

ANM16            Input paper  
Agenda item    13.4  
Task Number  
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**To all IALA Committees**

**Note from e-NAV Vice Chair about Data Structures**

**Background**

S-100 is an IHO standard providing a framework for geo-spatial information. Its primary purpose is for hydrographic information, in particular the Electronic Navigation Charts (ENCs) used in ECDIS. However, it has wider application and IHO has offered to facilitate its use by other organisations for related applications. IALA would clearly be such an organisation, many of its applications having overlap with those of IHO (notably AtoN).

S-100 provides a platform for the implementation of data domains. IHO has established an Executive Board, comprising representatives of submitting organisations, to act as the control body for S-100 and to oversee the acceptance of new domains. The Registry Manager would assess submissions to avoid duplication - if an object already exists, then the same definition can be used, with attributes added if required. A Submitting Authority (such as IALA) can search for features that may already exist (such as AtoN). IALA has a seat on TSMAD, the IHO Committee which oversees S-100 development.

This paper is accompanied by ANM16/13/3A.

**Discussion**

At an informal meeting between IALA and IHO it was agreed that the shared objective was a Common Maritime Data Structure (the first of the high-level generic user needs for e-Navigation identified at IMO NAV 54 was a Common Maritime Information/Data Structure).

It is suggested that there is a need for a coordinated IALA approach, since the subject could be of interest to all Committees. This approach might be led by the Policy Advisory Panel under the work item 'e-Navigation across committees'.

There would be a need to align IALA definitions with S-100 definitions, particularly with regard to AIS. AIS might form a domain within S-100, as could AtoN and VTS.

A diagram has been provided by e-NAV WG5 chair to facilitate discussion of the data structure concept and this is attached to this input paper.

**Suggested Actions**

The Committees should consider establishing a channel for co-ordinated responses from IALA to IHO and IMO on the subject of data structures.

The relevant Committees (e-NAV, VTS and ANM) should investigate the implementation of AIS, IVEF (inter VTS exchange format) and AtoN information through the S-100 registry and provide feedback to IHO on the results.