



YSATT REPORT REGARDING PIRACY ATTACKS DURING DECEMBER 2015

The 2 attacks on yachts while crossing from Trinidad to Grenada - *S/V White Dumbo* on Saturday 19th December and *S/V Maritima* on Sunday 27th December, are of extremely serious concern to YSATT. Attached are the 2 reports with details of the incidents.

YSATT contacted the Trinidad & Tobago Coast Guard (TTCG) who responded promptly with suggestions that were included in the **Cruisers Advisory** shown below, which was read out on the Cruisers VHF morning network.

Cruisers' Advisory regarding the passage between Trinidad and Grenada

- Go overnight and not during daylight. Based on the trend that the vessels are attacking mainly during the day and do not have radar equipment on board, consider transiting at night when visibility is decreased and yachts can monitor activity on their radar and possibly even switch off their running lights, should this be required.
- North Post Radio transmits and receives clear messages in the area concerned and at this time this is the best communication channel when calling for assistance on the radio.
- Go in convoy with other yachts, preferably of similar average speed, and set up communication check times and channels with them. Inform CG Patrol on channel 16 or via 800-TTCG of your convoy.
- Submit a passage float plan to Coast Guard advising time of leaving, intended route and ETA in Grenada, remembering to also confirm your safe arrival with the Coast Guard. This can be communicated by phone **800-TTCG or 634-1476** or email- ttcgops@gmail.com or HF - **2186MHz** (call sign - **9YA**).

Other contact information includes Jesse James who is the SSCA Cruising Station Host and the OCC Port Officer - phone number-**683-5202** and email -jessejamesmembersonly@yahoo.com. Kindly also inform YSATT via telephone -**634-4938** or email- info@ysatt.org and North Post via phone 637-9023/4474.

- If transiting during the day, consider a route further east of the Hibiscus Oil Drilling Platform (approximately 5 - 10 miles east).
- Do not publicize your time of departure anywhere, e.g. on the VHF cruisers net, etc.
- Captains and crews are asked to be especially vigilant and report any suspicious sightings as early as possible to the Coast Guard.

A meeting of about 20 cruisers met with three representatives of the TTCG and YSATT members at TTSA this morning to discuss what could be done.

TTCG made it clear that they are not taking these incidents lightly and have said they will:

- Do what they can to deter and interdict the perpetrators, including soliciting the assistance of the relevant authorities to provide coverage on their side of the border as well.
- Forward information about the attacks to those responsible for patrol schedules and a patrol has been sent out to the area of attacks, which will be getting their special attention.

YSATT expressed their commitment to:

- Keeping the cruising community and the general public fully informed as soon as proper reports, rather than rumours, are obtained, so that all may be forewarned.
- Bringing pressure to bear on the TTCG to act immediately by means of a visible presence and adequate patrols in order to deter further attacks and prevent possible fatalities.
- Publishing press releases to publicize the seriousness of the problem and sending reports to the necessary ministries that need to act in this regard. Chris Doyle has also been informed.
- Getting proper communication channels set up with North Post Radio, Maritime Services and the Coast Guard, so that yachts under threat can obtain quick assistance. The possibility of a cell transmitter on the Hibiscus Platform is again being investigated and efforts made to push this forward.

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