

**IALA COUNCIL
3rd Session**



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

14 – CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, AND OTHER EVENTS

14.4 – Lighthouse of the Year

14.4.1.1 – Commendation for the IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year 2026

Note from ENG

1. INTRODUCTION

Adopted at the 19th IALA Conference in 2018, the Incheon Declaration reaffirmed IALA's commitment to recognizing and preserving the cultural and historical heritage represented by Aids to Navigation maintained by its Members.

In line with this principle, the IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year (HLY) award honours lighthouses that demonstrate outstanding achievements in heritage conservation, public accessibility, and educational value. Such lighthouses embody cultural significance that extends beyond their operational function, reflecting both maritime heritage and community identity.

2. NOMINATIONS AND MEANS OF ARRIVING AT A COMMENDATION

At the 21st session of the ENG, all participants were invited to complete a ranking sheet with respect to the nominees. 14 Ranking sheets were received. These sheets were then collated to determine the three IALA Heritage Lighthouses that the Committee would commend. A further discussion was held to reach a consensus as to which of the three it would commend as IALA LHY 2026.

It was agreed by all participants that any one of the nominees considered warrants being an IALA HLY, and it was acknowledged that comparing and contrasting lighthouses was almost an impossible task. The Final three lighthouses were:

- Evangelistas Lighthouse, Chile
- Mull of Galloway Lighthouse, United Kingdom
- Portopi Lighthouse, Spain.

3. COMMENDATIONS

The Committee agreed that all nominated lighthouses were deserving of the IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year title. After careful consideration, the ENG Committee resolved to recommend Evangelistas Lighthouse, Chile, to the Council as the IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year 2026.

4. THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

Consider the Committees's commendations and **Decide** the IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year 2026.

ANNEX – INFORMATION ON COMMENDED LIGHTHOUSES

1. EVANGELISTAS LIGHTHOUSE, CHILE



The Evangelistas Lighthouse, located at the perilous western entrance to Chile's Strait of Magellan, stands as a monumental symbol of maritime heritage, technical achievement, and human perseverance. Designed by Scottish engineer George Slight in 1896, the lighthouse marked the beginning of Chile's organized effort to illuminate and govern its vast southern maritime territory. Built in one of the world's harshest environments—with 150-knot winds and waves reaching 20 meters—the structure was a formidable engineering achievement. The cylindrical tower and adjoining keeper's house retain their original European architectural style, and were declared a National Monument in 2009.

As a frontrunner in heritage management, the lighthouse has preserved its historical integrity while incorporating modern technologies for maritime safety. In 2023, it was recognized as a Centennial Weather Station by the World Meteorological Organization. The legacy of the lighthouse is promoted through educational curricula, media, and literature, including Chilean author Francisco Coloane's iconic story *La gallina de los huevos de luz*. With 129 years of continuous operation, the Evangelistas Lighthouse remains a beacon of cultural identity, navigation safety, and heritage conservation, exemplifying world-class standards in lighthouse preservation.

2. MULL OF GALLOWAY LIGHTHOUSE, UNITED KINGDOM



Established in 1830, the Mull of Galloway Lighthouse is Scotland’s most southerly light and a shining example of heritage preservation. As one of Scotland’s “outstanding lighthouses,” it blends rich maritime history, community stewardship, and tourism innovation. The Mull of Galloway Trust, in partnership with the Northern Lighthouse Board, has transformed the site into a dynamic visitor attraction while safeguarding its historical integrity.

Unique features include the fully restored, operational foghorn—now the only one on mainland Scotland—and public access to the original engine room, where demonstrations showcase the lives of former lighthouse keepers. The light tower itself offers panoramic views and now hosts weddings. The three former keepers’ cottages serve as holiday lets, supporting the local economy.

In 2024, the lighthouse was officially ‘twinning’ with Japan’s Inubosaki Lighthouse – an agreement which celebrated shared heritage across continents. Extensive conservation, active community involvement, diverse educational programmes, and international collaboration position Mull of Galloway as a global leader in lighthouse heritage management.

With increasing visitor numbers, environmental stewardship, and year-round events, the lighthouse goes far beyond its navigational role.

3. PORTOPI LIGHTHOUSE, SPAIN



The Portopí Lighthouse, located in Palma, Mallorca, is a unique maritime heritage landmark. First documented in 1300, it has continuously guided ships for over seven centuries, symbolizing both navigational aid and maritime communication. Relocated to its current site in 1617, its structure showcases architectural evolution across eras—medieval crenelations, a 15th-century base, an octagonal optical section, and a Neo-Gothic addition from 1927. It features Spain's only operational catoptric optical system, making it globally rare.

Declared a National Historic-Artistic Monument in 1983, the lighthouse also houses the Permanent Exhibition of Maritime Signals, a premier European collection of restored lighting systems and equipment, and the Historical Archive of Maritime Signals, preserving centuries of records. The outstanding conservation includes full public access and educational programming, including free guided tours.

Portopí's dedication to heritage management, restoration, public outreach, and research positions it as a frontrunner in lighthouse preservation. It has hosted significant international events and remains a living tribute to lighthouse keepers and maritime history. Its enduring operation and educational mission embody the global values of lighthouse heritage.