

NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSE BOARD

NAVIGATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES – 9 March 2016

PRESENT:	Alastair Beveridge	Chairman
	Mike Brew	Commissioner
	Alistair Mackenzie	Commissioner
	Mike Close	Commissioner
	Mike Bullock	Chief Executive
	Phil Day	Director of Marine Operations
	Moray Waddell	Director of Engineering
	Peter Douglas	Navigation Manager

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Jill Bennett.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Navigation Committee meeting held on 15 December 2015 were agreed as a correct record and could be published on the website.

Action: Secretary to the Board

3. MATTERS ARISING

Isle of May

The Committee noted that discussions were ongoing with SNH on the possibility of a public access agreement to the tower,

Action: Chief Executive

Sound of Harris

The Committee noted that no further communication had been received from the ferry company regarding their proposed survey of the Portain area.

4. OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The Committee noted the report and discussion took place on the following items:

AtoN Review

The Committee noted that the re-engineering of Davaar lighthouse had been completed.

Irvine Harbour Company

The Committee approved the proposed action to progress the reinstatement of the starboard hand perch, subject to a review of potential defences and an assessment of the likely costs if NLB were to commission a replacement perch and recharge this.

Action: Director of Marine Operations

Esha Ness

The Committee noted the risk assessment for reduction of the current 25 mile range to 18 mile during refurbishment, as well as comments made during the 2012 Major Lights Review. The Committee agreed that an 18 mile light was appropriate for current and predicted traffic levels.

Action: Director of Engineering

2015 Aquaculture Report

The Committee commended the draft 2015 Aquaculture Report and approved its external distribution.

Action: Director of Marine Operations

eLoran

It was noted with regret that eLoran navigation services had ceased in Europe with effect from 31 December 2015.

Marine Licence and Sanction Requests

The Committee noted the summary of Marine Licence Activity and Sanctions for the establishment/disestablishment of AtoN since the last meeting.

5. ENGINEERING

The Committee noted the report provided by the Director of Engineering.

Rona

The Committee noted the planned redevelopment of the BUTEC ranges in the Kyle of Lochalsh and that this would affect the power supply to Rona lighthouse. It was noted that a 12 mile light could be provided using solar panels on the existing site footprint, whereas a 19 mile light would require additional buildings. It was agreed that this station should be risk assessed prior to discussion at the next meeting in June.

Action: Director of Marine Operations

Availability

The Committee noted the recent outages had reduced the availability figure from 99.89% to 99.88%.

Monitoring

The Committee noted that a 5 years spares order has been placed. Discussion took place of the possible future of the GLA monitoring equipments.

Approval of Maintenance Projects

The Committee noted an unwelcome increase in approvals for work being sought outwith Committee. There was discussion of potential overlap between the roles of the Navigation Committee and Managing Board. It was noted that medium and long term planning was an area of concern and that these areas had recently been included within a Project Closure audit.

The Committee noted that project approvals should normally be brought to the December meeting, for review of projects commencing in the next financial year, but that a longer project planning horizon would be beneficial.

Action: Director of Engineering

There will be an internal review of project management commencing in June 2016, and the Committee Chairman will examine the report of this review to consider necessary oversight.

Whale Rock

The Committee noted that despite a recent outage, the Type 2 buoy at Whale Rock had provided several years of reliable service. Potential replacement with a Virtual AIS service was not considered preferable in the short to medium term.

6. NOTICES TO MARINERS

The Notices to Mariners published since the last meeting were noted. There was discussion of the statutory situation regarding the issue of Notices to Mariners.

7. TECHNICAL DISCUSSION

The Committee noted the report on using Vessel Traffic Analysis for analysis of variations in traffic densities by geographical areas

The risks of using retrospective AIS data to predict future issues was apparent, as was the requirement for a focussed approach to specific areas of interest. During discussion it was noted that an intelligence-led approach, building on known changes to marine traffic patterns, was most likely to produce useful results., and that dissemination of such intelligence should be part of future meetings. The planned increase in ferry traffic to the Isle of Mull will be demonstrated at the June meeting.

Action: Navigation Manager

9. ANNUAL REVIEW OF NAVIGATION COMMITTEE EFFECTIVENESS

The Committee considered that, in general, the right topics were being discussed at Committee. Discussion regarding overlap of Committee roles was raised in Section 5 (above).

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioners' Inspections of Lights

It was noted that the Inspection Voyages had not travelled South of Peterhead, and noted that an inspection of East Coast lights could be combined with the next Committee meeting, if this were held in Aberdeen.

Action: Chief Executive

Reporting of Availability

It was noted that the AtonRep reporting software would be used for future presentation of availability statistics to Committee.

Action: Director of Marine Operations

Resilient PNT (post eLoran)

The DMO reported on a joint R&RNAV/RIN/KTN Workshop he had attended, investigating means of delivering robust position, navigation and timing after the closure of eLoran. This may involve the use of Ranging Mode transmissions on DGPS and/or AIS frequencies; inertial navigation; signals-of-opportunity; intelligent racons and radar map-matching. Understanding of these areas will assist with developing the work programme for R&RNAV.

The Navigation Manager noted that the IALA eNavigation Committee was also actively investigating these areas. It is proposed to invite a speaker from R&RNAV to the September meeting of the Committee.

Action: Director of Marine Operations

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Navigation Committee will take place on 28 June 2016.