

**NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSE BOARD
NAVIGATION COMMITTEE**

MINUTES – 22 March 2018

PRESENT:	Alastair Beveridge	Chairman
	Mike Brew	Commissioner
	Alistair Mackenzie	Commissioner
	Graham Crerar	Commissioner
	Mike Bullock	Chief Executive
	Phil Day	Director of Operations
	Peter Douglas	Navigation Manager
	Paul Hudson	Programme and Renewals Manager
	Karen Charleson	Senior Executive Assistant (notes)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Navigation Committee meeting held on 14 December 2017 were agreed as a correct record and could be published on the website.

Action: Senior Executive Assistant

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Committee noted that the Matters Arising would be addressed within the relevant subject areas.

4. OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

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

Corran Narrows

The Committee noted that the directional light at Corran Narrows NE light had been adjusted by 1 degree as directed on 13 March 2018.

Fixed Flashing Lights

The Committee noted that St Abb's Head is proposed as a suitable site to trial Fixed Flashing lights, however this project is deferred pending the supply of new light software from the supplier.

Sound of Harris

The Committee noted the survey detail of the Portain area and discussed the proposed perch position. Calmac are content for NLB to decide on the precise location of the perch, but have suggested a location adjacent to site of grounding and approximately 20 metres SE of the buoy nominal position. This would protect against the rocks at 1.2 metres depth but not the shallows at 1.4 metres some 40 metres NW. The Committee agreed in principle to the suggested location.

Action: Navigation Manager

The repainting of the beacons at Dugh Sgeir and Janes Tower and also the re-establishment of Grocis Sgeir unlit beacon is still pending.

Action: Director of Operations

Irvine Beacon

The Committee noted that a suitable location for the proposed perch has been identified and a project scope is being prepared for NLB's Engineering Support Services contractor. The Engineering Support Services contractor will carry out a survey and come up with a design. There is a risk that the project may be more expensive than forecast due to sea bed conditions.

Point of Ayre

The Committee noted that the blank sector on Point of Ayre light was extended on 22 January 2018. Positive feedback has been received.

Navigation Section

It was noted that interviews for the Coastal Inspector posts were held on 19 and 21 March 2018. The Navigation Manager is currently finalising the panel's recommendation.

Stornoway Harbour

Notification has been received of a multi-stage plan to enhance Stornoway harbour by development of quayside on the West side of Glumaig Harbour, opposite the current Arnish pier, to allow for cruise vessel, freight ferry and other additional port visits. An additional leisure marina to the North of Eilean nan Gobhar is also planned. The Committee agreed that NLB should make informal contact with Stornoway Harbour to get involved in the initial stages.

Action: Navigation Manager

Halfweg platform

It is noted that the oil/chemical tanker Elsa Essberger (5,297 tonnes) collided with the disused Halfweg platform in the Dutch sector of the North Sea on 31 December 2017, causing significant damage to both. This is a good example of the type of risk NLB seeks to minimise.

Flickering lights

R&RNAV have been undertaking trials of flickering lights with a view to proposing this for mobile AtoN eg. to mark flotsam and jetsam. The Committee watched a video of R&RNAV bench trials and discussed the three proposals which are due to be presented to the IALA Conference in Korea. The Committee await feedback from the IALA conference.

Action: Navigation Manager

GNSS update

The Committee noted the GNSS update provided in the meeting papers.

Annual Report

The Committee noted the 2017 Annual Report of Inspection/Audit of Local Aids to Navigation and Offshore Structures included with the meeting papers. The Committee approved the report for external distribution subject to the correction of a typing error in section 3.2.3.

Action: Navigation Manager

Marine Licence and Sanction Requests

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

The Navigation Manager advised that the Aquaculture report would not be produced this year. The Committee asked the Navigation Manager to think about what reports are required going forward e.g. possibly combine two reports into one and keep the Committee informed for his decision.

Action: Navigation Manager

The Committee discussed self-certification particularly of aquaculture. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the December 2018 meeting once the new navigation staff are bedded in.

Action: Navigation Manager

5. ENGINEERING

The Committee noted and discussed the Engineering report:

Programme and Renewals

Temporary lights remain at Copinsay, Ardnamurchan, Rubha Reidh, Noss Head and Neist Point. With the exception of Copinsay work is complete but Installation of the new LED lanterns is awaited. Maintenance painting for 2017/18 was all completed by December and reported at the last Committee meeting. Preparation for 2018/19 are ongoing.

The Committee noted that successful R&RNav range testing of the new LED lanterns took place at Scurdie Ness on 21 March 2018 with Tarbet Ness due on 22 March 2018 and Douglas/Maughold Head being held at a later date. A discussion will need to be held on the casualty aspects of these lights as if they are currently advertised at a 20 mile range and they fail at 18 mile range is that a significant enough reduction to be a casualty. It was agreed that the Director of Operations would bring a proposal to the next meeting to get a formal agreed position.

Action: Director of Operations

Assets

Corran Narrows sector light - The previously agreed one degree alteration to the light has been implemented and NTM Issued.

Nickel Metal Hydride batteries - The design for fixed AtoN stations has been tested at Bell Rock and has now been passed to the Delivery and planning team to be rolled out. Existing facilities and the Safe System of Work for charging NiMH at ESTF are still to be reviewed. The existing batteries for floating AtoNs, which will be changed out this summer, are being charged and tested for capacity by an external company. A design for NiMH batteries used in floating AtoN's is being developed

Availability - The Committee noted the 3 year rolling availability figures to 13 March 2018. Since the last committee there has been 21 outages excluding DGPS with five over 72 hours.

Monitoring - The upgraded NLB monitoring servers at Edinburgh and Oban continue to demonstrate stable performance. Webscada is also operational. Work is proceeding with a specification for the replacement monitor system. It was noted that the Managing Board had discussed this item at their meeting on 21 March 2018 where it had been agreed that the Project Initiation Document would be submitted to the Managing Board for approval before proceeding with the specification. It was also agreed to expand the GANTT Chart to reflect the identified checkpoints. The Chief Executive will keep the Committee updated.

Action: Chief Executive

2015 AtoN Review

The Committee noted the Summary of Proposed Changes and Stations Update document for the AtoN Review.

6. NOTICES TO MARINERS

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

7. TECHNICAL DISCUSSION

Resilient position, navigation and timing (PNT)

In January 2018 the Government Office for Science published a report entitled 'Satellite derived Time and Position: A Study of Critical Dependencies' ('the Blackett review'). The GLAs provided input to this report through Martin Bransby of R&RNAV, who has also been invited to join the UK Government PNT Working Group. The report makes ten recommendations highlighting various issues. The Committee noted the UK Government is supportive of any progress towards initiating and maintaining an operational eLoran network that can provide position, navigation and timing services and will lend support where appropriate to aid its establishment and continued use. Whilst there is no direct impact on NLB at the moment it was agreed to continue to monitor developments.

Action: Navigation Committee

Spoofing

The Committee noted the article on "Spoofing in the Black Sea – what really happened".

MaRINav project

The Committee noted that the European Space Agency (ESA) have encouraged the GLAs to submit a project proposal into the project NAVISP Element 3 that considers maritime PNT solutions, infrastructure and services which address the recommendations of the Blackett and London Economics Reports. R&RNAV has very recently discussed the possible scope of such a potential proposal with ESA, for a project named 'MarRINav' – Maritime Resilience and Integrity of Navigation.

Cyber

The Committee noted the growing awareness in the maritime world of the increasing vulnerability of onboard systems. NLB have taken steps to audit the vessels and find out what the problems are and how to lock down USB ports.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Survey Monkey Feedback

A 'Survey Monkey' was sent out to NLB's SUCG Distribution list in February 2018. One hundred and forty surveys were emailed out with twenty six responses received, including 7 from the Port Operations sector, 4 from ferry operators, 2 from Oil & Gas, 5 from other shipping, 4 from Fishing/Aquaculture and 2 from leisure. The results will now be used to feed into the Scottish User Consultative Group in November.

Action: Navigation Manager

Autonomous Vessels

The Committee noted that the Director of Operations was due to attend a UK Government Workshop on autonomous vessels but had unfortunately missed it due to snow. The Director of Operations is waiting on the output from workshop (if it went ahead) which was to cover how regulation works, how to provide for them in future, etc. This is a growing subject which may result in the need to look into the AtoN Review side of this.

Oban Bay

The Navigation Manager advised that two seasonal buoys were due to be deployed on 26 March 2018 to mark the channel. The buoys were proposed to be unlit but a request has been made to light the buoys. The Committee discussed the proposal and agreed there would be no harm in lighting the buoys and would actually stop the buoys becoming a hazard itself. The Committee gave the Navigation Team authority to light the buoys if they felt it improves the situation and does not cause unintended problems. A revised Notice to Mariners will require to be issued.

Action: Navigation Manager

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Navigation Committee will take place on 27 June 2018.