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To: ALL FULL AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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Copy: All Full and Associate Members (for information)
Marine Committee
Maritime Law Committee
ISF Labour Affairs Committee

PIRACY UPDATE – SHIPS TRANSITTING THE INDIAN OCEAN OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA

Action required: ICS endorses MSCHOA advice that ships should, unless unavoidable, avoid planning a passage within 600nm of the Somali coast in the Indian Ocean.

The piracy situation off the coast of Somali has changed in recent weeks with successful attacks being conducted much farther East into the Indian Ocean than seen hitherto. The rate of attacks taken through to successful hijacking has also increased.

The problem for ships in the Indian Ocean does differ from the situation in the Gulf of Aden where the protective Group Transit system still operates, under the coordination of MSCHOA. In the Indian Ocean there is not likely to be the same level of warship presence nor at this stage is a group transit approach likely to be appropriate. The MSCHOA website now recommends that, unless unavoidable, **ships keep at least 600 nautical miles from the Somali coastline and when routing north/south consider keeping East of longitude 60E until East of the Seychelles.**

ICS fully endorses this advice and requests members to disseminate it as widely as possible.

ICS is seeking further advice from the military authorities and will keep members updated.

P B Hinchliffe
Marine Director