



YSATT Follow Up Report regarding Piracy Attacks during December 2015

The 2 attacks on yachts while crossing from Trinidad to Grenada - S/V *White Dumbo* on Sunday 20th December and S/V *Maritima* on Sunday 27th December, are of extremely serious concern to YSATT. Immediately upon obtaining the reports, YSATT contacted the Trinidad & Tobago Coast Guard (TTCG) who responded promptly with suggestions that were included in the **Cruisers Advisory**. This Advisory was posted on social media via the following websites: YSATT Facebook page, Caribbean Safety and Security net, Noonsite, SSCA, OCC, Kilo Papa Kilo Security net and Grenada Cruisers Information Facebook page.

Other initiatives are as follows:

- A meeting of about 20 cruisers met with 3 representatives of the TTCG and YSATT members at TTSA on to discuss what could be done and all points discussed were part of the advisory
- Letter to the Minister of National Security and 5 other relevant ministers
- Meeting with the Minister of Trade (which the yachting sector falls under), who assured us that she will be taking the matter up with the Minister of National Security.
- Meeting with the Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard – Captain Hayden Pritchard and Commander of Operations, Jason Kelshall.
- Constant liaison with the Coast Guard
- Constant replies to all the questions via email and the social media
- C News TV broadcast informing the public of the importance of the marine industry and an outright plea for the government to acknowledge the serious impact of attacks like these and address the matter urgently
- Newspaper article release increasing public awareness of the situation
- A 45 min radio broadcast at 7:10am on 7th January, which touched on many issues currently facing the yachting industry, including the severity of the piracy problem

Results:

- Coast Guard patrols have increased their monitoring of the area and have implemented other strategic measures to improve safety on the water.
- North Post Radio has been working constantly to maintain contact between vessels crossing and the Coast Guard to ensure their safe arrival.
- Airguard has included this area in the routine monitoring from their aircraft.
- This increased vigilance on the water and in the air has been evident and reported by appreciative cruisers, such as Bob and Kathy on the S/V Briana and the captain and crew of S/V Stella Maris.
- The Marine Yachting Association of Grenada (MAYAG), reached out to YSATT on this matter, indicating their willingness to work together to develop a solution and increase protection in the area between the 2 islands.

YSATT thanks the Coast Guard, Airguard, North Post Radio and the yachting community for their calm co-operation in seeking to address this problem and relay information and will keep you informed of any further steps taken to minimize the piracy threat in the area.

Tel: 1-868-634-4938 Email: info@ysatt.org Website: www.ysatt.org

Meeting with the Minister of Trade



Meeting with the Coast Guard



Coast Guard & Airguard seen from S/V Stella Maris

