

IALA COUNCIL 76th session



12-16 December 2022
Rio de Janeiro
Brazil

14 – CONFERENCE, SYMPOSIA AND OTHER EVENTS

14.6 – Heritage lighthouse of the year

14.6.1 – Commendation for the IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year 2023

Note by the ENG

1 INTRODUCTION

Following the decision of the Council 75 session on the change of the Heritage Lighthouse of the Year selection procedure, ENG Working Group 4 was delighted to note that with 13 new nominations submitted there were now 46 IALA Heritage Lighthouse on the website, originating from 20 national members, spread across 6 continents. An additional nomination was received after the 30th September 2022 deadline and this would be considered for the 2023 accolade.

2 DISCUSSION

All participants of ENG WG4 were invited to complete a ranking sheet in respect to nominees. 10 Ranking sheets were received. These sheets were then collated to determine the three IALA Heritage Lighthouses that WG4 would commend. A further discussion was held to reach a consensus as to which of the three it would commend as IALA LHY 2023.

It was agreed by all participants that any one of the nominees considered warrants being an IALA HLY and it was acknowledged that comparing and contrasting lighthouses was almost an impossible task. WG4 was grateful to all who had taken part.

The Three Lighthouses Commended for consideration for the council for the IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year 2023:

- Cap Spartel Lighthouse, Morocco
- Lizard Lighthouse, England
- Kõpu Lighthouse, Estonia

After some discussion, ENG agreed to commend Cap Spartel Lighthouse, Morocco to IALA Council as IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year 2023.

3 THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

Consider the commendation and **determine** the IALA Heritage Lighthouse of the Year 2023.



ANNEX information of the commended lighthouses

1. Cap Spartel Lighthouse, Morocco



All lighthouses have an international dimension, but at Cap Spartel – Morocco’s oldest lighthouse, that dimension is intrinsic to its identity. Its very origins can be traced back to an international incident – the tragic sinking of the Brazilian ship *Dona Isabel* in 1860 with the loss of 250 lives. Built in an Hispanic-Moorish architectural style in the form of a square minaret, this stunning lighthouse was operational by 1864.

Standing as it does in the north-western point of Morocco and Africa, where the Mediterranean Sea meets the Atlantic Ocean (and with Europe just across the narrow Strait-of-Gibraltar), the new lighthouse would guard some of the busiest and most important shipping lanes in the world. Testimony to that international importance and prestige can be found in the 1865 convention between Morocco and 10 other nations for the operating and maintenance costs of the lighthouse. Cap Spartel’s modern history retains an international flavour, having an innovative lighthouse twinning agreement with Mamelles lighthouse in Senegal.

Featuring on stamps and banknotes Cap Spartel lighthouse remains an emblematic icon of the city of Tangier, a source of national pride and a symbol recognized by all Moroccans. An excellent website makes it clear that public accessibility and education have a strong focus here – for all the family. The lighthouse building houses the Museum of Moroccan lighthouses, offering an educational experience on the maritime history of Morocco and promoting the role of navigation aids and their technical evolution over time.

Cap Spartel is an exemplary example of what it means to be an IALA Heritage Lighthouse.



2. Lizard Lighthouse, England



Lizard Lighthouse's antiquity takes us back before the days of rotating optics when a distinctive character of a light could only be created either through the periodicity of the light – or by having more than one light. For this reason, Lizard Lighthouse acquired two towers in 1751. The two towers with their coal braziers necessitated more lighthouse keepers, and 7 cottages were built to accommodate them, making the site a hive of activity.

Once a rotating optic was introduced to the Eastern tower in 1903 (for a time making it the most powerful lighthouse in the world), the Western tower became redundant. In time, the fog signal and engine rooms also became redundant and on automation, the 7 cottages were no longer essential. With such a large but under-utilised compound, a comprehensive plan for the re-purposing of these parts of the site was put together. The engine room (still with much of its historic plant) was made into a heritage centre from which the public could tour the operational tower. The cottages were converted to holiday cottages. The expansive lawns were featured with buoys. Public toilets were created and the wider site is again the hive of activity that it used to be. This beautiful, ancient and fascinating lighthouse has become an essential stop for visitors at mainland Britain's most southerly point. In this site can be seen the story of lighthouse development over hundreds of years whilst in its exhibits the story is told of the continued importance of AtoN.



3. Kõpu Lighthouse, Estonia



The Kõpu lighthouse is considered to be the third oldest operating lighthouse in the world (dating back to 1531) and is in itself good reason to be recognised as an IALA Heritage Lighthouse. Its unusual and striking appearance is certainly another – with a tetrahedral prism shape and with massive buttresses in the directions of principal divisions of the compass. Its sheer size enabled it to be seen, even unlit (as it was for its first 100 or so years) from considerable distance.

The tower itself is complemented by four ancillary buildings (generator building, cellar, sauna(!) and lighthouse keeper's living quarters) – all of which are listed as National Cultural Heritage. Extensive conservation work has been undertaken to conserve this unique lighthouse for future generations.

Few (if any) other lighthouses have gone from being a medieval landmark up to a modern electrified lighthouse, and all the stages in-between as it has adapted through the ages to take advantage of changing technology and requirements. Such a lineage inevitably connects Kõpu lighthouse with significant developments in European history, adding to its international importance.

The light is produced with the only rotating lantern in Estonian lighthouses and its rotating beam is a characteristic feature that is of particular significance to local communities. Kõpu lighthouse is the first and the most visited of the twelve lighthouses opened for public in Estonia and it was voted as Estonia's favourite lighthouse in polls conducted by the EMA in 2018. Tourism is one of the major sources of income for the local communities and Kõpu lighthouse is probably one of the main reasons for sightseers to visit Hiiumaa island – facts that further highlight the value of lighthouse heritage.