

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

June 24 – 30, 2013 (Week 26)



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At Sea:

Unsuccessful Attacks/Boardings/Robberies

- **22 June 2013** - Malta-flagged bulk carrier, Lambi, reported three brown-hulled skiffs with 8 - 9 pirates on board loitering in the area at 1715 UTC in position 22:08.28N - 059:51.16E, off the coast of Oman.
- **20 June 2013 (Late Report)** - MV reported an aggressive approach by two skiffs at 1025 UTC while in position 12:42N - 043:19E, in the Red Sea.
- **17 June 2013 (Late Report)** - Vessel reported being approached by two skiffs at 1140 UTC while in position 25:33N - 057:23E, in the Arabian Sea.

Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 0
- Approach: 1
- Sightings: 2
- Releases: 0

Suspicious Activity

- **23 June 2013** - MV reported suspicious skiffs at 0800 UTC in position 21:56N - 060:04E, off the coast of Oman.

Piracy Related News:

- **26 June 2013** - The Indian Coast Guard has rescued sixteen people who were stranded at sea off the coast of the Lakshadweep islands after their fishing vessel was allegedly looted by Somali pirates.

Weather Analysis:

- The weather throughout the following week will continue to be affected by the Southwest Monsoon. Throughout the week, small skiffs and boats will experience increased mobility throughout the Gulf of Oman and into the waters off northern Somalia. Further out to sea, water conditions will worsen. The Gulf of Aden will continue to have calmer seas. Consequently, this region will likely see a number of pirate skiffs over the coming week.

On Land:

- **29 June 2013** - Al-Shabaab has reported that they have killed two of their own top commanders, one of whom had a US \$5 million bounty on his head.
- **26 June 2013** - Al-Shabaab official Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, who is on the United States' most wanted terrorist list, has reportedly been captured in the town of Adado on Wednesday after fleeing

al-Shabaab infighting in southern Somalia. **Update** - Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys has arrived in Mogadishu amidst reports that a rift has occurred within al-Shabaab.

- Witnesses have reported that at least three people have been killed in brief clashes between rival militias in southern Somalia.
- **25 June 2013** - Somali government troops have battled al-Shabaab militants outside of Baidoa, leaving at least ten people dead and fifteen others injured.
- **24 June 2013** - An MP has been assassinated in Mogadishu.
 - Meanwhile al-Shabaab militants have attacked the residence of Baidoa Mayor Hassan Mohamed Ibrahim late on Monday.

Domestic News:

- **27 June 2013** - Somalia's Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon has stated that despite last week's deadly assault on a United Nations compound in Mogadishu, this should not obscure the fact that many other attacks have been foiled in a nation that is slowly beginning its recovery from a twenty-year civil war.

International Developments:

- **24 June 2013** - Somalia's money transfer businesses have appealed to the last major British Bank that they work with to not close its accounts, warning that such a move would cut lifeline services for the war-torn country.

Meanwhile the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has indicated that it has renewed dialogue with Somalia after a 22-year break caused by unrest and political instability.

Report on Somalia

June 24 – 30, 2013 (Week 26)

At Sea:

Unsuccessful Attacks/Boardings/Robberies

- **22 June 2013** - Malta-flagged bulk carrier, Lambi, reported three brown-hulled skiffs with 8 - 9 pirates on board loitering at 1715 UTC in position 22:08.28N - 059:51.16E, off the coast of Oman. As the vessel approached the area the skiffs altered course and came within approximately 0.65 nautical miles. However, no weapons or ladders were sighted. Armed security guards on board the vessel stood by and indicated their presence and the skiffs eventually aborted their approach.
- **20 June 2013 (Late Report)** - MV reported an aggressive approach by two skiffs at 1025 UTC while in position 12:42N - 043:19E, in the Red Sea. One skiff with two pirates on board paralleled the vessel on the starboard side while another skiff, with eight pirates paralleled on the port side. The skiffs held CPA of 600 m and then headed straight for ships beam. No weapons or ladders were seen. Because the two skiffs were closing in, armed security guards on board the vessel fired two warning flares. One skiff continued towards the vessel and the armed security team then fired a warning tracer round. The skiff slowed down and turned away and was observed heading towards another vessel to the stern.
- **17 June 2013 (Late Report)** - Vessel reportedly approached by two skiffs at 1140 UTC while in position 25:33N - 057:23E, in the Arabian Sea. No pirate equipment was sighted. However the skiffs came within 20 - 30 meters of the stern and followed the vessel for 15 - 20 minutes.

Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 0
- Approach: 1
- Sightings: 2
- Releases: 0

Suspicious Activity

- **23 June 2013** - MV reported suspicious skiffs at 0800 UTC in position 21:56N - 060:04E, off the coast of Oman. A group of five skiffs was seen behaving suspiciously at a range of approximately three nautical miles. No pirate equipment was seen, however armed security guards on board the vessel stood to, the vessel increased speed and altered its course and the fire hoses and horn were activated. Although no direct approach was made this time, there have been a number of approaches in the area within the last 24 - 48 hours. It is possible the vessel's high speed and high freeboard deterred the pirates.

Piracy Related News:

- **26 June 2013** - The Indian Coast Guard has rescued sixteen people stranded at sea off the coast of the Lakshadweep islands after their fishing vessel was allegedly looted by Somali pirates. The rescued crew members included thirteen Iranian and three Pakistani nationals. Somali pirates captured their boat, the Al Husaini, on 16 May off Socotra, a small archipelago of four islands in the Indian Ocean, about 240 km east of Somalia. The pirates subsequently abandoned the vessel on 10 June after taking the crew's food and fuel. According to a Coast Guard press release, the CG ship "Varuna" undertook the life-saving mission in adverse weather conditions and rescued the men who are expected to arrive in Kochi shortly to receive medical care. According to the Coast Guard statement, the fishing boat had left the Kanraka/Chahbhar port of Iran on May 16 and was captured

off Socotra shortly afterwards. After using the boat for twenty-five days, the pirates left it stranded on June 10 after stealing the ship's food and fuel. On 21 June, assistance was sought by the Coast Guard and although its Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre (MRCC) diverted merchant vessels in proximity to render assistance, the rough weather conditions prevented them from helping. . A Coast Guard aircraft from Kochi detected the distressed fishing vessel and Varuna was diverted for the rescue mission. The ship reached the area the next day and despite the hostile weather and rough sea conditions, the rescue vessel was able to provide bare essentials and medical assistance to the stranded crew.

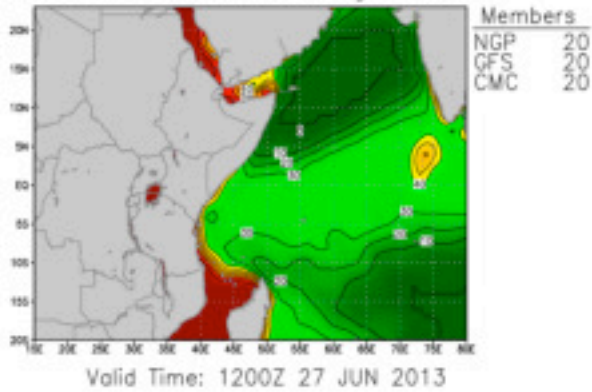
Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the western section of the Gulf, with southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 7 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Oman** - Easterly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be southeast at 10 - 15 knots with seas of 4 - 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - West-northwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** - Southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet, with southwest winds of 25 - 30 knots and seas of 12 - 15 knots in the Horn of Africa region.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet, with southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet in the Horn of Africa region.
- **Arabian Sea** - Southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - South-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - East-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be north-northwest at 10 - 15 knots with seas of 6 - 8 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the northern Channel; with northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the southern Channel.
- **Surface Currents** - The north Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden currents are variable with most areas having an average speed of 1 knot. The Mozambique Channel currents are variable having average speeds of 2 knots. Current speeds along the Somali coast average between 1 - 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** - The northern and western Indian Ocean areas are under the influence of the southwest monsoon season. The Mozambique Channel will be under the influence of strong high pressure system. Expect clear to partly cloudy conditions throughout the central African coastal areas.

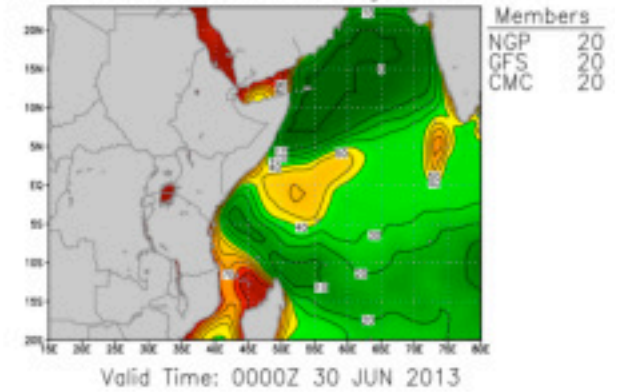
Sea Conditions For This Week:

10-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast, DTG: 2013062500

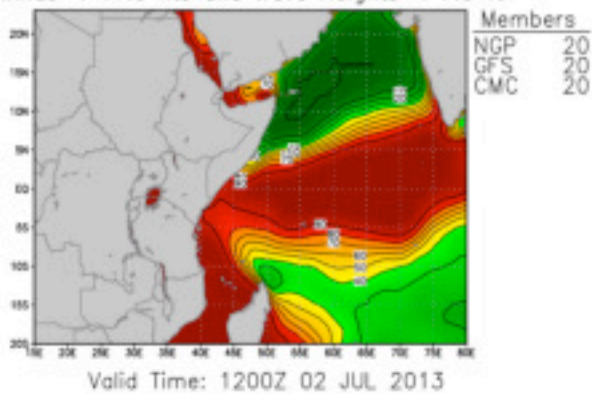
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



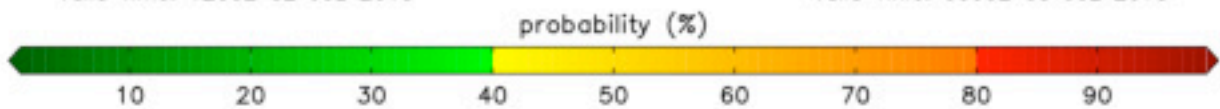
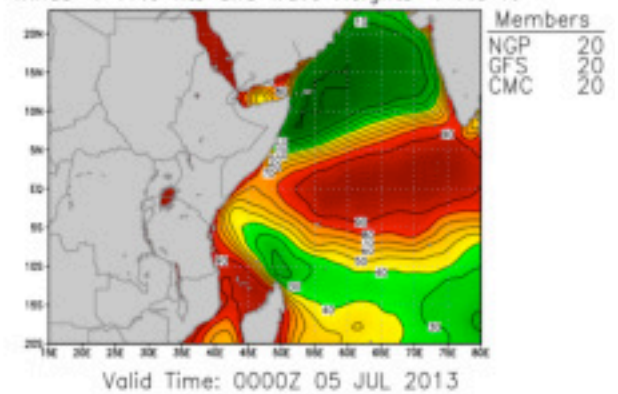
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 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 ***

On Land:

- **29 June 2013** - Al-Shabaab has indicated that they have killed two of their own top commanders, one of whom had a US \$5 million bounty on his head. The two militants killed were co-founders of the Islamist group: US-wanted Ibrahim Haji Jama Mead, was also known as Al-Afghani, “the Afghan” due to his training and fighting with Islamist militants there. . Al-Shabaab gunmen also killed Abul Hamid Hashi Olhayi, another senior commander and co-founder of the group. The recent deaths of these two top commanders demonstrates a growing rift within the militant group, however they also signal al-Shabaab leader Ahmed Abdi Godane's efforts to sweep away opposition to his command and to cement his more radical leadership. Al-Shabaab is fractured into multiple rival factions, with some members basing their allegiance along clan lines, while others base it on ideology. In turn, some are more attracted by a nationalist agenda which aims to oust foreign forces from Somalia while others, including Godane, have more international jihadi ambitions. Although it has a number of divisions, the militant group remains a dangerous and powerful force, as was demonstrated by last week’s attack on the UN compound in Mogadishu.
- **26 June 2013** - Al-Shabaab official Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, who is on the United States’ most wanted terrorist list, has reportedly been captured in the town of Adado on Wednesday after fleeing al-Shabaab infighting in southern Somalia. **Update** - Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys has arrived in



Mogadishu amidst reports that a rift has occurred within al-Shabaab. Under an escort provided by government security forces, Mr. Aweys was flown from Adado, which is located approximately 500 km (310 miles) north of Mogadishu, however it remains unclear whether he has surrendered or defected. The United Nations has indicated that he gave himself up to government allies after infighting occurred within the militant group. Government spokesman Abdirahman Omar Osman has stated that “if he renounces violence, then we can start the discussion about the options available.” Regarded as the

elder statesman of Somali Islamists, Mr. Aweys has been on a US list of people “linked to terrorism” since shortly after the 2001 9/11 attacks. He left al-Shabaab territory after factions within the al-Qaeda-linked group clashed last week in what is the first deadly infighting to occur since the militant group launched an insurgency in 2006. Although the exact cause of this possible al-Shabaab rift remains unknown, it is apparent that there has been a long-running internal power struggle between the group’s leader, Ahmed Abdi Godane, and those who are seen as more moderate and who oppose any links with al-Qaeda. Furthermore, following last week’s fighting, there have also been conflicting reports about the fate of the group’s second-in-command, Ibrahim Afghani. Although initial reports indicated he had been captured and was being held by al-Shabaab, later reports stated he has been executed, however his fate has not yet been confirmed.

- Witnesses have reported that at least three people have been killed in brief clashes between rival militias in southern Somalia. This is the second deadly flare-up in the past month in the disputed strategic port of Kismayo, which is located in the southern Jubbaland region. Clashes between the Ras Kamboni militia and Marehan clan fighters have heightened tensions in a city already divided by rivals claiming the presidency of Kismayo. This second string of clashes has further raised worries of broader conflict erupting in the region, and further destabilizing security in an area which has witnessed threats and attacks by al-Shabaab militants. Witnesses in the

city have reported that Ras Kamboni fighters opened fire on a car used by members of the Marehan clan in central Kismayo, where boundaries between rival factions have been drawn after the last bout of fighting. Reports indicated that fighters loyal to Ras Kamboni seized the car along with the bodies of those killed and their weapons. This prompted a short-lived counter-attack by the Marehan that was repelled. Witnesses have also reported that since the fighting, the roads in the port city have been deserted while businesses have been closed. According to the Human Rights Watch, earlier clashes on June 9 killed at least thirty-one people. Kismayo was controlled by al-Shabaab rebels until last September when the militants fled an offensive led by Kenyan troops and supported by Ras Kamboni fighters, a militia group loyal to a former governor of Kismayo, Ahmed Madobe. Last month, a local assembly declared Madobe president of the southern Jubbaland region, effectively handing him back control of the city. However Somalia's central government, which does not view Madobe favorably, has indicated that his appointment was unconstitutional. Furthermore, within days of his "election," three other men had pronounced themselves president, including Barre Hirale, who is a pro-Mogadishu former defence minister. Although the brief bouts of violence have not spread, this continues to be a threat as a longer stalemate over who rules the region may transform into a serious conflict. The Somalia government in Mogadishu, which has struggled to extend its influence beyond the capital city, along with regional players, have all called for dialogue between the varying clans in Kismayo to end the fighting.

- **25 June 2013** - Somali government troops have battled al-Shabaab militants outside of Baidoa, leaving at least ten people dead and fifteen others injured. According to sources on the ground, the fighting erupted after al-Shabaab militants ambushed a government convoy travelling between the town of Qansah Deere and Baidoa, which is the capital city of the Bay region. Somali National Army Colonel Hassan Ishaq Omar has stated that "al-Shabaab attacked us with rocket-propelled grenades and other artillery and two of our forces were killed and six others injured." According to reports from Baidoa's officials, Somali government forces killed a number of al-Shabaab militants during the battle, causing a number of others to flee the area. Al-Shabaab has since taken responsibility for the attack, indicating on the group's Twitter account that they had killed nine and injured a dozen more.
- **24 June 2013** - An MP has been assassinated in Mogadishu. According to government officials in the capital city, the parliamentarian was shot last night by unknown men suspected to be members of al-Shabaab. Mohamed Abdullahi Iyow, a prominent parliamentarian, confirmed that armed men shot Mr. Abdalla Hassan Yarrow, an MP in the current Somalia parliament. According to Mr. Iyow, the men escaped after shooting Mr. Abdalla. Currently no one has claimed responsibility for this latest killing.
 - Meanwhile al-Shabaab militants have attacked the residence of Baidoa Mayor Hassan Mohamed Ibrahim late on Monday. According to a statement released by the Mayor's office, "al-Shabaab fighters attacked my residence overnight, the fighting was going on for 30 minutes and finally they were chased." The statement further indicated that the Mayor's staff wounded two of the attackers and that there were no deaths amongst the civilians or Somali government forces. Al-Shabaab has reportedly taken responsibility for the attack, however the militant group has not provided any further information, nor has it indicated whether there were any casualties amongst its fighters.

Domestic News:

- **27 June 2013** - Somalia's Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon has stated that last week's deadly assault on a United Nations compound in Mogadishu should not obscure the fact that many other attacks have been foiled in nation that is slowly beginning its recovery from a twenty-year civil war. On 19 June, gunmen blew open a hole in the UN compound's wall with a car bomb, and shot their

way in. After a fire-fight that lasted more than an hour, twenty-two people were killed, including all the attackers. Although this latest attack by al-Shabaab exposed the fragility of the security gains made since the Islamist militant group was driven out of Mogadishu by African Union and Somali forces two years ago, Prime Minister Shirdon says this is not the whole story, noting that “our efforts have reduced their attacks. For every one they plan (which includes) two or three attacks each month, all of these are failing.” He further stated “though we made a lot of efforts, this one did not happen to fail.” Diplomats have also warned that although attacks carried out by the Islamist militant group are becoming rarer, they are also becoming more sophisticated which is an unnerving development for those diplomatic missions and aid organizations reopening their offices in the capital city. And, although Somalia’s security forces are becoming better at thwarting attacks by al-Shabaab, they need further support to completely drive the group out of Somalia. The Somali government has long pleaded for increased training, money and arms. Citizens have also often noted that their police receive only about US \$100 per month, while the African troops, on whom the government still depends on for security, earn more than US \$1000 per month. A new aid agreement, known as the New Deal, will see the Somali government select the areas of priority that donor countries will focus on. According to Prime Minister Shirdon, “for security, we are giving the highest priority to training our forces.” Increase in aid which will focus on maintaining security in the capital city, and throughout the rest of the country, is also becoming increasingly important as the number of attacks and tactics used by al-Shabaab has indicated that the group is beginning to change its strategy. The UN compound attack last week was similar to an assault in April this year on the courts in Mogadishu in which more than fifty people were killed. Because the militant group’s loss of urban territory and revenue streams in the last two years has weakened its conventional fighting force, it has adopted a guerrilla-style insurgency. While the attacks may be decreasing in number, they are becoming larger in scale and more sophisticated. And the recent UN attack, and the attacks on the courts back in April, demonstrate that the group continues to have a reconnaissance capability within Mogadishu.

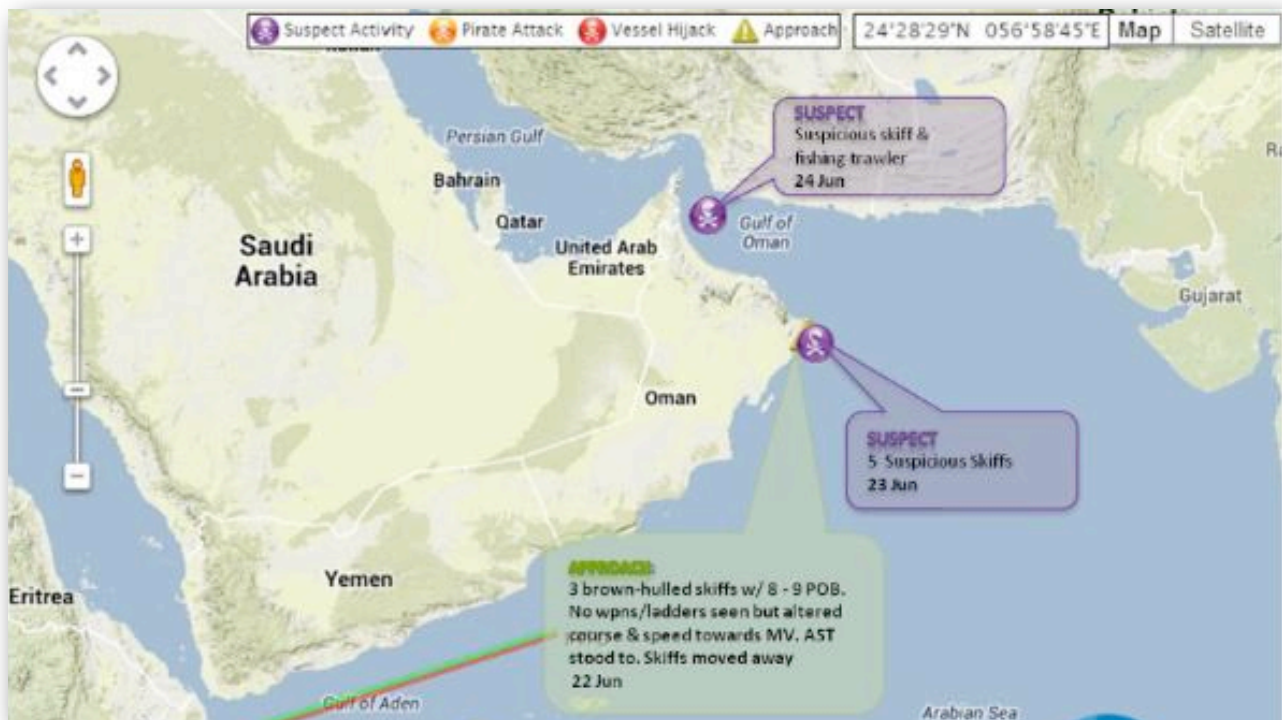
International Developments:

- **24 June 2013** - Somalia’s money transfer businesses have appealed to the last major British Bank that they work with to not close its accounts, warning that such a move would cut lifeline services for the war-torn country. The Somali Money Services Association (SOMSA), an umbrella group of transfer services, has indicated that Barclays Bank is set to close the accounts of its members next month. The closure comes at a time when international banks have been tightening their rules in a bid to cut money laundering and funding of groups accused of terrorism. However SOMSA has stated that such closures would “have dire consequences in Somalia”, where no alternatives to the money service businesses exist, warning that such a move could inevitably push transfers “underground into the hands of unlicensed, unregulated and illegal” providers. According to SOMSA, Barclays is the last major British bank providing such services. The group added that “the key issue is the damage to flows of cash to the vulnerable Somali people, who depend on remittances for their livelihood; and the likely threat of this action to economic and political stability in fragile parts of the Somali region.” With their country ravaged by decades of conflict, coupled with the absence of a formal banking system, a large number of Somalis living abroad have depended on money transfer services to send millions of dollars annually to support their families in the impoverished country. Many of Somalia’s ten million people rely on the US \$1.2 billion (£777 m) or so sent to the nation every year. According to Somali Central Bank Governor Abdusalam Omer, Somalis in Britain send an estimated US \$500 million a year in remittances. A vital stream of funds that is now being threatened. Somalis send money back home via the transfer shops, which are known as hawala, which can accept deposits abroad and immediately credit recipients in Somalia. However the hawala system requires the aid of larger banks to help balance the books with larger transfers. Of SOMSA’s seventeen members, twelve have already had their accounts closed, with

the remaining five facing “imminent” shutdown. According to SOMSA, Dahabshii, the largest of all the transfer services, will have its Barclays account shut down on 10 July. Since the announcement of this closure, over a hundred Somali and international academics and researchers have signed a letter criticizing the closures. The letter states that “what is at stake is a lifeline that provides essential support to an estimated 40 percent of the population of Somalia.” The letter also noted that the services are key for some 1.5 million Somalis abroad who send cash to families still living in the country. The letter further stated that “we understand that in recent years there has been a concern about funds going to support individuals and groups who have been designated as terrorists...we think that the best way to work to avoid this is to promote responsible, transparent, and accountable systems...rather than by closing down the channels by which funds are sent.” Similar bank cuts which were carried out in Minnesota in the United States in 2011 left the large Somali community in that state struggling to send money to support their families, however new deals were worked out in order to resume transfers earlier this year.

- Meanwhile the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has indicated that it has renewed dialogue with Somalia after a 22-year break caused by unrest and political instability. According to reports, over the past week an IMF fact-finding mission met with Somali authorities in neighboring Nairobi. This latest meeting followed the Fund’s recognition of the new Somali government in April. In a statement released on Monday, the global lender stated that the two sides “held constructive discussions to explore ways in which the Fund can provide policy advice and technical assistance to Somalia.” Further noting that “the important step will allow Fund staff to work with the Somali authorities to set up a mechanism under which international assistance can be prioritized and coordinated.” In April of this year, the IMF took the first step in resuming relations with Somalia by formally recognizing the government of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, which took office in September 2012. The IMF move had followed the recent support for the Somali government by the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation as well as a number of IMF member countries. Although the IMF will begin a renewed dialogue with Somalia, the global lender noted that the country continues to face significant economic challenges, stating that “its economy has traditionally relied on fishing and agriculture. As it gradually emerges from a prolonged period of internal strife, few economic activities have survived, and much is needed to place it on the path to recovery.” The Washington-based institution hailed the authorities’ commitment to working towards restoring peace and security as well as to the establishment of good governance and rule of law and rebuilding the economy, highlighting that “the IMF remains committed to the ongoing dialogue with the Somali Federal Government and discussions will continue in the weeks ahead.”

Map:





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References are always available.

More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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