

MSCIO MARITIME SECURITY NOTICE

MILITARY ACTIVITY

Military operations are ongoing in parts of the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, the North Arabian Sea and the Strait of Hormuz.

Where transit is necessary, vessels should maximize their distance from naval forces and conduct a dynamic risk assessment in accordance with BMP-MS guidance.

Vessels are strongly advised to exercise heightened caution while transiting these areas, maintain an active listening watch on VHF Channel 16, and report any suspicious activity to MSCIO and UKMTO.

UPDATE 08

This note provides an update of the current maritime security environment affecting commercial shipping, based on information promulgated by maritime security reporting centers, military authorities and reports received directly from Masters.

It is divided into two key transit regions that are directly and indirectly affected:

- The Strait of Hormuz.
- The Strait of Bab el-Mandeb.

STRAIT OF HORMUZ (SoH)

Arabian Gulf – Gulf of Oman – Northern Arabian Sea

Military operations keep ongoing in the region and the maritime security environment in the Strait of Hormuz and adjacent waters remains highly deteriorated.

Heavy GPS/AIS spoofing within the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman continues to be reported. Additionally, intermittent disruptions affecting communications and radar systems have also been observed.

A significant clustering of merchant vessels remains anchored, loitering, or berthed in ports within the Arabian Gulf and in several western ports of the Gulf of Oman. Enhanced caution and vigilance are advised when transiting or loitering in these areas. Vessels are recommended to maintain safe separation distances using radar or visual means.

Since 28th February, there have been 14 confirmed incidents related to commercial vessels as shown in “Annex A”. All these events, are HIGHLY LIKELY to be attributed to Iranian hostile actions.

It is advised for merchant vessels to:

- Avoid transiting the Strait of Hormuz until the security situation improves.
- Adhere to guidance issued by their Flag State or competent national authorities when considering transit.
- Perform enhanced risk assessment.
- Strictly adhere to BMP-MS.
- Monitor Ch16 VHF and be prepared to be hailed.
- Use AIS as per company policy.
- Whenever possible, increase distance from any naval forces to mitigate risk.
- Enhance radar and landmark procedures to support safe navigation, since GNSS are highly likely to be unreliable.

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BAB EL-MANDEB (BeM)

Red Sea - Gulf of Aden

There is always a potential for the resumption of hostile activity by Iranian-aligned Houthi forces against commercial shipping in the Red Sea and adjacent approaches. Such attacks may remain suspended provided the Gaza ceasefire agreement continues to hold.

Currently, no Houthi attacks have been reported in the maritime domain;

Merchant vessels should expect:

- Higher exposure for vessels with certain affiliations.
- Potential delays for vessels requesting close protection.

It is advised for merchant vessels to:

- Maintain navigation through international waters for as long as possible.
- Navigate closer to the African coastline where feasible.
- Maintain coordination with maritime security reporting centers, both MSCIO and UKMTO.
- Conduct a voyage-specific risk assessment and adhere to BMP-MS.
- Before transiting the area, take into consideration any direct or indirect affiliations between the vessel, its ownership, or its cargo and countries of interest.

Be aware the environment in the region is dynamic in the region and may change with limited notice. It is encouraged to maintain a high level of situational awareness and monitor official channels.

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Vessels are advised to transit with caution, be prepared to implement BMP-MS, and report any suspicious activity or electronic interference to MSCIO and UKMTO:

- **MSCIO:** postmaster@mscio.eu / +33 (0) 298 220 220 / +33 (0) 298 220 170
- **UKMTO:** watchkeepers@ukmto.org / +44 (0) 2392 222060

MSCIO continues to closely monitor developments in the region.

More detailed information can be found in:

[MSCIO EU | Advisories](#)



ANNEX A

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS

SOH REGION



<u>EVENT NR</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
14	10MAR	25-05N 054-16E	A merchant vessel has reported a loud blast followed by a water splash in close proximity to the vessel while anchored, possibly caused by an aerial object, approximately 40 NM north of Abu Dhabi.
13	07MAR	27-12N 049-43E	Third party reports possible UAV attack on oil rig. Fire contained and personnel evacuated.
12	06MAR	26-27N 056-25E	A tug has reportedly been struck while operating in the Strait of Hormuz.

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11	04MAR	29-33N 048-50E	A tanker at anchor 30NM southeast Mubarak al Kabeer (Kuwait) reported an explosion on its port side. A small craft was observed departing the area shortly after the blast. Water ingress has been reported. All crew are reported safe.
10	04MAR	25-03N 054-29E	A container drifting 20NM west of Dubai reported witnessing a splash from an unknown projectile in close proximity to the vessel. No damage to the vessel has been reported.
9	04MAR	26-25N 056-21E	A container vessel has reportedly been struck by an unknown projectile while initiating transit eastbound through the Strait of Hormuz.
8	03MAR	25-11N 056-32E	An oil tanker was struck by an unidentified projectile. A loud explosion was heard and observed on the starboard side. No fire was reported and no major structural damage to the hull was observed.
7	03MAR	25-10N 056-30E	A bulk carrier at Fujairah Anchorage reported an impact on the side of the superstructure. No fire or water ingress was reported and all crew members are safe.
6	03MAR	23-20N 061-01E	A bulk carrier drifting in the Arabian Sea reported a loud explosion in close proximity to the vessel followed by smoke. No damage was reported.
5	02MAR	26-11 N 050-40E	An oil tanker alongside in Port Salman, Bahrain, was hit by unidentified projectiles, resulting in a fire. All crew members were safe. One shipyard worker was killed and two others were injured.
4	01MAR	25-34N 054-45E	An unidentified projectile detonated in close proximity to a bulk carrier, approximately 35 NM west of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. No damages to hull or crew reported.
3	01MAR	26-13N 055-55E	An oil tanker was struck by an unidentified projectile, approximately 17 NM northwest of Mina Saqr, United Arab Emirates, causing a fire onboard. The fire was extinguished and the vessel continued its voyage.
2	01MAR	24-19N 058-20E	An oil tanker was hit by an unknown projectile, 45 NM north of Muscat, in the Gulf of Oman. One fatality was reported. The vessel is currently drifting approximately 60 NM off the coast of Muscat. Further information confirms the vessel was struck by an unmanned

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			surface vessel (USV). The crew has been safely evacuated ashore.
1	01MAR	26-17N 056-15E	An oil tanker was struck while at anchor in the waiting area off Khasab, Oman. The impact resulted in a fire onboard and the crew was evacuated. Four crew members sustained injuries. The fire has since been extinguished

