LIAISON NOTE TO IMO/NCSR 6

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

# 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 modernized/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 | Non-Government |
| * Australia * China * India * Norway * Republic of Korea * Singapore * South Africa * Turkey | * 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.

# DISCUSSION

It has been anticipated that NCSR may welcome the assistance of IALA in coordinating some of the work associated with the preparation for NCSR’s consideration of the revision during the 2019-2020 biennium. In support of this the IALA VTS Committee has initiated the following tasks:

* Development of a work programme to facilitate completing a draft revision for consideration at NCSR 7.
* Preparations for a workshop on the Revision of Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines For Vessel Traffic Services 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 IALA in finalising a proposed draft revision for submission to NCSR 7.
* Preparations for ‘guiding principles’ and a ‘draft skeleton’ to assist committee members commence drafting the revised/new resolution to meet the outcomes identified in the IMO submission (MSC99/20/3).

IALA intends to provide regular briefs to the IMO on the progress of this work.

# ACTION REQUESTED

The Sub-Committee is requested to note:

1. The tasks being prepared by the IALA VTS Committee to assist in commencing the revision of the Resolution; and
2. That IMO members, and in particularly those who may not have been involved in the preparation of the submission by IALA (MSC99/20/3), are invited to participate and engage in a workshop to assist in the preparation of a proposed draft revision.