



Marine Communications and Traffic Services



Lake Winnipeg

The Canadian Coast Guard Marine Communications and Traffic Services (MCTS) Centre located at Thunder Bay, Ontario, provides a wide range of services to enhance the safety of boating on Lake Winnipeg.

Thunder Bay MCTS provides services during the period from May 15 until October 31 through the operation of 4 remotely controlled radio sites located along Lake Winnipeg. These services include:

Detection of Distress

The MCTS Centre continuously monitors the marine radio VHF channel 16 to detect distress situations and ensure speedy resolution of Search and Rescue incidents.

Broadcasting Marine Safety Information

Thunder Bay MCTS Centre broadcasts weather bulletins, weather forecasts, weather observations and information concerning hazards to navigation. Broadcasts are transmitted on VHF channel 26 from transmitters located at Long Point, Jackhead and Beaver Creek and on channel 19 from Fraserwood at 0340, 0740, 1140, 1640 and 2040 hours Central Daylight Savings time.

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

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 the MCTS Centre in Thunder Bay.

Radiotelephone Restricted Operator's Certificates

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.

Radio Channels used by Thunder Bay MCTS:

Radio site at:	VHF Channels:
Long Point	16, 26
Jackhead	16, 26
Beaver Creek	16, 26
Fraserwood	16, 19

The authorized uses for VHF marine radio channels used by Thunder Bay MCTS are:

Channel(s)	Used for:
16	Distress, Safety and Calling.
19 and 26	Communications of a non-urgent nature. Broadcast of weather and hazards to navigation.

A listing of all marine VHF channels and their authorized use is contained in the Radiocommunication Information Circular "RIC-13" available from Industry Canada.

Contacting Thunder Bay MCTS Centre by Radio

MCTS Centres use the radio identifier consisting of the location of the centre followed by the words "Coast Guard Radio". Example of radio call, "Thunder Bay Coast Guard Radio, Thunder Bay Coast Guard Radio this is Sea Fox, Sea Fox, over."





Your comments and concerns about MCTS services are important to us. We may be contacted at:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Canadian Coast Guard
Officer-in-Charge - MCTS
Suite 400 - 100 Main Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7B 6R9

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

For more information, visit our website at
www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/cen-arc/index_e.htm.