

The Yemen Conflict & the Implications for Maritime Security

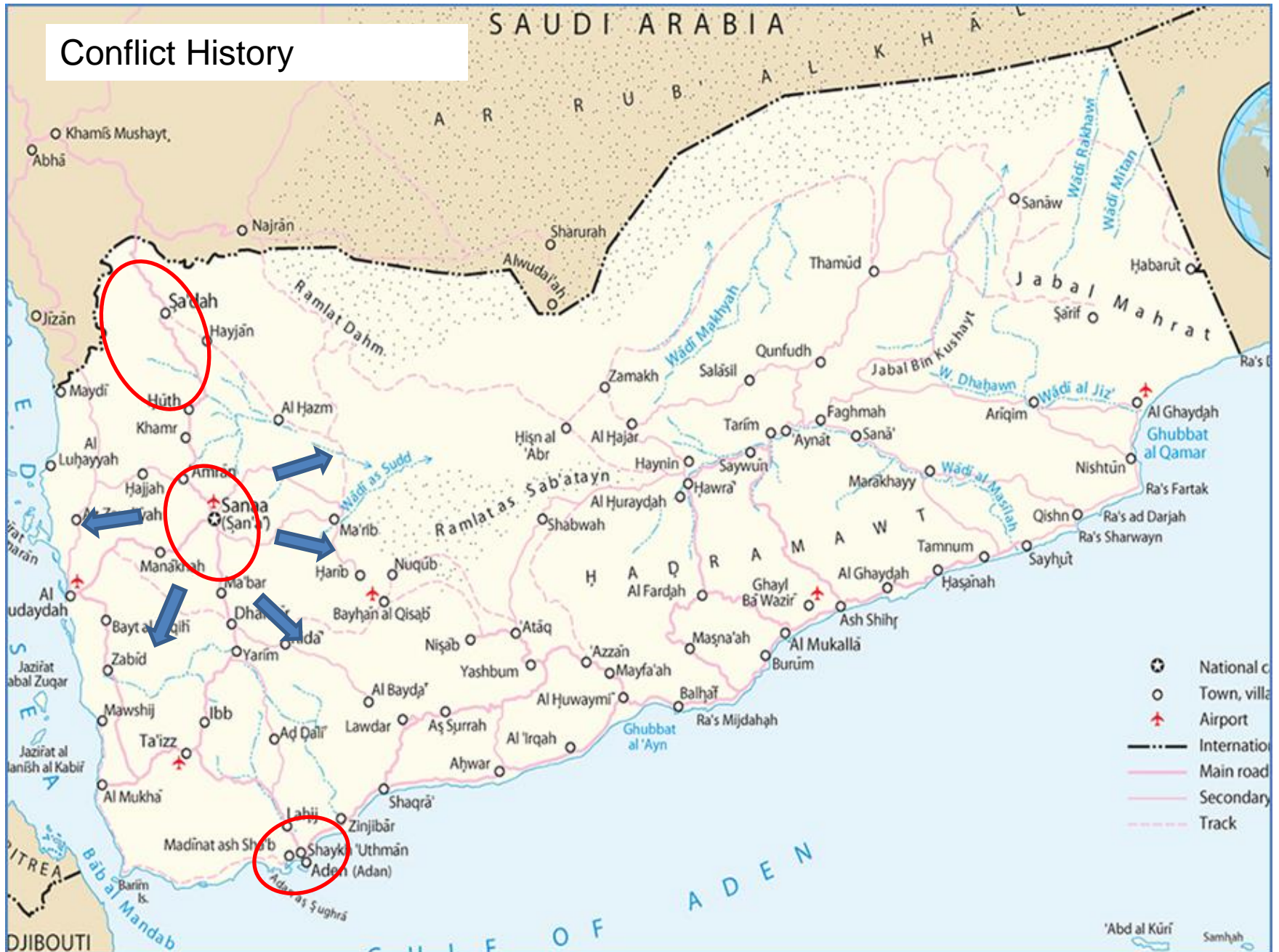
Commander Seth George Royal Navy
Maritime Security Advisor (Yemen)
29 Nov 18

Scope

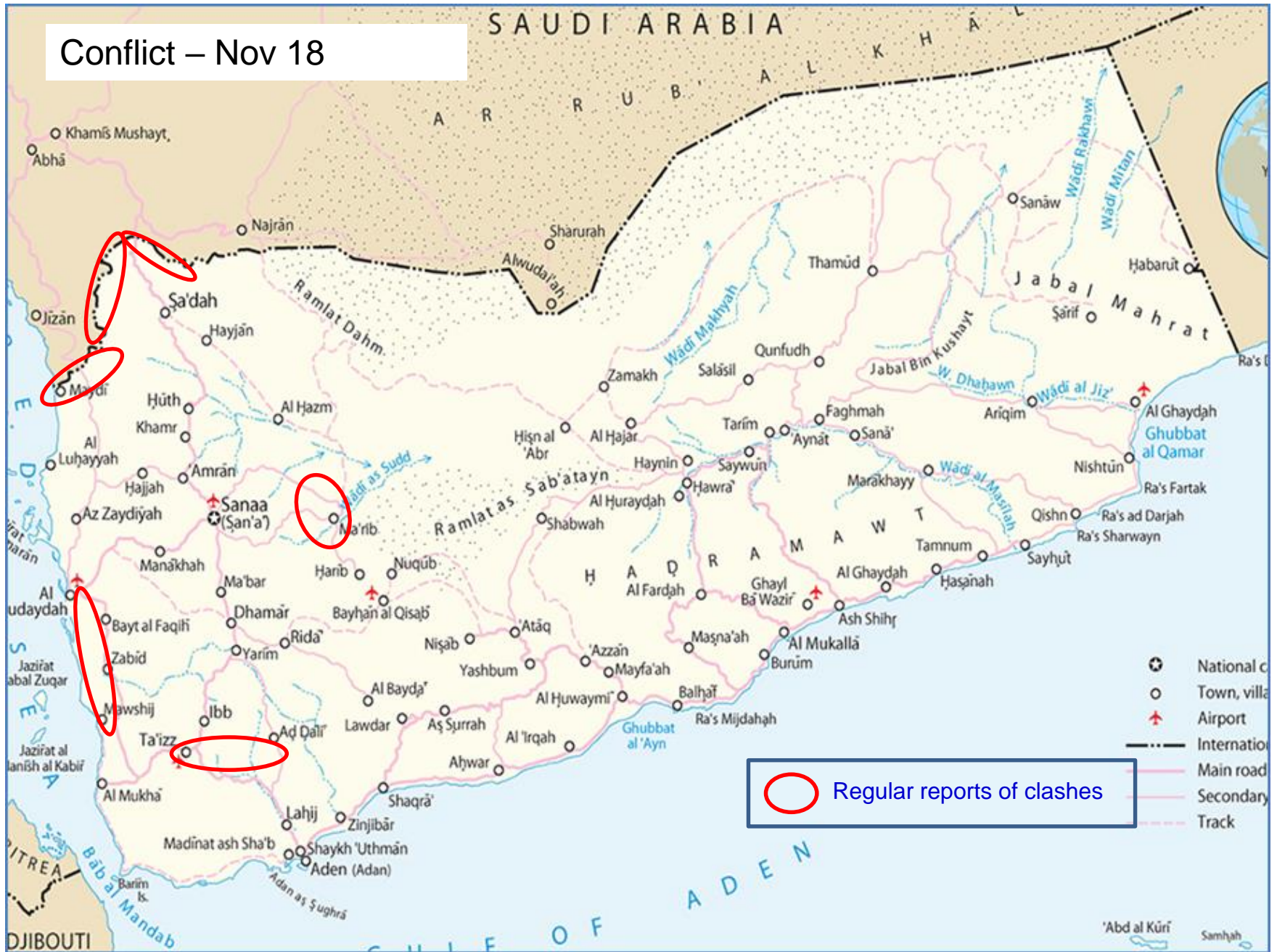
- > Conflict History
- > Humanitarian
- > Vessel Verification & Inspection
- > Maritime Incidents
- > Summary



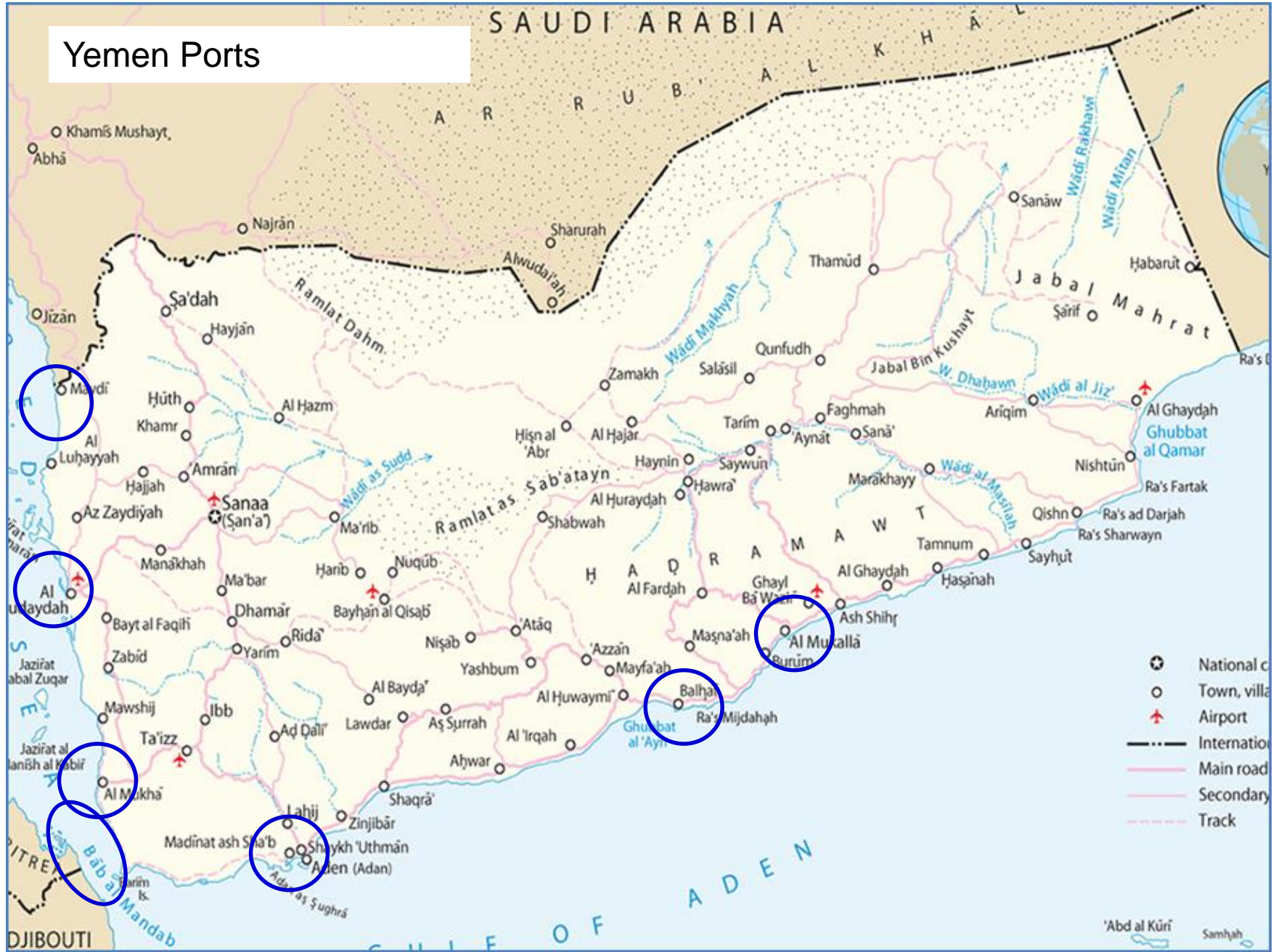
Conflict History



Conflict – Nov 18



Yemen Ports



Humanitarian

- Over 22 million people – 75% of the population – are in need of humanitarian assistance.
- An estimated 17.8 million people in Yemen lack reliable access to food – 8.4 million of which face extreme food shortages.
- 90% of Yemen's food and fuel needs are supplied by commercial shipping.
- Hodeidah and Saleef ports are critical access point for north and west Yemen where significant proportion of the Yemeni population live.

Vessel Verification and Inspection

- Since May 16, UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism provides a structure and process for commercial ships to gain access to Southern Red Sea ports.
- Recognise need to maintain confidence in the shipping industry whilst acknowledging security concerns of KSA (UNSCR 2216).
- Process UNVIM – EHOOC – Coalition warships.
- Lifting the Saudi blockade – Dec 17.
- Deployed monitors to ports would make a difference.

Maritime Incidents

Sea Mines

- 9 Mar 17 – Yemen Coast Guard Vessel Sana'a sank after reportedly making contact with a mine (two crew killed).
- 8 May 17 – Saudi forces report presence of mines off Maydi.
- Oct 18 – Houthi forces claim to have manufactured their own sea mines for use against SLC forces.
- 26 Nov 18 – SLC spokesperson states that SLC forces have discovered and destroyed 86 naval mines since the beginning of military operations.

Maritime Incidents

Water-Borne IED (WBIED)

- 30 Jan 17 – SLC report WBIED attack on RSNF HMS MADINAH (killing two RSNF personnel and injuring three)
- 25 Apr 17 - WBIED exploded at the entrance to Jizan harbour (KSA) after being engaged by Saudi Border Guards.
- 12 Aug 17 - WBIED targeting Al Mukha port reportedly intercepted and destroyed.
- 14 Sep 18 – SLC report finding a WBIED west of Hajjah coast on Al-Fasht Island.
- 30 Sep 18 – SLC report 2 x WBIED targeted Jizan Port.

Maritime Incidents

Missiles

- 1 Oct 16 - Missile attack, allegedly fired from land by the Houthis at the MV SWIFT, a UAE chartered catamaran vessel.
- 9-12 Oct 16 - Missiles launched against US Warships on separate occasions over the period. Counter-measures taken.
- 25 Mar 18 - Saudi tanker reportedly attacked by Houthi RPG in TTW off Hodeidah.
- 3 Apr 18 - VLCC ABQAIQ allegedly struck by missile, causing minor damage.
- 10 May 18 - Turkish bulk carrier INCE INEBOLU damaged, SLC report that it was struck by missile/rocket 70nm west of Saleef.
- 25 Jul 18 - VLCC ARSAN attacked in Southern Red Sea, allegedly struck by missile/rocket; suspension of KSA oil shipments through BAM until 4 Aug.
- 10 Nov 18 – Houthis alleged to have launched a missile into the Red Sea from vicinity of Hodeidah. No reports of any vessel being struck.

Summary

- Continued operation and access to Red Sea Ports is critically important.
- Building and maintaining commercial shipping confidence remains key to providing food and fuel to Yemen.
- Maritime insecurity is not a new phenomenon in Yemen coastal waters; especially smuggling.

Any Questions?