

Paper for Consideration by HSSC6**UK Response to HSSC6-05.4B List of Lights New Numbering System**

Submitted by:	The United Kingdom
Executive Summary:	The proposed numbering system is an enormous task which needs careful consideration.
Related Documents:	HSSC6-05.4B List of Lights New Numbering System
Related Projects:	

Introduction / Background

The following is provided to help inform a discussion on the size and complexity of the task proposed in HSSC6-05.4B.

In accordance with IHO S-12 (Standardization of List of Lights and Fog Signals), The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office maintains international light and fog signal numbers within its Admiralty List of Lights and Fog Signals (ALL). [S-12 Appendix A, section 4.1 refers]. Changes to the ALL international light numbers are rare. If necessary, S-12 could be revised to stipulate more rigour in maintaining persistent numbers, to partially meet the intentions HSSC6.05.4B. It must be noted that ALLs only contain fixed objects (i.e. not buoys).

Racons in Admiralty List of Radio Signals Volume 2 have a unique Station ID Number which is five numbers long and is not in any other publication. The numbering system is historical and one which mariners are familiar with. It is a local number produced by the editor.

AIS AtoNs (including virtual) have a unique MMSI number issued by ITU. These begin with 99 if AtoN or 00 if base station, followed by the MID 3-digit number which identifies the country of registration. Many AIS stations are temporarily allocated and as such, to issue a local number similar to RACONS would be of no benefit.

Analysis/Discussion

As described above, there are already some internationally recognised numbering systems for lights and other aids to navigations.

The United Kingdom supports the principle of unique identifiers, but in response to paper HSSC6-05.4B asks that the following be considered:

1. Is the task limited to Lights or should it extend to all AtoNs?
2. Will the unique identification extend to AIS MMSI numbers? If so, the ITU will need to be consulted.
3. Who will own the numbering system? Is this driven by IALA or IHO?
4. What is meant by 'consider the data stream idea' [action 2 in the paper].

Conclusions

If a PUI (Persistent Unique Identifier) is required for every AtoN, a massive piece of work will be required to allocate and maintain them. Further clarity is required on who will lead on this development.

Recommendations

Greater clarity of the task is required. The initial task (if any) should be a scoping study, to include consideration of the practicality and timescale of implementation.

Justification and Impacts

HSSC requires greater understanding of the implications and work required before committing to the proposed solution.

Action Required of HSSC6

HSSC6 is invited to consider the above.