Liaison Note to ARM Committee

IALA Recommendation A-126

# Introduction

At ENAV15, IALA was requested to respond to an input document from IEC TC80 WG15, with regard to AIS AtoN Status bits and AtoN dimensions.

# Background

IEC TC80 have observed that, since AIS AtoN’s often sleep and have receivers inactive, it can be difficult to know when to communicate with them. It was noted that this could be accomplished more easily if message 21 contained a status bit that indicated whether a receiver is present, and whether it is active.

Additionally, there is no way to indicate an AtoN that is adrift, and that there is benefit in identifying whether an ‘off-position floating AtoN is static or drifting. Fixed AIS AtoNs can also be used to monitor the position performance of GNSS, by comparison of the surveyed- and GNSS-derived positions, which is a concept that has been previously discussed by the IALA ENAV Committee.

IEC TC80 suggested that these issues could be addressed by adding a further AtoN Status page to the Type 21 Message, in addition to the existing page 7 which is used to denote Lamp & RACON status and AtoN health. No other pages have been designated. IALA has been requested to consider adding a page 6 to indicate receiver present and active, off-position AtoN adrift, and GNSS anomalies.

The IALA ENAV Committee also notes that the proposed Page 6 bits to denote a missing ATON are redundant, given IMO guidance on depicting a missing AtoN via a virtual AtoN message with off-position flag set (IMO SN.1//Circ.243/Rev.1). This frees this bit to be used with inclinometer technology built into some modern AtoN light sources, to indicate whether a fixed light is tilted, as may occur in the event of weather or collision damage.

IEC TC 80 also notes that there are discrepancies between ITU-R M.1371-5 and IALA A-126 with regard to determination of AtoN dimensions with ABCD values. Neither reference effectively provides guidance to address non-circular ABCD values.

# Action taken

The IALA ENAV Committee has incorporated each of the above comments within Revision 1.6 of IALA Recommendation A-126 on The Use of the Automatic Identification System (AIS) in Marine Aids to Navigation Services.

# Action requested

The ARM Committee is requested to review the proposed revision of IALA Recommendation A-126 (ENAV15-14.1.9). If any discrepancies are identified, the ARM Committee is requested to address these to the Chair of IALA ENAV WG3 on an inter-sessional basis, to avoid unnecessary delay in responding to IEC TC80.

The IALA Secretariat is requested to forward the revised version of Recommendation A-126 to IEC TC80, in the event of approval by the IALA Council.