

**IF ATTACKED BY PIRATES PLEASE
CALL UKMTO, GIVING YOUR SHIP'S
NAME, POSITION AND THE NATURE OF
ATTACK/SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY:**

THE UK MARITIME TRADE OPERATION (UKMTO):

+971 50 552 3215

**Other counter piracy watch centres, to
call if you have information on
pirate/suspicious activity.**

THE NATO SHIPPING CENTRE (NSC):

+44 (0) 1923 956 574

**THE MARITIME SECURITY CENTRE HORN OF
AFRICA (MSCHOA):**

+44 (0) 1923 958 547

THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME BUREAU (IMB):

+ 60 3 2078 5763



Contact Details
Tel: +44(0)1923 956574
Fax: +44(0)1923 956575
Email: info@shipping.nato.int
Website: www.shipping.nato.int

NATO's primary point of contact with the International Shipping Community

NATO Advice to Yachts in the Western Indian Ocean



NATO's primary point of contact with the International Shipping Community

Advice for Yachts considering a passage through the Gulf of Aden and western Indian Ocean, north of 10 degrees south and west of 78 degrees east

Somali pirates operate in this area looking for merchant ships, but a desperate pirate will attack any yacht passing his way. With a low freeboard and low speed yachts are especially vulnerable to pirate attacks. Generally, yachts are held by pirates considerably longer than merchant ships. The average time a merchant ship is held is more than 6 months, and the trend is that the time in captivity is increasing. Merchant ships use Best Management Practices (BMP) to win time for the naval forces to assist. Due to the speed of an attack on a yacht, the coalition counter-piracy forces do not have the time to render assistance to a yacht before pirates are able to get onboard.

The NATO Shipping Centre strongly advises yachts not to sail through the Gulf of Aden and the western Indian Ocean. Any yachts already in the vicinity or intending to travel in this area, despite this advice, should inform Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) at postmaster@mschoa.org with the subject line 'Yacht Vessel Movement' and read the guidance on the Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa homepage www.mschoa.org. The guidance has been co-ordinated with the UK Maritime Trade Organisation (UKMTO) and the International Sailing Federation (ISAF).

If, despite this advice, a yacht does intend to sail through these waters, reporting to the naval authorities is strongly encouraged. A yacht that does not report to the naval authorities will be unknown to them and unlikely to receive any assistance if possible.

A final decision on whether to enter the Gulf of Aden or any waters where pirates operate and how to conduct a vessel in those waters remains entirely the responsibility of the captain of each vessel.

Information on piracy can be found on:

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

International Chamber of Commerce - Commercial Crime Services (Commercial)
<http://www.icc-ccs.org/>

International Maritime organisation (UN)
<http://www.imo.org>

Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (EU)
<http://www.mschoa.org/>

Combined Maritime Forces CTF151 (Multinational)
<http://combinedmaritimeforces.com/>

National foreign office in the UK
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
<http://www.fco.gov.uk/>

The NATO Shipping Centre recommends for any yachts that consider, counter to our advice, transiting the Gulf of Aden, to read the full advice provided by ISAF in the guidance "Consolidated Guidance Notice to Yachts. Piracy in Gulf of Aden", found on the ISAF website:

INTERNATIONAL SAILING FEDERATION - ISAF
<http://www.sailing.org/>