

To: IALA e-NAV Committee
IALA ANM committee

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[Please refer to the above](#)

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Proposal regarding type of AtoN code for AIS AtoN on Emergency Wreck Mark

Ref.: IALA Recommendations A-126, O-133, ITU-R M.1371-4

Background

One of the most significant recent developments in the IALA Maritime Boyage System is the introduction of the Emergency Wreck Mark, endorsed by the IMO in SN Circ. 259.

Denmark has on several occations experienced situations, where marking of new wrecks needed prompt action, and considered amongst other measures the application of a virtual AIS AtoN to mark the position of a new wreck very quickly, hours before a bouy tender would be able to reach the scene. Upon physically deploying an Emergency Wreck Mark (or lateral marks), an AIS AtoN could still be considered a suitable measure for enhancing the presence of this new danger.

Unfortunately, the list of codes available to an AIS AtoN, for identifying the type of AtoN in question, does not contain a code for this recent development of an Emergency Wreck Mark.

Proposal

The list of codes for type of AtoN in Recommendation A-126 and ITU 1371 definition of message 21, contains one code (AtoN type 4) which is reserved for future use.

Our proposal is to assign this code to the Emergency Wreck Mark through amending recommendation A-126, clarifications to ITU 1371-4, and to provide liason with IMO, IEC or other bodies as appropriate, to raise awareness of this amendment.

Denmark has already provided input on this matter to IMO NAV (NAV56/11/3), as part of the discussion at NAV on display symbology for AIS AtoN.

Legacy issues

Obviously, existing class A mobile AIS stations with MKD's and any other type of display system capable of displaying AIS AtoN data onboard or ashore, will not immediately be able to identify an AIS AtoN signal with type of AtoN code 4 as being an Emergency Wreck Mark.

As the issue of display of AIS AtoN information is currently under consideration at IMO NAV, some resolution on these display matters is expected in the coming years, the timing of implementing this addition of the Emergency Wreck Mark AtoN type would thus be good.

Best regards

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