

CANADA Daily News and Updates January 17th 2024

Ocean Updates

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- Ships Keep Running Red Sea Gauntlet After Warnings
- IMB Reports Concerning Rise in Piracy and Dangers to Crews in 2023

Ocean Updates

Scheduling Chaos Puts Carriers Under Pressure from Shippers

Carriers are coming under some pressure from their major VIP shippers to announce temporary network changes, so that their supply chains can be adjusted to match.

Amid the scheduling chaos caused by diversions and delays, carriers continue to issue blank sailing announcements for Asian export loaders, even though the backhaul sailings of the voided ships will be weeks late.

And shippers are complaining that carriers are spending most of their time implementing surcharges and rate hikes, instead of announcing arrival updates.

Read more in an [article from The Loadstar](#).

Ships Keep Running Red Sea Gauntlet After Warnings

Huge numbers of merchant ships have continued to navigate the southern Red Sea since warnings by western navies to stay away from the crucial trade route to avoid attack by Houthi militants.

On Friday, the Combined Maritime Forces – encompassing both UK and U.S. navies – advised merchant ships to stay away from the danger zone. Their advice came after both nations bombed targets in Yemen to try to quell attacks on commercial vessels by Houthi militants, prompting concern about reprisals.

Numerous vessels turned away following the advice. The number passing through the Bab el-Mandeb since Friday has fallen by more than half compared with the corresponding period a month earlier, ship-tracking data monitored by Bloomberg show.

However, 114 vessels – including oil tankers, bulk carriers and container ships – still passed into or out of the Red Sea through the narrow chokepoint, the data show.

Read more in an [article from the American Journal of Transportation](#).

IMB Reports Concerning Rise in Piracy and Dangers to Crews in 2023

There was a slight increase in the number of piracy incidents in 2023 versus 2022 according to the International Chamber of Commerce's International Maritime Bureau's Piracy Reporting Centre, but they point to several concerning trends within the statistics. After highlighting that piracy had fallen to 30-year lows, the IMB is now raising concerns for crew safety while singling out several hotspots that remain the primary areas of concern.

Five areas around the globe made up 70 percent of the 120 incidents recorded in 2023, which was up from 115 total reports received by the bureau in 2022. However, 67 of the reports in 2023 came from Southeast Asia, and specifically the Singapore Strait, Indonesia and the Philippines. Both the IMB and ReCAAP, which focuses specifically on Asia, have repeatedly sounded the alarm about the Singapore Strait, with IMB saying in its year-end analysis: “The Singapore Straits remain an area of concern due to the high number of incidents.”

Read more in an [article from The Maritime Executive](#).