

### **IRELAND - National Matters:**

In early 2025, Irish Lights will launch a new 5-year strategy for AtoN services in Ireland. This 2025 – 2030 strategy is strongly focused on safe navigation through the provision and regulation of Aids to Navigation to the international standards set by IALA. The strategy recognizes the importance of AtoN infrastructure to safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible international trade encompassing over 90% of goods brought to and from Ireland.

Irish Lights has adopted the following Goals for our 2025 – 2030 Strategy:



#### **Focus Area 1 – Ensure Safe Navigation for All**

Provide and regulate to international standards a network of marine aids to navigation around the island of Ireland, which is secure, resilient, and technically advanced and which protects lives, the economy, trade and the environment.



#### **Focus Area 2 – Demonstrate Leadership, Collaboration and Alignment**

Act as trusted experts working in co-operation with our GLA and international partners, to align the development of safe navigation services to evolving policy, regulatory and industry needs, using innovative technology and promoting the shared and safe use of the maritime domain.



#### **Focus Area 3 – Commit to Sustainable Operations, Climate Action, Protection of the Environment and Biodiversity**

Make a difference by managing climate risks, reducing our impact on the environment, promoting biodiversity and capturing the opportunities that sustainability can bring.



#### **Focus Area 4 – Serve Coastal Communities, Safeguarding and Sharing Our Maritime Heritage**

Build relationships at a local level, by promoting the use of maritime heritage assets and by growing and harnessing our all-island Great Lighthouses of Ireland tourism partnership to maximise local benefits.



#### **Focus Area 5 – Deliver Excellence and Stay True to Our Values**

Combine the skills and expertise of our employees with new technologies to drive quality, efficiency, reliability and continuous improvement, maintaining excellence and staying true to our values

## **International Conference Update – Ireland October 2025**

I'd like to provide an update on the plans for the upcoming **International Conference on Lighthouse Tourism and Maritime Heritage** which will be held in Dublin Castle, Ireland on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025, in the same week that Ireland is hosting the **IALA Sustainability Workshop in AtoN provision** which will run from the 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025, also in Dublin. The programme for the IALA Sustainability Workshop is currently being planned by an IALA cross committee steering group and the programme will be released in early 2025.

The conference, which is titled ***Beyond the Horizon – Working with Coastal Communities to Create A New Vision for International Lighthouse and Maritime Heritage***, will coincide with the 10 Year Anniversary of the launch in Ireland of the – Great Lighthouses of Ireland - tourism brand. The aim of this conference is to highlight the enormous potential of lighthouse tourism internationally bringing together lighthouse experts, tourism experts, conservation and heritage experts and coastal communities.

It will feature recent international research and case studies of lighthouse tourism sites, and examples of future ambition and international practices, delivered by leading international experts. Tourism leaders, design and interpretive planners will demonstrate how lighthouses can transcend their traditional role as navigational aids and how they can serve as cultural beacons that shed light on our rich maritime history and foster local tourism and community.

We look forward to welcoming as many IALA members as possible to attend, and participate in, the event.

We would like to ask IALA members to formally express their interest in participating as a speaker or exhibitor at the conference by the **28th February 2025** so that we can contact you to discuss the details.

Yvonne Shields O'Connor

Chief Executive - Commissioners of Irish Lights

**Proposed Conference Programme:**

4 sessions over 2 days

1. Vision and Ambition = Designing Lighthouse Experiences to Drive Coastal Community Development and Economic Growth
2. Harnessing the power of interpretation and storytelling
3. International Best Practise – comparators and examples (we hope many IALA countries will present)
4. Protecting the Built and Natural Heritage at Lighthouse Destinations

**For Information** - In Parallel the proposed IALA Workshop on Sustainability in Aids to Navigation Provision Workshop Programme will run from the 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October. The programme will include a series of presentations on all aspects of Sustainability within the remit of the IALA cross committee and will include keynote speakers on Climate Change prediction and on the UN Sustainability Goals.

The following matters will be discussed during the workshop:

1. Overview of the international regulatory frameworks for sustainable practices, including the UN Sustainability Development Goals
2. Through-life environmental impact of AtoN components
3. Sustainability considerations in decision-making
4. Economics of sustainable practices
5. Ensuring key skills for future operations
6. Role of IT solutions in marine AtoN provision

**Expression of Interest from IALA Members for Lighthouse Tourism and  
Maritime Heritage Conference Participation in Ireland**

Name of Organisation:	
Country:	
Contact Person:	

We wish to talk to Irish Lights about participating in the conference, which is titled ***Beyond the Horizon – Working with Coastal Communities to Create A New Vision for International Lighthouse and Maritime Heritage*** on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025, in Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland.

***We wish to discuss the following:***

Providing a speaker for the conference: Yes ☐ No ☐

Please provide more details:

---

---

---

---

---

Being an exhibitor at the conference: Yes ☐ No ☐

Being a participant at the conference: Yes ☐ No ☐

For more information please contact: Katie Killeen at [katie.killeen@irishlights.ie](mailto:katie.killeen@irishlights.ie)

Please return Expression of Interest by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025