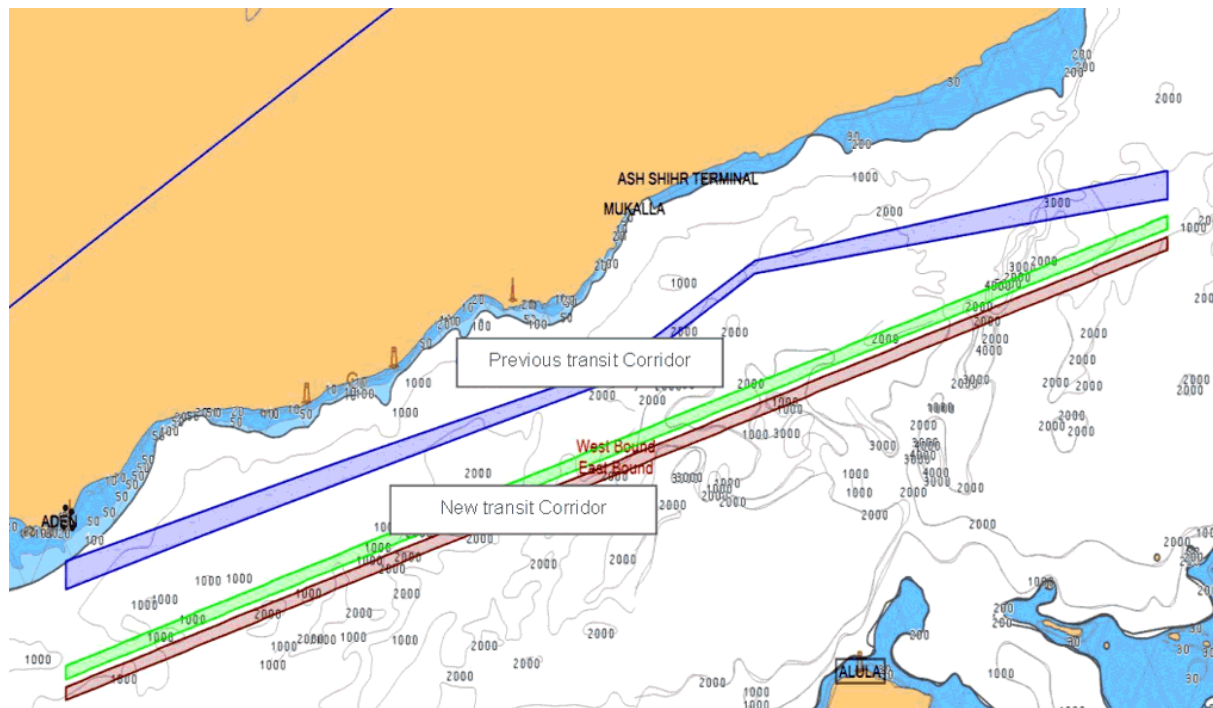


INTERNATIONALLY RECOMMENDED TRANSIT CORRIDOR (IRTC)

On the 1st February 2009 the IRTC was amended to reflect revised analysis of the Gulf of Aden pirate activity. It has been positioned further from established fishing areas resulting in a decrease in false piracy alerts.



The change has seen an introduction of **EASTBOUND** and **WESTBOUND** corridors. It is not marked by a visual navigation means but it is intended to make warship patrols more effective in dealing with piracy attacks. Each corridor is 5NM wide with a 2NM buffer zone in between.

EASTBOUND

Starts at: 45° East between 11° 53' & 11° 48' North
Terminates at: 53° East between 14° 23' & 14° 18' North
On a course of 072°

WESTBOUND

Starts at: 53° East between 14° 30' & 14° 25' North
Terminates at: 45° East between 12° 00' & 11° 55' North
On a course of 252°

(These co-ordinates are correct as at March 2009)



Group Transits

Group transits have been developed which are designed to group transiting vessels together in order to exploit the additional protection and assurance than can be gained by grouping vessels together. Transits have been timed to ensure that vessels transit the most vulnerable areas at night.

The second objective of the transit system is to group together all vessels (regardless of speed) around the time of daybreak, ensuring that during what is potentially the most vulnerable time of a vessels transit they are grouped together. These factors allow the naval force to best position their assets to deter and protect against pirate attack.

Important Considerations

Group Transits are not convoys. They will not necessarily be accompanied by a warship.

Although a vessel may see no other vessels at the start of her transit, other vessels participating in the same transit will converge during the most critical stage of the transit. It is important that a vessel does not stop and wait for other vessels at corridor entry points and they maintain their required speed for their group.

Without registering your vessels movement and transmitting regular position, course and speed updates to UKMTO, EU NAVFOR will not be able to provide warships with information regarding which vessels are in each transit and where/when they should expect to see them.

Group Transit Groupings

Speed (SOG/GPS)	Eastbound Transit Entry Point A		Westbound Transit Entry Point B	
	10 kts	01:00 (Z)	04:00 (Lt)	15:00 (Z)
12 kts	05:30 (Z)	08:30 (Lt)	21:00 (Z)	00:01 (Lt)
14 kts	08:30 (Z)	11:30 (Lt)	01:00 (Z)	04:00 (Lt)
16 kts	11:00 (Z)	14:00 (Lt)	05:30 (Z)	08:30 (Lt)
18 kts	13:00 (Z)	16:00 (Lt)	07:00 (Z)	10:00 (Lt)

Timings are in Zulu (Z) and local time (LT)

Further information can be found at WWW.MSCHOA.ORG (registration required)