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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    - Crisis management
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References are always available.
More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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SUMMARY

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

- *Gulf of Guinea/West Africa:* One incidents reported during this period

- *Somalia-Indian Ocean:* Five incidents reported during this period

- *Southeast Asia:* Two late reported incidents.

- *South America:* No incidents reported

- *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
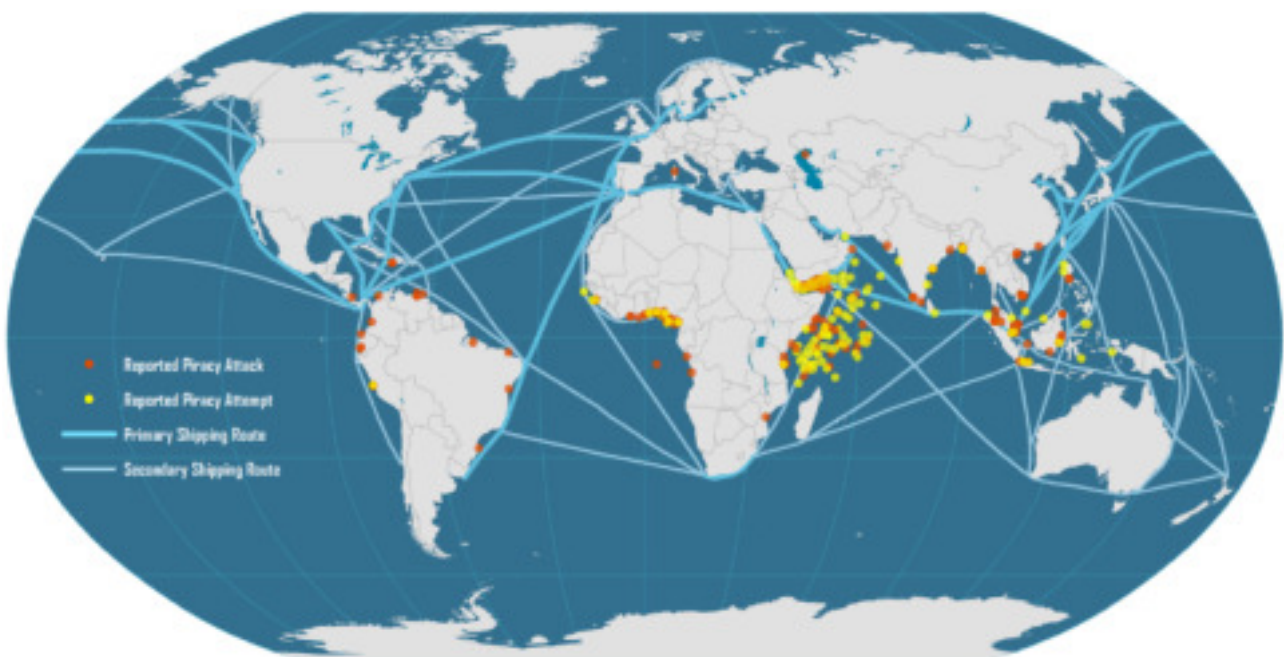
SOMALIA

At Sea

Hijacks

- *18 January 2014* – A merchant vessel has been hijacked today at 1523 UTC in position 15:31.6N – 039:57.88E. All merchant vessels have been advised to proceed with caution in this are. *Update (18 January 2014)* – Master of vessel has confirmed that the ship and crew members are safe and vessel has not been hijacked. Vessel was boarded by Eritrean Border Guards, not suspected pirates. The vessel is currently at anchor in the Port of Massawa.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- *17 January 2014* – Tanker reported attacked by 1 skiff at 1800 UTC in position 15:07N – 054:23E, Arabian Sea. Attacked by 1 skiff with dhow mother ship. Skiff, with possible 4 pirates on board, approached to 150 meters and fired weapons at the tanker. Embarked security team on board the tanker returned fire, resulting in the skiff moving away. Warship was dispatched to the area in order to investigate the incident. Vessel has been reported safe.
- *16 January 2014* – While berthed, robbers boarded a bulk carrier unnoticed at 0400 LT at berth No. 3., Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. The robbers stole the ship's stores and escaped. The incident has been reported to the local authorities.

Suspicious Activity

- *14 January 2014* – Cyprus-flagged bulk carrier reported suspicious dhow and two skiffs at 2 nautical miles at 0925 UTC in position 15:27.16N – 062:49.75E, around 520 nautical miles northeast of Socotra Island. Eight possible pirates on board with no piracy paraphernalia. No fishing gear was seen on the dhow. Severe sea state precluded any approach, vessel altered course to increase CPA.
- *13 January 2014* – Djibouti-flagged Special Purpose ship reported sighting 1 white-colored skiff approaching at speed at 1205 UTC in position 12:10.3N – 043:27.3E, approximately 40 nautical miles north-northeast of Djibouti, Gulf of Aden. The 15m skiff had four possible pirates on board, large yellow drums were also observed. Vessel sounded two long blasts, armed security team on board the vessel was mustered onto the bridge while the Master ordered that the vessel alter course. Suspicious skiff aborted the approach and moved away. Vessel has been reported safe.

Piracy Related News

- *15 January 2014* - Piracy at sea is at its lowest level in six years, with 264 attacks recorded, a 40% drop since Somali piracy peaked in 2011. The drop in worldwide piracy attacks has greatly been due to the dramatic drop of incidents recorded in waters off Somalia. In 2013, the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) reported fifteen incidents off Somalia. According to its records, this is down from 75 in 2012 and 237 in 2011. The increase of armed guards on vessels, coupled

with international navy patrols and the "stabilizing influence" of Somalia's government have aided in deterring pirate.   According to Pottengal Mukundan, IMB's director, "the single biggest reason for the drop in worldwide piracy is the decrease in Somali piracy off the coast of East Africa," adding that "it is imperative to continue combined international efforts to tackle Somali piracy. Any complacency at this stage could re-kindle pirate activity."   The IMB's annual global piracy report has indicated that more than 300 people were taken hostage at sea in 2013 and 21 were injured, nearly all with guns or knives. Examining global piracy figures, Indonesia witnessed the most pirate attacks last year, accounting for more than 50 of all reported incidents. However it must be noted that attacks in waters of Indonesia were "low-level opportunistic thefts, not to be compared with the more serious incidents off Africa." Piracy off West Africa made up 19% of attacks worldwide in 2013. According to the IMB report, Nigerian pirates accounted for 31 of the region's 51 attacks. These attacks were "particularly violent," with one crew member killed, and thirty-six people kidnapped and held onshore for ransom. In November 2013, a United Nations and World Bank report indicated that pirates operating off the Horn of Africa, which are some of the world's busiest shipping and humanitarian aid routes, had netted more than US $400 million (£251 million) in ransom money between 2005 and 2012.

Weather Analysis

- **Northern Arabian Sea** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 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 –** Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.

- **Gulf of Aden** – Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be 10 – 15 knots with seas of 6 – 8 feet.

- **Somali Coast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet; with northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots with seas of 8 – 10 feet.

- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast –** Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet; with northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa.

- **Mozambique Channel** – Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet in the southern Channel.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 8 – 10 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 average speeds 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 the Arabian Peninsula is producing fair winds and seas.
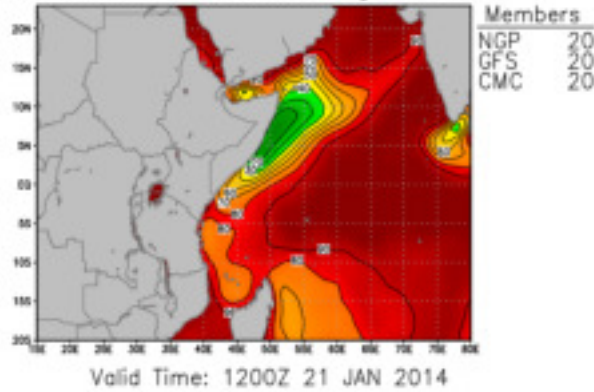
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Sea Conditions for the Following Week
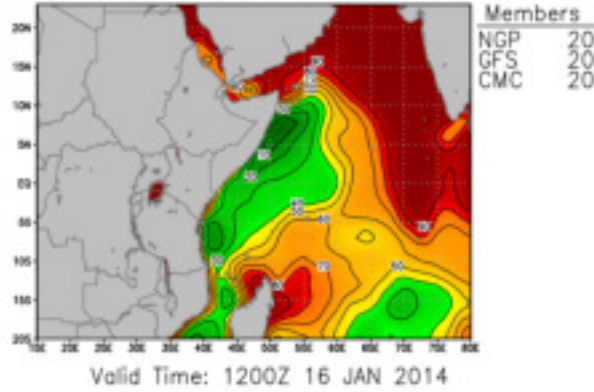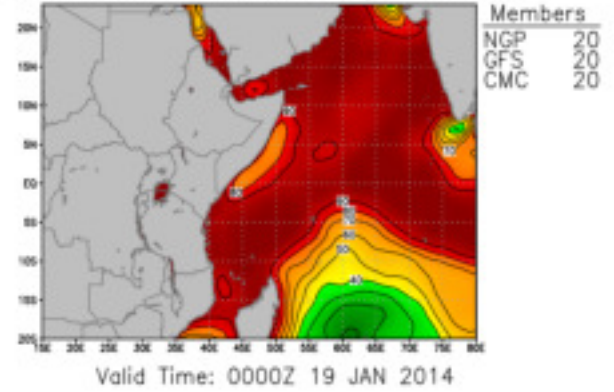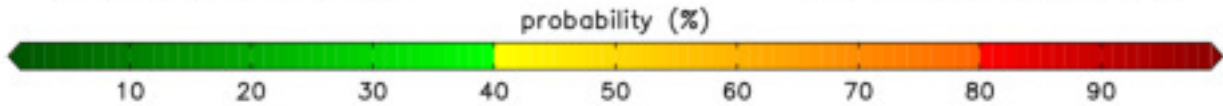
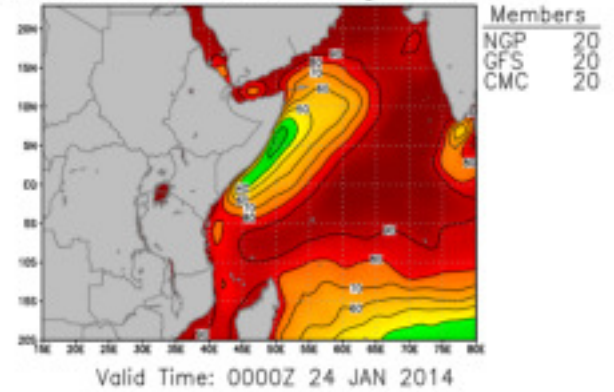*** In this graphic, the green shading represents a reduced likelihood of small boats and skiffs operating in the area due to harsh sea conditions, while the red indicates a higher likelihood of favorable sea conditions for skiffs and smaller boats ***

On the Ground Analysis

- *16 January 2014* – The Mayor of Mogadishu, and Governor of Banadir region, Mohamed Mohamud Nur has called on private telecommunication companies throughout the country to ignore al-Shabaab's recent ban on the use of Internet. A statement released by the Mayor's office indicated that Internet was a necessity for the Somali people and that al-Shabaab's attempt to ban its use only further demonstrates the extremist group's brutality and intimidation to the Somali people. The statement further noted "the constitution guarantees freedom of expression and every citizen has the right to access information without fear," adding "we will not allow our citizens to be deprived of Internet access and smart phones." In response to al-Shabaab's decree, the Mayor also indicated "the Government will work with all telecommunications companies and ensure that they are free to provide Internet and other related communications services." The statement by Mogadishu's Mayor comes after al-Shabaab last week ordered Internet providers to stop their activities within fifteen-days, warning residents in areas under their control not to use the Internet.

- *14 January 2014* – Somali Government officials indicated on Monday that Somali troops have repulsed an attack by al-Shabaab militants in the Middle Shabelle province. Officials have confirmed that fighting erupted after al-Shabaab militants launched an ambush attack on Government bases in Mahaday and Burane, killing ten Somali government troops and capturing two military convoys. According to local sources, fighting broke out in the town of Mahaday, a strategic town located in the region. Al-Shabaab militants attacked the town and seized part of it. Local sources added that heavy gunfire was heard overnight as the militant group also attacked a nearby town, Buurane, where they destroyed a government-owned military base. Somali Military officer Col. Hassan Osman indicated on Tuesday that the town has since been secured and that al-Shabaab fighters have been defeated. Local residents have since reported that the situation in both towns is calm and that local residents have resumed their daily activities. The security situation in the southern regions of Somalia, and around the capital city, remains volatile, with al-Shabaab militants staging a number of military-style ambushes, suicide bombings, and assassinations in a bid to secure further control of the region.

- *13 January 2014* – Al-Shabaab militants in Somalia have vowed that they will fight against a special unit of the US army that has deployed in Mogadishu. The announcement by the militant group comes just days after the US State Department revealed late last week that a small number of US forces were operating in Somalia's capital in a bid to train and advise Somali Federal Government forces. According to US officials, the small unit of US army is based at Mogadishu airport, which is the biggest base for the African Union (AU) led peacekeeping mission in Somalia (AMISOM). A recorded statement by al-Shabaab commander Sheikh Ali Jabal, which was posted online, states "we call against the residents in Mogadishu to refrain from the bases of the foreign army as those are our targets." The group has vowed that they will attack the bases of the US forces in Mogadishu, stating that the US has been for a long time hiding its interests to invade Somalia. So far, there have been no comments bade by the Somali Federal Government or US officials.

  - Meanwhile on Monday, al-Shabaab issued a new warning to Mogadishu residents, asking that they not work for any international agencies. Speaking to a pro-al-Shabaab radio station, the militant group's representative in Banadir region, Sheikh Ali Mohamud Hussein stated that they would fight those who work for the United Nations and Turkish agency offices in Mogadishu adding that al-Shabaab will firmly deal with anyone who breaches the order. Al-Shabaab's Banadir representative also indicated that the militant group is ready to launch more attacks on US military advisers and AMISOM peacekeepers.

Domestic News

- *16 January 2014* – On Thursday evening, Somalia's newly appointed Prime Minister, Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed, announced his first cabinet, which is composed of twenty-five ministers. The cabinet includes two female ministers and some new members, including Abdirahman Duale Beyle, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Minister Beyle was previously a senior member of the African Development Bank, which is based in Tunisia. He hails from Somaliland. Two members of the new cabinet had previously held positions in the former government of Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon. Abdikarim Guled, the new Minister of National Security, served as Minister of Interior in the former government while Farah Abdulkadir, the Minister of Justice and Constitution, served as state minister for the presidential palace. This is the largest number of cabinet members that has been formed since Somalia created its first permanent government in September 2012. The previous cabinet consisted of ten members. Over the next few days, the Somali prime minister is expected to present his cabinet and its programme to the Somali parliament where a vote of confidence will be carried out in order to endorse or reject the new ministerial line-up. Somalia's president has welcomed the appointment of the council of ministers and has called for parliament to approve it. If approved, the newly formed cabinet will face a number of challenges including restoring security, fighting against terrorism and al-Shabaab, completing the constitution and leading the country into general elections, which are set to be held in 2016.
  - Meanwhile, delegations representing the Federal Government of Somalia and Somaliland's separatist administration have gathered in the Turkish city of Istanbul where they will hold bilateral talks. Prior to moving into the bilateral discussions, the Somali Federal Government acting Interior Minister Abdikarin Hussein Guled and Somaliland Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Bihi Yonis briefed the media on the preparations for the third round of Turkey-brokered dialogue. Speaking to the media, Mr Guled stated "on our side, we will focus on solutions to the standing differences and I am very hopeful about their future reaction to our agendas," adding that "the political issues between Somalia and Somaliland can't be solved within short time and the talks will continue until an inclusive consensus." Meanwhile Somaliland's Foreign Affairs Minister, Yonis, who addressed reporters on behalf of the separatists administration's delegation, emphasized his government's bid for independence from the rest of Somalia, stating that "Somaliland's succession is untouchable because Somaliland people agreed on it, but we are ready to discuss the other prevailing issues with them." Turkish Ambassador to Somalia, Kani Torun, officially launched the first phase of dialogue and has urged all parties to reach an agreement. The Mogadishu-based Federal Government, along with Somalia's separatist administration of Somaliland, agreed to co-manage national airspace during the second round of dialogues which were held in July 2013.
- *15 January 2014* – On Wednesday, Somalia's Prime Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed met with Ambassador Neil Wigan, the British Ambassador to Somalia. During their meeting, the two officials discussed UK support for security and development projects as well as the formation of the new Cabinet and its priorities and the road map to elections in 2016. In turn, they also discussed public finance management as well as the importance of economic development and investment as security and stability improves in Somalia. Somalia's Prime Minister thanked Ambassador Wigan for the UK's continued support and its role in rebuilding Somalia, noting that the UK was working on reforms and capacity building in the security sector as well as delivering a number of development projects. Somalia's Prime Minister concluded by indicating that officials in his country looked forward to continuing a positive and constructive relationship with the UK. During the meeting, Ambassador Wigan also took the time to congratulate the Prime Minister on his recent appointment.

- **13 January 2014** – Over the weekend, officials in Somalia warned telecommunications companies throughout the country to not comply with al-Shabaab's order to shut down Internet nationwide. The announcement came just days after al-Shabaab gave Internet providers throughout Somalia fifteen days to comply with the ban or face attacks. However Somali's Interior Ministry has urged companies to disregard the threat, stating "the Somali government strongly condemns such acts which show continued brutality and terrorist tactics of intimidation by trying to ban Somalis from using the Internet. A statement by Minister Abdikarim Hussein Guled further noted "our constitution guarantees freedom of expression and every citizen has the right to access information without fear." While major Somali telecommunication companies Hormund and Telsom have not commented on the ban, the Interior Ministry has stated that the ban by the militant group is an attempt to further gain control over Somalis, noting that "al-Shabaab has lost control of the major cities of Somalia and are now trying to terrorize people and stop them using the Internet." While the militant group is known for prohibiting recreation activities, and has in the past banned films, dancing and watching soccer, it has also barred foreign aid organizations from southern Somalia, describing them as Western spies and Christian crusaders. However its announcement of a ban on the use of Interesting proves to be hypocritical as top al-Shabaab commanders regularly use the Internet and have a major presence on social media. The militant group has a Twitter account which it regularly uses to issue threats and to claim responsibility for attacks that it has recently carried out.

Regional Reporting

- **15 January 2014** - Meanwhile in neighboring Kenya, the trial of four men charged over the Westgate shopping centre siege began in Kenya's capital Nairobi. The four suspected foreigners have denied the charges of aiding a "terrorist group," and of being in Kenya illegally. However none of the men – named as Mohammed Ahmed Abdi, Liban Abdullah, Adnan Ibrahim, and Hussein Hassan – have been accused of being the gunmen who carried out the attack. While their nationalities have not been disclosed, they are said to be ethnic Somalis. Police officials in Kenya have also indicated that the four accused had sheltered the attackers in their homes in Eastleigh a Somali neighbourhood in Nairobi, and that they were in contact with the gunmen four days prior to the siege being carried out. During the first day of the trial, the court heard testimony from security guards who saw what happened when the gunmen launched the attack in September 2013, killing at least sixty-seven people. During his testimony, guard Stephen Juma told the court that he had been directing traffic outside the upmarket shopping center when a car pulled up and three men jumped out. According to Mr Juma, one of them immediately shot dead a shopper, adding that "I began to hear gunshots, I made a radio call for help while running to the main entrance." Mr Juma further noted that he could not identify any of the gunmen as their heads and faces had been covered with black headscarves. The four are the first to be charged over the attack, which was the worst in Kenya since 224 people were killed in the 1998 bombing of the US embassy. Reports have indicated that around forty witnesses are expected to give evidence at the trial, which is likely to last around a week. Somalia's al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab confirmed days after the siege at they were behind the attack, indicating that one of its suicide brigades carried out the siege. Although al-Shabaab is fighting for the creation of an Islamic state in Somalia, the militant group has on numerous occasions carried out attacks in neighboring Kenya in a bid to avenge the presence of Kenyan troops in Somalia to bolster the UN-backed central government.

Map
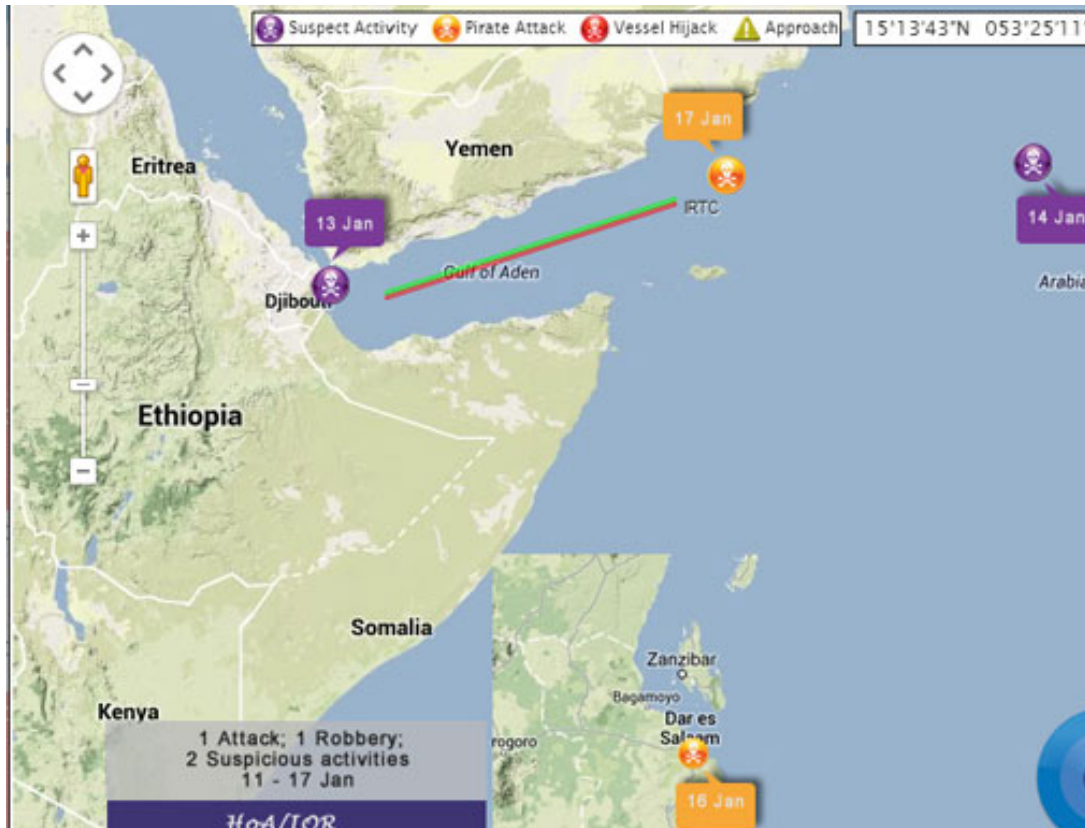
GULF OF GUINEA

At Sea

Hijacks

- No incidents reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- *10 January 2014 (Late Report)* – A local passenger craft was attacked and boarded by armed robbers at 0700 LT in position 05:17.22N – 006:24.50E, near the town of Ekeowe, Bayelsa state, Nigeria. Other passenger boats in the vicinity sent distress calls to the JTF guarding the local oil facilities. Operatives from the marine department of the Police were deployed to the area. The robbers stole cash and valuables from the passengers and the attack, which lasted approximately 35 minutes, resulted in the deaths of two passengers. The robbers, after taking over the craft, dropped the remaining passengers off then escaped in a boat taking the two bodies with them. The robbers reportedly kidnapped two senior staff of Nigeria Agip oil Company (NAOC)

Weather Analysis

- *Gulf of Guinea* – South-southeast winds at 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet.
  - *Extended Forecast* – South-southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 3 – 4 feet.

- *Synoptic Discussion* – The Gulf of Guinea will be impacted by isolated convective activities.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

At Sea

Hijacks

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- *10 January 2014 (Late Report)* – Robbers boarded a berthed container ship in position 06:06.24S – 10:53.45E, Jakarta Container Terminal, Indonesia. Robbers boarded the vessel unnoticed and escaped with engines spares. The theft was noticed by the 3/E when the ship departed from the port.
- *9 January 2014 (Late Report)* – Eight robbers boarded an anchored Liberia-flagged bulk carrier, ER Brighting, via the anchor chain at 1935 LT in position 03:42.16S – 114:26.59E, Taboneo Anchorage, Indonesia. Alert watchman noticed the robbers and called out for help, alerting the duty officer. Seeing the alerted crew members on board the vessel, the robbers escaped without stealing anything. The incident was reported to the local authorities and agents. The vessel and crew members on board have been reported safe.

SOUTH AMERICA

At Sea

Hijacks

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- None reported during this period.

PIRACY REVIEW – DEC. 2013

Gulf of Aden

Summary

Two attempted hijackings were reported off the coast of Somalia in December 2013. While none of these attacks proved to be successful, they further demonstrate that the threat of piracy in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean continues to be a real threat to all vessels and yachts transiting the region.

Reported Incidents

- *9 December 2013* – A blue and white hulled skiff with five pirates on board attacked a crude tanker and bulk carrier. The two attacks occurred close in proximity to each other and the time of the incidents was also close. The attack on the tanker took place at 06:30 LT. The skiff approached and fired on the tanker. The alarm was raise, evasive manoeuvres were taken and the armed security team on board the tanker took their positions. UKMTO was contacted for assistance.
    - The second attack on the bulk carrier occurred at 06:48LT. The master of the vessel raised the alarm and took evasive manoeuvres. The security team on board the vessel fired warning shots after which the pirates fired back. The pirates later aborted the attack after the security team returned fire. A military helicopter came to the assistance of both vessels.

Gulf of Guinea

Summary

In comparison to November 2013, there were fewer attacks along the West and Central African coast in December 2013. However 2013 showed an increase in piracy activity over previous years.

Between January and the end of November 2013, there were seventy-eight incidents of piracy and acts of armed robbery reported in the Gulf of Guinea. There were twelve hijackings reported, of which two occurred in Ivory Coast waters, two in Togo, one in Gabon, seven in Nigeria and one was undetermined.

On 16 December 2013, heavily armed pirated kidnapped a Ukrainian captain and Greek engineer from the MT Althea off the coast of the Niger Delta, Nigeria. Both crew members were released on the weekend of 4 January 2014.

During the month of December, a number of new security measures were implemented in Nigeria in order to secure the maritime environment. The Nigerian Navy's NNS Beecroft Naval Base on Victoria Island in Lagos has attained three new 17m Manta Mk II ASD littoral Interceptors and one 25m Shaldag MK II Fast Patrol Craft. The vessels will be used in order to fight maritime crimes. The Nigerian Navy has also installed eight automated surveillance towers, equipped with cameras, along its coast. The data collected will be checked against the vessel information in the central naval intelligence room.

Reported Incidents

- *3 December 2013* – A cargo vessel, LD Challenger, was briefly boarded by eight pirates in two speedboats. Cameroonian soldiers providing on board security engaged with the pirates. Several pirates died during the clashes while the rest fled. The vessel, along with its crew members, have been reported safe.
- *16 December 2013* – Armed pirates kidnapped a Ukrainian captain and Green engineer from a chemical tanker, MT Althea. The kidnapping occurred thirty-five nautical miles off the Niger Delta, Nigeria. Both crew members were releaed on the weekend on 7 Janaury 2014.

Southeast Asia

Summary

Southeast Asia proved to be once again the area with the most reported cases of piracy and armed robbery worldwide. Over the past month, attacks in this region have generally been related to robberies in anchorages.

Two incidents were reported in which fishermen were murdered in the Sulu Sea in Philippine waters.

The following ports and anchorages are high risk in this area:

- Samarinda Anchorages, Indonesia – Four incidents took place at the Muara Berau Anchorage in 2013 of which one occurred in December.
- Belawan Port and Anchorages, Indonesia – Seventeen incidents occurred throughout 2013.
- Dumai Anchorages, Indonesia – Eleven incidents were reported in 2013.
- Taboneo Anchorage – Eight incidents were reported in 2013. On 5 December, a robber attempted to board a bulk carrier.
- Manila Port and anchorages, Philippines - Five incidents reported in 2013.
- Nipah Anchorage, Singapore Straits – Fifteen incidents took place throughout 2013 of which three occurred in December.
- Chittagong Port and Anchorages, Banglades – Fifteen reported incidents in 2013.

Indonesia has the most incidents of piracy and armed robbery of vessels in Southeast Asia. This is aminly due to the socio-economic situation in the country. In 2013, a total of 188 incidents were reported in Southeast Asia and the Indian Subcontinent in 2013.

Reported Incidents

- *6 December 2013* – The GAM 68 was attacked off Tapaan Island by pirates in a speedboat. All five fishermen were shot. Valuables and money were also stolen. The GAM 68 is a small steel hulled boat whose objective is to light up the ocean floor in order to attract fish towards bigger vessels in the area. According to a fisherman, the boats usually do not carry weapons while the bigger vessels have armed military escorts in order to fight piracy in the waters of Sulu, Basilian, Tawi Tawi and the Zamboanga Peninsula. The coast guard was informed of the incident and later arrived on the scene to retrieve the bodies.
- *25 December 2013* – The second incident occurred off Zamboanga City. A group of three fishing vessels was attacked near Zamboanga City. Two fishermen escaped and later altered authorities. In early January 2014, the bodies of nine fishermen were recovered in three different locations. They had all been tied up and shot.

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