



Marine Communications and Traffic Services



Great Lakes

Canada

Canadian Coast Guard Marine Communications and Traffic Services (MCTS) Centres located at Thunder Bay, Sarnia and Prescott provide a wide range of services to enhance the safety of commercial shipping and recreational boating on the Great Lakes, including Georgian Bay, Lake Simcoe and the western portion of the St. Lawrence River.

MCTS Centres operate 24 hours a day, throughout the year, providing services through the use of remotely controlled radio sites at strategic locations along the lakes.

The services provided by MCTS include:

Detection of Distress

MCTS Centres continuously monitor marine radio VHF channels 16 (voice) and 70 (digital selective calling) to detect distress situations and ensure speedy resolution of Search and Rescue incidents.

Broadcasting Marine Safety Information

MCTS Centres broadcast marine safety information such as weather bulletins, ice information and notices to shipping concerning dangers to navigation by means of NAVTEX and a Continuous Marine Broadcast (CMB). Consult the chart included in this publication for the CMB channel serving your area.

Reports of any danger, hazard or potential hazard to navigation should be forwarded to the nearest MCTS Centre as soon as possible to ensure the widest distribution to mariners through broadcast Notices to Shipping.



Regulating Vessel Movements

The MCTS Centre in Sarnia provides a vessel traffic regulating service for commercial shipping in the area from Long Point in Lake Erie to Detour Reef Light in Lake Huron. Participation and reporting requirements are described in the "St. Clair and Detroit River Navigation Safety Regulations" and the publication "Radio Aids to Marine Navigation".

Sail Plan Service

Mariners are encouraged to file Sail Plans with a relative, friend, or other responsible party. In circumstances where this is not possible, Sail Plans may be filed with an MCTS Centre.

Radio Direction Finding

The MCTS Centres at Prescott and Thunder Bay provide a VHF radio direction finding service for ships in difficulty in western Lake Ontario and Georgian Bay. Information concerning position, bearing and distance may be provided for use at the discretion of the recipient.

Cellular Telephone - Dial *16 for Marine Emergency Service

Use of a marine radio is the most efficient method of alerting the Coast Guard and other boaters to an emergency situation. Operators of vessels not equipped with a marine radio can be connected with the nearest MCTS Centre by dialing *16 on their cellular telephone. Boaters should check with their cellular service provider to determine if they offer this service.

The use of *16 is restricted to obtaining assistance or relaying information relating to Distress and Urgency situations. For other needs, the published telephone number of the appropriate MCTS Centre should be used.

Ship/Shore Telephone Calls

Ship/shore marine radiotelephone calls may be placed through MCTS Centres. Marine telephone calls are subject to charges additional to those for regular telephone calls. The current rate for marine telephone calls may be obtained from the MCTS Centre prior to placing the call.



VHF Radio Channels at MCTS Remotely Controlled Sites

MCTS Centre	Remotely controlled sites at:	Ship/Shore radio channels available:	CMB channel
Thunder Bay	Thunder Bay	12, 16, 65A, 70, 85	83B
	Horn	16, 22A, 24, 65A, 70	21B
	Bald Head	16, 22A, 27, 65A, 70	83B
	Sault Ste Marie	11, 16, 24, 65A, 70	21B
	Silver Water	11, 16, 27, 65A, 70	83B
	Killarney	16, 24, 65A, 70	21B
	Tobermory	16, 22A, 24, 65A, 70	21B
	Pointe au Baril	16, 26, 65A, 70	21B
	Warton	16, 26, 70	
	Meaford	16, 65A, 70, 85	83B
Sarnia	Kincardine	11, 16, 22A, 27, 65A, 70	83B
	Sarnia	11, 16, 22A, 24, 65A, 70, 85	21B
	Grande Pointe	11, 12, 16, 65A, 70, 85	
	Leamington	12, 16, 22A, 27, 65A, 70, 85	83B
	Rondeau	12, 16, 65A, 70, 85	21B
	Port Burwell	12, 16, 22A, 24, 65A, 70, 85	83B
Prescott	Fonthill	16, 22A, 26, 27, 65A, 70	83B
	Trafalgar	16, 24, 65A, 70	
	Orillia	16, 26, 65A, 70	21B
	Cobourg	16, 22A, 27, 65A, 70, 85	21B
	Kingston	16, 22A, 24, 26, 65A, 70	23B, 83B
	Gananaque*	16, 65A, 85	
	Cardinal*	16, 26, 27, 65A, 70	21B, 83B
	Cornwall*	16, 65A, 70, 85	23B, 83B

* Sites at Cornwall, Cardinal and Gananoque are operational from March 15 to December 31, only.

Prescott MCTS Centre provides bilingual services for the waters along the St. Lawrence River.

For More Details

The publication "Radio Aids to Marine Navigation" outlines the services provided by all MCTS Centres in Canada. This publication is available on the Canadian Coast Guard website at www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca and may also be purchased from authorized Canadian Hydrographic Services Chart Dealers.

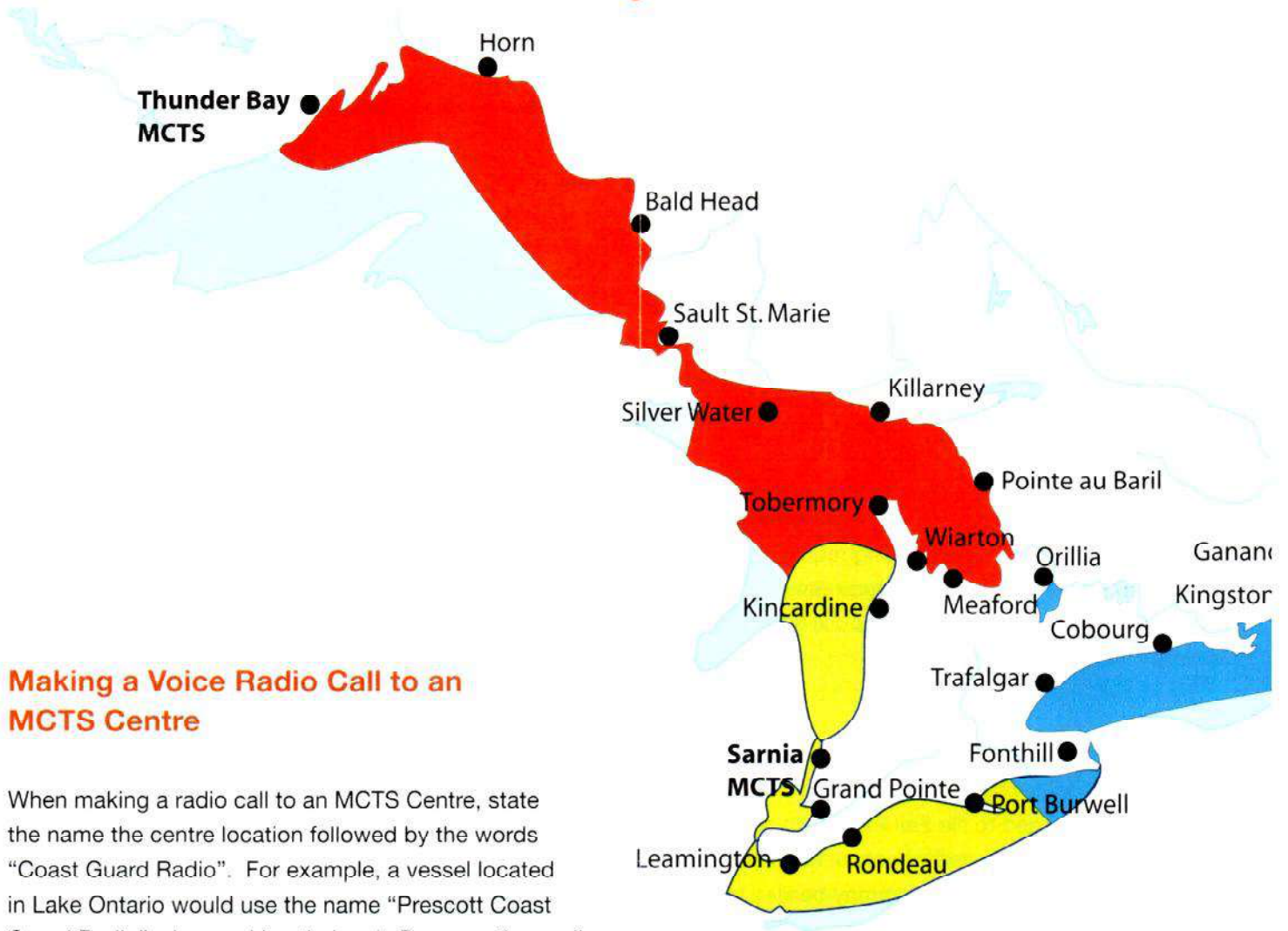
Marine Radio Channels

MCTS Centres serving the Great Lakes utilize the following VHF marine radio channels:

Channel(s)	Authorized use:
11, 12	Vessel Traffic Regulating
16	Distress, Safety and Calling
21B, 83B	Continuous Marine Broadcast (CMB) English
22A	Communications between Coast Guard and non-Coast Guard stations
23B, 28B	Continuous Marine Broadcast (CMB) French
24, 26, 27, 85	Communications of a non-urgent nature such as requests for information, ship/shore telephone calls, messages, and sail plans.
65A	Search and Rescue
70	Digital Selective Calling

Consult the table on the reverse side to determine the MCTS channels available at each remotely controlled radio site.

Marine Communications and Traffic Services Site Locations and Radio Coverage.



Making a Voice Radio Call to an MCTS Centre

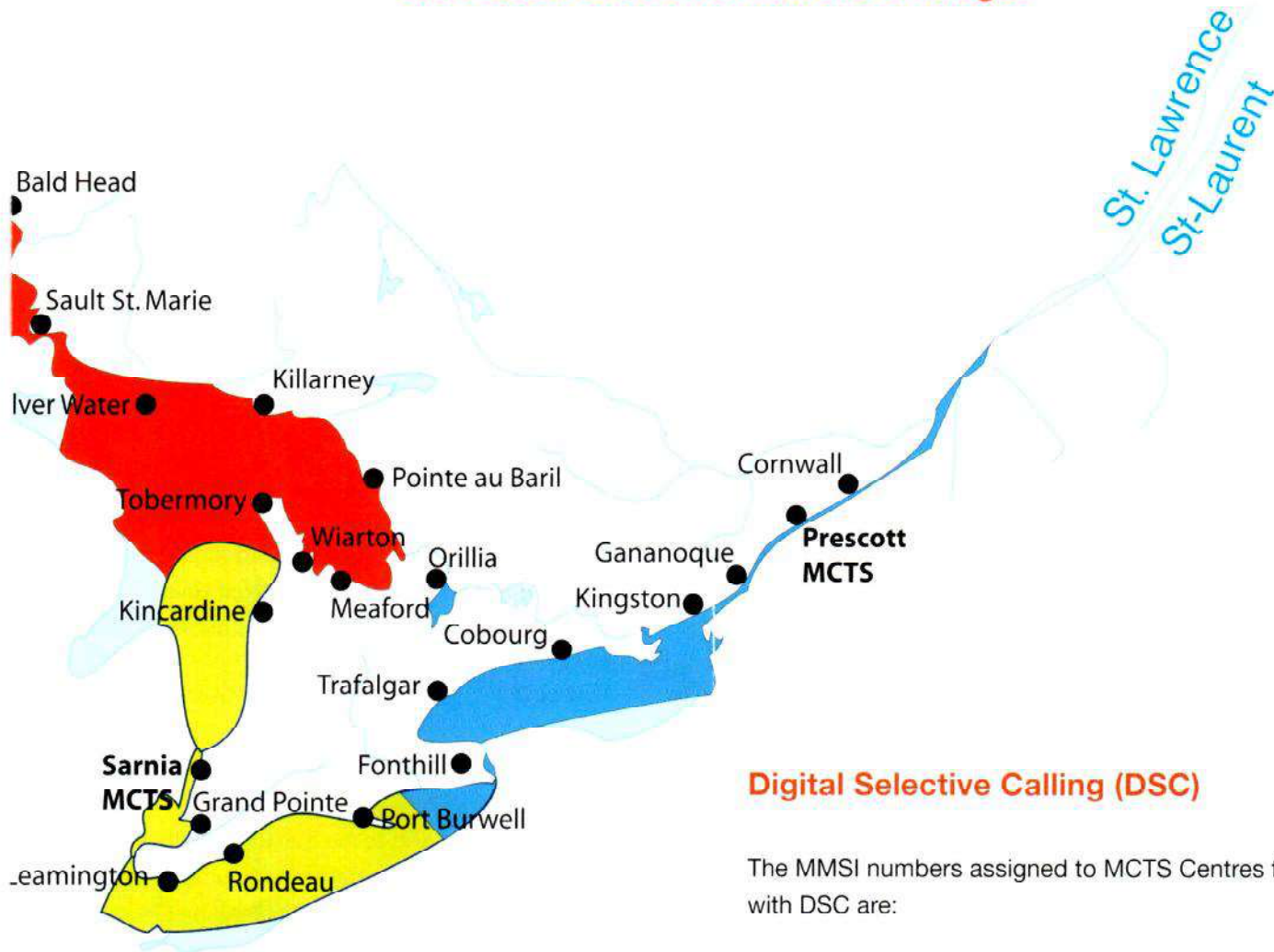
When making a radio call to an MCTS Centre, state the name the centre location followed by the words "Coast Guard Radio". For example, a vessel located in Lake Ontario would use the name "Prescott Coast Guard Radio" when making their call. By exception, calls related to the vessel traffic regulating service will use the word "traffic" after the centre location name, e.g. "Sarnia Traffic".

The radio channel being used should be identified as part of the call when calling on a channel other than 16.

Radio Coverage

-  Thunder Bay
-  Sarnia
-  Prescott

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Digital Selective Calling (DSC)

The MMSI numbers assigned to MCTS Centres for use with DSC are:

MCTS Centre at:	MMSI#
Thunder Bay	00 316 0031
Sarnia	00 316 0030
Prescott	00 316 0029

Radiotelephone Restricted Operator's Certificate

In Canada, a Restricted Operator's Certificate (Maritime) is required by the operator of a VHF marine radio.

The Canadian Power and Sail Squadron (CPS) are responsible for issuing the Restricted Operator's Certificate (Maritime) for operators of pleasure craft. For more information, contact the CPS at 1-888-277-2628 or visit their web-site at www.cps-ecp.ca.

MCTS Centre Telephone Numbers

Thunder Bay

(807) 345-5190 MCTS Operations (24 hours)
(807) 345-4618 Officer in Charge

Sarnia

(519) 336-4003 MCTS Operations (24 hours)
(519) 337-6572 Officer in Charge

Prescott

(613) 925-4471 MCTS Operations (24 hours)
(613) 925-0618 Officer in Charge

General enquires may be forwarded to:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Canadian Coast Guard
Superintendent MCTS, Central & Arctic Region
520 Exmouth St.
Sarnia, Ontario, N7T 8B1
Telephone number (519) 383-1937
Facsimile number (519) 383-1991

Cette brochure est également disponible en français.