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To the committee,

Seems fairly useless considering the International Hydrographic Organization already exists. The proposed charter does not specify the scope of the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation especially in regards to duplication of work. The organization would function better as an industry technical working forum for the standardization and intercompatibility of technical solutions especially in regards to autonomous ship navigational aids. An example of a technical forum would be the Unified Extensible Firmware Interface Forum. The only part of maritime navigation the IHO S-44 doesn't deal with is things like the shape, frequency and, colour of signal lights. Bouys are the maritime equivalent of a survey marker. While I support the winding up of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities it should be folded into the extant IHO. The Australian Government should make representations against the establishment of such an organization as a waste of time, money and bureaucrats that could be put to better use.

As a comparison, it would be prudent to merge Geoscience Australia with the Department of Transport if the Department of Transport didn't manage any infrastructure and only decided the colour of survey markers. There are no roads or railway tracks in the ocean. The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities is like a Main Roads that doesn't build roads but just decided the colour of signs near interesting pot holes. The idea of a multinational political delegation to decide on such a trivial matter is beyond the pale.

Robert Heron

