

From: ENAV  
To: PAP

ENAV17-14.1.6  
29 Oct 2015

## **Liaison Note**

### **ENAV Proposal on Unique Identifiers for Maritime Resources**

#### **1 Introduction**

At ENAV15, the Harmonisation Working Group (WG1) reviewed the input paper (ENAV-15-8.2), submitted on behalf of the IHO Standardisation of Nautical Publications Working Group (SNPWG). The IHO SNPWG has proposed that each AtoN be assigned an internationally recognisable 'Persistent Unique Identifier' (PUI). In their proposal, SNPWG noted that "An increasing number of offices produce their List of Lights information from a database. The re-order of both the national and/or the international numbers would cause significant problems for the producer."

##### **1.1 Draft guideline**

The ENAV Committee has prepared a draft Guideline on Unique Identifiers for Maritime Resources (ENAV17-14.1.5). The concept of Maritime Resource Names implies the ability to expand the use across many areas of application within IALA and beyond.

##### **1.2 Discussion**

The use of unique identifiers is a necessary development of e-Navigation to maintain harmonization across domains and services. Navigationally unique objects such as aids to navigation, VTS products and services and other maritime services requires identification numbers to avoid duplication and misalignment of AtoN and Marine Safety Information (MSI).

Worldwide harmonised identification of Unique Identifiers for maritime resources can:

- assist in the development and maintenance of enhanced data exchange applications for ship to ship, ship to shore, shore to ship, and shore to shore in the context of e-navigation;
- assist administrations in the efficient delivery of Marine Safety Information (MSI).
- reduce the administrative burden associated with the maintenance associated with international list of lights numbers and other navigation products.

This is not unique to the maritime domain, and this Guideline describes a syntax for Maritime Resource Names, that will enable IALA and its members to issue Unique Identifiers for objects such as AtoN, VTS products and services, Waterways, etc., in a format which is designed to be compatible with existing lists of lights, yet ensures uniqueness and interoperability with usage in different domains such as Electronic Nautical Charts.

#### **2 Action requested**

The PAP is requested to consider how IALA Committees should collaborate on this issue, and approve an inter-committee Task Group to coordinate all IALA committees to further develop Unique Identifier schemas and liaise with external organizations (e.g. IHO) as necessary.