

4. Communications

4.1 VHF communications

The following marine VHF channels are used in the Southport Pilotage Area.

- Channel 12 – Brisbane Vessel Traffic Service
- channel 16 — distress and calling
- channel 67 — secondary distress, weather forecasts and marine safety information
- channel 73 — general working.

The Gold Coast Water Police can be contacted on VHF channel 73 usually during business hours and on weekends

Local volunteer marine rescue groups provide 24 hour radio coverage on VHF channel 16, channel 67 and channel 73. Gold Coast Seaway Tower provides monitoring of the following marine VHF channels during the hours of 0500 to 1800 each day.

4.2 Pilot vessel contact

Pilots will generally call the ship (on channel 16 VHF) arriving off Southport to embark a pilot approximately 30 minutes prior to the designated arrival time at the pilot boarding ground.

The pilot transfer vessel 'QG WORALIE' operated by Maritime Safety Queensland, monitors VHF channel 16 when approaching the pilot boarding ground.