

# GLOBAL PIRACY REPORT

*Detailed Weekly Piracy Report and On - The - Ground Analysis Focusing on Somalia, the Gulf of Guinea, Southeast Asia and South America*

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  - Special assignments
  
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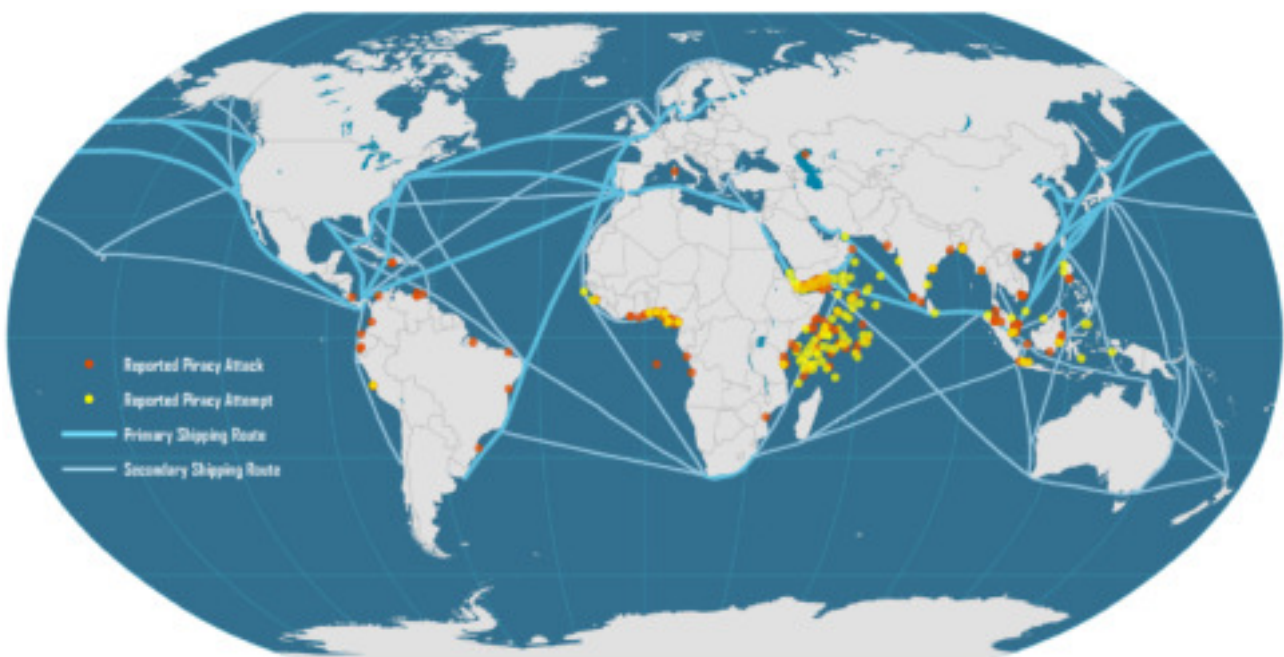
# SUMMARY

(December 30, 2013 – January 5, 2014 – Week 1; Edition 18)

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## List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

- [Gulf of Guinea/West Africa:](#) Two incidents reported during this period
- [Somalia-Indian Ocean:](#) No incidents reported during this period
- [Southeast Asia:](#) No incidents reported during this period
- [South America:](#) One incident reported during this period.
  
- *North America:* No current incidents to report
- *Central America-Caribbean:* No current incidents to report
- *Atlantic Ocean Area:* No current incidents to report
- *Northern Europe-Baltic:* No current incidents to report
- *Mediterranean-Black Sea:* No current incidents to report



# PIRACY RISK ASSESSMENT

## 2014 Trends

Despite 2013 generally seeing a lower rate of violent attacks towards commercial shipping, the threat of piracy in the Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Guinea and Southeast Asia continues to be high. It is likely that throughout 2014, piracy trends will not incur any major changes. Despite not hijacking a vessel in 2013, the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) reported at least fifteen serious incidents that took place in the area in 2013. Consequently in 2014, pirates off the coast of Somali will continue to threaten vessels transiting the High Risk Area and the entire region. Furthermore, despite the fact that all attacked vessels had a team of armed security members on board, Somali pirates will continue to attack vessels until they locate one that does not have a hired security team on board. Vessels transiting the region are reminded to remain vigilant as attacks are likely to occur throughout the year, including during the monsoonal periods, when attacks will likely be localized within the Gulf of Aden. On land, the security situation in Somalia is likely to remain the same, with al-Shabaab militants continuing to carry out attacks and threatening the country's overall security.

The threat of pirate attacks in the Gulf of Guinea is highly likely to continue throughout 2014, with some reports indicating that attacks may double throughout this year. Vessels transiting the region are reminded to remain vigilant as attacks may spread to regions of the Gulf of Guinea where incidents have not previously been reported.

The current situation in the South China Sea region is likely to worsen throughout 2014. Throughout 2013, there were a number of incidents and attacks reported at anchorages throughout the region. Vessels transiting this area are reminded to remain vigilant as attacks are likely to occur, and may increase.

## Latest Major Incidents

### West Africa

- *Nigeria* – On 16 December 2013, ten pirates attacked the Marshall Islands-flagged oil products tanker MT ALTHEA 35 nautical miles off the Niger Delta. The vessel had eighteen crewmembers on board at the time of the attack. After boarding the vessel, the pirates kidnapped the Ukrainian captain and a Green engineer.
- *Cameroon* – On 3 December 2013, pirates boarded a coastal cargo vessel near position 04:20N – 008:45E, approximately 10 nautical miles off the coast of Cameroon. Two speedboats with eight pirates in each boat attacked the vessel and briefly boarded the vessel prior to a security team composed of Cameroonian soldiers engaged the pirates in a firefight. This forced the pirates to flee the vessel, with a number of pirates killed during the incident.

## **Gulf of Aden**

- *Gulf of Aden* – On 9 December 2013 at 0348 UTC, five suspected armed pirates in a skiff approached a bulk cargo ship near position 12:52N – 047:52E, approximately 122 nautical miles northwest of Bossaso, Somalia. The master raised the alarm, activated the fire hoses, sounded the ship's horn, and took evasive maneuvers while non-essential crewmembers were mustered into the citadel. Despite the armed security team taking their positions and displaying their weapons, the skiff continued to approach the vessel even after the armed security team fired a warning flare towards it. The security team then proceeded to fire warning shots as the skiff closed in on the vessel. The pirates responded by engaging the ship with small firearms and the security team returned fire, resulting in the pirates aborting the attempted boarding. A military helicopter arrived at the scene shortly after the incident in order to provide assistance and to locate the pirates.
- *Gulf of Aden* – On 9 December 2013 at 0330 UTC, five suspected pirates in a skiff attacked a tanker near position 12:50N – 047:49E, approximately 122 nautical miles northwest of Bosasso, Somalia. The Master raised the alarm, activated the fire hoses, increased speed, took evasive maneuvers and contacted UKMTO for assistance. The armed security team on board the vessel took their positions and displayed their weapons, resulting in the pirates aborting the attempted boarding. A military helicopter later arrived on scene to assist and locate the pirates.

## **Mediterranean Sea**

*No Incidents Reported*

## **Southeast Asia**

- *Singapore Straits* – On 13 October 2013, at 0045 LT; position 01:14N – 104:03E, robbers armed with knives boarded a barge under tow, stole cargo and escaped. Authorities were contacted, resulting in a patrol craft being dispatched. All crewmembers were reported safe.

## **South America**

- *Brazil* – On 22 December 2013, a duty crewman noticed three armed robbers opening cargo containers on an anchored container vessel near position 24:07S – 046:19W, Santos Anchorage Area No. 4. The crewman was able to inform the bridge before being taken hostage by the robbers. When the alarm was raised, the robbers released the crewman and escaped in a small boat along with cargo stolen from the ship's containers. The Harbor Master was informed of the incident. A Federal Police patrol arrived at the scene shortly after the incident in order to carry out an investigation.

# SOMALIA

## At Sea

### Hijacks

- None reported during this period.

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- None reported during this period.

### Suspicious Activity

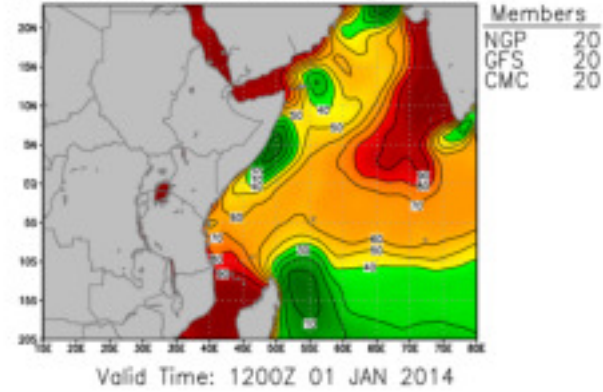
- None reported during this period.

## Weather Analysis

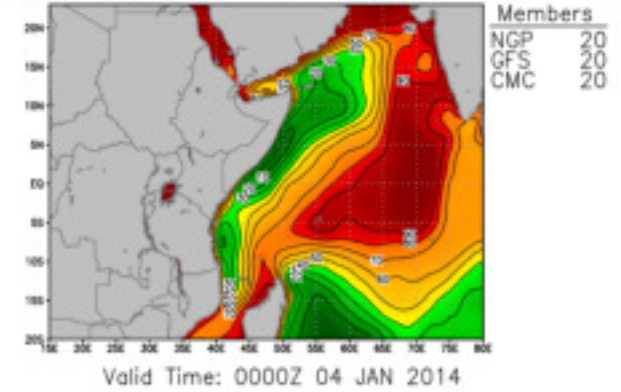
- **Northern Arabian Sea** – Northerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Northerly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Variable winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be north-northeast at 10 – 15 knots with seas of 3 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Northerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with northerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – East-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 0 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast** – East-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; with variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet in the southern Channel.
  - **Extended Forecast** – North-northwest winds of 18 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet in the northern Channel; with northwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the southern Channel.
- **Surface Currents** – The Northern 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 an average speed of 2 knots. Currents speeds along the Somali basin are northeasterly averaging between 1 – 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – The Northeastern Monsoonal pattern continues to influence the entire region. High pressure over Iraq is producing fair winds and seas.

## Sea Conditions for the Following Week

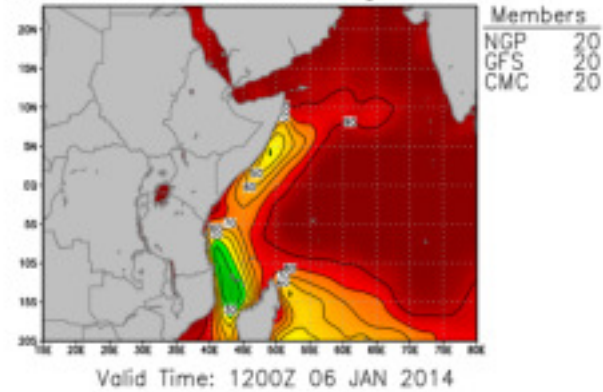
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



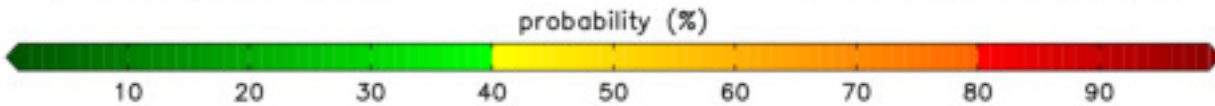
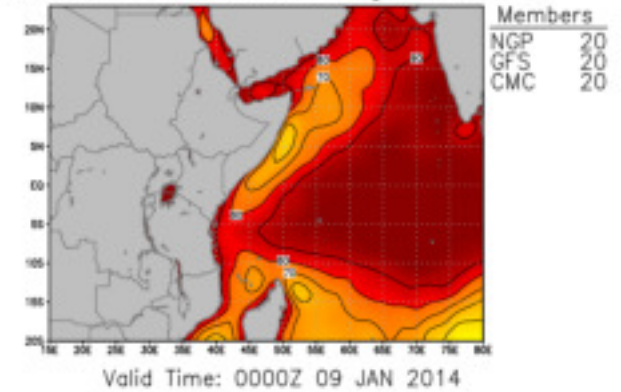
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



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 the Ground Analysis

- **1 January 2014** – Two car bombs have exploded outside a hotel in Mogadishu, killing at least ten people. The blasts occurred when a car bomb rammed into one of Mogadishu's top hotels on Wednesday while a second vehicle exploded as the wounded were being treated. The blasts occurred at the Jazeera Hotel, which is located near the international airport, and which is one of the seaside capital's most upmarket, with clientele including Somali politicians and visiting foreign officials. Reports have indicated that the blasts were followed by exchanges of fire between security forces and the attackers. The Jazeera hotel was last targeted in December 2012, when President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was staying there. At least seven people died in that attack. The latest attack is similar to others that have been carried out by the militant group, with a first car bomb smashing through the well-guarded gates of a target to let in a suicide commando who is sometimes followed by another explosives-laden vehicle. Over the past year, the group has carried out an average of one "complex attack" every six or eight weeks. In 2013, devastating attacks were carried out in Mogadishu against the main courthouse, a UN compound, Turkish interests and an ambush also targeted the president's convoy. In September 2013, the group claimed responsibility for an attack on an upscale shopping mall in Nairobi that left at least sixty-seven people dead. Al-Shabaab insurgents also fought off a hostage-rescue attempt by French commandos a year ago. The latest major attack came in mid-November in the central town of Beledweyne when a suicide car bomber blasted open a police compound before commandos entered and sprayed gunfire, killing sixteen people. Last week, a remote-controlled bomb in a restaurant in Mogadishu killed at least eleven people, including six soldiers. **Update (2 January 2014)** – On Thursday, al-Shabaab confirmed that it had carried out a twin bombing of a hotel in Mogadishu that killed eleven. In a New Year message, al-Shabaab's spokesman Ali Mohamud Rage boasted that yesterday's attack was the start of the militant groups' campaign for the New Year, adding "the fate of foreigners and local mercenaries will remain the same until they leave the country...they will have no safe haven in Somalia."
- **31 December 2013** – According to reports, a land mine explosion, which is believed to have caused severe damage, occurred between the districts of Janale and Bufow in the lower Shabelle region. Witnesses have reported that one vehicle is believed to have been damaged by the explosion. The exact number of casualties is yet to be determined. A convoy of AMISOM troops arrived at the scene shortly after the incident, closing the main roads that connect the two districts.

## Domestic News

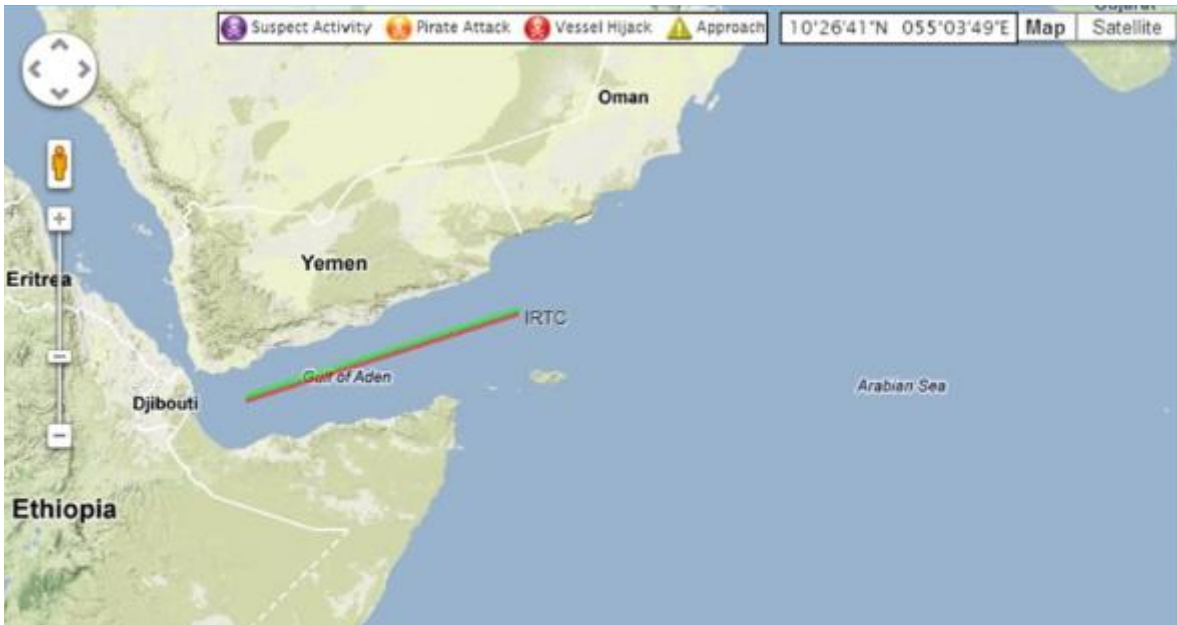
- **31 December 2013** – Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland region has named a new parliament whose members will next week vote for a new president. The lawmakers, who are composed of 65 men and one woman, were appointed by clan elders and, despite fears that the polls will trigger violence, they will choose the next president on 8 January 2014. A statement released on Tuesday indicated, "after checking the names submitted by the council of elders, the Puntland parliament vetting committee has approved the new list of MP's." At least seventeen candidates are in the running to be elected president however incumbent president Abdurahman Mohamed Farole, who has been in power since 2009, is seen as the likely winner. The new elected president will lead Puntland for the next four years. Elections were originally due to have been held in July however the government, which at the time indicated that the risk of violence was too great, postponed them. Many believe that the 8 January presidential vote will likely bring "complex territorial and political issues to the fore, exacerbating clan cleavages and providing opportunities for extremists." The poverty-stricken region of Puntland forms the tip of the Horn of Africa nation and makes up around a third of Somalia's territory. In 1998, Puntland formed its own government, however unlike neighboring Somaliland, Puntland has not declared full independence. The region is

currently struggling to rebuild after years of war as well as to remove pirate bases along its lawless coast and battle al-Shabaab insurgents.

## Regional Reporting

- **4 January 2014** – On Saturday, one person was wounded when an improvised bomb exploded in a shop in Nairobi’s mainly ethnic Somali district Eastleigh. According to Nairobi police chief Benson Kibue, “one person has been wounded...a person of Somali origin left luggage containing an improvised explosive device in a shop,” adding that the police is “...appealing to residents to help us get him.” So far there has been no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, however al-Shabaab militants are likely behind this latest incident.
- **2 January 2014** – On Thursday, ten people were wounded when attackers threw a grenade into a restaurant in a popular coastal tourist resort town in Kenya. The attack, one of a series of bomb or grenade blasts in Kenya, is the latest to target areas popular with foreign visitors who are key to the country’s economy. The incident occurred when attackers targeted the Tandoori bar in Diani in the early hours of Thursday, when it was still crowded with people celebrating over the New Year holiday. The holiday is one of the busiest times on Kenya’s coast, a mainly Muslim region whose white beaches are popular with tourists but which is also troubled by extremist groups and religious tensions. Jack Ekakuro, the local police chief in the Indian Ocean town of Diani, south of Mombasa, confirmed the attack, indicating that “we had an explosion at the bar and about 10 people were injured.” Although Mr. Ekakuro indicated that police officials were still “...trying to establish the kind of explosive used,” a police officer at the scene stated that the blast “had all the characteristics” of a grenade. Police sources also indicated that “the attackers were on a motorcycle and fled after hurling the grenade. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Since Kenyan troops invaded southern Somalia in October 2011 to help oust the neighboring country’s al-Shabaab insurgents, it has been hit by a series of attacks. Last month, attackers threw a grenade at British tourists as they drove from Diani to the main port city of Mombasa. The grenade however failed to explode resulting in no injuries.
- **31 December 2013** – Meanwhile the Ethiopian government has deployed hundreds of new troops to Somalia in a bid to eliminate al-Shabaab from the Bay and Bakool regions. According to Ethiopian officials, the troops arrived in the town of Baidoa, the provincial capital of Bay region, where they will establish a new military base. Deputy Governor of Bay Reghin Shine Moalim Nurow has indicated to local media that the Ethiopian troops will assist the government’s plan in removing al-Shabaab militants who continue to threaten security in the region. While Deputy Governor Nurow did not provide any further information, sources have indicated that the Ehtiopian forces will likely aim at removing any remaining al-Shabaab militants from the Bay and Bakool regions in the first weeks of the New Year. In turn, a reconciliation conference is currently underway in Baidoa, where local elders are expected to form a new regional administration that will govern three regions including Lower Shabelle, Bay and Bakool.

## Map



# GULF OF GUINEA

## At Sea

### Hijacks

- None reported during this period.

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- **2 January 2014** – Five pirates boarded a drifting LPG tanker at 0200 LT in position 00:59N – 008:23E, around 55 nautical miles west of Corisco Island, Gabon. Alert crew raised the alarm and blew the vessel's horn, resulting in the pirates escaping. The Master of the vessel reported that there were a few tugboats and unlit fishing vessels without AIS in the vicinity.
- **31 December 2013** – Three robbers boarded an anchored general cargo vessel at 0055 LT in position 04:53N – 001:41W, Takoradi Roads, Ghana. When spotted by the security watch on deck, the robbers immediately escaped. No items were stolen.

### Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – South-southeast winds at 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – South-southeast winds at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 3 – 4 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – The Gulf of Guinea is currently under the influence of strong high pressure from the south, with predominately southerly winds in the area.

# SOUTHEAST ASIA

## At Sea

### Hijacks

- None reported during this period.

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- None reported during this period.

# SOUTH AMERICA

## At Sea

### Hijacks

- None reported during this period.

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- **28 December 2013** – Robbers boarded an anchored tanker via the hawse between 0100 – 0200 LT in position 10:18N – 075:32W, Momanal Anchorage, Colombia. Robbers stole ship properties and escaped without being noticed by the deck patrol. Robbery was reported to the local authorities and to the port agent.



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