

The People's Republic of China
Maritime Safety Administration



National Matters - CHINA

The 4th session of the IALA Council

I. China re-elected to Council member of multiple international organizations

On 28 November 2025, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Assembly were held the election for Council seats in London, United Kingdom. China was elected with the highest number of votes, being re-elected for the 19th consecutive term as a Council member.

On 23 April 2026, the Fourth Assembly of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) was held the election for Council seats in Monaco. China was re-elected as a member of the IHO Council for the term 2026–2029.

II. Commissioning of a Large Buoy Tender

On 13 November 2025, China's newest buoy tender, "Haixun 176", was commissioned. The vessel is equipped with all-electric propulsion and a dynamic positioning system, together with large-capacity navigation aid stowage and intelligent engine room technology. It features low-carbon emissions, environmental friendliness and long endurance, and is capable of safe operation under Sea State 4 conditions. It supports open-sea AtoN operations and emergency repairs, while also serving multiple functions such as oil spill response, maritime emergency search and rescue.



III. Implementation Status of S-100

In April 2026, China MSA issued the “Action Plan for Empowering Smart Shipping Development through the Application of the S-100 Universal Hydrographic Data Model”, promoting the Research & Development, production, and service of S-100 products, as well as their integration with systems such as ECDIS, PPU (Portable Pilot Units) , and GIS, and conducting sea trials for real-ship testing and application validation.

IV. Construction of Smart Navigation Service Demonstration Zones

In 2025, China’s three *Smart Navigation Service Demonstration Zones* in Bohai Bay, Yangtze River Estuary, and Pearl River Estuary were fully completed with remarkable results. Adopting S-100 as the core technical pathway, a digital service system for maritime safety and security has been established, along with a comprehensive awareness network covering key sea areas. This has preliminarily achieved the transformation and upgrading from traditional static AtoN to a dynamic, intelligent, attendant digital service paradigm for maritime safety and security, providing effective support for the safety and efficiency of ship navigation.

V. First Set of Fishery Thematic Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) Put into Use

In December 2025, China MSA released fishery thematic ENCs, reference to IHO standards. The charts include over 20,000 thematic features, including fishing ports, fishing grounds, high-risk warning zones for collisions between commercial and fishing vessels, and the north-south coastal corridor. This effectively addresses issues such as insufficient fishery information and incompatibility between different navigation devices in traditional ENCs.

VI. Further Improvement of AtoN Technical Standards System

In the first quarter of 2026, the Ministry of Transport issued a series of domestic industry standards, including *General technical specification for steel light beacon*, *General specification of multifunctional aids to navigation*, and *Technical specification for e-Navigation maritime connectivity platform*. These standards address the upgrade of traditional facilities, standardization of intelligent equipment, and interconnection of system platforms, completing the comprehensive standards framework from terminal devices to integrated systems.

VII. Other Matters

China MSA, in cooperation with IALA, will organize an International Level 1 AtoN Manager Course in Shanghai/Xiamen/Wenzhou from 24 August to 20 September, and a Risk Management Course in Wenzhou from 13 September to 20 September. The 5th Meeting of the IALA Council will be held in Guangzhou, China from 30 November to 4 December .