC-15)
- **Note:** Depending on the country your radio is set to, not all channels listed in the following table maybe available.

Channel designator	Notes	Transmitting frequencies (MHz)		Inter-ship	Port operations and ship movement		Public correspondence
		From ship stations	From coast stations		Single frequency	Two frequency	
60	m)	156.025	160.625		x	x	x
01	m)	156.050	160.650		x	x	x
61	m)	156.075	160.675		x	x	x
02	m)	156.100	160.700		x	x	x
62	m)	156.125	160.725		x	x	x
03	m)	156.150	160.750		x	x	x
63	m)	156.175	160.775		x	x	x
04	m)	156.200	160.800		x	x	x
64	m)	156.225	160.825		x	x	x
05	m)	156.250	160.850		x	x	x
65	m)	156.275	160.875		x	x	x
06	f)	156.300		x			
2006	r)	160.900	160.900				
66	m)	156.325	160.925		x	x	x
07	m)	156.350	160.950		x	x	x
67	h)	156.375	156.375	x	x		
08		156.400		x			
68		156.425	156.425		x		
09	i)	156.450	156.450	x	x		
69		156.475	156.475	x	x		
10	h), q)	156.500	156.500	x	x		
70	f), j)	156.525	156.525	Digital selective calling for distress, safety and calling			
11	q)	156.550	156.550		x		
71		156.575	156.575		x		
12		156.600	156.600		x		
72	i)	156.625		x			
13	k)	156.650	156.650	x	x		
73	h), i)	156.675	156.675	x	x		
14		156.700	156.700		x		
74		156.725	156.725		x		
15	g)	156.750	156.750	x	x		
75	n), s)	156.775	156.775		x		
16	f)	156.800	156.800	Distress, safety and calling			
76	n), s)	156.825	156.825		x		
17	g)	156.850	156.850	x	x		
77		156.875		x			
18	m)	156.900	161.500		x	x	x
78	m)	156.925	161.525		x	x	x
1078		156.925	156.925		x		
2078	mm)		161.525		x		

19	m)	156.950	161.550		x	x	x
1019		156.950	156.950		x		
2019	mm)		161.550		x		
79	m)	156.975	161.575		x	x	x
1079		156.975	156.975		x		
2079	mm)		161.575		x		
20	m)	157.000	161.600		x	x	x
1020		157.000	157.000		x		
2020	mm)		161.600		x		
80	y), wa)	157.025	161.625		x	x	x
21	y), wa)	157.050	161.650		x	x	x
81	y), wa)	157.075	161.675		x	x	x
22	y), wa)	157.100	161.700		x	x	x
82	x), y), wa)	157.125	161.725		x	x	x
23	x), y), wa)	157.150	161.750		x	x	x
83	x), y), wa)	157.175	161.775		x	x	x
24	w), ww), x), xx)	157.200	161.800		x	x	x
1024	w), ww), x), xx)	157.200					
2024	w), ww), x), xx)	161.800	161.800	x (digital only)			
84	w), ww), x), xx)	157.225	161.825		x	x	x
1084	w), ww), x), xx)	157.225					
2084	w), ww), x), xx)	161.825	161.825	x (digital only)			
25	w), ww), x), xx)	157.250	161.850		x	x	x
1025	w), ww), x), xx)	157.250					
2025	w), ww), x), xx)	161.850	161.850	x (digital only)			
85	w), ww), x), xx)	157.275	161.875		x	x	x
1085	w), ww), x), xx)	157.275					
2085	w), ww), x), xx)	161.875	161.875	x (digital only)			
26	w), ww), x)	157.300	161.900		x	x	x
1026	w), ww), x)	157.300					
2026	w), ww), x)		161.900				

86	w), ww), x)	157.325	161.925		x	x	x
1086	w), ww), x)	157.325					
2086	w), ww), x)		161.925				
27	z), zx)	157.350	161.950			x	x
1027	z), zz)	157.350	157.350		x		
ASM 1	z)	161.950	161.950				
87	z), zz)	157.375	157.375		x		
28	z), zx)	157.400	162.000			x	x
1028	z), zz)	157.400	157.400		x		
ASM2	z)	162.000	162.000				
88	z), zz)	157.425	157.425		x		
AIS 1	f), l), p)	161.975	161.975				
AIS 2	f), l), p)	162.025	162.025				

## Notes referring to the Table

### General notes:

- Administrations may designate frequencies in the inter-ship, port operations and ship movement services for use by light aircraft and helicopters to communicate with ships or participating coast stations in predominantly maritime support operations under the conditions specified in Nos. **51.69, 51.73, 51.74, 51.75, 51.76, 51.77** and **51.78**. However, the use of the channels which are shared with public correspondence shall be subject to prior agreement between interested and affected administrations.
- The channels of the present Appendix, with the exception of channels 06, 13, 15, 16, 17, 70, 75 and 76, may also be used for high-speed data and facsimile transmissions, subject to special arrangement between interested and affected administrations.
- The channels of the present Appendix, with the exception of channels 06, 13, 15, 16, 17, 70, 75 and 76, may be used for direct-printing telegraphy and data transmission, subject to special arrangement between interested and affected administrations. (WRC-12)
- The frequencies in this table may also be used for radiocommunications on inland waterways in accordance with the conditions specified in No. 5.226.
- Administrations may apply 12.5 kHz channel interleaving on a non-interference basis to 25 kHz channels, in accordance with the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.1084, provided:
  - it shall not affect the 25 kHz channels of the present Appendix maritime mobile distress and safety, automatic identification system (AIS), and data exchange frequencies, especially the channels 06, 13, 15, 16, 17, 70, AIS 1 and AIS 2, nor the technical characteristics set forth in Recommendation ITU-R M.489-2 for those channels;



- implementation of 12.5 kHz channel interleaving and consequential national requirements shall be subject to coordination with affected administrations. (WRC-12)

### Specific notes

- f) The frequencies 156.300 MHz (channel 06), 156.525 MHz (channel 70), 156.800 MHz (channel 16), 161.975 MHz (AIS 1) and 162.025 MHz (AIS 2) may also be used by aircraft stations for the purpose of search and rescue operations and other safety-related communication. (WRC-07)
- g) Channels 15 and 17 may also be used for on-board communications provided the effective radiated power does not exceed 1 W, and subject to the national regulations of the administration concerned when these channels are used in its territorial waters.
- h) Within the European Maritime Area and in Canada, these frequencies (channels 10, 67, 73) may also be used, if so required, by the individual administrations concerned, for communication between ship stations, aircraft stations and participating land stations engaged in coordinated search and rescue and anti-pollution operations in local areas, under the conditions specified in Nos. **51.69, 51.73, 51.74, 51.75, 51.76, 51.77** and **51.78**.
- i) The preferred first three frequencies for the purpose indicated in Note a) are 156.450 MHz (channel 09), 156.625 MHz (channel 72) and 156.675 MHz (channel 73).
- j) Channel 70 is to be used exclusively for digital selective calling for distress, safety and calling.
- k) Channel 13 is designated for use on a worldwide basis as a navigation safety communication channel, primarily for intership navigation safety communications. It may also be used for the ship movement and port operations service subject to the national regulations of the administrations concerned.
- l) These channels (AIS 1 and AIS 2) are used for an automatic identification system (AIS) capable of providing worldwide operation, unless other frequencies are designated on a regional basis for this purpose. Such use should be in accordance with the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.1371. (WRC-07)
- m) These channels may be operated as single frequency channels, subject to coordination with affected administrations. The following conditions apply for single frequency usage:
  - The lower frequency portion of these channels may be operated as single frequency channels by ship and coast stations.
  - Transmission using the upper frequency portion of these channels is limited to coast stations.
  - If permitted by administrations and specified by national regulations, the upper frequency portion of these channels may be used by ship

stations for transmission. All precautions should be taken to avoid harmful interference to channels AIS 1, AIS 2, 2027\* and 2028\*. (WRC-15)

\* From 1 January 2019, channel 2027 will be designated ASM 1 and channel 2028 will be designated ASM 2.

- mm) Transmission on these channels is limited to coast stations. If permitted by administrations and specified by national regulations, these channels may be used by ship stations for transmission. All precautions should be taken to avoid harmful interference to channels AIS 1, AIS 2, 2027\* and 2028\*. (WRC-15)

\* From 1 January 2019, channel 2027 will be designated ASM 1 and channel 2028 will be designated ASM 2.

- n) With the exception of AIS, the use of these channels (75 and 76) should be restricted to navigation-related communications only and all precautions should be taken to avoid harmful interference to channel 16, by limiting the output power to 1 W. (WRC-12)
- o) (SUP - WRC-12)
- p) Additionally, AIS 1 and AIS 2 may be used by the mobile-satellite service (Earth-to-space) for the reception of AIS transmissions from ships. (WRC-07)
- q) When using these channels (10 and 11), all precautions should be taken to avoid harmful interference to channel 70. (WRC-07)
- r) In the maritime mobile service, this frequency is reserved for experimental use for future applications or systems (e.g. new AIS applications, man over board systems, etc.). If authorized by administrations for experimental use, the operation shall not cause harmful interference to, or claim protection from, stations operating in the fixed and mobile services. (WRC-12)
- s) Channels 75 and 76 are also allocated to the mobile-satellite service (Earth-to-space) for the reception of long- range AIS broadcast messages from ships (Message 27; see the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.1371). (WRC-12)
- t) (SUP – WRC-15)
- u) SUP – WRC-15)
- v) SUP – WRC-15)
- w) In Regions 1 and 3:  
Until 1 January 2017, the frequency bands 157.200-157.325 MHz and 161.800-161.925 MHz (corresponding to channels: 24, 84, 25, 85, 26 and 86) may be used for digitally modulated emissions, subject to coordination with affected administrations. Stations using these channels or frequency bands for digitally modulated emissions shall not cause harmful interference to, or claim protection from, other stations operating in accordance with Article 5.

From 1 January 2017, the frequency bands 157.200-157.325 MHz and 161.800-161.925 MHz (corresponding to channels: 24, 84, 25, 85, 26 and 86) are identified for the utilization of the VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) described in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.2092. These frequency bands may also be used for analogue modulation described in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.1084 by an administration that wishes to do so, subject to not causing harmful interference to, or claiming protection from other stations in the maritime mobile service using digitally modulated emissions and subject to coordination with affected administrations. (WRC-15)

wa) In Regions 1 and 3:

Until 1 January 2017, the frequency bands 157.025-157.175 MHz and 161.625-161.775 MHz (corresponding to channels: 80, 21, 81, 22, 82, 23 and 83) may be used for digitally modulated emissions, subject to coordination with affected administrations. Stations using these channels or frequency bands for digitally modulated emissions shall not cause harmful interference to, or claim protection from, other stations operating in accordance with Article 5.

From 1 January 2017, the frequency bands 157.025-157.100 MHz and 161.625-161.700 MHz (corresponding to channels: 80, 21, 81 and 22) are identified for utilization of the digital systems described in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.1842 using multiple 25 kHz contiguous channels.

From 1 January 2017, the frequency bands 157.150-157.175 MHz and 161.750-161.775 MHz (corresponding to channels: 23 and 83) are identified for utilization of the digital systems described in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.1842 using two 25 kHz contiguous channels. From 1 January 2017, the frequencies 157.125 MHz and 161.725 MHz (corresponding to channel: 82) are identified for the utilization of the digital systems described in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.1842.

The frequency bands 157.025-157.175 MHz and 161.625-161.775 MHz (corresponding to channels: 80, 21, 81, 22, 82, 23 and 83) can also be used for analogue modulation described in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.1084 by an administration that wishes to do so, subject to not claiming protection from other stations in the maritime mobile service using digitally modulated emissions and subject to coordination with affected administrations. (WRC-15)

ww) In Region 2, the frequency bands 157.200-157.325 and 161.800-161.925 MHz (corresponding to channels: 24, 84, 25, 85, 26 and 86) are designated for digitally modulated emissions in accordance with the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.1842. In Canada and Barbados, from 1 January 2019 the frequency bands 157.200-157.275 and 161.800-161.875 MHz (corresponding to channels: 24, 84, 25 and

85) may be used for digitally modulated emissions, such as those described in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.2092, subject to coordination with affected administrations. (WRC-15)

- x) From 1 January 2017, in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the frequency bands 157.125-157.325 and 161.725-161.925 MHz (corresponding to channels: 82, 23, 83, 24, 84, 25, 85, 26 and 86) are designated for digitally modulated emissions.

From 1 January 2017, in China, the frequency bands 157.150-157.325 and 161.750-161.925 MHz (corresponding to channels: 23, 83, 24, 84, 25, 85, 26 and 86) are designated for digitally modulated emissions. (WRC-12)

- xx) From 1 January 2019, the channels 24, 84, 25 and 85 may be merged in order to form a unique duplex channel with a bandwidth of 100 kHz in order to operate the VDES terrestrial component described in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.2092. (WRC-15)
- y) These channels may be operated as single or duplex frequency channels, subject to coordination with affected administrations. (WRC-12)
- z) Until 1 January 2019, these channels may be used for possible testing of future AIS applications without causing harmful interference to, or claiming protection from, existing applications and stations operating in the fixed and mobile services.

From 1 January 2019, these channels are each split into two simplex channels. The channels 2027 and 2028 designated as ASM 1 and ASM 2 are used for application specific messages (ASM) as described in the most recent version of Recommendation ITU-R M.2092. (WRC-15)

- zx) In the United States, these channels are used for communication between ship stations and coast stations for the purpose of public correspondence. (WRC-15)
- zz) From 1 January 2019, channels 1027, 1028, 87 and 88 are used as single-frequency analogue channels for port operation and ship movement. (WRC-15)

Source: ITU Radio Regulations ; reproduced with permission from ITU.

## USA channel chart

Channel designator	Transmitting frequencies (MHz)		S/D/R	Channel name	Restrictions
	From ship stations	From coast stations			
6	156.300	156.300	S	SAFETY	
8	156.400	156.400	S	COMMERCIAL	
9	156.450	156.450	S	CALLING	
10	156.500	156.500	S	COMMERCIAL	
11	156.550	156.550	S	VTS	
12	156.600	156.600	S	PORT OPS/VTS	
13	156.650	156.650	S	BRIDGE COM	1W
14	156.700	156.700	S	PORT OPS/VTS	
15	--	156.750	R	ENVIROMENTAL	RX ONLY
16	156.800	156.800	S	DISTRESS	
17	156.850	156.850	S	SAR	1W
20	157.000	161.600	D	PORT OPS	
24	157.200	161.800	D	TELEPHONE	
25	157.250	161.850	D	TELEPHONE	
26	157.300	161.900	D	TELEPHONE	
27	157.350	161.950	D	TELEPHONE	
28	157.400	162.000	D	TELEPHONE	
67	156.375	156.375	S	BRIDGE COM	1W
68	156.425	156.425	S	SHIP-SHIP	
69	156.475	156.475	S	SHIP-SHIP	
71	156.575	156.575	S	SHIP-SHIP	
72	156.625	156.625	S	SHIP-SHIP	
73	156.675	156.675	S	PORT OPS	
74	156.725	156.725	S	PORT OPS	
75	156.775	156.775	S	PORT OPS	1W
76	156.825	156.825	S	PORT OPS	1W
77	156.875	156.875	S	PORT OPS	1W
84	157.225	161.825	D	TELEPHONE	
85	157.275	161.875	D	TELEPHONE	
86	157.325	161.925	D	TELEPHONE	
87	157.375	157.375	S	TELEPHONE	
88	157.425	157.425	S	INTER-SHIP	
1001 (was 01A)	156.050	156.050	S	PORT OPS/VTS	
1005 (was 05A)	156.250	156.250	S	PORT OPS/VTS	

1007 (was 07A)	156.350	156.350	S	COMMERCIAL	
1018 (was 18A)	156.900	156.900	S	COMMERCIAL	
1019 (was 19A)	156.950	156.950	S	COMMERCIAL	
1020 (was 20A)	157.000	157.000	S	PORT OPS	
1021 (was 21A)	157.050	157.050	S	US COAST GRD	
1022 (was 22A)	157.100	157.100	S	US COAST GRD	
1023 (was 23A)	157.150	157.150	S	US COAST GRD	
1063 (was 63A)	156.175	156.175	S	PORT OPS/VTs	
1065 (was 65A)	156.275	156.275	S	PORT OPS	
1066 (was 66A)	156.325	156.325	S	PORT OPS	
1078 (was 78A)	156.925	156.925	S	SHIP-SHIP	
1079 (was 79A)	156.975	156.975	S	COMMERCIAL	
1080 (was 80A)	157.025	157.025	S	COMMERCIAL	
1081 (was 81A)	157.075	157.075	S	RESTRICTED	
1082 (was 82A)	157.125	157.125	S	RESTRICTED	
1083 (was 83A)	157.175	157.175	S	RESTRICTED	

### USA weather channels

Channel designator	Transmitting frequencies (MHz)		S/D/R	Channel name	Restrictions
	From ship stations	From coast stations			
WX1	---	162.550	R	NOAA WX1	RX ONLY
WX2	---	162.400	R	NOAA WX2	RX ONLY
WX3	---	162.475	R	NOAA WX3	RX ONLY
WX4	---	162.425	R	NOAA WX4	RX ONLY
WX5	---	162.450	R	NOAA WX5	RX ONLY
WX6	---	162.500	R	NOAA WX6	RX ONLY
WX7	---	162.525	R	NOAA WX7	RX ONLY

## Canada channel chart

Channel designator	Transmitting frequencies (MHz)		S/D/R	Channel name	Restrictions
	From ship stations	From coast stations			
1	156.050	160.650	D	TELEPHONE	
2	156.100	160.700	D	TELEPHONE	
3	156.150	160.750	D	TELEPHONE	
4	156.200	160.800	D	CANADIAN CG	
5	156.250	160.850	D	TELEPHONE	
6	156.300	156.300	S	SAFETY	
7	156.350	160.950	D	TELEPHONE	
8	156.400	156.400	S	COMMERCIAL	
9	156.450	156.450	S	VTS	
10	156.500	156.500	S	VTS	
11	156.550	156.550	S	VTS	
12	156.600	156.600	S	PORT OPS/VTS	
13	156.650	156.650	S	BRIDGE COM	1W
14	156.700	156.700	S	PORT OPS/VTS	
15	156.750	156.750	S	COMMERCIAL	1W
16	156.800	156.800	S	DISTRESS	
17	156.850	156.850	S	SAR	1W
18	156.900	161.500	D	TELEPHONE	
19	156.950	161.550	D	CANADIAN CG	
20	157.000	161.600	D	CANADIAN CG	1W
21	157.050	161.650	D	CANADIAN CG	
22	157.100	161.700	D	TELEPHONE	
23	157.150	161.750	D	TELEPHONE	
24	157.200	161.800	D	TELEPHONE	
25	157.250	161.850	D	TELEPHONE	
26	157.300	161.900	D	TELEPHONE	
27	157.350	161.950	D	TELEPHONE	
28	157.400	162.000	D	TELEPHONE	
60	156.025	160.625	D	TELEPHONE	
61	156.075	160.675	D	CANADIAN CG	
62	156.125	160.725	D	CANADIAN CG	
63	156.175	160.775	D	TELEPHONE	
64	156.225	160.825	D	TELEPHONE	
65	156.275	160.875	D	TELEPHONE	
66	156.325	160.925	D	TELEPHONE	
67	156.375	156.375	S	COMMERCIAL	
68	156.425	156.425	S	SHIP-SHIP	
69	156.475	156.475	S	COMMERCIAL	
71	156.575	156.575	S	VTS	
72	156.625	156.625	S	SHIP-SHIP	
73	156.675	156.675	S	COMMERCIAL	

74	156.725	156.725	S	VTs	
75	156.775	156.775	S	PORT OPS	1W
76	156.825	156.825	S	PORT OPS	1W
77	156.875	156.875	S	PORT OPS	1W
78	156.925	161.525	D	TELEPHONE	
79	156.975	161.575	D	TELEPHONE	
80	157.025	161.625	D	TELEPHONE	
81	157.075	161.675	D	TELEPHONE	
82	157.125	161.725	D	CANADIAN CG	
83	157.175	161.775	D	CANADIAN CG	
84	157.225	161.825	D	TELEPHONE	
85	157.275	161.875	D	TELEPHONE	
86	157.325	161.925	D	TELEPHONE	
87	157.375	157.375	S	PORT OPS	
88	157.425	157.425	S	PORT OPS	
1001	156.050	156.050	S	COMMERCIAL	
1005	156.250	156.250	S	PORT OPS/VTs	
1007	156.350	156.350	S	COMMERCIAL	
1018	156.900	156.900	S	COMMERCIAL	
1019	156.950	156.950	S	CANADIAN CG	
1020	157.000	157.000	S	PORT OPS	
1021	157.050	157.050	S	RESTRICTED	
1022	157.100	157.100	S	CANADIAN CG	
1024	157.200	157.200	S	PORT OPS	
1025	157.250	157.250	S	PORT OPS	
1026	157.300	157.300	S	PORT OPS	
1027	157.350	157.350	S	CANADIAN CG	
1061	156.075	156.075	S	CANADIAN CG	
1062	156.125	156.125	S	CANADIAN CG	
1063	156.175	156.175	S	TELEPHONE	
1064	156.225	156.225	S	RESTRICTED	
1065	156.275	156.275	S	PORT OPS	
1066	156.325	156.325	S	PORT OPS	
1078	156.925	156.925	S	SHIP-SHIP	
1079	156.975	156.975	S	COMMERCIAL	
1080	157.025	157.025	S	COMMERCIAL	
1083	157.175	157.175	S	RESTRICTED	
1084	157.225	157.225	S	PORT OPS	
1085	157.275	157.275	S	CANADIAN CG	
1086	157.325	157.325	S	PORT OPS	
2019	--	161.550	R	PORT OPS	RX ONLY
2020	--	161.600	R	PORT OPS	RX ONLY
2023	--	161.750	R	SAFETY	RX ONLY
2026	--	161.900	R	PORT OPS	RX ONLY
2078	--	161.525	R	PORT OPS	RX ONLY



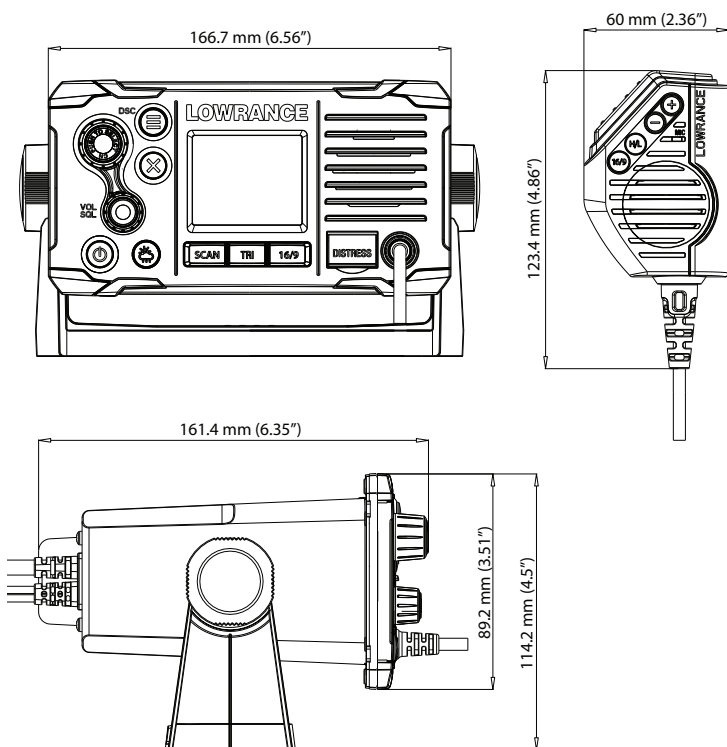
2079	--	161.575	R	PORT OPS	RX ONLY
2086	--	161.925	R	PORT OPS	RX ONLY

### Canada weather channels

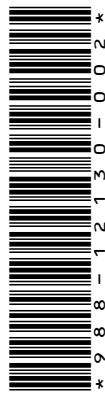
Channel designator	Transmitting frequencies (MHz)		S/D/R	Channel name	Restrictions
	From ship stations	From coast stations			
WX1	--	162.550	R	CANADA WX	Rx only
WX2	--	162.400	R	CANADA WX	Rx only
WX3	--	162.475	R	CANADA WX	Rx only

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## Dimensional drawings







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