UKMTO QUARTERLY MARITIME SECURITY REPORT

Q3 2021

JUL – SEP

Contents

Executive Summary

UKMTO received reports of 5 maritime security events within the Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) during Q3 2021, compared to 4 events during Q3 2020.

In Q3 of both 2020 and 2021 UKMTO received more reports of non-piracy related activity than piracy-related activity.

UKMTO reporting rates in Q3 2021 remain steady at around 95% of traffic within the VRA.
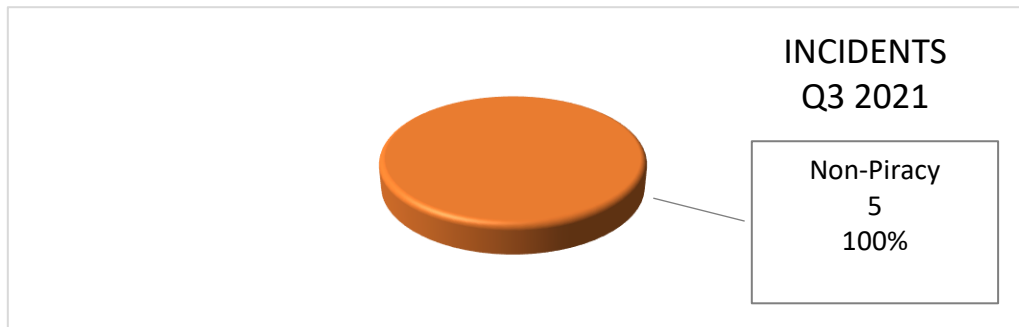
UKMTO issued 5 maritime security alerts during this period, all of which were attributed to non-piracy related activities.

UKMTO Classifications	
Piracy	Any robbery or other violent action, for private ends and without authorisation by public authority, committed on the seas outside the normal jurisdiction of any state
Non-Piracy	Often related to conflict overspill, geopolitical instability or illegal smuggling/trafficking in the maritime domain

Regional Maritime Security Overview

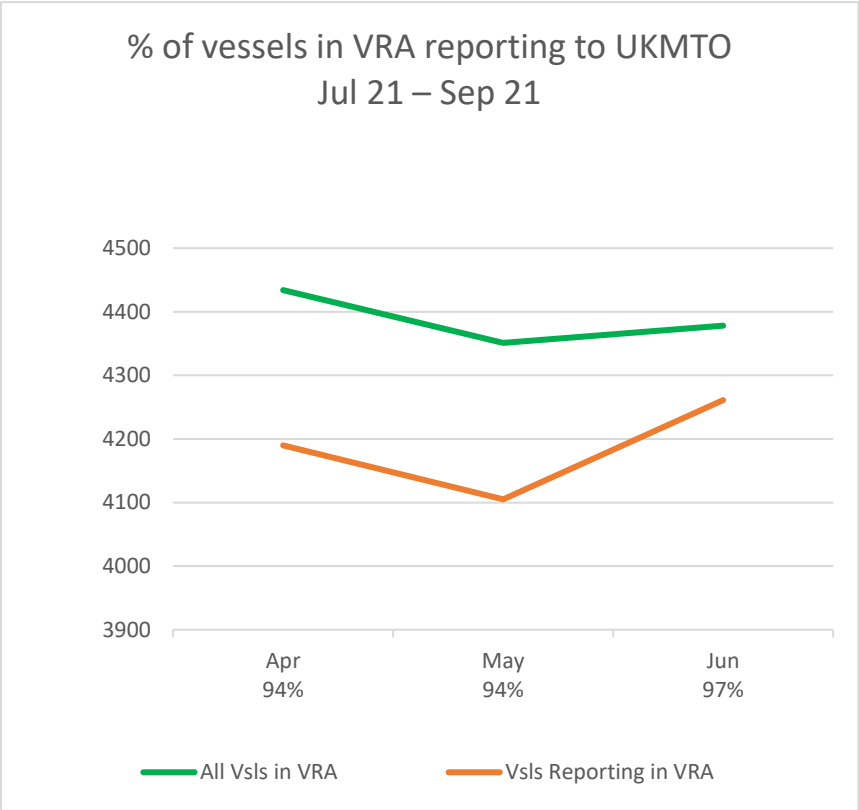## Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea and Arabian Gulf

During the period 1 Jul 21 to 30 Sep 21 UKMTO received information relating to five maritime security events within the UKMTO Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA).

INCIDENTS
Q3 2021

Non-Piracy
5
100%

NON PIRACY

W/001/08

A/001/07

W/001/07

A/001/09

A/001/08

Piracy is widely acknowledged to be suppressed but not eradicated within the region. It is strongly recommended that all vessels within the UKMTO VRA adhere to the guidance within Best Management Practice Edition 5 (BMP5) and report maritime security events and suspicious activity to UKMTO.

UKMTO
United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations

Reporting Rates

In Q3 2021 an average of 95% of vessels within the UKMTO Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) reported to UKMTO as recommended in BMP5. This remained comparable to the same period of 2020, and to previous quarters of 2021.

% of vessels in VRA reporting to UKMTO
Jul 21 – Sep 21

	Apr 94%	May 94%	Jun 97%

Legend: ── All Vsls in VRA   ── Vsls Reporting in VRA

UKMTO Maritime Security Alerts

Warnings	Classification	Definition	Details	Vessel Type
W/001/07	Non-Piracy	NA	Reports of an incident involving close quarters approach by drones.	Oil Tanker
W/001/08	Non-Piracy	NA	Vessel approached by small craft and boarded by unknown individuals. Subsequently deemed to be national authorities.	Tanker

Advisories	Classification	Definition	Details	Vessel Type
A/001/07	Non-Piracy	Attack	Attack by perpetrators unknown resulting in damage and casualties requiring SAR response. Subsequently deemed multiple drone strikes.	Oil Tanker
A/001/08	Non-Piracy	Attack	1 vessel, 4 POB attacked a vessel (aground within Somali TTW) with small arms and RPG. Embarked AST returned fire. Attackers withdrew. Damage taken, but nil casualties. Believed to be attempted armed robbery.	Vehicle Ferry
A/001/09	Non-Piracy	Suspicious Approach	2 small craft, 9 POB each. Subsequently believed smuggling-related.	Bulker

Non-Piracy Events

Of the five events classified as non-piracy, one was reported as occurring in the Gulf of Oman (W/001/08), two in the Arabian Sea (A/001/07 and W/001/07), one in the Bab el Mandeb (A/001/09) and one within Somali TTW of the Somali Basin (A/001/08).

The non-piracy event in the Gulf of Oman was reported as a boarding by perpetrators unknown (UKMTO Warning 001/08 refers) and subsequently assumed to be national authorities.

Of the non-piracy events reported as occurring within the Arabian Sea, one was a report of close approach by a drone or drones (UKMTO Warning 001/07 refers), and one was a non-real time report of an attack, subsequently deemed to be drone strike, resulting in damage and casualties requiring SAR assistance (UKMTO Advisory 001/07 refers).

The non-piracy event in the Bab el Mandeb was reported as a suspicious approach by 2 small craft, believed to be smuggling-related (UKMTO Advisory 001/09 refers).

The non-piracy event off the Somali Basin was reported by a vessel previously reporting as aground within Somali TTW. The incident involved 2 small craft with 9 POB embarked in each, attacking with small arms and rocket propelled grenades. Damage was reported, but no casualties and the attackers eventually left (UKMTO Advisory 001/08 refers). This was deemed to be an attempted armed robbery by perpetrators unknown.

Comparison with Q3 2020

Regional Overview

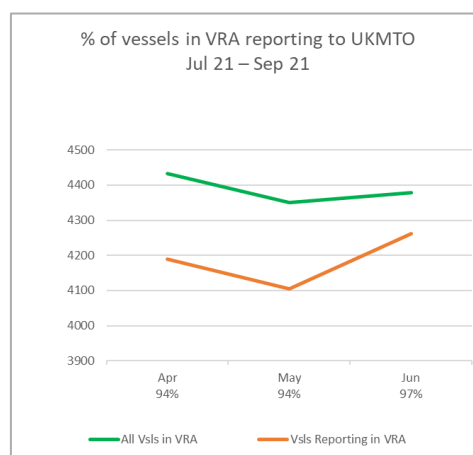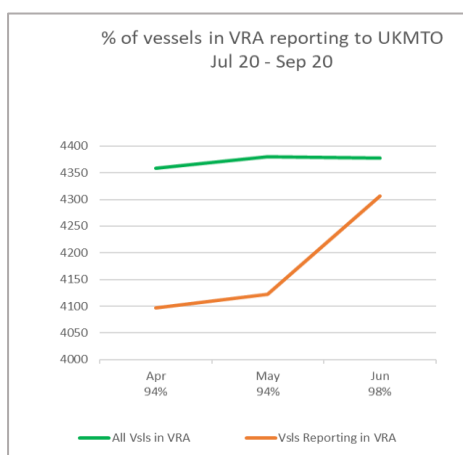| Classification	Q3 2020	Q3 2021
Piracy	0	0
Non-Piracy	4	5
TOTAL	4	5

Piracy Events

During Q3 2020 and 2021 there were 0 instances of piracy-related activity.

Non-Piracy Events

During Q3 2020 4 non-piracy events were reported. Three were deemed to be the activities of national authorities, and one was classified as armed robbery occurring within 12nm of the Somali coast.

Reporting Rates

In Q3 2020 an average of 95% of vessels within the UKMTO VRA reported to UKMTO, the same as in Q3 2021.

Appendices

UKMTO Classifications

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UKMTO Maritime Security Definitions

UKMTO Maritime Security Definitions	
Hijack	Unauthorised persons have illegally boarded and taken control of the vessel against the will of the Master and crew
Boarding	Unauthorised persons have boarded but have not taken control of the vessel
Attempted Boarding	Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat, but were thwarted by BMP measures, PAST, weather conditions, lack of appropriate equipment, etc
Attack	An aggressive approach by unidentified craft and weapons have been discharged
Suspicious Approach	Definite alteration towards the ship, rapid increase in speed which cannot be accounted for in the prevailing conditions. Sudden changes in course towards ship and aggressive behaviour
Sightings and Irregular Behaviour	Suspicious activity not associated with the locality or prevailing conditions

Incident Reporting

As contained in BMP5 Section 6 Reporting.

UKMTO administers the Voluntary Reporting Scheme, under which merchant ships are encouraged to send regular reports. These include; initial reports, daily reports, final reports and reports of suspicious or irregular activity.

UKMTO Contact Details

Maritime Security Information	
UKMTO Watchkeepers (24/7 emergencies)	+44 2392 222 060 watchkeepers@ukmto.org
UKMTO Dubai (local office hours)	+971 4309 4268
UKMTO website (regional maritime security alerts)	www.ukmto.org
UKMTO on social media (regional maritime security alerts)	@UK_MTO

Other Sources of Information

Maritime Security Information	
Best Management Practice series	www.ocimf.org
Admiralty Maritime Security Charts	www.admiralty.co.uk/ukho
Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa	www.mschoa.org
International Maritime Bureau Live Piracy Reports	www.icc-css.org

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12 Oct 21

United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organisation

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