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| **From:** | DTEC Committee | DTEC3-11.2.2.6 |
| **To:** | ENG, ARM and VTS Committees; IALA MASS TF | 3 October 2024 |

**LIAISON NOTE**

**Draft Recommendation and Guideline on Developments and Implications of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) for Coastal Authorities**

# introduction

The DTEC Committee continues its task on developing a holistic IALA guideline on the implications of MASS for coastal authorities. Based on input previously received, and guidance from the IALA MASS TF, the guideline is now nearing completion.

Related to this work DTEC reviewed input from the VTS Committee (DTEC3-5.2.2.14 and DTEC3-5.2.2.14.1) a draft *Recommendation on MASS and Marine AtoN*.

# Discussion

At DTEC3 both the draft Guideline and Recommendation related to MASS and AtoN were reviewed.

## Review of Recommendation on MASS and Marine AtoN

The draft informative Recommendation (*RXXXX MASS and Marine AtoN*) was reviewed, noting the input from the VTS Committee. In the review of the draft the following points were considered: The review has taken into account the evolving technological developments associated with MASS, including:

* the expected adoption of the non-mandatory IMO Code for MASS in 2025 and the mandatory IMO Code for MASS in 2032
* IALA document *The Future of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) - Future Scenarios Regarding the Development and Evolution of MASS*, IALA, 2024
* Development of the holistic IALA guideline on the implications of MASS for coastal authorities.

It is anticipated that the developing IALA guidelines providing guidance on how to implement the practices specified in this Recommendation, such as Guideline *GXXXX* *Developments and Implications of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships for coastal authorities,* will beassociated with this Recommendation.

### Comments

DTEC identified editorial comments for consideration. These relate to the titled, clause 3 and 5 of the draft recommendation:

* Title – DTEC propose expanding the acronyms in the title to read Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) and Marine Aids to Navigation (AtoN)
* Clause 3 – DTEC propose revising the existing text by removing modifiers and simplifying the text:
* *3. Recommendation RXXXX MASS and Marine AtoN identifies ~~additional desirable~~ practices to consider with the ~~advent~~ development of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships ~~insofar as they are not adequately or fully addressed in other IALA recommendations and guidelines~~.*Clause 5 – DTEC propose providing clarification in the text with the addition of ‘IMO’ before ‘Code’ in the bullet points to read:

*5. The evolving technological developments associated with MASS, including the expected adoption of:*

* *The non-mandatory IMO Code for MASS in 2025; and*
* *The mandatory IMO Code for MASS in 2032.*

## Review of the draft Guideline on the implications of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) for Coastal Authorities

The draft guideline on developments and implementations of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) for coastal authorities has evolved through a number of intersessional meetings and IALA Committees, including the ENAV/DTEC, ARM, ENG and VTS Committees.

Based on guidance from the IALA MASS TF, a restructure of the document was carried out, with a review and update of the content. The review has taken into account the evolving technological developments associated with MASS, including:

* The expected adoption of the non-mandatory IMO Code for MASS in 2025 and the mandatory IMO Code for MASS in 2032
* IALA document *The Future of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) - Future Scenarios Regarding the Development and Evolution of MASS*, IALA, 2024.
* Input from the development of MASS guidelines at ARM (DTEC3-5.2.2.7.1 and DTEC3-5.2.2.7.1.1)
* The draft IALA Recommendation on MASS and Marine AtoN

A track changes version of the draft Guideline as of Oct. 3, 2024 is provided as an annex to this liaison note.

### Comments

During DTEC3 the outcomes of the intersessional review of the guideline were noted. This included the proposal that the guidance to IALA members regarding MASS be provided within the context of an overarching Guideline (the Guideline on the implications of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) for Coastal Authorities) and annexes or related guidance. This is an approach that has previously been taken within IALA for documents related to AIS and, most recently, the IALA G1111 series on Producing Requirements for AIS.

With this in mind, the draft Guideline includes reference points for the related work from the IALA VTS Committee (*Draft G#### - VTS Interaction with a Mix of Vessels including MASS*) and work in the ARM Committee on the provision of AtoN to support a MASS environment. The approach was considered flexible to adapt to the changes that are expected as MASS, along with operational, technical and regulatory aspects, continues to evolve.

Noting the desire to complete the document at DTEC4, an intersessional drafting group meeting to consider feedback and refine the Guideline will be held on Monday, 13 January 2025 from 0900-1030 UTC in the DTEC [WG2 Plenary MSTeams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZjFmZmE1NWQtNmVkMy00MTFhLWI5MGMtMGZhNGZlM2Y3MzU2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22529f3cf4-fdfb-44c2-8d17-aec7c3e258e2%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229cdd6dbb-d388-42c1-9836-93fbbc7060f7%22%7d) room. Those who are interested in taking part in the review are asked to contact J Carson-Jackson ([jillian@jcjconsulting.net](mailto:jillian@jcjconsulting.net)) by 7 January 2025. Related to the cross-committee input into the document a folder has been created on the IALA MASS TF fileshare for the IALA MASS Guideline Intersessional Task Group meetings.

# Action requested

The members of the ENG, ARM and VTS committees as well as the IALA MASS TF are requested to:

1. Note the status of the draft Recommendation and Guideline regarding MASS in the context of IALA members, with the anticipation that both documents will be completed at DTEC4.
2. Note the comments of the DTEC Committee on the draft informative *Recommendation on MASS and Marine AtoN* and provide comments as appropriate.
3. Note the draft IALA Guideline on developments and implementations of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) for coastal authorities.
4. Provide feedback on the attached draft Guideline, if any, and forward the documents to the intersessional drafting group meeting, as well as DTEC4, noting specific areas of expertise and comments included within the draft guideline.
5. Consider participating in the intersessional draft group session scheduled for Monday, 13 January 2025.