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ICAO development on water aerodrome standards and implications for IALA

# Background

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has published a circular on water aerodrome in April 2025 to ensure their safe and consistent operation. As part of this effort, a dedicated working group has released ICAO Circular 364: Water Aerodrome Design and Operations as annexed to this document. This document provides initial guidance on certification processes, infrastructure layout, obstacle and wildlife management, visual aids, emergency planning, and operational procedures. It primarily targets States and stakeholders involved in the operation of large water aerodromes serving seaplanes under visual flight rules.

# Relevance to IALA

Many of the topics addressed in the circular, especially those related to visual aids, are relevant to the work of IALA. There is a clear intersection between marine and aviation safety in the context of water aerodromes, particularly in areas involving marking, lighting, and signalling. To ensure consistency and avoid conflicting guidance, alignment between ICAO and IALA standards is essential. This is especially important for the marking of aerodrome boundaries, buoyage systems visible to seaplanes, and risk mitigation in shared-use zones.

IALA acknowledges ICAO’s progress and recognizes the potential implications for its own technical standards. To support harmonization, IALA will continue monitoring ICAO’s developments, contribute relevant expertise, and explore opportunities for coordinated activities with ICAO.

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to Note the information presented regarding ICAO’s developments on water aerodromes.