Liaison Note to ITU WP5B

Autonomous Maritime Radio Devices (AMRD)

# Introduction

IALA thanks WP 5B for its liaison statement on autonomous maritime radio devices (AMRD) (Annex 24 to Working Party 5B Chairman's Report provided by ITU WP 5B 5B/646). During the meetings of IALA ENAV and ARM, held 1 – 5 April 2019, IALA reviewed and considered the liaison statement from WP 5B.

# Discussion

IALA ARM and ENAV were of the view that:

1. IALA agrees with the content of the liaison statement provided to WP 5B by the IMO (5B/657) in response to Annex 24 to 5B/646, on the list of application for Group A & B AMRD. Namely, this list of suggested applications for Group A AMRD are:

*Group A AMRD*

* 1. MOB Class M
  2. Mobile AtoN

It should be noted that the Mobile AtoN will cover for a broad range of Navigational hazards such as derelict, iceberg etc. identified as per section 6c below.

1. IALA agrees that some applications for Group B may be conditional in that they represent a certain level of hazard.
2. Any Mobile AtoN with AIS is a Group A AMRD. It is anticipated that IALA guidance will state that all Mobile AtoN will be fitted with a Physical AIS-AtoN.
3. A new numbering scheme suggested for Group A AMRD would not be necessary because:
   1. Recommendation ITU-R M.585 has a MMSI numbering scheme for AIS AtoNs that is suitable for Mobile AtoNs and also has a numbering scheme for MOB Class M (Group A AMRD)
   2. The competent authority remains responsible for the establishment and operation of AtoN. The use of the current MMSI numbering scheme for AIS AtoN will ensure Mobile AtoN applicants go through the regulatory approval process.
   3. Without a regulatory approval process and use of a freeform numbering scheme, it is possible that Competent Authorities would have no control over the deployment of Mobile AtoNs.
4. For Mobile AtoN, the AIS message in ITU-R M.1371 should include course over ground and speed over ground (COG and SOG).
   1. IALA propose that a new AIS message is required to achieve this.
   2. In the interim, to maintain support for legacy systems, AIS message 21 should be used to indicate Mobile AtoNs. This could be achieved by updating Table 74 of the ITU-R M.1371-5 to reflect that Mobile AtoNs are captured by aids-to-navigation code 31.
   3. The name field of the AtoN in message 21 should reflect the mobile nature of the AtoN – for example “MOBILE MARKER DRIFTING CONTAINER”
5. IALA recommends that in Annex 1 of ITU “WORKING DOCUMENT TOWARDS A PRELIMINARY DRAFT NEW RECOMMENDATION ITU-R M.[AMRD]”:
   1. The height of an antenna for an AIS device on a Mobile AtoN will vary depending on the situation - for example, drifting container vs drifting wreck. It should not be limited to 1 metre.
   2. The power of a AIS device on a Mobile AtoN should be in accordance with TABLE 3 of Recommendation ITU‑R M.1371-5

This is to ensure Mobile AtoN have the possibility to be tracked by Competent Authorities using pre-existing Base station networks.

# Action requested

ITU WP 5B is asked to note the comments and information provided and take action as it deems appropriate.