



A UKMTO map showing the approximate location of the latest series of attacks in the Red Sea. Photo: UKMTO

Greek tanker faces 24-hour onslaught as Houthis target ship with grenades, missiles and drones

Laden Delta Tankers suezmax has suffered at least four attacks over a period of several hours

9 August 2024 6:52 GMT UPDATED 9 August 2024 10:18 GMT

By [Gary Dixon](#) and [Harry Papachristou](#) in [London](#) and [Athens](#)

Yemen's Houthi rebels fired grenades, missiles, and air and sea drones in a string of attacks against the same vessel in the Red Sea, which included their first known use of a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG).

In the first of four separate attacks within 24 hours against the 158,000-dwt suezmax Delta Blue (built 2012), owned by Greece's Delta Tankers, the master reported that an RPG exploded "in close proximity" to the vessel, the UK Maritime Trade Organisation (UKMTO) said.



Houthi lull ends as grenade explodes near Delta tanker and missiles take aim at container ship

[Read more](#)

The UKMTO said the ship was underway about 45 nautical miles (83km) south of Al Mukha in Yemen, when this incident took place at 14:03 GMT on Thursday.

According to Ambrey Analytics, a bright light and loud noise were observed by the crew, while no injuries or physical damage were reported.

The RPG was apparently fired from one of two small boats, each with four people on board.

According to UKMTO, at 22:45 GMT on Thursday, the master of the ship reported a further attack by a missile, which exploded close to the vessel.

A third attack followed in the early hours of Friday, when the ship was the subject of a suspicious approach by a small boat and an unmanned surface vessel, or sea drone, also 58 nautical miles north-west of Hodeidah, according

to Ambrey and Diaplous.

The ship had a private armed security team on board and was withholding its AIS data at the time.

According to the reports, the drone approached the vessel rapidly and guards on board displayed their weapons.

When the drone continued to approach, the security team opened fire and was able to successfully destroy the weapon.

[WHO IS DELTA TANKERS?](#)

A fourth attack has since been reported on the Delta Blue on Friday at 05:57 GMT with a missile landing nearby, according to the UKMTO.

Delta Tankers has a fleet of 29 tankers spanning the VLCC, suezmax and aframax segments.

Backed by Diamantis Diamantides, the company's live fleet is worth \$1.69bn, according to VesselsValue.

Delta's own data shows its tankers were involved in 182 voyages and loaded almost 35 million tonnes of cargo in 2023.

Diamantides is also active in the dry cargo market with Marmaras Navigation.

Despite the string of attacks it suffered, the vessel and its crew are still reported to be safe and proceeding to the next port of call.

No one at Delta Tankers was immediately available for comment.

Vessel trackers and maritime intelligence providers show the Delta Blue is underway from Basrah to a Greek refinery at Agioi Theodoroi with a cargo of Iraqi oil.

Attempt against a container ship

The Delta Blue was not the only Greek-owned vessel attacked by the Houthis on Thursday and Friday.

In a separate operation, the Yemeni rebel group claimed to have targeted Contship Management's 1,118-teu Contship Ono (built 2007) with ballistic missiles and drones.

No other maritime intelligence sources report the incident against the Contship Ono.

However, TradeWinds understands the ship was targeted but was spared any direct impact.

The Houthis have carried out hundreds of attacks against commercial vessels they believe, or that claim to, belong to Israeli interests or are owned by companies calling in Israeli ports.

The rebels' action had slowed considerably in recent weeks.

An attack on 3 August [against the 2,500-teu Groton \(built 2002\)](#) — a ship owned by Greece's Conbulk Shipmanagement and chartered to CMA CGM — had been the first Houthi operation against a vessel in two weeks.



Israel slaps first-ever shipping sanctions on Iran's dark tankers as tensions soar

[Read more](#)

The renewed attacks on Thursday and Friday, however, show this was just a respite.

This is in line with an assessment by the UK Royal Navy on 7 August, which said that despite the falling frequency of attacks in the weeks before, "Houthi capability and intent to target vessels remains high based on current Houthi messaging."

Ambery said: "Merchant shipping is advised to transit with caution, halt deck movements and minimise bridge manning. Vessels are advised to maintain a 5 nautical mile distance from other vessels where possible." ([Copyright](#))

Download the TradeWinds News app

The News app offers you more control over your TradeWinds reading experience than any other platform.

[Download now](#)

[Red Sea](#) [Houthis](#) [Red Sea crisis](#) [Yemen](#) [Delta Tankers](#) [Greece](#)

TRENDING TODAY

Butlers



[Historic British firm Graig Shipping to wind down operations after 105 years](#)

Containers




[Video: Huge explosion hits Yang Ming container ship in Chinese port](#)

Shipbroking



Genoa Sea
Brokers
launches new
London dry
bulk venture
as it hits the
gas on
growth

 dn media group TradeWinds is part of DN Media Group. To read more about DN Media Group, [click here](#)