



Industry Releasable Threat Bulletin (IRTB) 049

Issued: 01 JAN 2026

Latest IRTA 16 Dec 25



For General Use. This threat bulletin has been released to the Shipping Industry.

1. **Foreword.** This Industry Releasable Threat Bulletin (IRTB) has been written by Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) and European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) ATALANTA. It is intended to help shipping operators who are responsible for merchant and large commercial fishing vessels that pass through or operate in the Western Indian Ocean, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.
2. **Purpose.** The purpose of an IRTB is to bring a specific incident or threat to the attention of the shipping industry.
3. **Incident.** Armed Robbery.
4. **Date/time.** 31 Dec 2025 - 01 Jan 2026.
5. **Location.** Incident took place south of Bandar Beyla area in Somalia (see Figure 1).
6. **Incident Description.** Close to midnight on 31st Dec 25, an unknown number of unidentified elements hijacked one Chines-flagged Fishing Vessel near Bandar Beyla area, Somalia. This event happened at 9 9'34"N, 50 43'0"E.
7. **Vessel's Details**

Vessel Name Liao Dong Yu 578 (see Figure 2)
Type of Vessel - Fishing Vessel
Length Overall - 53 m
Beam (Breadth) - 10 m



Figure 1. Position of the incident.



Figure 2. Photo of the hijacked vessel taken 28th Nov 2025.

8. **Assessment.** Although the case is still under investigation by EUNAVFOR ATALANTA and more information is yet to be gathered, it is probable that the intention of armed robbers could be to reach the coast of Somalia and request a ransom.
9. **Recommendations.** Vessels are requested to remain vigilant and to adhere to BMP Maritime Security when transiting the Western Indian Ocean and the Somali waters. While these waters are routinely patrolled by CMF, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA and other warships, the timely and comprehensive reporting of incidents and suspicious activity remains crucial to allow for a rapid incident response. We request that, where possible, and without endangering the vessel or crew, vessels obtain and report as much factual details as possible of incidents and suspicious activity to include logs, photographs, video, and radar footage. CSO's and masters are strongly recommended to register their vessels with MSCIO when entering the Voluntary Reporting Area and to report any incidents to UKMTO in accordance with BMP Maritime Security. This will enable a more rapid response to incidents and allow CMF and EUNAVFOR ATALANTA to monitor activity, enabling the most effective allocation of resources. CSOs are recommended to gather information on known Pattern of Life and Maritime Domain Awareness along the intended route and ports of call when conducting risk assessments for their fleets.

10. Publication.

- a. Produced by CMF and EUNAVFOR ATALANTA.
- b. Published by MSCIO.

11. Feedback. Enquiries about the content of this bulletin should be directed to CMF and EUNAVFOR;

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