



Nauticast-B Class B AIS VHF/GPS Antenna Compatibility Advisory
February 27, 2009

The Nauticast-B is a fully approved Class B AIS. As such it has specific requirements for VHF and GPS antennas.

VHF

Any VHF antenna used for the Nauticast B should at minimum have these specifications for optimum performance.

Standing Wave Ratio: less than 1.5:1 at 162MHz
Gain: 3dB or higher
Connector: PL-259

Off the Shelf commercial VHF/AIS antennas are available in 3' Stainless whips and 4' Fiberglass rods. The mounting location for the antenna should be as high as practical to extend the range of the AIS. Use the best coax cable as practical to minimize signal loss on long runs.

GPS

Class B AIS systems require a dedicated GPS antenna for optimum performance of the AIS system. The Nauticast B will not accept GPS data from GPS receivers over a NMEA network. The Nauticast B contains a GPS receiver. Any GPS antenna used should at a minimum have these specifications for optimum performance.

Antenna Type: Active 5v DC
Gain: minimum 20dB
Connector: TNC male

The GPS antenna location should have a free view of the sky through 360 degrees with a vertical angle of 5 to 90 degrees above the horizon. GPS antennas should not be mounted in the same plane as radar antennas and should at least be 3 meters away from VHF antennas.

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