

**IALA COUNCIL
3rd Session**



**8-12 December 2025
Mumbai, India**

14 – CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, AND OTHER EVENTS

14.4 – Lighthouse of the Year

14.4.1 – Selection of the Heritage Lighthouse of the Year 2026

Note by the ENG

1. INTRODUCTION

Deliberations were held during ENG21 for Heritage Lighthouse of the Year 2026. The new selection rules for the nomination procedure have been evaluated to ensure they are fit for purpose.

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.

The selection procedure for the Heritage Lighthouse of the Year (HLY) was reviewed by ENG Working Group 3 Heritage & Culture during ENG20 in an effort to enhance clarity, ensure consistency, and promote fairness across all nominations. Changes to the selection procedure were officially approved by Council in 2025.

2. HERITAGE LIGHTHOUSE OF THE YEAR ELIGIBILITY AND CELEBRATIONS

During the subsequent evaluation process, Working Group 3 agreed that the new selection procedure was too restrictive with its eligibility and celebration timeframes. Changes to the Selection Rules, as discussed below, are included in the Annex.

The current selection rules determine that nominations are open for IALA Member States only. It was agreed that this is too restrictive as it does not include Associate Members who operate heritage lighthouses within their territory (Section 2. Eligibility and Nomination). Rejecting nominations based on the level of Member status runs the risk of restricting promotion and awareness of heritage lighthouses. Furthermore, Associate Members play a critical role within the Engineering and Sustainability Committee. Rejecting these nominations goes against the spirit of the accolade.

It was agreed that eligibility, as determined under the selection rules, is extended to include both IALA Member States and IALA Associate Members.

The current selection rules determine that the lighthouse selected for HLY “will be celebrated during the second half of the year” (Section 5. Celebration period). It was agreed by Working Group 3 that this should be changed to instead encourage utilisation of World Marine Aids to Navigation Day as a time to celebrate the selected HLY, with the understanding that celebrations are dependent on financial ability.

3. HERITAGE LIGHTHOUSE OF THE YEAR DELIBERATION SESSION FOR 2027

Deliberations on Heritage Lighthouse of the Year 2028 are due to take place in ENG25 (Autumn session) as per the selection rules. Working Group 3 has been advised that an ENG session will not take place in the Autumn of 2027 due to its close proximity in time to the IALA Conference. This directly impacts the deliberations for the 2028 accolade.

The Engineering and Sustainability Committee recommends that, in order to allow time for deliberation for the 2028 accolade, deliberations are allowed to take place during ENG24 (Spring session 2027). This will require a change of the nomination submission window from 1st October 2026 – 30th September 2027 to 1st October 2026 – 31st March 2027. This information, if deemed acceptable by Council, will be made clear on the IALA Heritage website and nomination form for that period.

4. ACTION REQUESTED

APPROVE the proposal for the revision of the Heritage Lighthouse of the Year Selection rules, and the proposed change for deliberation of Heritage Lighthouse of the Year 2028.

ANNEX – PROPOSED CHANGES TO HLY SELECTION RULES

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.~~
- Nominations are open to IALA Member States and Associate Members (hereafter referred to collectively as “Members”).
- Nominations may be made by any government body or lighthouse authority operating on behalf of an IALA Member State or Associated Member. Nominations must be operational lighthouses within an IALA Member State or IALA Associated Member territory.
- Only one nomination from within each Member State or Associate Member territory may be submitted in each year (1st October to 30th September).
- If multiple nominations are received from the same IALA Member State or IALA Associated territory 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.~~
- It is encouraged that celebrations for the selected lighthouse are undertaken on or around World Marine Aids to Navigation Day, normally held 1st July each 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.