

Input paper for the following Committee(s):☐ ARM☐ ENG☒ PAP☐ ENAV☐ VTS**Purpose of paper:**☒ Input☐ Information**Agenda item**

6.11 S1050 Training and Certification

Technical domain/ Task number

N/A

Author(s)/Submitter(s)

World-Wide Academy

OCEAN LITERACY TRAINING

1. BACKGROUND

The International Foundation for Aids to Navigation (IFAN) approached the World-Wide Academy (the Academy) with a project proposal which is aimed at improving the Ocean Literacy of Aids to Navigation Managers worldwide.

The world leading experts on Ocean Literacy is the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

In August 2023, a meeting took place between IFAN, UNESCO IOC and the Academy, where the proposal was received positively and it was agreed that IFAN will look into how the project can be funded, IOC will look into the content of a possible course or series of lectures on the matter, and the Academy will look into how this topic can be integrated into the IALA suite of model courses.

Definition of Ocean Literacy

An ocean-literate person understands the essential principles and fundamental concepts about the functioning of the ocean; can communicate about the ocean in a meaningful way; and is able to make informed and responsible decisions regarding the ocean and its resources.

2. DISCUSSION

The IALA Model Courses for Aids to Navigation Managers encompass a comprehensive array of subjects crucial to AtoN managers. While some topics receive only a surface-level treatment, others are explored extensively.

However, there is an opportunity to enhance the AtoN Manager Model Courses by providing a more in-depth examination of the fundamental principles and essential concepts that underpin the workings of the ocean.

This deeper understanding can significantly enrich the learning experience and knowledge acquisition of AtoN managers.

The provision of Aids to Navigation services encompasses the installation and maintenance of sea structures, necessitating a careful consideration of the environmental ramifications tied to such activities.

In the strategic planning of these services and the formulation of ship routing measures within their jurisdictions, AtoN managers must remain acutely aware of how varying levels of maritime traffic and associated risks can impact not only the ocean itself, but also the seabed and the broader marine ecosystem as a whole.

This initiative also embodies a collaboration between IALA and UNESCO IOC, both of which share a vested interest in the ocean and its sustainable utilization as a valuable resource.

UNESCO is leading the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for scientists and stakeholders from diverse sectors to develop the scientific knowledge and the partnerships needed to accelerate and harness advances in ocean science to achieve a better understanding of the ocean and deliver science-based solutions to achieve the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations.

Hence, this initiative helps advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and aligns seamlessly with the heightened emphasis within the ENG committee on matters of sustainability, not to forget the motto of IALA: *“Successful voyages, sustainable planet”*.

Annex A contains the first early draft of the possible syllabus of a series of lectures on Ocean Literacy.

3. ACTION REQUESTED

The Policy Advisory Panel is requested to:

- 1 Note the information provided.
- 2 Discuss and give advice on the way forward.



Proposal for an ocean literacy syllabus for IALA training courses

This course will provide a general understanding of the concept of Ocean Literacy and the importance of the ocean. It aims to support participants to incorporate Ocean Literacy into their work. It has been launched in the context of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021 – 2030).

1. **Public benefits of the ocean**

This section will describe the values, including climate regulations, climate change mitigation, food production, coastal protection, of the ocean and the benefits for the society as a whole.

2. **Marine biodiversity**

This section will present the elements of marine biodiversity, including highlighting the role for ocean health of key habitats and species, such as coral reef, marine mammals etc.

3. **Ocean threats**

This section will present the main threats to ocean health, including pollution, climate change, overexploitation of living and non-living resources, and also will introduce the concept of multi-stressors.

4. **The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.**

This section will present the aims, and the objectives of the UN Ocean Decade and what are the opportunities for collaboration and partnerships