

**MSCIO MARITIME SECURITY NOTICE**

**MILITARY ACTIVITY**



**Military operations are ongoing within parts of the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, North Arabian Sea and the Strait of Hormuz.**

**Where transit is necessary, vessels should maximize distance from naval forces and conduct a dynamic risk assessment in accordance with BMP-MS guidance.**

**Vessels are strongly advised to exercise heightened caution while transiting these areas, maintain active listening watch on VHF Channel 16, and report any suspicious activity to MSCIO and UKMTO.**

**UPDATE 01**

MSCIO has been monitoring closely the development of the events in the region and several advisories has been issued by different security centers and organizations.

**MSCIO ADVISORY 01\_2026**  
**UPDATE 01**  
**28FEB2026**

This update provides an overview of the current maritime security environment affecting commercial shipping in two key transit regions:

- The Strait of Hormuz
- The Bab el-Mandeb/Red Sea area.

It is based on information promulgated by maritime security reporting centers and military authorities.

The purpose of this document is to provide a consolidated operational picture and practical guidance to support voyage planning and risk assessment.

### **STRAIT OF HORMUZ (SoH)**

#### **Arabian Gulf – Gulf of Oman – Northern Arabian Sea**

Ongoing regional military operations have resulted in the establishment of precautionary maritime warning areas across the Strait of Hormuz and adjacent waters. Commercial navigation remains legally permitted and there has not been yet any incidents related to merchant vessels.

However, the following has been reported:

- Electronic interference.
- Allegedly VHF messages claiming the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

It is advised for merchant vessels to:

- Restrict transits within these areas to strictly essential movements. If necessary, it is preferable during daylight and with prior enhanced risk assessment performed.
- Monitor Ch16 VHF and expect to be hailed.
- AIS transmitting and clear identification.
- Whenever possible, increase distance from naval forces to mitigate the risk.
- Enhanced radar and visual watchkeeping to support safe navigation.

**MSCIO ADVISORY 01\_2026**  
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**BAB EL-MANDEB (BeM)**

**Red Sea - Gulf of Aden**

Current regional developments indicate a possible resumption of hostile activity against shipping transiting this area and attacks against commercial vessels cannot be ruled out.

Merchant vessels should expect:

- Potential delays for vessels requesting close protection.
- Higher exposure for vessels with certain affiliations.

It is advised for merchant vessels to:

- Maintain navigation through international waters as long as possible.
- Navigate closer to the African coastline where feasible.
- Maintain coordination with maritime security reporting centers, both MSCIO and UKMTO.
- Conduct voyage-specific risk assessment and adhere to BMP-MS.
- Before transiting the area, take into consideration any direct or indirect affiliations between the vessel, its ownership, or its cargo and countries of interest

Be aware the environment is dynamic in the region and may change with limited notice. maintain a high level of situational awareness.

Vessels are advised to transit with caution, maintain a high level of situational awareness and report any suspicious activity or electronic interference to MSCIO and UKMTO.

More detailed information can be found in:

[MSCIO EU | Advisories](#)