



UKMTO QUARTERLY MARITIME SECURITY REPORT

Q4 2021

OCT – DEC

10 Jan 22

United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organisation

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Executive Summary

UKMTO received reports of 2 maritime security events within the Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) during Q4 2021, compared to 8 events during Q4 2020.

UKMTO reporting rates in Q4 2021 remain steady at around 95% of traffic within the VRA.

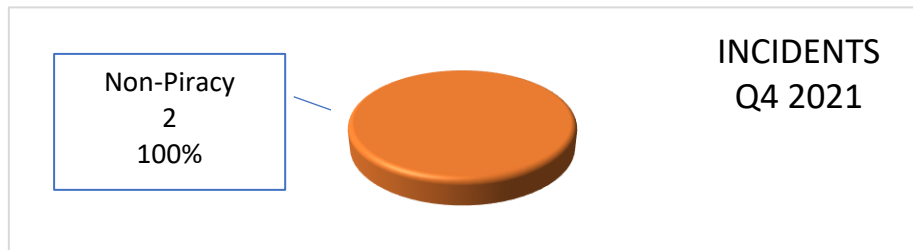
UKMTO issued 2 maritime security alerts during this period, both attributed to non-piracy activities.

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

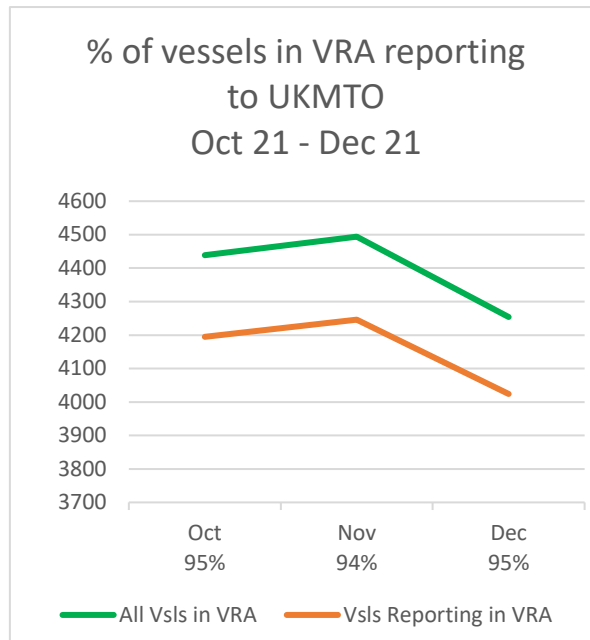
During the period 1 Oct 21 to 31 Dec 21 UKMTO received information relating to two maritime security events within the UKMTO Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA).



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.

Reporting Rates

In Q4 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.



UKMTO Maritime Security Alerts

Warnings	Classification	Definition	Details	Vessel Type
W/001/12	Non-Piracy	NA	Reports of an incident (exchange of gunfire) within the port of Bossaso, Somalia	Oil/Chemical Tanker

Advisories	Classification	Definition	Details	Vessel Type
A/001/10	Non-Piracy	Suspicious Approach	1 white hulled small craft, 6 POB and ladders visible, approached to 50m at speeds up to 18kts in aggressive manner	Bulk Carrier

Non-Piracy Events

The first non-piracy event was categorised as a suspicious approach following reports that a small vessel with 6 POB and ladders sighted, had aggressively approached a merchant vessel at high speeds and closed to within 50m. This event is believed to be related to marine smuggling or trafficking (UKMTO Advisory 001/10 refers).



The second event categorised as non-piracy was reported as an exchange of gunfire within the port of Bossaso, Somalia (UKMTO Warning 001/12 refers) causing significant disruption.

Comparison with Q4 2020

Regional Overview

Classification	Q4 2020	Q4 2021
Piracy	3	0
Non-Piracy	5	2
TOTAL	8	2

Piracy Events

During Q4 2020 there were 3 instances of piracy-related activity. Of the piracy-related events reported in Q4 2020, one was a suspicious approach and two were sightings, the lowest categorisation of piracy-related activities. There were no reports of piracy-related activity in Q4 2021.

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.

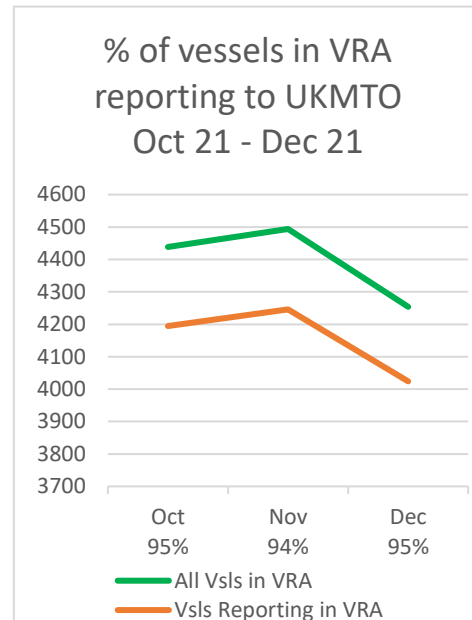
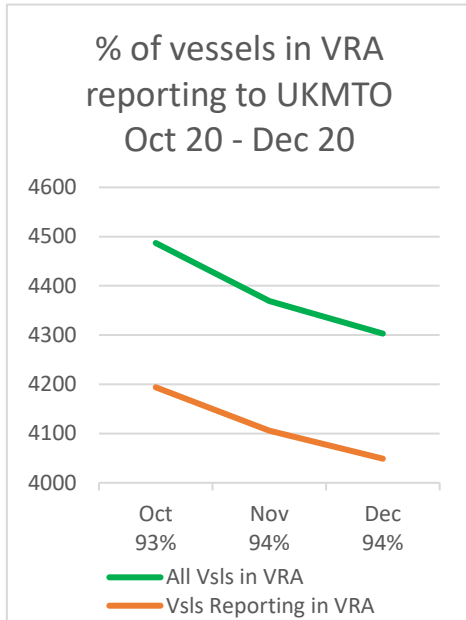
Non-Piracy Events

During Q4 2020 5 non-piracy events were reported. Three were reported as explosions occurring within or in close proximity to ports, and one report of limpet mines attached to the hull of a vessel at anchor by perpetrators unknown.

The two non-piracy related events reported during Q4 2021 are believed to be related to illicit activities including smuggling or trafficking in the Southern Red Sea and an exchange of gunfire within Bossaso Port, Somalia by perpetrators unknown.

Reporting Rates

In Q4 2020 an average of 94% of vessels within the UKMTO VRA reported to UKMTO, comparable to the reporting rate in Q4 2021.



Appendices

UKMTO Classifications

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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

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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