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COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND
RESCUE
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Information on the review of IMO Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services

Submitted by IALA

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides information on the activities undertaken by the IALA Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) Committee with respect to the revision of the IMO Guidelines for vessel traffic services (resolution A.857(20)).

Strategic Direction, if applicable: 2 and 6

Output: Not applicable

Action to be taken: Paragraph 7

Related documents: Resolution A.857(20), MSC 99/20/3.

Background

1. The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 99th session, considered document MSC99/20/3 (Australia et al.) and agreed to include in its post-biennial agenda an output on "Revision of the Guidelines for vessel traffic services (resolution A.857(20))", assigning the task to the NCSR Sub-Committee as the coordinating organ.

2. The proposal for the new output identified eight key areas of the existing resolution that require clarification or update, these included:

- .1 the role of the Competent Authority/VTS Authority;
- .2 changing traditional boundaries;
- .3 VTS and future developments;
- .4 the types of service (Information Service, Traffic Organisation Service and Navigational Assistance Service);
- .5 the use of result-oriented instructions;
- .6 VTS qualifications, training and certification;

- .7 the recognition of IALA Standards relating to VTS; and
- .8 various administrative amendments.

3. Completion of the new output will ensure that the resolution and its associated guidelines are modernized/updated and continue to serve as an effective instrument, providing a clear framework to implement vessel traffic services globally in a harmonized manner.

Discussion

4. It has been anticipated that the NCSR Sub-Committee, in its role as the coordinating organ, may welcome the assistance of IALA in coordinating some of the work associated with the revision of the resolution during the 2019-2020 biennium.

5. In support of this, the IALA VTS Committee has initiated the following tasks:

- .1 the development of a work programme to facilitate completing a draft revision of the resolution for consideration at NCSR 7.
- .2 the formulation of 'guiding principles' and a 'draft skeleton' to assist IALA VTS Committee members in drafting a revised resolution to meet the key areas that require clarification or update as highlighted in the work programme proposal (MSC99/20/3 (Australia et al.)).
- .3 commenced preparations for an IALA organized workshop on the revision of resolution A.857(20) Guidelines for vessel traffic services to be held in 2019 to:
 - .1 facilitate discussion and active engagement amongst stakeholders in preparing a draft revision of the resolution for submission to the NCSR Sub-Committee;
 - .2 provide the opportunity to broaden participation and engagement in preparing a draft revision, particularly with IMO members who may not have been involved in the preparation of the work programme proposal; and
 - .3 assist IALA in finalising a proposed draft revision for submission to the NCSR Sub-Committee.

6. IALA intends to provide regular updates to the NCSR Sub-Committee on the progress of this work to assist in completion of the revision of the resolution.

Action Requested

7. The Sub-Committee is requested to note:

- .1 the tasks being undertaken by the IALA VTS Committee to assist the NCSR Sub-Committee in the revision of the resolution; and
- .2 that IMO members, particularly those who may not have been involved in the preparation of the work programme proposal, are invited to participate and engage in a workshop to assist in the preparation of a proposed draft revision. Further details of the workshop will be made available on the IALA website at the following link www.iala-aism.org in due course.