

DSC

Many boaters have heard that they someday will be required to use marine radios with DSC—Digital Selective Calling capability. Few realize, however, that DSC-VHF and HF radios are available, that DSC safety functions are fully-implemented outside of U. S. waters, and that non-emergency functions make DSC radios a treat to use.

DSC uses transmission of a specially-encoded data burst to establish communication between two or more radios. Originally conceived as a link between boats and Coast Guard safety services, DSC safety monitoring has been implemented only for HF in U. S. waters. Many other countries around the world use DSC for emergency hailing, and DSC radios are required for most commercial vessels over 300 tons.

What happens when you place a distress call with a DSC-equipped radio? All DSC radios are programmed with a SSID—a code that is related to your FCC Ship's Station license. When you press the "panic button", the radio calls every DSC-equipped radio in range, sounds an alarm, transmits your vessel ID information, and switches all radios to a common frequency. You are required to have a GPS receiver connected to your radio so that your position lat/lon is transmitted, too.

DSC radios shine in non-emergency functions, too. Imagine—you're buddy-boating with friends who also have DSC-equipped VHF radios. You would like to hail each other, but you know how unreliable and annoying it can be to monitor CH 16 or any open hailing frequency. With DSC radios, you can initiate an "individual-ship" call that will cause your friends' radios to "ring", then move to a working channel to exchange information. This function works even if volume is low or radios are tuned to other channels.

Marine VHF Radio

ICOM M604 Premier DSC-VHF performance

Choose ICOM's M604 marine VHF radio for maximum performance with DSC, support for two CommandMic™ III remote control units, a 22 watt 2-way hailer, automatic fog horn, tag scanning, weather alerts, and more.



95602	ICOM IC-M604 (specify black or gray)	\$549.00*
95162	ICOM CommandMic III (specify black or white)	\$149.00*
SPC15	Hailer Horn	\$ 45.00

NEW! ICOM M504 Outstanding DSC-VHF operation



ICOM's M504 is a rugged, easy-to-use radio with DSC for safety and expanded capability, plus a hailer/fog-horn, weather alert, tag scanning, and more. Add a CommandMic III for remote control and intercom.

95502	ICOM IC-M504 (specify black or gray)	\$299.00*
95162	ICOM CommandMic III (specify black or white)	\$149.00*
SPC15	Hailer Horn	\$ 45.00

New! ICOM M34 It floats!

Introducing the first 5W marine VHF handheld that floats! Icom's M34 VHF features easy operation with a "favorites" button for quick channel selection, large easy-to-see numbers, a Li-Ion battery pack and charger, and much more.



95149	ICOM IC-M34	\$169.99*
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ICOM M72 Compact waterproof VHF

ICOM's M72 is first in its class with a Li-Ion battery for 6 watts of talk power with long battery life, plus rugged waterproof construction, weather alerts, built-in voice scrambler, and an optional VOX headset for hands-free operation—all in a light, slim package.

95143	ICOM IC-M72	\$179.00
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*MAP (Minimum Advertised Price). Check www.hfradio.com for your best price on these and many other Icom VHF radios.