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## Defining Routine Maritime Communication

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Here is the background and developments leading up to the current definition of routine maritime communication. The definition is based on recommendations from the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities, and the International Maritime Organization.

Routine maritime communication is based on standards adopted by most countries in the world. The communication standards are important to avoid misunderstandings when vessels sail, for example, in shallow waters, or close to land.

After watching this video, you will be able to:

- 1) identify the documents that govern routine maritime communication
- 2) identify the typical topics of ship-to-shore routine communication
- 3) define routine communication

The early developments of routine maritime communication were triggered mostly by accidents who caused either great loss of lives or great environmental damage. We have, for example, accidents like the Titanic, the Herald of Free Enterprise and Estonia who all generated a change in the regulations. But there were also accidents who generated such great damage to the environment. To avoid this, it became clear that proper coordination and supervision of maritime traffic close to shore was necessary, and communication standards for that purpose must be implemented.

Routine maritime communication for VTS is regulated, according to IALA, to simplify language and avoid ambiguity, misunderstandings, cultural differences and linguistic inconsistencies. This is very important because seafarers who sail international waters have very different backgrounds. The risk for misunderstandings due to intercultural differences or linguistic inconsistencies is therefore very big.

Therefore, standards of communication are especially important when:

- mooring or departing,
- during drills close to land,
- anchoring or bunkering,
- navigating shallow waters or close to land, and
- navigating narrow waterways.

In the case of routine maritime communication, we define the standard as something established by authority for usage in the speech and writing of seafarers. By routine maritime communication: ship-to-shore and shore-to-ship exchanges that are not related to emergency situations but are essential for ensuring safe navigation close to shore.

So, in short, routine maritime communication is ship-to-shore and shore-to-ship exchanges that are not related to emergency situations but are essential for ensuring safe navigation close to shore.



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Please take a moment to think about what you have learnt from this video. We hope that it has been useful and that it will help you in completing the chatbot exercises available at:  
<https://digimar.si/category/digital-tools/chatbots/>.

In our next video, you will learn more about how to structure routine maritime communication messages.

Thank you for watching and stay tuned for more DigiMar videos on effective maritime communication!