9.6 GROUP CALL

This feature allows the user to contact a group of specific vessels (e.g. members of a yacht club) using DSC radios with group call function to automatically switch to a desired channel for voice communications. This function is very useful for yacht clubs and vessels traveling together that want to collectively make announcements on a predetermined channel. Up to 32 group MMSIs may be programmed.

9.6.1 Setting up a Group Call

For this function to operate, the same group MMSI (Maritime Mobile Service Identity Number) must be programmed into all the DSC VHF radios within the group of vessels that will be using this feature. To understand Group MMSI programming, first a ship MMSI has to be understood.

Ship MMSI: The first three digits called MID (Mobile Identity Group) of a ship MMSI denote the country the ship registered for an MMSI. The last 6 digits are specific to the ships ID.
Ship MMSI Example: If your MMSI is "366123456", "366" is MID which denote the country and "123456" is your ships MMSI.

Group MMSI:

❒ Group MMSI numbers are not assigned by the FCC or other organizations licensed to assign ship MMSI numbers.

❒ The first digit of a group MMSI is always set to "0" by International rules. All Standard Horizon radios are preset so when programming a group MMSI the first digit is set to "0".

❒ The USCG recommends programming the MID of a ship MMSI into the Second, Third and Fourth digits of the group MMSI as it denotes the area the ship is located in.

❒ The last 5 digits are decided upon by persons in the group. This is an important step as all radios in the group must contain the same group MMSI so they can be contacted by each other. There is a chance that another group of vessels may program in the same group MMSI. If this happens, simply change one or more of the last 5 digits of the group MMSI.