

**IALA COUNCIL**  
**2nd session**



**9-13 June 2025**  
**Nice, France**

## **14. – CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, AND OTHER EVENTS**

### ***14.3 – LIGHTHOUSE OF THE YEAR***

#### **14.3.1 ENG proposal to change the Selection Process of the Heritage Lighthouse**

Note by the Secretariat

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The selection procedure for the Heritage Lighthouse of the Year (HLY) was officially approved during Council 75.

Since its establishment in 2019, the IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year accolade has served as an important initiative for the celebration and recognition of outstanding lighthouses. To date, seven exceptional lighthouses have been honoured through this award.

Due to the growing popularity of the Heritage Lighthouse of the Year award and the resulting significant increase in the number of nominations, the nomination process has undergone a comprehensive review. The primary objective of this review was to enhance clarity, ensure consistency, and promote fairness across all nominations.

### **2. DISCUSSION**

During the review process, ENG identified concerns regarding the content and intended purpose of the online database of heritage lighthouses. The database is directly associated with the Heritage Lighthouse of the Year nomination process. All nominated lighthouses are featured on the official webpage, with the nomination texts largely reproduced. This project remains under active development. In the interim, all new nominations will continue to be uploaded to the existing database until further enhancements are implemented.

The ENG20 conducted a comprehensive examination of the nomination process for the Heritage Lighthouse of the Year. The committee reached a unanimous agreement on a series of revisions to the nomination procedure after thorough deliberations. Accordingly, all Aids to Navigation (AtoN) Authorities must be formally advised of these updates to ensure their practical and consistent application.

The Committee approved the proposal and resolved to amend the Selection Process for the IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year, as outlined in Annex A IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year – Selection Rules.

Once the proposal is approved by the Council, Secretariat will inform all IALA Members about the changes in the Selection Process of the IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year.

### **3. ACTION REQUESTED**

The council is invited to:

- **Consider** the change of the selection process prepared by ENG, and
- **Approve** the new selection process for the Heritage Lighthouse of the Year 2025.

## Annex A: 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 person or organization; however, nominated lighthouses must be operational and operated by an IALA member organization.
- If multiple nominations are submitted from a single Member State within the same year, the Member State representative will be asked to determine which nomination proceeds.
- Only nominations submitted **within the 12 months preceding 30 September (from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30 September)** will be considered.
- Each IALA member nation may submit **only one nomination per year**.
- Nominations must be submitted using the official Nomination Form. Additional supporting materials, such as photos or presentations, are welcomed.

### 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 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 are reviewed by ENG Working Group 3 (Heritage & Culture) during its October session each year.
- The Working Group selects and recommends three lighthouses for commendation.
- Recommendations are submitted to the spring session of the ENG Committee for endorsement.
- The Council, at its summer session (normally June), selects the IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year based on the ENG Committee's recommendations.
- **Nominations not selected for the accolade will not carry over into the next award cycle, though they may be resubmitted in subsequent years.**

### 5. Celebration Period

- The selected lighthouse will be celebrated during the second half of the year, following its selection.
- This timeframe may limit opportunities for broader publicity and preparation efforts.

### 6. Timing Constraints

- Due to the short interval between the Council's selection (typically June) and WAtON Day (July), there may be limited time available for preparing appropriate celebration activities.

#### 7. Exceptions

- In IALA Conference years, the ENG Committee spring session is not held. Therefore, the selection process for the Heritage Lighthouse of the Year will be suspended for that year.

#### 8. 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 selection are provided each year.
- Additional supporting material submitted with nominations (e.g., photos, presentations) will be considered during deliberations.