



Maritime Mobile Service Network

Press Release

“Where Emergency Communications is a Commitment”

Maritime Mobile Service Network
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On 11/6/22 at approximately 1800 hrs eastern time, a maritime mobile named “Captain Chad” contacted the Maritime Mobile Service Network with an apparent engine problem. Maritime Mobile Service Operator Tom Yturri, W5TEY was on duty at the time of the call.

The captain of the vessel, Curtis Jackson, advised that the “Captain Chad” was an 80-foot commercial fishing vessel. He also advised that he was not an amateur radio operator but 14.300 MHz was installed in his radio as a preset. He declared an emergency and advised that he tried other frequencies on the commercial HF marine band but could not get a response.

The captain also reported that he was south of Jamaica and the waters were calm at the time but he was concerned that they would get rougher. He also advised that he was concerned for the safety of the other eight persons who were on board the vessel. His position was obtained by W5TEY along with the status of all those on board.

W5TEY made contact with the owner of the vessel who immediately made arrangements to get another vessel out to “Captain Chad”. The captain was instructed to stay in contact with the Net Control Station regarding his position and the further status of all on board.

W5TEY also attempted to contact the Jamaican Coast Guard via telephone but there was no answer to the phone call. He then contacted the United States Coast Guard out of Port Smith, Virginia with the vessel's status and position information. They advised that they would make direct contact with the Jamaican Coast Guard.

Due to propagation or perhaps a power failure on the vessel, contact was lost but the last known position was obtained prior to the loss of communications. The information was given out to all net control operators on the Maritime Mobile Service Network to make them aware of the situation in case the vessel was again able to transmit. All oncoming net control stations were asked to put out several calls for the vessel during the upcoming shifts and for the next several days.

On 11/8/22, at approximately 1450 hrs eastern time, the owner of the vessel contacted W5TEY to advise that thanks to the information he provided to the owner and the Jamaican Coast Guard, the vessel was finally located. The owner also advised that this information was vital and without it the search would have been in too wide of an area and they might not have found the vessel. All were fine on board although a little tired and hungry from the extended time at sea.

Tom, W5TEY is a long-time member of the Maritime Mobile Service Net and is a veteran of such events. When asked about the event he advised, *“It's what we train to do, and that is the purpose of this network. It's all in a day's work”*.

This event reminds us all that when communications through commercial means fail, amateur radio is always there to render assistance.

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