

**IALA COUNCIL**  
**71<sup>st</sup> session****3 - 4 June 2020**  
**Video Conference****11 – TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES****11.4 - VTS****11.4.1 – VTS Manual****Note by the Secretariat****INTRODUCTION**

The 2018-22 Work Programme tasked the VTS Committee to update and publish the VTS Manual and develop related procedures for its future management. This work is now complete and submitted to Council for approval.

**DISCUSSION**

The purpose of the VTS Manual (hereinafter the Manual) is to provide a concise guide that provides an introduction and overview to Vessel Traffic Services to facilitate the establishment, planning, implementation and operation of VTS in a globally consistent manner.

It was agreed by the VTS Committee that the Manual should be prepared in a manner that:

- Is clear, concise, consistent, and accurate.
- Can be readily updated to reflect new or amended IALA Recommendations and Guidelines related to VTS.
- Assists those who are in any way involved with the policy for provision, operation and effectiveness of VTS, including those with management responsibility at national level and those who deliver services to the mariner.
- Provides a high-level reference for further detailed study.
- Supports publishing in both hard copy and electronic format.

The Manual is not a replacement or substitute for IALA Recommendations and Guidelines, but to serve as a helpful reference document to assist understanding and conformance with IALA Standards related to VTS.

To that end a Coordination Group was founded to complete the drafting of the document and draft versions have been made available to all Committee participants on the IALA File Share system since the work began. Owing to the cancellation of VTS48 this Group, consisting of the Editor, Chair, Vice-Chair and Working Group Chairs, completed the work inter-sessionally before passing the Manual to the IALA Secretariat for finalization. The Manual can be found as input paper C71-11.4.1.1.

**THE COUNCIL IS INVITED TO**

**Approve** the draft VTS Manual for publication.