

LIAISON NOTE TO COUNCIL

Revision of IMO Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services

1 INTRODUCTION

The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its 99th meeting, agreed to a submission to revision of Resolution A.857(20) on Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services (MSC 99/20/3), to ensure that they were modernised/updated and continued to serve as an effective instrument, providing a clear framework to implement vessel traffic services globally in a harmonized manner.

Sponsors of the submission included:

Government

- Australia
- China
- India
- Norway
- Republic of Korea
- Singapore
- South Africa
- Turkey

Non-Government

- IALA
- IHMA
- International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations
- International Association of Institutes of Navigation
- The Nautical Institute

The submission document highlighted eight key areas of the resolution that require clarification or update. These include:

- Role of Competent Authority / VTS Authority
- Changing traditional boundaries
- VTS and Future Developments
- Types of Service (INS, TOS and NAS)
- Result-oriented instructions
- VTS Qualifications, Training and Certification
- Recognition of IALA Standards relating to VTS
- Administrative amendments

MSC assigned the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) as the coordinating organ for the revision during the 2019-2020 biennium.

2 DISCUSSION

Anticipating that NCSR may welcome the assistance of IALA in coordinating the work associated with the revision of the resolution during the 2019-2020 biennium the VTS Committee has:

- Prepared a work programme to facilitate completing a draft revision for consideration at NCSR 7.
- Commenced preparations for a workshop on the Revision of Resolution A.857(20) in 2019 to:

- Facilitate discussion and active engagement amongst stakeholders in preparing a draft revision of the Resolution for submission to the IMO.
- Provide the opportunity to broaden the participation and engagement in preparing a draft revision, particularly with IMO members who may not have been involved in the preparation of the submission by IALA (MSC99/20/3).
- Assist the VTS Committee in finalising the draft revision for submission to NCSR 7.
- Prepared '*guiding principles*' that provide a framework for drafting the revised/new resolution in a manner that will ensure the outcomes identified in the IMO submission (MSC99/20/3) are achieved.
- Completed a first draft for a revised/new resolution.
- Formed a correspondence group to progress completion of the tasks identified in the work programme intersessionally, via teleconference.

3 ACTION REQUESTED

The Council is requested to note the work being undertaken by the VTS Committee in preparation for the revision of the resolution by NCSR during the 2019-2020 biennium.