

I hope that the FCC can expedite the availability of AIS B transponders in US waters. The experience of the EU community indicates that most of the objections based on the potential for human error or abuse are unfounded. The legal wrangling over band infringement and auctioned licensing is petty and venal in the light of the loss of life that can be prevented. The public is best served by reserving the appropriate frequencies in both coastal and inland regions. We should ask if those who are to profit from the loss of their rights to these frequencies are prepared to underwrite the costs that occur in accidents that result from their greed. It will certainly become a question the public will ask, and Trials-by-Media rarely observe strict rules of Law.