

Title Abstract: The changing world of VTS - From analog binoculars to digital decisions, increasing capacity and accuracy

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Abstract:

The world is changing rapidly and the demands for sustainability and control grows constantly. VTS, with its core values Efficiency, Safety and Environmental Protection is as relevant as ever and technique is being developed to meet today's and tomorrow's demands.

The big game changers are the possibilities brought by STM (and others) to have access to the vessels' Voyage Plans and to use advanced digital possibilities of support in monitoring, detecting risky situations and finding solutions for them. Given the opportunity to check the intentions of the vessels well in advance and being assisted in watch keeping by tireless computers will raise the efficiency of the VTS to a new level. The new much improved situational awareness brought by digitalization also enables fuel savings and reduced costs as port calls can be optimized to a lot higher degree than ever before.

The outcome of the new technology and new operational procedures will be that bigger areas can be surveilled from the VTS, that potentially dangerous situations can be detected earlier and averted swifter. The Efficiency, Safety and Environmental Protection brought by VTS in the VTS areas will increase further, and hopefully be expanded to larger waters.

Key words: route sharing, digitalization, decision making support, meeting demands