

**MS | RISK**

## Global Piracy Report

Detailed Weekly Piracy Report Focusing on the Horn of Africa, Gulf of Guinea, Southeast Asia and South America; and Reporting of On - The - Ground in Somalia and Kenya

## About MS Risk

MS Risk is a privately owned company domiciled in the Isle of Man. It is underwritten by a syndicate of Lloyd's of London for special risks case management in all jurisdictions. It also acts as retained advisors to syndicates in the Lloyd's of London specialty risk insurance markets: kidnap for ransom, extortion, hijack, illegal detention, illegal war tax, malicious product tamper, terrorism, political and war risk.

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MS Risk has a dedicated team of researchers, a 24/7 hotline service and a pool of trained and experienced consultants to support client needs.

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

- Security Consulting
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  - Due diligence and investigations.
- Project Management
  - Interim security
  - Training
  - Special assignments
- Crisis Response
  - Crisis management
  - 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.  
More information is found at [www.msrisk.com](http://www.msrisk.com)

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## Summary (September 29 – October 5, 2014 - Week 40; Edition 57)

### List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

**Gulf of Guinea/West Africa:** No incidents reported during this period

**Somalia-Indian Ocean:** One incident reported during this period

**Southeast Asia:** One incident reported; and five late reported incidents during this period

**South America:** No incidents reported during this period

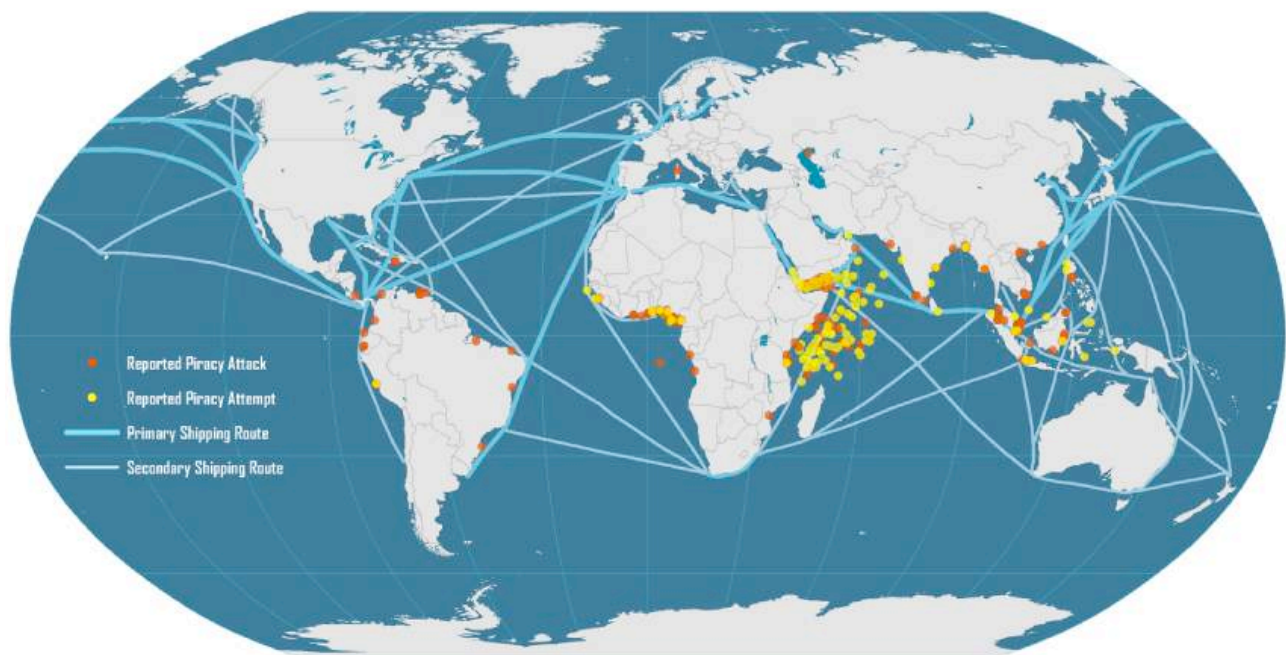
**North America:** No current incidents to report

**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

## Executive Summary

While there has been no successful hijacking of a vessel transiting the region in over two years, the threat of piracy remains high as Pirate Attack Groups (PAG's) continue to approach vessels in a bid to attack and hijack them.

Masters are advised to remain vigilant at all times inside the High Risk Area (HRA) and are advised to adhere to strict guidance and protective measures as set down in BMP4. Sailing yachts should avoid transiting the HRA. Past activity has demonstrated that pirates will attack both large and small yachts transiting this region. While successful attacks and hijackings of merchant vessels have significantly decreased over the past two years, the possibility of attacks and the successful hijacking of sailing vessels continue to remain high. This is due to the reduction of revenue sources from pirated merchant vessels and the fact that sailing yachts are vulnerable and easier targets. PAG's continue to conduct "soft approaches" on merchant ships transiting the area. Skiffs have approached vessels in order to probe the reaction of the crewmembers and any possible Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (PCASP) onboard. If the pirate approach does not elicit a response, the pirates will likely proceed with an attack, in which additional skiffs may participate.

The southwest monsoon (SW) season continues to dominate the area, causing gusty winds and high waves. With waves off the east coast of Somalia up to 8 feet and winds gusting up to 25 knots, unfavorable conditions from the SW monsoon are expected to continue. Single skiffs and whalers will likely find it difficult to operate in waters off the coast of Somalia however PAG's using mothership dhows will likely retain their capabilities of conducting operations throughout this monsoonal season. There will likely be an increase of skiffs around the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden regions, as they areas will be minimally affected by the monsoon conditions.

## At Sea

### Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

### Suspicious Activity:

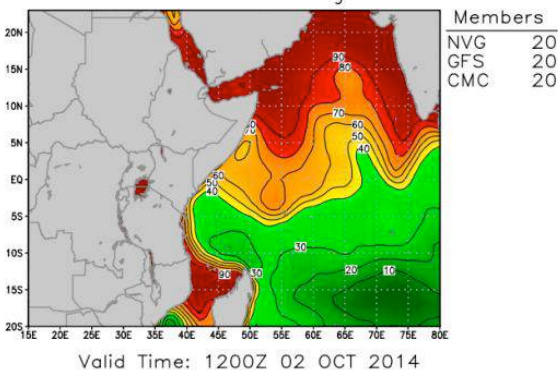
- **29 September 2014** – Vessel reported being approached at speed to within 8 cables by 1 skiff at 1144 UTC in position 12:22.05N – 043:53E, western Gulf of Aden. Dark blue-hulled skiff carrying three pirates on board. Vessel's embarked armed security team displayed their weapons resulting in the skiff



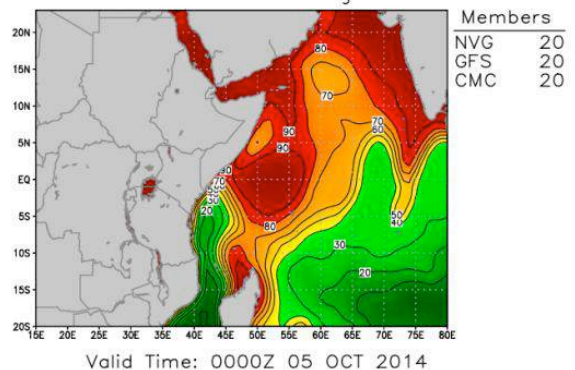
withdrawing to join two other skiffs carrying one and two pirates on board respectively. No weapons or ladders were sighted on board the skiffs. Vessel and crewmembers have been reported safe.

## Sea Conditions for the Following Week

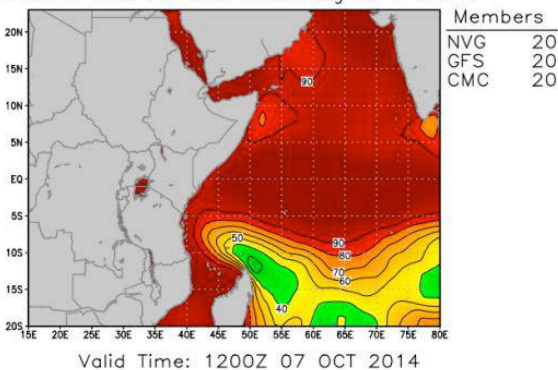
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



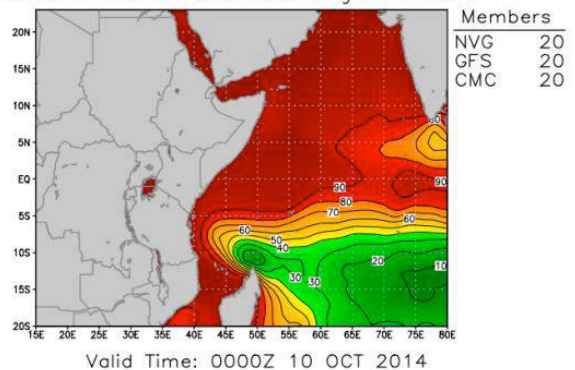
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



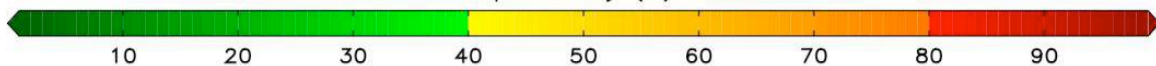
Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



probability (%)



\*\*\* In this graphic, the green shading represents a reduced likelihood of small boats and skiffs operation 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

- **5 October 2014** – Local officials reported Sunday that Somali government troops, backed by African Union (AU) forces, have captured one of al-Shabaab's remaining strongholds in Somalia. Sources have reported that the town of Barawe, located 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of Mogadishu, is now under the control of the Somali army and AU forces. On Friday, residents reported that many of the al-Qaeda-aligned militants had begun to withdraw from the key port town. According to AU officials, the port town, which had been under the control of al-Shabaab for the past six years, was used by the militant group as a base to launch attacks in the central and southern regions of Somalia, specifically the capital city. The regional governor has indicated, "the situation is calm, the militiamen had fled before the forces reached the town." Over the past several months, al-Shabaab has lost several key towns as Somali and AU forces launched a new offensive to force the militant group out of their remaining strongholds in the central and southern regions of the country. The group however continues to control large territory in rural areas, which will likely be the next focus of the offensive once the major towns in the region have been secured. Al-Shabaab is known to tactically withdraw from areas when faced with large offensive, however some fighters usually remain to launch attacks at a later point.
- **2 October 2014** – Reports from the Jowhar district in the Middle Shabelle region have indicated that four civilians have been injured in a grenade attack that targeted a building used by the district's security forces. Abdullahi Da'adu, a representative of the local administration, confirmed that late Wednesday night masked men threw a hand grenade at the building where the security forces were stationed, resulting in the injuries of four people nearby. All of the victims were admitted to the local hospital, with only one sustaining serious injuries. The attackers managed to escape the scene however security forces are currently carrying out operations to locate them. The incident comes as Somali government forces and African Union (AU) troops recently liberated a number of strategic towns in the Middle Shabelle region, which were previously controlled by al-Shabaab militants.
- **1 October 2014** – Troops in the northern region of Somalia battled al-Shabaab militants for control of the Galgala Mountains, with both sides claiming to have won. While an al-Shabaab spokesman indicated that despite the heavy battle, the militant group continues to control the territory in the Puntland region, Abdiweli Hirsi Abdille, the information minister for Somalia's northeastern region of Puntland has disclosed that troops captured the Galgala region in an early morning offensive. Al-Shabaab's spokesman also indicated that twenty soldiers, including the commander of the operation, were killed during the assault, however Puntland authorities have not confirmed this statement. In the wake of the African Union (AU) forces pushing the militants out of their strongholds in the central and southern regions of the country, many fighters relocated to the northern mountains, which al-Shabaab has been holding for several years. The area is seen as a refuge for the militants and is strategic to them as it allows the militants to receive arms shipments from allies in Yemen. The area is the only region in Puntland that was controlled by al-Shabaab.
- **29 September 2014** – According to a new survey, residents of Somalia's capital city Mogadishu are feeling safer and are more optimistic than they were a year ago. A new study produced by the Heritage Institute of Policy Studies, which analyzed data collected from more than 1,600 residents, reported that while people indicated there was a decline in violence, serious concerns remain, including on-going attacks carried out by al-Shabaab militants, and a general mistrust of the security services. According to the report, "the overwhelming majority of respondents stated that they had not witnessed clan or group conflict in the last

12 months,” however many people indicated that they continue to be concerned about disputes between different clans and about on-going al-Shabaab attacks. The report also revealed distrust in the security forces of the judiciary, in which in one area of the capital city, 66% of respondents indicated that they preferred to report civil matters to traditional elders, with just 7% opting to go to the police. Only 13% indicated that they trusted the courts, compared to 48% for traditional leaders and 29% for religious leaders.

- Sources have reported that unidentified gunmen killed Somali cleric Wardi Salhey Monday night at a mosque in Beledweyne. According to eyewitness accounts, two men carrying pistols approached the cleric as he was on his way to evening prayers, shooting him before disappearing from the scene. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack however local security officials are conducting an investigation. This is the second assassination that has occurred in Beledweyne in recent weeks. The last victim, a well-known teacher, was killed in the center of the town. While police launched a search for the perpetrators, they have so far made no arrests.

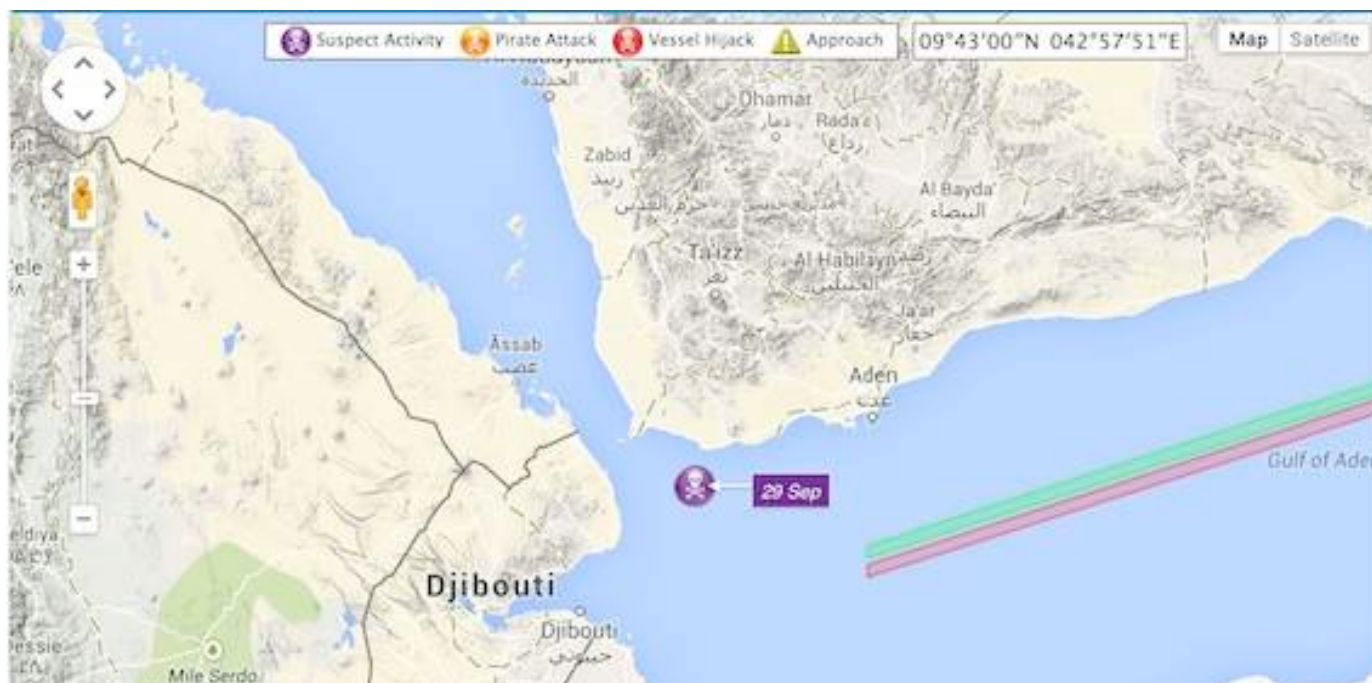
## Regional Reporting

- **1 October 2014** - On Wednesday a Kenyan court ordered two Iranians, held under anti-terrorism laws, to serve two years in jail or pay a hefty fine after they pleaded guilty to using false Israeli passports to enter the East African country last month. In her ruling, Nairobi Resident Magistrate Hannah Kaguru also ordered that the two accused be handed over to Kenya's department of refugees once they have completed their sentences. They now have fourteen days in order to appeal Wednesday's ruling. On September 18, Kenyan anti-terrorism police arrested the two on suspicion of plotting an attack in Kenya as they prepared to board a flight at Nairobi bound for Belgium. It currently remains unclear whether officials' concerns about a possible attack have been dealt with or whether the two, a man and a woman, would avoid jail time by paying the fine of 2 million shillings (US \$ 22,422) each. Over the past month, Kenyan security agencies have been on high alert as the nation prepared to mark the one-year anniversary of al-Shabaab's attack on Nairobi's Westgate shopping mall. In May of last year, a Kenyan court sentenced two Iranian men to life in prison for planning to carry out bombings in Nairobi and other cities. Shortly after sentencing, the two men appealed against their convictions. A ruling on their appeal is expected to take place on October 14.
- **30 September 2014** – Officials in Uganda have intercepted communications between militants in the east African nation and al-Qaeda groups operating in northern Africa requesting that they help in a planned attack on a major prison in Kampala. Speaking to reporters late Monday, police Inspector General Kale Kayihura disclosed that investigations have uncovered links between the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), which is a Ugandan rebel movement, and al-Shabaab as well as al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Kayihura told reporters that officials “...intercepted communication between the terrorists who were in the cells here and who were writing to al-Qaeda of the Maghreb to attack Luzira prison and save them.” While Kayihura assured Ugandans that they were safe, he did urge heightened vigilance. The details of the plot were revealed just days after ten members of Somalia's al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab militants were remanded in custody after appearing in court on terror-related charges that prompted a major security operation in the Ugandan capital city. On September 13, just hours after the United States Embassy in Uganda warned American citizens in the country to stay indoors over fears of an “imminent” attack, police reportedly uncovered explosives in the capital city. Al-Shabaab militants have in the past targeted Uganda, which is a key troop contributor to the AU force fighting in Somalia. Four years ago, during the World Cup

Soccer Tournament final, al-Shabaab insurgents killed at least 76 people after setting off explosions in Kampala.



## Map



# GULF OF GUINEA

## Executive Summary

While over the past week pirate and maritime crime activity in the Gulf of Guinea has remained at a low level, the threat of piracy and maritime crime remains high. Masters are reminded to remain vigilant at all times and in all regions of the Gulf of Guinea.

## At Sea

### Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

## Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – Expect partly cloudy conditions for the Gulf of Guinea.

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

### Executive Summary

The threat of violent attacks, crime and hijackings remains high in waters off Southeast Asia. Masters are therefore reminded to remain vigilant at all times in all regions, including at ports and anchorages. Attacks and robberies can occur at anytime.

Incidents involving the siphoning of oil/fuel have been on the rise in recent months. Masters are reminded to remain vigilant at all times and to report any incidents, suspicious activity, attacks or hijackings to the local authorities.

### At Sea

#### Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

#### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **27 September 2014** – Four robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored product tanker using hooks attached to ropes near position 21:51N – 091:48E, Chittagong Anchorage. They took hostage a duty crewman who was on routine rounds, seized his radio and stole the ship's stores. The duty crewmember managed to escape with cuts on his hands and raised the alarm. The crew was mustered and the Master sounded the foghorn. Upon seeing the crew's response, the robbers fled within the stolen items. Coast guard and port control were informed of the incident.
- **25 September 2014 (Late Report)** – Three robbers boarded an anchored Bermuda UK-flagged tanker, Stena Superior, using a boarding hook at 0545 LT in position 01:24.32N – 104:40.54E, around 16 nautical miles northeast of Tg Berakit, Bintan Island, Indonesia. Duty A/B on routine rounds noticed the robbers near the deck and raised the alarm. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped empty handed in their boat.
  - While at anchor, ten robbers in a wooden craft approached a Singapore-flagged tanker, Sentek 23, at 0530 LT in position 01:24.21N – 104:35.36E, approximately 10.75 nautical miles of Pulau Bintan. The wooden craft was about 7 to 8 meters long with a blue canvas cover on top. Seven of the robbers boarded the tanker via the starboard quarter using ropes. The robbers were armed with guns, swords and machetes. They stole crewmembers' personal belongings, including mobile phones, laptops and cash before escaping. Two of the crew suffered injuries to their hands and face.

- **24 September 2014 (Late Report)** – Four robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored Panama-flagged bulk carrier, Zilos, at 0600 LT in position 01:24N – 104:34E, around 10 nautical miles north of Tg Berakit, Bintan Island, Indonesia. Duty crew noticed the robbers and informed the bridge who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped empty handed.
- **15 September 2014 (Late Report)** – While at anchor, the duty A/B conducting deck rounds on the Singapore-flagged tanker, Reliance II, found that the lock port midship store and three fire hoses were missing. This occurred around 0350 LT in position 22:45.30N – 070:00.05E, Kandla outer anchorage, India. The tanker's Master informed Kandla Port and a patrol boat was dispatched. The Indian Coast Guard and local security agency is investigating the incident.
  - While at anchor, the duty A/B on Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier, Geneva Queen, noticed from the bridge that the door to the forecastle of the ship was opened and that there was some movement in the vicinity at 0225 LT in position 22:44N – 070:01.60E, Outer anchorage Navlakhi Port, Gujarat. The duty A/B immediately informed the OOW, who sounded the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the three perpetrators escaped in a speedboat with five sets of fire hose nozzles and cable from a welding machine. Crewmembers did not sustain any injuries during the incident. The Indian Coast Guard and local security agency are investigating the incident.

#### Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

## Weather Analysis

- **South China Sea** – Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – West-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Malacca Strait** – Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; in the southern Strait, winds will be southeasterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – West-southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots, gusting to 20 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet in the northern Strait; with southeast winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the southern Strait.
- **Andaman Sea** – West-northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – West-southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – The onset of the fall transition season will begin to influence the South China Sea and Malacca Strait area. Partly cloudy conditions with rain showers and thunderstorms are expected.

## SOUTH AMERICA

### Executive Summary

While there have been no recent reported incidents in this region, the threat of violent attacks and robberies remains high in waters throughout South America. Masters are reminded to remain vigilant at all times and in all regions, including ports and anchorages. Attacks and robberies can occur at any time.

### At Sea

**Hijacks:**

- None reported during this period.

**Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:**

- None reported during this period.





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