

IUMI Policy Agenda

12. Maritime security / Piracy

Brief description

The world is facing a new era of instability in which the rules based order which has underpinned global trade and the social order since 1945 is under threat from several directions. UNCLOS is being tested and clashing territorial ambitions are posing difficult legal and practical questions to which there is no clear answer.

Gaza/Red Sea

The conflict situation in Gaza has continued for over a year and the region remains highly unstable. The insurgent Houthis chose to attack international shipping in a show of support for the Palestinians. This has resulted in around 50% of all transits being re-routed away from Suez. NATO supported shipping via Operation Prosperity Guardian and Poseidon Archer whilst the EU intervened through Operation Aspides which provided an escort service to some vessels when possible. IUMI assisted Aspides with their guidance to shipping. Since the US election in November, attacks on shipping have reduced but the threat endures. Trading and underwriting in the area remain subject to high levels of risk and uncertainty where political motives clash with commercial operations.

Ukraine

The conflict continues with no end in sight. Despite dogged resistance by Ukraine, and an unprecedented regime of sanctions, Russia's strategic goals remain unchanged; they seek total control over Ukraine and appear undeterred by very significant casualties and economic damage. The European strategic picture has been recast with the continent recognizing the downside of oil and gas reliance on a country with contrasting strategic ambitions.

Baltic

Developments in the Baltic are perhaps the most notable. Following the addition of Sweden and Finland to NATO there have been a number of sub-sea cable incidents involving Russian and Chinese linked ships. NATO countries have decided to launch "Baltic Sentry" which will involve the deployment of defensive patrols by frigates, planes and drones. This will receive support from NMCSUI, the "cell", a specific knowledge centre at MARCOM which is co-ordinating action on undersea infrastructures and response.

Piracy

The shipping Round Table is working to update Best Management Practice (BMP) 5, but BMP 5 remains in force for now. BMP5 comprises a useful and comprehensive guidance which introduces effective measures for the protection of crew, vessels and cargo while

transiting the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. BMP WA remains in force for Vessels & Mariners Operating Off the Coast of West Africa including the Gulf of Guinea.

Q6099, the maritime security planning chart for the Indian Ocean has now been supplemented with Q6112 which covers Karachi to Hong Kong. Both provide routing information and contact details for masters.

In the Gulf of Guinea, the IMB continues to seek continued, robust regional and international naval presence as a deterrent to address piracy and kidnapping. Nigeria's Deep Blue Project and the Gulf of Guinea Maritime Collaboration Forum are complementary initiatives, created to support the fight against piracy in the region.

Relevant authority / organisations and documents

- **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**
 - **Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS)**: Recent reported incidents of piracy & armed robbery.
 - **MSC102/10/3**: Security in the Gulf of Guinea, submitted by ICS, BIMCO, OCIMF, INTERTANKO and INTERCARGO, 10 March 2020.
 - **Circular Letter No. 4382**: Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, 10 February 2021.
 - **Resolution A.1069(28)**: Prevention and suppression of piracy, armed robbery against ships and illicit maritime activity in the Gulf of Guinea, 15 December 2021.
 - **MSC106/INF.10**: Removal of the Indian Ocean High Risk Area, submitted by ICS, BIMCO, OCIMF, INTERTANKO, INTERCARGO and IMCA, 22 August 2022.
- **BMP5:**
 - **Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea, June 2018.**
- **BIMCO's GUARDCON contract**
 - **IGP&I GUARDCON West Africa** – IG clubs' version including the recommended amendments in Circular 1, 9 April 2014.
- **European Union:**
 - **EU Maritime Security Factsheet: The Gulf of Guinea, 25 January 2021.**
- **EU Naval Force (EU NAVFOR)** – Operation Atalanta.
- **ICC International Maritime Bureau – Piracy Reporting Centre**
- **Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)**
- **Joint War Committee (JWC)**: Listed areas.
- **IUMI: Position Paper - Piracy and its suppression, 29 January 2016.**
- **Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade – Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG)**

- **ICS, BIMCO & INTERTANKO:** Interim Guidance on Maritime Security in the Southern Red Sea and Bab Al-Mandeb, 24 January 2018.
- **BMP WA:**
 - **Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security off the Coast of West Africa including the Gulf of Guinea, 30 March 2020.**
- **U.S. Coast Guard:** Port Security Advisory (1-20), 10 June 2020.
- **Benin:** Interministerial decree concerning means of protection of ships in territorial waters, 13 July 2020.
- **BIMCO, ICS, INTERTANKO, INTERCARGO & OCIMF:**
 - Joint statement: Increased security threats for vessels operating in the Gulf of Guinea, 21 October 2020.
 - Recommended risk mitigation measures, 5 January 2021.
- **OCIMF:** Guidance for the employment of private maritime security companies, October 2021.
- **NATO Shipping Centre.**
- **US MARAD:** Advisory 2022-003: Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb Strait, Red Sea and Eastern Indian Ocean – Threat to commercial vessels, effective date 30 August 2022 – 26 February 2023.
- **IUMI:** IUMI welcomes IMO initiative to free vessels trapped in Ukrainian ports, 13 February 2023.
- **Industry associations:** Joint open letter to UN on seafarers trapped in Ukraine, 20 February 2023.

Timeline / important dates

- EU Naval Force Operation Atalanta extended until 31 December 2024.
- Indian Ocean High Risk Area no longer in place from 1 January 2023.

IUMI will:

- Monitor and inform IUMI membership of new developments.
- Strongly support implementation of BMP5 and consider amendments and/or more suitably adapted versions for new areas/threats as and when appropriate.
- Support implementation of ISO PSA 28007 as the sole standard when determining rules for the use of force.
- Endorse guidelines issued by BIMCO and ICS for vessels and crews.
- Encourage governments to support counter-piracy operations through naval task forces and other means of support off the Horn of Africa.
- Encourage owners and insurers to remain vigilant in the Indian Ocean.
- Support all efforts to find a lasting solution to ensure the safe passage of vessels and crew in the Strait of Hormuz and Persian Gulf.

