§ 80.1069 Maritime sea areas.  
(a) For the purpose of this subpart, a ship's area of operation is defined as follows:  
(1) Sea area A1. An area within the radiotelephone coverage of at least one VHF coast station in which continuous DSC alerting is available as defined by the International Maritime Organization.  
(2) Sea area A2. An area, excluding sea area A1, within the radiotelephone coverage of at least one MF coast station in which continuous DSC alerting is available as defined by the International Maritime Organization.  
(3) Sea area A3. An area, excluding sea areas A1 and A2, within the coverage of an INMARSAT geostationary satellite in which continuous alerting is available.  
(4) Sea area A4. An area outside sea areas A1, A2 and A3.  
(b) Maritime sea areas are delineated in the International Maritime Organization Publication GMDSS Master Plan of Shore-Based Facilities. The Master Plan can be purchased from the International Maritime Organization, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR, United Kingdom.

§ 80.1071 Exemptions.  
(a) In certain circumstances, partial or conditional exemptions may be granted to individual ships from the requirements of §§80.1085, 80.1087, 80.1089, 80.1091, and 80.1093 provided: such ships comply with the functional requirements of §80.1081 and a showing is made that such an exemption will not have a material effect upon the general efficiency of the service for the safety of all ships.  
(b) An exemption may be granted under paragraph (a) of this section only:  
(1) If the conditions affecting safety are such as to render the full application of §§80.1085, 80.1087, 80.1089, 80.1091, and 80.1093 unreasonable or unnecessary or otherwise not in the public interest;  
(2) In exceptional circumstances, for a single voyage outside the sea area or sea areas for which the ship is equipped.  
(c) All fishing vessels of 300 gross tons and upward are exempt from subpart W requirements applicable for carriage of VHF-DSC and MF-DSC equipment until one year after the USCG establishes GMDSS coast facilities for Sea Areas A1 and A2, if the following provisions are met:  
(1) The ship is equipped with:  
(i) A VHF radiotelephone installation.  
(ii) A MF or HF radiotelephone installation.  
(iii) A Category 1, 406.0-406.1 MHz EPIRB meeting the requirements of §80.1061;  
(iv) A NAVTEX receiver meeting the requirements of §80.1101(c)(1);  
(v) Survival craft equipment meeting the requirements of §80.1095;  
(vi) A Search and Rescue Transponder meeting the requirements of §80.1101(c)(6); and  
(2) The ship remains within coverage of a VHF coast station and maintains a continuous watch on VHF Channel 16; or  
(3) The vessel remains within coverage of an MF coast station and maintains a continuous watch on 2182 kHz and VHF Channel 16.  
§ 80.1073 Radio operator requirements for ship stations.  
(a) Ships must carry at least two persons holding GMDSS Radio Operator’s Licenses as specified in §13.7 of this chapter for distress and safety radiocommunications purposes. The GMDSS Radio Operator’s License qualifies personnel as a GMDSS radio operator for the purposes of operating a GMDSS radio installation, including basic equipment adjustments as denoted in the knowledge requirements specified in §13.203 of this chapter.

(1) A qualified GMDSS radio operator must be designated to have primary responsibility for radiocommunications during distress incidents, except if the vessel operates exclusively within twenty nautical miles of shore, in