

# **Abstract**

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## **Automatic Identification System (AIS) and the Role of Information Technology in Vessel Traffic Management**

Many different methods and techniques have been used in the past to manage maritime traffic however, none of them had the capability of either interacting with the traffic providing any advice assistance to the vessels, thus the Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) were developed as a live solution for traffic management and surveillance problems, by interacting with the vessels, to advice and assisting them to ensure the safety and efficiency of navigation. International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted a new requirement for ships to carry Automatic Identification System (AIS), which is capable of providing information - about the ship to other ships and to coastal authorities. AIS could be a great tool for VTS operations in generating a comprehensive view of the traffic, AIS will improve the quality of shipping information service and will contribute positively to many of the VTS applications and allied services. This paper will identify how the information technology may contribute in improving the vessel traffic management.