

MS | RISK

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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MS Risk supports clients in a variety of business sectors with the following services:

- Security Consulting
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 - Due diligence and investigations.
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 - Interim security
 - Training
 - Special assignments
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 - Business continuity management
 - Hostile operations support to commercial interests
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References are always available.
More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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Summary (March 10 - 16, 2014 - Week 11; Edition 28)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

Gulf of Guinea/West Africa: Four incidents reported during this period.

Somalia-Indian Ocean: Three late reported incidents.

Southeast Asia: Two incidents reported during this period.

South America: No incidents reported during this period.

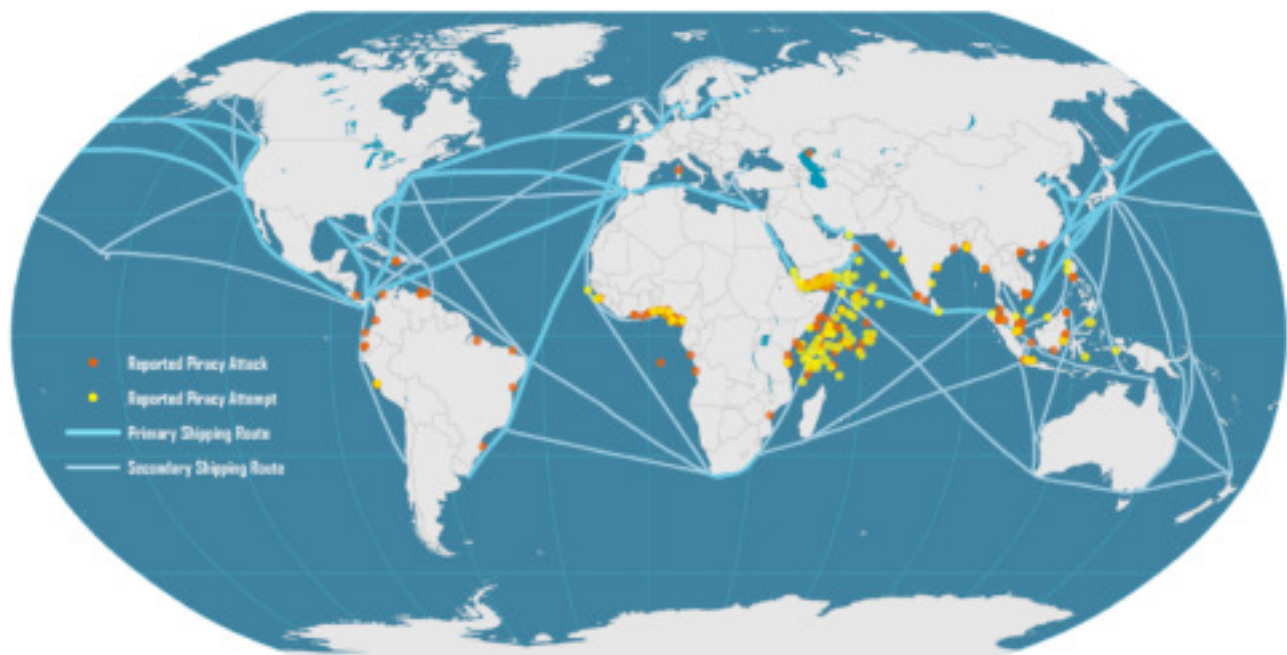
North America: No current incidents to report

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



SOMALIA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

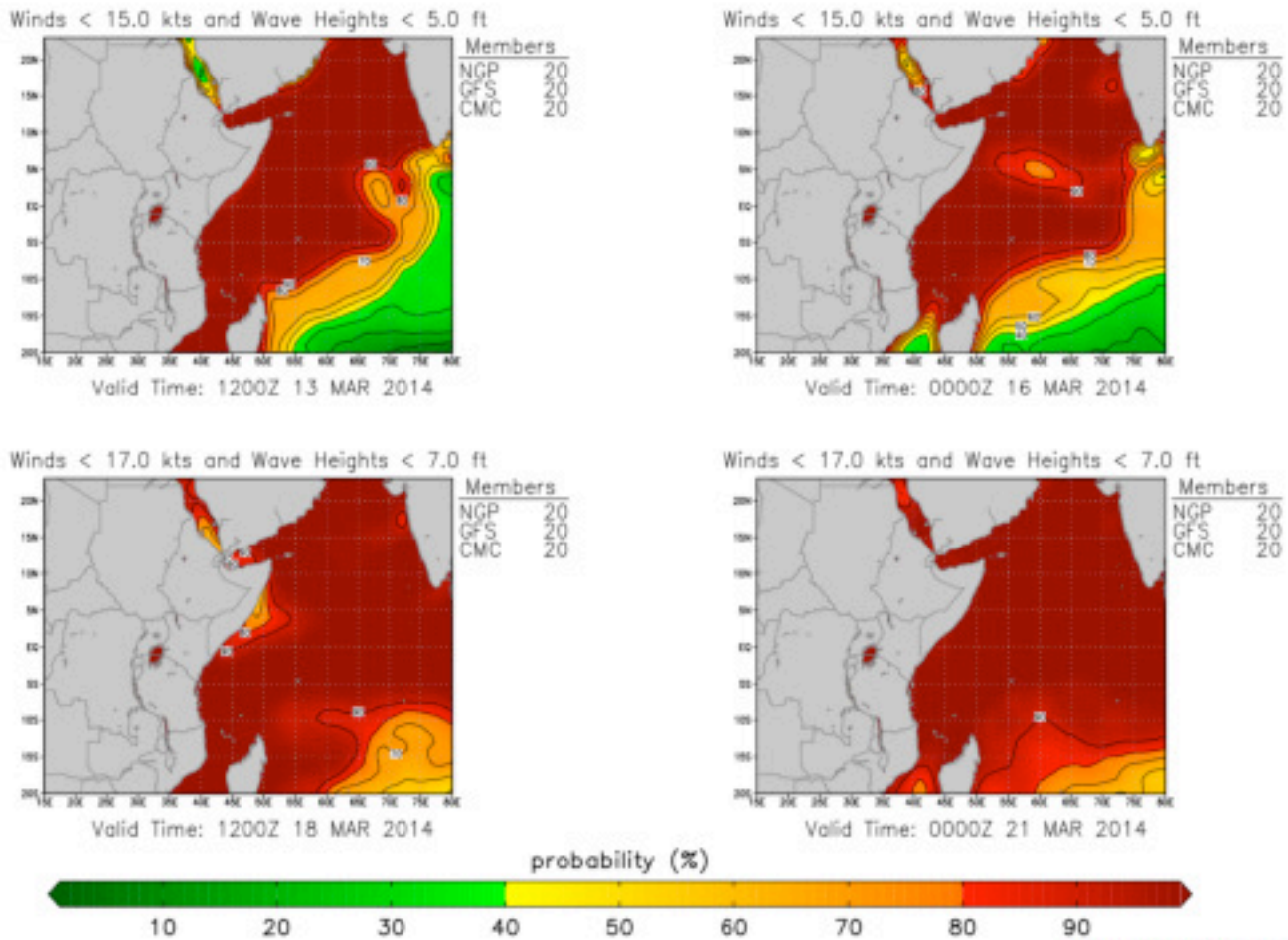
Suspicious Activity:

- **9 March 2014 (Late Report)** – MV reported 1 white skiff with two pirates on board drifting at 8 nautical miles at 0715 UTC in position 20:48.N – 059:20E, off Oman. The vessel altered course to increase CPA, and the skiff sped up to approximately 24 knots, steering too close to the vessel, which activated the fire hoses. Armed security team on board the vessel displayed their weapons. At 1100m distance, the skiff reduced its speed and began drifting again.
 - MV reported drifting skiff with two outboard motors and 5 pirates on board at 0400 UTC in position 11:08N – 075:10E off the west coast of India. Skiff sped up and approached to within 350m. The vessel reported seeing ropes and grab hooks however no weapons were seen on board. The embarked armed security team displayed their weapons and fired 1 flare, resulting in the skiff altering its course and moving away.
- **8 March 2014 (Late Report)** – MV reported 6 white skiffs with 4 pirates on board approaching port side at 0415 UTC in position 14:00N – 049:17E, Gulf of Aden. Skiffs closed to 200m whereupon embarked armed security team fired a warning shot resulting in the skiffs moving away.

Weather Analysis

- **Northern Arabian Sea** – East-northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be northwesterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 2 feet.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be easterly at 10 – 15 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Somali Coast** – East-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – Northerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; with northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southeasterly at 10 – 15 knots with seas of 4 – 6 feet.
- **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.

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

- **15 March 2014** – Police and eyewitnesses reported a car bomb going off Saturday in central Mogadishu, near a hotel that is popular with government officials and businessmen. Mohamed Mire, a police officer in the capital city, confirmed the attacks, stating “there was a car bomb explosion near the rear gate of the Maka Al Mukarama hotel. It seems that the car was parked there loaded with explosives but we are still investigating casualties.” Witnesses have reported that there were a number of casualties being carried from the scene of the blast however it remains unclear if they were injured or dead. Police have confirmed that there was at least one person injured in the blast, which appeared to target the hotel, which is popular with government officials and businessmen who have returned home after years abroad. So far, no group has claimed responsibility for the attack, however similar attacks in the past have been claimed by al-Shabaab. The area around the hotel has been targeted several times in the recent past, with the hotel itself being hit by a car bomb in November 2013, leaving several people dead. In February alone, major attacks in Mogadishu have included a car bomb at the gates of the airport, a major suicide attack on the presidential palace and a car bombing on a café located close to the intelligence headquarters. News of Saturday’s car bomb sparked angry comments on Twitter, with many Somalis stating that the army should concentrate on completely securing Mogadishu rather than fighting the militant group in other regions.
 - Meanwhile al-Shabaab spokesman Ali Mohamud Raghe, also known as Ali Dheere, has denied recent reports that he died of injuries sustained from an air strike that was carried out in mid-January. Speaking to local radio station run by al-Shabaab, he indicated that those “rumors” were incorrect, stating “I am alive. Nothing has happened to me. Kenyan officials are under pressure from the families of the soldiers that have invaded our country, it has caused them to spread such false news.” The denial by al-Shabaab’s spokesman comes just weeks after Kenyan military spokesman Maj. Emmanuel Chirchir earlier this month posted on his Twitter account a statement claiming that al-Shabaab’s spokesman had died from injuries he sustained from an airstrike carried out by Kenyan Air Forces in one of the group’s hideouts in the Gedo region in Somalia.
- **14 March 2014** – In what is the latest advance in their renewed offensive against al-Shabaab militants, on Friday, a government spokesman confirmed that Somali government forces, backed by African Union (AU) troops, captured a sixth settlement. According to Ali Houmed, a spokesman for the AU’s AMISOM force, al-Shabaab militants are reported to have fled ahead of the assault, which was carried out Thursday in the small town of Buula Burde, in the southern Hiraan region, which borders Ethiopia. Mr Houmed stated that “there was some fighting at the entrance to the town as the Shabaab tried to ambush and attack our forces, but they did not last long,” adding “their forces disappeared as we advanced to secure the town.” A statement released late Thursday by AMISOM chief Mahamat Saleh Annadif boasted that the capture of Buula Burde was “a major victory,” calling the dusty settlement a “supply nerve center” for al-Shabaab militants. Although al-Shabaab insurgents once controlled most of southern and central Somalia, withdrawing from fixed positions in Mogadishu two years ago, they have continued to carry out attacks in the capital city and surrounding areas. Guerrilla units continue to have the capabilities in order to carryout regular deadly attacks in Mogadishu. Government and AU troops have also come under repeated hit and run attacks in several rural areas surrounding the

settlements they captured. They have also carried out attacks in neighboring countries, most notably, they claimed responsibility for last year's deadly attack in neighboring Kenya, when commandos stormed the upmarket Westgate mall in Nairobi, shooting shoppers and hurling grenades in a standoff that lasted four days. In part, this has been due to stalled advancements by AU and Somali troops. After a series of sweeping victories in 2012, AMISOM remained largely static. This was mainly due to limited troop numbers and air power that was needed in order to advance again. However earlier this month, after Ethiopian troops joined the UN-mandated force, effectively increasing the numbers to some 22,000 soldiers, AMISOM launched a new offensive targeting al-Shabaab fighters. Although UN envoy to Somalia Nicholas Kay told the Security Council this week that this new offensive would be "the most significant and geographically extensive military advance" since AMISOM started operations in 2007, this new advance will likely result in a further displacement of Somalis throughout the country. The UN has already reported that thousands of civilians are fleeing to escape the expected fighting, with officials warning that the offensive is expected to "directly affect scores of districts and regions" where some three million people live. According to a statement released by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "humanitarian access due to the volatile situation remains a major challenge." During his speech to the UN Security Council, Kay also warned that the security situation in the capital city had "deteriorated" in the last three months. Mogadishu has seen a spike in attacks in recent months, with al-Shabaab militants targeting key areas of government or security forces in an apparent bid to discredit claims by authorities that they are winning the war against them. Speaking to the Council, Kay further warned "times are tough, and in the short term, may get tougher."

- **13 March 2014** – Security agencies in Somalia's capital Mogadishu have arrested several people after carrying out a security operation in the Daynile and Gubta neighborhoods of Mogadishu. Eyewitnesses confirmed that a security operation had been carried out, indicating that Somali police and Special forces were involved in the operation which took place during the early morning hours. So far, no comments from the government concerning the latest security operation have been released however local residents have indicated that a majority of those detained were youths. Somali Federal Government soldiers and AMISOM troops have intensified their presence in the capital city in the wake of increased security threats and attacks in the last three months. In recent months, al-Shabaab has carried out several bombings, including a large-scale raid on the presidential palace and an attack on a UN convoy.
- **10 March 2014** – Officials indicated Monday that African peacekeepers, operating alongside government forces, have recaptured several strategic towns in the southwestern region of Somalia. The recapture comes just days after the African Union's AMISOM force announced that it had launched a wide scale offensive against al-Shabaab militants in areas located near the Ethiopian border. The operation to remove the militant group from its last remaining strongholds in central and southern Somalia also comes in the wake of a series of attacks in the country's capital, Mogadishu, where al-Shabaab continues its bid to oust the internationally backed government. Speaking to reports, regional government official Abdulahi Yarisow confirmed the operations, stating "AMISOM and the Somali troops kicked al-Shabaab out of several key towns including Wajid and regional capital Hudur," adding that "our military advancement will continue until we eliminate the enemy from the rest of the country." A statement released by AMISOM indicated that troops had secured the towns of Ted, Rabdhure and Buudhubow, effectively driving out al-Shabaab militants from the area. The statement added that "the

SNA (Somali National Army) and AMISOM joint operations signal the beginning of the renewed efforts by the Somali government forces working more closely with AMISOM forces to dislodge al-Shabaab from many of its strongholds across the country.” Although Hudur had been captured from al-Shabaab by Ethiopian troops in March 2012, their withdrawal from the region resulted in the town falling back into the control of al-Shabaab.

Regional Reporting

- **14 March 2014** – Diplomatic sources indicated Friday that Kenya has deported three foreign men, accused of fighting alongside Somalia’s al-Shabaab insurgents, to Belgium to face trial on terrorism charges. The men, Belgian Mustapha Bouyabaren, Frenchmen Rachid Benomari and Algerian Mohamed Said, were all jailed in July 2013 for a year after pleading guilty to entering Kenya illegally. The three men are believed to have arrived in Kenya from Somalia. Judges in the Kenyan capital ordered that Benomari and Said be deported on Thursday, while Bouyabaren was ordered to be sent to Belgium earlier this week. In Belgium, the three men will join the trial of sixteen others which opened on Monday. The Brussels trial, which is taking place under heightened security, comes amid mounting concern over the number of Belgians believed to be travelling to Africa, Syria and the Afghan-Pakistani border to fight alongside jihadist groups. In recent years, several foreigners have also crossed from Kenya into Somalia in order to join al-Shabaab. However with the recent advances by African Union troops and Somali Federal Government forces, many foreigners have reportedly left the insurgents.

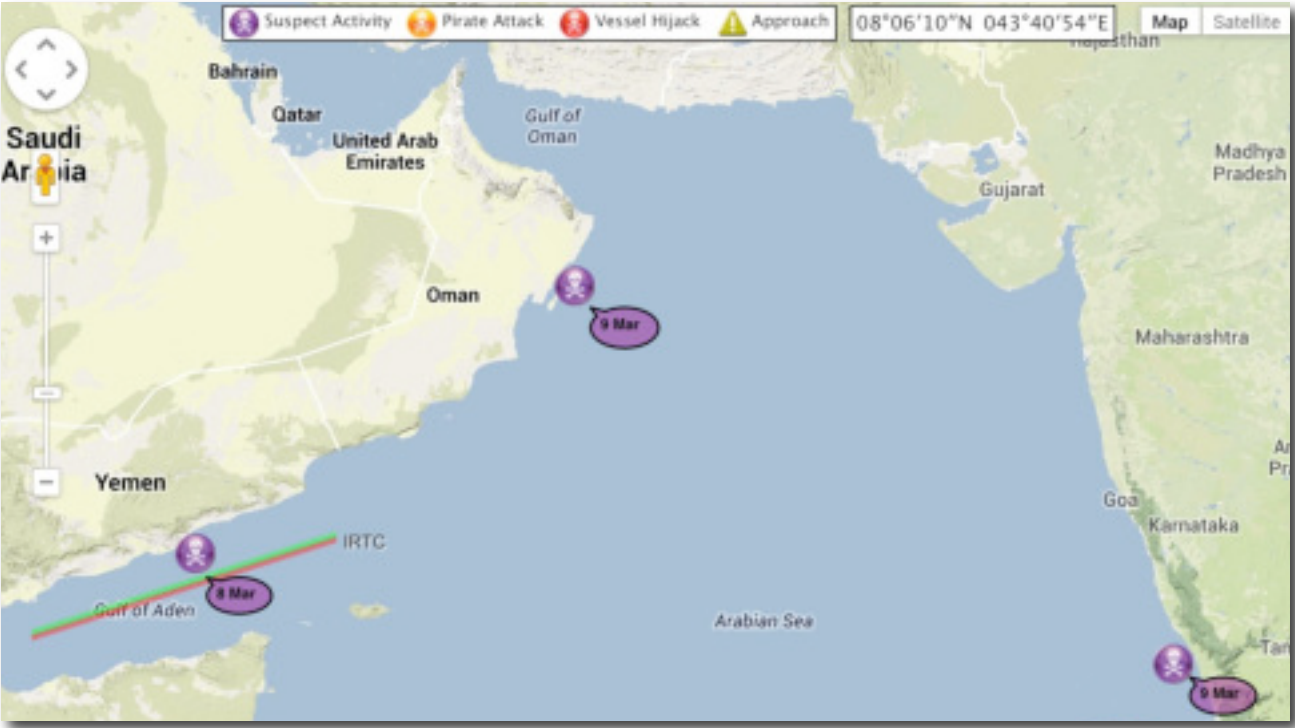
Domestic News

- **11 March 2014** – A statement released by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Puntland has indicated that the region’s government has terminated all fishing licenses previously granted to foreign vessels, with the ministry also warning of any claims of holding legal licenses. The Ministry’s statement indicated “starting from today on 11th March 2014 the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources terminated issuing fishing licenses to the all foreign and Somali-owned vessel,” adding “any group of entity claiming to have a valid license of fishing in Puntland coastal areas should get in touch with the ministry within two weeks. Any claim after that deadline will not be considered.” According to the statement, the ban is excluded from the local fishing community in the coastal towns of Puntland. Last week, in a bid to eliminate the growing illegal fishing in the region’s waters and coastal towns, Puntland Coastguards arrested five Yemeni illegal fishermen and their vessel after anti-illegal fishing cooperation conducted by the region’s coastguards. Following the collapse of its late powerful government in 1990, Somali waters and its sea resources have been exploited by rapid foreign illegal fishing and toxic waste dumping.

International Developments

- **10 March 2014** – The head of AFRICOM has confirmed that the US has deployed trainers and at least three senior military officers in Somalia's capital city in order to help track militants in the area. General David Rodriguez, head of US Africa Command stated that the trainers and officers are in Somalia in order to help the African Union Mission known as AMISOM and the Federal Somali Government tackle terrorist groups linked to al-Qaeda. Recently, the US military deployed a small number of uniformed trainers and advisers to Somalia in what is the first such deployment since 1993. While in the past, the US Pentagon has tended to prefer a light footprint in Africa, gathering intelligence while relying on allies to take direct action against al-Qaeda-linked groups in Somalia, Mali and elsewhere, it's decision to deploy troops to Somali for the first time in over twenty years demonstrates the US government's interest in curbing the growing terrorist threat on the African continent.

Map



GULF OF GUINEA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- 6 March 2014 (Late Report) – Seven pirates in a speed boat approached a drifting Nigeria-flagged supply vessel, Prime Lady, and hijacked it at 1912 UTC in position 04:11N – 005:44E, around 30 nautical miles of Brass Nigeria. They took the crew hostage and used the vessel as a mother ship to look for other vessels to hijack. The vessel was transiting from Onne to the Utpotiki field when the pirates attacked. After around 20 hours when no suitable vessel was found, the pirates stole the crew and ship's properties and escaped. Some crew who were beaten up during the hijack and it is alleged that the pirates kidnapped the captain and two crew members.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **6 March 2014 (Late Report)** – Two armed robbers boarded an anchored Netherlands-flagged general cargo ship, Apollogracht, using a rope at 0130 UTC in position 04:44.4S – 011:44.9E, Pointe Noire Anchorage, The Congo. The robbers stole the vessel's properties and escaped after being spotted by the duty crew.

Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – The Gulf of Guinea will be impacted by partly to mostly cloudy skies, with isolated thunderstorms.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **10 March 2014** – Four robbers boarded a Cyprus-flagged bulk carrier, Cape Veni, underway at 0150 LT in position 01:07.45N – 103:31.10E, approximately southwest of Pulau Nipa in Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) Eastbound. The robbers boarded from a small boat. The crew on board the vessel raised the alarm, resulting in robbers fleeing without having stolen anything. No crew members sustained injuries. It has been assessed that the same group of robbers were involved in two recent attacks against two tankers in the area.
- **9 March 2014 (Late Report)** – Three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored product tanker at 0135 LT in position 09:56N – 076:09E, Kochi Anchorage, India. The Duty Officer on board the vessel spotted the robbers stealing the ship's stores and raised the alarm resulting in the crew members approaching the location. Upon seeing the crew members alertness, the robbers jumped overboard with the stolen stores and escaped. Master reported the incident to Port Control.

SOUTH AMERICA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.



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