

# 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

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  - Special assignments
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  - Crisis management
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## Summary (October 27 – November 2, 2014 - Week 44; Edition 61)

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

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

**Somalia-Indian Ocean:** Two incidents and one late reported incident

**Southeast Asia:** Two incidents reported during this period

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

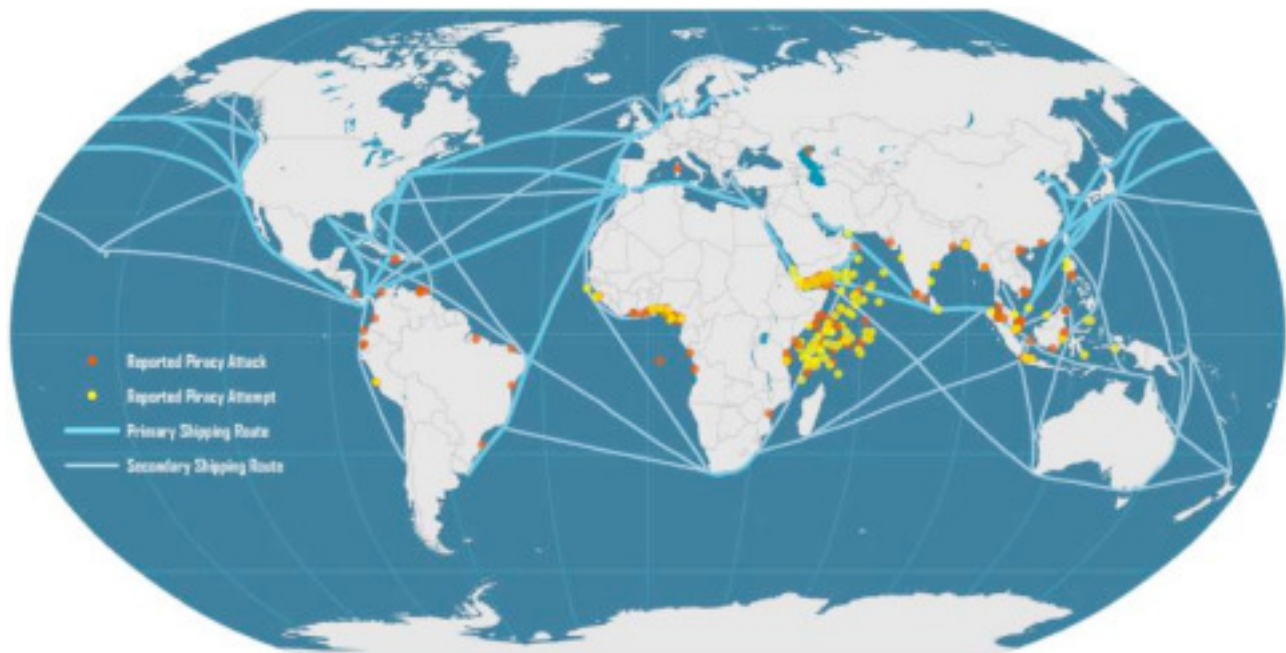
**North America:** No current incidents to report

**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 season continues to dominate the area. 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:

- **28 October 2014** – A vessel reported being approached by 3 skiffs and a larger vessel, suspected of being a mother ship, while in position 12:37N – 047:25E. The embarked armed security team fired flares and warning shots, resulting in the skiffs moving away and heading west. Vessel and crewmembers have been reported safe.

- **27 October 2014** – Vessel in position 12:36.80N – 043:19.30E, reported being approached to within 0.5 nautical miles by 2 skiffs with 5 – 6 pirates on board. The embarked armed security team on board the vessel raised their weapons, resulting in the skiffs aborting their approach. The same vessel, in position 12:27.7N – 043:36.8E later reported being approached to within 2.2 nautical miles by 1 skiff with 6 pirates on board. The vessel and all crewmembers on board have been reported safe.
- **25 October 2014 (Late Report)** – A vessel sent out a distress signal indicating that it had been approached by 2 skiffs closing to within 8 cables in position 22:22N – 065:55E. The vessel conducted evasive maneuvers until the skiffs were at a distance of 6 nautical miles. Vessel and crewmembers on board have been reported safe.

## Piracy News

- **30 October 2014** – After being held hostage for four years, seven Indian seafarers have been released by Somali pirates. Somali pirates hijacked the MV Asphalt Venture, along with her crew of 15, on 28 September 2010. In April 2011, the vessel and eight crewmembers were released while the remaining 7 Indian seafarers were detained ashore. Regional Director of Maritime Piracy Humanitarian Response Programme (MPHRP) Chirag Bahri confirmed, “all seven Indian crew of Asphalt Venture have been released by Somali pirates on October 30 with our efforts and its various partners. The crew have called their families back home and are excited to meet them.” According to sources, the release occurred after lengthy negotiations, with the payment of a “modest” ransom for their release. The seven sailors will return to India in the coming days. They are currently in neighboring Kenya, undergoing medical examinations.
- **29 October 2014** – While the number of pirate attacks reported worldwide to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) has continued to fall, with the IMB reported 178 incidents in the first nine months of 2014, the anti-piracy watchdog is again warning about the increasing trend of hijackings of small tankers in waters in Southeast Asia. For the first nine months of 2014, the number of incidents was lower than the 188 that were reported in the same period in 2013, which was the lowest number of attacks since 2006. By contrast, during the first nine months of 2011, there were 352 attacks. According to statistics released by the IMB, in the first nine months of 2014, there were 17 vessels that were hijacked, 124 that were boarded and 10 that were fired upon. Three seafarers were killed during pirate attacks, five were kidnapped and 369 seafarers are being held hostage. IMB director Potengal Mukundan has indicated that while “it’s encouraging to see the huge decrease in maritime piracy and armed robbery over the last few years, thanks mainly to international navies deterring pirates off East Africa, and improved onboard security...there has been a worrying new rise in attacks against small coastal tankers in Southeast Asia.” The IMB currently advises “...small tankers in particular to remain vigilant in these waters and report all attacks and suspicious small craft to the IMB’s Piracy Reporting Centre.” Of the six vessels hijacked, five were taken captive in Southeast Asia. Pirates operating in the region are increasingly targeting small tankers, which are known to carry products such as marine gas oil. Pirates often hold the crew hostage while the oil is siphoned onto another vessel for resale. Indonesia recorded 72 incidents between January and September, including 67-armed robberies and five hijackings. In two separate hijackings off Pulau Bintan in September, 26 crewmembers were taken hostage. Elsewhere in Indonesia, 59 vessels were boarded and there were eight attempted attacks. Waters off Pulau Bintan saw more attacks than any other region in the world, with 27 incidents reported during this period. The incidents included low-level thefts and attempted thefts from

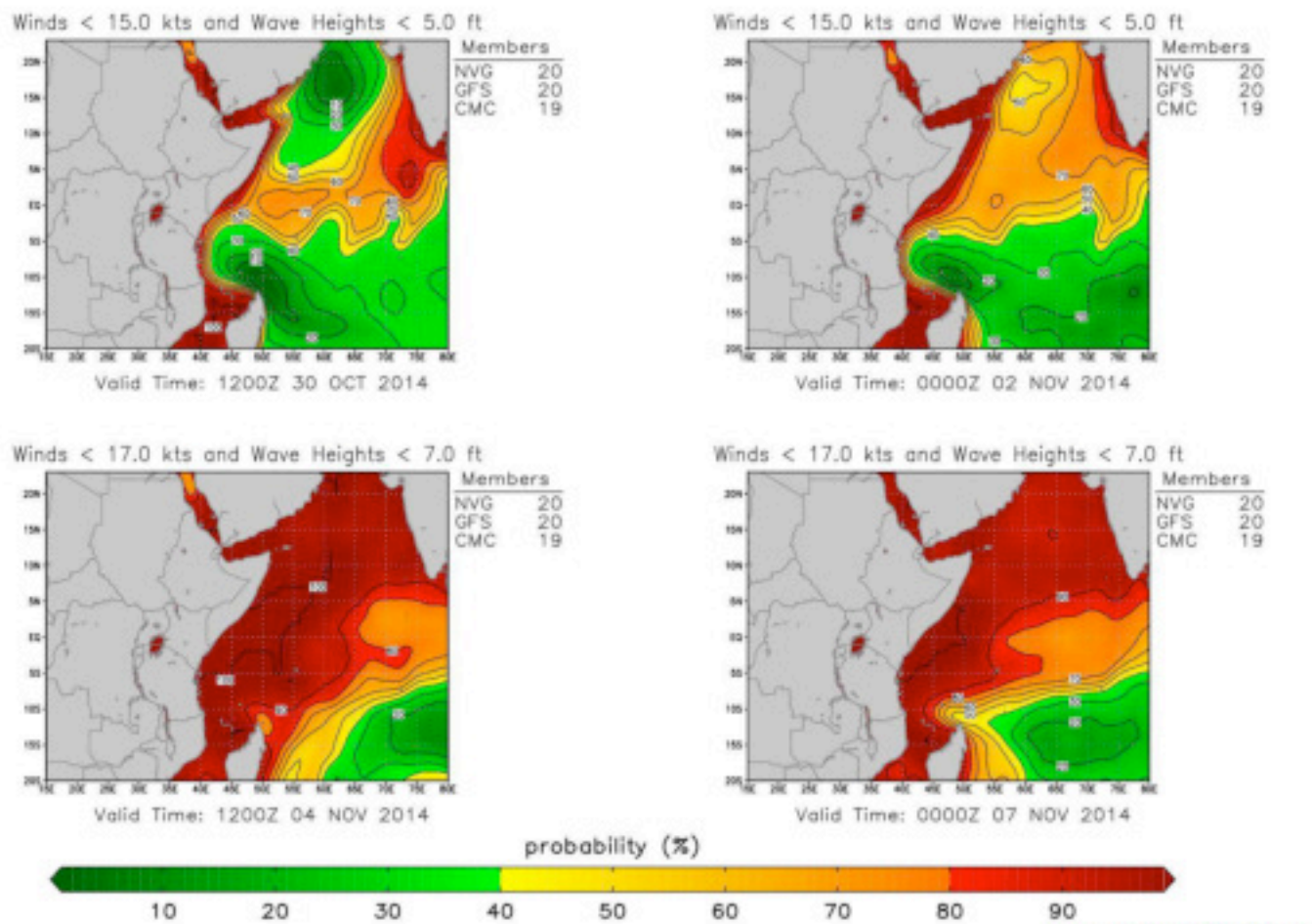
vessels either anchored or berthed. The IMB has commended the efforts taken by the Indonesian Marine police in addressing the problem areas. Despite being the previous piracy hotspot, piracy incidents off the waters of Somalia have continued to decline. With just 10 incidents reported so far this year, the IMB has warned that there is currently a great risk that international attention will turn away from the 40 hostages who are still being held by Somali pirates. In the Gulf of Guinea, the number of incidents reported in waters off Nigeria has dropped noticeable, down to 13 in the first nine months of 2014 from 29 in the same period last year. There were four reported incidents in waters off Ghana, compared to no incidents during the same period in 2013. This includes the hijacking of two product tankers, and the theft of their cargoes, and a fishing vessel. Pirates operating in the Gulf of Guinea this year have taken hostage eighty-six crewmembers.



## Weather Analysis

- **North Arabian Sea** – Easterly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 27 – 32 feet. Tropical Cyclone 04A continues to impact the northern Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea area.
  - **Extended Forecast** – West-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be east-northeasterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 4 – 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – West-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf winds will be west-southwesterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section, winds will be westerly at 5 – 10 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; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – East-southeast winds of 12 – 17 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – East-southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southerly at 7 – 12 knots with seas of 6 – 8 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Northerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; with northerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 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 continues to influence the weather in the region. Decreased wind flow and abating seas across the Arabian Sea and Somali Basin areas are expected in the coming days. Tropical Cyclone 04A continues to impact the northern Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea area.

## Sea Conditions for the Following Week



\*\*\* 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 Reporting

- **1 November 2014** – At least one person was killed and two others wounded on Saturday in a car bombing in Mogadishu. According to Mohamed Dahir, a police commander, the incident occurred during the morning hours in the Hodon district of the capital city. An investigation into the incident is currently being carried out however police officials are suspecting that al-Shabaab is behind the attack.
- **30 October 2014** – The African Union (AU) has responded to claims that its internationally funded troops in Somalia have raped women and girls, accusing the rights group behind the report of being unfair and inaccurate. In a letter response to Human Rights Watch (HRW) released by the AU on Thursday, the pan-African bloc disclosed that while it was currently investigating the AU mission in Somalia, known as AMISOM, in the wake of last month's report into the conduct of its troops, it noted that the rights group had undermined peace efforts in the war-torn East African nation. In the letter to HRW, Maman S. Sidikou, the AU's head of mission in Somalia, disclosed "the AU does not condone, and indeed has maintained a zero-tolerance stance against any form of sexual exploitation and abuse in all its peace support operations," adding that while AMISOM "reiterates its deep concern about the allegations" and was "doing all it can to ensure justice," the HRW report was marked by "imbalance, misrepresentation and inaccurate," and that the report, "...which seems to characterize AMISOM uniformed personnel as rapists and human rights abusers, is an unacceptable misrepresentation of the Mission and will no doubt undermine efforts to win the trust and respect of the Somali population." The AU's statement further indicated "the report has given additional ammunition to all those trying to obstruct the path towards peace and greater security in Somalia. It has also complicated AU's efforts to win the support of the local population in the fight against al-Qaeda-linked terrorist group al-Shabaab." In particular, AU officials have criticized the rights group for refusing to share its detailed evidence of abuses, noting that small samples of interviewees meant that the conclusions "may not be empirically sound." Last month, the HRW released a report disclosing that after interviewing several Somali nationals, several women had described how they had gone to the AU camp seeking medicine for their sick babies only to be sexually exploited. According to HRW, the women largely came from camps in the capital Mogadishu after having fled the rural areas of the country in the wake of the 2011 famine. The AU has already launched an investigation into the allegations. A report on its findings is due to be completed by November 30. The 22,000-strong AMISOM force, which has soldiers from six African nations, have been fighting alongside Somali government troops against al-Shabaab since 2007. AMISOM donors include the United Nations, the European Union, Britain and the United States.
- **29 October 2014** – The United Nation's Secretary General Ban Ki-moon arrived in Mogadishu Wednesday, in what is his second trip to the war-torn East African country. The Secretary General was seen walking around the capital city's seaside airport complex in a dark business suit. While Mr. Ban's fashion choices are typically not monitored, his choice of opting to wear a business suit are significant in Mogadishu, where during his last trip in 2011 he was seen wearing a UN-branded bullet-proof vest. The fact that his security detail has allowed him to walk around without war-time protection, at least inside the well-protected airport complex, is seen as a major sign that security in the capital city is improving. The Secretary General has travelled to Mogadishu with World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and Islamic Development Bank President Ahmad Mohamed Ali Al-Madani. Speaking to reporters, he disclosed that while the group is well aware of the current major political, security and development challenges, many indicators are "finally pointing in the right direction" and that security and development must go hand in hand in order for Somalia to advance.

Mr. Ban has congratulated both Somali government and African Union (AU) troops for their recent advances against al-Shabaab militants, noting that it is now critical that forces secure the roads in the newly recovered areas in order to enable humanitarian access and commercial traffic, particularly at a time when Somalia continues to face major humanitarian problems, including hunger. According to new UN figures, more than 3 million Somalis are currently in need of food aid, with the UN urging international donors to increase their contributions in order to avert another famine. The Secretary General also held private meetings with the Somali government, urging political unity between the country's President and Prime Minister and demanding transparency in the use of government funds.

## Regional Reporting

- **28 October 2014** – On Tuesday, hundreds of Kenyans protested against a four-month government imposed curfew in the coastal county of Lamu, which was put in place after gunmen killed around 100 people earlier this month. The protests come a day after the Kenyan government extended the dusk-to-dawn curfew until the end of November, stating that it was meant to help police provide security in the region, which is located close to the border with southern Somalia. Resident however have reported that the curfew has only further damaged trade and fishing, which was already suffering after the attacks near Lamu, an ancient trading port and tourist resort that lies in an area of the country where local communities have a history of conflict over land, water and other resources. On Tuesday, protesting youths threw rocks at those who opened their businesses, demanding that they instead join the demonstrations to put pressure on the government to lift the curfew. Although Kenyan police later dispersed the protesters, many shops, hotels, offices and public transport remained closed for the day. Authorities in Lamu county have indicated that the curfew will remain in order to improve security in the area.

## 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.

### 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.

## Piracy News

- **28 October 2014** – Gunmen on a speedboat in Nigeria's southern oil-producing region killed four policemen and kidnapped six Nigerian employees of the Agip energy firm. Mustapha Anka, spokesman for the military's Joint Task Force in the region confirmed the incident disclosing, "four policemen who were escorting a boat were attacked and killed. Six oil workers were abducted in the incident." A security source in the region identified the hostages as employees of the Nigerian subsidiary of the Italian energy firm Agip, which is controlled by ENI, one of the world's largest oil companies. The attack occurred Friday in the

Nembe Creek area of Bayelsa state, which was one of the most violent regions of the delta at the height of an insurgency that formally ended in 2009. Despite a 2009 amnesty agreement with militant leaders, which ended the rebellion, criminality, particularly kidnap-for-ransom, has persisted in the delta region. There is also widespread concern that violence in the region will escalate as the amnesty deal is set to expire next year. Officially, the peace deal offered job training and other benefits to the militants, who voluntarily gave up their arms, however many experts revealed that in practice, the agreement amounted to massive cash payouts to gang leaders who could quickly resume fighting if they are cut off from payments. The Niger Delta, which is home to Africa's largest oil industry, is made up of a network of rivers and creeks. Criminal groups operating in the region are known to transit the rivers and creeks on small boats, launching gun attacks on security forces and oil workers. Both foreign and Nigerian hostages have been targeted and have typically been released following the payment of a ransom.

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

### Executive Summary

The threat of violent attacks, crime and hijackings remains high in waters off Southeast Asia. Pirate Action Groups (PAG's) are likely to target 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:

- **27 October 2014** – At 0545 LT, in position 01:04.8N – 103:36.0E, around 11 nautical miles east-northeast of Pulau Karimum Besar, Indonesia, two robbers armed with knives in a small boat boarded a bulk carrier while underway. Alarm was raised, crew was mustered and a search of the vessel was carried out. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped empty handed in their boat. MPA Singapore was informed of the incident. The crew sustained no injuries during the incident.
- **26 October 2014 (Late Report)** – At 0530 LT, 3 nautical miles southeast of Tanjung Plai, Malaysia, duty watch on board a tanker heard a noise on the deck and reported it to the OOW. The alarm was raised and the crew was mustered. Upon seeing the crew's alertness the robbers escaped. On searching the vessel, the crew noticed the paint locker room opened however nothing was stolen.

#### Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

### Weather Analysis

- **South China Sea** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 12 – 17 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.



- **Malacca Strait** – Northerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; with east-southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the southern Strait.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; with southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the southern Strait.
- **Andaman Sea** – Southeast winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Easterly winds of 7 – 12 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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