

NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSE BOARD

NAVIGATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES – 5 March 2010

HELD AT OBAN

PRESENT:	Alistair Whyte	Chairman
	Mike Close	Commissioner
	Alistair Mackenzie	Commissioner
	Roger Lockwood	Chief Executive
	Phil Day	Director of Marine Operations
	Moray Waddell	Director of Engineering
	Peter Douglas	Navigation Manager
	Jill Bennett	Secretary to the Board

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted from Alastair Dunlop.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Navigation Committee meeting held on 1 December 2009 were agreed as a correct record and it was also agreed that the minutes could be published on the website.

Action: Secretary to the Board

3. MATTERS ARISING

It was agreed that all matters arising were dealt with within the main agenda.

4. OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The Committee noted the report from the Director of Marine Operations and discussion took place on the following items:

GNSS Update

The Committee noted the short paper detailing the background and pros and cons of EGNOS.

Loran-C

The Committee noted that the United States of America had now discontinued Loran-C, except 4 stations where they are covered by international agreements. It was also noted that Canada was to follow suit by 1 October 2010.

It was noted, however, that the USA were leaving the infrastructure in place whilst the eLoran debate was on-going in international circles.

Forth and Tay wind energy developments

The Committee noted that talks with developers for two planned sites were ongoing in order to establish either a corridor between or an open water route around the developments.

Forth Replacement Crossing

The Committee noted the involvement of NLB in simulator trials for the lighting of a proposed third bridge across the Forth.

2009 LLA and Offshore Oil Inspection report

The Committee noted the comprehensive 2009 LLA and Offshore Oil Inspection Report and approved its circulation to the DfT and DECC (Department for Environment and Climate Change).

Action: Navigation Manager

2009 Aquaculture Inspection Report

The 2009 Aquaculture Inspection Report was noted and approved.

Port Marine Safety Code

The Committee noted the audits undertaken in the latter part of 2009.

Coast Protection Act and Sanction Requests

The Committee noted the summary of CPA and Sanctions for the establishment/disestablishment of AtoN.

5. 2010 AtoN REVIEW

The Committee reviewed the final version of the AtoN Review and in particular noted and confirmed agreement with the changes and recommendations which had been circulated since the last meeting in December 2009. It was noted that all amendments to the document resulting from the risk assessment process had been highlighted as track changes.

The Committee noted that a tri-GLA, in conjunction with IALA, light re-engineering model was being developed in order to identify conspicuity rather than range of lights. It was noted that whilst the model was under development, it was expected that it would be available during the life time of this AtoN Review. It was agreed that at the point of re-engineering for each light, the information would be revisited and all knowledge available at that time would be utilised in order to determine the re-engineering criteria.

Action: Directors of Engineering/Marine Operations

In particular, the Committee noted and discussed the following:

Point of Ayre (minor light) – confirmed agreement to discontinue.

Crubon Rock buoy – confirmed agreement to accept users' opinion and not discontinue Port Ellen – confirmed agreement to pursue a collective view from Calmac before undertaking a risk assessment on their suggestion to add an additional port hand buoy at Otter Gander and sector light at Tarr Sgeir.

Butt of Lewis – the suggestion to reduce the range to 18M (minimum) had not been supported by the risk assessment and the light will remain at 25M.

Helliar Holm – the Committee agreed that as the light was within harbour limits and primarily used by vessels entering Kirkwall harbour, procedures should continue to handover the light to Orkney Harbours.

North Shoal – a virtual AtoN will be trialed.

Halliman Skerries – a cost benefit analysis is to be undertaken on the establishment of a buoy or light

Bell Rock – reassess as windfarm developments occur.

The Committee noted that no changes had been made to the document since the version presented to the Board of Commissioners on 22 February 2010 and therefore final delegated ratification would not be required from the Managing Board at the meeting to be held on 15 March 2010. The Committee noted that the Review was to be published as a joint GLA document in May 2010.

The Committee also noted that future AtoN Reviews would utilise the vessel tracking information.

6. ENGINEERING

The Committee noted the report provided by the Director of Engineering including the comprehensive briefing paper on NLB's current monitoring systems.

2010 AtoN Review

The Committee noted that an implementation tracking document will be raised for the 2010 review for each meeting as per the 2005 Review. The Committee agreed that the discontinuation of the lights at Clythness and the Point of Ayre Winkie could now be progressed.

Action: Director of Engineering

Red Rocks Beacon

The Committee noted that the ITT for this project is likely to be issued shortly due to the "very important" Navigational priority and impact on buoyage removals.

Crammag Head and Corran Narrows North East

The Committee noted that both projects were complete.

ICAN

The Committee noted that the first Site Acceptance Test for tri-GLA ICAN AIS monitoring software and vessel traffic analysis software was being undertaken at CIL with the roll out planned to then continue to NLB and TH before the end of April 2010.

DGPS

The Committee noted that the tri-GLA project to re-engineer the DGPS system was anticipated to be complete with the new system operational by the end of 2010.

7. NOTICES TO MARINERS

The Notices to Mariners published since the last meeting were noted.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ANNUAL REVIEW OF NAVIGATION COMMITTEE EFFECTIVENESS

The Committee agreed that they were content with current arrangements and it was felt that the Committee was operating satisfactorily. In particular, it was noted that the controlled document format of the AtoN Review had been a significant improvement.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Navigation Committee will take place from 1100 to 1300 hours on Monday 21 June 2010.