

IALA COUNCIL
65th session



12-15 December 2017
IALA

8 – STRATEGY AND POLICY

8.5 – World Marine Aids to Navigation Day

Note by the Secretariat

1. INTRODUCTION

The ‘information age’ has brought new opportunities to encourage greater public awareness of efforts in many fields of human activity that contribute to the good order, safety and security of civil society. One way to reach a wider audience is the promotion of worldwide observance of specially designated days in the international calendar to focus attention on achievements as well as on areas where action can bring further improvements to the benefit of society.

2. PROPOSAL

Inspired by this idea, the IALA President has requested the Secretariat to draft a proposal for consideration by the Council to establish an annual day for the worldwide celebration of Marine Aids to Navigation in view of their contribution to safety of navigation and the protection of mariners and the environment. Subject to the Council’s endorsement, it is proposed to invite the next General Assembly (Incheon 2018) to adopt a resolution formally establishing the “World Day of Marine Aids to Navigation” (“World Marine AtoN Day”).

3. BACKGROUND

The declaration of international days of observance is already a well-established practice. Many have been formally recognized in resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, such as the World Meteorological Day (celebrated on 23rd March) and the World Hydrography Day (celebrated on 21st June, the anniversary of the founding of the International Hydrographic Organization). Others have been established by specialised agencies. For instance, the World Telecommunication Day is celebrated annually on 17 May, the anniversary of the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865. The World Maritime Day is the initiative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), as is the annual Day of the Seafarer.

All international days of observance share the same, broad aims:

- to make the chosen subject visible around the world;
- to reaffirm commitments for the benefit of society;
- to highlight achievements; and
- to indicate where action is desirable or needed.

In this way they also spread goodwill and encourage international cooperation.

IALA’s 60th anniversary provides a welcome opportunity to consider new ways of publicising its technical work more widely. IALA has a good story to tell. Its relevance and importance to the safe conduct of shipping in coastal waters and waterways should resonate with an ever-more discerning public that entertains high expectations about accident prevention and proper control of environmental risks.



Furthermore, there is scope to encourage public interest and engagement by highlighting the growing impact of technological advances on the delivery of maritime safety services by new-generation, digital AtoN, alongside the more traditional AtoN and historical lighthouses.

The World Marine AtoN Day would thus provide a welcome opportunity for all IALA members – National, Associate and Industrial – to showcase their respective expertise and how they collaborate to stimulate technological innovation in support of the harmonized provision and standardization of AtoN around the world.

4. SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

In order to make the World Marine AtoN Day a reality, with the support of the entire IALA membership, a number of items need to be considered.

Proposed title:

“World Day of Marine Aids to Navigation” (“World Marine AtoN Day”).

Proposed date:

1st July, bearing in mind that this is the date of the creation of IALA.

Proposed inaugural year:

2018, subject to the decision of the next General Assembly (Incheon 2018).

Proposed inaugural theme:

(Still to be developed)

Principal objective:

To promote greater awareness of IALA by bringing to the attention of the wider public the role of IALA and the significance of its technical work in enhancing the safety of navigation worldwide.

Associated objective:

To improve society’s perception of AtoN as modern, technologically advanced aids that, alongside traditional lighthouses, embrace the latest digital developments and support new developments in resilient Positioning Timing and Navigation (PNT), new-generation radionavigation systems, satellite communication systems, multi-functional Vessel Traffic Services (VTS), advanced sea traffic management, and so on.

Actions:

- Agreement on a different theme for each year to be chosen from proposals submitted by any member to the Secretariat for subsequent decision by the Council.
- Dissemination of the chosen theme through a new, dedicated section on the IALA website.
- Agreement on a procedure to nominate and designate a host country (or countries) for each year, which should mark the actual day with a special event / specific actions to showcase the chosen theme.
- Organization, throughout the year, of celebrations and other activities at national level, in any countries where IALA has members (e.g. conferences, exhibitions, seminars, workshops, lectures, dinners, awards, general promotional materials for distribution at public events, ‘open door’ days at lighthouses or other AtoN facilities or VTS centres, school visits, etc.).
- Dissemination of such activities through the new, dedicated section on the IALA website.
- Collaboration with the media to promote wider understanding of IALA as a fit-for-purpose technical organization committed to meeting the needs of the 21st century mariner for modern AtoN that make use of the best available technologies, based on common standards.

5. THE COUNCIL IS INVITED TO

Consider the proposal and decide as appropriate.