

SSB signals from Dave Wright in MD

My favorite SSB frequencies are the maritime simplex frequencies like 8291, 8294, and 8297 (+4, 6, 12, and 16MHz freqs) as well as the US Navy's SESEF in Norfolk on 7535.0 USB primarily. I hear these here in Maryland regularly and you should be able to hear them in New York as well.

For the 4, 6, 8, 12, and 16MHz (and higher) maritime frequencies, I tend to focus on the simplex frequencies. A table of these with some explanations can be found at <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/simplex>. I usually stay in a band (I prefer the 8MHz band) and focus on those few channels based upon propagation, but the amount of traffic is light and very hit-or-miss. The usage of HF for maritime communications has significantly declined thanks to cheap and readily accessible satellite systems.

For the US Navy SESEF frequency (primary 7535.0 USB) in Norfolk, they are active mostly during business hours (apx 0730-1600, plus or minus a bit) during the week with ships using call word identifiers and the SESEF identifying as "SESEF" (Sea-Sef) or SESEF Norfolk. The call words can be looked up at <https://udxf.nl/MCL.pdf>, although not all ships or all call signs/words are identified. That's part of the fun for me: trying to figure out the ship based upon clues given by the call word in use. Activity on this net consists primarily of radio checks, testing of HF radio suites, and similar activity. It almost always starts in USB mode, but you'll find them switching to LSB, AM, ISB, and radioteletype as well. They also use a fair amount of ANDVT (Advanced Narrowband Digital Voice Terminal) for encrypted communications (going "green" or "kick green").

I should also mention that the Navy SESEF frequency can also go a couple of days without much activity, and then get busy all of a sudden. Most often, ships will do their radio checks a few days before leaving port or departing on deployment. Friday afternoons are almost always quiet as are Monday mornings, but the rest of the week usually has at least a few calls each day.

HF-Simplex-Frequencies

Exclusive Maritime Channels

These frequencies are shared and are not available for the exclusive use of any station.

| 4 MHz Band kHz | 6 MHz Band kHz | 8 MHz Band kHz | 12 MHz Band kHz |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 4146 | 6224 | 8294 | 12,353 |
| 4149 | 6227 | 8297 | 12,356 |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 4417 | 6230 | | 12,359 |
| | 6516 (<i>daytime only</i>) | | 12,362 |
| | | | 12,365 |
| 4065,4089,4116,4408 for Mississippi River | 6209,6212,6510,6513 for Mississippi River | 8201,8213,8725,8737 for Mississippi River | 12,362 12,365 for Mississippi River |

| 16 MHz kHz | 18/19 MHz Band kHz | 22 MHz Band kHz | 25/26 MHz Band kHz |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 16,528 | 18,825 | 22,159 | 25,100 |
| 16,531 | 18,828 | 22,162 | 25,103 |
| 16,534 | 18,831 | 22,165 | 25,106 |
| 16,537 | 18,834 | 22,168 | 25,109 |
| 16,540 | 18,837 | 22,171 | 25,112 |
| 16,543 for Mississippi River | 18,840 | 22,174 | 25,115 |
| 16,546 for Mississippi River | 18,843 | 22,177 | 25,118 |

Maritime Channels Shared with the Fixed Service

The following channels in the band 4000-4063 kHz and 8100-8195 kHz may be used:

- for supplementing ship-to-shore channels for duplex operation;
- for Intership simplex (single-frequency) and cross-band operation;
- for cross-band working with coast stations;
- for duplex operation with coast stations working in the band 4438-4650 kHz or with Channels 834, 835, 836 and 837;
- for ship-to-shore or shore-to-ship simplex operations (8100-8195 kHz only).

| Channel No. | 4 MHz Carrier Frequency kHz | 8 MHz Carrier Frequency kHz |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | 4000 | 8101 |
| 2 | 4003 | 8104 |
| 3 | 4006 | 8107 |
| 4 | 4009 | 8110 |
| 5 | 4012 | 8113 |
| 6 | 4015 | 8116 |

| | | |
|----|------|------|
| 7 | 4018 | 8119 |
| 8 | 4021 | 8122 |
| 9 | 4024 | 8125 |
| 10 | 4027 | 8128 |
| 11 | 4030 | 8131 |
| 12 | 4033 | 8134 |
| 13 | 4036 | 8137 |
| 14 | 4039 | 8140 |
| 15 | 4042 | 8143 |
| 16 | 4045 | 8146 |
| 17 | 4048 | 8149 |
| 18 | 4051 | 8152 |
| 19 | 4054 | 8155 |
| 20 | 4057 | 8158 |
| 21 | 4060 | 8161 |
| 22 | -- | 8164 |
| 23 | -- | 8167 |
| 24 | -- | 8170 |
| 25 | -- | 8173 |
| 26 | -- | 8176 |
| 27 | -- | 8179 |
| 28 | -- | 8182 |
| 29 | -- | 8185 |
| 30 | -- | 8188 |
| 31 | -- | 8191 |

Global Maritime Distress & Safety System DSC & Radiotelephone Channels

The simplex DSC frequencies are guarded and are used for digital alerting and calling for distress, urgency and safety. Once the DSC call has been sent, the corresponding radiotelephone frequency is used for voice communications.

These simplex voice frequencies are used for distress and safety communications, and (except for 2182 kHz) are not normally guarded.

| DSC | VOICE | DSC | VOICE |
|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 2187.5 | 2182 | 8414.5 | 8291 |
| 4207.5 | 4125 | 12,577 | 12,290 |
| 6312.0 | 6215 | 16,804.5 | 16,420 |