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Russian frigate fires warning shots in English Channel

The Admiral Grigorovich fired the shots as a last resort, the Russian Defense Ministry has said

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A Russian vessel fired warning shots near a British yacht sailing on a dangerous trajectory in the English Channel, the Russian Defense Ministry has said, adding that the shots were fired when all other options had been exhausted.

The Admiral Grigorovich was



The Admiral Grigorovich frigate arrives at the port of Sevastopol

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Russian frigate fires warning shots in English Channel

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sailing in international waters
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Normandy shortly before midday on Tuesday when its crew spotted the civilian yacht, the 'Bright Future' sailing *"on a dangerous course that would bring it into close proximity with the warship,"* the ministry said.

The Russian crew tried and failed to reach the yacht by radio, before firing signal flares and sounding a siren, neither of which succeeded in changing its course. When the yacht came within 150 meters, the commander of the Admiral Grigorovich decided to fire warning shots across its bow with small arms.

"Following this, the British-flagged yacht immediately altered course and moved away from the Russian warship," the ministry said, adding that the Russian crew *"acted in strict compliance with international navigation rules and took all necessary measures to prevent an incident."*



The incident was first reported by the British press, which made no mention of the yacht sailing toward the warship. The British Defense Ministry did not comment on the encounter, except to tell the BBC that it was *"investigating reports of an incident in the Channel."*

The Admiral Grigorovich – a 3,600-ton warship equipped to carry Kalibr cruise missiles – was being followed by a Royal Navy patrol ship – the HMS Mersey – at the time of the incident, the BBC reported. It is unclear how close the HMS Mersey was to the Admiral Grigorovich at the time.

The incident took place two days after British commandos boarded and seized a Cameroon-flagged tanker supposedly carrying sanctioned Russian oil. British Prime

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Minister Keir Starmer described the tanker as belonging to Russia's "*shadow fleet*," a euphemism for tankers that carry Russian oil without coverage from Western insurers. The vessel, the 'Smyrtos', was boarded in the English Channel.

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Dexter Adams 6/17/2026 at 9:27 AM 0

Why is Russia allowing these oil tankers to be seized, I just don't understand it.

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Edkic D 6/17/2026 at 9:10 AM 1

If this was a US warship it would have sunk the yacht

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Guy 6/17/2026 at 8:57 AM 0

The Admiral Grigorovichs warning shot is correct given Englands numerous hostile activities against Russia. 👍

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Peter Bilski 6/17/2026 at 8:41 AM 1

So called Bristish flagged yacht is most likely Ukraine MI6 trap loaded with explosives. British are famous for deceiving on the sea and no regards for any ethics or international law. Law for Brits works only one way if in their adventage.

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Peter Bilski 6/17/2026 at 8:34 AM

0

Isn't it a bit dumb to fire shots at British yacht but not to hijacking British helicopters and warships? What is wrong with Russians?

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Wolf 6/17/2026 at 7:38 AM

1

Most importantly, such events must be filmed, recorded, digitally signed and circulated.

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