

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

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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

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Summary (October 13 - 19, 2014 - Week 42; Edition 59)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

Gulf of Guinea/West Africa: One late reported incident

Somalia-Indian Ocean: Four incidents during this period

Southeast Asia: Two incidents reported during this period; three late reported incidents

South America: No incidents during this period

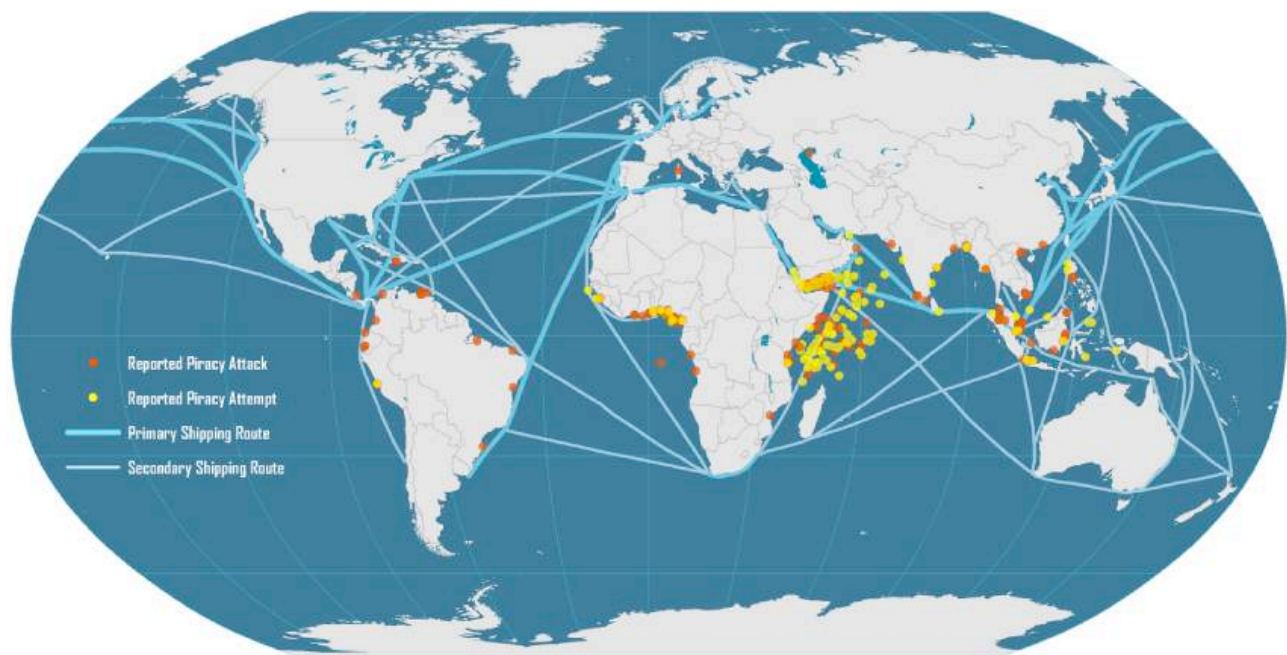
North America: No current incidents to report

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:

- **16 October 2014** – At 0927 UTC a vessel reported being approached by 2 skiffs, with a total of fifteen pirates on board, while it was anchored due to engine repairs that were being conducted. An attempt was made to board the vessel by climbing the anchor chain, however this attempt was unsuccessful, resulting in the skiffs withdrawing. No

weapons were sighted on board the skiffs. Upon completion of the repairs, the vessel continued its journey. Vessel and crewmembers have been reported safe. This incident was likely an opportunistic robbery attempt rather than a piracy incident.

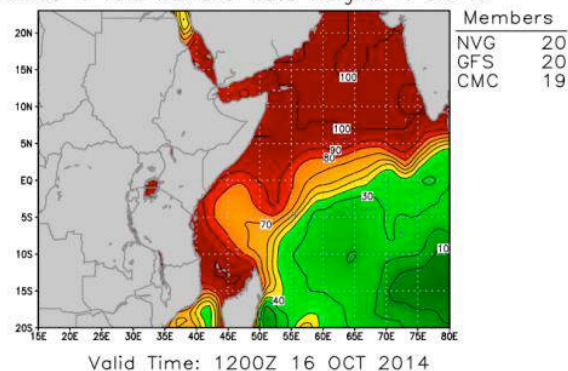
- **15 October 2014** – At 1050 UTC, a merchant vessel was approached by a suspicious dark hull colored skiff with four pirates on board near position 12:41N – 04:84E, approximately 90 nautical miles northwest of Bossaso, Somalia. The closest point of approach was 0.9 nautical miles. A ladder with a hook was sighted on board the skiff however no weapons were seen. Vessel took preventive measures resulting in the skiff moving away.
 - At 1510 UTC, a motor yacht reported a suspicious approach by a skiff near position 12:33N – 050:27E, approximately 90 nautical miles southwest of al-Mukalla, Yemen. The skiff approached the yacht to within 500 meters. Weapons and ladders were reportedly sighted on board the skiff. Armed embarked security team fired warning shots. The skiff dropped back to 2 nautical miles however it continued to follow the motor yacht before departing the area.
- **14 October 2014** – An Indonesia-flagged cargo ship was approached at her port side by a suspected mothership towing three skiffs at 0900 UTC, Gulf of Aden, approximately 105 nautical miles southwest of al-Mukalla, Yemen. The mothership had a white hull while the skiffs were grey in color. As the suspect craft closed to within 1.3 nautical miles, the embarked security team stood-to while the Master alerted the crew, increased speed and conducted evasive maneuvers. Unable to keep pace with the ship, the suspect craft were observed by the security team until they were out of sight.

Weather Analysis

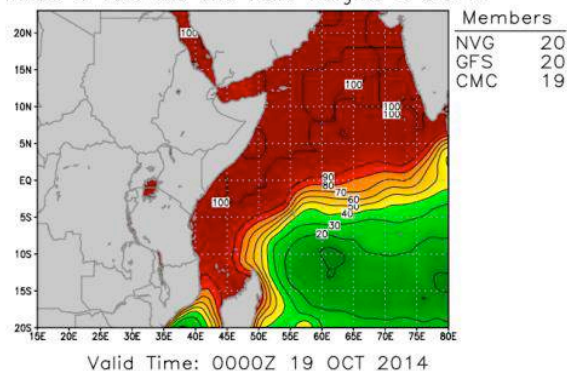
- **North Arabian Sea** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be easterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Easterly winds of 5 – 10 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.
 - **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, winds will be 10 – 15 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Somali Coast** – Southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – Southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots with seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be variable at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 4 – 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly 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 Southwest Monsoon influences the weather in the region. A weakening pressure gradient over the Arabian Gulf will lead to a decrease in wind flow and will remain mostly light with minimal seas throughout the Arabian Gulf. Restricted visibility, due to mist in the southern Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, is expected.

Sea Conditions for the Following Week

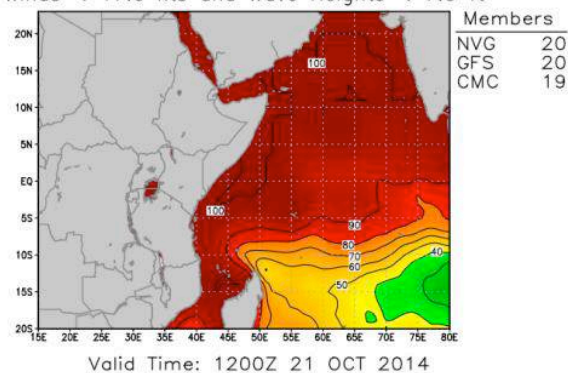
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



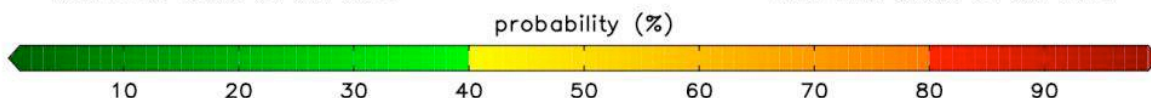
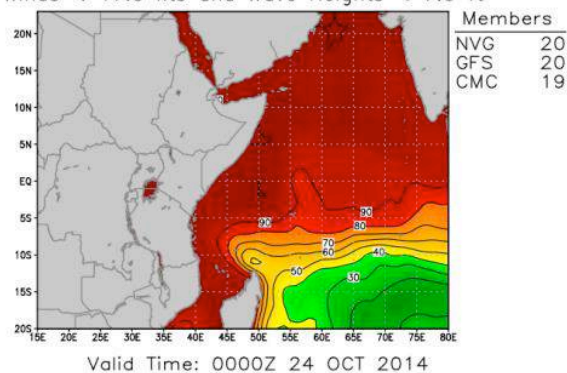
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



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 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

- **15 October 2014** – At least five people were killed and several wounded when a car bomb exploded near several restaurants on a busy street in Mogadishu on Wednesday evening. The attack, which is the second to occur in the capital city in the past three days, occurred in the Hamarweyne district in Mogadishu's old port. One witness reported several mortar shells landing in the area just before the blast. While there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, al-Shabaab has frequently set off bombs and launched a number of gun attacks in Mogadishu. The militant group also promised to carry out more attacks after it lost control of a major coastal stronghold earlier this month. Al-Shabaab has been steadily driven out of towns in the southern and central regions of Somalia by a military offensive led by African and Somali troops. On 5 October, the group lost control of Barawe, a key stronghold.
- **13 October 2014** – Just one day after a car bombing targeted a popular café in central Mogadishu another bomb tore through a senior policeman's car on Monday, wounding at least two. According to police major Ahmed Kassim, Monday's attack occurred after a bomb was planted in the car of the police chief of the city's Blacksea area, located near the busy Bakara market, with the car exploding "...as two mechanics started the engines..." to test it. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, which wounded the two mechanics that were working on the car. The attack however is the third to occur in the capital city in the past twenty-four hours. On Sunday, at least thirteen people were killed and eight others injured after a car bomb exploded outside a popular café in the capital city. According to a senior police official, the incident occurred near the Aroma café, located on Maka Al Mukaram road, with the bomb believed to have been detonated by remote control. Most of those killed in the attack were sitting outside the café. Somali government soldiers were deployed to the area shortly after the incident. Just hours after the bombing at the café, suspected Islamist militants launched five shells at an area where the president was due to speak. The attack occurred in the Huriwa district, where President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was due to attend celebrations marking the anniversary of Somali receiving its flag. Officials have not reported any casualties in that incident, and the President was able to attend the celebrations once security forces cleared the area. While no group has claimed responsibility for these attacks, al-Shabaab is likely behind them, as the militant group has vowed to avenge the death of its leader, Ahmed Abdi Godane, who was killed in September in a US airstrike. The militant group has launched a string of bomb and gun attacks in Mogadishu, and in other city centers across the country, keeping up with its promise to step up action after African Union (AIMSOM) and Somali troops pushed them out of their remaining coastal stronghold a week ago. The loss of Barawe port on 5 October also means that al-Shabaab has lost a key economic source. While the loss of Barawe coupled with US military air strikes that killed its leader last month, have dealt a severe blow to the militant group, which has been seeking to topple the internationally-backed government and to drive out African Union peacekeepers, it remains too soon to declare a victory over the group, which is skilled at guerrilla warfare.
 - In what appears to be a sign that some normality is returning to the East African nation, Somalia's government has launched its first postal service in more than two decades. The government also introduced postcodes nationwide for the first time in the country's history. Mohamed Ibrahim, the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications indicated Monday that Somalis will now be able to receive letters from abroad, adding that the next phase will be to make it possible for them to send letters to friends and relatives around the world. Most Somalis currently communicate via email and mobile

phones, with many young Somalis never having been exposed to a postal service. The reintroduction of the post comes a week after the country's first-ever cash withdrawal machine was installed in the capital city.

Domestic News

- **13 October 2014** – The latest attacks to target Mogadishu come as United Nations investigators warn in new report that Somalia's new government remains corrupt and that al-Shabaab militants are as deadly as ever. The new 482-page report, put forth by the UN Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, disclosed, "underlying corruption as a system of governance has not yet fundamentally changed and, in some cases, arguably has worsened." UN experts have indicated that financially, they have "consistently found patterns of misappropriation with diversion rates of between 70 and 80 percent," adding "the indications are that diverted funds are used for partisan agendas that constitute threats to peace and security." According to the report, a third of revenues from the capital's busy seaport, which is a key source of income that totals millions of dollars for the internationally funded government, cannot be accounted for. While the UN Security Council in 2013 allowed for a partial lifting of an arms embargo on Somalia, the new report discloses, "some of the weapons and ammunition have been diverted to arms markets in Mogadishu." According to UN experts, weapons initially sent to the national army to defend the country's internationally backed government, have instead been seen on open sale in at least one market where al-Shabaab militants are known to have purchased arms. This is particularly worrisome as al-Shabaab has begun to shift its tactics as the militant group faces sustained military assaults by the AU force and repeated air strikes, such as those that killed its chief last month. The report warns that in the long term, air and drone strikes will achieve minimal damage to the militant group, noting, "strategic airstrikes have in general resulted in short terms gains but significantly failed to diminish al-Shabaab's operation capacity...there is no current evidence that they have the potential to 'degrade and destroy' al-Shabaab." This was particularly evidenced over this past weekend, as despite being pushed out of a key stronghold earlier this month, al-Shabaab militants were able to stage three attacks in the capital city, demonstrating that the militant group remains active in key areas across the country. Furthermore, while the loss of the port town of Barawe, including the loss of funding through the multi-million dollar trade of charcoal, will likely have some financial impact on the militant group, the trade continues unabated and militants will continue to profit as they continue to control production sites and truck checkpoints. According to UN experts, al-Shabaab have also increased their use of bombs, including the "noticeable" introduction of magnetic vehicle bombs, a tactic that was previously commonly used in Afghanistan and Iraq. The use of such car bombs in Somalia likely represents "...a transfer of battlefield knowledge to Somalia." Outside of Somalia, the militant group continues to pose a regional threat, as the military operations in southern and central Somalia have effectively forced al-Shabaab fighters to "become more operationally audacious by placing greater emphasis on exporting its violence beyond the borders of Somalia" and across the Horn of Africa.

Regional Reporting

- **15 October 2014** – On Wednesday, the United States Embassy in Ethiopia warned that Somali Islamist insurgents are plotting to attack an upmarket area of Ethiopia's capital city Addis Ababa. While officials at the embassy indicated that the exact target of the attack remains unknown, it did note that the "potential imminent terrorist attack" threatened the busy Bole district, which includes the capital's international airport and several diplomatic mission. In a notice to citizens released on Tuesday, officials disclosed, "the embassy has received threat reports of al-Shabaab's intent to target the Bole area," adding "restaurants, hotels, bars, places of worship supermarkets, and shopping malls in the Bole area should be avoided until further notice, because they are possible targets." The embassy also warned its citizens in Adis Ababa "to avoid large crowds and places where both Ethiopians and Westerners frequent." Al-Shabaab, which carried out a major attack in a shopping center in Kenya's capital city last September continues to pose a region threat, with its militants capable of carrying out deadly attacks in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and inside Somalia, where they operate. The militant group has targeted those countries that have deployed troops to Somalia in a bid to fight them. This includes Ethiopia, which deployed troops to fight al-Shabaab in Somalia as part of the UN-backed African Union force operation there.
- **14 October 2014** – According to military officials, a battalion of 800 Sierra Leone soldiers, awaiting deployment as peacekeepers in Somalia, has been placed in quarantine after one of its members tested positive for the deadly Ebola virus. The soldiers were due to relive the West African country's contingent, which is already deployed in the Horn of Africa nation as part of Somalia's African Union peacekeeping mission, known as AMISOM. The battalion will be quarantined for a period of 21-days. Colonel Michael Samoura, spokesman for the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces, confirmed that a member of the battalion had tested positive for the deadly disease, disclosing that the soldier was infected after leaving the military camp, where the force is based, without permission.

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:

- **11 October 2014 (Late Report)** – Armed persons attacked a passenger boat transiting between Ogbia and Okpoama-Brass at 1635LT in Nembe Kiberi-Bio Area, Bayelsa State, Nigeria. The passengers were robbed of their cash and valuables and two women and two children were kidnapped. The hostages were released the following day. All passengers have since been reported safe.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – South-southwest winds of 7 – 12 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. The recent hijacking of a Vietnamese-flagged tanker demonstrates that the threat to vessels carrying fuel or oil cargoes remains high. Pirate Action Groups (PAG's) are likely to target such vessels to siphon fuel or oil onto another ship. 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:

- **15 October 2014** – During routine rounds on board an anchored bulk carrier, duty security guard was confronted by two robbers at 0030 LT Chittagong Lightening Anchorage, Bangladesh. Guard informed the OOW who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. The robbers escaped in their boats with stolen provisions. Coastguard and all vessels in the vicinity were notified of the incident. A security guard on board the vessel sustained minor head injuries during the incident.
- **14 October 2014** – Five robbers in a wooden boat approached and boarded an anchored LNG tanker at 0045 LT, Bay of Jakarta, Indonesia. OOW noticed the robbers attempting to steal ships stores on the bridge CCTV. Alarm was raised and crewmembers were mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped empty handed in their boat.
- **12 October 2014 (Late Report)** – Duty AB on routine rounds onboard an anchored bulk carrier noticed two boats near the port bow and three armed robbers on the forecastle deck at 0245 LT, Taboneo Anchorage, Indonesia. The AB immediately informed the duty officer who raised the alarm, sounded the ship's foghorn and mustered the crew. The Master instructed the crew to stay in the accommodation as the robbers were armed with knives and a gun. They stole the ship's stores and properties and escaped in their boats. Coast Guard and Port Authorities were contacted however the vessel received no response.

- **11 October 2014 (Late Report)** – During routine rounds duty cadet onboard a moored bulk carrier noticed the paint store's lock missing at 0400 LT in Mooring Buoy HL-2 Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Upon approaching the store, the cadet was confronted by three robbers and taken hostage. When he did not respond to calls from the bridge, the OOW sent the duty AB to investigate. The cadet was later found lying on the deck with a bag over his head and his hands tied up. He had suffered injuries due to being beaten by the robbers. Alarm was raised and all crewmembers were mustered. The robbers managed to escape with stolen ship's stores.
- **9 October 2014 (Late Report)** – Seven perpetrators armed with machetes and a gun boarded an Indonesia-flagged tanker at 0330 LT off Pulau Karimunbesar, Malacca Strait. At 0430 LT, the perpetrators left the ship, carrying stolen cash and valuables, including mobile phones. An investigation into the incident is ongoing.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Weather Analysis

- **South China Sea** – Northeast winds of 10 – 12 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Malacca Strait** – Southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; in the southern Strait, winds will be southerly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – North-northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; in the southern Strait, winds will be northeasterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
- **Andaman Sea** – Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – West-northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – The fall transition period continues to influence the region. Expect mostly cloudy conditions with rain showers and thunderstorms and increased sea heights in the South China Sea and Malacca Strait.

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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