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CONSIDERATION OF DESCRIPTIONS OF MARITIME SERVICES IN THE CONTEXT OF E-NAVIGATION

IALA's contribution to the development of the description of the Maritime Services

Submitted by IALA

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document summarises the work of IALA on the development of the descriptions of Maritime Services (MS) in the context of e-navigation.

Strategic direction, if applicable: 2

Output: 2.11

Action to be taken: Paragraph 9

Related documents: Resolution A.1158(32), resolution A.857(20), resolution MSC.467(101), MSC.1/Circ.1595, MSC.1/Circ.1610, NCSR 6/8, HGDM 2/5/1, HGDM 2/10

Introduction

1. SOLAS regulation V/12 for vessel traffic services and regulation V/13 for aids to navigation as well as IALA S-200 product specifications are within the core remit of IALA.
2. IALA submitted the descriptions on MS1, MS2 and MS3 to IMO/IHO Harmonization Group on Data Modelling (HGDM) through document HGDM 2/5/1. The report from HGDM 2 was further submitted to NCSR 6 and the initial descriptions were eventually adopted at MSC, at its 101st session through MSC.1/Circ.1610. MSC also approved further guidance on how to describe MS through resolution MSC.467(101) on Guidance on the definition and harmonization of the format and structure of MS in the context of e-navigation.
3. Resolution MSC.467(101) also invited Member States and international organizations acting as domain coordinating bodies to submit descriptions of MS to the Organization, taking into account the guidance provided in the resolution.

4. Since then, IALA has, as the domain coordinating body for MS1, 2 and 3, continued the work on developing these descriptions to meet the user requirements as they evolve and technology develops.

5. Moreover, MSC.1/Circ.1610 mentions that the information contained in its annex constitutes the first draft of MS descriptions and is an initial contribution for the harmonization of the format and structure of MS and, furthermore, the initial descriptions of MS are expected to be periodically updated, taking into account developments and related work on harmonization.

Background

6. Considering that IMO Assembly, at its 32nd session, adopted resolution A.1158(32) on Guidelines for vessel traffic services, which led to:

1. the description of only one vessel traffic service, as the three types of vessel traffic services, mentioned in the previous resolution A.857(20): information service, navigational assistance service and traffic organization service, were deleted; and
2. a need to revise the annex of MSC.1/Circ.1610 deleting MS1 VTS Information service (INS), MS2 VTS Navigational assistance service (NAS) and MS3 Traffic organization service (TOS) and creating a new description on one Maritime Service for vessel traffic service.

7. IALA is in the process of amalgamating of MS 1, 2 and 3 on VTS and developing into a new MS description on VTS. Due to the short time after the new resolution on vessel traffic services was adopted (15 December 2021), as well as the schedule of the IALA VTS Committee (30 March to 13 April 2022) where this work will take place, the work could not be finalized before the submission deadline for bulky documents to NCSR 9.

8. IALA has also noted that the current descriptions of MS do not include all Marine Aids to Navigation (AtoN) under the remit of IALA such as physical and electronic aids to navigation also including resilient Position, Navigation and Timing which are essential services for the safety of navigation. It is the position of IALA that the descriptions of the MS also should provide information on the provision of AtoN deployed to enhance the safety of navigation.

9. In consequence to the above, it is IALA's intention to submit a proposal to amend MSC.1/Circ.1610 by:

1. deleting MS1, MS2 and MS3;
2. adding one new MS description for VTS; and
3. adding one new MS description for AtoN.

It is expected that this proposal will be submitted to NCSR 10 in 2023.

10. IALA invites other domain coordinating bodies to consider the actions above and contribute to the development of these MS descriptions.

Actions requested

11. The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the actions of IALA in paragraph 9 above, take action as appropriate and provide feedback to IALA.