

Sea Tow, the largest user of marine VHF Public Coast Station (VPC) services in the United States, supports this petition for rulemaking (RTCM Paper 201-2009-SC123-PET, the Petition) to amend FCC Part 80, providing for a digital small message service on Maritime VHF channels (FCC RM-11563). Sea Tow believes that the creation of data/messaging capabilities over marine VHF channels will modernize the use of the marine spectrum, allowing for a new generation of maritime applications, while maintaining the frequencies for the public within the maritime domain. Given the rapid expansion of the Automatic Identification System (AIS) and the increasing demand for marine data services, Sea Tow requests that the FCC expedite this petition. Charles Zaloom Vice President, Business Technology Sea Tow Services International