



Circular Letter 2025/05

27 february 2025

Subject: **World Marine Aids to Navigation Day 2025**
Theme: Physical AtoN in a Digital World

To: All IALA members

Dear members,

I am writing to inform you about the celebration of World Marine Aids to Navigation (WAtON) Day, which takes place on 1st July 2025.

Last year's WAtON Day was a great success, particularly at the main event hosted by Italy, where an excellent programme was arranged to mark the occasion.

For 2025, I am pleased to announce that the United Kingdom will host the main event from 30th June to 2nd July, as outlined in the attached provisional programme.. The main event will be held in London, and all IALA members are invited to attend. Places will be limited, so if you would like to join us in London, please indicate your interest by 14 March by visiting the following website: <https://icsevents.eventsair.com/wand2025/wandeoi/Site/Register> Once the host has an understanding of the numbers of people wishing to attend, applicants will be invited to register formally. You can find an introductory video for the event on the IALA WAtON Day website.

IALA encourages its members to organize parallel events. Members are welcome to plan their own activities to celebrate WAtON Day, following the successful examples of previous years. Additionally, we encourage everyone to share photos of Marine Aids to Navigation on social media on 1st July to mark the occasion.

Through these efforts, we aim to raise awareness of Marine Aids to Navigation, both within the maritime community and among the wider public, in line with the purpose of WAtON Day.

Thank you for your collaboration and continued support in making this event a success. I hope to see you in London on 30th June.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Zachariae
Secretary-General



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Provisional Programme

Monday 30th June

Early evening river cruise and social event onboard a Thames Clipper taking in the key sights of the city from the River Thames.

Tuesday 1st July

The Northern Lighthouse Board and Trinity House will host the main event on behalf of the UK Government in the historic Trinity House building, in the centre of London.

Opening speeches by key guests will be followed by a panel discussion bringing together leading experts on the theme of *'The Future Seascape and Maritime Resilience'*. Participants may then enjoy a buffet lunch and the chance for networking before a second panel discussion considering *'Physical AtoN Services in a Digital World'*. After a break for tea and coffee, there will be an update on the work and achievements of the IALA World-Wide Academy.

That evening there will be a black tie gala dinner in the Library at Trinity House.

Wednesday 2nd July

A coach will take guests on a two hour journey to the east coast operational base of Trinity House in the port town of Harwich. Once in Harwich, guests will have the opportunity to enjoy a technical and operational experience while visiting the 24 hour Planning Centre, the buoy yard, one of Trinity House's vessels alongside. There will also be a chance to meet the GRAD team of technical and academic experts who undertake research and development on behalf of the three General Lighthouse Authorities of the UK and Ireland (Trinity House, Northern Lighthouse Board and Irish Lights). Lunch will be provided and guests will be returned to London by 17:30.

When applying to attend, guests will be able to choose to attend all of the events or to choose one or more of, the Thames Clipper Welcome Reception, the Main Event, the Gala Dinner and the Technical Day in Harwich. **Due to limited space available at the venues, we anticipate that we may only be able to welcome one attendee from each interested organization.**

If you would like to register your interest in attending then please do so by 14 March by visiting the following website: <https://icsevents.eventsair.com/wand2025/wand2025/Site/Register>