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SN.1/Circ.281
3 August 2009

**PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS IN WATERS OFF THE COAST
OF SOMALIA**

**INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONALLY RECOMMENDED TRANSIT
CORRIDOR (IRTC) FOR SHIPS TRANSITING THE GULF OF ADEN**

- 1 The Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV), at its fifty-fifth session (27 July to 31 July 2009) reviewed the recently established Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) in the Gulf of Aden and endorsed its use by mariners transiting the area.
- 2 Member Governments are invited to bring the annexed details of the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) to the attention of all concerned including shipowners, ship operators, shipmasters and crews and, in particular, to ensure that mariners take into account the guidance contained therein and follow the recommended IRTC.
- 3 Member Governments are also informed that the IRTC is subject to change by military authorities according to prevailing circumstances. Member Governments and relevant maritime authorities are urged to obtain up-to-date information from the “MSCHOA” website <http://www.mschoa.org> or NAV-warnings promulgated for that area.
- 4 Member Governments are also urged to advise their shipowners, ship operators, shipmasters and crews to consider the provisions of MSC.1/Circ.1334 on “Guidance to shipowners and ship operators, shipmasters and crews on preventing and suppressing acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships”, MSC.1/Circ.1332 on “Piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia”, and MSC.1/Circ.1302 on “Piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia”, prior to transiting the region.
- 5 The Secretariat will arrange to issue the necessary amendments for the guidance of all concerned.

ANNEX

**DETAILS OF AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOMMENDED TRANSIT
CORRIDOR (IRTC) IN THE GULF OF ADEN**

Limits of IRTC in the Gulf of Aden

The corridor includes the creation of separate eastbound and westbound transit lanes. Each lane will be 5 nm wide and will be separated by a 2 nm buffer zone. The IRTC eastbound lane begins at 045° E between 11° 48'.00 N and 11° 53'.00 N. The lane is oriented along a straight line course of 072° and terminates at 053° E between 14° 18'.00 N and 14° 23'.00 N. The IRTC westbound lane begins at 053° between 14° 25'.00 N and 14° 30'.00 N. The lane is oriented along a straight line course of 252° and terminates at 045° east between 11° 55'.00 N and 12° 00'.00 N.

	Eastbound lane		Westbound lane	
1	11° 53'.00 N	045° 00'.00 E	14° 30'.00 N	053° 00'.00 E
2	14° 23'.00 N	053° 00'.00 E	12° 00'.00 N	045° 00'.00 E
3	14° 18'.00 N	053° 00'.00 E	11° 55'.00 N	045° 00'.00 E
4	11° 48'.00 N	045° 00'.00 E	14° 25'.00 N	053° 00'.00 E

Initial reports

Upon entering the detailed reporting area, or leaving a port within the region, the recommended Voluntary Reporting Requirements are as follows:

- .1 **Initial report to UKMTO Dubai (e-mail or fax)**
- .2 **Initial report to MARLO (e-mail or fax)**

Additionally, if planning to transit the Gulf of Aden, or navigate within the area bounded by the African coast, 12°N, 58°E and 10°S:

- .3 **Register Vessel Movement with MSC-HOA (online, e-mail or fax)**

Position, course and speed reporting

After transmitting the initial report to UKMTO Dubai, MARLO and MSC-HOA (as applicable), vessels are encouraged to report their noon position, course, speed, estimated and actual arrival times to UKMTO Dubai and MARLO whilst operating in the region.

Vessels are also encouraged to increase the frequency of such reports when navigating in known high risk/piracy areas and further report upon passing Point A and Point B as set out in the annexed chart in the Gulf of Aden.

Contacts and sources of information

Primary Emergency Contact

UKMTO (United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations)

E-mail: ukmto@eim.ae
Tel: +971 50 552 3215
Fax: +971 4 306 5710
Telex: (51) 210473

Secondary Contacts

(1) MSC-HOA (Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa)

E-mail: postmaster@mschoa.org
Tel: +44 1923 958545
Fax: +44 1923 958520
Via website: www.mschoa.eu

(2) MARLO-Bahrain (Maritime Liaison Office-Bahrain)

E-mail: marlo.bahrain@me.navy.mil
Tel: +973 1785 3925
Cel: +973 3940 1395

(3) IMB Piracy Reporting Centre

E-mail: piracy@icc-ccs.org
E-mail: imbkl@icc-ccs.org
Tel: +60 3 2031 0014
Fax: +60 3 2078 5769
Website: www.icc-ccs.org

(4) NATO Shipping Centre

Tel: +44 1923 956 574
Fax: +44 1923 956 575
E-mail: info@shipping.nato.int
Website: www.nato.int

