# Sea Drone Attack Raises Danger and Insurance Costs at Bab el-Mandeb Strait



A sea drone attack has increased the danger at Bab el-Mandeb, a vital choke point for global shipping, raising insurance costs substantially. The British navy reported Tuesday that the Tutor, a dry-bulk coal carrier, was targeted by Yemen’s Houthi militants using a sea drone. The attack resulted in the death of one crew member and injuries to others. Remaining visible at the incident site are only debris and an oil slick.

Insurance premiums for vessels navigating this region have surged to roughly 0.6% of a ship's value, doubling from previous rates. The Tutor, built in late 2022 and worth around $37.5 million, is the first vessel hit by an uncrewed surface vessel in this escalating conflict. Security analysts suggest the ship was targeted due to affiliations with Israel via its operating company.

The Bab el-Mandeb Strait handles nearly 9% of the world’s seaborne trade, and heightened attacks jeopardize this passage. Another recent incident involving the vessel Verbena similarly resulted in severe injuries to a crew member following an aerial drone attack.

Industry groups demand urgent measures to ensure seafarer safety and uninterrupted trade. Despite increased international naval presence, the frequency and sophistication of Houthi attacks are continually rising.