

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

July 29 – August 4, 2013 (Week 31)



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At Sea:

Suspicious Activity

- **1 August 2013** - Singapore-flagged LPG Tanker, the Arctic Gas, reported two suspicious skiffs at 0430 UTC off Jazirat Hanisha Al Kabir Island, Yemen.

Key Statistics

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

Piracy Related News:

- **2 August 2013** - Three convicted Somali pirates avoided the death penalty on Friday when a US jury sentenced them to life in prison for the high-seas murder of four Americans on a yacht in the Indian Ocean.
- **31 July 2013** - Somalia's Presidency has announced that the country will be setting up a new coastguard force in order to combat piracy as well as to strengthen its control over its territorial waters and natural resources.

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 decreased mobility in the Gulf of Aden, with conditions marginally improving by the end of the week. In the Gulf of Oman and into the waters off the coast of Somalia, water conditions will continue to be poor. Further out to sea, water conditions will worsen. The Red Sea and the waters off Mozambique will continue to have calmer seas. Consequently, this region will likely see a number of pirate skiffs over the coming week.

Domestic News:

- **31 July 2013** - Somalia's Puntland government has put the entire security sector on standby for possible terror attacks as eight days remain until the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Regional Reporting

- **31 July 2013** - A Kenyan court in the coastal city of Mombasa has sentenced nine Somalis to five years in prison each for attempting to hijack the German merchant vessel the MV Courier in the Gulf of Aden in March 2009.
- **30 July 2013** - Two Kenyan officials who were kidnapped in northeastern Kenya last year by Somali militants belonging to al-Shabaab have been released.
 - Meanwhile court officials confirmed on Tuesday that a Kenyan man has been sentenced to death for his role in the killing of a British tourist and the kidnapping of his wife.

About MS Risk

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July 29 – August 4, 2013 (Week 31)

At Sea:

Suspicious Activity

- **1 August 2013** - Singapore-flagged LPG Tanker, the Arctic Gas, reported two suspicious skiffs at 0430 UTC off Jazirat Hanisha Al Kabir Island, Yemen. The tanker reported a Yemeni-style skiff which shadowed the vessel at 1 nautical mile. A second Yemeni-style skiff increased its speed to fifteen knots towards the vessel. Armed security guards on board the vessel stood to and displayed their weapons, resulting in the skiffs changing course and stopping. They did however remain near the island area.

Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 0
- Sightings: 1
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Piracy Related News:

- **2 August 2013** - Three convicted Somali pirates avoided the death penalty on Friday when a US jury sentenced them to life in prison for the high-seas murder of four Americans on a yacht in the Indian Ocean. Federal prosecutors were seeking the death penalty for Ahmed Muse Salad, Abukar Osman Beyle and Shani Nurani Sheikh Abrar for the February 2011 shooting aboard the 58-foot (17.7 meter) Quest. After two days of deliberations in Norfolk, Virginia, the jury of seven women and five men, returned a sentence of life imprisonment. The trio had earlier been found guilty of all twenty-six charges against them, including piracy, which carries a mandatory life sentence, and twenty-two other counts which made them liable for the death penalty. The owners of the yacht, Scott Adam, 70, and Jean Adam, 66, both retirees from the Los Angeles suburb of Marina del Rey, had set off from New Zealand to fulfill a lifelong dream of sailing around the world. They were joined by their friends Bob Riggie, 67, and Phyllis Macay of Seattle. They were the first Americans killed in a dramatic outbreak of Somali-based maritime piracy off the Horn of Africa that has since waned significantly in the face of increased international naval patrols. Nearly two dozen people have been convicted in US courts as part of a global crackdown on Somali-linked piracy. This, however, was the first case in the United States in which the death penalty had been sought.
- **31 July 2013** - Somalia's Presidency has announced that the country will be setting up a new coastguard force to combat piracy and strengthen its control over its territorial waters and natural resources. A deal, which was signed on Tuesday between Somalia's defence ministry and a private company, The Atlantic Marine and Offshore Group, aims to create a coastguard to monitor the pirate-infested coastline which is one of the longest in Africa. Presidential spokesman Abdirahman Omar Osman has indicated that "instituting a coastguard is essential for the establishment of the rule of law within Somalia waters," adding that the Netherlands-based company would provide "structure, assets and services" in order to develop the force. The coastguard will also provide "protection of fishing grounds from illegal foreign fishing boats" as well as "protecting natural resources." However no details have been given pertaining to the potential size and capabilities of the proposed force, nor have any financial details of the deal been provided. The announcement follows efforts by the internationally-backed government in Mogadishu to gain back authority over Somalia's territorial waters, including areas bordering Kenya which are potentially rich in oil and gas deposits. According to the agreement, the Dutch firm will "build, maintain and operate the coastguard fleet," which will include "long-range patrol vessels, equipped with high speed

intervention vessels,” as well as provide training. The agreement also promises to adhere to “applicable embargoes and restrictions” which have been set by the United Nations. Private companies have in the past been criticized for their role in setting up heavily armed coastguard forces off Somalia’s semi-autonomous Puntland region, breaking the UN arms embargo. Somalia’s waters have long been plagued by pirate gangs, who are still holding more than fifty hostages. However International naval forces and armed guards on vessels have significantly stemmed the flow of attacks. At their peak in January 2011, Somali pirates held 32 ships and 736 hostages some of whom were held onshore while others remained on their vessels.

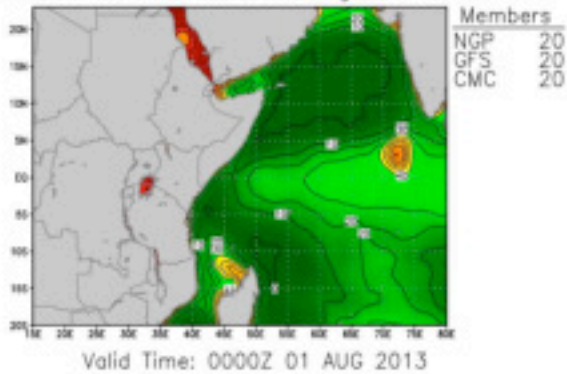
Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - Southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 7 - 8 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 6 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Oman** - Southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 8 - 9 feet; with southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 10 - 12 feet in the Horn of Africa region.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 1 - 20 knots and seas of 7 - 9 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 10 - 15 knots and seas of 6 - 8 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Southerly winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 8 - 9 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southerly winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 6 - 8 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - South-southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet in the northern Channel; with south-southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Variable winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the northern Channel; with variable winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the southern Channel.
- **Surface Currents** - The Northern Arabian Sea and GOA currents are variable with most areas having an average speed of 1 knots. The Mozambique Channel currents are variable having an average speed of 2 knots. Currents speeds along the Somali basin are northeasterly, averaging between 1 and 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** - The northern and western Indian Ocean areas are under the influence of the southwest monsoon season, with high pressure and low pressure systems interacting.

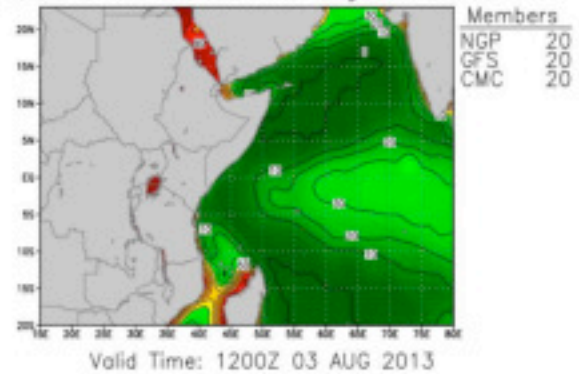
Sea Conditions For This Week:

10-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast, DTG: 2013072912

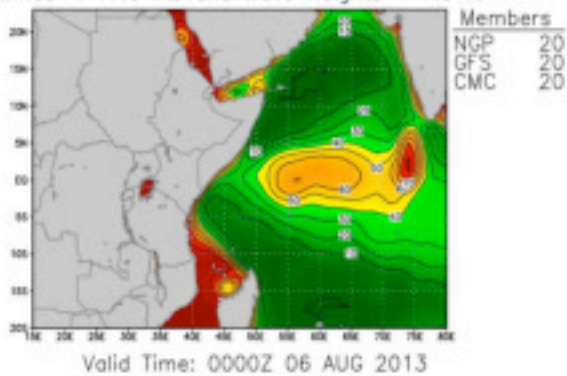
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



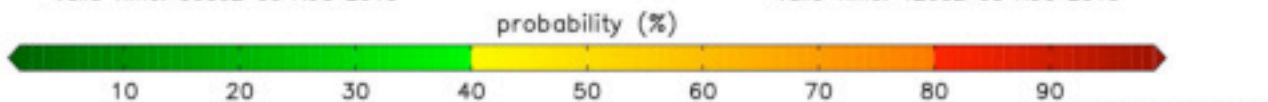
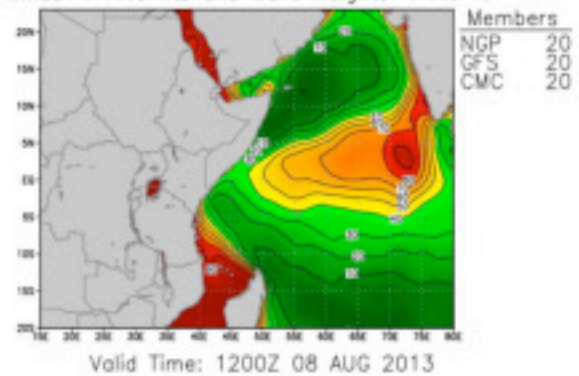
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



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 ***

Domestic News:

- **31 July 2013** - Somalia's Puntland government has put the entire security sector on standby for possible terror attacks as eight days remain until the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Speaking at a press conference held in Puntland's capital city Garowe, Nugal Governor Abdi Hirsi Ali Qarjab stated that Puntland security forces launched a massive security operation in Garowe last Tuesday to capture vehicles with tinted windows which are a source of crimes, including bombings and assassinations. Governor Qarjab stated that "al-Shabaab wants to carry out terror attacks on or before the end of Ramadan inside Puntland and the targets include key structures, therefore we have to increase our surveillance by keeping a vigil on those hiring houses and unknown individuals." Speaking to the public, Governor Qarjab advised the locals to remain vigilant against terrorists and to cooperate with security forces. Stating that "we ask you to increase security at every place, we deployed special security forces to hotels and other public places to extremely tighten the security and to combat anyone who wants to harm our people, I am telling the security forces to beef up security and conduct serious stop and check operations." With eight days remaining until the end of Ramadan, intelligence sources have disclosed that al-Shabaab militants are planning to carry out deadly bombings and assassinations across the country, including Puntland which previously launched a successful operation against underground terrorist cells and al-Shabaab fighters hiding out in the Golis Mountains. Al-Shabaab recently claimed to have carried out 108 terror attacks during the holy month of Ramadan alone and Mogadishu has been the scene for a number of attacks, including car bomb attacks and military-style ambushes which reached record heights this month.

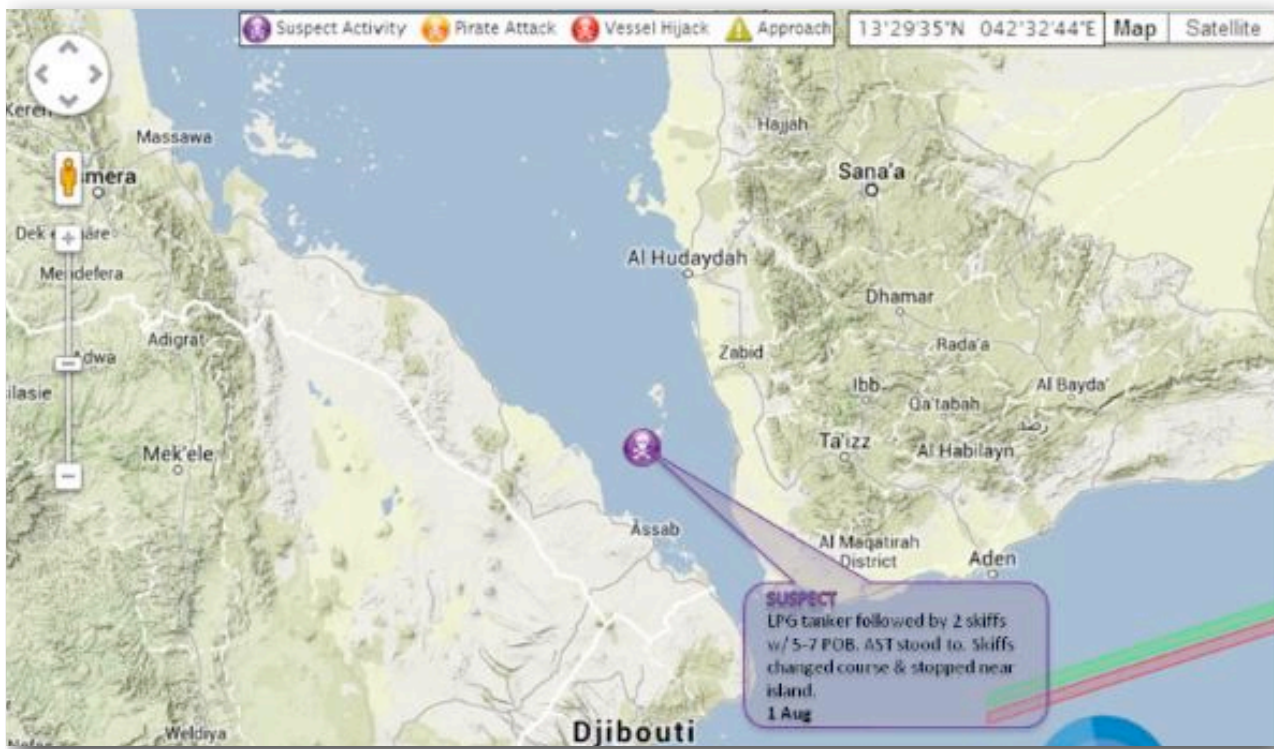
Regional Reporting:

- **31 July 2013** - A Kenyan court in the coastal city of Mombasa has sentenced nine Somalis to five years in prison each for attempting to hijack the German merchant vessel the MV Courier in the Gulf of Aden in March 2009. The men were arrested by international anti-piracy forces before being handed over to Kenya in order to be prosecuted as Somalia was not considered able to try them properly. Prosecutors told the court that the men had attacked the armed ship with a rocket launcher, an AK-47 rifle, a pistol, a SAR80 carbine rifle and other weapons, stating that "the suspects used violence to hijack the vessel, and took control of it, putting in fear the lives of those aboard." Kenyan officials have indicated that the eighteen crew members on board the vessel had survived the ordeal. The nine suspects were held in custody at one of Kenya's maximum security prisons during the trial period. They have all denied the accusations. While handing out the sentence, the court noted that the accused had already served a long term in jail while the trial was in progress, and therefore they were given shorter jail terms. After the sentencing, Judge Stephen Riech stated that he was "satisfied with the evidence presented by the prosecution, which proves beyond reasonable doubt that an act of piracy was committed." The Judge also ordered that the nine men be deported back to Somalia after serving out their sentences. Last month, another nine Somalis were handed similar sentences at the same court, after they were found guilty of hijacking a vessel in the Gulf of Aden in 2010.
- **30 July 2013** - Two Kenyan officials kidnapped in northeastern Kenya last year by Somali al-Shabaab militants have been released. The reports of their release were confirmed on Tuesday by the Kenyan presidency. A statement from the State House indicated that "two Kenyans abducted by Somali Shebab insurgents on January 11th, 2012, have been released following successful negotiations spearheaded by border communities in North Eastern Province." The statement further noted that "the two, Edward Yesse Mule, a district officer in Burder division, and Fredrick Irungu Wainaina, registrar of Persons, Wajir South District, have now rejoined their families and are in sound health." No further details pertaining to the release date and location of their release have

been provided. The two officers were abducted during an attack against a police post in Gerile, in Wajir area, close to the border with Somalia. Four policemen, one civil servant and a civilian were killed in the attack, while three people were kidnapped by the attackers. Although no details regarding the whereabouts of the third person abducted during the attack have been provided, the State House statement indicated that “efforts are being made to secure the release of other Kenyans still held captive by Shebab militiamen in Somalia.” An unknown number of Kenyans, including armed forces personnel and policemen, are still being held by al-Shabaab militants in Somalia. Ever since Kenya deployed its troops to Somalia in October 2011 to fight al-Shabaab insurgents, the militant group has conducted a number of cross-border attacks. **Update** - The two Kenyan hostages have been reunited with their families after being freed by militant Islamists in Somalia. Since being freed, Mr. Mule, one of the hostages, has indicated that the two men were moved to nineteen different locations while in captivity, and that they were kept chained and blindfolded throughout their ordeal. Kenya has denied paying a ransom for the men’s release. The two were seized some three months after Kenyan troops entered Somalia to fight al-Shabaab militants. Al-Shabaab has taken a number of foreigners hostage, including a French spy, Denis Alex, who was executed in January after a failed French operation to rescue him.

- Meanwhile, court officials confirmed on Tuesday that a Kenyan man has been sentenced to death for his role in the killing of a British tourist and the kidnapping of his wife. Ali Babito Kololo was sentenced on Monday for his part in the death of David Tebbutt, who was killed in September 2011, along with the kidnapping of his wife, Judith Tebbutt, who was taken by gunmen into Somalia and held for ransom for a period of six months. Prosecutors in Kenya have indicated that Mr. Kololo had aided Somali gunmen, who attacked the luxury camp on Kenya’s Indian Ocean coast where the couple were staying. Mr. Kololo however has claimed that he was held at gunpoint and forced into aiding the Somali attackers. Court officials confirmed on Tuesday that magistrate Johnstone Munguti had sentenced Mr. Kololo to death “for the crime of robbery with violence” killing David Tebbutt. Mr. Kololo was also sentenced to seven years in jail for his role in the kidnapping of Mrs. Tebbut. Kenya has not executed anyone for more than two decades, consequently it is widely believed that Mr. Kololo’s sentence will be commuted to life imprisonment. A message released by Mr. Neil Wigan, Britain’s ambassador to Somalia, indicated he welcomed the conviction. The attack on Mr. and Mrs. Tebbutt, along with the kidnapping of a Frenchwoman from the Lamu archipelago weeks later, and the abduction of two aid workers from a refugee camp in northeastern Kenya, were seen as triggers for Kenya’s invasion of southern Somalia where its troops attacked a number of Islamist bases.

Map:





About MS Risk

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 - Business continuity management
 - Hostile operations support to commercial interests
- Virtual Security Director service for clients lacking a full time security executive.

References are always available.

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