ROYAL CANADIAN MARINE
SEARCH & RESCUE
Saving Lives on the Water

RCM•SAR

Operations Bulletin
Vessel AIS Naming Instructions

November 10, 2020

Attention Station Leaders,

In an effort to keep all stations uniform, we ask that you review and update the AIS naming of your vessel(s). There are many vessels in the RCMSAR fleet, and we are implementing a standard to easily access locations of all vessels. In addition, partner agencies can clearly identify our vessels and position on AIS.
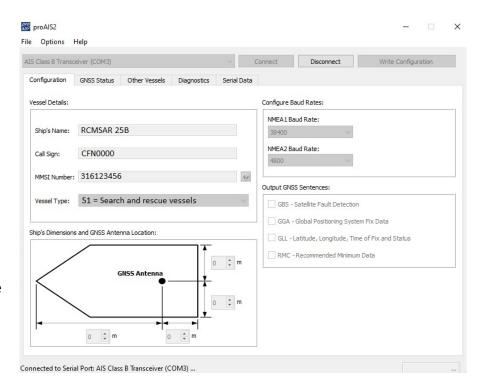
1. **AIS Name Standard**

   Preferred Standard is **RCMSAR ## (ie. RCMSAR 37)**
   - Note there is **NO SPACE** between RCM and SAR but there is a space between RCMSAR and the station/vessel number.
   - Station number should be a **minimum of 1 and no more than 3 digits** (5, 14, 106 etc.)
   - For stations with multiple vessels, Primary vessel will bear only station number (ie. 2, 65 etc. Do not follow by A – for Alpha). Secondary vessel would be station # followed by B - Bravo (ie. 64B, 2B), Tertiary vessels would be station # followed by C - Charlie (ie. 63C, 5C) and so on.
   - Any vessel that is shared between stations please select one station for the AIS to fall under
   - What you need to update your Raymarine AIS:
     - AIS program is called ProAIS2 - available to download from Raymarine for free.
     - Windows laptop and USB to MINI-USB connector.

The following fields should be completed on AIS programming:

- Ship's Name – As described above (ie. RCMSAR 25B)

- Call Sign – if applicable - should only be the official call sign number for vessels who transit the border (ie.CFN0000)

- MMSI Number – can only be entered once so please ensure it is correct one

- Vessel Type – Search and Rescue Vessel

2. **AIS Power**
   - Vessels plugged into shore power, please move AIS wiring to bilge pump breaker or other breaker that is always on.
   - AIS uses MINIMAL power to run and this way it will ensure your vessel is always transmitting its position.
   - If unsure how to perform this, reach out to inspection team or contact a local shop to assist in making this modification.

3. **Optional for stations with Boathouse**
   - AIS requires GPS coordinates to report properly.
   - If your station has a boathouse, consider purchasing and installing a GPS repeater that will provide you with GPS coverage INSIDE of your boathouse.

NOTE:
   - If a vessel is being transferred permanently to another station, the AIS name must be updated.
   - If a station is selling a vessel the AIS must either be removed, or the vessel information wiped from the unit prior to sale.