

IALA COUNCIL 79th session



11-14 December 2023
IALA Headquarters

10 – Technical Activities

10.8 - Workshops and seminars

10.8.1 IALA MASS workshop

1 BACKGROUND

At its 72nd session, the Council discussed the development of MASS and reaffirmed its position that there is a need to increase focus on developing MASS related IALA guidance, and the Council decided to establish a MASS Task Force to assist IALA.

Following the 72nd session the MASS Task Force were formed to consider:

- analysing the possible impact of MASS on Marine Aids to Navigation;
- identifying the future requirements on Marine Aids to Navigation service; and
- identify possible MASS related work items for the IALA committees.

IALA has proactively sought to establish the short to medium term outlook for MASS. This will benefit our members and better equip them to prepare for a future that involves an increasing number of autonomous ships. In order to ascertain the probable future of MASS, IALA has gathered information from our members and stakeholders including a workshop on MASS held in October 2023.

As a result of this consultation and research the attached document, *The Future of Marine Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS)*, has been produced to shed light on the drivers compelling shipowners and other stakeholders to invest in MASS and identify key future scenarios of MASS.

2 DISCUSSION

The attached draft *The Future of Marine Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS)* considers the future outlook for the gradual adoption of MASS over the next twenty years and potential drivers and challenges for the technology. It will assist members as a key planning tool, guiding IALA in crucial considerations, specifically aimed at:

- Analysing the potential impact of MASS on Marine Aids to Navigation.
- Identifying future requirements for Marine Aids to Navigation services.
- Pinpointing potential work items related to MASS for the IALA committees.

The draft *Future of Marine Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS)* aims not only to enhance the preparedness of our members but also to contribute significantly to the conversation surrounding the integration of automated and autonomous technologies in the maritime domain.

3 THE COUNCIL IS INVITED TO

Note and provide comments on the attached *The Future of Marine Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS)*.