

# Report on Somalia

*Detailed Weekly Piracy Report and On-the-Ground Analysis*



*Piracy - At Sea - On Land - Domestic News - International Developments*

## Report on Somalia ~ SUMMARY

February 18 – 24, 2013 (Week 9)



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### At Sea:

- The attack on 18 February involving a Panama-flagged general cargo ship demonstrates that there is still a high level of threat to shipping throughout the High Risk Area (HRA).
- **22 February 2013** - Dhow and skiff were spotted in position 24:29N - 061:39E.
- **19 February 2013** - The HNSLM de Ruyter has stopped the activities of a group of suspected pirates approximately 120 nautical miles east of Eyl, off the coast of Somalia.
- **18 February 2013** - Panama-flagged general cargo ship, the Alba Star, was attacked by two white speed boats at 1645 UTC in position 07:14.4N - 052:17.2E.

### Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 1
- Sightings: 1
- Releases: 0

### Updates:

- **22 February 2013** - A man who has indicated that he was the leader of a group of Somali pirates has testified in court in the United States against his former crew members in the 2010 attack on the USS Ashland.

### Weather Analysis:

- The weather forecast throughout the following week will, for the most part, remain relatively good for pirate activities to occur. Throughout the week, small skiffs and boats will be able to move relatively freely in the Gulf of Aden and the Gulf of Oman. Although conditions off the coast of Somalia will remain to be unfavourable for small boats at the beginning of the week, they will improve towards the end of the week.

### On Land:

- **23 February 2013** - Clashes between rival Somali clans in Kismayo have resulted in at least eleven people being killed in what has been the worst incident since Kenya-backed pro-government forces captured the southern port city from al-Shabaab militants last year.
- **18 February 2013** - The Somali National Army, supported by the Ugandan units of AMISOM, on Monday captured the strategic airfield of Jowhar, which is located 100 km north-east of Mogadishu.
  - Meanwhile Somali and Ethiopian troops have taken over a number of villages in the Bay region that were previously controlled by al-Shabaab militants.

### Domestic News:

- **19 February 2013** - Somali forces who were in Uganda receiving military training, have arrived in Mogadishu.
- **18 February 2013** - Britain's Ambassador to Somalia, Matt Baugh, has welcomed the completion of the UK-funded Balad road and bridge refurbishment.

### International Developments:

- **22 February 2013** - Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdog and Development Minister Cevdet Yilmaz are scheduled to pay a brief visit to Somalia and Sudan over the weekend.
- **21 February 2013** - In Kenya, seven people have been shot dead in an attack on a mosque in a village located in the north-eastern region of the country, near the border with Somalia.
- **19 February 2013** - In a rare visit by a member of the US Congress, Representative Keith Ellison, Democrat of Minnesota, visited the capital city of Mogadishu on Tuesday where he met with Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.

### Special Report: Piracy Incidents – January 2013

- **Summary** - Throughout the month of January, the Horn of Africa continued to see a low number of activity. In sharp contrast, West Africa has witnessed a spread of incidents beyond Nigeria and into the immediate neighbouring state waters, including one anomalous incident. The High Risk Area (HRA) in Asia witnessed an increase in incidents from the low activity that had been reported in December 2012. Robbery incidents returned to South America after one month of no reported attacks.

## Report on Somalia

February 18 – 24, 2013 (Week 8)

### At Sea:

- The attack on 18 February involving a Panama-flagged general cargo ship demonstrates that there is still a high level of threat to shipping throughout the High Risk Area (HRA). Merchant vessels are consequently reminded to remain vigilant while transiting this area and to ensure that self protection measures are in place as it is highly likely that Pirate Attack Groups (PAG's) may be operating in the area. The suspected pirates have been detained and are currently enroute to the Seychelles for processing and prosecution.
- **22 February 2013** - Dhow and skiff were spotted in position 24:29N - 061:39E. The dhow shadowed a MV in the location for approximately two hours.
- **19 February 2013** - The HNSLM de Ruyter has stopped the activities of a group of suspected pirates approximately 120 nautical miles east of Eyl, off the coast of Somalia. The Dutch frigate, which is deployed with the European Union's Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) Somalia Operation Atalanta, was tasked with locating a suspected pirate group that had been reported by a Panama-flagged merchant vessel off the coast of Somalia (*See Below*). Two high powered skiffs were later located by the helicopter from De Ruyter. As the helicopter approached, material was thrown overboard and the two skiffs split up in an attempt to escape. The first skiff was stopped by assets of the Dutch frigate while the second skiff was located and stopped with support of the helicopter from the EU Naval Force flagship ESPS MENDEZ NUNEZ. Nine suspected pirates are currently being held on board the HNLMS de Ruyter for further investigation and evidence collection in order to fully assess the possibility of prosecution. The two attack skiffs were also seized.
- **18 February 2013** - Panama-flagged general cargo ship, the Alba Star, was attacked by two white speed boats at 1645 UTC in position 07:14.4N - 052:17.2E. Weapons were fired during the encounter. The hijack attempt was evaded due to the onboard armed security guards who returned fire, resulting in the skiffs moving away. The suspected pirates have since been apprehended (*See Above*). Ship and crew members are safe.

### Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 1
- Sightings: 1
- Releases: 0

### Updates:

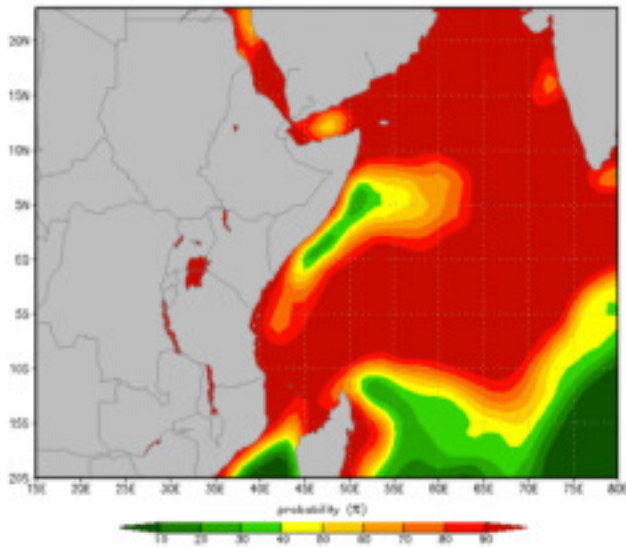
- **22 February 2013** - A man who has indicated that he was the leader of a group of Somali pirates has testified in court in the United States against his former crew members in the 2010 attack on the USS Ashland. Jama Idle Ibrahim has stated that he and six other men attempted to hijack the Ashland off the coast of Africa because they thought that it was a commercial vessel that they could capture and hold for ransom. However after one of the men had fired an AK-47 at the amphibious dock landing ship early on the morning of 10 April 2010, the Navy fired back. The incident resulted in one Somali crew member being killed and the skiff the men were in being set on fire. While the men clung to debris in the water, Mr. Ibrahim confirmed that it was his idea to get everybody to tell the same story that they were smuggling refugees to Yemen and that their skiff's engines had broken down during their return trip to Somalia. During his testimony, Mr. Ibrahim noted that on a separate occasion, he had told the same story to the British Navy after they had been spotted by one of its ships. According to him, the British Navy cut one of the Somali skiffs engines and painted it so that it could be identified. They were eventually let go. Throughout the current investigation, Mr. Ibrahim has repeatedly indicated to investigators that the person who was killed, an engineer whose job it was to keep the skiff's engines running, had fired the weapon at the Navy and that he was the one who was actually the ship's leader. However on Friday during the testimony in court, Mr. Ibrahim stated that he had been telling lies the entire time about the refugee story in order to avoid piracy charges. He also noted that it was one of the other five men, who are currently facing piracy charges, that fired the AK-47 at the Ashland. Mr. Ibrahim has already pleaded guilty to lesser related charges and has agreed to cooperate with prosecutors in the hope that he will eventually receive a reduced sentence. However defence attorneys have tried to cast doubt on his credibility, noting that his original claims of transporting refugees to Yemen was highly detailed

and consistent for months. It wasn't until piracy charges, which carry a mandatory life sentence, were downgraded and exchanged for testimony that he change his story.

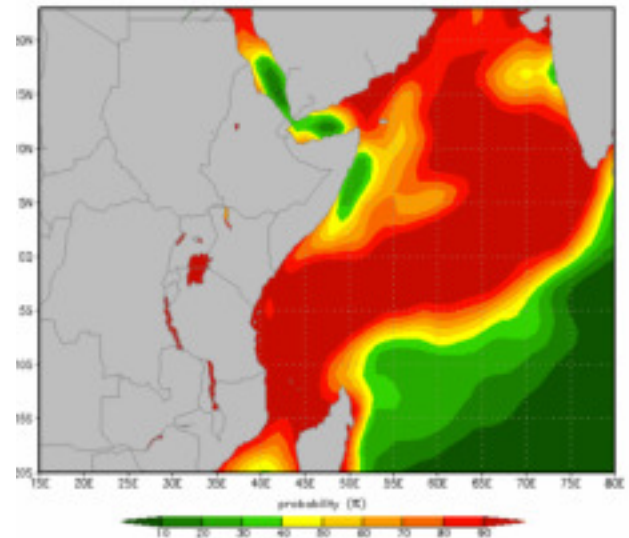
## Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - Easterly winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the eastern portion of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Easterly winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the eastern portion of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Oman** - Southeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; in the eastern portion of the Gulf, winds will be southeast at 5 - 10 knots with seas of 2 - 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - East-southeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; with east-southeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the eastern portion of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** - Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet.
- **Arabian Sea** - Northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - The Mozambique Channel will be under the influence of strong low pressure and tropical cyclone conditions due to TC Haruna, tracking southerly through the southern Mozambique Channel. Conditions will mostly consist of west-northwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet in the northern Channel; with winds of 25 - 30 knots and seas of 9 - 12 feet in the southern Channel.
  - **Extended Forecast** - As the storm moves further south and begins to subside, conditions will moderate, with south-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet in the northern Channel; and south-southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet in the southern Channel.
- **Surface Currents** - The northern Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden and the Mozambique Channel currents are variable with most areas having average speeds of 2 - 3 knots. Current speeds along the Somali Basin average between 1 - 2 knots.

## Sea Conditions For This Week:

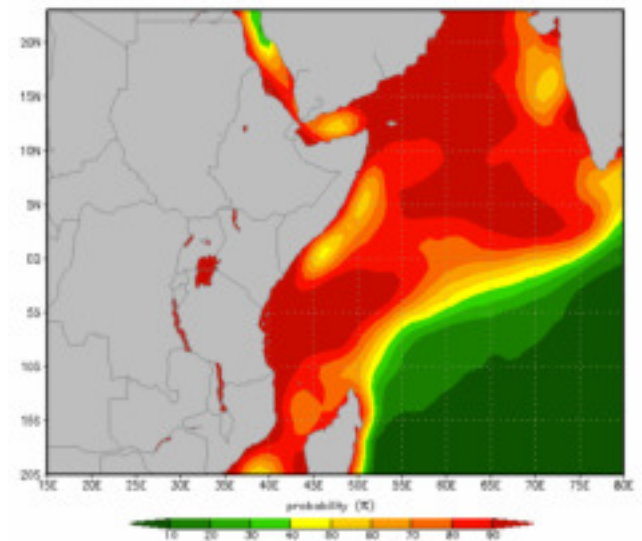


Winds < 15 kts and Wave Heights < 5 ft



Winds < 17 kts and Wave Heights < 7 ft

\*\*\* In this graphic, the green shading represents a reduced likelihood of small boats and skiffs operating in the area due to harsh sea conditions, while the red indicates a higher likelihood of favorable sea conditions for skiffs and smaller boats \*\*\*



Winds < 17 kts and Wave Heights < 7 ft

## On Land:

- **23 February 2013** - Clashes between rival Somali clans in Kismayo have resulted in at least eleven people being killed in what has been the worst incident since Kenya-backed pro-government forces captured the southern port city from al-Shabaab militants last year. According to reports from local residents, the fighting erupted when a clan leader died at a police station. This prompted battles between the Marehan and Ogadeni clansmen, which are two of the three groups that have had a history of fighting for control of Kismayo. In a statement released on Saturday, Somali Prime Minister Abdi Said Shirdon called on the two clans to lay down their arms, indicating that “we are shocked to learn that two fraternal clans are fighting and spilling innocent blood, while residents await the establishment of a regional government.” Since September 2012, when Kenyan forces removed al-Shabaab militants from their last major stronghold, a number of clans in the region have been fighting for control of the port city. An incident in December resulted in several deaths. The port is of strategic importance as it lies at the mouth of the Jubba river and is located halfway between the capital city of Mogadishu and the Kenyan border in the south.
- **18 February 2013** - The Somali National Army, supported by the Ugandan units of AMISOM, on Monday captured the strategic airfield of Jowhar, which is located 100 km north-east of Mogadishu. A Ugandan spokesman, Major Henry Obbo, has confirmed that the airfield, which is located 20 km from the town of Jowhar, was taken over after minimal resistance from fleeing al-Shabaab fighters. He further indicated that the allied forces suffered no losses during the take over. Although the town of Jowhar was taken by Somali government forces and AMISOM troops in December of last year, security issues have continued to be an issue. Ugandan contingent commander Brigadier Miachel Ondogo has confirmed that over the coming weeks, Somali troops and AMISOM forces will continue to pressure the weakening al-Shabaab militants until they are completely able to disengage the terrorists from continuing their hit and run attacks in the area. In effect, the capture of Jowhar airfield will widen the Somali Government’s area of control. In turn, it will provide better opportunities to ensure protection for large areas of the Middle Shabelle region, including the regional capital of Jowhar. It will also improve opportunities for reconstruction in the transport sector and other infrastructure.
  - Meanwhile Somali and Ethiopian troops have taken over a number of villages in the Bay region that were previously controlled by al-Shabaab militants. During an assault carried out on Monday, the allied forces targeted the bases of Islamist militants in Bulo-barako, Botis, Gorisane and Mannas, which are all villages that are located in the Bay region.

## Domestic News:

- **19 February 2013** - Somali forces who were in Uganda receiving military training, have arrived in Mogadishu. The troops were welcomed at the Aden Ade airport in Mogadishu by Somali Defence Minister Abdihakim Haji Mohamoud Fiki and a number of military officials from the Somali forces and African Union troops. During the welcoming ceremony, the Somali Defence Minister congratulated the forces on their completion of the military training programme in Uganda. The Defence Minister further stated that the Somali government is currently doing its best in order to form the Somali army to protect the homeland.
- **18 February 2013** - Britain’s Ambassador to Somalia, Matt Baugh, has welcomed the completion of the UK-funded Balad road and bridge refurbishment. The project was funded by the UK Stabilization programme which is intended to support the Somali government’s stabilization and recovery efforts in the newly recovered areas of southern Somalia. Speaking in Mogadishu, alongside the Somalia Minister of Interior Abdikarim Hussein Guuled, Ambassador Matt Baugh stated that “the UK Stabilization programme works with the Somali Government to help extend its reach and capacity, improve stability, and establish the conditions for longer-term recovery in southern Somalia. We welcome the government’s progress since transition in liberating areas from al-Shabaab. I wish to reiterate our commitment to support the government and the people of Somalia in their efforts to build a more peaceful and prosperous Somalia.” The UK has already allocated £3 million to the programme and is set to make an additional contribution over the coming year. The Balad project was implemented by the Nordic International Support foundation (NIS) in support of the local administration and the Ministry of Interior. The project has rehabilitated 1.7 km of primary road and repaired the main bridge located in the town of Balad. These projects will improve access for local businesses and economic opportunities for the community. Furthermore, it will help support the local administration through the provision of public services. With respect to the Balad Road and Bridge refurbishment, Ambassador Matt

Baugh noted that “this project is already supporting local commerce by facilitating the transit of goods between Mogadishu and central and northern regions as well as creating the necessary physical infrastructure for future development activities.” During the four month construction period, the project employed over 900 local people, playing a vital role in the economic recovery of the area.

## International Developments:

- **22 February 2013** - Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdag and Development Minister Cevdet Yilmaz are scheduled to pay a brief visit to Somalia and Sudan over the weekend. In Somalia, the two Turkish ministers are set to meet with President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon. They are also scheduled to attend the launching ceremonies for the construction of a mosque, school and orphanage that are being built with Turkish aid. During their second day of the visit, the two ministers are scheduled to arrive in Sudan.
- **21 February 2013** - In Kenya, seven people have been shot dead in an attack on a mosque in a village located in the north-eastern region of the country, near the border with Somalia. According to local residents, ten gunmen opened fire as people were leaving the mosque following early morning prayers. Initially five men had been killed in the incident, however two women, who had heard the shots and went to investigate, were also later shot dead. The village is located about 45 km (28 miles) north-east of the Dadaab refugee camp, which houses some 500,000 people who have fled years of conflict and drought in neighbouring Somalia. The attack also comes at time when elections are set to take place in less than two weeks in a region that has experienced a number of security problems. Over the past year, the region has also been prone to a number of attacks which have been blamed by Kenyan police authorities on al-Qaeda-linked Islamist militants from Somalia. Al-Shabaab has vowed to take revenge ever since Kenya sent its troops into Somalia in October 2011 in a bid to help the United Nations-backed government seize its territory back from the militants. Since then, the country has seen a number of hit and run attacks occur on its soil, which has not only greatly affected its security, but its tourism industry as well. Banditry has also been a problem in the arid and sparsely populated area. With the upcoming polls, tensions throughout the region have been running high. These polls are set to be the first general election since the disputed election of December 2007. That resulted in more than 1,000 people dead in the violence which followed the vote, and left 300,000 people fleeing their homes.



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- **19 February 2013** - In a rare visit by a member of the US Congress, Representative Keith Ellison, Democrat of Minnesota, visited the capital city of Mogadishu on Tuesday where he met with Somalia’s President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. Mr. Ellison’s visit to Somalia has fulfilled a campaign promise as his district in Minnesota is home to one of the world’s largest concentrations of Somali immigrants. Speaking to journalists in Mogadishu, Mr. Ellison indicated that “I represent my constituency, and I come here to see the country at first hand. We met with the president first and had a very fruitful discussion about the United States and Somalia.” The Congressman further noted that amongst the issues that were discussed were Somali refugees in Kenya and remittances from Somalis abroad. Mr. Ellison was greeted at Mogadishu’s airport by cheering crowds holding American and Somali flags, and by President Mohamud who expressed his appreciation for the visit as well as for the support that the US has given to his government.

## Special Report: Piracy Incidents – January 2013

**Summary** - Throughout the month of January, the Horn of Africa continued to see a low number of activity. In sharp contrast, West Africa has witnessed a spread of incidents beyond Nigeria and into the immediate neighbouring state waters, including one anomalous incident. The High Risk Area (HRA) in Asia witnessed an increase in incidents from the low activity that had been reported in December 2012. Robbery incidents returned to South America after one month of no reported attacks.

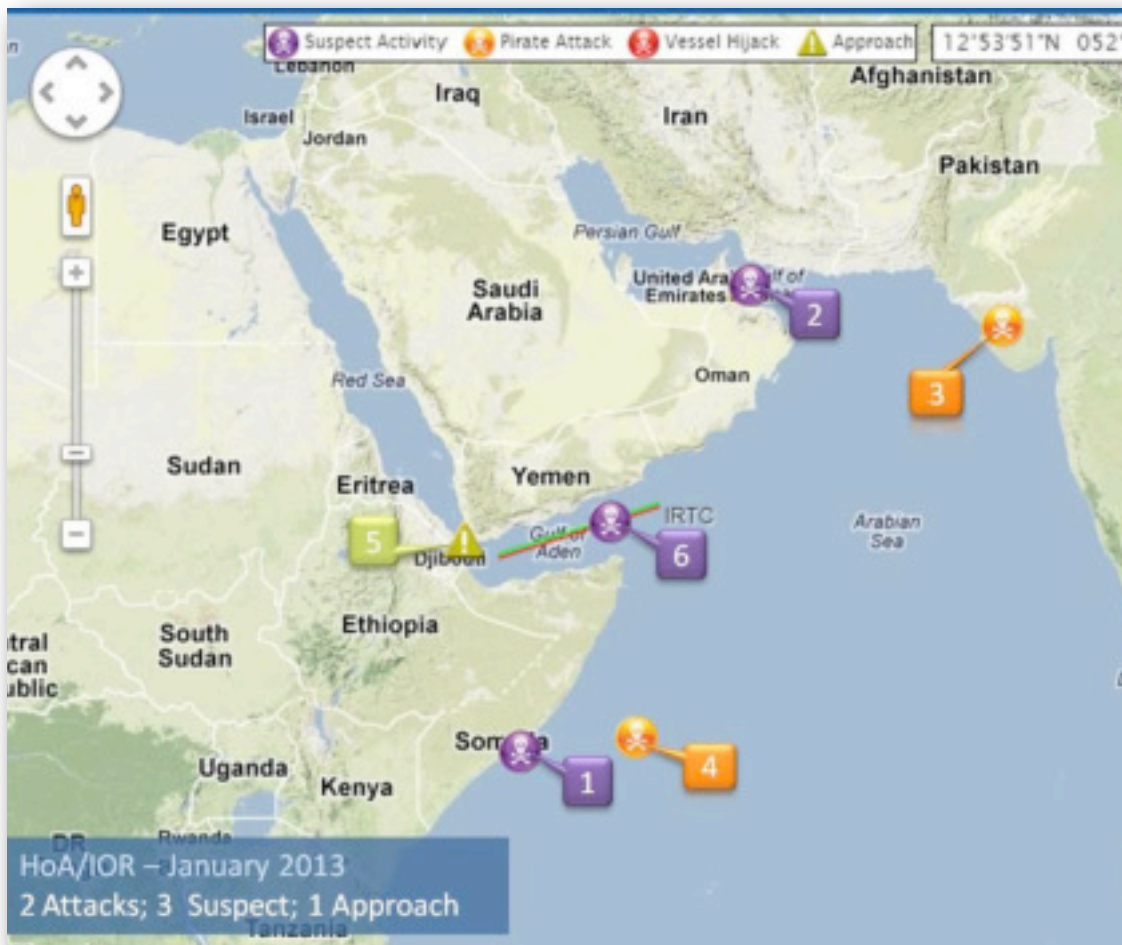
The Gulf of Guinea there was one report of a hijack that occurred off the Ivory Coast. A Panama-flagged tanker, the MT ITRI, with sixteen crew members on board, was hijacked while preparing to deposit oil at the port of Abidjan. The vessel was later released following the theft of US \$5 million of cargo. There is a continuing and alarming trend of kidnapping crew members off vessels throughout the region.

In Asia, an increase in incidents has been noted, in which the attacks have spread across the region from India's East coast to Manila, Philippines and South to the regular hotspot of Balikpapan, Indonesia. The exceptional instances are the use of a fishing vessel as a mothership, the assaults and threats to crew members and the multiple attacks/approaches on tugs towing barges/barge carriers. South America saw three reported incidents occur in January, with robberies taking place in Guyana, Colombia and Peru.

### *Horn of Africa*

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location/Type of Incident
1	1 January	Unknown		Suspicious Activity - 4 skiffs 7 nautical miles off the coast of Somalia
2	2 January	Unknown		Suspicious Activity- Skiff at 25 knots. Evasive maneuvers
3	3 January	Jade Sky	Marshall Island/Bulk Carrier	Kandla Outer anchorage/Robbery
4	5 January	MSC Jasmine	Panama/ Cargo Ship	ENE of Mogadishu (6 pirates in skiff attacked; Armed security team onboard fired warning shots. CP Forces disrupted PAG)
5	8 January	Unknown	LPG Tanker	Approach - 2 Skiffs in Red Sea. Armed security team fired flares and warning shots.
6	30 January	Unknown		Suspicious Activity - Dhow and 2 skiffs, 1 skiff towed.

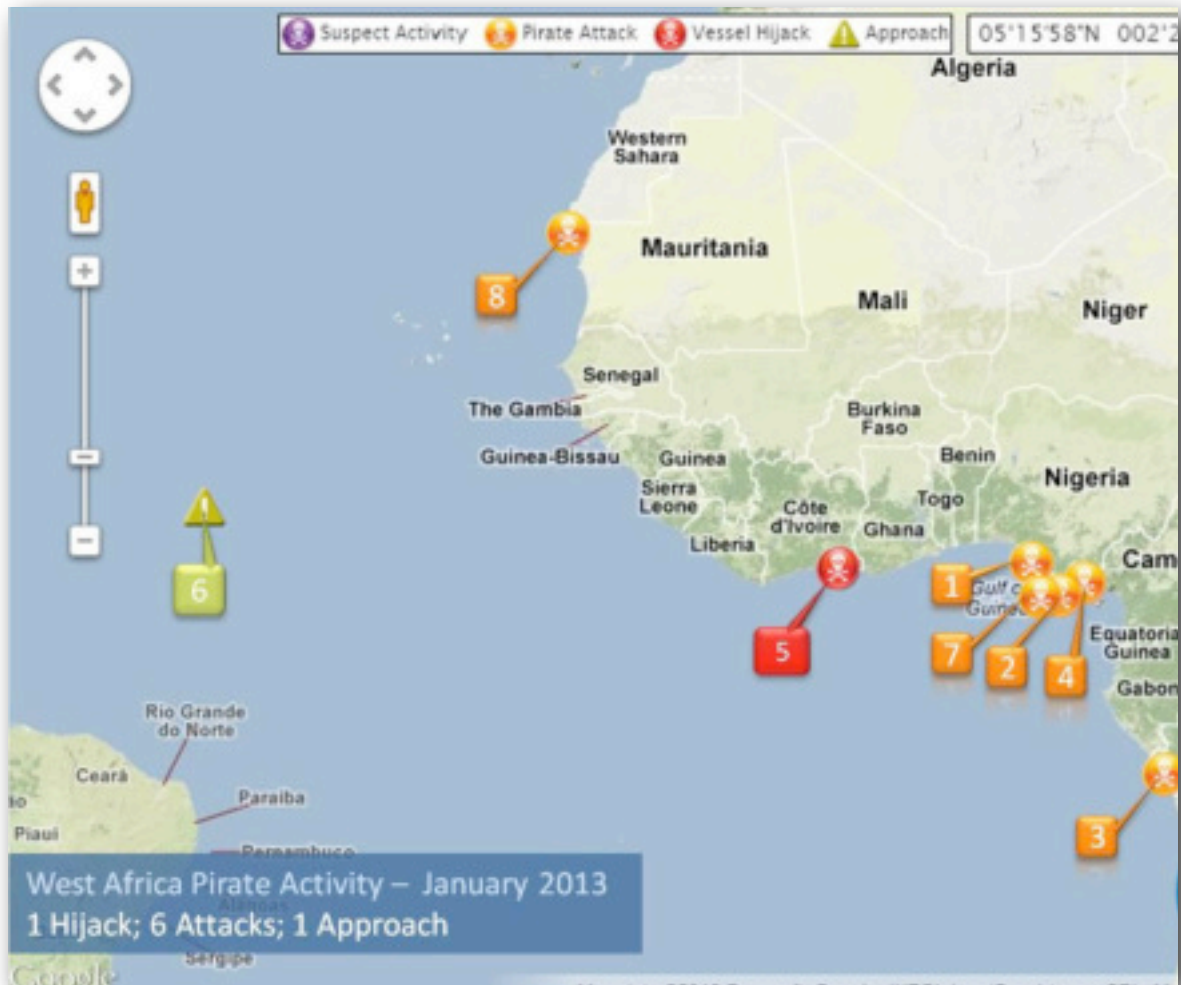




## West Africa

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location/Type of Incident
1	8 January	Helen	Malta/Tanker	Channi Creek, Escravos, Nigeria/Attack
2	12 January	Armada Tuah	Liberia/ Anchor Handling Vessel	Off Okwori oilfield, Nigeria/Attack; Robbery
3	15 January	Grand	Malta/ Container Ship	Pointe Noire, Congo/Failed Robbery
4	15 January	Star Shrimper	Fishing Vessel	Off QIT, Nigeria/Attack; 2 kidnapped
5	16 January	ITRI	Panama/ Tanker	Off Abidjan, Ivory Coast/Hijack; fuel cargo theft; released 23 January.
6	17 January	Unknown	Marshall Islands/ Tanker	Approach - 2 skiffs, west of Guinea

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location/Type of Incident
7	31 January	Olivia II	Liberia/ Product Tanker	SSW Brass, Nigeria/Attack involving 5 skiffs, RPG fired, vessel has since been reported safe.
8	31 January	Damico Francia	Liberia/ Refrigerated Cargo Ship	Nouadhibon Port, Mauritania/Attempted robbery



Southeast Asia

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location/Type of Incident
1	4 January	Histria Prince	Marshall Islands/ Chemical Tanker	Balikpapan Outer anchorage, Indonesia/ Robbery
2	7 January	Canary	Marshall Islands/Bulk Carrier	Port Chittagong, Bangladesh/Robber; 15 - 17 armed robbers; crew assaulted, tied up.
3	7 January	Puteri	Mongolia/ Tanker	South of Tanjung Pelapas, Malaysia/Robbery
4	8 January	De Hui	China/Tug	Singapore Straits, Singapore/Failed Robbery; crew held hostage
NS	8 January	Haiyangshiou	China/Barge Carrier	As above (Earlier approach/board/robbery 0 under tow by De Hui Tug)
5	12 January	Hua Heng 167	China/Bulk Carrier	Balikpapan anchorage, Indonesia/Failed robbery
6	16 January	Diana Bolten	Liberia/Bulk Carrier	Chittagong anchorage, Bangladesh/ Robbery; crewman threatened.
7	17 January	Torm Ohio	Denmark/Tanker	Balikpapan Outer anchorage, Indonesia/ Robbery
8	22 January	Siva Mumbai	Hong Kong China/Chemical Tanker	Dumai Inner anchorage, Indonesia/Robbery
9	24 January	Highline 22	Malaysia/Barge Carrier	WNW Pulau Merunding, South China Sea/ Robbery
NS	24 January	Manyplus 12	Malaysia Tug	Towing barge Highlight 22 above - robbers in fast fishing vessel boarded.
10	27 January	Champion Trust	Norway/ Chemical Tanker	Kalinada anchorage, India/Robbery
11	29 January	BW Yangtze	Singapore/ Product Tanker	Halidia anchorage, India/ Robbery
12	31 January	AAL Nanjing	Singapore/ General Cargo Ship	Manila South Quarantine anchorage, Philippines/Robbery



## South America

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location/Type of Incident
1	9 January	Coniston	Bahamas/ LPG Tanker	Texaco LPG Berth, Guyana/Robbery
2	13 January	Hellespont Crusader	Marshall Islands/Oil Tanker	In-port, Buenaventura No. 3 anchorage, Colombia/Robbery
3	23 January	Overseas Pearlmar	Marshall Islands/ Tanker	MBM Terminal, Talara Port, Peru/Robbery



Map:

