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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION –– SOUMISSION DE RESUME

**Topic No.: / Sujet n° : 10------------------ or / ou proposed topic / sujet proposé: THE ROLE OF EFFECTIVE SHIFT PLANNING OF VTSO’s FOR** **THE EFFICIENCY OF VTS**

AUTHOR / AUTEUR:

**Title / Titre (Mr, Ms, Capt, etc.) :Capt.**

**Family name / Nom de famille : TAŞAN -----------------------------------------------------------------**

**Surname / Prénom : MUSTAFA ----------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**IALA member organisation / Organisation membre de l’AISM : Directorate General of Coastal Safety, REPUBLIC OF TURKIYE**

**Postal address / Adresse postale :**

**IZMIT GEMI TRAFIK HIZMETLERI OPERASYON AMIRLIGI-------------------------------------**

**GUNEY MAHALLESI DERYA CADDESI NO:134----------------------------------------------------**

**41780 TUTUNCIFTLIK / KORFEZ / KOCAELI – REPUBLIC OF TURKIYE-------------------------------------------**

**Telephone (including country and area codes) / Téléphone (y compris codes national et régional)**

**Office / Bureau : +90 262 527 38 13--------------- Mobile : +90 543 740 24 46 ------------**

**e-mail(s):** [**mustafa.tasan@kiyiemniyeti.gov.tr , cpttas1983@hotmail.com**](mailto:mustafa.tasan@kiyiemniyeti.gov.tr%20,%20cpttas1983@hotmail.com%20%20) **----------------------------------**

ABSTRACT / RESUME:

**THE ROLE OF EFFECTIVE SHIFT PLANNING OF VTSO’s FOR** **THE EFFICIENCY OF VTS**

Managing traffic for maritime routes is a task as difficult as it is important. Importance of Vessel Traffic Services can be better understood from the functions it plays in managing vessel traffic. The key importance of VTS is for managing vessel traffic. This further helps ensuring safety of ships, along with helping attain maximum traffic flow from any given route. A vessel traffic service (VTS) has the ability and the authority to interact with maritime traffic and respond to developing traffic situations. It improves order and predictability on the waterway throughout its service area by using surveillance, communications, and standard operating procedures to collect, evaluate, and share information to support professional mariners' navigation decision making. Key to all these VTS operations is the VTS Operator (VTSO). Regardless of the size or complexity of the respective VTS area, all VTS Centres are likely to require VTSO’s who have been trained and authorized to V-103 standards, or similar.

A VTS should provide service across all 24 hours of the clock each day of the week. Due to this shift work system must be used in VTS centres for the continuity of VTS operations. Shift work is considered a risk factor for some physiological, psychological and sociological problems. Shift work has been shown to negatively affect workers, and has been classified as a specific disorder (shift work sleep disorder). Shift work sleep disorder also creates a greater risk for human error at work. Shift work disrupts cognitive ability and flexibility and impairs attention, motivation, decision making, speech, vigilance, and overall performance.

A VTS Centre should have a sufficient number of VTS personnel to ensure that the VTS operations carried out efficiently and safely under all conditions, with due regard to the safety of navigation within the VTS area.

This study presents the importance shift and staff planning and a sample watch Schedule model for VTSO’s to provide the safety of navigation and efficiency of VTS.

***Key Words:*** *Vessel Traffic Service, Shift Planning, Vessel Traffic Service Operator, Fatigue, Night Work.*



**PLEASE RETURN TO** [**contact@iala-aism.org**](mailto:contact@iala-aism.org) **by 31st March 2017 VEUILLEZ RETOURNER A** [**contact@iala-aism.org**](mailto:contact@iala-aism.org) **avant le 31 mars 2017**

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