



Sailing yachts still vulnerable to pirate attack in the Indian Ocean

The advice of the Maritime Shipping Centre-Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), NATO Shipping Centre, UK Maritime and Trade Organisation (UKMTO) and MARLO remains that sailing yachts should **avoid** transiting the High Risk Area (HRA) in the Indian Ocean for the foreseeable future.

The HRA is bounded by Suez and the Strait of Hormuz to the north, and 10° S and 78° E.

With the end of the South West monsoon, the weather and sea states in the Indian Ocean and the Southern Red Sea will become more conducive to pirate activity. Despite the fact that attacks on merchant vessels appear to have decreased, the possibility of attacks and the successful pirating of sailing vessels remains likely due to their vulnerability and the reduction of revenue sources from merchant vessels.

To pirate groups, sailing yachts are an easy target and possible source of revenue. Sailing in large groups is unlikely to be a deterrent –groups of sailing yachts could be seen as a larger target and a bigger source of ransom.

For this reason we are restating our advice that sailing yachts should **avoid** transiting the HRA.

If, regardless of this advice, you elect to undertake a voyage in the HRA you should:

1. Inform Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) at postmaster@mschoa.org with the subject line "Yacht Vessel Movement"; and
2. Maintain regular contact with UKMTO Dubai on +971 50552 3215 or email ukmto@eim.ae and MARLO on marlo.bahrain@me.navy.mil or +973 3940 1395 with position updates.

Further guidance can be found on the Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa homepage - www.mschoa.org, or on the NATO Shipping Centre homepage - www.shipping.nato.int

The NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) Northwood UK, remains NATO's primary point of contact; e-mail: info@shipping.nato.int Phone: +44 1923 956574 fax: +44 1923 956575