

SUB-COMMITTEE ON NAVIGATION,  
COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH  
AND RESCUE  
5th session  
Agenda item 12

NCSR 5/INF.X  
.. December 2018  
ENGLISH ONLY

## **Revised Maritime Radio Communication Plan**

**Submitted by the International Association of  
Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)**

### **SUMMARY**

<i>Executive Summary:</i>	This submission provides information on the latest review of the Maritime Radio Communications Plan (MRCP) by IALA. The current status of radio communication in the maritime mobile bands was discussed and forms the basis of projections for future developments needed to support e-navigation, GMDSS and the development of Maritime Autonomous Systems (Surface).
<i>Strategic Direction:</i>	1.1
<i>High-Level Action:</i>	1.1.2
<i>Planned Output:</i>	No related provisions
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 7
<i>Related documents:</i>	NAV 59/6; NCSR 1/9; NCSR 1/28, NCSR 3/17, NCSR 3/29, NCSR 4/12; NCSR 4/16; NCSR 4/16/1; MSC 95/19/8; MSC 96/23/7; MSC 97/7/1; MSC.1/Circ.1460/Rev.2

### **Background**

1. The Maritime Radio Communications Plan (MRCP) has been developed and was kept under review by IALA since 2009 to assist in the selection of radio communication systems required to support the development and implementation of e-navigation and the modernisation of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).
2. The last review of the MRCP (Edition 3) was finalised in September 2017 and approved by the IALA Council in December 2017.

### **Objective and development of the MRCP**

3. The core objective of the Maritime Radio Communications Plan (MRCP) is to state:
  1. IALA's vision for the efficient use of Radio Spectrum in the Maritime Mobile Service.
  2. IALA's view on current, developing and future radio communication systems for the maritime sector, including the VHF Data Exchange System (VDSE), the Maritime Connectivity Platform (MCP, formerly called 'Maritime Cloud'), the potential shared

use of systems and frequency spectrum with a modernised GMDSS, as well as the communication potential for Maritime Autonomous Systems (Surface) from a shore based perspective.

### **Scope of the MRCP**

#### **4. The revised MRCP:**

1. Reflects the outcome of developments in maritime radio communication spectrum.
2. Focuses on the need for an agreed infrastructure for communications between ships and ashore as e-navigation requires appropriately designed radio communication systems for robust and reliable services.

### **MRCP beneficial to various parties**

#### **5. The MRCP, as a supporting instrument and reference work for IALA members, shore based authorities and service providers in IMO Member States and for other interested parties and organisations:**

1. Is aimed at assisting in the formulation of policy for national and international spectrum allocation and usage.
2. Provides guidance regarding potential future developments to identify areas requiring resource allocation and research activity.
3. Provides assistance for IALA members and other administrations in offering their proposed use of radio spectrum as part of the on-going studies at ITU.
4. Contributes to the work in the modernisation of GMDSS.
5. Contributes to the work of Working Party 5B of the ITU in preparation of the World Radio Conference in 2019 (WRC-19).

### **Publication**

6. The revised MRCP (Edition 3, 2017) is now available in PDF-format on IALA's website ([www.iala-aism.org](http://www.iala-aism.org)) under Publications.

### **Action requested of the Sub-Committee**

7. The Sub-Committee is requested to note the information provided.
-