

IALA Seminar on Arctic Navigation 9 to 10 November 2017

IALA hosted a seminar on Arctic Navigation from 9 to 10 November 2017 at its HQ in St Germain-en-Laye, 78100, France.

This event was following-up a meeting held in February 2010 at IALA attended by Arctic nations where a number of actions were agreed by participants.

Following that meeting IALA informed IMO that nations should take the opportunity to:

- Initiate the establishment of a common Arctic ship reporting and data sharing system;
- Develop a common approach to marine traffic awareness and monitoring;
- Move towards a single, harmonized system of marine aids to navigation; and,
- Anticipate and mitigate risk to maritime traffic and the environment.

In this further meeting (9-10 November 2017) on Arctic navigation the views on the challenges of ensuring safe navigation in Arctic waters of all Arctic nations and international organizations having an interest in the field were discussed.

Thirty-eight delegates, representing eight countries* and six Sister organisations** attended and the seminar was structured with presentations on relevant topics.

Conclusions were agreed on the second day and these appear here:

1. A harmonized approach should be adopted for marking polar routes and providing digital services with common standards of provision, web-based services and other means.
2. IALA-NET is a suitable platform for exchanging and storing historical AIS data for statistical analysis and the use of Risk Management tools.
3. Since connectivity is a primary enabler for development in the Arctic, the limited communication infrastructure continues to be a major challenge.

4. VDES-SAT could provide virtual aids to navigation (AtoNs) and other e-navigation services in the Arctic. The frequency allocation needs to be supported at ITU.

5. A multi-system approach should be developed for resilient PNT, using a mixture of GNSS and terrestrial systems and a multi-system receiver.

6. There is a significant shortage of hydrographic survey data to give a comprehensive set of (simplified) ENCs for Arctic voyages. Crowd sourcing of hydrographic data can give a significant contribution.

The output documents were forwarded to the IALA Council to note and to all IALA Committees for future development.

To the Final Report were added two Annexes:

ANNEX A Resolution of the meeting between Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russian Federation, the United States of America and IALA on 10-12 February 2010.

ANNEX B Seminar on Arctic Navigation – Abstracts of presentations.

*Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, People's Republic of China, Russia, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

**CIRM, ICS, IHO, IMPA, NI, WMO.