

Liaison Note to IHO (NIPWG)

Addition of Maritime Resource Names (MRN) into S-101 and S-201

1 Introduction

At HSSC6, SNPWG proposed a renewal of the international light numbering system to be done in close liaison with the responsible IALA Committee. IALA ENAV17 produced the draft Guideline on Unique Identifiers for Maritime Resources, introducing the Maritime Resource Name (MRN) as a method for creation of global Unique Identifiers. The MRN is a URN- scheme that makes national AtoN numbers globally unique by applying the (national) prefix specified by the guideline. In addition to AtoN numbers, the larger scale use of unique identifiers is a necessary development across e-navigation to maintain harmonization across domains and services. Navigationally unique objects such as AtoN, VTS products and services and other maritime resources require identification to avoid duplication and misalignment.

This Liaison Note is provided in response to this proposal. The introductory text above from the IHO input paper is included for ease of reference.

2 Analysis / Discussion

The scheme for using MRN to identify Aids to Navigation is still under discussion in IALA and it is anticipated that it will be finalized at ENAV 21 (September 2017) for approval by IALA Council in December 2017.

IALA prepared a Request for Comment (RFC) and submitted it to the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) as a draft document. On success of this standardization process MRN will be defined by a RFC and can be used as a new datatype based on S100_URN. (<https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-knielsen-mrn-urn-00>)

After this RFC is agreed IALA proposes that MRN will be incorporated into S-201 and other appropriate Product Specifications and IHO will be informed accordingly.

3 Actions requested of IHO NIPWG

IHO NIPWG is invited;

- to note this response
- to discuss further the use of MRN for AtoN within S-101 and S-201, when the guidelines regarding use of MRN have been adopted by IHO and IALA.
- to support the standardization of the MRN at IETF.