UKMTO QUARTERLY MARITIME SECURITY REPORT

Q2 2023

APR – JUN

14 July 23

United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organisation

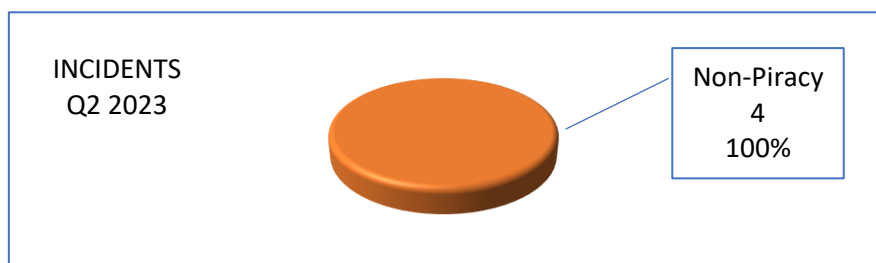UKMTO
United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations

Contents

Executive Summary

UKMTO issued 4 maritime security alerts during Q2 2023 compared to 4 alerts during Q1 2022 and 5 alerts during Q1 2021.

UKMTO received reports from merchant vessels of interactions with small craft containing unidentified armed personnel in the vicinity of the Hanish Islands and the Straits of Hormuz. UKMTO also received a report of increased Uncrewed Ariel Systems (UAS) activity in the northern Indian Ocean. A report of a vessel under attack by armed personnel south of Nishtun, Yemen was later confirmed as Government agency activity.

UKMTO reporting rates remain steady at around 95%.

Maritime Security Events

During the period 1 Apr 23 to 30 Jun 23 UKMTO received reports of 4 maritime security events within the UKMTO Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA), 3 were reports of irregular or suspicious activity, and one was a reported attack by unknown perpetrators later confirmed as Government agency activity.

UKMTO received two reports of suspicious activity involving small vessels with multiple unidentified armed personnel aboard during this period. One was reported in the vicinity of the Hanish Islands (UKMTO Warning 001/Jun refers) and the other was reported in the Straits of Hormuz (UKMTO Advisory 001/Jun refers).
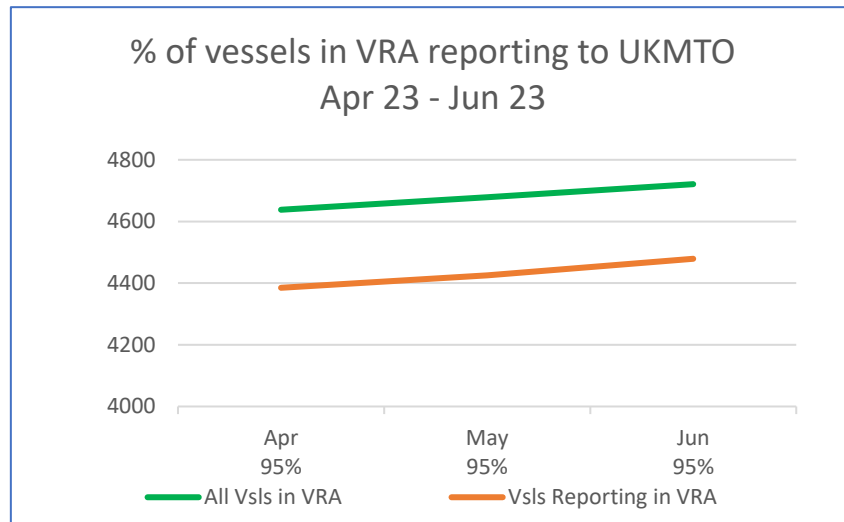
UKMTO received a report of increased UAS activity in the northern Indian Ocean via Third Party (UKMTO Advisory 001/Apr refers).

UKMTO received one report of an attack by perpetrators unknown against a vessel approximately 18nm south of Nishtun, Yemen. 3 small craft containing 3-4 personnel each approached the reporting vessel, shots were fired and the reporting vessel was pursued (UKMTO Warning 001/Apr refers). This event was later confirmed as Government agency activity. The merchant vessel 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.
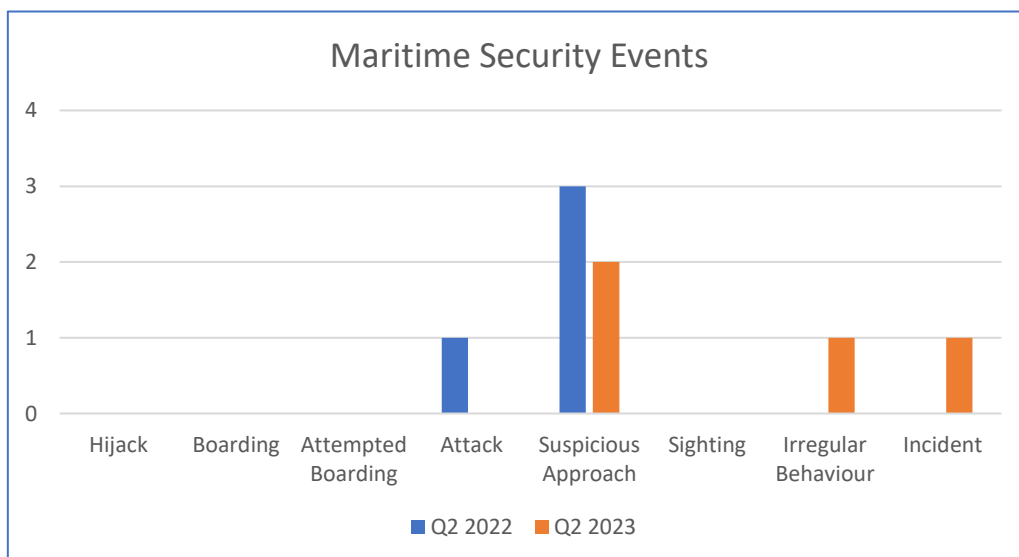
Reporting Rates

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

% of vessels in VRA reporting to UKMTO
Apr 23 - Jun 23

Comparison with Q2 2022

4 non-piracy maritime security events were reported to UKMTO in Q2 2023, compared to 4 non-piracy related reports received in Q2 2022 (see UKMTO Maritime Security Definitions).

Maritime Security Events

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
Incident	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.witherbys.com
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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