



# **UKMTO QUARTERLY MARITIME SECURITY REPORT**

**Q4 2022**

**OCT – DEC**

13 Jan 23

United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organisation

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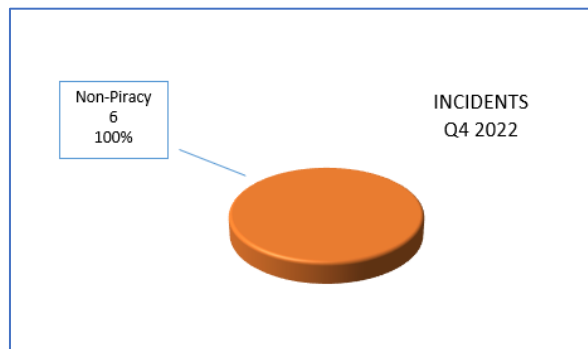
## Executive Summary

UKMTO issued 6 non-piracy related maritime security alerts during Q4 2022, compared to 2 non-piracy related alerts during Q4 2021.

UKMTO reporting rates remain steady at around 95%.

## Maritime Security Events

During the period 1 Oct 22 to 31 Dec 22 UKMTO received reports of 6 maritime security events within the UKMTO Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA), none were believed to be piracy related. Four reports included the presence of Unmanned Air Systems (UAS). And of the remaining two, one was believed to relate to maritime crime, and one was subsequently understood to be interaction with coastal authorities.



UKMTO received two reports of suspected Unmanned Air System (UAS) attacks near Ash-Shihr affecting Yemeni port infrastructure (single point moorings) and a merchant vessel in the vicinity. In the first reported event a merchant vessel received minor damage, but crew were reported as safe in both incidents. UKMTO Advisories 001/Oct and 003/Nov refer.

A further suspected UAS attack was reported to UKMTO as occurring in the Gulf of Oman. A merchant vessel received damage but was able to continue to next port of call, crew were reported as safe. Investigations are ongoing. UKMTO Advisory 001/Nov refers.

A UAS sighting was reported to UKMTO in the Gulf of Oman. A merchant vessel reported being circled by a small (approx 12 inch) UAS approx 50nm southwest of Muscat. Vessel and crew were reported as safe. UKMTO Advisory 002/Nov refers.

UKMTO received reports of two maritime security events in the Bab al Mendab during this reporting period.

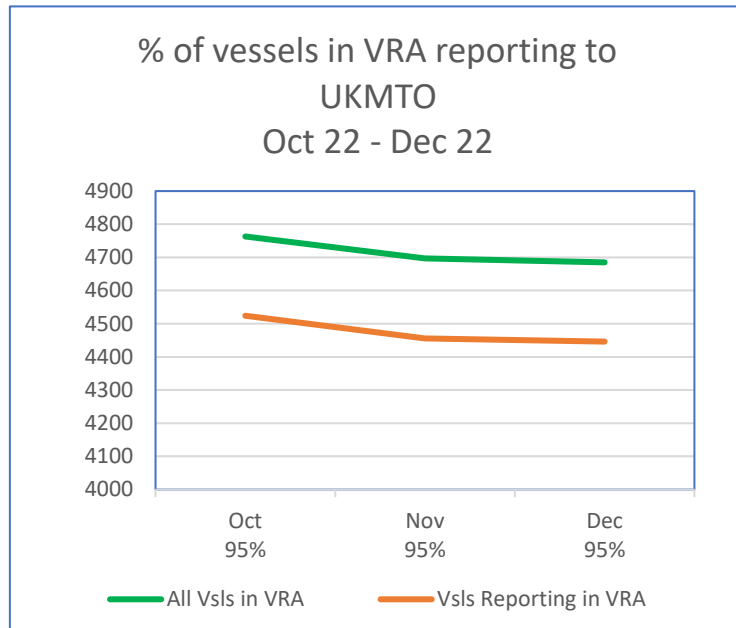
The first was reported as an attack by unknown perpetrators (4 skiffs with 5-6 POB, shots fired), subsequently understood to be an interaction with coastal authorities (UKMTO Warning 001/Nov refers).

The second was reported as an approach to 1nm by 2 skiffs and shots heard. The embarked security team fired warning shots and the skiffs departed the area. This event is believed to be related to smuggling / trafficking or other illicit activity (UKMTO Advisory 001/Dec refers). In both events the merchant vessels and crew were reported as safe.

Piracy is widely described as 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), reporting maritime security events and suspicious activity to UKMTO.

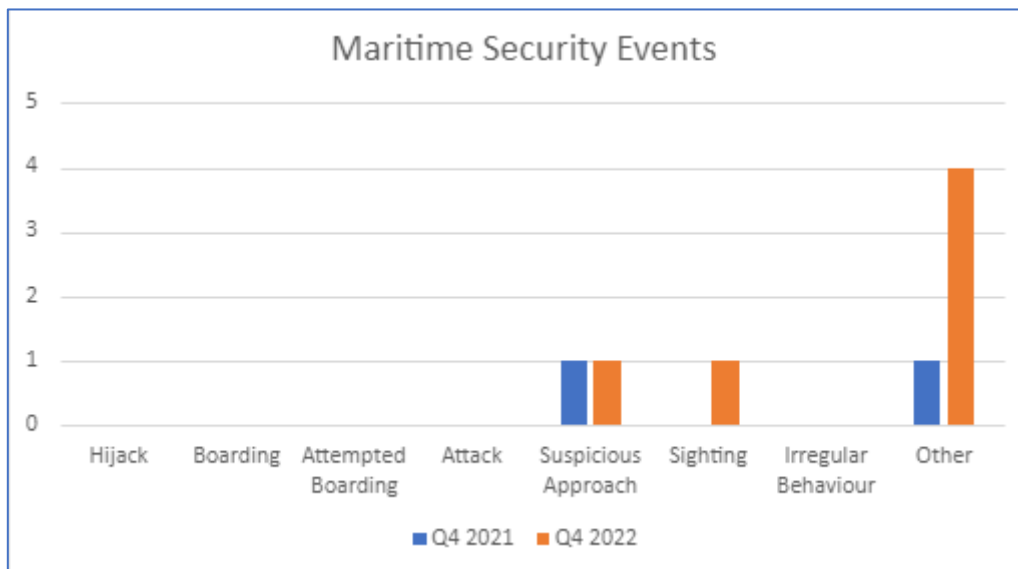
## Reporting Rates

An average of 95% of vessels within the UKMTO Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) reported to UKMTO as recommended in BMP5.



## Comparison with Q4 2021

6 non-piracy maritime security events were reported to UKMTO in Q4 2022, compared to 2 non-piracy related reports received in Q4 2021 (see UKMTO Maritime Security Definitions).



## Appendices

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
Other	Maritime security events not related to piracy or armed robbery

## 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

## Disclaimer

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