



Runway Safety Team (RST) Issues with emphasis on Seaplane Operations Velana International Airport

**Maldives Airports Company Limited Republic
of Maldives**

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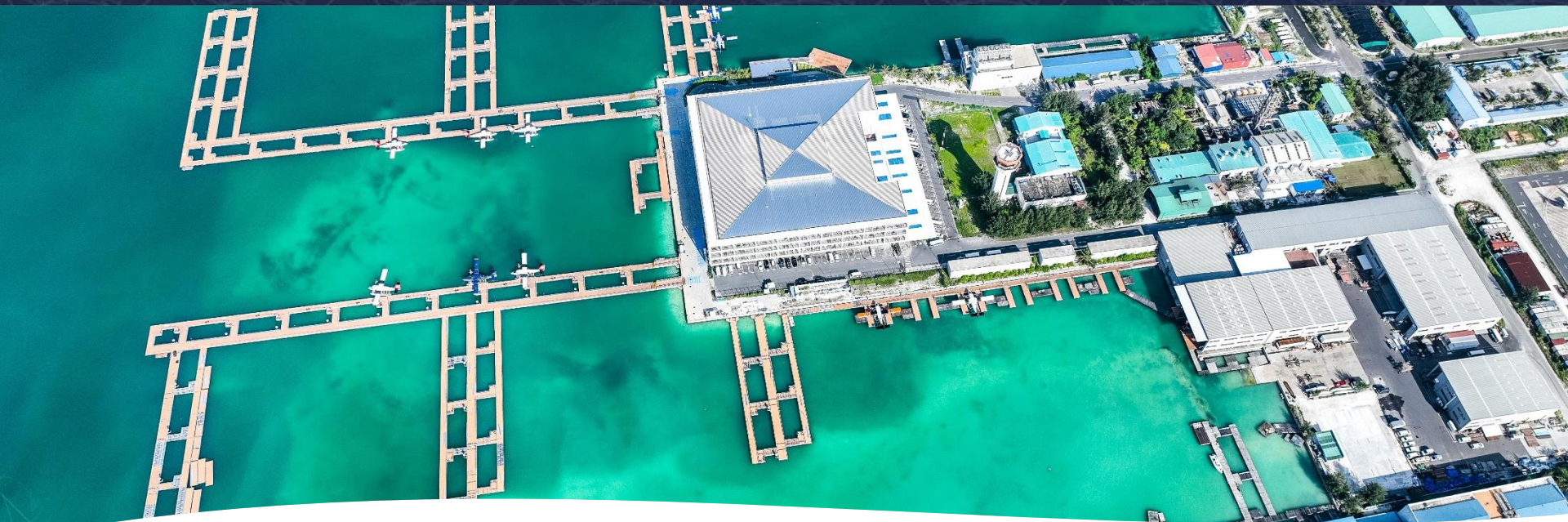
- VIA and its unique operational context
- Integrating Water RWY safety into LRST
- LRST composition and key safety issues addressed
- Regulatory framework and upcoming certification





Velana International Airport: A Dual Aerodrome Hub

- VIA serves as the primary aviation gateway to the Maldives.
- Operates both a land and a co-located water aerodrome on Hulhule' Island.
- Managed by Maldives Airports Company Limited (MACL).
- Essential for tourism and inter-island connectivity.
- Maldives' unique geography: archipelago of atolls spanning 823km x 130km, with over 99% sea.



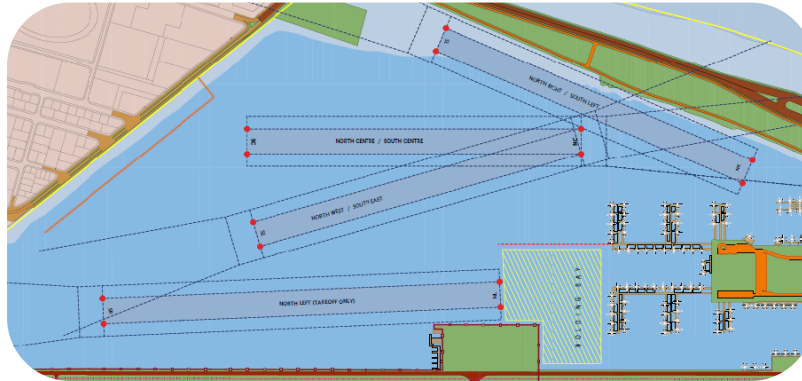
Enhancing safety through integrated LRST

- Water aerodrome is crucial for seaplane operations and resort access.
- Dual operations create complex safety considerations.
- MACL integrated water runway safety into the existing LRST
- Decision made in 2022, due to increasing water runway safety issues
- LRST membership expanded to include water aerodrome operators, seaplane operators, and related personnel.



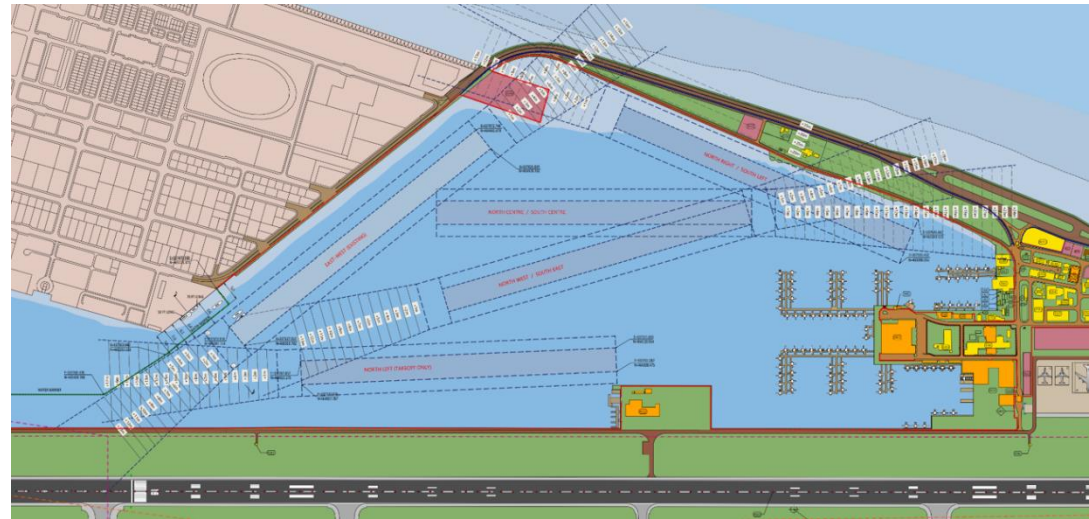
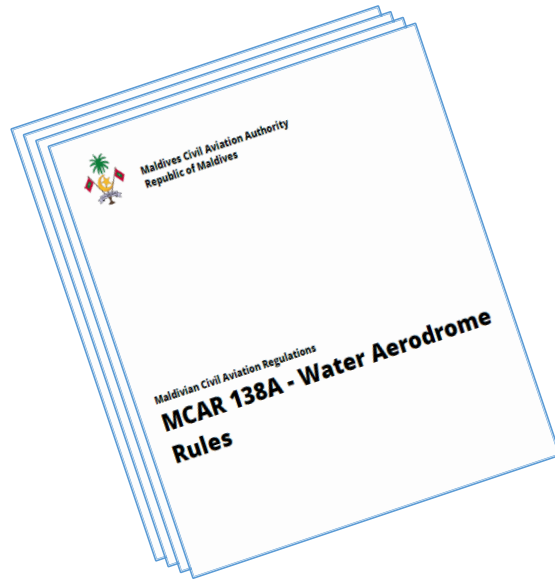
LRST composition and Safety Management

- LRST includes:
 - Aerodrome operations, maintenance personnel, wildlife hazard management.
 - Air Traffic Service providers, Air Traffic Controllers association, Airline Operators.
 - Safety Compliance Manager of VIA and a representative from MCAA as observers.



LRST composition and Safety Management

- Addressed Safety issues:
 - Installation of water runway threshold identification buoys.
 - Proposal and assessment for North-Left (NL) water runway realignment.
 - Mitigation of marine animals (Shark) presence near the water runway.
 - Familiarization training for marine rescue team.
 - Creation of a SOP for water runway access.



Regulatory Framework and Water Aerodrome Certification

- MCAA published Water Aerodrome Regulation (MCAR138A) on Jan 20, 2025, effective May 1, 2025.
- Certification required for:
 - Co-located land and water aerodromes.
 - Water aerodromes with over 100,000 annual movements.
 - As deemed necessary by MCAA.
- MCAA also published Water Aerodrome Standards, MCAR 138B.
- MACL has initiated a Task Force for water aerodrome certification.

Ensuring safe and Seamless Operations

- VIA's integrated LRST approach ensures comprehensive runway safety.
- Addressing unique challenges of dual land and water aerodrome operations.
- Commitment to complying with new water aerodrome regulations.
- Continuous improvement of safety measures for all stakeholders.



THANK YOU 😊
