

**IALA COUNCIL
4th Session**



**8 - 11 June 2026
HQ, France**

10 – TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

10.5 – VTS

10.5.1 – VTS59 summary report

Note by the Secretariat

1. INTRODUCTION

The 59th session of the IALA Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) Committee was held from 27 February to 12 March 2026, with Monica Sundklev (Swedish Transport Agency) as Chair and Trond Ski (Norwegian Coastal Administration) as Vice-Chair. Thomas Southall served as Secretary for the session.

The physical meeting week took place from 2 to 6 March 2026 at IALA Headquarters in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, with the virtual opening plenary on 27 February and virtual closing plenary on 12 March 2026. A total of 119 participants from 29 countries, three Sister Organisations (IMPA, Nautical Institute, IHMA) and one observer attended VTS59. Twenty-one participants joined for the first time.

The Committee considered 62 input papers and produced 38 output papers, including working papers, across three Working Groups.

2. SUMMARY OF THE WORK ITEMS

The Committee reviewed and updated its work programme for 2025–2027, making significant progress across the three Working Groups:

Working Group 1 – Operations

- Completed and forwarded to Council the new draft Guideline on Establishing a Regulatory Framework for VTS – Responsibilities of a Competent Authority (VTS59-12.1.1), consolidating the work of Tasks 1.1.2 and 1.1.5.
- Revised Guideline G1089 Provision of a VTS (VTS59-12.1.2) to align with IMO Resolution A.1158(32) and to clarify situational awareness, the distinction between “interaction” and “communication”, and processes related to MASS.
- Completed the new draft Guideline on VTS Digital Communications (VTS59-12.1.5) and progressed operational use cases for Traffic Clearance, Route Exchange, VTS Information and VTS Reporting Services.
- Revised Guideline G1185 Enhancing the Safety around OREI (VTS59-12.1.7) following ARM Committee feedback, and prepared a Liaison Note to ARM on the NAVGUIDE 2027 revision.
- Updated the VTS Manual to reflect VTS59 outcomes and the Organization’s new IGO status; updated the Future VTS living discussion paper to include drones at low altitude on water surfaces as an emerging trend.
- Continued the digital global VTS questionnaire and identified G1141, G1110, G1142 and G1070 for review or editorial update.

Working Group 2 – Technology

- Completed and published Service Specification for UKC Digital Service v1.0 (VTS59-12.2.1) on the IALA website under topical matters/technical services.
- Forwarded to VTS60 working papers on Service Specifications for Route Exchange Ed.1.2, VTS Information Service v0.3, and two iterations of the Service Specification for VTS Traffic Clearance (v1.5.X and v1.6).
- Submitted a Proposal to the GI Concept Register for S-212 (2026) (VTS59-12.2.6); KRISO will continue intersessional development of the S-212 Product Specification, with v0.7.3 DRAFT and the data model forwarded to VTS60.
- Made significant progress on the review and update of Recommendation R0145/V-145 on IVEF; forwarded three iterations of S-210 Product Specification v0.2.0 and supporting IVEF meeting outputs to VTS60.
- Issued Liaison Notes to DTEC (Digitalization of Waterways, AI/G1178, MCP), to DTEC and ARM (MRN) and to ENG (Sustainability Working Group), and agreed an in-person intersessional meeting in Oslo (6–8 July 2026) hosted by the Norwegian Coastal Administration.

Working Group 3 – VTS Training

- Re-scoped the stress and trauma task into a wider Guideline on the Mental Health of VTS Operators; completion deferred to VTS61.
- Completed the new draft Guideline on Attributes for VTS Operator Recruitment (VTS59-12.3.1, formerly aptitudes for VTS Operators) and forwarded it to Council for approval.
- Completed the new draft Guideline on Remote Training in VTS (VTS59-12.3.2) and forwarded it to Council for approval.
- Confirmed completion of Task 3.8.1; G1103 Train the Trainer to be withdrawn once new VTS Model Course implementation guidance is published.
- Initiated Update 2 of G1156 Recruitment, Training and Certification of VTS Personnel (linking to G1014) and commenced revision of G1014 Accreditation of VTS Training Organizations; intersessional meetings and a Competent-Authority webinar planned for April–May 2026.

3. OUTCOMES OF THE COMMITTEE

The following draft documents have been prepared for Council approval (agenda item 10.5):

1. C04-10.5.2 (VTS59-12.1.1) New draft Guideline on Establishing a Regulatory Framework for VTS – Responsibilities of a VTS Competent Authority.
2. C04-10.5.3 (VTS59-12.1.5) New draft Guideline on VTS Digital Communications.
3. C04-10.5.4 (VTS59-12.3.1) New draft Guideline on Attributes for VTS Operator Recruitment.
4. C04-10.5.5 (VTS59-12.3.2) New draft Guideline on Remote Training in VTS.
5. C04-10.5.6 (VTS59-12.1.2) Revised Guideline G1089 on the Provision of a VTS.
6. C04-10.5.7 (VTS59-12.1.7) Revised Guideline G1185 on Enhancing the Safety and Efficiency of Navigation around Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (OREI).

4. THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

NOTE the information provided in this document.