



Weekly Report: 14 - 20 December 2022

1. The UKMTO team would like to thank all our Weekly Summary Report readers for their continued queries, office visits, briefing requests and broader support throughout 2022. We extend our very best seasonal wishes to all for a safe and prosperous 2023.

Warnings, Advisories and Notices

Please see below a list of all recent and extant UKMTO warnings, advisories and notices. Full details can be found on the website: UKMTO. UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting.

Warnings		
Number	Category	Remarks
No new Warnings were issued this week		

Advisories		
Number	Category	Remarks
No new Advisories were issued this week		

Notices		
Number	Category	Remarks
003/NOV/2022	Military Exercise	Cancel this notice 301700UTC DEC 22

For further information or queries regarding UKMTO warnings, advisories or notices call: +44 2392 222060.

Open Source Media Articles

UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of these open source media articles.

1. Indian Ocean High Risk Area (HRA) for piracy to be removed on 1 January 2023

At 00:01 UTC on 1 January 2023, the Shipping Industry Indian Ocean High Risk Area (HRA) for piracy will be removed. The removal of the HRA reflects a significantly improved piracy situation in the region. However, voyage preparation, threat, and risk assessment as part of following Best Management Practice 5 (BMP5) remain essential.

What will not change:

- The Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) administered by UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) has not changed and remains in place.
- All ships transiting the VRA are encouraged to report to the UKMTO and register with the Maritime Security Centre for the Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) in accordance with Best Management Practices (BMP-5) to deter piracy and enhance maritime security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea.
- The presence of international navies and the naval missions of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) has not changed.

As a measure of reassurance; the counter-piracy task force of CMF, under Brazilian Navy leadership, will conduct the focused operation 'Mare Liberum III' from 5–9 January. The objective of this exercise is to highlight the continued presence of navies, and, the importance of following the BMP-5 guidance and navigating through the International Recommended Transit Corridor, to be safe and secure.

- 20 Dec 22 - Hellenic Shipping News: <https://bit.ly/3HSsqsb>

2. UNODC conduct training activity Exercise SEA SPIRIT with EUNAVFOR and Somali Fisheries Enforcement officers

On 09 December 2022, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA conducted Joint Sea Activity, supporting UNODC's Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) and Somali Fisheries Enforcement officers, as part of UNODC organised training activity Exercise Sea Spirit in support of UNSCR 2662/2022. The drill took place near the coast of Seychelles and aimed at strengthening the procedures of the Somali officers in Fisheries Enforcement in their EEZ.

- 19 Dec 22 - EU Naval Force - Operation ATALANTA: <https://bit.ly/3V9Hsgt>

3. Egypt Takes Command of International Red Sea Task Force

On 12 December 2022 during a ceremony in Bahrain, U.S. Navy Capt. Robert Francis, who stood up Combined Task Force (CTF) 153 in April, handed command to Egyptian Navy Rear Adm. Mahmoud Abdelsattar. The transition marks the first time Egypt is assuming command of a Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) operational staff since joining the 34 member-nation naval partnership in 2021. CTF 153 is one of four CMF task forces. It was established 17 April to enhance international maritime security and capacity-building efforts in the Red Sea, Bab al-Mandeb and Gulf of Aden.

- 15 Dec 22 - Combined Maritime Forces (CMF): <https://bit.ly/3FNCQGY>
- 13 Dec 22 - The National: <https://bit.ly/3G1rgbF>

4. Operation ATALANTA, EUTM Somalia and EUCAP Somalia: mandates extended for two years

The European Council has prolonged the mandates of its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operation in the Horn of Africa and Somalia. The mandate of EUCAP Somalia, the EU's civilian capacity-building mission, EUTM Somalia, the EU's military training mission, and EU Naval Force Operation ATALANTA, one of the EU's executive military maritime operations, will now run until 31 December 2024.

- 12 Dec 22 - European Council and Council of the European Union: <https://bit.ly/3PIygi4>

Engagement and Visits

1. **Engagement.** No engagement visits took place this period.

2. **UKMTO (Dubai) Office - Visits, Briefings & Maritime Security Briefings.** To contact our Dubai office, arrange an office visit, request a briefing on UKMTO or request a regional Maritime Security Brief please contact Lt Cdr Dougie Bell RN by telephone: +971 (0)501 898 389 or email: dubai-oic@ukmto.org. Please note that any emails received between 13:00UTC on Friday afternoon and 04:00UTC on Monday morning, may not be actioned before 04:00UTC on Monday.

3. **Urgent and Short-Notice Briefing Requirements.** Security Officers and Masters should contact the Duty UKMTO Officer on: +971 (0)50 559 3983 who will be able to arrange urgent and/ or short-notice briefings that fall outside of the above times.

Maritime Security Briefs

Date	Location	Vessel
No briefs carried out this week		

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Additional Sources of Information

[United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations \(UKMTO\)](#)

[Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa \(MSCHOA\)](#)

[International Maritime Security Construct \(IMSC\)](#)

[International Maritime Bureau \(IMB\) Live Piracy Reports](#)

[United States Dept of Transportation Maritime Administration](#)

[Combined Maritime Forces \(CMF\)](#)

[Maritime Global Security](#)

[Oil Companies International Marine Forum \(OCIMF\)](#)

[Middle East Navigation Aids Service \(MENAS\)](#)

[United Kingdom Hydrographic Office](#)

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