



Boater perspectives on new navigation initiatives

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Thought

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The only person who likes change is a baby
with a wet diaper

Quote by: Michael Post

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Perspectives

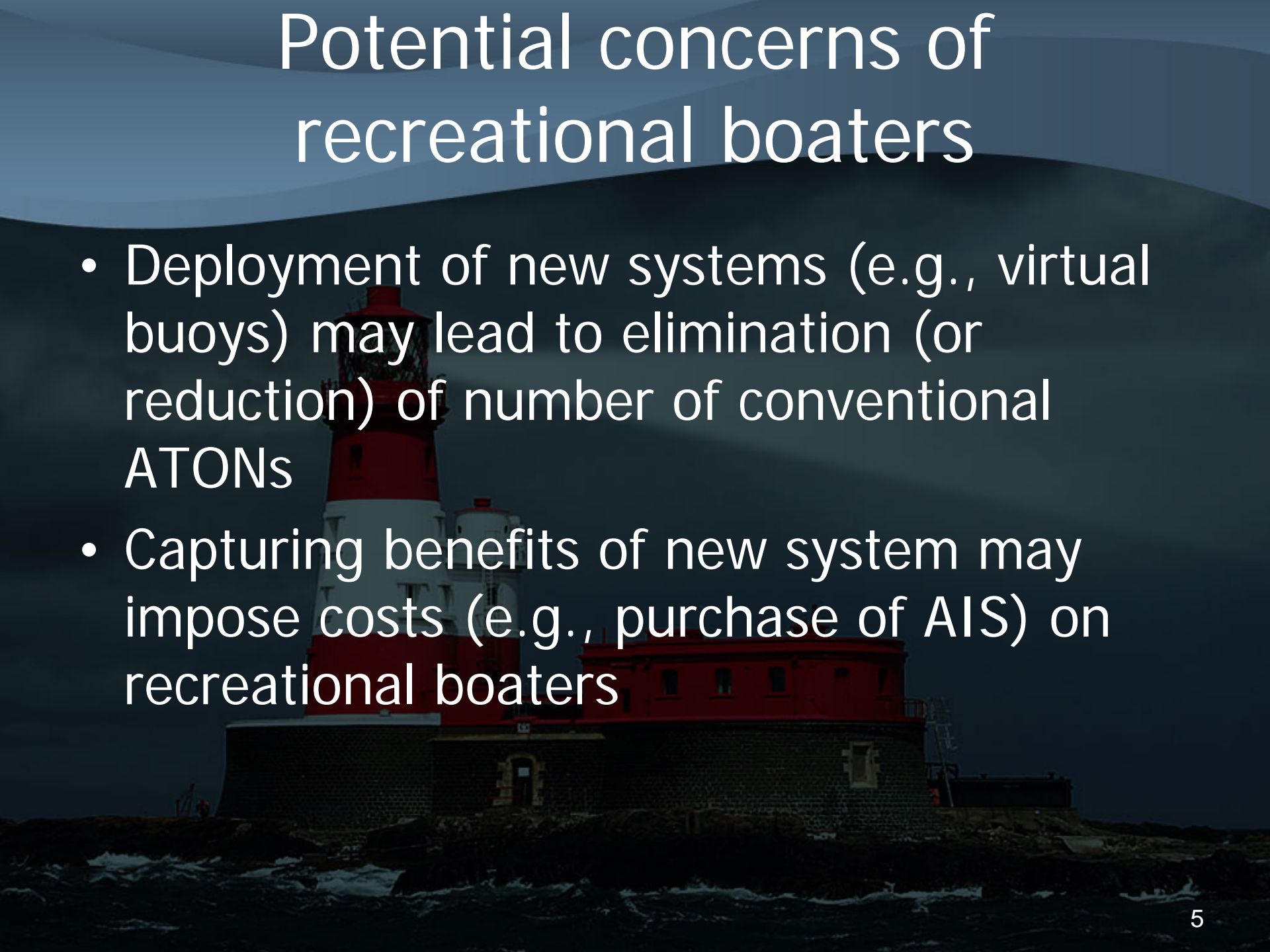


- Potential benefits of new eATON technology substantial
- Recreational boater community cautiously optimistic about new technology
- Continued testing of new technology appropriate
- Outreach efforts essential to share information
- Deployment strategy requires thought

Examples of changes in navigation systems

- Lighthouses
- RDF (replaced by Loran)
- Loran-A (replaced by Loran-C)
- Inertial Navigation systems (replaced by GPS, except for submarines)
- Decca (replaced by GPS)
- Omega (replaced by GPS)
- Loran-C (replaced by GPS)

Potential concerns of recreational boaters

A lighthouse with a red and white tower and a dark lantern room, situated on a rocky island at night. The lighthouse is illuminated from within, and the surrounding sea is dark with some white foam from waves crashing against the rocks.

- Deployment of new systems (e.g., virtual buoys) may lead to elimination (or reduction) of number of conventional ATONs
- Capturing benefits of new system may impose costs (e.g., purchase of AIS) on recreational boaters

Potential concerns of recreational boaters

A lighthouse with a red and white tower stands on a rocky island at night. The lighthouse has a red top section and a white middle section. The base is a dark stone structure. The background is a dark, stormy sea with white-capped waves crashing against the shore. The sky is dark and overcast.

- Effective utilization of new systems might lead operators to focus on electronic displays, potentially compromising efficiency of visual lookout
- Technical
 - What about power failures in onboard electronics?
 - Will new systems have high availability?
 - Security concerns

What is needed? (NAVSAC Resolution 12-06)

- Engage all local stakeholders to learn about local needs well in advance of any decision to eliminate physical ATONs
- Discussion needed before USCG changes from enhancing existing ATONs to replacing ATONs
- USCG should consider alternative means to meet their mission of maintaining and providing ATONs to the maritime community by considering private sector involvement

Questions?

