Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-2) ARM12-8.4.8

Input paper for the following Committee(s): check as appropriate Purpose of paper:

**X** ARM **□** ENG **□** PAP **X** Input

**□** ENAV **□** VTS **□** Information

Agenda item [[2]](#footnote-3) 8

Technical Domain / Task Number 2 …………………………………

Author(s) / Submitter(s) Eivind Mong (Canadian Coast Guard)

Uniqueness within the context of Maritime Resource Name (MRN)

# Summary

ARM 11 completed the drafting of a new version of Guideline 1143. Although consensus was reached at the meeting, where Canada was also represented, subsequent review highlighted a substantial concern regarding the definition of uniqueness and therefore the definition can benefit from further discussion and improvement.

## Purpose of the document

The purpose of this document is to highlight the Canadian position on ARM11-13.3.7 and clarify why although initially supporting the document at ARM11, this position subsequently was amended to recommending the document be reviewed further by ARM Committee. This position was expressed at Council 71 resulting in the draft guideline being returned to ARM.

## Related documents

G1143 - Unique Identifiers for Maritime Resources

ARM11-13.3.7

# Background

At ARM 11, Working Group 2 worked on a revision to the MRN guideline G1143. The draft revision was amended to simplify the wildcard concept and to be worded more general to try and limit the risk for political issues with the use of MRN in areas that are disputed or where nations have several sub-national areas. Some of these discussions were challenging due to interests of early adopters of the MRN concept and because of the COVID-19 situation was rapidly unfolding making in person and detailed discussions, difficult in some cases and impossible in others.

# Discussion

Canada initially supported ARM11-13.3.7 going to Council but upon closer review of the draft Guideline from the ARM Committee, Canada found that the description of uniqueness in section 4 of the document is ambiguous and may lead to confusion. Canada agrees with the proposed Guideline G1143 except for the description of uniqueness. We then proposed to work on the definition of uniqueness at the next ARM Committee meeting and hopefully submit a revised definition for Council 72.

The definition of uniqueness is such that the reader cannot immediately know the full meaning and may be left with a limited understanding of what the extent of uniqueness means in the MRN context. Is it, for example, within a context, system or globally unique? Moreover, an ID of urn:mrn:iala:aton:ca:001.3 could be understood as being different from URN:MRN:IALA:ATON:CA:001.3. However, since MRN processing is case in-sensitive the two are not different in the context of MRN. Similarly, both variations can be expressed in %-encoding[[3]](#footnote-4) and thus be unique but in the context of MRN be identical. E.g. urn:mrn:iala:aton:ca:001.3 is the same as urn%3Amrn%3Aiala%3Aaton%3Aca%3A001.3 in the context of URI (and by inheritance MRN), but they may otherwise be understood as being different and unique.

It is therefore important that the definition of unique be improved and made unambiguous. For the purpose of stimulating discussion, the following definition has been drafted;

‘Every ID created must differ from any other ID that is created within the same context regardless of encoding used to express the ID’

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note this paper
2. Discuss the definition of uniqueness in G1143 and consider the concerns raised in this paper

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Percent-encoding> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)