

Republic of the Marshall Islands

Office of the

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY NO. 27-08

To: Regional Marine Safety Offices, Nautical Inspectors, Masters, Owners/Agents

Subject: HIJACKING AND PIRACY IN SOMALIA WATERS (NORTHERN GULF OF ADEN)

Date: 8 September 2008

This Advisory supplements Marine Safety Advisory #24-08 by providing additional guidance for vessels transiting the Gulf of Aden. The Marshall Islands Maritime Administration strongly recommends all concerned to heed the advice given in relation to increased security level procedures and 24-hour piracy watchkeeping at all times whilst transiting or operating in the waters of the Gulf of Aden, passing through the Straits of Bab el Mandeb and around the Horn of Africa. The following precautions should always be used:

- Maintain increased MARSEC level at Master's discretion
- Avoid sailing between Socotra and Somalia
- Maintain at least 100 NM radius around Socotra
- Try to maintain distance of between 35 and 40 NM South of the Yemen Coast
- Maintain at least 300NM from the East Coast of Somalia
- 24 hours increased watches by the crew
- Increase monitoring of VHF communications

The Commander of the U.S. Naval Central Command has established a Maritime Security Patrol Area (MSPA) in the Gulf of Aden where Coalition Naval forces will now be patrolling by sea and air. The coordinates of a suggested corridor through this vital waterway between the Red Sea and Arabian Sea that ship masters should use is as follows when heading for the Arabian Sea:

Waypoint: 12 15N 045E, Waypoint: 13 35N 049E, Waypoint: 14 10N 050E, Waypoint: 14 35N 053E,

and the reverse when heading for the Red Sea:

Waypoint: 14 45N 053E, Waypoint: 14 15N 050E, Waypoint: 13 40N 049E, Waypoint: 12 35N 045E,

This will facilitate their patrolling efforts.

Masters or Managers of Marshall Islands flagged vessels should consider participating in the Merchant Vessel Voluntary Reporting Scheme, administered by the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) in Dubai. The UKMTO works closely with coalition forces and is available to provide support across the entire maritime industry including shipping of all flag registries and ownership.

The voluntary reporting scheme covers the Red Sea, Indian Ocean north of 5S as well as the Arabian Gulf. Ships may report to the MTO team on passing the following reference points:

- Suez for ships entering or leaving the region via the Red Sea;
- 5S for ships entering or leaving the region via the Indian Ocean (East);
- 78E for ships entering or leaving the region via the Indian Ocean (South).

The initial report should contain the following:

- Ship Name
- Call Sign
- Flag
- International Maritime Organization Number
- Maritime Mobile Service Identify
- Inmarsat telephone number including satellite prefix
- Email address, Telex and Fax number
- Ship Management Company
- Type of Ship
- Current position and speed
- Itinerary in the region with route way points and destination port(s)

Ships should continue to report their noon positions and speed, actual departure times and estimated arrival times at ports and destination when outbound from the defined area using UTC. The preferred method of communication is email to ukmtodubai@eim.ae. When sending such emails, please copy maritime@register-iri.com, IMBKL@icc-ccs.org, and pao@hoa.centcom.mil as well with all of the foregoing information in order to alert the Administration and the military force command authorities in the immediate vicinity that the ship is transiting the affected region. The UKMTO may also be reached by Phone: +971-50-552-3215 or +971-50-552-6007; Fax: +971-4-306-5710 and Telex: (51) 210473.

The NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) has as its primary focus the Mediterranean Sea from The Straits of Gibraltar to the Suez Canal. It supports Naval Cooperation and Guidance System (NCAGS) operations and is the interconnection for merchant shipping with the NCAGS military command. Merchant Ships are requested to report their movements on a voluntary basis 24 hours before arriving in the area and while sailing through the region. Communications with the NSC may be made to their free call center: +44-1923-843-574, Fax: +44-1923-843-575 or Email: info@shipping.nato.int.

The Office of Naval Intelligence further advises mariners to be on high alert when transiting this area, particularly through to the end of November, when mild weather of the fall transition period is conducive to small boat operation. Masters of Marshall Islands flagged vessels should immediately report any suspicious activities to their Company Security Officer. The CSO should then immediately inform UKMTO and the Marshall Islands Duty Officer via telephone +1-703-476-3762, fax: +1-703-860-2284 and/or email address: dutyofficer@register-iri.com.

The Administration will utilize its Incident Contingency Plan security points of contact and notify the International Marine Bureau Anti Piracy Helpline. The International Maritime Organization will also be notified concerning reports of piracy and armed robbery against ships, in due course.

Reference Materials:

U.S. Naval Forces Central Command – U.S. Fifth Fleet Combined Maritime Forces:

<http://www.cusnc.navy.mil/>

Phone: +973 1785-4627 or +973 1785-4839

Facsimile: +973 1785-9117 or +973 1785-4344

U.S. Central Command -- COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE-HORN OF AFRICA

Point of Contact, CJTF-HOA Public Affairs Office; PSC 831 FPO AE 09363-9998

DSN (318) 824-2342; Commercial (+253) 359-523; From the U.S. 011-253-359-523

Email: pao@hoa.centcom.mil

HOA website: <http://www.hoa.centcom.mil>

UKMTO Dubai: ukmtodubai@eim.ae,

<http://www.rncom.mod.uk/templates/MaritimeOperations.cfm?id=902>

Phone: +971-50-552-3215 or +971-50-552-6007

Facsimile: +971-4-306-5710

Telex: (51) 210473

NATO Shipping Centre: <http://www.shipping.nato.int>

Phone: +44-1923-843-574, Fax: +44-1923-843-575 or Email: info@shipping.nato.int

MARLO - Maritime Liaison Office - Bahrain

Telephone: +973 1-785-1395 or +973 3-940-1395

Facsimile: +973 17-853-930

Email: marlo@nsa.bahrain.navy.mil

Website: <http://marlobahrain.org>

IMB- International Marine Bureau: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/imb/overview.php>

Helpline Numbers: Tel.: +603-2031-0014, Fax: +603-2078-5769 and/or

Email: imbkl@icc-ccs.org.