

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
103rd session
Agenda item 10

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PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Comments on document MSC 103/10/2 and review of BMP5

Submitted by ICS, BIMCO, OCIMF, INTERTANKO and INTERCARGO

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document comments on document MSC 103/10/2 and outlines the review currently underway of the fifth edition of the Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea (BMP5). This review includes the review of the geographical coordinates of the High Risk Area (HRA) which is an area within the UKMTO designated Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA). As with previous reviews of the HRA, comments from all stakeholders, particularly those of regional States, will be taken into account.

Strategic direction, if applicable: 5

Output: 5.3

Action to be taken: Paragraph 9

Related documents: MSC 103/10/2 and MSC.1/Circ.1601

Introduction

1 Following the request by Kenya in document MSC 103/10/2 to review the High-Risk Area (HRA), the co-sponsors wish to advise the Committee that such a review is being conducted. Therefore, this document reports on the discussions, deliberation and research being undertaken during the review of the HRA and revision currently underway of the fifth edition of the Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea (BMP5) which will include the coordinates of the HRA as depicted on UKHO Chart Q6099, an area within the UKMTO designated Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA).

2 The review, which commenced in February 2021, is being conducted by ICS, BIMCO, OCIMF, INTERTANKO and INTERCARGO, and will continue over a period of months by correspondence and video conference meetings. During these intra-secretariat discussions, consultations on the HRA are being sought with interested States and other organizations.

3 Any decision taken following these discussions to amend the guidance or the geographic boundaries of the HRA will be undertaken to better reflect the threat of piracy in the region whilst retaining the primary objective of ensuring the safety and security of seafarers.

4 This review does not include any other guidance beyond BMP5 nor areas such as the Joint War Committee's listed area used for insurance purposes.

Task

5 The task of the industry group is to use the best available multi-source information on the intent of pirates to attack ships and their capability to do so; assess the threat to seafarers and shipping; and, incorporate any new or evolving threat to seafarers.

Sources of information

6 The industry group is consulting widely, and will take account of multiple sources of information which include:

- .1 IMO GISIS database;
- .2 MSC.4 circulars;
- .3 published military information;
- .4 regional State information;
- .5 commercially available data;
- .6 Subject Matter Experts on the threat; and
- .7 feedback from shipping companies.

Ongoing review and monitoring

7 The co-sponsors recognize regional maritime threats are dynamic. Pirate groups have previously noted changes to the HRA and adjusted their tactics to take advantage of change. Similarly, the HRA is used by some States to allow ships to apply self-protection measures which have proved to be very effective. Therefore, during this review, great care is being taken to ensure there are no unintended consequences from any changes which may dramatically affect the ability to protect ships and seafarers.

8 Stakeholders who wish to make additional comments are invited to contact the co-sponsors.

Action requested of the Committee

9 The Committee is invited to note the information given and take action as appropriate.