

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
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Agenda item 7

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PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Removal of the Indian Ocean High Risk Area

Submitted by ICS, BIMCO, IMCA, INTERCARGO, INTERTANKO and OCIMF

SUMMARY

Executive summary: Following the process described in MSC 104/8/2 and the implementation of the new system for the provision of security advice by the industry, for the industry, the co-sponsors give notice of removal of the Indian Ocean High Risk Area (HRA). The HRA will no longer be in place from 0001 UTC on 1 January 2023.

Strategic direction, if applicable: 5

Output: 5.3

Action to be taken: Paragraph 7

Related documents: MSC.1/Circ.1601, MSC 104/8/2

Introduction

1 This document is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6.12.3 of the Organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.2), providing additional information given in MSC 104/8 – Developments since MSC 103 (Secretariat).

2 This paper provides information on the removal of the High Risk Area (HRA) in the Indian Ocean.

Background

3 MSC 104/8/2 described a new methodology that was being put into place by the co-sponsors to assess security for seafarers and ships operating around the world. This process

draws on a wide range of resources, including military input and data to provide periodic threat assessments to allow shipowners and operators to conduct thorough threat assessments for their fleets. In short, this is advice by the industry, for the industry.

Removal of High Risk Area

4 The co-sponsors, during their ongoing reviews of the security situation in the Indian Ocean and Southern Red Sea have assessed that the status of the piracy situation will now allow for the HRA to be removed.

5 In order to allow sufficient time for adjustment to operations by shipowners and security providers, amendment to charts by hydrographic organisations and changes for other stakeholders, the HRA will be withdrawn at 0001 UTC on 1 January 2023.

6 The removal of the HRA reflects the improved piracy situation in the region. Industry will continue to monitor maritime security threats in the region through the dynamic approach to the provision of security guidance developed by the industry, for the industry, to make owners, operators, charterers and seafarers aware of where identified threats may be encountered, allowing them to risk assess their voyages and take such mitigation measures as are appropriate.

Action requested of the Committee

7 The Committee is invited to note the information contained in this document.
