

# Joint Maritime Information Center

## Update 034 to JMIC Advisory Note:

01 March – 19 April 2026

Regional Tension - Impact on Maritime Security

**Area of Concern:**  
Middle East Maritime Region

JMIC# 001-26

Regional Threat Level: **CRITICAL**

### 1. Regional Threat Overview

Overall Maritime Risk Level: ● **CRITICAL**

JMIC Threat Scale: ● Low | ● Moderate | ● Substantial | ● Severe | ● Critical

Region	Threat Level		Notes
Arabian Gulf / Strait of Hormuz	CRITICAL	●	Navigation interference, blockade enforcement, mine reports, residual kinetic risk. Risk of attack or miscalculation in Strait of Hormuz.
Gulf of Oman / Arabian Sea	CRITICAL	●	Historical projectile/UAV strikes; naval presence remains high.
Southern Red Sea / Bab el-Mandeb / Gulf of Aden	MODERATE	●	No confirmed maritime attacks; stable posture; Houthi rhetoric persists.
Northern Red Sea / Suez Canal	MODERATE	●	No attacks or disruptions; Suez Canal operating normally.
Eastern Mediterranean	MODERATE	●	EMI/GNSS disruptions; elevated naval presence; no maritime attacks.

### 2. Operational Summary – Last 72 Hours

#### Arabian Gulf & Strait of Hormuz

On 18 Apr there were multiple attacks by Iranian forces on vessels transiting the Northern route of the Strait of Hormuz as well as one reported projectile that landed in vicinity of a vessel transiting the southern route through Oman territorial waters. Aggressive bridge-to-bridge hails and queries by Sepah (IRGC) Navy forces have been noted by ships in vicinity.

There is a high level of activity by naval forces in the region. JMIC Advisory 002-26 provides details of blockade and contraband restrictions. Anchorages remain congested with no significant change. Mines are reported to be present in vicinity of the traffic separation scheme of the Strait of Hormuz. GNSS interference remains localized and sporadic.



## **Gulf of Oman & Arabian Sea**

No new kinetic activity reported. Significant naval presence is reported by ships in these areas. Ships in vicinity of the approaches to the Strait of Hormuz note aggressive VHF radio traffic by Iranian forces.

## **Southern Red Sea, Bab el Mandeb, & Gulf of Aden**

No confirmed maritime attacks, targeting behaviour, or suspicious approaches. Commercial traffic remains stable. Houthi messaging continues but without operational indicators or posture changes.

## **Northern Red Sea & Suez Canal**

No confirmed attacks or disruptions. Suez Canal transit continue without interruption. Electronic interference has been sporadic.

## **Eastern Mediterranean**

No maritime attacks reported. Electronic and navigational interference has been reported periodically near Cyprus and the Levant. Naval presence remains elevated, and vessels should consider maintaining appropriate standoff from military units.

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# **3. Maritime Incidents & Traffic Assessment**

## **3A. Confirmed Vessel Incidents (Since 1 March)**

A total of 33 confirmed maritime incidents involving commercial vessels and offshore infrastructure have been reported across the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman.

## **3B. Infrastructure Incidents (Last 72 Hours)**

No attacks on ports or maritime infrastructure reported. Overall risk remains SUBSTANTIAL, driven by the potential for renewed kinetic activity and ongoing uncertainty around Iranian coastal waters and blockade-related enforcement.

## **3C. Traffic Trends**

- Strait of Hormuz:
  - Historical average: ~138 vessels/day
  - 16 April: 2 transits
  - 17 April: 10 transits
  - 18 April: 19 transits
    - Outbound Northern route: 6 transits Outbound Southern route: 5 transits
    - Inbound all passed North of TSS: 8 transits
- Bab el-Mandeb:
  - ~68 vessel transits in past 72 hours
  - Still below pre-2023 baseline

## **3D. Port & Anchorage Congestion**

High concentration of vessels at anchor or drifting in Arabian Gulf ports. Multiple vessels were noted underway from anchorages on 18 Apr to conduct SOH transits and subsequently returned after kinetic activity disrupted those intentions returning to overall status quo. Vessel transiting



through crowded anchorages should monitor navigation systems for any degradation to avoid risk of collision. Periodic movement, even within anchorages, may disrupt potential adversary targeting.

### **3E. GNSS / AIS Interference (No change)**

GNSS interference remains sporadic and localized across the Strait of Hormuz approaches, the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Gulf, the central Red Sea, and the Suez Canal approaches. AIS reliability in the Arabian Gulf has shown improvement since 15 March.

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## **4. Outlook (24–48 Hours)**

### **Arabian Gulf / Strait of Hormuz**

The region remains a high-risk operating environment. The ceasefire remains fragile, and blockade enforcement continues by naval forces. Rapid, short-notice hostile action remains possible near Iranian waters, anchorages, and predictable routes. Mine-risk is noted in vicinity of the traffic separation scheme.

### **Gulf of Oman / Arabian Sea**

No recent kinetic activity, but historical strike patterns indicate persistent residual risk. Naval presence and patrol activity are expected to continue.

### **Southern Red Sea / Bab el Mandeb / Gulf of Aden**

Houthi rhetoric continues without operational indicators. The potential for renewed disruption persists if regional tensions escalate. GNSS interference remains a residual hazard and effects centered from the Central Red Sea periodically stretch well into the Southern Red Sea.

### **Northern Red Sea / Suez**

The environment is stable with no indicators of maritime escalation. Periodic EMI and GNSS disruptions are likely to persist.

### **Eastern Mediterranean**

Direct maritime targeting remains unlikely. Elevated naval presence and ongoing EMI require continued caution. Vessels should consider maintaining appropriate standoff from military units.

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# Annexes

## Transit comparisons

**CARGO VESSELS TRANSITS COMPARISON 12 April to 18 April 2026**

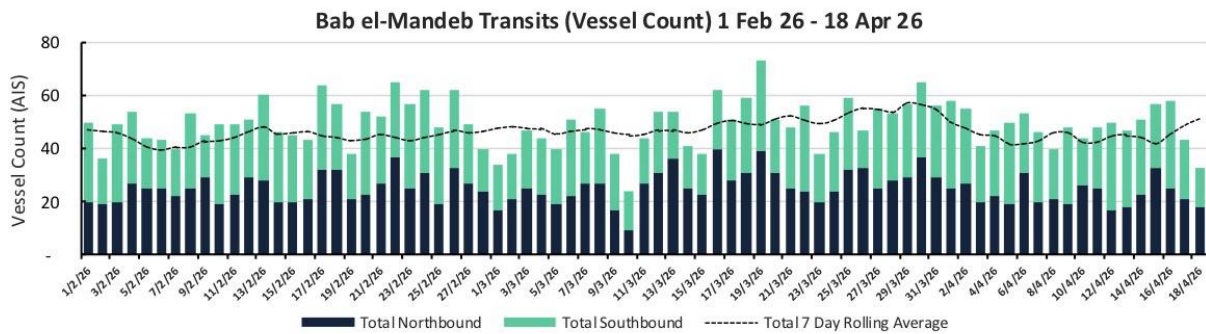
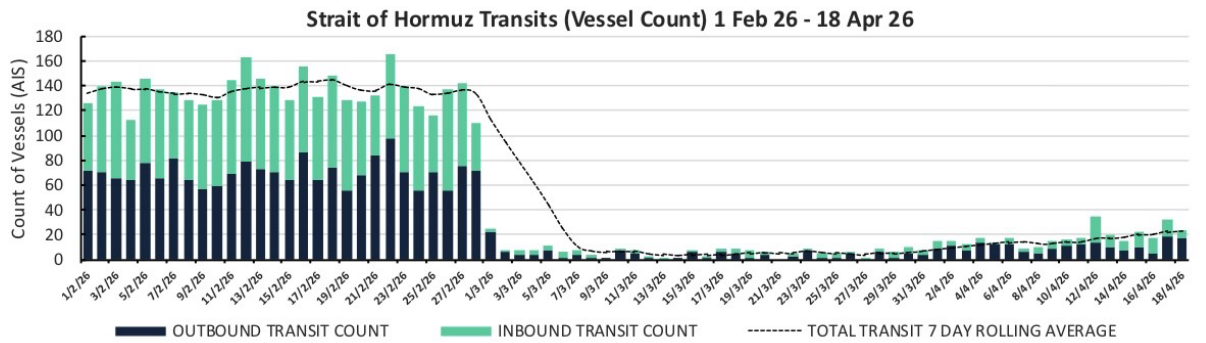
Date	12-Apr	13-Apr	14-Apr	15-Apr	16-Apr	17-Apr	18-Apr
SoH E	1	2	1	1	1	3	5
SoH W	0	1	0	1	0	3	3
<b>SoH Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
BAM NW	6	5	5	7	6	5	10
BAM SE	4	3	5	5	8	8	8
<b>BAM Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>

**TANKERS (ALL TYPES) VESSELS TRANSITS COMPARISON 12 April to 18 April 2026**

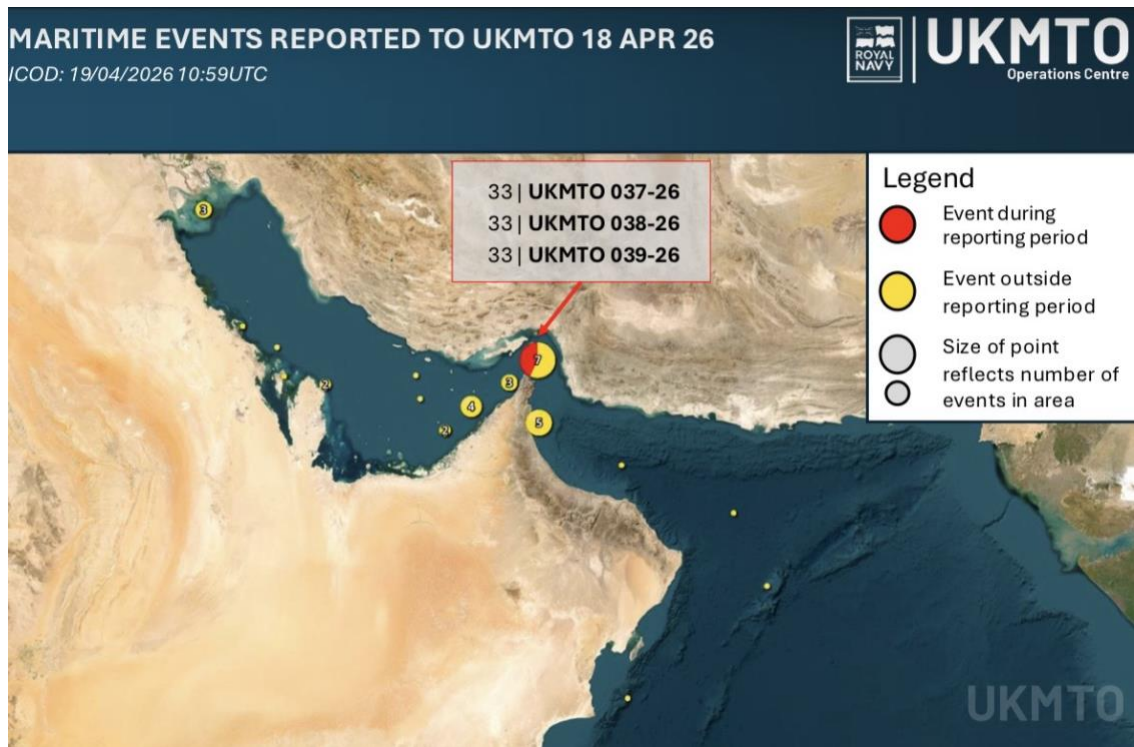
Date	12-Apr	13-Apr	14-Apr	15-Apr	16-Apr	17-Apr	18-Apr
SoH E	3	1	0	1	1	2	6
SoH W	4	1	2	3	0	2	5
<b>SoH Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>
BAM NW	1	2	5	6	1	7	3
BAM SE	4	5	7	0	6	3	3
<b>BAM Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>

Source: S&P. Data based on cargo carrying vessels 1000 GT and above transmitting AIS

## UKMTO transits



# UKMTO Incident Maps



## Confirmed Maritime Security Incidents List since 28 February

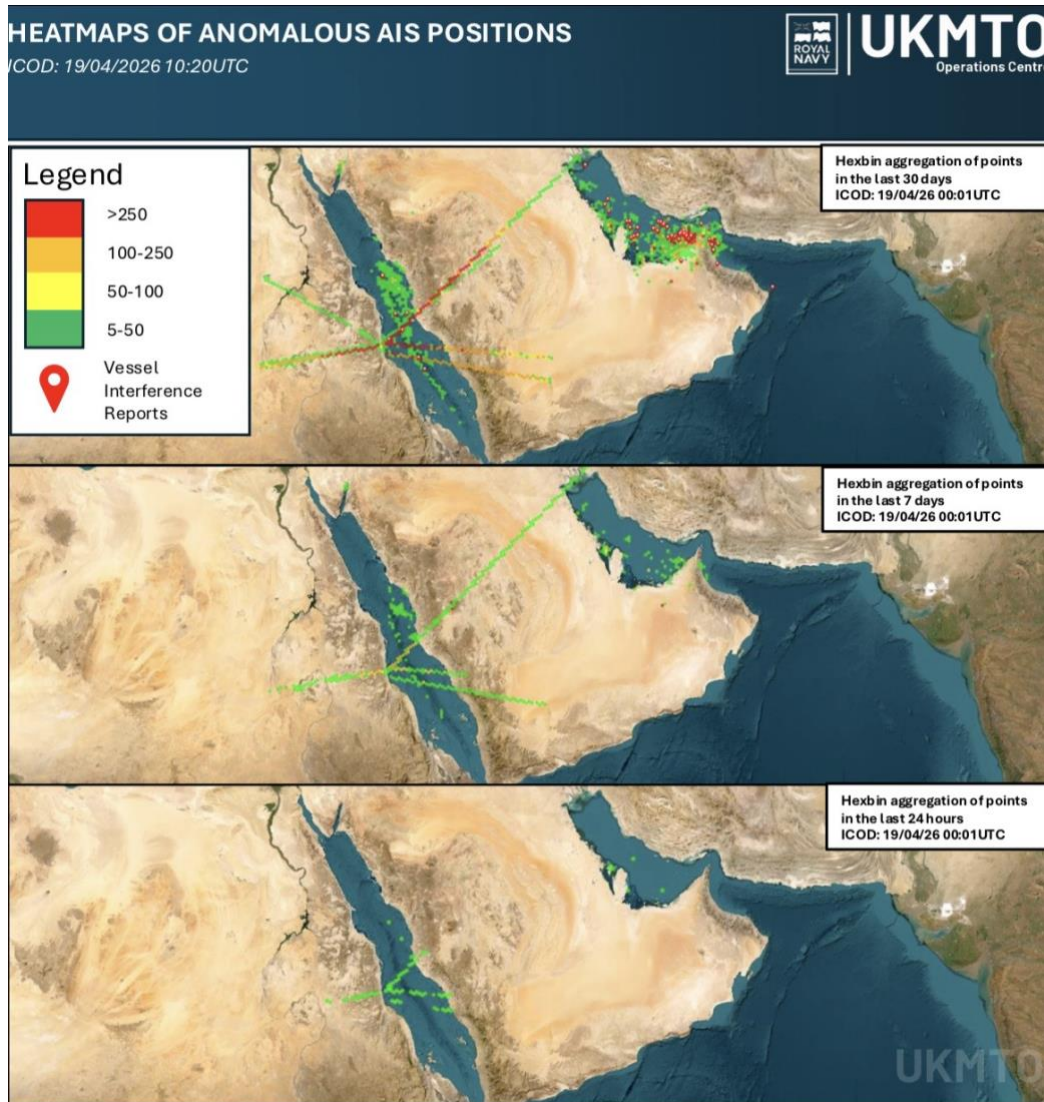
Date	Vessel	Vessel Type	Event Type	Location	Summary
01 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 004-26	SKYLIGHT	Tanker	Attack	Strait of Hormuz	Vessel struck by projectile while at anchor causing fire; crew evacuated with injuries reported.
01 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 006-36 UKMTO 005-26	HERCULES STAR	Tanker	Attack (serious)	Strait of Hormuz	Vessel struck by projectile while transiting outbound; fire reported onboard.
01 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 006-26	OCEAN ELECTRA	Bulk	Attack (serious)	Arabian Gulf	Projectile detonated in close proximity while vessel was transiting westbound; no damage reported.
01 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 007-36	MKD VYOM	Tanker	Attack (serious)	Gulf of Oman	Vessel struck by projectile (USV) while transiting northbound causing fire; one fatality reported.
01 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 008-26	STENA IMPERATIVE	Tanker	Attack (serious)	Bahrain	Vessel struck by two projectiles while in drydock causing fire and damage.
03 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 009-26	PELAGIA	Bulk	Near Miss	Gulf of Oman	UAV observed near vessel before impacting water nearby; no damage reported.
03 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 010-26	GOLD OAK	Bulk	Attack (serious)	Gulf of Oman	Vessel struck by projectile while at anchor causing structural damage; crew safe.
03 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 011-26	LIBRA TRADER	Tanker	Attack (serious)	Gulf of Oman	Vessel struck by projectile while anchored; damage reported.
04 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 012-26	SAFEEN PRESTIGE	Container	Attack (serious)	Strait of Hormuz	Explosion was reported near stern following approach by small craft; crew abandoned vessel.
04 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 013-26	MSC GRACE	Container	Near Miss (serious)	Arabian Gulf	Projectile detonated approximately 1 NM from vessel while drifting.
06 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 015-26	MUSSAFAH 2	Tug	Attack (serious)	Strait of Hormuz	Vessel struck by projectiles while supporting operations with SAFEEN PRESTIGE.
07 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 016-26	ARABIA III	Offshore Rig	Attack (serious)	Arabian Gulf	Drilling rig struck by UAV causing injuries and evacuation of personnel.
10 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 017-26	GH KAHLO	Bulk	Near Miss	Arabian Gulf	The Master reports witnessing a splash and hearing a loud bang in close proximity of a bulk carrier.
10 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 018-26	ONE MAJESTY	Container	Attack (serious)	Arabian Gulf	Vessel struck by projectile at stern causing possible structural damage.
11 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 020-26	STAR GWYNETH	Bulk Carrier	Attack (serious)	Arabian Gulf	Projectile strike caused breach in cargo hold and adjacent ballast tanks resulting in listing.
11 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 021-26	SAFESEA VISHNU	Tanker	Attack (serious)	Northern Arabian Gulf (STS area)	Struck by projectile while conducting STS operations; fire onboard and casualty reported.
11 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 021-26	ZEFYROS	Tanker	Attack (serious)	Northern Arabian Gulf (STS area)	Struck by projectile during STS operations causing significant fire.
12 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 022-26	SOURCE BLESSING	Container	Attack	Arabian Gulf (North of Jebel Ali)	Projectile struck accommodation block causing fire; crew safe.
17 Mar 2026 - UKMTO 023-26	Name withheld UFN	LPG Carrier	Suspicious activity	Approx 23 NM of the coast of UAE	Vessel was subjected to falling debris from drone or Missile Interception minor structural damage, no fire; crew safe.



18/03/2026 - UKMTO 024-26	Name withheld UFN	Chemical products tanker	Attack	Vessel in TTW of UAE, 11NM off the coast	Hit by unknown projectile and caught fire. Crew of 16, 15 rescued and one crew member unaccounted for.
19/03/2026 UKMTO 025-26	Name withheld UFN	Tug, Multipurpose Offshore vessel	Suspicious activity	Inner anchorage at Ras Laffan Port, approx 4 NM out.	Debris from a drone impacted on board, resulting in damage to the bridge window. No injuries to personnel and no structural damage to the vessel have been reported.
21/03/2026 UKMTO 026-26	Name withheld UFN	Bulk carrier	Suspicious activity	Arabian Gulf, approx 12 NM from the coast of UAE.	Vessel crew heard an explosion and observed a fire for a short period approx 1300 meters from vessel, crew of 24 safe.
30/03/2026 UKMTO 028-26	EXPRESS ROME	Container	Suspicious activity	Transiting eastbound through the Arabian Gulf, 22NM from the coast of Saudi Arabia	2 missiles splash into the water approximately 50 – 100 meters on the starboard side of the vessel. No damage and all crew are safe
30/03/2026 UKMTO 029-26	Al SALMI	Crude oil Tanker	Suspicious activity	Stationary, 31NM from the coast of UAE, Arabian Gulf.	Vessel was hit by an unknown projectile. There was a fire located in the STBD side cargo tank, fire was extinguished. Crew safe.
31/03/2026 UKMTO 030-26	AQUA 1	Tanker	Suspicious activity	Stationary 12NM from the coast of Qatar.	Vessel was hit by 2 unknown projectiles. As a result, a small fire started but was extinguished. Crew safe.
05/04/2026 UKMTO 031-26	Name withheld UFN	Container	Suspicious activity	Alongside in Khorfakkan port, UAE	Three unknown projectiles impacted in close proximity, no damage. Crew safe.
07/04/2026 UKMTO 032-26	Name withheld UFN	Container	Attack	In transit westbound Arabian Gulf, 25 NM off the cost of Iran.	The vessel was struck by an unknown projectile causing damage above the waterline. The crew are safe.
07/04/2026 UKMTO 036-26	Name withheld UFN	Bulk Carrier	Attack	112nm SE of Ras-al-Hadd	The vessel was struck by 2 unknown projectiles resulting in a fire. The crew is safe.
18/04/2026 UKMTO 037-26	Name withheld UFN	Tanker	Attack	20NM NE of Oman	The vessel being approached by 2 IRGC gun boats, no VHF challenge that then fired upon the tanker. Tanker and crew are reported safe.
18/04/2026 UKMTO 038-26	Name withheld UFN	Container	Attack	25NM NE of Oman	A report of a vessel being hit by an unknown projectile which caused damage to some of the containers, no fires or environment impact reported
18/04/2026 UKMTO 039-26	Name withheld UFN	Cruise	Suspicious activity	3NM E of Oman	The Master reported sighting a splash in close proximity of the vessel.



# AIS/GNSS Interference Graphics



## JMIC Regional Threat Levels

Threat Level	Definition
Low	An attack is highly unlikely
Moderate	An attack is possible but not likely
Substantial	An attack is a strong possibility
Severe	An attack is highly likely
Critical	An attack is almost certain

