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Red Sea Threat Assessment and Atalanta Risk Areas.

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Threat Assessment:

1. **MODERATE** (an attack is **REALISTIC POSSIBILITY**; 40-50%) for vessels transiting through the SRS, BAM and GoA.
2. **SUBSTANTIAL** (an attack is **LIKELY**; 55-75%) for Israeli affiliated vessels in the SRS, BAM and GOA.
3. **SUBSTANTIAL** (an attack is **LIKELY**; 55-75%) for vessels involved in the transfer (export) of oil and LNG from Yemeni ports such as Al-Dhabba and Al-Nashima.

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Missiles and Drones latest incidents:

Date	Event
3 Dec	Missile launched by Houthis to the Israel related vessel 'Unity Explorer'
3 Dec	The Houthis launched a drone towards MV NUMBER 9, an Israel related vessel.
3 Dec	The Houthis attacked a Bulk Carrier vessel. The Houthis' projectile impacted AOM Sophie II, no significant damage was reported. USS CARNEY escorted this vessel to prevent any further aggressions.
9 Dec	FS LANGUEDOC shot down two Houthis' drones over the Red Sea
10 Dec	Two (2) Houthis' drones attacked MV Centaurus Leader, at different timings, while she was sailing over the Red Sea.
11 Dec	FS LANGUEDOC shot down one Houthis' drone launched towards MT STRINDA. Another drone hit the MT STRINDA and caught a fire on board, which was brought under control.
13 Dec	The Houthis attempted to hijack MV ARDMORE ENCOUNTER via skiffs and then launched two (2) missiles towards her; both attacks did not success.
14 Dec	A Houthis' missile attack towards the Container Ship MAERSK GIBRALTAR. The missile splash harmlessly in the water.
15 Dec	A Houthis' drone hit the MV AL JASRAH, two containers caught fire.
15 Dec	MSC ALANYA reported an unidentified entity (on board a skiff) declared as Yemeni Naval Forces and demanding to alter course to Hodeida port otherwise they will be attacked.
15 Dec	MSC PALATIUM III reported an explosion on board (fwd stb side). Allegedly cause the impact of a Houthis' missile.
16 Dec	USS CARNEY successfully engaged 14 UAV's in the RED SEA launched as a drone wave from Houthi controlled areas of Yemen targeting Israel.
16 Dec	HMS DIAMOND shot down one drone in the RED SEA and Egypt Air Defences shot another one off the RED SEA coast near DAHAB, eastern Sinai coast, EGYPT.
18 Dec	MSC CLARA was targeted by the Houthis. A missile was launched from Yemen territory and exploded in the water, 2nm off the vessel.
18 Dec	MT SWAN ATLANTIC was attacked and hit by a Houthis' missile, it impacted the fresh water tank, no critical damage.

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Geographical analysis of Southern Red Sea:

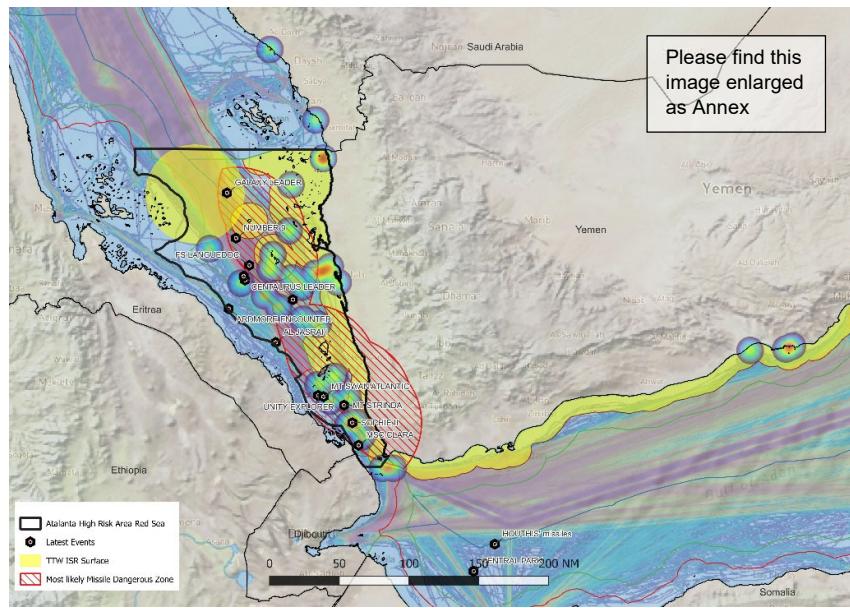


Figure 1. ATALANTA High Risk Area in Red Sea

The above Geo-Analysis map depicts ATALANTA High Risk Area in Red Sea. Within it, there is also depicted a Most Likely Missile Dangerous Zone¹. It is estimated taking into consideration a radius of 50 nm from the attacked vessel's positions and the coastline of Yemen (Houthi's controlled areas).

Assessment:

Taking into account that some of the Houthi's missile and drone attacks have not effectively hit large targets (length overall ± 180 m), it is assessed as HIGHLY LIKELY that the Houthi's Detection and Targeting process:

- The Houthi's Detection process is been accomplished by surface assets (most likely by ISR assets, Skiffs and other traditional vessel) or air assets (SAMAD1 drones).
- The Houthi's Targeting process could be done on Houthi's controlled areas (Yemen), estimating a future position of targets.

¹ Should be understood that there is also a possibility to be targeted out of said "MOST LIKELY" area (MLMDZ)

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Conclusions:

The Houthis' are making a demonstration of strength over the Southern Red Sea, using asymmetric attacks (skiff boarding), drones, ballistic missiles and anti-ship missiles.

The accuracy of the Houthis' attacks is a goal they are trying to achieve, but the lack of specialized targeting sensor and the use of 'Fire and Forget' weapons is a weakness that must be exploited to reduce successful hits.

It is important to warn the Shipping Industry to direct their vessels on frequently change speed and course while they are transiting within or in vicinity of the HM-MLDZ, exploiting the lack of the Houthis' weapons (missiles and drones) accuracy.

Recommendation to Shipping Industry:

1. Once a Ship received any indication of being under vigilance or surveillance (direct call, approach by skiff or drone overfly) she should do her best to make his track unpredictable.
2. Turn off AIS.
3. Night transit through ATALANTA High Risk Area in Red Sea.
4. Transit as far as possible from Red Sea Yemeni coastline to reduce the likely of impact from Houthis' weapons (affecting accuracy)

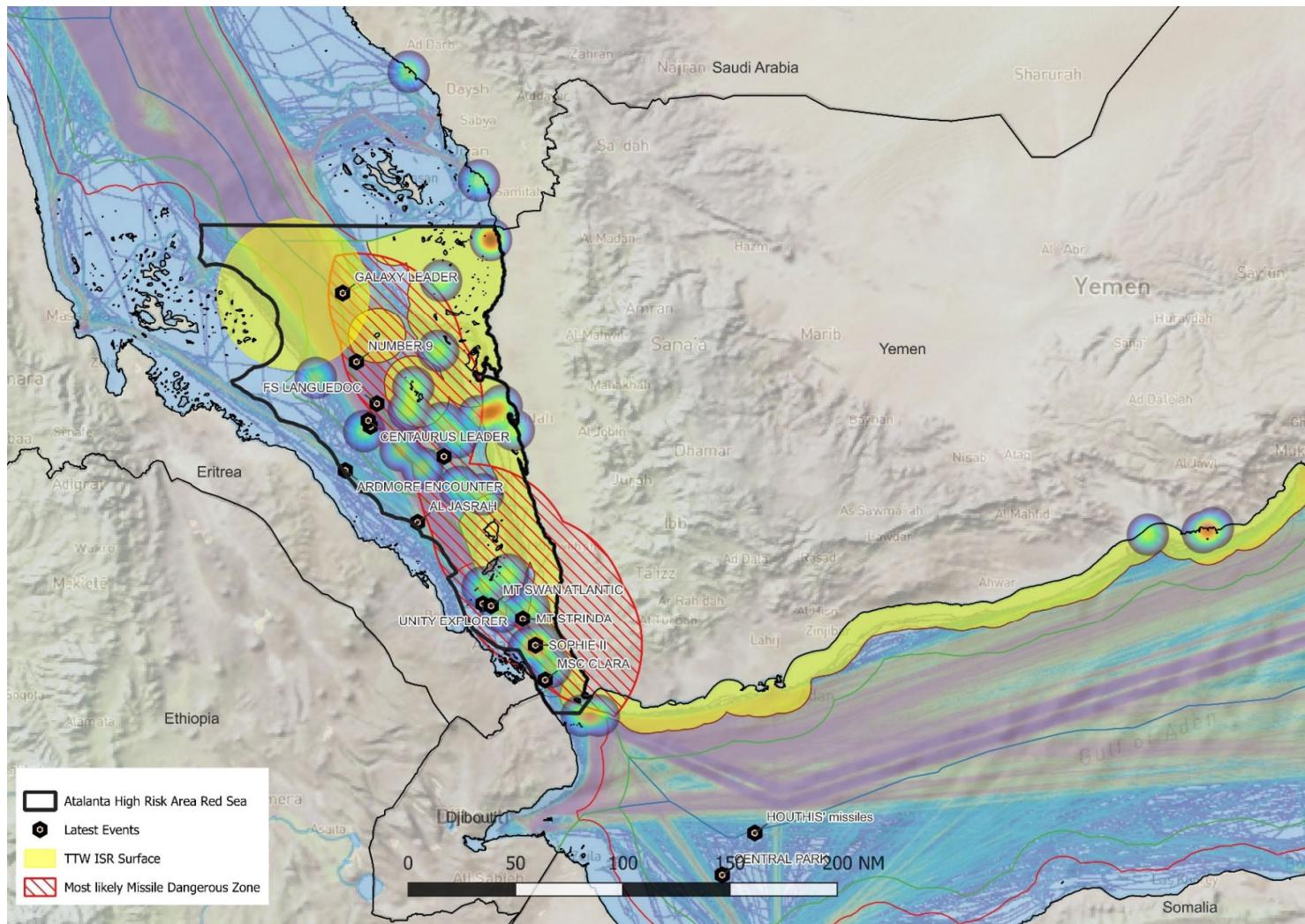
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Enlarged figure 1.



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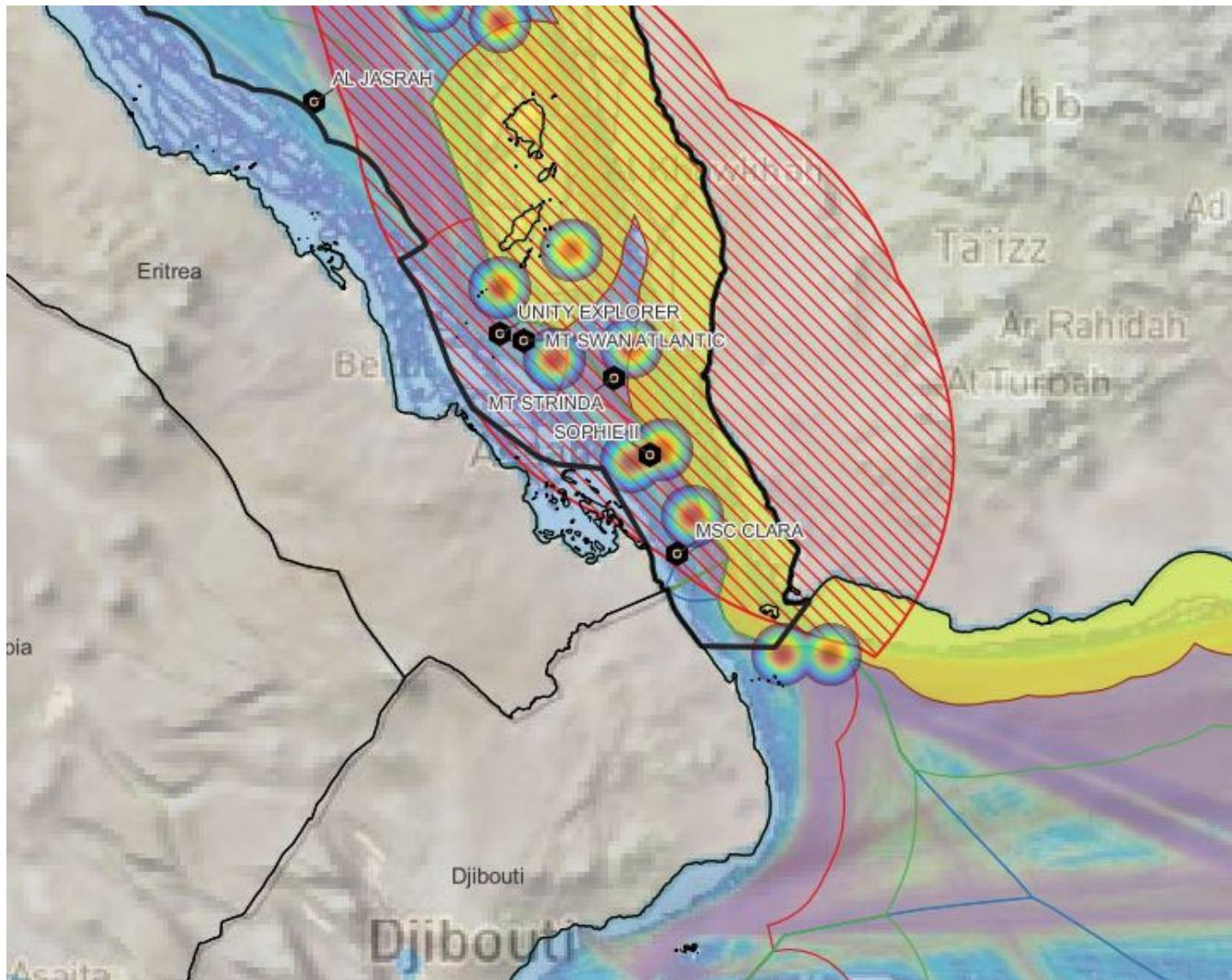
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Atalanta High Risk Area Red Sea. Bab el Mandeb – Gulf of Aden detailed areas.



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