Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-1) VTS45-8.1.6

Input paper for the following Committee(s): check as appropriate Purpose of paper:

**□** ARM **□** ENG **□** PAP **□√** Input

**□** ENAV **□√** VTS **□** Information

Agenda item [[2]](#footnote-2) 8

Technical Domain / Task Number 2 1.1.1

Author(s) / Submitter(s) China MSA

Proposal of Questionnaire on the Revision of the IMO Resolution A.857 (20) on Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services

# Summary

In order to obtain the comments and suggestions from both VTS users and VTS personnel on the revision of the IMO Resolution A.857 (20) on Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services, China Maritime Safety Administration carried out a questionnaire survey in February 2018. The survey collected 1229 questionnaires from VTS users, including caption, pilot, agent and relevant stakeholders, and 492 questionnaires from VTS personnel, including VTS operator, supervisor, manager and technical support personnel.

## Purpose of the document

1. Submit the relevant information of this survey to VTS 45, and provide reference for the further draft of new resolution.

## Related documents

1. Proposal for a new output for a revision of resolution A.857 (20) on Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services. February 2018

# Background

The proposal for a new output for a revision of resolution A.857 (20) on Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services was adopted on MSC 99 meeting. The Intersessional Meeting had been scheduled to provide input to VTS45 on task 1.4.2 of the 2014-2018 Work Programme on the revision of IMO Resolution A.857(20) Guideline, including:

1. Establishing a common understanding of the submission and the tasks required;

2. Establishing a draft framework and draft work plan for completing the Revision;

3. A preliminary structure/content for the new resolution A.857 (20).

In order to provide data support for the revision of the Resolution, China Maritime Safety Administration carried out a questionnaire survey based on the 8 key areas which require clarification or update.

# Discussion

## Sample Distribution

Regarding VTS users, the main respondents are captains.

1. Distribution of VTS users respondents

The ships surveyed were vessels berthing at Chinese ports, of which 34% were foreign vessels and 66% were Chinese vessels.

1. Distribution of flag of vessel respondents (left)
2. Distribution of VTS types of VTS personnel respondents (right)

The VTS personnel surveyed are mainly VTS operators (57%). Other personnel include VTS manager, VTS supervisor, technical support personnel, etc. In terms of the types of VTS centre they are engaged in, 52% of respondents work for port VTS, 28% work for coastal VTS and 20% work for inland VTS.

## Main Result

* Some VTS personnel (about 30% of the participants) believe that the definitions of the competent authority, VTS authority, VTS centre, information service, navigation assistance service, and traffic organization service are unclear or ambiguous.
* Survey statistics indicates that more than 30% respondents thought these disunities would cause some confusions and more than 90% respondents believe that it was necessary to establish a unified “VTS users guide”.
* More than 80% participants believe that it is necessary to recognize IALA Standards relating to VTS. And more than 70% hold the view that it is necessary to update the definition in Annex 2 of the Resolution according to documents such as IALA Recommendation V-103.
* More than 71% participants thought that it is necessary to clarify the status of VTS beyond territorial seas in the Guideline?
* When the ship is in close-quarters situation or difficult navigational circumstances or in case of defects or deficiencies, 75% participants prefer to provide remind information instead of instructions or details of execution. However, 75% participants support the idea that results-oriented instructions limit the ability of VTS operators to provide services to ships.
* Among the 492 questionnaires collected from VTS practitioner, 74% of the respondents thought it necessary to expand the range of VTS operators. The revised Resolution should cover the different roles of VTS personal, including VTS manager, VTS supervisor and technical support staff.

## Clarification

Although the questionnaire covers foreign vessels, Chinese ships accounted for a high proportion. In addition, since the ships are berthed at Chinese ports during the survey, there is no guarantee that the survey results will fully comply with the general opinions of global ships. The same is true for VTS personnel.

The revision on IMO Resolution A.857 (20) on Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services should take into account the opinions of VTS users and VTS personnel to ensure that the revision is always able to meet the need of users and conform to VTS work practices.

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is requested to:

1 such surveys can be considered in subsequent global VTS questionnaire to provide data support for revision work.

2 consider the result of the document, as appropriate.

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-2)