

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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To Whom It May Concern:

Following the Maui Wildfire and the subsequent closure of Lahaina Harbor, Ma'alaea Small Boat Harbor has seen a rise in vessel traffic, which has significantly increased radio communication on VHF-FM channel 16 (156.8 MHz).

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) states that VHF-FM channel 16 (156.8 MHz) is the international distress, safety, and calling frequency only.

To help reduce the excessive use of VHF-FM Channel 16 (156.8 MHz), the U.S. Coast Guard recommends using VHF-FM channel 68 for vessel movement intentions within the Ma'alaea Small Boat Harbor, as identified in Chapter 9 of Coast Pilot 10, 2024 (5th) Edition.

The U.S. Coast Guard enforces these regulations. It is an offense to misuse this channel for non-emergency purposes, and those who violate these rules may face fines as high as \$10,000, or imprisonment for up to one year, or both penalties combined. Get more information at [Radio Watchkeeping Regulations | Navigation Center](https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/radio-watchkeeping-regulations) at <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/radio-watchkeeping-regulations>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. P. Thomson".

W. P. Thomson
Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Coast Guard

Copy: DLNR (DOBOR Maui District Manager)
USCG Sector Honolulu Command Center
USCG Station Maui
USCG MST Maui