

Joint Maritime Information Center

JMIC Information Note

JMIC# 121

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Southern Red Sea

INCIDENT REPORT

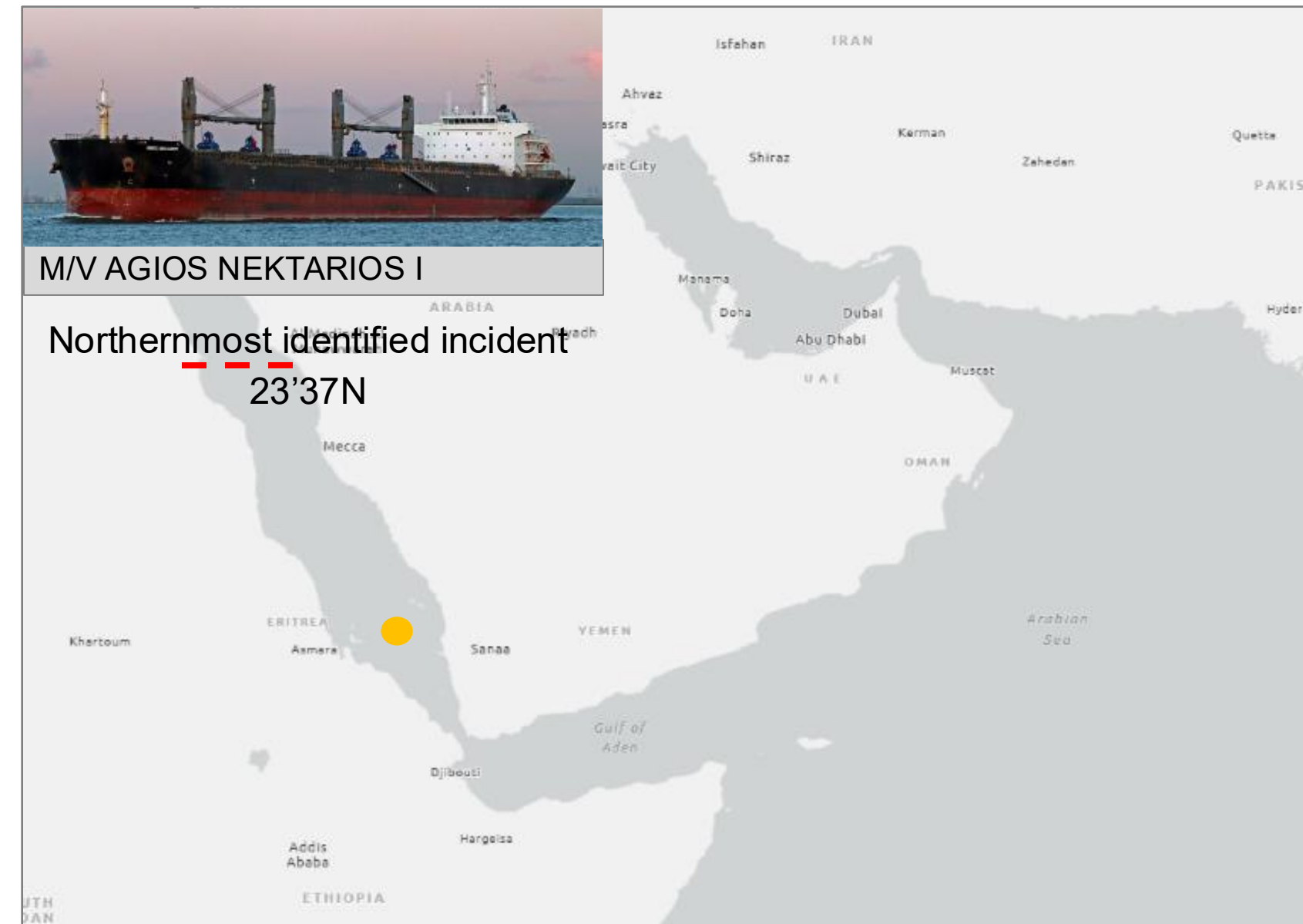
Ref. UKMTO Warning Suspicious Activity 030-25

On 04 September 2025, UKMTO received information from the Master of the Marshall Islands flagged M/V AGIOS NEKTARIOS I (IMO 9515759), 178 NW of Hodeida, Yemen, that they had witnessed an unknown projectile hit the water. The Master reported heavy electromagnetic interference in the area. No damage to the vessel and crew are safe.

The JMIC investigated and assessed that M/V AGIOS NEKTARIOS I had witnessed a drone wreckage, and the vessel was believed not to be the subject of deliberate targeting.

JMIC reminds maritime industry that the Houthis possess the capability to target commercial vessels well into the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, and the threat of collateral damage when operating or transiting through a conflict zone.

Fig 1.



JMIC GUIDANCE

1. Freedom of navigation and the free flow of maritime commerce continue as a top priority while the Southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

The current threat assessment identifies:

- a.** Vessels with an Israeli association at highest risk
- b.** Any vessel within a Group or Company fleet structure whereby the company has been identified making port calls to Israel

2. Vessels intending to transit the threat area are recommended to exercise caution by applying the following:

- a.** Conduct a threat and risk assessment prior to entering the area including a review of ports calls of other company vessels
- b.** Review security measures/incorporate appropriate vessel hardening measures into their security plans
- c.** Turning off any form of non-essential emissions (e.g. intraship UHF/VHF transmissions) and AIS policy in the vicinity of, or before transiting or entering the threat area is to be very carefully considered as part of the voyage risk mitigation process, as broadcasting on AIS is assessed to aid Houthi targeting
 - i.** While transmitting AIS may be consistent with SOLAS, it may compromise the safety & security of the vessel and crew
 - ii.** If AIS is turned off, consider altering course and speed to minimize tracking by Dead Reckoning
- d.** Do not loiter when transiting the threat area and proceed with caution
- e.** If contacted by any unrecognized organization:
 - i.** Report back to your company security officer and validate the source before responding
- f.** If contacted on VHF by “Yemeni Navy”:
 - i.** Ignore the VHF call and continue passage if safe to do so
 - ii.** Describe the incident in follow up reports to UKMTO
- g.** Share instances of suspicious activity with UKMTO (with recordings or imagery where possible)
 - i.** UAV sightings
 - ii.** Communications challenges

h. In case of unexploded ordnance and debris on deck:

- i.** Maintain a safe distance (as far away as practically possible) and cordon off the area
 - ii.** Do not touch or try to dismantle any debris
 - iii.** Be aware that any radio emissions may trigger the device
 - iv.** Request assistance through UKMTO, ask for an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team (EOD)
- i.** Use of Best Management Practices (BMP) should be considered
- i.** Chain link fencing can be used to reduce the effects of an RPG

Maritime Industry is recommended to:

- a.** Conduct a threat & risk assessment of all associated vessels and especially those that may have previous Israel ownership or associations [to include recent port calls by vessels within the company and/or group structure]
- b.** Companies should plan and implement risk mitigation measures in advance of the furthest identified attack areas as depicted in the JMIC ‘Overview of Incidents and Suspicious Activities’ slide
- c.** If an association is made, shipping companies are recommended to provide the information to UKMTO prior to transiting the threat area
- d.** Ensure their managed vessels receive and follow the guidance for vessels
- e.** Review digital footprint
- f.** The JMIC is aware of increased email communication between unrecognized reporting entities and owners/operators:
 - i.** If contacted by any organization not officially recognized, report back to your company security officer and validate the source before responding
 - ii.** Any response should be carefully considered
 - iii.** Statements by Houthi forces to encourage merchant shipping to engage with the Houthi’s Humanitarian Operations Coordination Centre (HOCC), or Yemeni Navy, should be disregarded and industry best practice and guidance should be followed in close communication with your company’s CSO
- g.** Open-source claims that vessels are targeted may not be factual
 - i.** JMIC recommends verifying source for legitimacy.

