



# **UKMTO QUARTERLY MARITIME SECURITY REPORT**

**Q3 2023**

**JUL – SEP**

16 October 23

United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organisation

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## Executive Summary

UKMTO issued 4 maritime security alerts during Q3 2023 compared to 0 alerts during Q3 2022.

UKMTO received reports from merchant vessels of an incident involving national authorities in the Gulf of Oman and interactions with small craft containing unidentified armed personnel in the vicinity of the Bab al Mandab Strait. UKMTO also received reports from national authorities regarding an entity impersonating the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen (UNVIM), an increased threat to merchant shipping in the vicinity of the Strait of Hormuz.

UKMTO reporting rates remain steady at around 95%.

## Maritime Security Events



During the period 1 Jul 23 to 30 Sep 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 reported as an attack by unknown perpetrators later reclassified as national maritime forces.

UKMTO was notified of an incident involving unidentified armed assailants in the vicinity of the Strait of Hormuz. Shots were fired at the merchant vessel, but no significant damage occurred and the crew were not injured. The vessel was able to proceed onwards as

planned. This event was later reclassified as an interaction with national maritime forces (UKMTO Warning 001/Jul and Update 001 refer).

UKMTO was made aware of an increased threat towards merchant shipping in the vicinity of the Strait of Hormuz by military authorities (UKMTO Advisory 001/Aug refers).

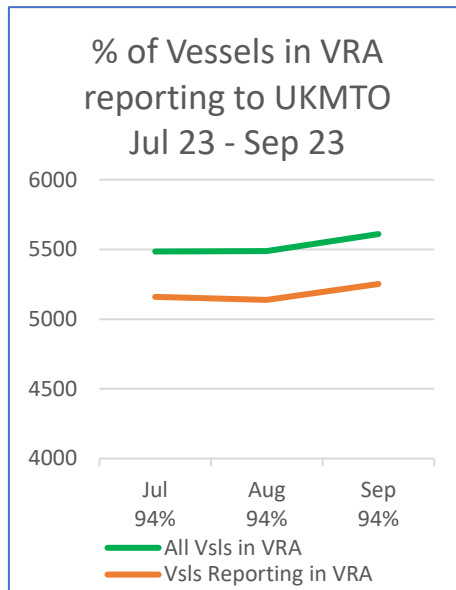
UKMTO received a report of a cargo vessel being approached to 0.4nm by 1 small, fast boat (8-12m long with black or grey hull), which shadowed the merchant ship for a period of time. The embarked armed security team made their weapons visible and the small vessel departed the area (UKMTO Advisory 002/Aug refers).

An international authority reported to UKMTO that an entity impersonating the UNIVM was directing merchant vessels in the vicinity of Aden anchorage to divert to Hodeidah port via VHF (UKMTO Advisory 001/Sep refers).

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.

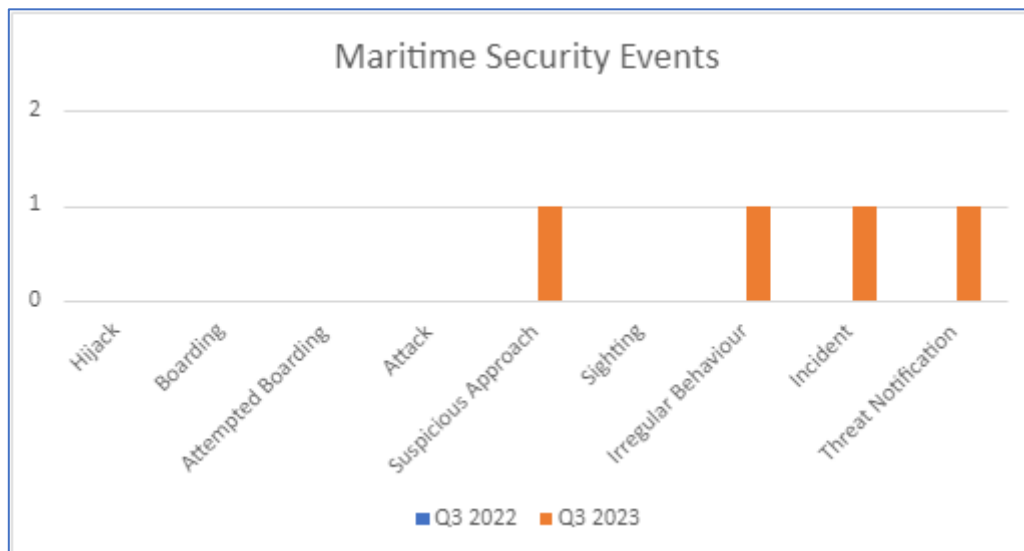
## Reporting Rates

An average of 94% of vessels within the UKMTO Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) reported to UKMTO as recommended in BMP5.



## Comparison with Q3 2022

4 non-piracy maritime security events were reported to UKMTO in Q3 2023, compared to 0 non-piracy related reports received in Q3 2022 and 5 in Q3 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
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

## Disclaimer

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