

OSR 3.29 Communications Equipment, GPS, Radar, AIS

Hand Held VHF's

A submission from Royal Yachting Association

Purpose or Objective

To ensure as good range as possible can be provided from VHF communications in emergency situations.

Proposal

3.29 Communications Equipment, GPS, Radar, AIS

Mo0,1,2,3 Mu**1,2,3,4 3.29.1 A hand-held marine VHF transceiver, **with min 5W output power**, for each grab bag, watertight or with a waterproof cover. When not in use to be stowed in the grab bag (see OSR 4.21).

Mo4 3.29.2 A hand-held marine VHF transceiver, watertight or with a waterproof cover.

~~MoMu0 3.29.3 At least two (one for each grab bag) hand-held marine VHF transceivers each with min 5W output power, watertight or with waterproof covers. When not in use to be stowed in a grab bag (see OSR 4.21).~~

**** 3.29.3 Spare**

Current Position

As above

Reasons

A RORC working party have undertaken a review of the Offshore Special Regulations.

The increased power output of a 5-watt radio helps in maintaining a clearer and stronger signal, reducing the likelihood of communication dropouts and static interference, which is particularly important in rough weather conditions. In emergency situations, the extended range and improved signal strength can ensure that distress calls are more likely to be heard by rescue services or other vessels in the vicinity.

Higher power output can drain the battery faster. However, many 5-watt and above HHVHF radios come with efficient power management and battery-saving features to mitigate this issue.

The addition of a minimum 5W output power on the hand-held marine VHF transceiver removes the need for the wording in OSR 3.29.3, as OSR 4.20.1(b) dictates more than one liferaft for Cat 0.
