

# DSC-VHF Radio Checks Available

**T**owBoatU.S. ([www.towboat.us](http://www.towboat.us)) now offers a free, Digital Selective Calling (DSC)-VHF radio check service to recreational boaters on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts from Mobile, Ala., to Sandy Hook, N.J. To take advantage of the service, recreational boaters can call their local TowBoatU.S. tower via the company's 0-338-04000 MMSI (Maritime Mobile Service Identity) number. When this number is "dialed" on a DSC-VHF radio keypad, a boater will automatically be connected to the closest TowBoatU.S. port or response boat within radio range.

While nearly all fixed-mount VHF radios sold today are DSC equipped, boaters have reported that it can be hard to complete a digital radio check unless they have the MMSI of another boater.

VHF radios with DSC offer some safety improvements over a standard VHF radio. A DSC-VHF includes a mayday distress button that allows anyone on board to summon emergency help. When connected to a GPS, the radio will give rescuers your exact location information.

## **RAYMARINE RECALL**

Raymarine recently issued a voluntary recall of the Raymarine SPX5 Sport Drive Pilot and control head (E12206 and E12132). A potential problem has been identified in the SPX5 powerboat autopilots sold from February to July 2009. The mechanical clutch assembly could fail, causing the boat's steering to lock in one direction.

Customers must stop using the products immediately, arrange to have the autopilot de-installed, and then return it to the retailer/dealer it was bought from. The retailer will arrange for a replacement or a refund.

For more information, contact Raymarine at 603/881-5200 or [www.raymarine.com](http://www.raymarine.com).