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VALIDATED FORESIGHT: Why the Post-HRA Maritime Risk Environment Demands a New Security Posture

From High Risk Area Declassification to Proven Frontline Impact



A Position Paper by the Diaploous Group
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Table of Contents

PG TITLE:

03 Executive Summary

04 1. Introduction and Evidence Base

04 2. Strategic Foresight and Validated Assessment

05 3. Operational Leadership and System-Level Contribution

06 4. Conclusion

07 Appendix: External Recognition & Citations

08 Contact Information



Executive Summary

This position paper validates Diaplous Group's long-standing assessment that the declassification of the Indian Ocean High Risk Area (HRA) would be misread as the end of risk, leading to dangerous strategic blind spots. The 2024-2025 operating picture has now vindicated this position.

- **Validated Foresight:** In our September 2022 White Paper, "The Known Unknowns," Diaplous warned that reduced incident numbers did not equal eliminated risk and that piracy infrastructure remained intact. We argued against a "back to normal" mindset, highlighting a wider threat spectrum.
- **Current Reality:** Recent events, including long-range, mother-ship-enabled piracy attacks off Somalia, confirm that events have adjusted to the risk logic Diaplous set out. These developments prove that premature de-escalation created the exact permissive environment that threat actors require.
- **Operational Imperative:** The current environment demands a disciplined, intelligence-led security culture. This includes strict adherence to Best Management Practices (BMP) and the responsible use of vetted private security as core elements of protection.
- **Diaplous as a Frontline Partner:** We are not passive commentators. Through our 24/7 Operations and Intelligence capability, Diaplous provides proven, actionable guidance that supports shipowners, hardens vessels, and strengthens the bridge between commercial operators and naval coalitions.

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1. Introduction and Evidence Base

Somali piracy feels almost cyclical, a maritime “tradition” that resurfaces whenever discipline fades. Yet it is only a small part of the global security picture. The post-HRA narrative proved that removing a label does not remove risk, and the 2024–2025 operating picture has vindicated that warning. What appeared to be calm at the surface masked a changing undercurrent, confirming Diaploous’ earlier assessment that complacency would create the permissive conditions threat actors require.

The sections below set out how Diaploous anticipated the consequences of the Indian Ocean High Risk Area (HRA) declassification, how current developments validate that position, and how its 24/7 intelligence and advisory work contributes directly to the wider maritime security architecture. This narrative is designed to sit immediately above a curated list of Diaploous publications, advisories and independent media references that substantiate each point with verifiable sources.

2. Strategic Foresight and Validated Assessment

Diaploous stands today as one of the few maritime actors that did not treat the post-HRA era as “back to normal”, but as a more complex battlespace demanding discipline, intelligence and a forward-leaning security culture. From the publication of its 01 September 2022 White Paper [“The Known Unknowns — Declassification of the Indian Ocean High Risk Area \(HRA\)”](#), Diaploous warned that removing the HRA label could be misread as the end of risk, leading to relaxed procedures, fewer controls and strategic blind spots across the wider Indian Ocean corridor.

The White Paper underlined a simple but critical message, reduced incident numbers do not equal eliminated risk. It highlighted that piracy infrastructure, networks and intent remained in place, and framed a wider threat spectrum including terrorism, geopolitical tensions, anti-ship missiles, sea mines, unmanned systems and water-borne improvised explosive devices. It called for the preservation of a holistic, layered maritime security system, continued adherence to BMP MS 2025 measures and the sustained, responsible use of vetted private security as core elements of protection rather than optional add-ons.



The 2024–2025 operating picture now vindicates that assessment. Long-range approaches far outside legacy polygons, mother-ship enabled teams, deep-sea contacts and a confirmed armed boarding against a merchant vessel off Somalia, together with alerts issued by naval missions and reporting centers, have reintroduced Somali piracy risk into areas previously perceived as “normalized”. These developments align directly with Diaplous’ earlier warning that premature de-escalation of designations and narratives could generate exactly the permissive environment that opportunistic threat actors require.

In other words, Diaplous did not adjust its story to events, events adjusted to the risk logic Diaplous had already set out.

3. Operational Leadership and System-Level Contribution

In this environment, Diaplous is not a passive commentator; it is part of the architecture that holds the system together. Through its Maritime Operations Center (M.O.C.), which provides 24/7 Operations and Intelligence capability, Diaplous fuses real-time vessel tracking, incident data, open-source intelligence, and theater-wide geopolitical indicators into clear, actionable guidance for shipowners, charterers, and masters. Its advisories on suspected pirate action groups and evolving risk corridors are structured, practical, and aligned with naval reporting frameworks, enabling ships to react early and report consistently.



This work increasingly extends beyond its own client base. International coverage of the MT HELLAS APHRODITE attack in November 2025 cited Diaplous for frontline situational details and expert assessment, amplifying its role as a trusted source. As noted by leading maritime platforms, the industry relies on Diaplous analysis and recommendations when communicating emerging risks. Academic and professional references to "The Known Unknowns" White Paper reinforce this picture of a company whose work informs debate and policy thinking.



The result is a measurable contribution to global maritime security. Diaploous helps prevent complacency by clarifying that reduced designations do not mean reduced danger. It strengthens the bridge between commercial operators and naval coalitions through standardized reporting and early warning.

4. Conclusion

Today, the stakes extend far beyond piracy. We are facing an emerging hybrid ecosystem that blends unmanned systems, opaque logistics, cyber-physical interference, and influence operations across sea, seabed, shore, and air, compressing reaction time and clouding attribution. Diaploous' role is not to describe this from a distance but to help hold the system together through a disciplined 24/7 Operations and Intelligence capability and a practical protection architecture that bridges commercial operators and naval coalitions.

This document validates the foresight behind Diaploous' post-HRA stance and serves as a prelude to the forthcoming White Paper, "Emerging Hybrid Maritime Threats — Before the Unthinkable, Build the Architecture." There, Diaploous advances from analysis to construction, outlining a cooperative, modular, and scalable 24/7 protection architecture that integrates domain awareness, harmonized risk assessment, BMP MS 2025, and pre-agreed escalation channels between authorities and vetted partners. The guiding principle is clear: before the unthinkable, build the architecture.





Appendix: External Recognition & Citations

Diaplous' work is consistently acknowledged by reputable maritime media and international news outlets. The following citations provide verifiable confirmation of the Group's role as a trusted, operationally relevant security partner.

Industry & Specialist Publications

1. Safety4Sea. (2025, Sep 26). [Diaplous raises alarm over potential piracy activity in the Arabian Sea](#)
2. gCaptain. (2025, Nov 7). [EU Forces Free Hijacked Tanker 700 Miles Off Somalia.](#)
3. MarineLink. (2025, Nov 6). [EU Warship Secures Tanker Crew After Somali Pirate Boarding.](#)
4. MarineLink. (2025, Nov 6). [Pirates Board Tanker Off Somalia.](#)
5. Baird Maritime. (2025, Nov 8). [Pirates fail to take control of Greek-managed tanker off Somalia; all crew safe.](#)
6. Riviera Maritime Media. (2025, Nov 7). [Piracy surges off Somalia, LNG carrier targeted in latest incident.](#)
7. Infomarine. (2025, Nov 7). [Pirates fail to take control of Greek-managed tanker off Somalia, all crew safe.](#)
8. Devdiscourse. (2025, Nov 6). [Renewed waves of piracy threaten maritime security.](#)
9. Devdiscourse. (2025, Nov 6). [Successful evacuation: Pirates thwarted in high-seas drama.](#)

Global News Outlets

10. Reuters. (2025, Nov 6). [Pirates board Malta-flagged products tanker off Somalia.](#)
11. Reuters. (2025, Nov 7). [LNG tanker evades pirates off Somalia as attacks escalate, maritime sources say.](#)
12. ABC News / Associated Press. (2025, Nov 7). [EU naval force races to ship seized by pirates off Somalia.](#)
13. Euronews. (2025, Nov 7). [EU naval force vessel reaches ship raided by Somali pirates, all 24 crew on board safe.](#)
14. eKathimerini. (2025, Nov 8). [Greek sailors freed after Somalia pirate hijacking.](#)
15. The Straits Times. (2025, Nov 7). [LNG tanker evades pirates off Somalia as attacks escalate, maritime sources say.](#)
16. The Star (Malaysia). (2025, Nov 7). [LNG tanker evades pirates off Somalia as attacks escalate, maritime sources say.](#)
17. L'Orient-Le Jour. (2025, Nov 7). [Pirates fail to take control of Greek-managed tanker off Somalia, all crew safe: Sources say.](#)



Your Concern, Our Mission

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