

IALA COUNCIL
65th session



12-15 December 2017
IALA Headquarters

11 – IALA TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

11.3 – VTS

11.3.2 – Pro-active intersessional work prior to Working Plan 2018-2022

Note by the VTS Committee

1 INTRODUCTION

This document reflects the concern and considerations of the VTS Committee in respect to the foreseen period of inactivity of one year (between VTS44 and VTS45) on two highly important issues: the revision of Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services, and the development of VTS related Maritime Service Portfolios (MSPs) under the e-navigation concept. This document contains a proposal for pro-active intersessional work prior to Working Plan 2018-2022 to deal with the consequences of the year of inactivity.

2 CONSIDERATIONS

- During its 64th session the Council in principle agreed with submitting a request to the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) for insertion of new output in the IMO High level Action Plan (HLAP) for the biennium 2018-2019 concerning the revision of IMO Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services;
- It was also agreed that Council members could provide substantial comments and suggestions on the draft submission to the Secretariat in order to finalize the document. A small drafting group under the Secretariat finalized the submission during VTS44 (25-29 September 2017). In accordance with the Council decision the document now will be distributed among IALA's national members with a request to seek support from their national administration represented in the IMO/MSC as a co-sponsor for the submission.
- The document will be submitted to the 99th session of IMO/MSC (May 2018) with a deadline for input documents in February 2018. This submission should be done at least by one or more IMO Member states and can be sponsored by organizations such as IALA, IHMA, IMPA, CIRM and others. The final decision for incorporation of the new output into the HLAP will be made by the General Assembly of the IMO.
- Taking into account the foreseen time schedule of IMO Committee and sub-Committee meetings the work should be completed in 1 or 2 sessions of the IMO Sub-committee Navigation, Communications, Search-and-Rescue (NCSR) in that period.
- Experience within the VTS Committee learned that the revision of the mentioned Resolution is a complex and time consuming activity.
- Another subject, also with a close relation to the revision of the Resolution A.857(20), is the development and implementation of the future VTS related Maritime Service Portfolios (specifically MSP-1, MSP-2 and MSP-3) under the e-navigation concept. The work by the



Committee - in close cooperation with the ENAV Committee - is complex but progressing and needs to be continued without interruption.

3 DISCUSSION

- Due to the fact that IALA organizes its Conference and General Assembly (where the Working Programme 2018-2022 will be approved) there only will be one VTS Committee meeting in 2018 and two meetings in 2019.
- Between the last VTS Committee meeting in the Work Programme 2014-2018 (VTS44) and the first meeting in the Work Programme 2018-2022 (VTS45) is normally a period of inactivity.
- The Committee discussed the consequences of an interruption of one year on the work concerning the revision of Resolution A.857(20) and the development of the VTS related MSPs and concluded:
 - that the interruption is undesirable and probably will lead to not achieving indicated deadlines (e.g. completion of the Resolution within the biennium 2018-2019);
 - intersessional work (between VTS44 and VTS45) on both mentioned items pro-actively to the Work Programme 2018-2022 is recommended and needed.

4 ACTION REQUESTED

The VTS Committee requests the Council to note the information and considerations provided