

**NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSE BOARD
NAVIGATION COMMITTEE**

MINUTES – 27 June 2018

PRESENT:	Alastair Beveridge	Chairman
	Mike Brew	Commissioner
	Alistair Mackenzie	Commissioner
	Mike Bullock	Chief Executive
	Phil Day	Director of Operations
	Peter Douglas	Navigation Manager
	Nick Ward	GLA R&RNav (Agenda Item 7 only)
	Karen Charleson	Senior Executive Assistant (notes)

The Committee welcomed Dr Nick Ward to the meeting and agreed to start the meeting with Agenda Item 7 –Technical Discussion - to allow Dr Ward to travel back to Harwich.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

7. TECHNICAL DISCUSSION

The following presentations were given by Dr Nick Ward, Research Director, GLA R&RNav.

Presentation on E-Navigation, S-200, MCP, VDES, and VAtoN

The Committee noted the presentation on E-Navigation, S-200, MCP, VDES, and VAtoN. The presentation covered:

- E-Navigation definition
- Hierarchy of e-Nav services – Maritime Information System - MCP
- Common Maritime Data Structure
- IHO Registry – common baseline
- IHO S-100 standard – data framework for development of next generation of electronic charts
- How it will work in practice – 3 standalone components designed to be used together or collaboratively. Could be run separately.
- S-200 Status – 2 products reaching maturity (AtoN Information and S240)
- Context – summary of S-201 status and MCP
- GLA involvement

The Committee discussed the security of the system and the reliability of input data e.g. how it is kept up-to-date).

Presentation on VHF Data Exchange System

The Committee noted the presentation on VHF Data Exchange System – new communication system for maritime. The presentation covered:

- Hierarchy of e-Nav services – new development within communication layer
- Use Cases – building the requirements for VDS
- VHF Data Exchange System – using information for AIS and using its channels

- Overview – terrestrial and satellite
- VDES Sub system – AIS highest priority
- ASM (application specific messages) – defined by IALA/IMO
- VHF data exchange (terrestrial) – data requiring higher capacity than ASM
- VHF data exchange (satellite) – outside coverage of VDES
- Summary – system dedicated to maritime and uses frequencies within maritime authorities.
- Virtual AtoNs
- Applications – rapid deployment, replacement for lost or damaged marks, marking areas to be avoided/route to follow, variable hazards, etc

The Committee thanked Dr Ward for the very interesting and informative presentations. It was agreed that the Committee would look at this further when they attend their meeting in December at R&RNav in Harwich. Dr Ward will provide a position paper for the AtoN Review.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Navigation Committee meeting held on 22 March 2018 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 majority of Matters Arising would be addressed within the relevant subject areas. The Committee discussed:

Flashing Lights

The Committee noted that there had been no progress made on trialling Fixed Flashing lights. NLB is still waiting on the supply of new light software from the supplier.

Sound of Harris

The repainting of the beacons at Dugh Sgeir and Janes Tower is in Corporate Plan 2019-2024. The re-establishment of Grocis Sgeir unlit beacon is still pending.

Stornoway Harbour

It was noted that the Navigation Manager had made informal contact with the Deputy Harbour Master and discussed the multi-stage plan to enhance Stornoway harbour and the additional leisure marina which is also planned. The Navigation Manager will keep the Committee informed of any developments.

Action: Navigation Manager

MaRINav project

The Committee noted the R&RNAV programme had been adjusted to include 'MarRINav' – Maritime Resilience and Integrity of Navigation.

4. OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

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

Oban Bay

The seasonal buoyage was deployed in Oban Bay on 29 March 2018. It was noted that there had been three groundings of yachts reported on 2/3 June 2018. A review of the incidents by the Oban Bay Management Group manager showed no evidence the seasonal buoyage contributed to navigational confusion in these instances.

Navigation Section

The Committee noted that two Coastal Inspectors had commenced employment on 8 May 2018 and are currently undertaking a variety of training courses and on-the-job training.

IALA Conference

The Committee noted the summary of the 19th IALA conference and pre-conference forum of training which had been held in Incheon, Korea from 24 May 2018 to 2 June 2018. The Chief Executive, Director of Operations and Navigation Manager attended.

The Committee also noted the paper by the Nautical Institute on the ongoing significance of Visual AtoN to mariners and in particular the comment "While mariners find VAtoN an accepted tool for improving the safety of navigation, they regard them as augmenting physical AtoN rather than replacing them." It was agreed that it would be worthwhile inviting David Patraiko from the Nautical Institute to speak at the Scottish Users Consultative Group (SUCG) meeting in November 2018.

Action: Navigation Manager

2020 AtoN Review

The Navigation Manager reported that planning work has commenced for the five yearly tri-GLA Aids to Navigation Review and highlighted the proposed timetable. The Committee discussed whether an external workshop should be held to increase User input. It was agreed to look at holding a session with Users either before or after the SUCG meeting in November.

Action: Navigation Manager

The Committee agreed to think about topics and to discuss again at the September 2018 meeting.

GNSS

Loss of GPS signal was reported by the ferries in Loch Ryan 16-18 April 2018. This was reported to OFCOM via R&RNAV and an OFCOM inspection took place the following day but did not identify any actively interfering signal. The Committee suggested that this should be a topic for the SUCG meeting to raise awareness and highlight the need to report.

Action: Navigation Manager

GNSS update

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

Marine Licence and Sanction Requests

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

Queensferry Crossing

It was noted that the navigation lighting for the new bridge was now active.

5. ENGINEERING

The Committee noted and discussed the Engineering report:

Programme and Renewals

Temporary lights remain at Copinsay, Ardnamurchan, Rubha Reidh and Noss Head. With the exception of Copinsay work is complete but installation of the new LED lanterns is awaited. Temporary lights have been established at Duncansby Head and Mull of Kintyre for commencement of 2018/19 work programme work.

The Committee noted that the Programme and Renewals Manager had met with the contractor at Copinsay and has given them a deadline. In addition, site visits have been increased. The issue with FM200 gas cylinders on site has been reported to the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA).

Irvine Beacon – a hydrographic survey was conducted and the location for the beacon confirmed. The new consulting engineers have been tasked with a foundation design which is taking longer than anticipated due to a member of staff leaving at the consulting engineers. It is likely that this project will cost more than planned due to the complexity of the beacon piling. The Director of Operations will raise at the Managing Board meeting on 28 June 2018.

Action: Director of Operations

Assets

Availability - The Committee noted the 3 year rolling availability figures to 14 June 2018. Since the last committee there has been 12 outages excluding DGPS with four over 72 hours.

Monitoring - The upgraded NLB monitoring servers at Edinburgh and Oban continue to demonstrate stable performance. Webscada is also operational. A User requirements report and high level costings has been submitted for discussion at the Managing Board on 28 June 2018.

Rules for declaring AtoN Outage - The Committee noted the suggested approach for declaring an AtoN outage and fully supported the pragmatic solution proposed.

DGPS – The Committee noted the Tri GLA DGPS Director's report included with the meeting papers. Recapitalisation of the DGPS system will be necessary in the early 2020's if the system is to be continued. Currently there is international debate as to the future of DGPS. The GLAs are conducting a survey of Users to try and establish the user base to help inform any business case for recapitalisation. The Committee suggested that it would be advantageous to engage with the manufacturers to find out who they are selling to which could provide a better understanding of its total use. The Director of Operations will report back to the next Committee.

Action: Director of Operations

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

Taken at start of the meeting. The Committee noted their thanks to Dr Ward and the Director of Operations for organising.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Loch Creran

The Committee noted that there has been some confusion by the LLA over ownership of light at Loch Creran. A formal letter will be sent to the LLA confirming their responsibility to avoid any ambiguity.

Action: Navigation Manager

Alistair Mackenzie

The Committee noted that this would be Alistair Mackenzie's last meeting. The Chairman thanked Alistair for his contributions as Chairman and member of the Committee. Alistair was a great beacon to follow as Chairman.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Navigation Committee will take place on 19 September 2018 at 1100hrs.