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Agenda item

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Author(s) / Submitter(s)

Secretariat

Purpose of paper:

- ☒ Input
☐ Information

Amended definition of “Marine Aids to Navigation” in the IALA Strategic Vision

1 SUMMARY

LAP17 was invited to contribute to the revision of the IALA Strategic Vision and doing so made some comments, among which the possible need to develop a broad definition of the term “Marine Aid to Navigation”, in a way that it would include VTS. The Secretariat therefore worked on such rewriting, considering the current developments and taking account of the various sensitivities.

1.1 Purpose of the document

This document presents the results of the discussions held within the Secretariat and the conclusions reached that the current definition might not need to be amended.

2 BACKGROUND

At LAP17 the proposed revision of the IALA Strategic Vision was considered. Some improvements were proposed and forwarded to the Policy Advisory Panel for incorporation. Uncertainties were expressed with regard to the status of VTS as a marine aid to navigation, considering that aids to navigation and VTS are addressed in two different Regulations of SOLAS Chapter V. Concerns were raised about AtoN Authorities being potentially liable for a lack of VTS services, or faulty VTS services, if VTS is recognized as an aid to navigation.

3 DISCUSSION

The Secretariat, together with the LAP Chair and Vice Chair, considered the request by LAP and made the following remarks:

- The IALA definition of a marine aid to navigation does not impact the responsibilities as set out in SOLAS Chapter V Regulations 12 (VTS) and 13 (AtoN);
- The IALA definition of a marine aid to navigation as a “device, system or service” external to the ship undoubtedly covers VTS, the name of which (Vessel Traffic Service) demonstrates that it is a service. This service being land based, it is external to the ship.

4 CONCLUSION

Having considered the elements listed in 3. above the Secretariat, supported by the LAP Chair and Vice Chair, came to the first conclusion that the current definition of the term “marine aid to navigation” used in the IALA Constitution is broad enough to include VTS.

5 ACTION REQUESTED

The LAP is invited to take **note** of the conclusion.