

Abstract

This research delves into the use of drones and unmanned vessels in the maritime world and how they impact maritime safety. Interviews were organised with individuals working in the maritime sector, both in the military domain and merchant shipping, to gain perspective for this study. Through this case study, a clearer understanding is formed of how drones and unmanned vessels can influence maritime safety. Various scenarios will be examined, considering both the positive and negative aspects. This research indicates that drones and unmanned vessels will have a positive impact on maritime safety. There will be increased safety for personnel, potentially leading to a decrease in casualties. However, it is still too early to make general conclusions as drones and unmanned vessels have not been around long enough to determine their long-term impact. In addition to enhanced maritime safety, there are other benefits associated with the use of drones and unmanned vessels, such as increased efficiency. Lastly, this research has identified several challenges regarding the implementation of drones and unmanned vessels.