



MARITIME ACTIVITIES CONSULTANTS S.A.

***"CONNECTING YOUR BUSINESS
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**Subject: "Maritime Security Developments within the IMO Context:
The Indian Ocean High-Risk Area (HRA) to be removed on 01 Jan 2023"**

Summary: As per the shipping industry's representative bodies' submission to the IMO on the 22nd of August, on 1 January 2023 the Indian Ocean High-Risk Area (HRA) for piracy will be removed (source ICS Press Release).

Background

1. As per the International Chamber of Shipping (I.C.S.) Press Release dated 22.08.22 (<https://www.ics-shipping.org/press-release/shipping-industry-to-remove-the-indian-ocean-high-risk-area>), after more than a decade of effective threat-reducing counter-piracy operations, **the shipping industry has removed the "Indian Ocean High-Risk Area" (HRA)**. In particular and according to the same press release the anticipated removal of the HRA reflects a significantly improved piracy situation in the region, largely due to concerted counter-piracy efforts by many regional and international stakeholders. No piracy attacks against merchant ships have occurred off Somalia since 2018.
2. The removal of the HRA will come into effect on 1 January 2023, allowing charterers, shipowners, and operators time to adapt to the changing threat from piracy.

IMO Context

3. The concrete Notification of the removal of the HRA on 1 January 2023 by industry bodies (International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), BIMCO, International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA), INTERCARGO, INTERTANKO, and Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF), was forwarded in a recent submission, to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the next meeting of the Maritime Safety Committee scheduled to start on 31 October 2022. The submission highlights that measures enacted to secure the waters by the military, political, civil society, and shipping industry, as well as Best Management Practices guidance, have reduced the threat of piracy in the Indian Ocean.

Best Management Practices (BMP)

4. The well-known to maritime operators' Best Management Practices 5 (BMP5) will continue to provide the necessary guidance for shipping to ensure threat and risk assessments are developed for every voyage to mitigate the risks presented by remaining security threats in the region. The shipping industry will continue to monitor and advise on maritime security threats to assist the safe transit of vessels and the seafarers who crew them. Pre-voyage threat and risk assessments should consider the latest maritime security information from organizations supporting the Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA).

Service Offered by M.A.C.

5. M.A.C. S.A. based on its wide expertise in detailed monitoring of international legal and institutional developments also in the field of maritime security strongly recommends to its customers & collaborators that ships entering the VRA to report to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO, <https://www.ukmto.org>) and register with the Maritime Security Centre for the Horn of Africa (MSCHOA, <https://www.mschoa.org>) in accordance with industry BMP (Best Management Practices).



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