



Palau Ship Registry

MARINE CIRCULAR 218.1 SHIP SECURITY ADVISORY No. 26.03

Date: 22 June 2026

TO: OWNERS/OPERATORS, MASTERS, COMPANY SECURITY OFFICERS, REPRESENTATIVES, RECOGNIZED SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: THREATS TO SHIPPING IN THE MIDDLE EAST REGION - ARABIAN GULF, GULF OF OMAN, STRAIT OF HORMUZ, AND ARABIAN SEA

This Ship Security Advisory (SSA), effective immediately, should be circulated to all vessels flagged under the Republic of Palau, which operate in or intend to transit the Gulf of Oman (GoO), Strait of Hormuz (SoH), Red Sea, Babel-Mandeb (BeM), Gulf of Aden (GoA), Middle East Gulf (MEG), or Northern Arabian Sea.

1. OVERVIEW

Risks of attacks against commercial shipping remain high in the below areas:

- Gulf of Oman;
- Strait of Hormuz (SoH);
- North Arabian Sea;
- Arabian/Persian Gulf;
- Red Sea, Bab-el-Mandeb (BeM); and
- Gulf of Aden (GoA).

The situation in the above areas is extremely dynamic and with elevated threat environment.

The US Navy continues to enforce a comprehensive blockade of Iranian ports and coastal areas, applicable to all vessel traffic regardless of flag.

The SoH represents the highest-consequence transit environment in the Middle East maritime region, as principal entry and egress point for the MEG.

Due to intense military tensions, missile threats, and potential mining in the above areas, the Palau Ship Registry Administration highly recommends commercial vessels to avoid entering the Strait of Hormuz, Persian Gulf, and Gulf of Oman and seek safe, alternative ports recommended for waiting or re-routing.



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Further, Palau ships are strongly advised to adhere to any enforcement instructions from legitimate military forces enforcing established blockades as failure to do so may result in suspension and revocation of certificates or deletion after required processes.

Palau flagged vessels are advised to treat the entire SoH and its approaches as a potential mine-threat environment, to maintain heightened watch for floating or moored objects, and to avoid drifting or anchoring in unsurveyed waters.

The Palau Ship Registry Administration advises against transiting the Strait of Hormuz (SoH) until the situation stabilizes and official feeds (UKMTO, JMIC, NAVCENT) confirm safe passage conditions.

2. REPORTING

2.1. United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) - a primary point of contact for merchant vessels in the region:

Email: watchkeepers@ukmto.org; and ukmto@eim.ae
Phone: +44 - 2392-222060, +971-50-552-3215
Fax +44 1923 958520

2.2. Maritime Security Centre – Indian Ocean (MSCIO):

Email: postmaster@mscio.eu
Phone: +33 (0) 298220220, +33 (0) 298220170

2.3. US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and [Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping \(NCAGS\)](#) for the latest situational awareness prior to entering the High-threat Areas.

The Palau Ship Registry Administration is continually assessing the maritime security situation in the region to identify and differentiate threats and safeguard freedom of navigation, ensure the free flow of commerce, and protect Palau flagged vessels and crew.

The Palau Ship Registry Administration will issue an updated Ship Security Advisory (SSA) once conditions settle enough in order to provide permanent guidance.