

Joint Maritime Information Center

JMIC Advisory Note

JMIC# 012

Assessing Associations and Affiliations

14 August 2025

Issue:

The Houthi / HOCC media statements beginning 19 May, 2025 on a maritime blockade of Israel's Haifa port, followed by the 27 July "fourth phase of the naval blockade" targeting companies conducting business with Israel, and then the announcement of 64 companies and multiple ships identified as violating the ban, all continue to impact freedom of navigation and create industry confusion on determination of association.

Fact:

There remains no standard or logical equation on how the Houthis target vessels. Since 19 November 2023, the Houthis have targeted many vessels with no association, no direct association, and in some cases vessels with outdated information as the owner/operator had changed prior to the attack.

Multi-layer Research:

In the following slide, JMIC is sharing a multi-layered methodology sample as a way to identify associations with Israel. Please note, this methodology does not account for unknowns which include but are not limited to cargo ownership, cargo transfer, or financial connections. The shared methodology is not a perfect science.

Multi-layer Approach:

Multiple subscription-based maritime situational awareness tools exist to support your association research. Additionally, several companies specialize in providing maritime security assessments for high-threat areas to include risk assessments, security planning, and on-site security personnel. These tools in concert with Best Management Practices – Maritime Security, provide a solid foundation in support of your risk and threat mitigation measures.

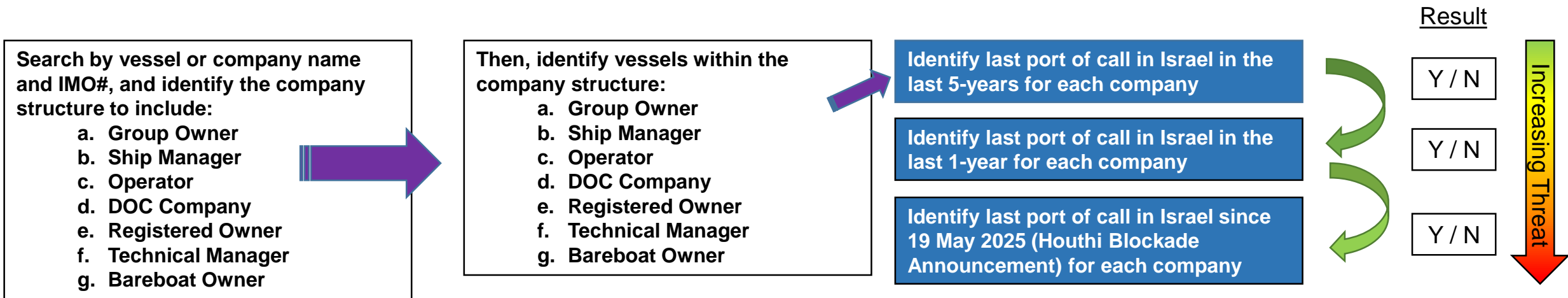


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Determining an association/affiliation

Determining an association/affiliation:

In addition to your company policy or CSO/DPA risk/threat assessment, utilization of this process via multiple publically available maritime domain awareness tools may assist in determining possible association to Israel.



- Affiliation with Israel is only one factor for a company to consider in their risk calculus when operating in the Region.
- JMIC has observed that some vessels targeted by Houthis did not have a direct association, rather a 2nd to 3rd degree association (also known as “No direct association”), and in some cases outdated associations.
- **Direct Association definition:** The vessel itself has made a recent port call to Israel, or the Owner, Operator, Charterer, Manager or Flag State is Israel.
- **No Direct Association definition:** Other vessels within the company structure that have made one or more recent port calls to Israel.



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