

PORT HACKING OPEN SAILING CLUB Inc.

VHF RADIO USE PROTOCOL – Using your marine radio

If required, radio for help on **VHF Channel 16** (distress and calling Channel)

And telephone **EMERGENCY SERVICES** on **000** or **MARINE RESCUE SOLANDER** on **(02) 8071-4848**



- The PHOSC support boat is called **"Port Hacking Support"**
- PHOSC base (race starter) is called **"Port Hacking Sailing"**
- Normally you always keep your marine radio on **VHF channel 16** used for **'Distress, Safety and Calling'**
- On a **VHF** radio this is **Ch 16** (our support boat has a VHF radio fitted)
- However, to communicate with **PHOSC Starter** we normally use the recreational vessels working **Channel 73**

If you need information or assistance while you're out on the water, use the appropriate **'Distress, Safety and Calling' VHF channel 16** to call your local Marine Rescue radio base (**in Port Hacking it is Marine Rescue Solander**).

You will then be asked to go to a "Working" channel. The Duty Operator will advise which channel to change to.

Be sure to listen for any other radio traffic before making your call, otherwise you might not be heard or you could interrupt another user's transmission. **Speak slowly and clearly.**

When making a Routine call, state the call sign of the Marine Rescue radio base you are calling **ONCE** and your own call sign **TWICE**. This is to help ensure the coast station knows you are calling them and who you are.

If you make a **"Routine Call"** to Marine Rescue NSW on VHF Channel 16 use the following protocol:

YOU: *"Marine Rescue Solander."*

This is (name of your boat) Port Hacking Support, Port Hacking Support. Over"

Marine Rescue Solander will respond and ask you to go to a "Working" channel (TBA x MR Solander radio operator)

MR SOLANDER: *"Port Hacking Support. This is Marine Rescue Solander, Marine Rescue Solander. Please go to CH: XX Over"*

YOU: *"Marine Rescue Solander, this is Port Hacking Support. Going to CH: XX Over"*

Now change your radio channel to the requested CH: XX and call the shore station again.

YOU: *"Marine Rescue Solander, this is Port Hacking Support. Over"*

When the Marine Rescue shore station replies, seek the information you want, request assistance or advise your plans. When your communications are complete, advise the shore station that you're returning to the calling channel (we normally stay on VHF CH73 for comms with the PHOC Starter AKA **"Port Hacking Sailing"**).

YOU: *This is Port Hacking Support. Out"*

The shore station will respond:

MR SOLANDER: *"This is Marine Rescue Solander. Out."*

YOU: Now switch your marine radio back to **VHF CH:73** or other designated Channel and re-establish comms with base **"Port Hacking Sailing"**.

Remember, calls on marine radios are not private conversations so courtesy, good manners and appropriate language are essential. This open communication is a major advantage if you're in trouble as other boaters are likely to hear you and can come to your assistance if they are nearby on the water. This is why you should always use your marine radio first to call for help on **CH: 16** in an emergency.

If you are making an “Emergency Call” on CH. 16, use the Emergency call signs:

- MAYDAY = (GRAVE or IMMININENT DANGER TO LIFE) three times or
- PAN PAN = (NON-LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY) three times

By using the following protocol:

An “Emergency call” to Marine Rescue Solander NSW (MR SOLANDER)

Note: an emergency call should only be made under the authority of the master, skipper or persons responsible for the safety of the vessel or fleet.

YOU: MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY or PAN, PAN, PAN
This is Port Hacking Support, Port Hacking Support, Port Hacking Support.
State your: position, time and nature of distress and any other useful information.
OVER

MR SOLANDER: MAYDAY (or PAN)
Port Hacking Support, Port Hacking Support, Port Hacking Support
This is MR SOLANDER (three times)
Received MAYDAY (or PAN)
OVER

ACTIONS RELATING TO THE DISTRESS CALL between **YOU** and **MR Solander will** be communicated until completion. At which time you will acknowledge to MR SOLANDER.

YOU: Port Hacking Support OUT

Use your mobile phone to call 000 or MR Solander o (02) 8071-4848 as well as radioing for help but don't bet your life on your mobile as your only means of communication. Only you and the person you're calling can hear you and in an urgent situation this could cost precious time reaching someone who is ready to help.

*** END ***