



# CURRENT DRIVERS AND TRENDS

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

On 17th of June 2019 the Council conducted a strategic workshop as part of the 69th session of the IALA Council held in Rotterdam. The purpose of the workshop was to create a joint picture of possible future maritime trends and global developments which are most likely to have an impact on IALA and how these may affect the association's priorities, organization and activities which are aimed at supporting its objectives and strategic goals:

"The aim of IALA is to foster the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels, through improvement and harmonization of aids to navigate worldwide and other appropriate means, for the benefit of the maritime community and the protection of the environment".

Goal 1 Marine Aids to Navigation are developed and harmonized through international cooperation and the provision of standards.

Goal 2 All coastal states have contributed to a sustainable and efficient global network of Marine Aids to Navigation through capacity building and the sharing of expertise.

The current drivers and trends are described below and will serve as guidance as to how IALA can reach its strategic goals with a long-term horizon and perspective.

## 2. GLOBAL MARITIME RELATED TRENDS

The identified trends and developments are:

1. Increased Digitalization, including big data and future communication;
  2. Development of autonomous, automated and unmanned vessels;
  3. Need for increased connectivity and interoperability;
  4. Cyber-crime vulnerability and cyber security;
  5. Changes in trade patterns due to global economic developments;
  6. Large cruise ships going to remote locations like the Arctic;
  7. Competing use of the oceans (Marine Spatial Planning); and
  8. Demand for efficiency in the transport chain.
- [9. High demand for sustainable and environmentally friendly operations and development.](#)

These trends and developments should be monitored closely and when required, appropriate action should be taken.

This could include an adjustment of the priorities and/or structure of the organization. The trends and developments are listed below together with certain aspects and implications as discussed. Some of them may be interrelated: e.g. digitalization, connectivity and cyber-crime etc.

1. *Increased digitalization, including big data and future communication*
  - Implications onboard vs. onshore
  - How to provide data and how much data
  - Shift from physical to informatic systems
  - Block Chain technology
  - System interoperability
  - Connectivity is key
2. *Development of autonomous, automated and unmanned vessels*
  - The further development of autonomous vessels could lead to increased safety and efficiency
  - Today some vessels are to some extent semi-automated or semi-autonomous
  - The development is expected to continue with unmanned vessels as the ultimate stage

- The trend will have an implication on the infrastructure and lead to fewer human errors
- It will also require reliable and resilient Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT) and connectivity in terms of integrated and corresponding systems and machine-readable signals in cases where no crew are present

3. *Need for increased connectivity and interoperability*

- To further connect the maritime activities on sea and on land, an increased connectivity is a prerequisite
- This will in many cases require new infrastructure and increased bandwidth
- It will also require a higher regulation with international and to some extent centralized policies
- It will also call for new skills and training for crew onboard and staff ashore
- Alternative use of AtoN infrastructure
- Maritime Services in the context of e-Navigation

4. *Cyber-crime vulnerability /cyber security*

- The more digitalized and autonomous the marine industry, the more vulnerable to cyber-attacks
- Cyber Security is expected to become a high priority area for maritime authorities, ship owners and shipping companies
- It is important to analyze the threats to AtoN and VTS authorities, and the IALA membership and suggest appropriate measures

5. *Changes in trade patterns due to global economic developments*

- Africa is considered a higher growth area than Europe, US and China
- Trade flow/routes/patterns change due to global economic developments
- A higher political influence and regulation on shipping is expected
- Tariff adjustments affecting cost of doing business

6. *Large cruise ships going to remote locations like the Arctic*

- Mini ships / feeder vessels
- Open Sea Ports / lanes / routing
- Automated port logistics;
- Provision of AtoN service in extreme climate condition
- Remote location e.g. arctic seas require increased safety
- It will also have an impact on remote local communities

7. *Competing use of the ocean for utilizing the sea space and marine resources (Marine Spatial Planning)*

- Maritime Spatial Planning is the rational organization of sea and coastal areas to cater for the different – and sometimes competing – needs of various economic activities (such as fisheries, aquaculture, transport, energy and so on) and to make sure they are carried out safely and sustainably
- Risk Assessment should be conducted during the planning and it needs to be negotiated across sectors and across borders
- The trend is expected to continue and IALA is an excellent platform to manage the necessary across sectors and across borders developments regarding AtoN

## 8. Demand for efficiency in the transport chain

- The competition forces shipowners to demand from ship operators that they are as efficient as possible
- This can shift focus away from safety
- Some companies may have realized that they may have a competitive edge by striking the best balance between safety and efficiency

## 9. -High demand for sustainable and environmentally friendly operations and development

- Sustainability is a core area of interest for IALA members
- Marine Aids to Navigation services are expected to be provided in an environmentally responsible manner
- Activities need to be in line with and support the UN Sustainable Development Goals

## 3. IMPACT ON IALA PRIORITIES

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In summary, IALA must ensure that the above-mentioned trends should be closely monitored and considered in the future priorities of the association. Digitalization and data management should be prioritized. Dealing with all aspects of the information revolution, including system interoperability, connectivity and data management/development – both technical (systems, equipment etc.) and operational (VTS etc.) are areas to be prioritized.

## 4. CONSIDERATIONS ON IALA'S FUTURE ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES

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IALA should consider the following actions, as well as ensuring a higher flexibility and agility in the committee structure:

- a. Define, develop and provide support regarding digitalization and managing of data, including but not limited to data infrastructure, harmonization and sharing of data, data protection and vulnerability, data risk tools etc.;
- b. evaluate and evolve the role of VTS in the future including update guidelines and training in VTS - ability to communicate with modern vessels;
- c. consider regularly the structure of IALA committees and their expertise (industry, secretariat). Where relevant, committee structure to become more flexible and responsive;
- d. consider how IALA supports IMO and increase cooperation with IMO and other international maritime organization where relevant;
- e. update guidelines and provide training in smart ATON vs. traditional ATON;
- f. provide guidance on AtoN related cyber security threats and procedures;
- g. focus on smart shore and floating maritime infrastructure to cope with smart ships;
- h. capacity building and training (also through partnership collaboration);
- i. develop a resilient GNSS back-up solution; and
- j. it is a prerequisite that IALA possesses skilled and competent staff and authorities to conduct the above new activities as well as its current tasks and obligations. In addition to maritime and technical expertise, the focus on digitalization requires competencies and specific skills.