

Appendix 6

VHF RADIO USAGE for Human-powered boaters

The advantage of a VHF radio is that you can call the Coast Guard or other boats for help. CELL PHONES DO NOT LIKE WATER. Always check that your radio has a full charge.

The distance a VHF radio can transmit is line of sight. In a kayak, this is only a few miles if you are talking to another kayak. TRY to keep your radio on your PFD, NOT lying across your deck. This will keep your antenna as high as possible. This will also keep help to keep water out of the speakers.

Channel 68 (Alternate 70 + 72) is for ALL recreational boaters in local NYC waters.

At least 1 person in every group should set his or her radio to SCAN to ensure that the group is aware of any alert or attempt made by a commercial vessel to communicate with your group which is issued on Channel 16 or 13.

Before launching all members of the group should be apprised of the channel on which the group will be broadcasting, and each vhf radio user should perform a radio-check from on land to make sure his or her radio is functioning.

EXAMPLE: "Radio check 68, radio check 68 Chelsea Piers". This indicates that you are calling on channel 68 from Chelsea piers and asking for a response. The response might be "read you five by five captain (5x5 is the strongest signal meaning your signal is loud and clear) George Washington Bridge. The response indicates that someone as far away as the George Washington Bridge has heard your signal and told you how strong it is.[2] Even if you get no response from outside boaters everyone in your group should respond that your signal is loud and clear.

Human-powered boaters should call each other by boat name and say over to let the other person

EXAMPLE: "This is Phil Perception 17 calling Pete in Yellow SOT"

SAFETY

ALL SAFETY SIGNALS SHOULD BE BROADCAST ON CHANNEL 16

Channel 16 is for Emergency, Distress, Safety, MONITORED BY USCG NYC HARBOR PATROL and Commercial Boaters

Channel 13 is for NYC Harbor Patrol and Bridge to Bridge (Commercial operators)

SAFETY SIGNALS: The lowest safety signal consists of the word SECURITE spoken three times. This signal is an information signal that you want to broadcast.

EXAMPLE: "Securité > Securité > Securité> 14 kayakers at Brooklyn Bridge Park entering Buttermilk channel and crossing West to Governors Island". This will inform the local boaters that your group is in the area.

URGENT SIGNAL: The urgent signal consists of the three repetitions of the word group PAN-PAN (rhymes with CONN). This signal indicates that this is an urgent message concerning the safety of a human-power craft or the safety of a person. **THIS SIGNAL should be used when help is needed BUT IS NOT LIFE THREATENING or in IMMEDIATE DANGER**

EXAMPLE: "PAN>PAN>PAN> PAN>PAN>PAN> this is kayaker Phil in a Red and White kayak about 500 yds. South of Pier 90 on the East side of the Hudson River requesting assistance from any local boater. Sick kayakers needs transport back to Pier 40. **REPEAT SIGNAL AND MESSAGE**

HIGHEST DISTRESS SIGNALS: The distress signal consists of the word MAYDAY spoken three times. This signal indicates that a marine mobile station is threatened by grave and imminent danger and requests immediate assistance.

Distress signal "MAYDAY", spoken three times. The words "THIS IS", spoken once. Name of vessel in distress (spoken three times). Repeat "MAYDAY" and name of vessel, again
Give position of vessel distance to a well-known landmark such as a navigational aid or small island, or in any terms which will assist a responding station in locating the vessel in distress. Nature of distress (sinking, fire etc.). Kind of assistance desired. The word "OVER". Repeat at intervals until an answer is received.

EXAMPLE: "MAYDAY>MAYDAY>MAYDAY> This is red and white kayak, red and white kayak red and white kayak MAYDAY> red and white kayak taking on water and sinking located ¼ mile South of Little Red Lighthouse Hudson River on East shore". **REPEAT ENTIRE MESSAGE AGAIN UNTIL YOU GET A CONFIRMATION.**