



# NATO SHIPPING CENTRE NEWSLETTER

November 2012

NATO'S POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING COMMUNITY

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located at Northwood, UK.

For the NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) the process is well underway and will culminate with the handover of Operation Active Endeavour from Naples to Northwood in March 2013. Follow our newsletter next month as we highlight some of the exciting changes coming to NSC.

## Single point of contact with the shipping community

**NATO is reforming its Command Structure and the Shipping Centre is taking over tasks related to Operation Active Endeavour.**

Operational responsibilities currently held by both Maritime Command Naples and Maritime Command Northwood will be transferred to one single Maritime Command (MARCOM),



concern will be posted to our Pirate Attack Group (PAG) map. The PAG map is available on the NATO Shipping Centre website - <http://www.shipping.nato.int/>

## Piracy update: Increased suspicious activity in the HRA

The Southwest Monsoon season has ended and there have been continuing reports of suspicious activity in the HRA. Calmer weather conditions allow PAGs to operate both close to and further out from shoreline. Merchant vessels are advised to remain vigilant throughout the HRA and ensure that Self Protection Measures are in place. Any areas of



## Introducing the Dhow Project

Through dialog and interaction with the regional merchant shipping community, the naval forces of EU, CMF and NATO want to increase and share the understanding of pattern of life in the HRA.

The Dhow Project was established in 2011 as part of a concerted effort by the Naval Counter Piracy Operations interfacing with the shipping community to understand the regional maritime trade in the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean.

Our mission is to prevent the use of local vessels in pirate related activities. We achieve this through the understanding of ownership, registration, trade routes, fishing, communications procedures and other normal activities to assist coastal nations in the fight against piracy.

Initiated by the NATO Shipping Centre (NSC), EU Maritime Security Centre (MSC-HOA), US Maritime Liaison Office Bahrain (MARLO), the Dhow Project has produced a number of products e.g national fishing templates, flash cards, identification guides for Dhows, Skiffs and Whalers and recognition charts. They are available for download, free on the NSC website - <http://www.shipping.nato.int>.



### **NATO Shipping Centre connects with the shipping industry**

One of the primary tasks of the NATO Shipping Centre is to interface with the international shipping community. This is achieved through our participation on conferences, workshops and meetings. Here we speak with delegations, industry experts, journalists and other relevant sources in the shipping community. So far this year, we have participated in over 50 different events all over the world.



### **Fishing template for Yemen**

As part of our Dhow Project, the NSC has created a fishing template for Yemen. The document contains information on all related fishing activities in the area.

Excerpt from the fishing template:

*Artisanal fishing is extensive off the Yemeni coast with 50,000-60,000 fishermen employed. It follows two main patterns, day fishing by small traditional costal skiffs, and fishing dhows accompanied by skiffs for periods of up to 20 days or longer.*

*During the day skiffs will look for pods of dolphins as an indication of fish, once sighted the skiffs will sprint to the location in order to surround the shoal. Their actions can therefore appear irregular and erratic.*

*Some fishermen have been victims of piracy and will on occasions carry weapons for self protection.*

[Click here to download and read the fishing template](#)



### **Identification guide for Dhows, Skiffs and Whalers in the High Risk Area**

With input from EU Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa (MSC-HOA), US Maritime Liaison Office Bahrain (MARLO) and the merchant shipping community, the NATO Shipping Centre have created a guide for dhows, skiffs and whalers in the HRA.

In support of the Dhow Project, this guide gives general information on the local vessel traffic in the HRA. The guide is available for download [free of charge on the NSC website](#)



### **A tale of successful co-operation**

In the last months a number of instances of cooperation between the NATO Shipping Centre and the maritime community have highlighted how this harmony can greatly decrease the likelihood of a vessel succumbing to a pirate attack.

In October 2012 the sharing of information between a vessel and the NATO Shipping Centre aided NATO to positively identify a mothership dhow and take fast and effective action to successfully prevent the suspected pirates onboard from attacking other ships in the area.

The ship took photographs of the suspicious vessel and sent them to us. We were able to identify and cross-match the vessel with a list of suspected motherships and find relevant information on the suspicious vessel.

Any image of suspicious vessels is very useful for us, with it we can identify them, get more information and ultimately hamper their activities in the High Risk Area (HRA). We urge all mariners to take and send us pictures of suspicious vessels. It might save a ship nearby.

*Stay vigilant, stay safe,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stein Olav Hagalid'.

***Cdr sg Stein Olav Hagalid  
Branch Head  
NATO Shipping Centre***

*The NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) is the link between NATO naval forces and the merchant shipping community. Permanently manned, the NSC is also the primary advisor to merchant shipping regarding potential risks and possible interference with maritime operations. In addition to our current missions, the NSC supports NATO, national and multinational Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS) operations and exercises. The NSC is part of the Allied Maritime Command Headquarters Northwood in the UK.*

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