

LP 07/2026 Maritime Security Update: The Persian Gulf

Following the US/Israel joint military strikes on targets in Iran on February 28, Iranian counterattacks have been carried out. The maritime security level across the Persian Gulf has been increased to ISPS Level 3. According to UKMTO and JMIC reports, there have been multiple incidents of merchant ships being attacked by unknown projectiles in the waters of the Strait of Hormuz and the coastal waters of Oman and the UAE, with some ships sustaining substantial damage. Based on information released by UKMTO, JMIC, risk assessment agencies, and regional correspondents, the Association has evaluated the current situation in Persian Gulf waters and prepared this update for the reference of all Members.

I. Closure of the Strait of Hormuz

According to the Iranian Correspondent C.S.C, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has effectively enforced a total blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. Naval units are broadcasting repeatedly on VHF Channel 16, explicitly stating that “no vessel is permitted to cross the Strait of Hormuz” until further notice. This is being treated as a mandatory prohibition. Vessels attempting to defy these instructions face an extreme risk of seizure or direct missile engagement.

II. Closure of Iranian Ports

All Iranian ports are officially closed. Ports are currently considered high-risk zones and are not safe for berthing or anchorage due to their proximity to strategic targets. Internet access across Iran is currently severely restricted and unstable. A total nationwide telecommunications shutdown is anticipated shortly.

III. Vessel Attacks

1 March 2026, UKMTO received a report of an incident 17NM northwest of Mina Saqr, United Arab Emirates. The Company Security Officer reported that the vessel had been struck by an unknown projectile causing a fire. The fire has been extinguished, and the vessel intends to continue on its voyage.

1 March 2026, UKMTO received a report of an incident 50NM north of Muscat, Oman. It has been reported over VHF Channel 16 that the vessel has been struck by an unknown projectile above the waterline. Although the engine room was originally reported as on fire it has now been reported that the fire is under control.

1 March 2026, UKMTO received a report of an incident 2NM north of Oman. The crew have been evacuated and safe. Authorities are investigating.

2 March 2026, UKMTO received a report of an incident 35NM west of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. It has been reported that an unknown projectile has exploded in very close proximity to a vessel. All crew are safe and well.

1 March 2026, JMIC Advisory - SEA LA DONNA – Oil/Chemical Tanker (IMO 9380532) reported attack; details under investigation.

2 March 2026, UKMTO received a report of an incident in the Port of Bahrain. The Company Security Officer reported that the vessel had been struck by two unknown projectiles causing a fire. The fire has been extinguished, and the vessel remains in port. All members of the ship's crew are safe and have evacuated the vessel. Authorities are investigating. Vessels are to remain cautious and report any suspicious activity to UKMTO.

IV. ME Ports Operation

For the current situation of ports in the Middle East Region and the Persian Gulf, please refer to the ISS Advisory below.

<https://www.iss-shipping.com/advisories/middle-east-port-operations-update/>

For more information, please contact Managers of the Association.