Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-1) PAP37-4.7.1.1

Input paper for the following Committee(s): check as appropriate Purpose of paper:

**□** ARM **□** ENG X PAP X Input

**□** ENAV **□** VTS **□** Information

Agenda item [[2]](#footnote-2) (from agenda) 4.7.1

Author(s) / Submitter(s) ENAV

Evolution analog voice radio to digital voice radio

# Summary

The Communications WG of the ENAV Committee met intersessionally in Sydney (4 to 8 Feb 2019). The group started to make a plan for a possible evolution for migrating analogue voice radio to digital voice radio.

## Purpose of the document

This input document informs the PAP, ARM and ENAV Committees of the discussions at the intersessional of and asks them to consider conveying IALA’s concern and views on this matter to IMO.

## Related documents

IALA Maritime Radio Communications Plan (MRCP) of December 2017

# Background

IALA has developed a maritime radio communication plan (MRCP) and has published this on their website in 2017. In this plan a topic was conducted to digital voice radio communication. Digital voice communication may, in the long term, replace the present analogue VHF voice communication service, i.e. ship-to-ship/ship-to-shore/shore-to-ship. As this develops, the introduction of mixed digital/analogue equipment should be encouraged. It is recognized that global digitization will make spectrum use more efficient, but this will take some time to complete. For e-Navigation, the evolution from analogue to digital is essential.

# Discussion

During the Communications WG of the ENAV Committee met intersessionally in Sydney (4 to 8 Feb 2019). The group noted the possible following steps, and timetable, to be undertaken for the evaluation from analogue voice radio to digital voice radio:

1. At WRC-19 apply for an agenda item concerning a digital voice channel in the VHF band that may be used for general voice communication;
2. Test, demonstrate and report the results to ITU and IMO;
3. Determine with IMO and ITU the scope of the maritime voice to digital communication evolution plan
4. Create and present a maritime voice to digital communication evolution plan in close cooperation with ITU and IMO;
5. Present at WRC-23 the evolution plan and apply for a agenda item for the evolution of the VHF, MF and HF maritime band;
6. Present to IMO and ITU the evolution plan and agree on the timeline for evolution with IMO, ITU and local/regional regulators (for handhelds & marine radio’s).
7. At WRC-27 change appendix 18 to change VHF, HF and MF assignments to desired analogue/digital channel plan
8. Agree at IMO to set timeline for the evolution plan for VHF, HF and MF channels/frequencies

# Action requested of the Committee

PAP is requested to note the information provided.

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Input papers should be assigned to a work task as listed in the Committee work plan which is available in input papers. Leave open if uncertain but consider how the paper is to be processed if not relevant to a work task [↑](#footnote-ref-2)