

# AMERC NEWS

Incorporates Circular 241

February 2010

ISSUE THIRTY-TWO - READ INSIDE

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## EDITORIAL

As I write this Editorial it is less than a month to the next Executive Committee and MCG meeting and four before AGM. I suppose we might get in another AMERC NEWS before the latter but in case not, I am using the June events as the theme for this Editorial.

You will now have heard separately and directly from Keith Mitchell, our Secretary, with Circular 240 and from Eric Lamb with the AGM mailing. From Eric's you will see that this year's AGM and Examiners' Panel falls on Thursday 10th June, rather later than the end May date that we have gone used to.

We meet in Birmingham, slap in the middle of England, at the Marriott Hotel. We put the place on trial when we held the Executive Committee and MCG meeting there just before Christmas. For me, it seemed easier for once to go by train and I did. Getting out at Birmingham New Street Station I was soon able to hop a bus and be in the hotel in what seemed no time at all. (No expense either if you have a bus pass!). It seemed to me that I could have walked over along the hypotenuse of the pythagorean route followed by the bus. But the friendly locals and bus drivers soon had me right. I see Eric has advised those coming by air to Birmingham to join a train at Birmingham International for the short hop to New Street. Carrying luggage you might find a taxi easier of course, but it will be a route as direct as that of the bus.

The hotel is well appointed and the lunch provided by the staff at our meeting was of high quality so all in all it looks like we might be set fair for good comfort in June. It always helps to have good grub and accommodation and a bit of elbow room.

I once said that AMERC undergoes changes from time to time and when it does they are fairly large leaps. The run up to the newest leap started last year when change was agreed to the elections of the Executive Committee and selection of the Officers of the Association. We now have an Executive of six rotating on a triennial basis and the Secretary and Chairman are chosen from them. Officials have fixed term appointments filled by competition and are selected by the Executive Committee.

Transitional arrangements have seen us through and we are now set to put the new procedures fully in place. This has been fully explained in Circular 240 sent directly to you by the Secretary in January. Note that he says that if you wish to take part in the open competitions you should contact him for job descriptions and specifications.

Someone will have to be selected for the post of Editor of AMERC NEWS and with some reluctance I have to say I will not be applying. I have enjoyed doing the job for more than eleven years. I am not sure that you can 'move on' in your seventies but I have to drop out to meet a new lifestyle brought about by new infant grandchildren and great grandchildren. It is joyful and rewarding but no respecter of the contemplative lifestyle of a newseditor! I have enjoyed the editorship and have many regrets at the parting but more of that in the next AMERC NEWS.

*Brian Cotton*  
*Editor*

## MARITIME CONSULTANCY GROUP (MCG)

The MCG met in Birmingham in December 2009 and gave attention to the usual mix of operational matters. Attention is drawn to the following.

### PROCEDURAL WORDS

The procedural words laid down in the IAMSAR Manual should be used in all assessments.

### EQUIPMENT DATABASE

Each Centre is being asked to produce a database of its approved GMDSS equipment fit. It may subsequently be possible to produce some User Guides.

### SHETLAND ISLES REC

The Shetland School of Nautical Studies has been approved as a Regional Examination Centre (REC).

We send the school and its staff our congratulations.

### YEAR OF THE SEAFARER

2010 is the International Year of the Seafarer, an initiative launched by IMO in January. Look out for events near you and nationally, or use it to promote your Centre perhaps.

### LRC/ROC CONVERSION

Although a GMDSS LRC is not issued in line with MNTB Requirements and does not comply with the requirements of the STCW, it can be converted to the GMDSS ROC by the MCA.

The MCA will endorse the ROC in the normal way.

### MCA CONTRACT

The Chairman and Secretary have met with officers of the MCA and a contract will be in place in 2010.

### GOLDEN JUBILEE

Members are reminded that the Association's Golden Jubilee will be celebrated in 2012. A draft list of those who have contributed to the success of the organisation over the years is being drawn up and members are asked to contact the Editor with suggestions of those they feel should be included.

## GMDSS EXAMINATION STATISTICS

The NAC has provided the following GMDSS Examination Statistics for the period July 2009 to September 2009.

EXAMINATION	ENTERED	PASSED
UK GOC	280	223
ALL GOC	615	497
UK ROC	37	36
ALL ROC	129	123
LRC	30	29

## AGM 2010

The Secretary advised in Circular 240 that the Annual General Meeting and Examiner's Panel of the Association will be held on Thursday 10th June at the Marriott Hotel, Hagley Road, Fiveways, Birmingham. Delegates will be expected to arrive on the Wednesday afternoon and leave after breakfast on the Friday.

Birmingham is well served by transport facilities including the Birmingham International Airport and New Street Railway Station. The hotel has sixty parking spaces for those travelling by car.

*By now you should have had details and an application form from Eric Lamb. If you have not, contact him immediately as the completed form has to be in his hands no later than April 16th.*

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Members will recall that the Association approved major and significant changes to the company Rules at the 2009 AGM. These were reported in AMERC NEWS 30, September 2009, and will have consequences at the 2010 AGM.

Members are now required to elect an Executive Committee of six at AGM where the members rotate on a triennial basis. In turn the Executive elects a Chairman and Vice Chairman from among its membership.

The Executive Committee is also required to appoint against criteria to the different official roles of the Association:

Secretary  
Treasurer  
Chief Examiner  
Deputy Chief Examiner  
Assistant Chief Examiner (Overseas)  
Editor AMERC NEWS

Members are asked to read Circular 240 from the Secretary where he explained that Mike Webster and Chris Harrison will be standing down at the 2010 AGM. Chris Harrison is offering himself for re-election, and has been proposed and seconded by the Executive Committee. Mike Webster will remain on the Committee as immediate Past Chairman.

The posts of Deputy Chief Examiner, Assistant Chief Examiner and Editor of AMERC NEWS are all due for a three year appointment by the Executive Committee at the time of the AGM.

The Secretary can provide job descriptions and specifications for all roles under consideration.

## M-NOTICES

*The following M-Notices appear to have some relevance to Members and are briefly reviewed here. The full list of the current M-notices appear on the MCA website ([www.mcga.gov.uk](http://www.mcga.gov.uk)) to which reference should be made from time to time. Those marked\* are amendments to previously published Notices which are filed in sequence.*

### **MSN 1734 (M+F)\* MARINE EQUIPMENT APPROVAL**

This Notice explains the legal requirements for testing and approving marine equipment from July 2009. It encompasses radiocommunications equipment.

The Notice includes an updated list of the UK's designated 'EU Notified Bodies' which undertake type approval. It also details the items to which type approval applies and points out the relevant regulations and testing standards.

September 2009

### **MIN 367 (M+F) S-BAND RADAR INTERFERENCE**

The MCA has commissioned research on possible interference to maritime S-Band radar following developments of new communication systems in the 2.5-2.69 GHz band.

The study concluded that interference is inevitable and suggests protection areas for marine radars.

The research report which makes interesting reading can be accessed from the MCGA website.

January 2010.

### **MSN 1781 (M+F)\* DISTRESS SIGNALLING**

This Note amends Annex IV of the Collision Regulations (Colregs). Changes relate to the use of the SOS distress signal and distress alerts transmitted via VHF or satellite communications equipment.

July 2009

### **MGN 289 (M+F)\* MAIB\***

This Note advises that the offices of the Marine Accident Investigation Branch MAIB have moved to new premises in Southampton. Its telephone and fax numbers are unchanged.

December 2009

### **MGN 366 (M+F) CHAPTER V SOLAS LRIT**

This Note details amendments to Chapter V of the SOLAS Regulations that were adopted by the UK in December 2008.

It also gives guidance on surveys, certification and compliance for ships transmitting LRIT information.

February 2010

## MARITIME MISCELLANY

### GALILEO

The European Commission has selected manufacturers to build fourteen satellites for the Galileo satellite navigation system scheduled to begin service in 2014. Ultimately the system should have thirty satellites.

The Galileo project has a very good website to which reference should be made if interested.

[www.esa.int](http://www.esa.int)

### 505 SERVICE

Inmarsat has confirmed that distress calls placed over the 505 Emergency Calling service will link directly to selected MRCC. These include the Centres in Norfolk, USA, Canberra, Australia and Den Helder, the Netherlands.

The 505 service is intended for small craft and not meant to supplant GMDSS communications. Details can be found on the Inmarsat news pages.

[www.inmarsat.com](http://www.inmarsat.com)

### GLOBAL VHF

Thrane & Thrane has demonstrated VHF over IP utilising the INMARSAT network to give a global reach.

[www.thrane.com](http://www.thrane.com)

### AIS SART

Lloyd's Register has issued a bulletin notifying stakeholders of changes in regulations affecting AIS SART search and rescue locating devices.

A number of amendments have been made to MSC regulations that allow the use of AIS search and rescue devices (AIS-SART) as an alternative to survival craft radar transponders (GMDSS-SART).

The amendments allow the use of either GMDSS-SART or AIS-SART on ships constructed on or after January 1, 2010, or ships having equipment replaced from this date.

[www.cdlive.lt.org](http://www.cdlive.lt.org)

### UKHO

#### e-NAVIGATOR LAUNCH

The UK's Hydrographic Office has launched *Admiralty e-Navigator* an integrated digital catalogue, product viewer and digital planning tool, claiming that this will make navigation smarter, simpler and safer.

*Admiralty e-Navigator* organises, updates, and brings together all of the paper and digital information needed to plan safe voyages and simplify essential tasks. The following website gives further information and is an interesting read.

[www.thefutureofnavigation.com](http://www.thefutureofnavigation.com)

### CANADIAN SPACE BASED AIS

The Canadian Space Agency has signed a \$1.4m contract with Com Dev International for the provision of space based AIS. It will be used to collect data for surveillance, safety at sea and environment protection

## WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE

### An Update on WRC 2012

By Kim Fisher

*We are, as always, grateful to Kim Fisher for providing us with an update on the World Radiocommunication Conference 2012. It looks like the outcomes of this Conference will be of substantial importance to Members and we look forward to further inputs from Kim in due course.*

The planned WRC in 2011 has now slipped a bit due to problems in finding a venue to hold it. The usual venue in Geneva was booked for another event. So it will now take place in early 2012 (23 January to 17 February) and be known as WRC-12. However the preparation timetable is unchanged. The Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM), which sets the technical bases for WRC will still take place from the 14 to 25 February 2011 which means that the technical work has to be largely completed by the middle of this year.

The agenda items with most maritime interest are 1.9 and 1.10:

Agenda item 1.9 deals with a revision of the frequencies and channelling arrangements of Appendix 17 (the maritime HF bands). There had been a similar agenda item at WRC-07 (then agenda item 1.13) but that WRC did not accept the proposals as they had become linked with a bid for more spectrum for HF broadcasting which was included in the same agenda item. For this WRC the agenda item deals solely with the maritime use. The proposals developed for the last WRC of converting the old 500 KHz Morse and radiotelex channels into 3 kHz channels have been put forward again but currently a transition period is proposed going out to 2015.

Agenda item 1.10 deals with a new topic of examining the frequency allocation requirements with regard to operation of safety systems for ships and ports. This agenda item is still not very developed and currently includes a rag bag of ideas. There are proposals to use VHF channels 75 and 76 (the channel 16 guard band) for satellite AIS, but not the system described in the November AMERC News - for another system with different shipborne equipment. There are proposals to further rearrange the VHF channels in Appendix 18 and possibly enlarge Appendix 18 to give more single frequency channels and more wideband channels. There are proposals to broadcast security levels for ports and coastal waters in the band around 500 kHz and proposals to harmonise technology for cargo identification and tracking. So there is more work to do on this agenda item during this year.

Other agenda items which may be of interest include 1.14 which is looking at requirements for HF radars for oceanographic purposes. So far this is considering bands used by the fixed and land mobile services so will not affect maritime spectrum. Also 1.15 which is considering allocations for VHF radars for detecting space debris. This has identified the band 154 – 156 MHz which is just below the maritime Appendix 18. Also 1.23 which is considering a possible allocation of 15 kHz for the amateur service around 500 kHz. This is currently still studying bands which will avoid the NAVTEX at 490 kHz and 518 kHz, hopefully 500 kHz and the aeronautical non directional beacons which are still in use.

# AMERC NEWS

## SELECTED INDEX

(Updated each Issue)

January 2005 - December 2009

**NOTES:**

- (i) **This is a selective index and only records items to which reference is likely to be needed. It is updated with each Issue of AMERC NEWS.**
- (ii) **Issues 17 to 32 are in pdf format and are fully searchable once loaded.**
- (iii) **Quarterly GMDSS Statistics provided by the NAC appear in AMERC NEWS.**
- (iv) **Technical Update supplements in pdf format together with an index can be found on the AMERC Website: [www.amerc.ac.uk](http://www.amerc.ac.uk).**

TOPIC	DETAIL	AN	DATE	Pp
Admiralty	Charts to common datum (MIN 272)	24	Jul 07	13
ADRS	Admiralty Digital Radio Signals Vol 6	23	Mar 7	9
ALRS	Relevant sets for examinations	30	Sep 09	5
Aerials	Dangers from lead-ins (MGN 330)	22	Nov 06	8
	Ditto (MGN 303)	20	Feb 06	8
African Centres	MRCC & MRSC established	22	Nov 06	8
	Capetown MRCC operational	24	Jul 07	12
AIS	Accuracy of transmission (MIN 290)	25	Nov 07	7
	Accuracy of transmission (MIN 231)	21	Jun 06	8
	Carriage requirements (MSN 1795)	21	Jun 06	8
	Class B UK trails (MIN 268)	23	Mar 07	6
	Double ended ferries (MGN 321)	21	Jun 06	8
	Greek coverage	27	Apr 08	8
	Monitoring coastal shipping – UK	22	Nov 06	13
	Navigation aids systems	21	Jun 06	10
	Non-SOLAS transponder coding (MIN 321)	27	Apr 08	5
	Operational guidance (MGN 277)	17	Feb 05	9
	Performance Standards	23	Mar 07	8
	RCC Network – UK	19	Oct 05	9
	Safety of Navigation (MIN 298)	25	Nov 07	7
	Small craft Class B (MIN 199)	19	Oct 05	7
	UK chain operational	22	Nov 06	8
	UK Third phase completed	26	Jan 08	7
	USCG space based AIS	24	Jul 07	13
	VHF use & ITU Regulations (MGN 324)	22	Nov 06	8
AMERC Address	Registered Office in Kendal	21	Jun 06	4
	Hon. Secretary address change	24	Jul 07	4
	Hon. Secretary telephone change	29	Feb 09	12
	New NAC Manager: Jackie King	26	Jan 08	6
	Treasurer's email address	27	Apr 08	18
AMERC Jubilee	Plans for Golden Jubilee in 2012 announced	31	Nov 09	3
AMERC Rules	Changes agreed and implemented	30	Sep 09	3
AMERC Titles	Revised for Association and roles	30	Sep 09	8



Arctic Signals	ESA study announced; new Navareas	31	Nov 09	4;
CEC	Amended procedures (MIN340)	29	Feb 09	5
Committees	New Committee & Board structures	22	Nov 06	3
Course Audit	Chief Examiner to inspect timetable & notes	23	Mar 07	5
Course Approvals	AMERC provides certificates	22	Nov 06	4
Criminal Checks	CRB and equivalents' checks needed in UK	29	Nov 09	4
CSOC	Discussions with HMCG	21	Jun 06	7
Direction Finding	At 406 MHz	30	Sep 09	9
DSC	Test call auto response from USCG	24	Jul 07	13
Dyslexia	Policy in Handbook	30	Sep 09	3
ECDIS	Software maintenance (MIN 316)	27	Apr 08	5
Electronic Charts	Approved standards by UKHO	28	Sep 08	8
ENEM	ENEM/Radio Maintenance (MGN 384)	29	Feb 09	5
	ENEM/RMC Structure	30	Sep 09	7
EPIRB	COSPAS-SARSAT statistics	29	Feb 09	5
EPIRB	Non SOLAS vessels (MSN 1810)	24	Jul 07	13
EPIRB	Registration (MSN 1816)	25	Nov 07	6
	Registration required (MGN 302)	20	Feb 06	8
	121.5/243 MHz ceasing Feb 09 (MGN 361)	27	Apr 07	05
Equipment Fit	SART & EPIRB duplicates	30	Sep 09	3
Examinations	Appeals on termination - flow chart	24	Jul07	5
	Application Forms – completing	21	Jun 06	5
	Application Forms – Re-examination	23	Mar 07	4
	Digital photography allowed	23	Mar 07	4
	Double marking	30	Sep 09	4
	Dyslexic Candidates	20	Feb 06	4
	Dyslexia Policy in Handbook	30	Sep 09	4
	Earlier attempts	21	Jun 06	7
	Fee Schedule revised	28	Sep 08	5
	GMDSS Knowledge Paper adopted	28	Sep 08	7
	Payment Methods	21	Jun 06	5
	Payments to NAC – correction	19	Oct 06	6
	Retention of scripts	20	Feb 06	6
	Scenario-based OPT trial agreed	21	Jun 06	6
	Scenario-based OPT working party	24	Jul 07	8
	Scenario-based OPT adopted	28	Sep 08	7
Examiners	Active Lists	25	Nov 07	4
	Active Lists	21	Jun 06	7
	Active Lists	19	Oct 05	6
	Active Lists	17	Feb 05	3
	Access to Chief Examiner via REC only	24	Jul 07	7
	Deputy & Assistant Chief Examiners	23	Mar 07	3
	Deputy & Assistant Chief Examiner Roles	26	Jan 08	5
	Deputy Chief Examiner appointed	25	Nov 07	4
	Handbook 6th Edition	17	Feb 05	3
	Handbook 7th Edition	27	Apr 08	04
	Taxation & Insurance	19	Oct 05	10
Expenses	New Claim Form	25	Nov 07	14
Fleet 77	Incorporated in Handbook	30	Sep 09	4
GMDSS Installed	Indonesia and Thailand	29	Feb 09	11

GMDSS Quiz	Trialled on website	31	Nov 09	4
GOC	Proposed revision – Willie Williamson	23	Mar 07	15
	Critique of structure – Willie Williamson	24	Jul 07	9
GOC	Revising the structure – Willie Williamson	27	Apr 08	13
Handbook	GMDSS Handbook 5th Edition published	31	Nov 09	5
HMCG	AMERC recognition of CSOC	23	Mar 07	4
HMCG	CSOC & RCSOC recognition finalised	24	Jul 07	4
IMO	New GMDSS Manual published	25	Nov 07	18
IMO	Mandatory requirements	29	Feb 09	5
ITU WARC	Preparations for 2007 – Kim Fisher	20	Feb 06	11
	Ditto	22	Nov 06	11
	Ditto	24	Jul 07	11
	Outcomes & Updates – Kim Fisher	26	Jan 08	8
	2011 WRC – Kim Fisher	30	Feb 09	6
INMARSAT	Barring & Safetynet (MGN 305)	20	Feb 06	8
Licences	Ofcom reforms to ship radio licences	23	Mar 07	7
LRC	Class E DSC controllers – examinations	22	Nov 06	5
Log Book	New design (MGN 395)	30	Sep 09	10
Loran	eLoran UK cover	27	Apr 08	8
	Conversion from Restricted R/T withdrawn	26	Jan 08	4
LRIT	Identities for SAR and security	22	Nov 06	13
	New SOLAS Regulations January 2008	26	Jan 08	7
	SOLAS Requirements (MIN 302)	25	Nov 07	6
	SOLAS Ch V amendments (MGN380)	29	Feb 09	5
	SOLAS Ch V amendments (MIS 343)	29	Feb 09	5
	Trial transmissions from Rugby	19	Oct 05	8
	USCG Consultation	23	Mar 07	9
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Membership	(Full) Namibian Maritime Institute	28	Sep 08	3
	(Full) Red Ensign, RNLI, (Ass) Kim Holt	21	Jun 06	4
	(Full) Sir Derek Bibby Centre Mumbai	28	Sep 08	3
	(Full) THESI, CERNET, Starcenter, UKSA	24	Jul 07	3
	(Full) Western Training Association	24	Jul 07	3
	(Ass) Shetland School of Nautical Studies	24	Jul 07	3
	(Ass) TST, Australian Maritime College	24	Jul 07	3
	City College Plymouth (resigned)	24	Jul 07	3
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	St. Xavier Technical Institute (resigned)	28	Sep 08	3
MCA	Certificates of Course Approval	28	Sep 08	14
	Endorsement of certificates	30	Sep 09	8
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MNTB	GMDSS Guideline revised	21	Jun 06	7
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	Warnings against misuse (MSN 299)	20	Feb 06	7
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	Summary of UK arrangements (MGN 375)	28	Sep 08	8
Navtex	Standard Abbreviations (MIN 265)	23	Mar 07	6
NAVRAS(M)	Use of GMDSS procedures	24	Jul 07	10

OPT	Erratum: only Sat B approved January 2008	25	Nov 07	5
	Sat B or F77 replace Sat A January 2008	24	Jul 07	9
Perth LES	Close down	23	Mar 07	9
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	Update (MIN 366)	28	Sep 08	8
Piracy	Alerting by DSC	22	Nov 06	5
Piracy	Modern Piracy - W. Williamson	17	Feb 05	7
	Anti-piracy Measures (MGN 298)	20	Feb 06	7
Photographs	To UK passport standard	30	Sep 09	8
Poseidon Pharos	GMDSS simulator approved	30	Sep 09	5
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	STW 37	21	Jun 06	7
Revalidation	Sea-time requirement	22	Nov 06	4
	Ditto	19	Oct 05	6
Radar	Performance standards(MIN 246)	21	Jun 06	7
	Corrigendum (MGN 298)	20	Feb 06	7
	Mobiles' interference (MIN 290)	19	Oct 05	7
	Radar Reflectors (MGN 349)	25	Nov 07	6
Safe Practices	MS Regulations 1998 (MIN 235)	22	Nov 06	8
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Security	Ship Security - Phil Davies	22	Nov 06	9
Ship's Manuals	Need for accuracy and lucidity (MIN 312)	27	Apr 08	5
Shore Maintenance	Selenia Contract (MGN 292)	19	Oct 05	7
Shore Maintenance	Requirements (MGN 350)	25	Nov 07	6
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	Radiocommunications (MSN 1810)	23	Mar 07	6
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SMCP	Standard phrases for communications	30	Sep 09	10
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	Authorisations	30	Sep 09	10
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	Alternative Compliance	25	Nov 07	7
Training Schemes	Using the VQ route (MGN 8)	22	Nov 06	8
Transas	GMDSS Simulator	22	Nov 06	6
	Hard panel needed for Version 4000	24	Jul 07	4
	Live receiver & work station requirements	25	Nov 07	4
Transas	TGS4100 Simulator equipment consistency	27	Apr 08	04
	TGS4100 Simulator training of staff	27	Apr 08	04
Use of Equipment	Maintenance records (MGN 331)	22	Nov 06	8
VDR	Performance Testing (MGN 272)	17	Feb 05	9
VHF	Class D equipment warning (MGN 358)	31	Nov 09	6
VHF	Monthly tests in GMDSS Logbook	31	Nov 09	5
VOS	Meteorological data ship/shore (MIN 361)	31	Nov 09	6
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### 3-D SONAR

A Guernsey based company, Marine Electronics, has developed a forward seeking sonar which combines images from sensors to produce a 3-D image of the seas ahead overlaid on a chart. It is called *See Echo*.

### GLA STRATEGY REVIEW

Every five years the General Lighthouse Authorities publish a review of their aids to navigation (AtoN). The GLA is made up from Trinity House, the Northern Lights Board and the Commissioners of Irish Lights and we first reported on a review in 2005.

In 2005 the GLA produced a consultation paper *2020 – The Vision* which focused on radio navigation systems and their place in the overall Aid to Navigation (AtoN) mix. Recently published is the consultation document *Marine Aids to Navigation Strategy – 2025 and Beyond*.

The latest paper acknowledges that the primary navigation systems now reside within the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS). ‘Traditional’ AtoN are relegated to secondary and complementary roles but landfall and passing lights are still used for coastal navigation, confirmation of position and spatial awareness.

The strategy paper and its precursor give helpful overviews of the characteristics of various systems including surface navigation systems. The diagrams are particularly useful.

Details can be had from:

[www.trinityhouse.co.uk](http://www.trinityhouse.co.uk)  
[www.cil.ie](http://www.cil.ie)

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This Newsletter duals as Circular 241. Check you have a full file. All Issues of AMERC NEWS appear on the AMERC Website and are fully searchable from Issue 17 onwards. Copies of the Circulars may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary. ***Do not forget to distribute copies to your colleagues.***

Articles and suggestions for future issues of AMERC NEWS can be sent at any time.

***Brian Cotton, Editor.***

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