



## **San Marino Bulletin**

**SMBU – 2025 - 015**

**3 February 2025**

**Security Bulletin – Threat to merchant marine, and ship's protection in the Red Sea, the Strait of Bab el Mandab, the Gulf of Aden, and the northwestern Indian Ocean.**

TO: Recognised Security Organisations, Shipowners, Companies, Company Security Officers, Managers, Masters, Ship Security Officers, Seafarers, SMSR partners, SMSR brokers, Surveyors, and the general public.



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## 1. Subject

Threat to merchant marine, and ships's protection in the Red Sea, the Strait of Bab el Mandab, the Gulf of Aden, and the northwestern Indian Ocean.

## 2. Purpose

To highlight risks and recommendatory measures for San Marino registered ships transiting through sea areas where terrorist, pirate and armed robber attacks are taking place.

## 3. Acronyms

BMP5: Best management practices to deter piracy and enhance maritime security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea<sup>1</sup>;

CMF: Combined Maritime Forces, with its 3 Task Forces CTF 150, CTF 151, and CTF 152. HQ in Bahrain<sup>2</sup>;

IFC (IOR): Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region<sup>3</sup>. HQ in India;

IFC SINGAPORE: Information Fusion Centre<sup>4</sup>. Office located in Singapore;

JOINT MARITIME INFORMATION CENTRE: The Joint Maritime Information Centre (JMIC), established in February 2024, is an entity operating in close cooperation with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), which is a 46-naval partnership. Office located in Dubai<sup>5</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> The purpose of the publication is to help ships plan their voyage and to detect, avoid, deter, delay and report attacks. To download the document: [BMP5 - Best Management Practices To Deter Piracy And Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf Of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Combined Maritime Forces – A 46-nation naval partnership](#)

<sup>3</sup> [IFC-IOR \(@IFC IOR\) / X](#)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.ifc.org.sg/ifc2web/app\\_pages/User/commonv2/aboutus.cshtml](https://www.ifc.org.sg/ifc2web/app_pages/User/commonv2/aboutus.cshtml)

<sup>5</sup> [Joint Maritime Information Center – Combined Maritime Forces](#)



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- MSCIO Maritime Security Centre Indian Ocean of the European Union Naval Forces (EUNAVFOR Operations ATALANTA and ASPIDES). HQ in Brest FR<sup>6</sup>;
- RCOC: Regional Coordination Operation Centre. Supported by the Indian Ocean Commission through the EU-MASE Programme. Office in Victoria, Mahé Island<sup>7</sup>;
- RMIFC: Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre. Established by the EU CRIMARIO Project. Office in Antananarivo, Madagascar<sup>8</sup>;
- VRA: Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA)<sup>9</sup>. The merchant VRS, has been established to increase security and to maintain the freedom of navigation to all ships in the Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea, and Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. The VRA is shown on UK Hydrographic Office Chart Q6099.

#### 4. References

1. September 2024 – Interim industry<sup>10</sup> transit advice, southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (for reading in conjunction with latest version of BMP).
2. Directive No. 06/2024 SEC 3.3 dated 31 October 2024<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> [EUNAVFOR ATALANTA su X: "The Maritime Security Centre Indian Ocean \(MSCIO\) is an initiative of #OperationATALANTA, established to enhance maritime security across Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean, & Persian Gulf. \[ \]The interface between EU Naval Forces in the area & international shipping community. https://t.co/c3HW9NgMjW" / X](https://t.co/c3HW9NgMjW)

<sup>7</sup> The RCOC, along with the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Center (RMIFC) in Madagascar, forms part of a Regional Maritime Security Architecture for the Western Indian Ocean under the EU-funded Maritime Security in Eastern & Southern Africa & Indian Ocean (MASE) program, led by the Indian Ocean Commission. [Maritime Collaboration: RCOC's support to Cutlass Express 2024 > U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa / U.S. Sixth Fleet > News Display](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Regional Maritime Information Fusion Center | Antananarivo | Facebook](#)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ukmto.org/reporting-formats>

<sup>10</sup> The Baltic and International Maritime Council **BIMCO**, the International Chamber of Shipping **ICS**; the Cruise Lines International Association **CLIA**; the International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners **INTERCARGO**; the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners **INTERTANKO**; the International Marine Contractors Association **IMCA**; and the Oil Companies International Marine Forum **OCIMF**. [https://maritimecyprus.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/BIMCO-Interim-industry-transit-advice-Red-Sea-and-Gulf-of-Aden\\_2024\\_09.pdf](https://maritimecyprus.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/BIMCO-Interim-industry-transit-advice-Red-Sea-and-Gulf-of-Aden_2024_09.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Setting Security Level 2 and other protective measures for ships flying the San Marino Flag while navigating, being at anchor or being moored in the southern Red Sea (part of), the Strait of Bab al Mandab, the Gulf of Aden, and in the northwestern Indian Ocean (part of). <https://www.smsr.sm/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/DIRECTIVE-No-06-2024.pdf>



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## 5. Current situation

1. An area of high maritime threat has been established by the coalition navies. The northern boundary of this area is parallel 17° 30'N in the Red Sea, and the boundary to the southeast is in, the Northwest Indian Ocean, at parallel 10° 00'N and meridian 056° 00'E and a voluntary reporting guidance in the Indian Ocean and Red Sea region has been established.
2. In December 2024 several changes have been made to regional voluntary reporting scheme. CMF, MSCIO and UKMT have agreed as follows:
  - a) To implement a single information reporting framework by 31 March 2025. This new framework includes CMF, MSCIO (EUNAVFOR operations ATALANTA and ASPIDES), and the UKMTO. The aspiration is to broaden the framework to include Regional Information Fusion Centres (IFCs), such as IFC (IOR), RMIFC, IFC-Singapore, and RCOC;
  - b) To adopt standardised Reporting Formats enabling mariners to use the same form to whoever they choose to report. Initial reporting to both MSCIO and UKMTO is recommended;
  - c) To suggest maritime shipping considering UKMTO acting as the primary point of contact for emergency response and MSCIO as the secondary point of contact;
  - d) That all reporting centers will use the Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) as shown on UKHO Chart Q6099<sup>12</sup>;
  - e) To simplify and align the Incident and Report Forms across all regional reporting centres;
  - f) To recommend using, if there are concerns or question, the following contacts:
    - i. UKMTO: +44 (0)2392 212108 or Urgent/Out of hours 24/7 Telephone: +44 (0)2392 222060;
    - ii. MSCIO: +33 (0) 298 220 220 or +33 (0) 298 220 170.
3. On 15 January a significant ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas was announced. By 17 January it was confirmed that both parties had signed the agreement in Doha, Qatar.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://cd.royalnavy.mod.uk/-/media/ukmto/charts/q6099.pdf?rev=ea3de0edd2ee432cbae163b36a49f9d6&hash=8D41980116B444BE21920085AD7B80EB>



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4. Following the ceasefire, the Houthis announced a pause in their campaign against commercial shipping in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden for all categories of ships except Israeli-flagged or directly owned by Israeli entities.
5. The Joint Maritime Information Centre (JMIC) has issued a warning that the maritime industry should be sceptical of recent Houthi claims, and the threat to shipping associated with Israel remains high.
6. Several organizations (e.g. The Lloyd's List and ACLED) provide easy-to-read map, list of attacks, and analysis on their websites<sup>13 14</sup>.
7. Master, Ship Security Officers, and Company Security Officers while planning the transit in the area of high maritime threat should consider the recommendations set out in article 6 of the Directive No.06/2024 SEC 3.3 dated 31 October 2024.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.lloydslist.com/hot-topics/red-sea-risk/spotlight-data>

<sup>14</sup> <https://acleddata.com/yemen-conflict-observatory/red-sea-attacks-dashboard/>