NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSE BOARD
NAVIGATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES – 7 September 2021

PRESENT:	Mike Brew	Chair
	Alastair Beveridge	Commissioner
	Hugh Shaw	Commissioner
	Brian Archibald	Commissioner
	Mike Bullock	Chief Executive
	Phil Day	Director of Operations
	Peter Douglas	Navigation Manager
	Andrew Stevenson	Asset Manager
	Paul Hudson	Programme and Renewals Manager
	Tom Cairns	Delivery and Planning Manager
	Gillian Burns	Navigation Officer
	Adam Lewis	Coastal Inspector
	Fingal McKiernan	Coastal Inspector
	Karen Charleson	Senior Executive Assistant

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Commissioner Duncan Murray and Mairi Rae (Director of Business Services).

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Navigation Committee meeting held on 23 June 2021 were agreed. A copy will be published on the website.

Action: Senior Executive Assistant

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Committee noted that the majority of Matters Arising from the previous meeting would be addressed within the relevant subject areas.

2020/21 NLB LLA Offshore Annual Report – Report amended to align with discussions at the meeting on 23 June 2021. The Report has now been disseminated to the usual address list.

4. OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

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

Incidents

- BBC MARMARA - On 25 July, the 115 metre general cargo ship BBC MARMARA ran aground on Eilean Trodday. She refloated and resumed her course but took on water and diverted to Stornoway. The light was confirmed as fully functional.
- CEG ORBIT - On 26 August the 64 metre general cargo ship CEG ORBIT, on route from Liverpool to Belfast, ran aground on the East side of Point of Ayre. She was refloated the following morning and diverted to Douglas for examination.

The Committee noted the communication issues with Isle of Man Harbour. NLB would only have been contacted formally if it had been a wreck. NLB is due to audit Isle of Man Habours later this year where this will be raised.

Action: Navigation Manager

It was noted that Commissioner Shaw continues to pursue a date with Isle of Man Harbours, SoSRep, etc look at the actions from the Isle of Man Wreck exercise.

- Small Craft - A large number of small craft groundings have been notified to NLB via MCA this summer. This demonstrates the large number of such incidents but is not considered to be complete and no meaningful evaluation of cause is feasible. The Committee particularly noted the number of incidents within the Inverness port limits and this will be discussed with the Harbour Master during the forthcoming audit.

Action: Navigation Manager

It was noted that there is consultation ongoing to change the law to introduce watercraft e.g. paddleboards, kayaks, etc to be covered under the Merchant Shipping Act. They will then have the same responsibilities as other vessels if they act negligently.

NLB has meetings planned with MCA in the coming months where this issue will be discussed. A report will be provided to a future meeting.

Action: Director of Operations

GNSS Update

- BeiDou-3 G3 was launched into geosynchronous orbit on 23 June and is now operational.
- Galileo satellites FM23 and FM24 are scheduled to be launched on 23 November, the first such launches for over 3 years.

Marine Licence and Sanction Requests

The Committee noted the summary of Marine Licence Activity and Sanctions for the establishment/ disestablishment of AtoN for information and as required under the Navigation Committee Terms of Reference.

2020 AtoN Review

The Committee noted and discussed the tracker of the 2020 AtoN Review. A RAG status will be included within the tracker for future meetings.

Action: Navigation Manager

Pillar Rock Review

The Committee noted and discussed the summary of the four pillar rock light ranges, together with supporting charts and traffic patterns. The range is individually assessed for each station based on what should be appropriate for Users and what can be technically achieved to reduce emissions.

The Committee agreed the recommendations in principle but asked that the Executive and Navigation Manager put together a summary report covering what the other GLAs are doing and technical aspects/engineering consequences, for discussion at a future meeting.

Action: Director of Operations

This topic will be worked-up for inclusion within the Pillar Rock presentation to the SUCG in November 2021.

GLA Navigation Strategy Documents

The Committee noted the briefing note which explains the proposed approach to updating the GLA strategy documents: '2030 – Navigating the Future' and the 'GLA Marine Navigation Plan' (GMNP) for a timeframe spanning 2035+.

Irish Lights (IL) eNavigation Roadmap

The Committee noted the document that set out progress in eNavigation and IL policy in this area. The different emphasis on roles was noted and discussed. The Chief Executive advised that NLB is doing most of what is covered in the paper but any feedback from the Committee would be welcomed.

5. ENGINEERING

The Committee noted and discussed the Engineering report:

Programme and Renewals

Work continues at Cape Wrath and Barra Head with the supply of engines now arranged to complete the projects. The establishment of a permanent light was completed at Cape Wrath (NtM 10 of 2021) on 5 August 2021.

A temporary light remains at Stroma. Delta chargers require to be replaced at Stroma before the light can be commissioned.

Work has commenced at Fair Isle South. A new temporary light was installed (NtM 11 of 2021) on 26 August 2021.

Stroma beacon access ladder has been installed and the light checked for correct operation. Whilst still locked-off it is intended to publish a NtM shortly for the lighting of this beacon.

A contractor for the design and installation of mechanical bearings (initially at Sumburgh) is being tendered. However, it may be that this project will be delayed because of scheduling and financial profiling to allow more time for the bearing to be fully designed.

Assets

Availability - The Committee noted the 3 year rolling availability figures to 30 August 2021. Since the last Committee there have been 4 outages over 72 hours. Availability remains high and significantly above the IALA availability statistics.

Monitoring

The existing monitoring system and servers continue to operate reliabily.

The delayed remote installation of a new top end has been completed and site acceptance tests carried out. Some snagging was identified and this is being resolved. Training and installation of RTUs across 12 sites has been severely impacted by COVID and remains outstanding. Once these are complete the monitoring project will be concluded.

PSTN upgrades are also an issue for the monitoring system. This is being addressed through a joint project with ICT and Delivery & Planning who are planning the RTU changes.

Pillar Rocks

Skerryvore and Dubh Artach have both suffered from age related issues in their charge cycle systems. Though currently no new failures have been experienced neither light is in a condition that can ensure winter performance.

The cranes have been installed and asbestos removed from the battery rooms at Dubh Artach and Skerryvore. There have been some design problems with the cranes but replacement components have now been received and will be fitted to the cranes this week. The battery change-out can then commence. However, there are weather doubts that this will be completed during the current visit. However, the hope is that the batteries will be installed at Skerryvore and the alternator replaced at Dubh Artach this month. A temporary light can be installed at Skerryvore over the winter months if necessary.

A visit to Skerryvore was also impacted by an electrical failure on NLV PHAROS. This has been resolved and the vessel is now fully operational.

Net Zero Challenge

The paper prepared by the Navigation Manager regarding pillar rocks was discussed at Agenda Item 4 (Annex D).

DGPS

The DGPS system continues to work well. No further issues have been experienced since Earl's Hill returned to near full power. Closure in March 2022 has been announced via an M Notice.

The Committee noted the GLA DGPS system status report.

eLoran

The Director of Operations advised that the MOD has ceased to use the transmitter at Anthorn. GRAD, through Trinity House, engaged with DfT and the transmitter is now transmitting under GLA control as it had done previously. Discussion will take place at the next Chief Executives' Meeting on the sharing of information and whether this is something that requires to be supported long-term.

MAIB Report

A draft Report from the MAIB has been received on the KEY BORA grounding. The final report will be shared when the embargo has been lifted.

Action: Director of Operations

6. NOTICES TO MARINERS

The four Notices to Mariners (NtM 08 of 2021, NtM 09 of 2021, NtM 10 of 2021 and NtM 11 of 2021) published since the last meeting were noted.

Bhanarach Rocks - Following a report through Belfast Coastguard that the new buoy was only in 1.5 metres of water NLV POLE STAR investigated and reported that the buoy was in fact siting in about 10 metres of water. After discussion it was agreed to re-establish it approximately 20 metres further East.

7. RISK CARD REVIEW

The Committee reviewed the Risk Card. The following changes were identified:

- Risk Description and Issues – "Impact of BREXIT on the provision and security of Tri-GLA Helicopter resources" overtaken by events.
- Risk Description and Issues - Add "Loss or disruption of AtoN due to cyber-attack"
- Potential Risk Cause – "TH unable to effectively remote monitor NLB AtoNs (out of hours) due to pandemic impact" change to "… effectively remotely monitor….."

The Risk Card will be updated to align with the comments.

7. TERMS OFREFERENCE

The Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference. The following comments were noted:

- Paragraph 1(a) – change references to "proper" to "appropriate".
- Paragraph 1(a) (penultimate bullet) – amend to read "Adequate and proper marking of offshore installations, aquaculture sites and renewable energy installations".
- Paragraph 1(a) (last bullet) - amend to read "A risk-based review of the provision of NLB Aids to Navigation, on at least a five yearly basis."
- 1(b) – amend to read "To oversee the development of cost-effective plans for the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of Aids to Navigation within the NLB's area of jurisdiction, and to ensure the correct level of Aids to Navigation provision for the safety of the mariner and to recommend thereon to the Managing Board for inclusion in the corporate plan."
- 1(e) – change the "Scottish Users Consultative Group" to "NLB Users Group".
- 6 – include specific wording to incorporate reviewing the Terms of Reference.
- 6(a) – amend to read "The Committee shall normally meet on four occasions…"
- 7 – amend "…the Board's statutory obligations…" to "NLB's statutory obligations.."
- 7(d) (sub-paragraph iii) – change to read "Proposals for the alteration of range and/or characteristics of NLB Aids to Navigation."
- 8 (c) – amend "Navigational Assessor" to read "Navigation Assessor".
- Change references to "Director of Marine Operations" to "Director of Operations".

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SUCG

- **Change of Name** - Following discussion it was agreed to change the name of the SUCG to NLB Users Group to make it more inclusive, particularly for the Isle of Man.
- **Agenda** – The Navigation Manager will draft an Agenda and circulate for comment. Suggested Agenda items include Environmental Requirements, Future Fuels, Green Governing Commitments, Pillar Rocks, Vessel Replacement Project and GRAD.
- **Date** – Date agreed as Thursday, 4 November (1030-1300).

South Carr Buoy

The Navigation Manager reported that the South Carr buoy has dragged West on several occasions despite now having a 5 tonne sinker. The suggestion from NLV Pole Star is to move the buoy to the 15 metre contour but the Committee felt that this was too far away from the unlit beacon for meaningful use. The Navigation Manager proposed relocating the buoy, perhaps a cable to the North and East, which would take it into slightly deeper water and parallel to the contours on the seabed. The Committee discussed and approved the proposal. NLV POLE STAR will re-position it later this month.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Navigation Committee will take place on 8 December 2021 at 10.00am.