

Archive Trinity House News: 2010

GLA Aids to Navigation Review 2010 - 2015

The GLAs have now completed their latest 5 yearly comprehensive review of AtoN requirements for the waters around the United Kingdom and Ireland.

In determining the ongoing requirements, modern technology has allowed the GLAs to make full use of data on vessel traffic analysis provided through the Automated Identification Systems (AIS). This data together with the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) overlays including the consideration leisure routes and a professional assessment of new or changing offshore developments has facilitated the formulation of decisions that will ensure the safety of navigation for the coming years.

In the review the following principles have been applied to ensure a consistent application around the coast:

- Generally:
 - The lights system can be considered a complementary but secondary system to Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) such as GPS;
 - Having one light in view is acceptable;
 - A maximum range of 18 miles is considered sufficient for most lights;
 - Rotating optics are no longer a requirement;
- If practical, there can be a reduction in amount and diversity of flash characters on lighthouse lights;
- Leading and Sectored lights remain important;
- Fog signals are no longer considered to be AtoN and will only be used as hazard warning signals;
- Major Floating AtoN, including light vessels, can have the same light character if not in close proximity;

The decisions were made following a wide scale consultation exercise with users and representative organisations across the whole spectrum of users from leisure sailors to large commercial operators.

The results include decisions to:

- Discontinue 6 lighthouses, 18 buoys, 5 fog signals, 3 beacons and 1 radar beacon;
- Decrease the range of light at 44 lighthouses;
- Increase the range of light at 2 Lighthouses;

- Light 10 existing unlit minor AtoN;
- Establish 4 minor AtoN and 1 radar beacon;
- Negotiate with representative local lighthouse and port authorities for the transfer from the GLAs to them of 53 AtoN that are considered to be primarily for the benefit of local navigation.

The changes will be programmed in over the coming years and will be fully promulgated in advance.

The document is available on the respective websites of all three GLAs as follows:

Trinity House www.trinityhouse.co.uk

Northern Lighthouse Board www.nlb.org.uk

Commissioners of Irish Lights www.cil.ie

[Click here to download the full review document.](#)

12/05/2010

Notes To Editors

The General Lighthouse Authorities

The General Lighthouse Authorities (GLAs) of the United Kingdom and Ireland are **Trinity House**, the **Northern Lighthouse Board** and the **Commissioners of Irish Lights**. Together, they have the statutory responsibility for the provision of marine aids to navigation (AtoNs) around the British Isles. The GLAs operate in a “user pays” cost-recovery environment based on “Light Dues” charged on various classes of shipping calling at ports in the UK and Ireland. The UK Secretary of State for Transport sets the level of light dues to be charged. The GLAs’ joint mission is the delivery of a reliable, efficient and cost effective AtoN service for the benefit and safety of all mariners.

Contacts/Further Information

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Minister's Response to the W.S Atkins Report

The General Lighthouse Authorities (GLAs) of the UK and Ireland welcome the official response of the Minister to the report from Atkins consultants entitled "Assessment of the provision of marine aids to navigation around the United Kingdom and Ireland". The recommendations for increasing the synergy and cost-effectiveness of the GLAs raise interesting and challenging scenarios however the GLAs will endeavour to deliver.

The GLAs believe that together they are capable of delivering the necessary efficiencies identified for them. They have recognised the merits in many of the recommendations contained within the Atkins Review published earlier this year and, under their own initiative, have already established a Joint Strategic Board (JSB) to look at how to take the recommendations forward. The JSB has determined a number of improvement objectives set against the 52 recommendations contained within the report that will deliver increased operational efficiencies across the three authorities.

The GLAs have a proud record of reducing costs over many years, embracing technology whilst ensuring the safety needs of the mariner are always met and respecting the cost efficiency desires of the Light Dues payers. Sustained savings over recent years have demonstrated the effectiveness of the GLAs, particularly when matched against rises in the RPI and increased government spending in other areas.

The Government's intention to provide long term stability in the Light Dues regime is also to be welcomed. After more than 16 years of consistent reductions in Light Dues we are embarking on an exciting new era of eNavigation development. It is vital that we have the financial stability to engage in that process.

Changes to the funding arrangements for the provision of aids to navigation in the Republic of Ireland are particularly challenging. The GLAs welcome this clear statement.

28/07/2010

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Corporation of Trinity House wins international business award

A UK bursary scheme launched just two years ago has been recognised by the International Superyacht Society (ISS) at its annual Awards of Distinction.

The award for the 2010 Business of the Year was given to the Corporation of Trinity House for its Professional Yachtsman Bursary Scheme (PYBS) by the ISS for “demonstrating excellence in their area of superyacht expertise”.

Commodore David Squire, Director of Maritime Training at the Corporation, said: “To have our fledgling scheme recognised by the International Superyacht Society is very special. I speak for the whole of the Corporation when I say it really is an honour to be given this award. The Corporation does so much to support mariners past, present and future and develops ideas to keep pace with the rate of change within the diverse maritime industry.”

The PYBS was established in 2008 in response to the increasing number and size of superyachts and a growing requirement for competent and qualified crew.

The Corporation of Trinity House, the UK’s largest endowed maritime charity, trialled the scheme with RYA and MCA-approved qualification providers UKSA and the University of Plymouth. The charity provides successful applicants with payment of 90% of their tuition fees and a monthly allowance whilst they are under tuition.

The PYBS runs in parallel with another Trinity House bursary, the Merchant Navy Scholarship Scheme, which has successfully delivered competent Merchant Navy Officers since its establishment two decades ago.

The Awards Ceremony was held at the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show on 28 October.

29/10/2010

Notes To Editors

1) Professional Yachtsman Bursary Scheme (PYBS)

The Professional Yachtsman Bursary Scheme was launched at the Southampton Boat Show in September 2008 as the Leisure Industry Nautical Cadet Scheme (LINCS).

The scheme, which is being trialled with RYA and MCA-approved qualification providers UKSA and the University of Plymouth, provides successful applicants with payment of 90% of their tuition fees and a monthly allowance whilst they are under tuition.

2) The Corporation of Trinity House

Trinity House is the General Lighthouse Authority (GLA) for England and Wales, with responsibility for nearly 600 Aids to Navigation, from traditional aids such as lighthouses, buoys and beacons to the latest satellite navigation technology. In addition it inspects over 10,000 local Aids to Navigation provided by port and harbour authorities, and those positioned on offshore structures.

Incorporated by Royal Charter in 1514, the Corporation is also a major maritime charity, wholly funded by its endowments. The Corporation spends around £4m each year on its charitable activities including welfare of mariners, education and training, and the promotion of safety at sea. It is also a Deep Sea Pilotage Authority.

3) The courses

For more information about the courses please contact UKSA (www.uksa.org, telephone 01983 203034) and the University of Plymouth (chris.pollard@plymouth.ac.uk, telephone 01752 584712) direct.

Nash Point lights way for 50 couples

Intimate and romantic, with a touch of the dramatic, Nash Point lighthouse on the beautiful South Glamorgan coast has been central to the wedding plans of 50 couples over the last six years, with the latest couple tying the knot at this unique venue on Monday (6 December).

The venue, which has held a wedding licence since 2004, is a fully operational lighthouse, operated and maintained by Trinity House, the General Lighthouse Authority for England, Wales and the Channel Islands.

Said Chris Williams, attendant at Nash Point lighthouse, 'We really have seen everything here. Aside from the restrictions of the venue size, which appeals to the many couples not wanting a large impersonal event, it really is anything goes. We have had brides and grooms in formal wedding attire and others turn up in wellies and cycling gear.'

Joy and Patrick Tubby married at Nash Point lighthouse in 2008. 'We are involved with the Association of Lighthouse Keepers and have a close association with Happisburgh lighthouse on the east coast' said Joy. 'We are so passionate about lighthouses that for us the venue was the most natural choice. With a lighthouse theme running throughout, and with the former lighthouse keepers cottages on the site also available to hire, Nash Point was the perfect venue for a wedding with our family around us. We spent our honeymoon at one of the ex-lighthouse keepers cottages, and had a wonderful, peaceful, relaxing week.'

Nash Point lighthouse is also open to the public for tours. For information about opening times please visit www.trinityhouse.co.uk.

10/12/2010

Notes To Editors

For more information about getting married at Nash Point lighthouse or hiring the cottages there please visit www.trinityhouse.co.uk

To view the lighthouse as a possible wedding venue, please contact Chris Williams via chris@nashpoint.co.uk or call 07850 047721

For more information about Trinity House or Nash Point lighthouse please contact Vikki Gilson, PR Manager for Trinity House, via vikki.gilson@thls.org or call 020 7481 6960.

For a photo of Joy and Patrick's wedding, or a possible interview with the couple, please contact Vikki Gilson, PR Manager for Trinity House, via vikki.gilson@thls.org or call 020 7481 6960.

1. Nash Point lighthouse

Nash Point lighthouse was designed by James Walker, the Engineer-in-Chief to Trinity House, in 1832 to mark the sandbanks off the point at the entrance to the Bristol Channel. The decision to build it followed a public outcry after the passenger steamer FROLIC was wrecked with heavy loss of life in 1830.

Two circular towers were built each with massive walls and a stone gallery. The eastern, or high lighthouse being 37 metres high and the western or low lighthouse 25 metres high. Placed 302 metres apart they provided leading lights to indicate safe passage past the sandbanks. The high light was painted with black and white stripes and the low light was white. In those days both towers showed a fixed light which was either red or white depending on the direction from which a vessel approached. The red sector marked the Nash Sands.

The low light was abandoned early this century and the high light was modernised and painted white. In place of the fixed light a new first order catadioptric lens was installed which gives a white and red group flashing.

Nash is one of those lighthouses scattered around our coast that has no claim to fame. For over 160 years its light has done its job as a sign to mariners to keep them clear of danger, its sole distinction is the discovery in 1977 of the tuberous thistle (*Cirsium Tuberosum*), a rare plant, which was found growing around the lighthouse.

Established	1832
Height Of Tower	37 Metres
Height Of Light Above Mean High Water	56 Metres
Automated	July 1998
Electrified	1968
Lamp	1500 Watt
Optic	1st Order 920 Mm Catadioptric, Fixed Lens, 2 Reinforcing Panels For Red Sectors
Character	White And Red Group Flashing Twice Every 15 Seconds
Intensity	140,000 Candela

Range Of Light

21 nautical miles (White Sectors)

2. Trinity House

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Incorporated by Royal Charter in 1514, the Corporation is also a major maritime charity, wholly funded by its endowments. The Corporation spends around £3m each year on its charitable activities including welfare of mariners, education and training, the promotion of safety at sea, and its role as a Deep Sea Pilotage Authority.

More information can be found at www.trinityhouse.co.uk

Celebrity Head Judge Announced for 2011 Lighthouse Calendar Competition

Television personality Rory McGrath will chair the judge's panel for the Lighthouse Calendar Photography Competition. The panel will decide which 12 lighthouse photographs best represent Trinity House for its 2012 calendar.

Also on the judging panel will be Sir Jeremy de Halpert, Executive Chairman of Trinity House, and Charles Salmon, Managing Director of J Salmon Calendars.

Rory McGrath has worked with Trinity House in the past – filming onboard THV Galatea and at Bishop Rock lighthouse alongside previous judge Griff Rhys Jones for the BBC2 series 'Three Men in Another Boat'

Trinity House operates some of the most famous lighthouses in the world. Renowned for their beauty, history and architectural merit, many of the lighthouses are listed buildings situated in spectacular locations and lend themselves to creative images.

The 2011 lighthouse calendar is available to purchase direct from Trinity House.

Entries for the competition should be submitted by 28 February 2011. The rules and entry form can be downloaded below.

[Download entry form and rules](#) (opens in new window)

17/12/2010

Notes To Editors

1. Rory McGrath

Rory is a highly experienced presenter and versatile comedy writer and performer, best known as the only original team member to appear in all eighteen seasons of the comedy sports quiz *They Think It's All Over ...* which ran for 11 years on BBC 1.

Rory started off writing for *The Dave Allen Show* and *Alas Smith and Jones* in the 1980's, before moving onto TV in 1989 with the historical comedy *Chelmsford 123*

He has presented many quiz shows and factual programmes on travel, sport and history, including *Three Men in a Boat*, *A Word in Your Era*, *The Holiday Show*, *The History Fix*, (all BBC), *Killer Queens* (ITV), *Bloody Britain* and *Engineering Britain* (Discovery). Rory has also appeared as an actor in comedy favourites such as *Drop the Dead Donkey*, *Have I Got News for You*, *Don't Quote Me* and *About Face* (Central TV) with Maureen Lipman.

After the success of *Rory and Paddy's Great British Adventure*, in which Rory teamed up with fellow comedian Paddy McGuinness to take a bizarre sporting road trip around Britain, *Rory and Paddy's Even Greater British Adventure* launched on Five in September 2010. Rory's latest project, *Monte Carlo or Bust* aired in October, and further series of *Three Men in a Boat* and *The Lakes* will be appearing on screens later in the year.

2. Trinity House

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