# RESOLUTION 362 (WRC-15)

## Autonomous maritime radio devices operating in the frequency band 156-162.05 MHz

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2015),

*considering*

*a)* that, in order to enhance safety of navigation, there is a need to identify and categorize maritime radio devices which operate autonomously in the maritime environment, including but not limited to: devices on towed unpowered ships and barges, derelict ships, floating ice and wave-gliders, "man overboard" devices, diver locating, alerting and radiotelephony devices, fishing net marker buoys, oil spill tracking buoys, oceanographic and other drifting buoys;

*b)* that such autonomous maritime radio devices are operating with automatic identification system (AIS) technology or digital selective calling (DSC) technology, or transmitting synthetic voice messages, or with a combination of those technologies, and have been developed for safety-related purposes, and their number is expected to increase;

*c)* that AIS is a proven technology for maritime safety applications, providing identification functions, safety of navigation functions, aids to navigation, locating signals and data communications;

*d)* that some of these autonomous maritime radio devices may need different maritime identifiers from those used for personal or shipborne equipment,

*recognizing*

*a)* that the integrity of AIS and the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) should be protected;

*b)* that ships complying with the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974 (as amended) and other ships equipped with automated radiocommunication systems, including AIS, DSC and/or other GMDSS alerting devices should be assigned maritime mobile service identities (MMSIs) in accordance with Recommendation ITU-R M.585;

*c)* that the usage of frequencies of Appendix **18** to the Radio Regulations and maritime identities described in Recommendation ITU-R M.585 should be limited to devices which are identified as part of the maritime mobile service;

*d)* that these autonomous maritime radio devices, which do not fall under the definition of No. **1.28** and the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Recommendations, require a new categorization,

*further recognizing*

*a)* that the majority of autonomous maritime radio devices using AIS technology are operating in AIS 1 and AIS 2 frequency bands, and, to some extent, occupying the resources of MMSIs for ship stations or aids to navigation;

*b)* that Recommendations ITU-R M.493, ITU-R M.1371 and ITU-R M.541 describe technical and operational characteristics for some relevant maritime radio devices;

*c)* that Report ITU-R M.2285 provides an overview of systems and their mode of operation for some maritime devices used as maritime survivor locating systems and devices (man overboard systems);

*d)* that an evaluation of the effects on the functioning of AIS used for the safety of navigation, and especially search and rescue activities implemented by AIS-search and rescue transmitters (AIS-SARTs), is required,

*noting*

*a)* that WRC-12 designated channels in Appendix **18** of the Radio Regulations for experiments and testing for the future new AIS applications or systems;

*b)* that ITU-R has been requested to study a future new maritime identification scheme,

*resolves to invite the 2019 World Radiocommunication Conference*

to consider the results of ITU-R studies and take appropriate actions,

*invites ITU-R*

1 to conduct the necessary studies in time for WRC-19 to determine the spectrum needs and technical and operational characteristics of autonomous maritime radio devices operating in the frequency band 156-162.05 MHz;

2 to conduct the necessary studies to categorize the various autonomous maritime radio devices;

3 to conduct sharing and compatibility studies, based on the results of *invites ITU-R* 1 and 2, to ensure that no undue constraints are placed on the GMDSS and AIS;

4 to conduct studies, taking into account the results of *invites ITU-R* 1 to 3, and existing maritime technology, to determine potential regulatory actions and appropriate frequencies for autonomous maritime radio devices within the frequency band 156-162.05 MHz,

*further invites*

the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the International Radio Maritime Committee (CIRM) to contribute to these studies,

*instructs the Secretary-General*

to bring this Resolution to the attention of IMO, ICAO, WMO, IEC, IALA, IHO, CIRM and other international and regional organizations concerned.