



Circular Letter IGO 2025/11

8 July 2025

Subject: **IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the year 2026**

To: IALA Member States

Dear IALA Member,

I am pleased to announce that nominations are now open for the 2026 IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year Accolade.

I would encourage you to take this opportunity to put your most treasured lighthouses in the spotlight.

A Heritage Lighthouse is any lighthouse of cultural significance which goes beyond its current function and time. It does not have to be old, but it must have a cultural value.

Please note that the selection rules have changed, following approval of the Council at its 2nd session and as per attached annex. The submitted nominations will be published on the website and the nomination form containing further guidance is available at: <https://heritage.iala-aism.org/nominate-a-lighthouse/>

Please note that the deadline for submission is 30 September 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Zachariae
Secretary-General



ANNEX E – IALA HERITAGE LIGHTHOUSE OF THE YEAR- SELECTION RULES

1. Purpose

The IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year accolade recognizes lighthouses of significant cultural heritage value. It aims to highlight the architectural, historical, and societal importance of lighthouses worldwide and promote the preservation of lighthouse heritage.

2. Eligibility and Nomination

- Nominations are open to IALA Member States.
- Nominations may be made by any individual or organization; however, nominated lighthouses must be operational and located in a Member State.
- Each IALA Member State may submit only one nomination per year.
- If multiple nominations are received from same Member State in a given year, the designated national representative will be asked to determine which nomination will proceed.
- Only nominations submitted between 1 October of the previous year and 30 September of the current year will be considered.
- Nominations must be submitted using the official Nomination Form provided on the IALA website. Additional supporting materials, such as photos or presentations are encouraged.

3. Nomination Criteria

Nominated lighthouses should demonstrate excellence in one or more of the following criteria:

- Intrinsic Heritage Interest: Architectural features, historical significance, cultural associations, or influence on world lighthouse heritage. (Note: Heritage lighthouses do not necessarily need to be old.)
- Conservation: State of preservation and conservation efforts, including any adaptive reuse.
- Public Access and Education: Initiatives promoting public access and education regarding the lighthouse and the broader context of aids to navigation.
- Promotion of Global Lighthouse Heritage: Potential to enhance awareness of lighthouse heritage nationally, regionally, or globally through the accolade.

4. Selection Process

- Nominations should be submitted for endorsement at the second annual meeting of the ENG Committee.
- ENG Working Group 3 (Heritage & Culture) will review the nominations during its second annual session, normally held in October.
- The ENG will select and recommend three lighthouses for commendation for the Council selection.
- The Council will make the final selection of the IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year at its second annual session, usually held in December, based on the ENG Committee's commendation.
- Nominations not selected for the accolade will not automatically carry over into the next award cycle, but may be resubmitted in future years.

5. Celebration Period



- The selected lighthouse will be celebrated during the second half of the year.

6. Notes

- The selection is not intended as a competition. The accolade does not imply that the selected lighthouse is "better" than others.
- Written reasons for the recommendation are provided each year.
- Additional supporting material submitted with nominations (e.g., photos, presentations) will be considered during deliberations.