

# Joint Maritime Information Center

## Update 035 to JMIC Advisory Note:

01 March – 21 April 2026

Regional Tension - Impact on Maritime Security

**Area of Concern:**  
Middle East Maritime Region

JMIC# 001-26

Regional Threat Level: **CRITICAL**

### 1. Operational Summary – Last 48 Hours

#### Arabian Gulf & Strait of Hormuz

Strait of Hormuz traffic north of the traffic separation scheme is greatly reduced since Iranian announcement of closure. Southern routing via Oman territorial waters has been steady despite repeated hailing via VHF radio by IRGC representatives warning ships to turn around.

Anchorage showed no significant change in congestion. There are numerous reports of mines in and near the TSS. GNSS interference remained localized and intermittent.

#### Gulf of Oman & Arabian Sea

Merchant vessels continue to report a strong naval presence and firm VHF radio hailing near approaches to the Strait of Hormuz. Blockade enforcement activities have been reported by vessels sailing through the region and mariners are cautioned to maintain standoff distance from naval units.

#### Southern Red Sea, Bab el Mandeb & Gulf of Aden

There is a report of a fishing vessel hijacked by armed individuals in vicinity of Xaafuun, Somalia, that could form the nucleus of a pirate action group. Vessels in vicinity are advised to maintain a vigilant lookout and review relevant BMP-MS guidance. Commercial traffic remains steady. Houthi messaging continues without associated operational indicators.

#### Northern Red Sea & Suez Canal

No confirmed attacks or disruptions. Suez Canal transits continue normally. Electronic interference remains sporadic.

#### Eastern Mediterranean

No maritime attacks reported. Periodic electronic and navigational interference continues near Cyprus and the Levant. Naval presence remains elevated, and vessels are advised to maintain prudent separation from military units.

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## 2. Regional Threat Overview

Overall Maritime Risk Level: **● CRITICAL**

JMIC Threat Scale: **● Low** | **● Moderate** | **● Substantial** | **● Severe** | **● Critical**

Region	Threat Level	Notes
Arabian Gulf / Strait of Hormuz	<b>CRITICAL</b>	Navigation interference, blockade enforcement, mine reports, residual kinetic risk. Risk of attack or miscalculation in the Strait of Hormuz.
Gulf of Oman / Arabian Sea	<b>CRITICAL</b>	Historical projectile/UAV strikes; naval presence remains high.
Bab el-Mandeb / Gulf of Aden / Southern Red Sea	<b>MODERATE</b>	No confirmed maritime attacks; stable posture; Houthi rhetoric persists.
Northern Red Sea / Suez Canal	<b>MODERATE</b>	No attacks or disruptions; Suez Canal operating normally.
Eastern Mediterranean	<b>MODERATE</b>	EMI/GNSS disruptions; elevated naval presence; no maritime attacks.

## 3. Maritime Incidents & Traffic Assessment

### 3A. Confirmed Vessel Incidents (Since 1 March)

A total of 34 confirmed maritime incidents involving commercial vessels and offshore infrastructure have been reported across the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman.

Within the last 48 hours, two additional incidents were recorded:

- On 20 April, a an Iranian-flagged container vessel was disabled as a part of blockade enforcement activities near the eastern Gulf of Oman.
- On 20 April, a merchant vessel transiting outbound via Omani territorial waters was hailed and warned by the Iranian Navy, prompting it to alter course toward Fujairah.

### 3B. Infrastructure Incidents (Last 48 Hours)

No attacks on ports or maritime infrastructure reported. Overall risk remains SUBSTANTIAL, driven by the potential for renewed kinetic activity and ongoing uncertainty around Iranian coastal waters and blockade-related enforcement.

### 3C. Traffic Trends

- Strait of Hormuz:
  - Historical average: ~138 vessels/day
  - 19 April: 6 transits
  - 20 April: 16 transits



- Bab el-Mandeb:
  - 98 vessel transits in past 48 hours
  - Still below pre-2023 baseline

\* Metrics are a compilation of data from S&P Maritime and SeaVision sources.

### **3D. Port & Anchorage Congestion**

High vessel density persists across major Arabian Gulf anchorages, with limited change in overall congestion levels during the last 48 hours. Several vessels that had been preparing for Strait of Hormuz transits on 18–20 April subsequently remained at anchor or returned to anchorage following increased security pressure in the SOH.

Vessels operating in crowded anchorages should continue to monitor navigation systems for any degradation and maintain heightened awareness to reduce collision risk. Periodic repositioning within anchorages remains advisable to reduce predictability and limit potential targeting opportunities.

### **3E. GNSS / AIS Interference (No change)**

GNSS interference remains sporadic and localized across the Strait of Hormuz approaches, the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Gulf, the central Red Sea, and the Suez Canal approaches. AIS reliability in the Arabian Gulf has shown improvement since 15 March.

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## **4. Outlook (24–48 Hours)**

### **Arabian Gulf / Strait of Hormuz**

The operating environment remains high-risk. Security pressure around the Strait is expected to persist, with continued firm hailing patterns and close monitoring by Iranian units. The ceasefire remains fragile, and blockade-related enforcement activity continues. Rapid, short-notice actions near Iranian coastal waters, anchorages, and predictable routing points remain possible. Mine risk in the vicinity of the TSS continues to be assessed as relevant.

### **Gulf of Oman / Arabian Sea**

No recent confirmed kinetic activity, but historical strike patterns indicate a sustained residual risk. Naval presence and patrol activity are expected to remain elevated, particularly near approaches to the Strait of Hormuz and in areas of blockade enforcement activity.

### **Southern Red Sea / Bab el Mandeb / Gulf of Aden**

Houthi messaging continues without associated operational indicators. The potential for renewed disruption persists should regional tensions escalate. GNSS interference remains a residual hazard, with effects from the central Red Sea periodically extending into the southern sector.

### **Northern Red Sea / Suez**

The environment remains stable with no indicators of maritime escalation. Periodic EMI and GNSS disruptions are likely to continue.

### **Eastern Mediterranean**

Direct maritime targeting remains unlikely. Elevated naval presence and ongoing EMI require continued caution. Vessels should maintain prudent standoff from military units



# Annexes

## Transit comparisons

**CARGO VESSELS TRANSITS COMPARISON 12 April to 18 April 2026**

Date	14-Apr	15-Apr	16-Apr	17-Apr	18-Apr	19-Apr	20-Apr
SoH E	1	1	1	3	5	2	6
SoH W	0	1	0	3	3	2	2
<b>SoH Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
BAM NW	5	7	6	5	10	15	20
BAM SE	5	5	8	8	8	11	12
<b>BAM Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>32</b>

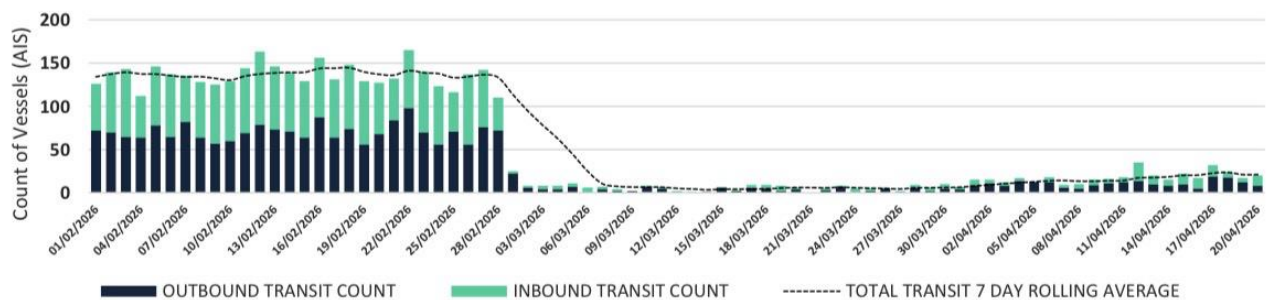
**TANKERS (ALL TYPES) VESSELS TRANSITS COMPARISON 12 April to 18 April 2026**

Date	14-Apr	15-Apr	16-Apr	17-Apr	18-Apr	19-Apr	20-Apr
SoH E	0	1	1	2	6	1	5
SoH W	2	3	0	2	5	1	3
<b>SoH Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>
BAM NW	5	6	1	7	3	10	12
BAM SE	7	0	6	3	3	9	9
<b>2BAM Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>

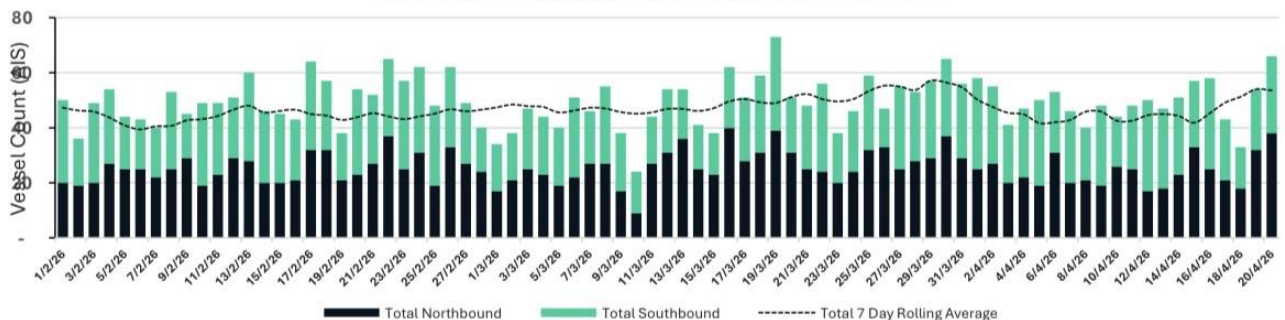
Source: S&P and SeaVision. Data based on cargo carrying vessels 1000 GT and above transmitting AIS

## UKMTO transits

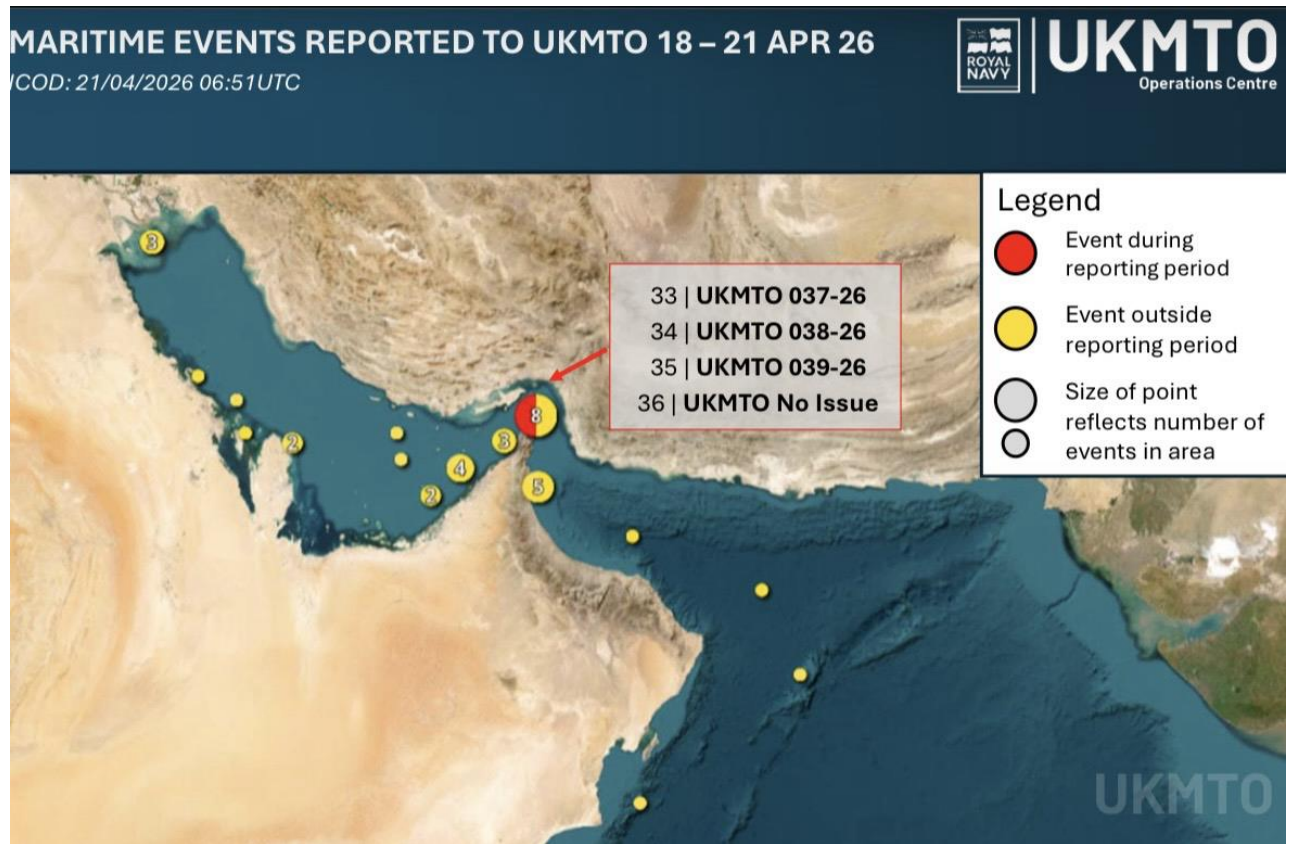
**Strait of Hormuz Transits (Vessel Count) 1 Jan 26 - 20 Apr 26**



**Bab el-Mandeb Transits (Vessel Count) 1 Feb 26 - 20 Apr 26**



# UKMTO Incident Maps



## Confirmed Maritime Security Incidents List since 28 February

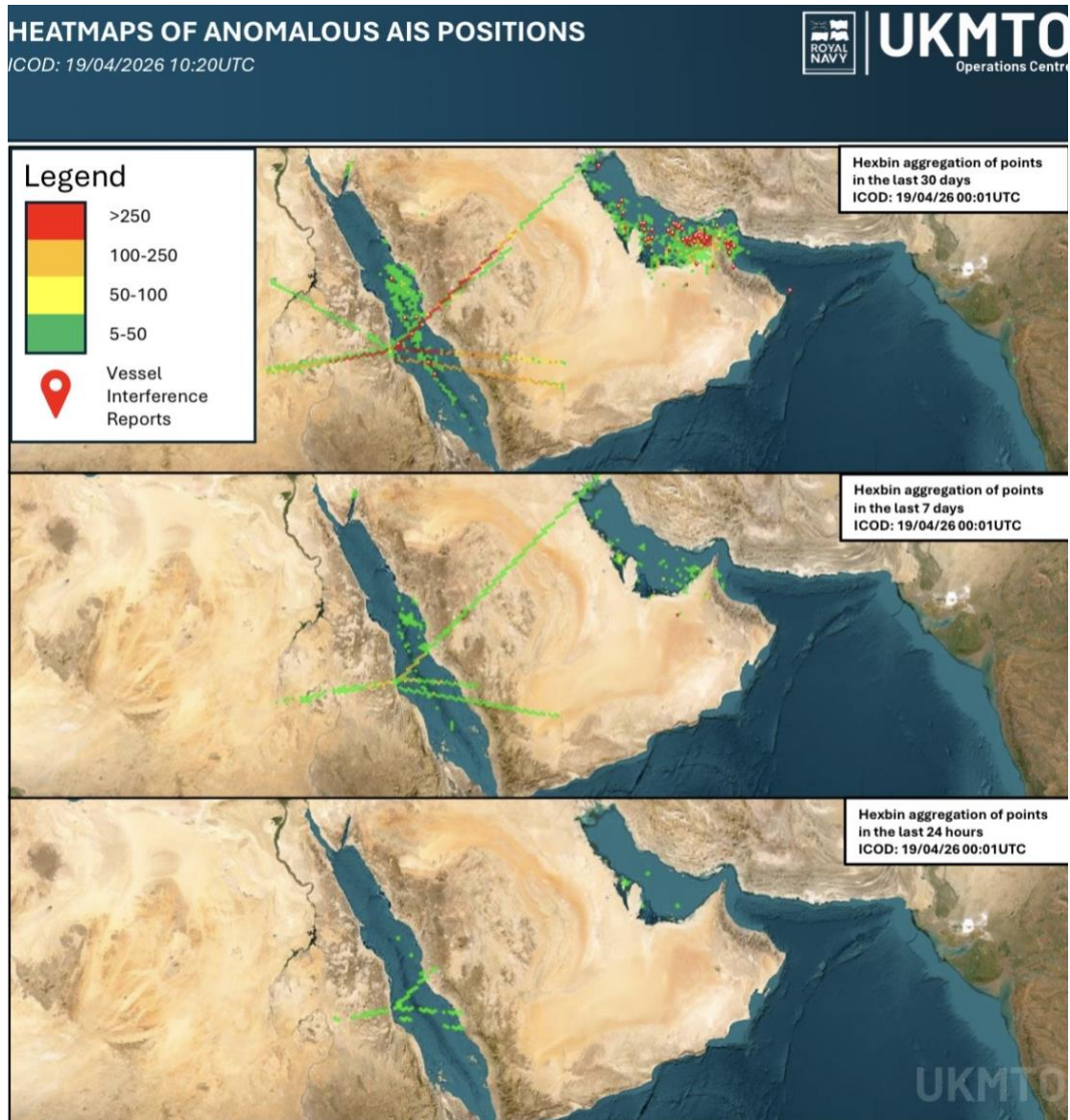
Date	Vessel	Vessel Type	Event Type	Location	Summary
01 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 004-26	SKYLIGHT	Tanker	Attack	Strait of Hormuz	Vessel struck by projectile while at anchor causing fire; crew evacuated with injuries reported.
01 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 006-36 UKMTO 005-26	HERCULES STAR	Tanker	Attack (serious)	Strait of Hormuz	Vessel struck by projectile while transiting outbound; fire reported onboard.
01 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 006-26	OCEAN ELECTRA	Bulk	Attack (serious)	Arabian Gulf	Projectile detonated in close proximity while vessel was transiting westbound; no damage reported.
01 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 007-36	MKD VYOM	Tanker	Attack (serious)	Gulf of Oman	Vessel struck by projectile (USV) while transiting northbound causing fire; one fatality reported.
01 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 008-26	STENA IMPERATIVE	Tanker	Attack (serious)	Bahrain	Vessel struck by two projectiles while in drydock causing fire and damage.
03 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 009-26	PELAGIA	Bulk	Near Miss	Gulf of Oman	UAV observed near vessel before impacting water nearby; no damage reported.
03 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 010-26	GOLD OAK	Bulk	Attack (serious)	Gulf of Oman	Vessel struck by projectile while at anchor causing structural damage; crew safe.
03 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 011-26	LIBRA TRADER	Tanker	Attack (serious)	Gulf of Oman	Vessel struck by projectile while anchored; damage reported.
04 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 012-26	SAFEEN PRESTIGE	Container	Attack (serious)	Strait of Hormuz	Explosion was reported near stern following approach by small craft; crew abandoned vessel.
04 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 013-26	MSC GRACE	Container	Near Miss (serious)	Arabian Gulf	Projectile detonated approximately 1 NM from vessel while drifting.
06 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 015-26	MUSSAFAH 2	Tug	Attack (serious)	Strait of Hormuz	Vessel struck by projectiles while supporting operations with SAFEEN PRESTIGE.
07 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 016-26	ARABIA III	Offshore Rig	Attack (serious)	Arabian Gulf	Drilling rig struck by UAV causing injuries and evacuation of personnel.
10 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 017-26	GH KAHLO	Bulk	Near Miss	Arabian Gulf	The Master reports witnessing a splash and hearing a loud bang in close proximity of a bulk carrier.
10 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 018-26	ONE MAJESTY	Container	Attack (serious)	Arabian Gulf	Vessel struck by projectile at stern causing possible structural damage.
11 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 020-26	STAR GWYNETH	Bulk Carrier	Attack (serious)	Arabian Gulf	Projectile strike caused breach in cargo hold and adjacent ballast tanks resulting in listing.
11 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 021-26	SAFESEA VISHNU	Tanker	Attack (serious)	Northern Arabian Gulf (STS area)	Struck by projectile while conducting STS operations; fire onboard and casualty reported.
11 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 021-26	ZEFYROS	Tanker	Attack (serious)	Northern Arabian Gulf (STS area)	Struck by projectile during STS operations causing significant fire.
12 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 022-26	SOURCE BLESSING	Container	Attack	Arabian Gulf (North of Jebel Ali)	Projectile struck accommodation block causing fire; crew safe.
17 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 023-26	Name withheld UFN	LPG Carrier	Suspicious activity	Approx 23 NM of the coast of UAE	Vessel was subjected to falling debris from drone or Missile Interception minor structural damage, no fire; crew safe.



18/03/2026 - UKMTO 024-26	Name withheld UFN	Chemical products tanker	Attack	Vessel in TTW of UAE, 11NM off the coast	Hit by unknown projectile and caught fire. Crew of 16, 15 rescued and one crew member unaccounted for.
19/03/2026 UKMTO 025-26	Name withheld UFN	Tug, Multipurpose Offshore vessel	Suspicious activity	Inner anchorage at Ras Laffan Port, approx 4 NM out.	Debris from a drone impacted on board, resulting in damage to the bridge window. No injuries to personnel and no structural damage to the vessel have been reported.
21/03/2026 UKMTO 026-26	Name withheld UFN	Bulk carrier	Suspicious activity	Arabian Gulf, approx 12 NM from the coast of UAE.	Vessel crew heard an explosion and observed a fire for a short period approx 1300 meters from vessel, crew of 24 safe.
30/03/2026 UKMTO 028-26	EXPRESS ROME	Container	Suspicious activity	Transiting eastbound through the Arabian Gulf, 22NM from the coast of Saudi Arabia	2 missiles splash into the water approximately 50 – 100 meters on the starboard side of the vessel. No damage and all crew are safe
30/03/2026 UKMTO 029-26	AI SALMI	Crude oil Tanker	Suspicious activity	Stationary, 31NM from the coast of UAE, Arabian Gulf.	Vessel was hit by an unknown projectile. There was a fire located in the STBD side cargo tank, fire was extinguished. Crew safe.
31/03/2026 UKMTO 030-26	AQUA 1	Tanker	Suspicious activity	Stationary 12NM from the coast of Qatar.	Vessel was hit by 2 unknown projectiles. As a result, a small fire started but was extinguished. Crew safe.
05/04/2026 UKMTO 031-26	Name withheld UFN	Container	Suspicious activity	Alongside in Khorfakkan port, UAE	Three unknown projectiles impacted in close proximity, no damage. Crew safe.
07/04/2026 UKMTO 032-26	Name withheld UFN	Container	Attack	In transit westbound Arabian Gulf, 25 NM off the cost of Iran.	The vessel was struck by an unknown projectile causing damage above the waterline. The crew are safe.
07/04/2026 UKMTO 036-26	Name withheld UFN	Bulk Carrier	Attack	112nm SE of Ras-al-Hadd	The vessel was struck by 2 unknown projectiles resulting in a fire. The crew is safe.
18/04/2026 UKMTO 037-26	Name withheld UFN	Tanker	Attack	20NM NE of Oman	The vessel being approached by 2 IRGC gun boats, no VHF challenge that then fired upon the tanker. Tanker and crew are reported safe.
18/04/2026 UKMTO 038-26	Name withheld UFN	Container	Attack	25NM NE of Oman	A report of a vessel being hit by an unknown projectile which caused damage to some of the containers, no fires or environment impact reported
18/04/2026 UKMTO 039-26	Name withheld UFN	Unspecified	Suspicious activity	3NM E of Oman	The Master reported sighting a splash in close proximity of the vessel.
20/04/2026 UKMTO 040-26	Name withheld UFN	Unspecified	Suspicious activity	Strait of Hormuz	Vessel experienced aggressive hailing and threats by IRGC during transit of the Strait of Hormuz. Vessel proceeded unharmed.



# AIS/GNSS Interference Graphics



## JMIC Regional Threat Levels

Threat Level	Definition
Low	An attack is highly unlikely
Moderate	An attack is possible but not likely
Substantial	An attack is a strong possibility
Severe	An attack is highly likely
Critical	An attack is almost certain

