

## Plans made to save Houthi-struck bulker from sinking

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MarineTraffic / Wael Chahadah

An abandoned Belize-flagged bulk carrier [Rubymar](#) which was damaged by Yemen's Houthi missile strike, is still floating despite taking in water.

The Houthis had earlier said the vessel was in danger of sinking after claiming the attack that took place in the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb late Sunday and forced the crew of 24, including four guards, to abandon ship. No injuries were reported, and the crew have since been safely transported to Djibouti.

Despite several confusing videos on social media of the vessel sinking, the latest images taken of the Rubymar show it still above water but well down by the stern after suffering a strike near the engine room.

The attack and damage inflicted on the 32,200 dwt ship with about 22,000 tonnes of fertilizer on board is so far the most serious incident of the escalating Red Sea conflict.

According to TankerTrackers.com, the vessel owned by UK-registered Golden Adventure Shipping and managed by Lebanon-based Blue Fleet Group is leaking fuel oil but is still afloat.

“She is located in the southbound traffic lane,” the monitoring service said in a post on social media platform X.

Efforts are underway to recover the 1997-built vessel that is still at risk of sinking and tow it back to Djibouti.

“She will be towed to Djibouti but the tugboat has not yet arrived,” Blue Fleet CEO Roy Khoury told *AFP*. “It should be there in two to three days.”



The image is a screenshot of a social media post from X (formerly Twitter). The post is from Sal Mercogliano (@mercoglianos), who is identified as being associated with WGOW Shipping. The text of the post reads: "Bulker #Rubymar with a flooded engine room and well down by the stern. She must be in a nearly empty condition to have sufficient buoyancy to remain afloat." Below the text is a photograph of the Rubymar, a large bulk carrier ship, at sea. The ship is tilted, with its stern significantly lower in the water than its bow. The sea is a deep blue, and the sky is clear. Below the first photo is a reply from Charlie B (@supbrow) with the text: "#Rubymar in #RedSea: Not sunk, but what does the insurance guy think? Thankfully, the crew is safe 🙏". Below the reply is another photograph of the Rubymar, showing it from a different angle, still tilted. At the bottom of the screenshot, the post's timestamp is "8:13 PM · Feb 21, 2024", and it shows 561 likes, a "Reply" button, and a "Share" button. A "Read 41 replies" link is also visible.

