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| From: ARM8 | ENG9-2.1.1 |
| To: ENG9 | 26 October 2018 |

LIAISON NOTE

The effect of radar on racons in busy harbours

# Introduction

ARM8 considered the input paper ARM8-9.13 from ENG8 and ARM8-9.3 from CIRM on the topic of the effect of radar on racons in busy harbours.

# Details of paper

The CIRM paper provides a response to an earlier liaison note from the ENAV Committee regarding a perceived issue of poor performance of racons in busy harbours, as a result of multiple radars using similar output frequencies.

CIRM propose a number of potential solutions, including:

*Could the benefit to navigational safety associated with racons – particularly in the highly congested areas where we see problems today – be provided more economically, and with less regulatory burden, through other means (e.g. shipborne AIS and AtoN services?);*

The ENG Committee invited the ARM Committee to consider the CIRM proposal and provide guidance on the continued need for racons in busy harbour areas for inclusion in an ENG response.

# Response

The use of AIS and other AtoN services may supplement the use of racons but cannot act as direct replacements, partly as different vessels have different AIS display modes on bridge equipment. One of the key advantages of type-approved radars in the 3cm band is the commonality of display of racon signals.

The use of radar (where fitted) is specifically required within the International Rules for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea and, in combination with racons, forms a critical component of robust navigation in coastal and harbour areas, particularly in poor visibility. Reports regarding concern with overload of the AIS VDL, increases reservations regarding the expanding use of AIS AtoN in busy harbours.

Decisions regarding the deployment of racons should include consideration of the type and density of traffic and, as with any AtoN, would be on the basis of an appropriate risk assessment.

We would encourage continued liaison between radar and racon manufacturers to maintain the full value of radar usage.

# Action requested

ENG9 is requested to review and incorporate response from ARM8 as appropriate and forward a response to CIRM.