



IHB File No. S1/5007

**CIRCULAR LETTER 77/2004
23 November 2004**

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MARINE AIDS TO NAVIGATION AND
LIGHTHOUSE AUTHORITIES (IALA) – Aid to Navigation Information Service for the 21st
Century (ANIS21)**

Dear Hydrographer,

During 2004 IALA established a Working Group to prepare a recommendation for an “Aid to Navigation Information Service”. The purpose of this recommendation is IALA’s intention to create a system whereby a change in status of an aid to navigation, such as the failure of a light or a buoy being off station, is automatically transmitted to shipping in the area and ideally presented graphically within an ECDIS. They further consider that the Automatic Identification System (AIS) might be a useful vehicle for the transmission of such information, and that these facilities could handle other navigational safety messages. IALA have indicated that they intend, in due course, to make a submission to IMO

Clearly any such system has implications for both the WNWNS and ECDIS and the IHB was approached for assistance. The WG has met twice so far in May and September, both times in the United Kingdom. Consequently the IHB invited the UKHO to send observers to the meetings on behalf of the IHO in order to monitor the discussions and to ensure that any matters that impacted on the WNWNS or ECDIS were correctly addressed to the IHO, WMO and IMO respectively. The IHB is grateful to the UKHO for their support in this matter.

From the discussions to date there are 3 aspects that, the creation of such a system by IALA, would impact on and which the IHB wishes to bring to your attention:

- a. The Guidelines for the WNWNS.
- b. The use of the Open ECDIS forum for the development of feature objects in ECDIS following similar procedures to those adopted for other MIOs.
- c. Possible implications for HOs should IALA propose a structure based on the current NAVAREAs.

The IHB has requested IALA to make a formal approach to the IHO regarding these issues such that they may be addressed to the relevant body CPRNW, CHRIS etc for proper consideration. A 3rd meeting is scheduled for the 12/13 January 2005 at the IALA headquarters in Paris, France. IHO attendance at the 3rd meeting will include the Chairman of CPRNW. The IHB will monitor this matter carefully and keep MS informed of any developments.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President