



## Industry Releasable Threat Bulletin (IRTB) 043

Issued: 14 MAY 2024

Latest IRTA 01 MAR 24



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1. **Foreword.** This Industry Releasable Threat Bulletin (IRTB) has been written by Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) and European Union Naval Force (EU NAVFOR). It is intended to help shipping operators who are responsible for merchant and large commercial fishing vessels that pass through or operate in the Western Indian Ocean, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

2. **Purpose.** The purpose of an IRTB is to bring a specific incident or threat to the attention of the shipping industry in advance of the publication of our next quarterly Industry Releasable Threat Assessment (IRTA).

3. **Incident.** Maritime Security Event – Piracy.

4. **Date/time.** 13 May 2024.

5. **Location.** 60NM off East Coast of Somalia as depicted on the map below.

6. **Incident Description.** At 11:25 Z on 13 May 24 FV ALFAJR 2 Iranian-flagged (IMO 4221791) light brown colour dhow was subject to suspected piracy. 6-7 pirates onboard 1 skiff and armed with AK-47 hijacked the FV 60NM east of Somalia in location (06 21 N 050 06 E). The FV was later released by the suspected pirates after snatching food items available onboard. FV had 21 Iranian crew on board.

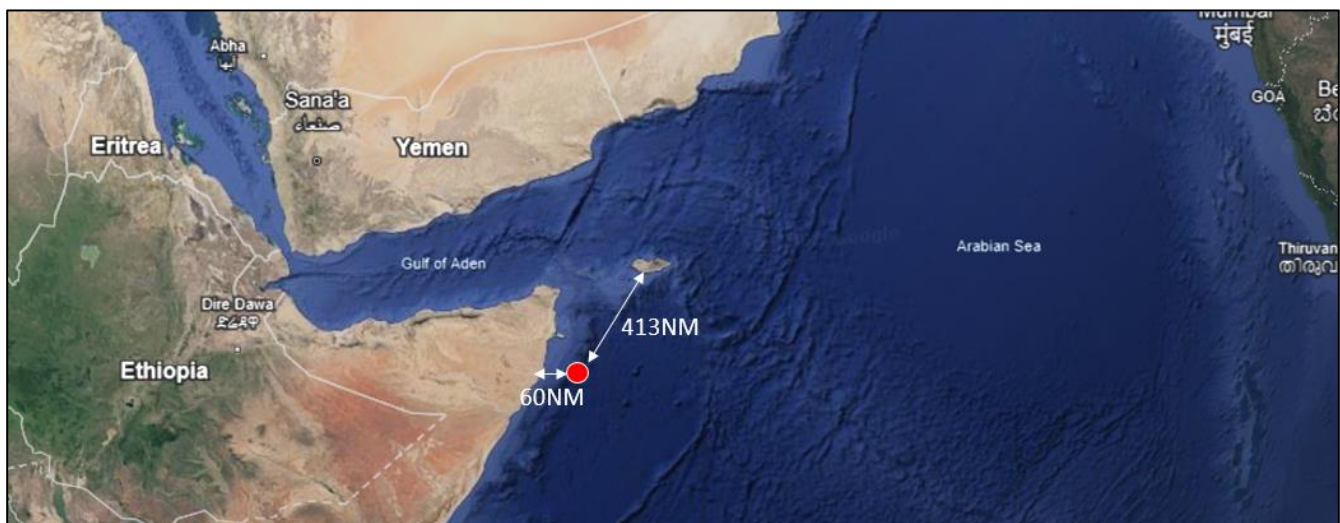


Figure 1 (U) Position of the incident

7. **Assessment.** It is assessed that at least two or more Pirate Action Groups (PAGs) are active in vicinity of Socotra and Western Indian Ocean region including area off East Coast of Somalia. It is **HIGHLY LIKELY** that the PAGs will continue to seize the opportunities to undertake piracy attacks.

8. **Recommendations.** Vessels are requested to remain vigilant and to adhere to BMP5 when transiting the Western Indian Ocean, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden and Southern Red Sea. While these waters are routinely patrolled by CMF, EU NAVFOR and other warships, the timely and comprehensive reporting of incidents and suspicious activity remains crucial to allow for a rapid incident response. We request that, where possible, and without endangering the vessel or crew, vessels obtain and report as much factual detail as possible of incidents and suspicious activity, to include logs, photographs, video, and radar footage. CSO's and master are strongly recommended to register their vessel with MSCHOA when entering the Voluntary Reporting Area and to report any incidents to UKMTO in accordance with BMP5. This will enable a more rapid response to incidents and allow CMF and EU NAVFOR to monitor activity, enabling the most effective allocation of resources. CSOs are recommended to gather information on known Pattern of Life and Maritime Domain Awareness along the intended route and ports of call when conducting their risk assessment for their fleets.

9. **Publication.**

- a. Produced by CMF and EU NAVFOR.
- b. Published by MSCHOA.

10. **Feedback.** Enquiries about the content of this bulletin should be directed to CMF and EU NAVFOR;

- (1) **CMF:**
- (2) **Tel:** 00973 1785 7009
- (3) **Website:** [www.combinedmaritimeforces.com](http://www.combinedmaritimeforces.com)
- (4) **Email:** combinedmaritimeforces@gmail.com

**EU NAVFOR:**

- (5) **Tel:** 0033 (0) 298 220 220 // 0034 956 470534.
- (6) **Website:** [www.mschoa.org](http://www.mschoa.org)
- (7) **Email:** postmaster@mschoa.org