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Agenda item [[2]](#footnote-3) 8.1.3

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Author(s) / Submitter(s) China Maritime Safety Administration

Comments on NCSR Amendments Draft Assembly Resolution on Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services

# Summary

As a co-sponsor, China has been supporting the draft revision of resolution A.857 (20). At IMO NCSR 7 in January 2020, China made a keynote speech at the meeting and introduced the analytical conclusions of the questionnaire survey on the applicability and acceptance of the revised draft, which contributed to the approval of the document.

## Purpose of the document

The purpose of this proposal is to provide information on the questionnaire survey and to make appropriate comments on the NCSR Amendments Draft Assembly Resolution.

## Related documents

VTS48-8.1.1 IMO NCSR7 consideration of the revised A.857(20) Guidelines on VTS

VTS48-8.1.1.1 NCSR Amendments Draft Assembly Resolution on Guidelines For Vessel Traffic Services

# Background

In order to promote the smooth approval of the revised draft IMO Resolution 857 (20) at the NCSR 7, China had organized the branches of China Maritime Safety Administration to conduct a wide range of questionnaire survey after the approval of the draft by Committee at VTS 47. The survey was conducted to collect opinions on the suitability and acceptance of the revised document. The survey received 1,546 respondents from VTS users (including seafarers, pilots, shipping companies, etc.) and 769 from VTS operators (including VTS operators, supervisors, managers, etc.).

# Discussion

## General situation of the survey

The survey was carried out using both paper and online questionnaire. A comparative analysis of the current and revised Resolution was made and the text was provided to facilitate the participants to deeply understand the alteration.



1. Samples distribution of VTS users





1. Samples distribution of VTS personnel

## Main conclusions of the Questionnaire

The survey results verified the applicability of the draft resolution, and also reflected that the draft is in line with the current situation and adapts to future development. It will contribute to the consistency of VTSs globally, thereby promoting ship navigation safety and marine environmental protection. Details as follows:

* Nearly 97% of the respondents believed that the draft resolution covers the main elements for VTS operation,
* more than 98% of the respondents considered that the description of the TERMS AND DEFINITIONS was clear, accurate and fit for purpose, and
* 99% of the respondents considered that the description of the various sections in the draft is clear and complete, providing necessary guidance.

## Examples of collected data

The following is example of statistical data for some questionnaire questions.















*3.3 Examples of collected data*

## Comments on the NCSR Amendments Draft Assembly Resolution

1. China supports the amendment of paragraph 6.1.3 and the addition of paragraph 7.7, which enriches the document.
2. Regarding the amendment and split of the original paragraph 4.4, China generally considers that the new description complies with UNCLOS and SOLAS. It also provides a solution for the global reality of the establishment of VTS beyond the territorial seas of coastal States.
3. However, whether the principle of “voluntary participation” means that VTS can only provide information and advice is worthy of further consideration. Because in some cases, VTS established beyond the territorial seas is a component of IMO adopted ships’ routeing system or mandatory ship reporting system. Under these circumstances, VTS may “require” the ships’ mandatory report, or make instruction to correct a ship’s violation of routeing system based on the Rule 10 (Traffic separation schemes) of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea. In view of this, further legal discussions are suggested to resolve this contradiction.

# Action requested of the Committee

The Committee is invited to consider the comments in this document and take action, as appropriate.

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