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IMO approves revision of Resolution on VTS

A submission co-sponsored by Australia to the Maritime Safety Committee for a revision of Resolution A.857(20) on Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services was approved at its 99th meeting in May.

Sponsors of the submission included:

Government

- Australia
- China
- India
- Norway
- Republic of Korea
- Singapore
- South Africa
- Turkey

Non-Government

- IALA
- IHMA
- International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations
- International Association of Institutes of Navigation Nautical Institute

IALA will undertake the bulk of the work in preparing the revision, commencing with the next VTS Committee meeting in October.

The IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) will consider the revision during the 2019-2020 biennium.

The submission document highlighted 8 key areas of the resolution that require clarification or update. These include:

- Role of Competent Authority / VTS Authority
- Changing traditional boundaries
- VTS and Future Developments
- Types of Service (INS, TOS and NAS)
- Result-oriented instructions
- VTS Qualifications, Training and Certification
- Recognition of IALA Standards relating to VTS
- Administrative amendments

AMSA greatly appreciates the efforts of the VTS Working Group in assisting with the preparation of the submission to MSC 99.

A copy of the submission (MSC 99/20/3) is available on the IMO's documents website:

<http://www.imo.org/en/About/Pages/Documents/Resources.aspx>

Note: You will need to register with a name and a password to access IMODOCS if you have not already done so.

IALA Update

1. IALA Conference 2018

The 19th IALA Conference was held from 27 May to 2 June 2018 in Incheon, Republic of Korea. The theme for the Conference was *A New Era for Marine Aids to Navigation in a Connected World*.

Over 500 participants were provided with 94 presentations in 13 technical sessions and 2 special sessions and were able to see and discuss the latest developments in VTS and technology in the industrial exhibition.

The Conference had a strong focus on the development and exchange of maritime digital information to improve the safety and efficiency

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of maritime transport. Key messages highlighted during the Conference included:

VTS - Effective and unambiguous VTS communications will require common phraseology, procedures and technology for voice communications, and harmonised data models and communications channels for digital information exchange.

Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) - The importance of resilience for electronic navigation that underpins a variety of safety related services. A mix of dissimilar systems is required to achieve resilient PNT and candidate technologies were explored. Autonomous vessels entering service now and in future will need assured positioning and automatic compensation for GNSS outages or disruption. SBAS, R-Mode, Radar positioning and eLoran are electronic systems likely to be used to help achieve the necessary resilience, but there is still no global consensus on a coordinated approach for the maritime world.

Risk Assessment - The growing use of risk assessment by shore authorities to aid safe navigation was noted. While there is no single “one size fits all” tool, IALA’s risk management tool box has a set of proven, widely-used assessment programs.

AIS - The evolution of the existing AIS system into VDES was highlighted by a number of presenters as important for secure and reliable digital communications, together with other commercial satellite and terrestrial communications services.

2. IALA Council

The 67th meeting of the IALA Council was held on 2 June 2017 in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

This was Council’s first meeting for 2018-22 and the VTS Committee’s work programme for the period was approved.

3. IALA Calendar

VTS related events coming up at IALA include:

- **IWRAP** – The next IWRAP Mk2 Risk Assessment course will be held at IALA Headquarters, 11-13 September 2018.
- **VTS Committee** – The next VTS Committee meeting will be held at IALA Headquarters, 1-5 October 2018.
- **Workshop on Harmonising the Delivery of VTS Communications** - The VTS

Committee is holding a workshop on harmonising the delivery of VTS communications in Busan, Republic of Korea, 8-22 February 2019.

- **VTS-ENAV Symposium** – The VTS-ENAV Symposium will be held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 25-29 May 2020.

For further information see - <http://www.iala-aism.org/product-category/calendar/>

General Assembly

The General Assembly met on 29 May 2018 in Incheon, Republic of Korea. Key outcomes included:

Election of the Council – Elections for the period 2018-2022 were held and the Council is now composed of:

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Australia | Brazil | Canada |
| Chile | China | Denmark |
| Finland | France | Germany |
| India | Italy | Japan |
| Korea | Malaysia | Kingdom of Morocco |
| Norway | Singapore | South Africa |
| Spain | Sweden | Netherlands |
| Turkey | United Kingdom | United States of America |

Australia secured the second highest number of votes of any country standing for Council.

Strategic Vision - A revision of the Strategic Vision for the period 2018-2026 was approved and is available on IALA’s website.

IALA Standards – Seven IALA Standards were approved, including:

- Standard 1010 - Marine AtoN Planning and Service Requirements
- Standard 1020 - AtoN Design and Delivery
- Standard 1030 - Radionavigation Service
- Standard 1040 - Vessel Traffic Services
- Standard 1050 - Training and Certification
- Standard 1060 - Digital Communication Technologies
- Standard 1070 - Information Services

Under the revised document structure the hierarchy, relationships and content for IALA’s technical documents now comprises:

Standard: IALA Standards form a framework, implementation of which by all coastal states will harmonize marine aids to navigation worldwide.

Recommendation: IALA Recommendations specify what practices shall be carried out in

order to comply with a Recommendation, and may be referenced, in full or in part, in an IALA Standard.

Guideline: IALA Guidelines describe how to implement practices normally specified in a Recommendation.

Manual: IALA Manuals provide an overall view of a wide subject area.

Model Course: IALA Model Courses are training documents which define the level of training and knowledge needed to reach levels of competence defined by IALA.

VTS Working Group

The 22nd meeting of the VTS Working Group was hosted by Maritime Safety Queensland in Brisbane, 7-8 March 2018. Key outcomes of the meeting included:

- A successful workshop session on qualifications and training. The output of this session will provide the foundation for input to IALAs VTS Committee work item on qualifications and training.
- Development of a trial for recording VTS interaction with vessels that has mitigated developing situations.
- A review of the status of the VTS Information Exchange project and the proposed "proof of concept" trial.
- A review of the outcomes from the IALA Council meeting in December 2017, including the status of guidance documents mentioned above.
- A review of the proposed 2018-22 Work programme for the IALA VTS Committee.

The next meeting will be hosted by Ports of New South Wales (Sydney) in October. Further details will be provided in the near future.

VTS in the News!

Finnish VTS

The Finnish Transport Agency reported that 12 groundings were prevented last year in coastal waters thanks to the rapid intervention by Vessel Traffic Services.

The press release stated that VTS operators intervened in 19 deviations from the fairway in 2017. Some of these deviations may have led to the vessels running aground, had VTS not interacted.

Link:

<https://www.liikennevirasto.fi/web/en/-/last-year-12-groundings-were-prevented-in-finnish-coastal-waters-thanks-to-the-rapid-intervention-by-vessel-traffic-services#.WxnC-uRILt4>

Great Barrier Reef

ABC news recently highlighted the effectiveness of REEFVTS in detecting a vessel deviating from the shipping route and interacting with the vessel accordingly earlier this year.



Maritime policy expert Steve Raaymakers stated *"The VTS would've seen that ship straying out of the designated shipping area just like an air traffic control system. They were able to contact that ship and alert it...then action was taken to correct the situation"*.

Link: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-21/close-call-prompts-review-of-shipping-on-great-barrier-reef/9568194>