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Current Somali Pirate Operations Update



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Background to Recent Events

Following the hijack of Aris 13 on 13th March, MAST Intelligence received reports that Somali pirates hijacked Casayr II No. 30 on 23rd March, a Yemeni fishing dhow off Garmaal near Eyl, Somalia. UKMTO stated that the dhow was at Banderbeyla approximately 100nm North of Eyl on 24th March at 2125 UTC for resupply with eight plus pirates on board, waiting for heavy weapons with intent to conduct piracy operations. Ten of the Yemeni crew were moved inland by guards according to local police. The Captain, engineer and cook were retained on-board. The Dhow was next sighted 70nm from Qalansyia, Socotra Island.

On 26th March, the dhow and the hostage crew were reportedly released by the pirates after taking one skiff, food and diesel. The released Casayr II No. 30 was reported heading to Yemen last night in order to replenish food, water and fuel.

It has since been reported to MAST Intelligence that the same group of pirates responsible for the Casayr II No. 30 attacked and hijacked a Jelbut fishing dhow before they freed Casayr II No. 30. This will provide them with a larger, less identifiable and more capable mother vessel than the Casayr II.

MAST Intelligence has also received reports that two other groups of pirates left the Bosaso and Hafun districts of the Bari region in Somalia within the last 48 hours and that they are on piracy operations. The first group left Marero fishing base 30km east of Bosaso, the second from Hafun district on the night of the 26th March. Both groups are understood to have the intent to attack merchant vessels.

It is understood that the Puntland administration yesterday sent troops to Garmaal fishing base where the pirates that captured Casayr II No.30 started their operation. It has been reported to MAST Intelligence that the troops detained four members who were back up to the first pirate group as well as being potential investors.

Assessment: It is highly likely that there are three pirate attack groups at sea in the HRA at present off the east coast of northern Somalia.

Advisory: In light of this recent activity, we strongly advise our ship owners, master's and crews to risk assess their security measures while in the HRA. Adherence to BMP 4, including embarking an armed team, is advised, along with reporting to MSC HOA and UKMTO Dubai.



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