

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE  
101st session  
Agenda item 23

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## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Progress on the review of the Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services (resolution A.857(20))

Submitted by the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation  
and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)

#### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* This document provides an update on the activities undertaken by IALA with respect to the revision of the *Guidelines for vessel traffic services* (resolution A.857(20))

*Strategic direction, if applicable:* 6

*Output:* Not applicable

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 8

*Related documents:* Resolution A.857(20); MSC 99/20/3, MSC 99/22 and NCSR 6/INF.9

## Background

1 MSC 99 considered document MSC 99/20/3 (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 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 an update, including:

- .1 the role of the competent authority and the vessel traffic service (VTS) authority;
- .2 changing traditional boundaries;
- .3 VTS and future developments;

- .4 the types of service (information service, traffic organization 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 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.

4 The NCSR Sub-Committee, at its sixth session (16 to 25 January 2019), agreed to include a new agenda item on Revision of the *Guidelines for vessel traffic services* (resolution A.857(20)) in the provisional agenda for NCSR 7, for consideration by MSC 101.

### Discussion

5 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.

6 In support of this, IALA has undertaken the following tasks:

- .1 tasked its VTS Committee to commence consideration, among IALA members, of the revision of the Guidelines;
- .2 provided an update to NCSR 6 on the progress that the IALA VTS Committee had made with respect to the review of the resolution (NCSR 6/INF.9);
- .3 organizing an IALA Seminar on the revision of *Guidelines for vessel traffic services* (resolution A.857(20)), to be held in June 2019 at IALA Headquarters, with the aim to:
  - .1 communicate and engage with stakeholders in reviewing the draft revised Guidelines for submission to the NCSR Sub-Committee;
  - .2 provide the opportunity to broaden engagement in the review of a draft revision, particularly with IMO Member States and international organizations who may not have been involved in the preparation of the submission of a new output proposal; and
  - .3 assist IALA in ensuring that the views of all stakeholders are considered in finalizing a document to be submitted to NCSR 7 containing the text of the proposed draft revision.

7 The copy of the invitation to the seminar is downloadable from [www.iala-aism.org](http://www.iala-aism.org) and some hard copies will be made available during the session of MSC 101. Registration is through the IALA website: <https://www.iala-aism.org/product/seminar-on-the-revision-of-the-imo-resolution-for-vessel-traffic-services/>

**Action requested of the Committee**

8 The Committee is invited to:

- .1 note the tasks being undertaken by IALA and the progress made with the revision of the *Guidelines for vessel traffic services* (resolution A.857(20)); and
  - .2 invite interested Member States and international organizations to participate in the IALA seminar on the revision of *Guidelines for vessel traffic services* (resolution A.857(20)) to be held in June 2019 at IALA Headquarters.
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