



MSCIO ATALANTA WEEKLY REPORT

16th Jul – 23rd Jul

 postmaster@mscio.eu

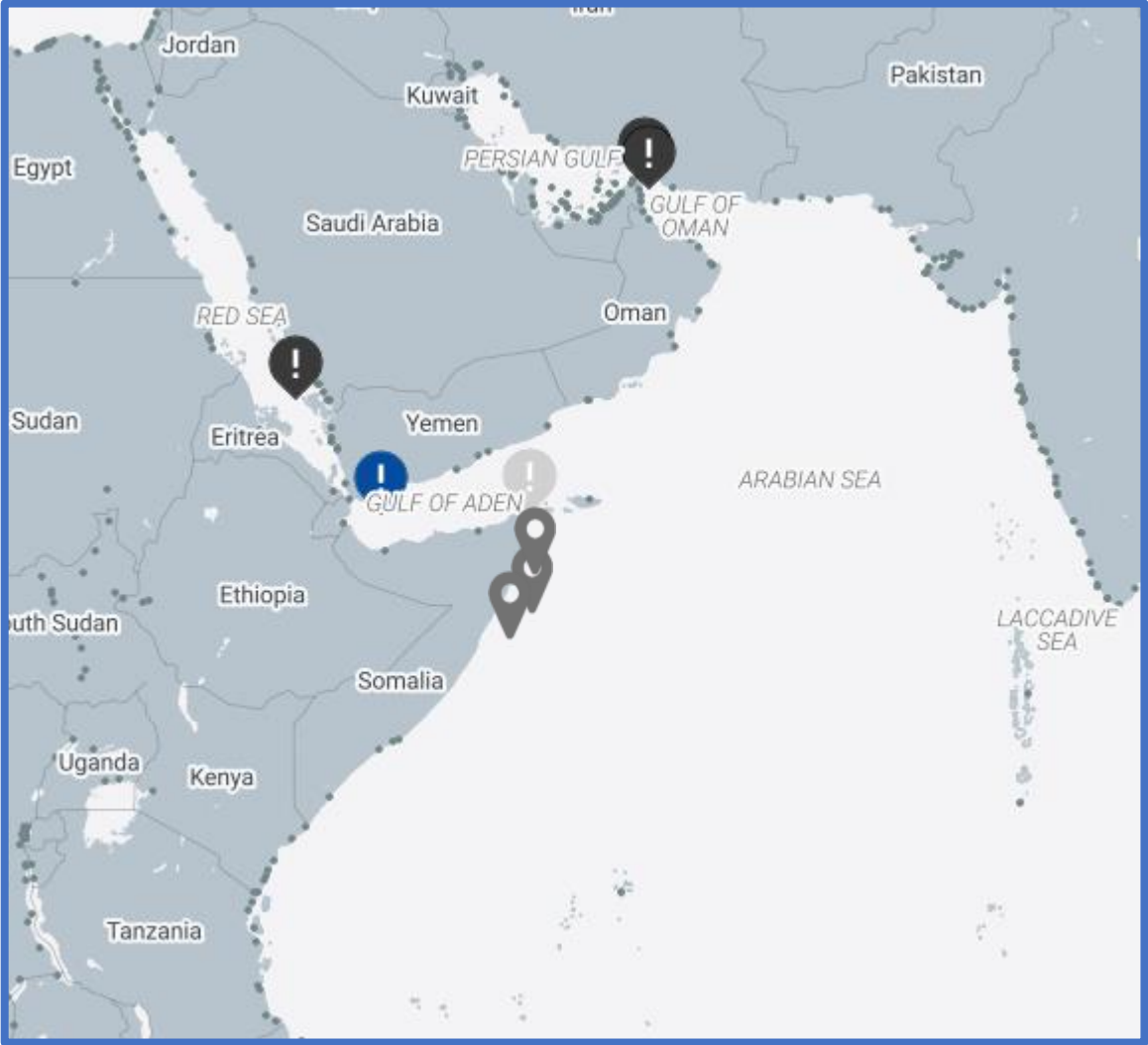
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OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN THE VOLUNTARY REPORTING AREA (VRA)

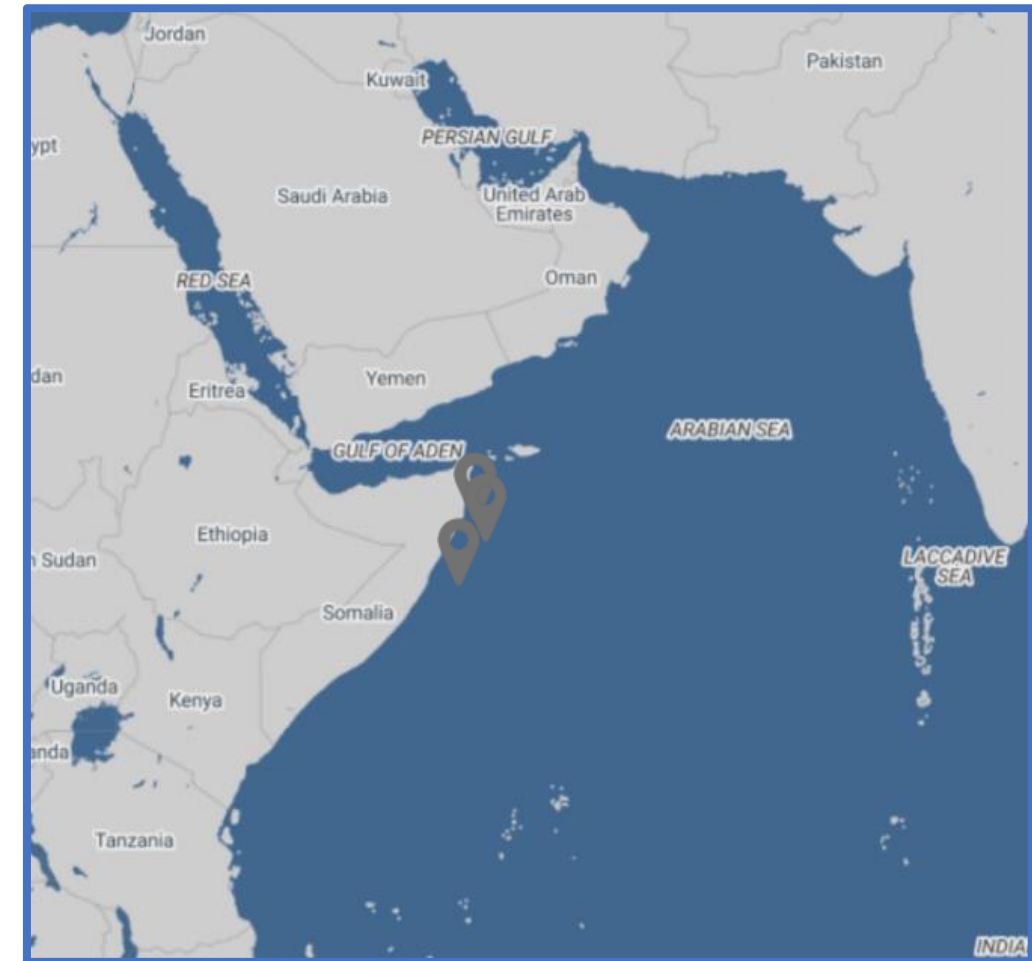


CATEGORY		No.
	Armed Robbery	Nil
	Attack	3
	Attempted Boarding	Nil
	Boarding	Nil
	Hijack	Nil
	Kidnap	Nil
	Piracy	4
	Suspicious Activity	1
	Other Maritime Crimes	Nil
Total Incident		7

PIRACY

- **TYPE OF INCIDENT:** PIRACY.
- **LOCATION:** Horn of Africa, Somalia.
- **RELEVANT INFORMATION RELATED WITH THE EVENT:**

Several piracy-related incidents continue to be monitored off the coasts of Somalia and Yemen. On 26 April, the merchant vessel M/V SWARD (IMO 9174244) was confirmed hijacked and remains under the control of armed individuals, with its latest reported position at 07°13'N 049°33'E. Operation ATALANTA also continues monitoring the hijacking of tanker M/T HONOUR 25 (IMO 1099735), first reported on 21 April, with the latest reported position at 08°55'N 050°33'E. Additionally, on 2 May, armed individuals reportedly boarded and hijacked tanker EUREKA (IMO 1022823) while at anchorage off Qana Port, Yemen; Operation ATALANTA later confirmed the vessel's position at 09°50'N 050°54'E. Operation ATALANTA assets have also confirmed that the dhow hijacked on 25 April 2026 has been released and the crew is safe. All remaining incidents continue to be monitored by Operation ATALANTA assets in coordination with regional authorities, while vessels operating in the area are advised to maintain heightened vigilance, adhere to BMP-MS guidance, and report suspicious activity to MSCIO and UKMTO.



- **TYPE OF INCIDENT:** PIRACY.
- **LOCATION:** Horn of Africa, Somalia.

- **RELEVANT INFORMATION RELATED WITH THE EVENT:**

On 19 July 2026, MSCIO published ALERT 78/26 regarding the hijacking of a merchant vessel by a Pirate Action Group (PAG) approximately 65NM southwest of Mukalla, Yemen, north of the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC). Subsequent reporting confirmed that the PAG remained onboard as the vessel proceeded towards the Somali coast. At the time of publication of UPDATE01, the vessel was reported approximately 19NM off Bereeda, Somalia. Operation ATALANTA continues to monitor the situation, and the vessel is currently assessed to remain under pirate control.

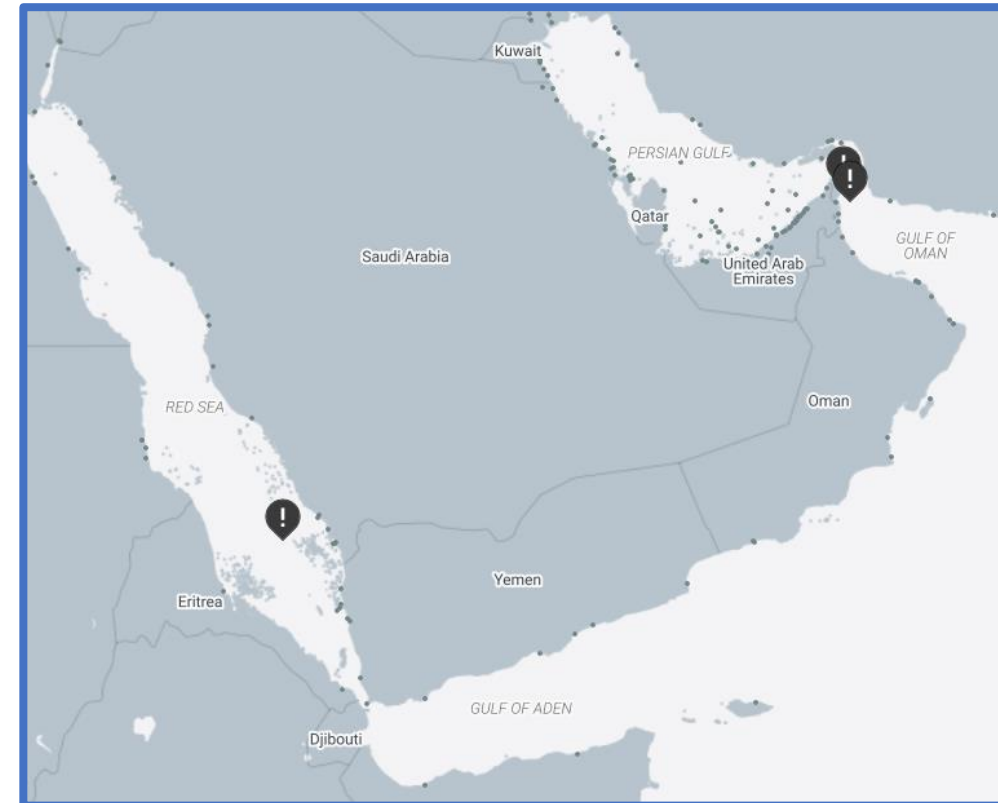


- **TYPE OF INCIDENT:** ATTACK
- **LOCATION:** Strait of Hormuz/Red Sea
- **RELEVANT INFORMATION RELATED WITH THE EVENT:**

On 21 July 2026, MSCIO published ALERT 79/26 regarding a merchant vessel reportedly struck by an unknown projectile approximately 17NM east of Dibba, United Arab Emirates. The impact caused damage to the vessel's steering gear. All crew were reported safe, with no environmental impact. The relevant authorities investigated the incident.

On 21 July 2026, MSCIO published ALERT 80/26 regarding a tanker reportedly struck by an unknown projectile approximately 8NM northeast of Limah, Oman, while transiting the Strait of Hormuz. According to the available information, the crew abandoned the vessel and embarked in a lifeboat. No environmental impact was reported. The relevant authorities investigated the incident.

On 22 July 2026, MSCIO published ALERT 82/26 regarding a tanker reportedly struck by an unknown projectile approximately 70NM southwest of Al Shuqaiq, Saudi Arabia. The impact resulted in a fire onboard while the crew conducted firefighting operations. No casualties or environmental pollution were reported. The relevant authorities investigated the incident.



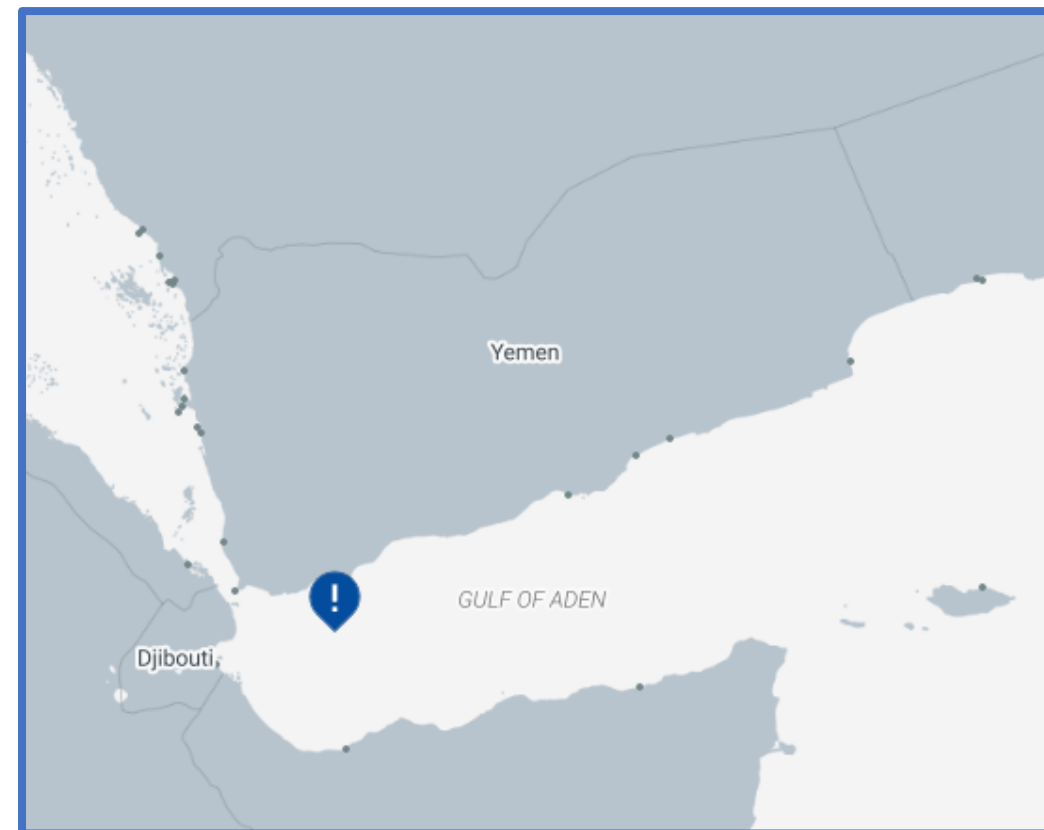


SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY



- **TYPE OF INCIDENT:** SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
- **LOCATION:** Guld of Aden
- **RELEVANT INFORMATION RELATED WITH THE EVENT:**

On 21 July 2026, MSCIO published ALERT 81/26 regarding several reports of suspicious activity in the Bab el Mandeb and the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC). One merchant vessel reported a suspected approach by an armed skiff carrying six persons, followed by the sighting of a small craft with eight armed persons in military uniforms, which passed without making an approach. Separately, another merchant vessel reported two armed speedboats near the entrance to the Bab el Mandeb and took evasive action by increasing speed and altering course. No attack or boarding was reported.





SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS

MSCIO ALERT 80/26





ASSESSMENT AND GUIDANCE FOR AS/SoH/GoO



- The maritime security environment in the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman remains highly volatile. The regional threat level in the Strait of Hormuz is currently assessed as **SEVERE**, with deliberate hostile action considered highly likely under current conditions.
- Commercial traffic through the Strait of Hormuz remained at reduced levels, with vessels transiting via both the southern Omani corridor and the northern Iranian-controlled route. Operator caution persisted following previous attacks, and several companies continued to delay or reschedule passages.
- The risk of drifting or uncharted mines within and adjacent to the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) remains. Mine danger areas remain active, while GNSS interference and AIS anomalies continue to be consistently reported across the Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman and Arabian Gulf.
- Merchant vessels should:
 - Maintain heightened situational awareness throughout all approaches and transits.
 - Expect increased VHF hails, surveillance activity and possible UAS overflights.
 - Consider the operational implications of AIS transmission in accordance with company procedures and applicable regulations.
 - Report suspicious activity or relevant information immediately to MSCIO and UKMTO.



ASSESSMENT AND GUIDANCE FOR RED SEA/BeM



- The maritime threat level in the Gulf of Aden, Bab el Mandeb and Southern Red Sea is currently assessed as **SUBSTANTIAL**, following the confirmed Houthi attack against a Saudi-flagged tanker. The incident demonstrated a renewed capability and willingness to target merchant shipping, and further attacks are assessed as a strong possibility.
- Commercial traffic continues to transit steadily through the Southern Red Sea and Bab el Mandeb.
- Houthi messaging continues to assert that the Bab el Mandeb is closed to Saudi-affiliated vessels, reinforcing hostile intent towards vessels perceived as linked to Saudi interests. Regional reporting indicates that missile and drone systems remain forward deployed near Bab el Mandeb, maintaining the capability to disrupt commercial shipping should regional tensions escalate.
- It is advised for merchant vessels to:
 - Maintain navigation through international waters for as long as possible.
 - Navigate closer to the African coastline where feasible and operationally appropriate.
 - Maintain close coordination with MSCIO, UKMTO and relevant maritime security reporting centres.
 - Conduct voyage-specific risk assessments and strictly adhere to BMP-MS.
 - Review vessel affiliations, cargo exposure and ownership considerations prior to transit.
 - Maintain enhanced vigilance and report suspicious activity immediately to MSCIO and UKMTO.



MARITIME SECURITY EVENTS RELATED TO PIRACY (STATUS AND DETAILED DESCRIPTION FROM JAN 2026)



No	Date	Name	MSE Category	Last info.
54	31 DEC	FV LIAO DONG YU 578	Armed Robbery	Armed robbery reported off the coast of Banderbeyla (Bari Region). PSP has informed that the Vessel has been released the 3 MAR 26 near Ceel Dhidar, Bandarbeyla district. According to local credible sources, 2 pirates were apprehended and a ransom of 1.2 USD was paid.
55	03 FEB	FV AL-WALEED	Armed Robbery	Received a report from Yemen CG on 03 Feb, that a group of 4 armed men captured a Yemeni 8 meter boat (blue hull) on the coast of Hafun. One fisherman was on board during the capture but was later released. The boat is allegedly taken to Durdura coast. Boat size and engine are not coherent with piracy TTP.
56	24 MAR	AL WASEEMI 786	Pirated	Received a report that Iranian dhow "AL WASEEMI 786" with 19 crew members was pirated on the 19 of March approx 400nm from Mogadishu. The PAG group consisting of a number between 10 and 15 pirates. No injuries reported. On 5 th APR 26 the pirates disembarked the dhow and went inland to an UNKNOWN location. EUNAVOFOR ATALANTA conducted FA to ensure the crew safety and gather further information.

● Solved or closed cases.

● Active cases



MARITIME SECURITY EVENTS RELATED TO PIRACY (STATUS AND DETAILED DESCRIPTION FROM JAN 2026)

No	Date	Name	MSE Category	Last info.
57	19 APR	FV ALKHAYR 2	Hijacked	PMPF informed via IORIS on 21 April that FV "ALKHAYR 2" was hijacked IVO Xaafuun on 19 th April by 11 armed individuals (PAG). The FV was released on 21 Apr by the PAG.
58	21 APR (TBD)	MT HONOUR 25	Pirated	PMPF informed via IORIS on 21 April that FV "ALKHAYR 2" was hijacked IVO Xaafuun on 19 th April by 11 armed individuals (PAG). On 21 Apr OHQ was informed that MT HONOUR 25 was pirated by the PAGAND and subsequently MT HONOUR 25 sailed ivo KULULE, SOMALIA where is currently anchored. Operation Atalanta assets are closely monitor the ongoing situation.
59	22 APR	MV ELFRIEDE	Piracy attack	A small white fishing boat rapidly approach the MV. At approximately 600 metres warning shots were fired and the persons on-board the approaching boat returned fire. The craft then broke off, joined another FV and moved away both of them. The master of MV reports all crew is safe.
60	25 APR	CV FAHAD 4	Armed Robbery at Sea	EUNAVFOR ATALANTA received info from PMPF stating that it was hijacked by a PAG of 11 individuals IVO DHINOWDA (10NM off coast). ALMOST CERTAIN it has been involved in the suspicious approach towards the MT MINERVA PISCES on 28 th APR. Released on 04 May 26 after ransom was paid.
61	26 APR	MV SWARD	Pirated	EUNAVFOR ATALANTA received a report from PMPF that MV SWARD was hijacked near GARACAD offshore area , outside TTW. Vessel owner informed PMPF. Subsequently the hijacked vessel sailed to SOMALIA where currently is anchored ivo CEEL DHAHANAAN, SOMALIA. Operation Atalanta assets are closely monitor the ongoing situation.
62	28 APR	MT MINERVA PISCES	Suspicious Approach/Activity	A suspicious Dhow crossed the MT from starboard to port at a CPA approx 1.2NM. A skiff was then sighted ahead and later approached from the starboard bow o a distance of approx 400m. All crew are safe and accounted for. MT continued sailing towards the next port of call.

● Solved or closed cases.

● Active cases



MARITIME SECURITY EVENTS RELATED TO PIRACY (STATUS AND DETAILED DESCRIPTION FROM JAN 2026)

No	Date	Name	MSE Category	Last info.
63	01 MAY	MV NEW VENTURE	Suspicious Approach/Activity	MSCIO received a report of an incident involving a MV, while sailing towards the IRTC. A suspicious skiff carrying approximately 7 armed people approached the vessel, closing to a distance of 10 meters approx. and reportedly demonstrating clear intent to board. After MV increased the speed and carried out defensive measures, the skiff aborted their approach.
64	02 MAY	MT EUREKA	Pirated	MSCIO received a report of a possible hijacking involving MT EUREKA, while at anchorage off QANA Port, SHABWA, YEMEN. Armed individuals boarded the vessel and took control. The vessel sailed to the Somalian coast and is currently anchored ivo FUNDHUC DULE, SOMALIA. Operation Atalanta assets are closely monitor the ongoing situation.
65	23 MAY	EVENT 65 (MT)	Attempted Boarding	On 23 May 0215Z (86NM NNW of CAALULA), EVENT 65 (MT) reported that they were approached and followed by 1 skiff with 5 POB (after photo received, the actual number was found to be 7). The MT implemented BMP and PAST and attackers aborted their approach.
66	23 MAY	EVENT 66 (MT)	Attempted Boarding	On 23 May 0325Z (close posn to EVENT 65), EVENT 66 (MT)reported that they were approached by a skiff matching the same description from the previous report of EVENT 65. The MT implemented BMP and PAST and attackers aborted their approach.
67	23 MAY	EVENT 67 (MT)	Attempted Boarding	On 23 May 0728Z (close posn to events Nr 65 and 66), EVENT 67 (MT)reported that they were being approached by a skiff. The MT implemented BMP and PAST and attackers aborted their approach.
68	23 MAY	CD MASHAALLAH 1 152	Attempted Boarding	On 23 May 1634Z (close posn to events Nr 65 5,66 and 67), the skiff approached this cargo dhow . Indian Navy intercepted the skiff which escaped back to Somalian coast.
69	10 JUN	MV MARIA F	Suspicious Approach/Activity	On 10 Jun 0342Z, a small craft with 6 armed POB approached the vessel and there was an exchange of fire between the small craft and vessel. No persons were reported injured, small craft turned away and MV MARIA F continued their destination to next Port of Call.

- Solved or closed cases.
- Active cases



MARITIME SECURITY EVENTS RELATED TO PIRACY (STATUS AND DETAILED DESCRIPTION FROM JAN 2026)



No	Date	Name	MSE Category	Last info.
70	15 JUN 26	MT VST AMARA	Piracy Attack	On 15 Jun 1335Z, MSCIO received a report of an incident involving a MT, while sailing towards the IRTC. A suspicious skiff carrying approximately 3 -5 armed people approached the vessel, and reportedly opened fire on the vessel using an RPG. The vessel implemented defensive measures and the attack was unsuccessful. No injuries or damages were reported.MT continued with its journey to its next Port of Call.
71	17 JUN 26	MT FAREEDA 5	Piracy Attack	On 17 Jun 1610Z, MSCIO received a report of an incident involving a MT, while sailing towards the IRTC. Two skiffs carrying unknown number of armed POB approached the vessel, and reportedly opened fire. The vessel implemented defensive measures and the attack was unsuccessful.MT continued with its journey to its next Port of Call , according to YCG one person of the crew was injured.
72	1 JUL 26	MV GOLDEN ARSENAL	BOARDING	On 01 JUL 26 0715Z, the MV reported that she was approached by a skiff carrying armed persons on board and possible RPG. Unconfirmed reports have been received from a nearby vessel about shots being fired upon the vessel. The crew entered the citadel, the POB the skiff using ladders boarded the MV but as they did not take control of the ship , they made some damages and they abandon the MV. The master of the MV exited from the citadel inspected the MV and send photos of the ship. INS warship approached but did not board. CMF warship approached the area but left.
73	1 JUL 26	MT JAL KISAN	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH	On 01 JUL 26 1147Z, an MT reported that she was approached by a skiff carrying 4 armed persons on board. The vessel implemented defensive measures and the attack was unsuccessful. MT continued with its journey to its next Port of Call.

- Solved or closed cases.
- Active cases



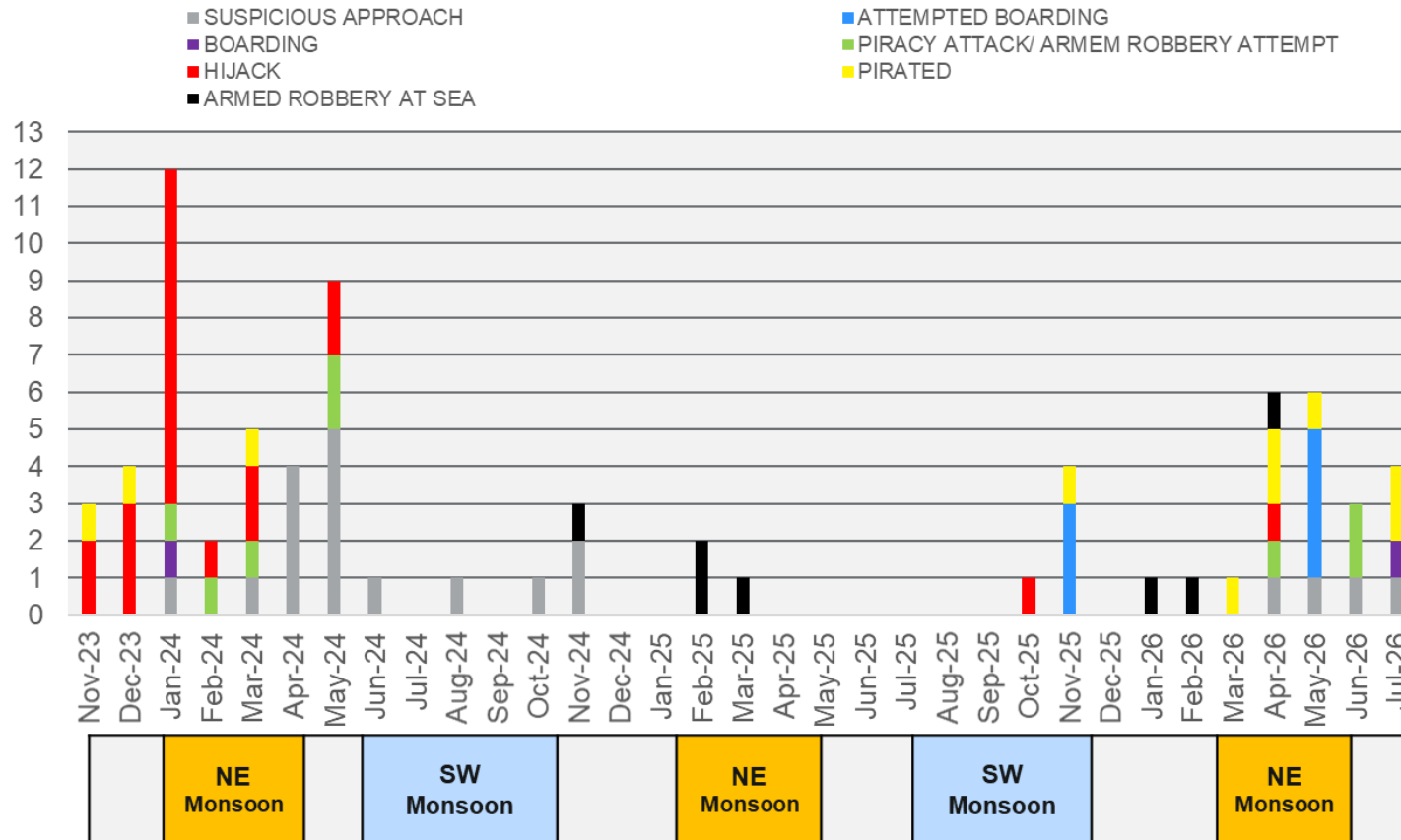
MARITIME SECURITY EVENTS RELATED TO PIRACY (STATUS AND DETAILED DESCRIPTION FROM JAN 2026)



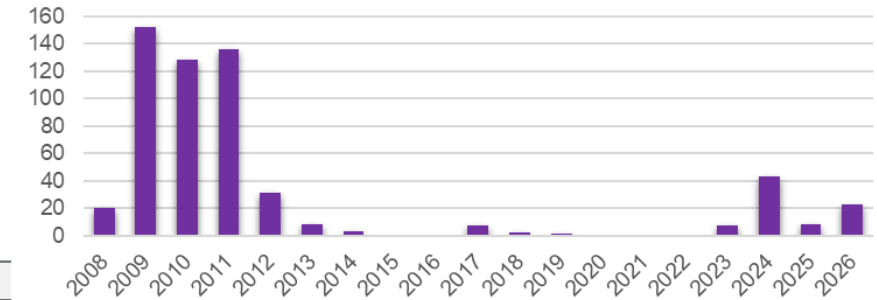
74	17 JUL 26	MT ASANA	PIRATED	On 17 th JUL 26 at 0630Z, MT ASANA was hijacked by a PAG of 5 armed persons at 65NM SW of MUKULLA, YEMEN. Afterwards, MT ASANA kept on sailing and the last known position on 19 JUL 26 was approx 19NM from BEREEDA, SOMALIA, while continuing to proceed towards SOMALI TTW. Operation Atalanta assets are closely monitor the ongoing situation.
75	16 JUL 26	FD MAKRAN	PIRATED	On 16 JUL26, FD MAKRAN was possibly hijacked in east of Mogadishu. It is probable that it is towed by a pirated merchant vessel.Operation Atalanta assets are closely monitor the ongoing situation.
76	16 JUL 26	UNKNOWN DHOW	PIRATED	On 16 JUL26, UNKNOWN DHOW was possibly hijacked in east of Mogadishu. It is probable that it is towed by a pirated merchant vessel.Operation Atalanta assets are closely monitor the ongoing situation.

- Solved or closed cases.
- Active cases

PIRACY RELATED EVENTS FROM NOV 2023 (76)



PIRACY RELATED EVENTS FROM 2008



SUSPICIOUS APPROACH/ ACTIVITY

- Sudden changes of course towards the ship and aggressive behavior. CPA inside 1nm with clear intention to attack and/or weapons clearly displayed.

ATTEMPTED BOARDING

- An Act where the PAG failed to get onboard and gain control of the vessel or members of the crew. Boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approach.

BOARDING

- A boarding in which the attackers have boarded the ship but have NOT taken control.

PIRACY ATTACK/ ARMED ROBBERY ATTEMPT

- Ship has been subject to an aggressive approach by unidentified craft and weapons have been discharged. Also, paraphernalia/ tripwires related to piracy, hooks, ladders ect have been reported.

HIJACK

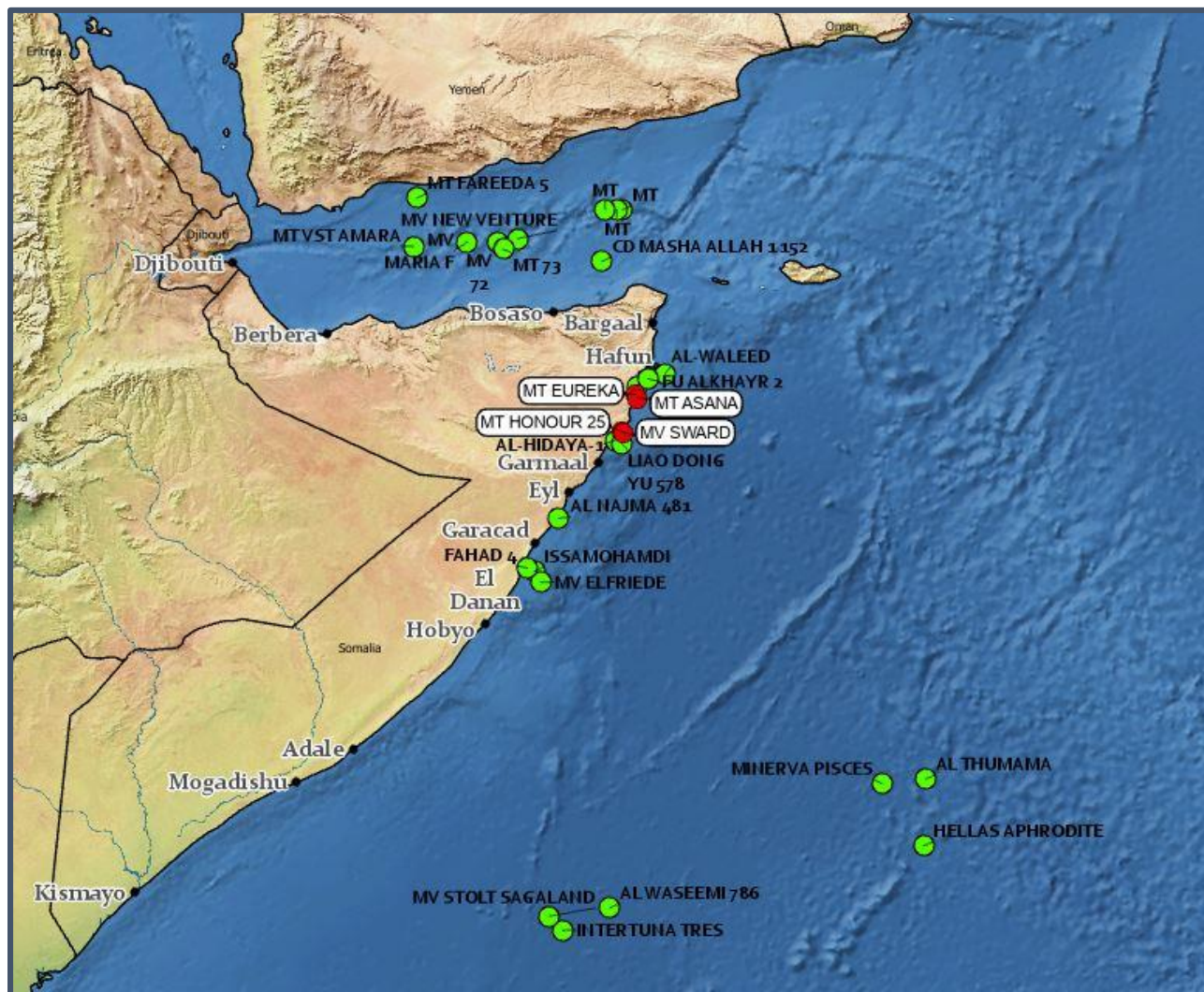
- Attackers have illegally boarded and taken control of a vessel at the high seas against the crew's will.

PIRATED

- A pirated vessel is a vessel subject to an act that falls under the UNCLOS Article 101 definition of piracy.

ARMED ROBBERY AT SEA

- Any illegal act of violence or detention within a state's internal waters, archipelagic waters and territorial seas.



PIRACY ASSESSMENT

It is **ALMOST CERTAIN** that the PAG's tactics for conducting piracy on the high seas involve hijacking a dhow and using it as a mother ship. The pirates then blend in with the usual traffic and deploy skiffs from the mother ship to attack vessels. They are able to navigate to the high seas, with evidence of events up to up to 600 nautical miles off the East Somali coast.

Nevertheless, from November 2024 it is becoming increasingly common for a group of people to organise themselves, identify a vulnerable ship close to the coast and use skiffs to carry out an attack. These attacks typically target Yemeni fishing dhows. While there is no confirmed information, it is **HIGHLY LIKELY** that ransoms would have been paid.

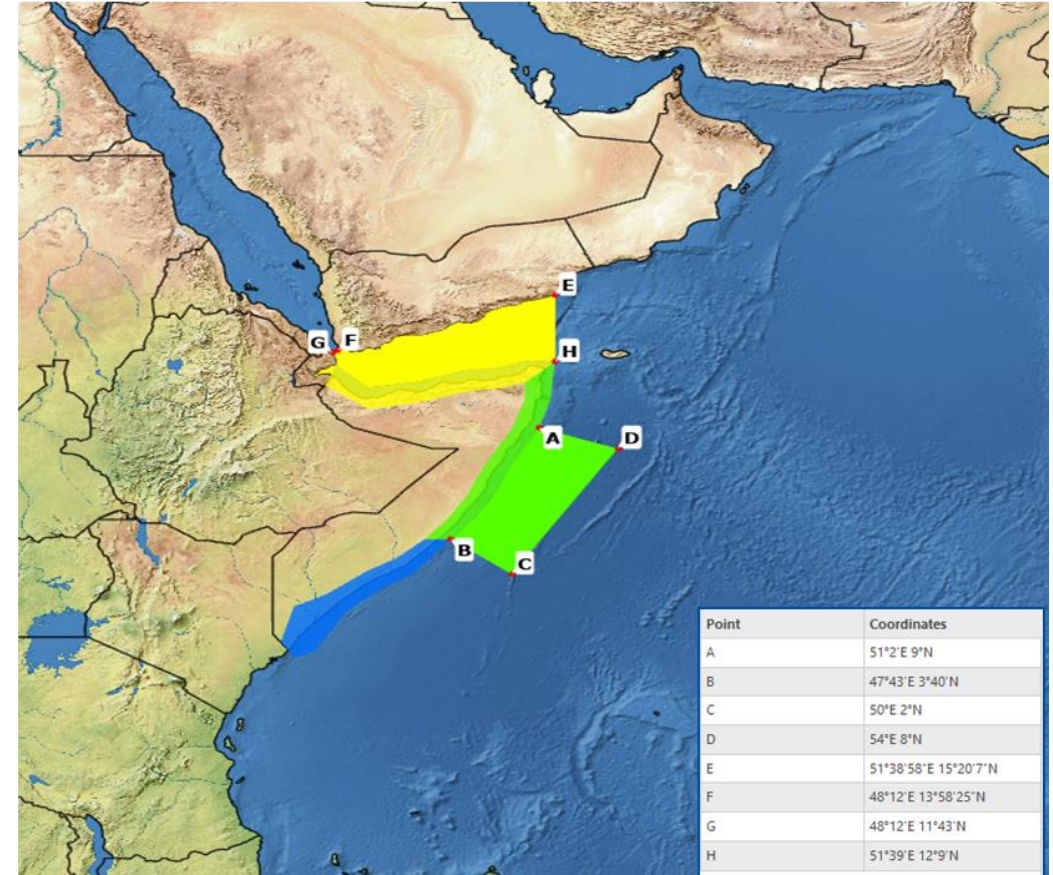
On the other hand, that risk could be amplified if local fishermen turn into pirates as a consequence that no effective action is being taken from the authorities to safeguard Somali TTW from IUUF.

It is **ALMOST CERTAIN** that the ransom paid for the LIAO DONG YU have set a bad example for other pirate groups trying to imitate that operation.

PIRACY ASSESSMENT

(EU R) The PIRACY Threat Assessment (TA) is determined as:

- MODERATE** in the perimeter drawn between points A, B, C and D.
- SUBSTANTIAL** in the perimeter drawn between points E, F, G and H.
- LOW** in the remaining areas.



THREAT ASSESSMENT	BENIGN	LOW	MODERATE	SUBSTANTIAL	SEVERE	CRITICAL
YARDSTICK	An attack is HIGHLY UNLIKELY (10% – 20%)	An attack is UNLIKELY (>25% – 35%)	An attack is a REALISTIC POSSIBILITY (40% – <50%)	An attack is LIKELY / PROBABLE (55% – <75%)	An attack is HIGHLY LIKELY (80% – 90%)	An attack is ALMOST CERTAIN (>95%)



REGISTRATION AND REPORTING



REGISTRATION AND REPORTING.

CSO's and Masters are encouraged to register their vessels upon entering the UKMTO Voluntary Reporting Area with both:

- MSCIO (<https://mscio.eu/reporting/vessel-registration/>)
- UKMTO (<https://www.ukmto.org/reporting-formats/initial-report>)

And to report all incidents to UKMTO and MSCIO.

When safe to do so, vessels should document incidents and suspicious activity through logs, photographs, video, and radar footage. CSOs should gather information on Pattern of Life and Maritime Situational Awareness for their planned routes and ports of call to support risk assessments. These procedures enable effective monitoring and resource allocation by CMF and EUNAVFOR ATALANTA.

Contact Information (MSCIO):

Tel: 0033 (0) 298 220 220 // 0033 (0) 298 220 170

Website: www.mscio.eu

Email: postmaster@mscio.eu

MARITIME SECURITY CENTRE INDIAN OCEAN (MSCIO)

VOLUNTARY REPORTING THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE



WHY TO REPORT

- Improve Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA)
- Enable rapid information-sharing and coordination.
- Support vessels in High Risk Areas.
- Contribute to collective maritime security efforts.

WHAT TO REPORT

- Entry into the Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA).
- Daily position updates.
- Exit from the VRA or arrival at a safe port.
- Suspicious activity or incidents.
- Attacks, attempted or successful.

HOW TO REPORT

- Online: www.mscio.eu
- Email: postmaster@mscio.eu
- Copy UKMTO: watchkeepers@ukmto.com

BENEFITS OF REPORTING

- IMPROVED MONITORING AND PROTECTION DURING TRANSIT -
- ACCESS TO TIMELY THREAT ASSESSMENTS AND SECURITY ALERTS -
- ENHANCED COORDINATION WITH NAVAL FORCES OPERATING IN THE REGION -

Your report strengthens maritime security across the Indian Ocean and Red Sea