



ZANZIBAR MARITIME AUTHORITY

01 MALINDI ROAD,
P.O.BOX 401,
71124 URBAN REGION,
ZANZIBAR - TANZANIA

TEL NO: +255 24 2236795
FAX NO: +255 024 2236796
WEBSITE: www.zma.go.tz
EMAIL: info@zma.go.tz

Marine Safety Advisory No. 01/2026

To: Ship Owners/ Operators, Masters, and Other Interested Parties of Tanzania Zanzibar Registered Vessels

Subject: Heightened Risk to Merchant Shipping Due to Regional Military Tensions affecting the Strait of Hormuz, Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.

Purpose: This Advisory is issued by Tanzania Zanzibar International Register of Shipping (TZIRS) to provide urgent guidance to masters, owners and operators of TZIRS-registered vessels in light of escalating regional military tensions in the region.

Scope and Applicability: This Advisory applies to all vessels registered under TZIRS intending transit and/or port calls within the Strait of Hormuz, Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, and adjacent waters.

Date: 2 March 2026

1. IMO Statement

On 01 March 2026, IMO Secretary-General Mr. Arsenio Dominguez emphasized that no attack on innocent seafarers or civilian shipping is ever justified, and that freedom of navigation is a fundamental principle of international maritime law. Shipping companies were urged to exercise maximum caution and, where possible, avoid transiting the affected region until conditions improve. The Secretary-General also called on all stakeholders to remain vigilant against disinformation and to rely only on verified, authoritative sources when making navigational decisions.

2. Publicly Reported Incidents Against Merchant Vessels

1. On 1 March 2026, a Marshall Island registered vessel MLD VYOM with IMO# 9284386 reported a projectile impact with a subsequent explosion and fire. One crew member fatality reported.



ZANZIBAR MARITIME AUTHORITY

01 MALINDI ROAD,
P.O.BOX 401,
71124 URBAN REGION,
ZANZIBAR - TANZANIA

TEL NO: +255 24 2236795
FAX NO: +255 024 2236796
WEBSITE: www.zma.go.tz
EMAIL: info@zma.go.tz

2. On 1 March 2026, a Palau registered vessel SKYLIGHT with IMO# 9330020 reported to be struck approximately 5 nm off Musandam/Khasab, Oman (Strait of Hormuz entrance). The vessel ablaze, twenty seafarers evacuated. Four of them were confirmed to be injured while the Master and one seafarer reported missing. Vessel previously listed on U.S. OFAC sanctions (Dec 2025). Palau Registry informed the de-registration of this vessel in January 2026.
3. On 1 March 2026, a Liberia registered vessel OCEAN ELECTRA with IMO# 9402782 was struck by a drone/missile enroute to Al-Hamriyah, UAE. No seafarers were reported injured nor any major structural damage to the vessel. The vessel was reported proceeding to safe port.

TZIRS Status: As of 02 March 2026, no TZIRS-registered vessel has been publicly confirmed as directly impacted in the above reported events.

3. Hazard Summary

- Increased risk of kinetic impacts and explosive damage to commercial vessels.
- Confirmed injuries and fatalities involving civilian seafarers.
- Heightened geopolitical volatility and potential navigation disruption.
- Increased war-risk insurance exposure and premium escalation.
- Widespread GNSS/GPS spoofing and AIS signal manipulation reported in the region, affecting vessel positioning and tracking reliability.
- Formal Notice of Cancellation of War Risk insurance coverage issued by underwriters (effective 72 hours from 0000 GMT 01 March 2026); owners and operators must confirm war risk cover is current and valid before any transit.
- Unverified radio broadcasts claiming closure of the Strait of Hormuz circulating in the region; mariners are advised to rely only on verified, authoritative sources (UKMTO, flag State Administration, IMO).

4. Mandatory Safety Actions for TZIRS-Registered Vessels

a) Risk Assessment & Security Posture

Owners and Masters shall conduct voyage-specific security risk assessments and implement Ship Security Plan (SSP) measures at a minimum of Security Level 2, with Security Level 3 protective measures to be implemented upon direction from TZIRS or the relevant Contracting Government, during transit and port operations in the affected area.



ZANZIBAR MARITIME AUTHORITY

01 MALINDI ROAD,
P.O.BOX 401,
71124 URBAN REGION,
ZANZIBAR - TANZANIA

TEL NO: +255 24 2236795
FAX NO: +255 024 2236796
WEBSITE: www.zma.go.tz
EMAIL: info@zma.go.tz

Note: Under SOLAS Chapter XI-2 / ISPS Code Part A, Security Levels are formally set by Contracting Governments and Administrations; Masters retain overriding authority to take protective measures per SOLAS XI-2/8.

b) Reporting & Communications

Register with and report to UKMTO and MSCHOA (Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa) and relevant naval coordination centers. Maintain continuous VHF Channel 16 watch and log all security communications. In the event of attack, activate the Ship Security Alert System (SSAS) immediately per SOLAS XI-2/5. Comply with BMP5 reporting procedures for the UKMTO Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA).

c) Navigation & Positioning

Prepare for potential GNSS/AIS interference and maintain enhanced bridge watchkeeping. Avoid unnecessary proximity to reported hostilities or exclusion zones. Masters should exercise their overriding discretion under SOLAS Chapter V, Regulation 34-1 to deviate from any planned route where necessary to ensure the safety of the vessel and crew. Ensure Long-Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) is fully operational as required by SOLAS Chapter V, Regulation 19-1.

d) Engagement Response

In the event of hailing or attempted boarding, prioritize crew safety, follow SSP procedures, and immediately report through company security channels and to TZIRS.

5. Recommendations

- Defer transit and/or port calls where operationally feasible until security conditions stabilize.
- Confirm validity of war-risk insurance coverage prior to entry into the affected area.
- Conduct crew briefings prior to transit and formal debriefings after departure from the area.
- Apply Best Management Practices (BMP5) as the industry's primary guidance framework for security risk management, reporting and self-protective measures in this region.
- Ensure crew welfare, access to communication, and right to decline unsafe voyages are upheld in accordance with the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC 2006), Regulation 4.3.
- Monitor UKMTO (www.ukmto.org) and MSCHOA advisories continuously for updated situational awareness.



ZANZIBAR MARITIME AUTHORITY

01 MALINDI ROAD,
P.O.BOX 401,
71124 URBAN REGION,
ZANZIBAR - TANZANIA

TEL NO: +255 24 2236795
FAX NO: +255 024 2236796
WEBSITE: www.zma.go.tz
EMAIL: info@zma.go.tz

6. Reporting to Flag Administration

Any incident, suspicious approach, or navigation disruption shall be reported without delay to UKMTO, the Company Security Officer (CSO), and Zanzibar Maritime Authority/Tanzania Zanzibar International Register of Shipping through its Technical Department (technical@zma.go.tz). Reports shall also be submitted to MSCHOA in accordance with BMP5 Annex D reporting procedures. The Master's overriding authority and responsibility for the safety and security of the ship, crew and cargo is confirmed under SOLAS XI-2/8; the Master shall not be constrained by the Company, charterer or any other person in exercising this authority. ZMA/TZIRS expects to receive incident reports within 24 hours of any security event via official operational channels.

7. Effectiveness

This Advisory is effective immediately upon issuance on **2 March 2026** and shall remain in force until formally updated or withdrawn by TZIRS.

For additional enquiries on this circular, please contact to:

Director General and the Registrar of Ships
Zanzibar Maritime Authority
P.O.BOX 401
Tel +255 24 2236795
Website: www.zma.go.tz
Email: technical@zma.go.tz



(*Handwritten signature of Mtumwa S. Sandal*)
(MTUMWA S. SANDAL)

DIRECTOR GENERAL & REGISTRAR OF SHIPS