

Update No: 04

20th of April 2009

The Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) is an EU led coordination centre dedicated to safeguarding the legitimate freedom of navigation in the GOA, Somali Basin and off the Horn of Africa in light of the pirate attacks against merchant vessels.

The IMB Piracy Reporting Centre (IMB PRC) is the only worldwide 24 hour Piracy Reporting Centre dedicated to be the first point of contact for the ship master & operator to report actual or attempted attacks and suspicious movements thus initiating the response process.

Recent Piracy Activity

6th April – Pirates hijacked a 33K DWT general cargo ship in approximate position 13°55'N 051°39'E (Speed: 12 kts, freeboard: 4.10 m). The vessel had registered her movement to MSCHOA but had chosen not to adhere to the 12 knot Group Transit timings and had not been regularly reporting her position to MTO Dubai. The time from the attack starting to the pirates gaining control was only around 20 minutes which did not give military assets time enough to respond.

11th April – Attempted piracy attack on a 26K DWT bulk carrier in position 12°16'N 046°24'E (Service Speed: 15 kts, freeboard: unknown) by one blue coloured skiff with 8 armed pirates onboard who fired a single RPG which failed to explode. Although the vessel had not registered with MSCHOA, was not reporting to MTO Dubai and was not following a group transit the vessel was fortunate that a military asset was able to be on-scene within 15 minutes and the pirates fled.

12th April – Attempted piracy attack on 65K DWT bulk carrier in position 13°03'N 048°49'E (Service Speed: 14 kts, freeboard: unknown) by one grey skiff. Attack involved small arms fire which resulted in slight damage to vessels bridge wing. Vessel had been following a Group Transit and a helicopter from a nearby warship responded to the vessels piracy alert, it however appears that effective anti-piracy measures were key to preventing boarding on this occasion.

12th April – Attempted attack on a 22K DWT container ship in position 00°18'N 051°44'E (Service Speed: 21 kts, freeboard: unknown) by two skiffs operating from small mother-ship. After being fired upon using automatic weapons and RPG, a combination of evasive manoeuvres and an increased in speed was successful in preventing boarding.

13th April – Pirates hijacked a 38K DWT bulk carrier in position 12°54'N 048°15'E (Speed: 12 kts, freeboard: 3.50 m) with 22 crew members onboard. The vessel was following a 12 knot group transit and was hijacked at 22:20 UTC making her the first vessel to be hijacked during the evening and only the second vessel to be hijacked whilst following a Group Transit. It should however be noted that although the attack occurred in the evening, there was a full moon at the time, as such the area was not in 'darkness'. The vessel is now anchored off the east coast of Somalia and remains under pirate control.

Further details on the above and other pirate attacks in the region can be found at: www.mschoa.eu & www.icc-ccs.org

Current number of captive vessels

15

Current number of captive crew

247

Short Term Metrological Synopsis (Gulf of Aden)

Continued settled outlook with light easterly winds. Moderate visibility around coastal areas and good visibility in all other areas. Maximum swell height of 0.5m with no expected significant changes.

2009 East Coast of Africa Piracy Activity Statistics

Number of confirmed approaches	26	Number of confirmed attacks on vessels following GT	05
Number of confirmed attacks (not including hijacks)	42	Number of vessels following a GT hijacked	02
Number of hijackings	21	Number of pirates detained	73

Best Management Practice (BMP) Guidelines

In an effort to counter piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the Coast of Somalia BMP Guidelines have been prepared and are supported by the following organisations – INTERTANKO, ICS, OCIMF, BIMCO, SIGTTO, INTERCARGO, IGP&I, CLIA, IUMI, JWC, IMB & MSCHOA. The document aims to assist companies and ships in avoiding piracy attacks and complements guidance provided in IMO MSC Circular 623 and is reflected in the "Advice to Masters" section within www.MSCHOA.eu.

A PDF copy of the document is available for unrestricted download on the "Piracy Alert" section of www.icc-ccs.org.

All vessels transiting the region are encouraged to report actual attacks and sightings of suspicious activity to MTO Dubai whom are the primary reporting organisation in the region.

MTO Dubai: +971 505 523 215 & ukmto@eim.ae

Such reports may also be relayed to IMB-PRC, MSCHOA or MARLO using the following contact details

IMB PRC : +60 3 2031 0014 / imbkl@icc-ccs.org / piracy@icc-ccs.org

MSCHOA : postmaster@mschoa.org & MARLO : +973 39401395 / marlo.bahrain@me.navy.mil

Such reporting will aid in building a clearer picture of pirate activity which will assist in better protecting shipping and eradicate the threat to freedom of navigation in the area.