LIAISON NOTE TO SECRETARY GENERAL

Portrayal of Aids to Navigation

# INTRODUCTION

During discussions at ARM4 it became evident that there is a gap in the portrayal of aids to navigation in ENC.

# DISCUSSION

It is the view of the ARM Committee that the interaction between the cartographer at the national Hydrographic Office and managers at the national authority responsible for Aids to Navigation is decreasing. Due to the fact that the nautical charts are digitized it is now a machine-machine interface which makes it difficult to describe the user needs. Where traditionally decisions could be made on a case by case basis there is now a rule based approach to chart production and the mariner is not always fully recognised in this process.

It is essential that makers of ECDIS software are given the best tools and data (within standards) from national Hydrographic Offices to be able to portray Aids to Navigation such as sector lights in the best possible way. The use of visual Aids to Navigation by mariners is believed to be vital and the primary source for safe inshore navigation and it is important that the intended use of the Aids to Navigation is kept.

A recent case highlighted by the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) and other experience (e.g. leading lines in the USA, Traffic Separation Scheme direction arrows in the UK) has suggested that there is a growing need for the portrayal of S-57 and S-100 ENC to be considered by IALA so that assistance may be given to IHO on this matter.

Following intervention by the NCA it is hoped that S-57 Ed.3 will be updated to edition 4. The preparation of this edition would provide opportunity for IALA involvement to improve portrayal.

# ACTION REQUESTED

The Secretary General is invited to approach IHO in a suitable manner to offer IALA assistance.