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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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 - Training
 - Special assignments
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 - Crisis management
 - 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 (December 1 - 7, 2014 - Week 49; Edition 66)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

Gulf of Guinea/West Africa: One late reported incident

Somalia-Indian Ocean: Two incidents and two late reported incidents during this period

Southeast Asia: Three incidents reported during this period

South America: No incidents during this period

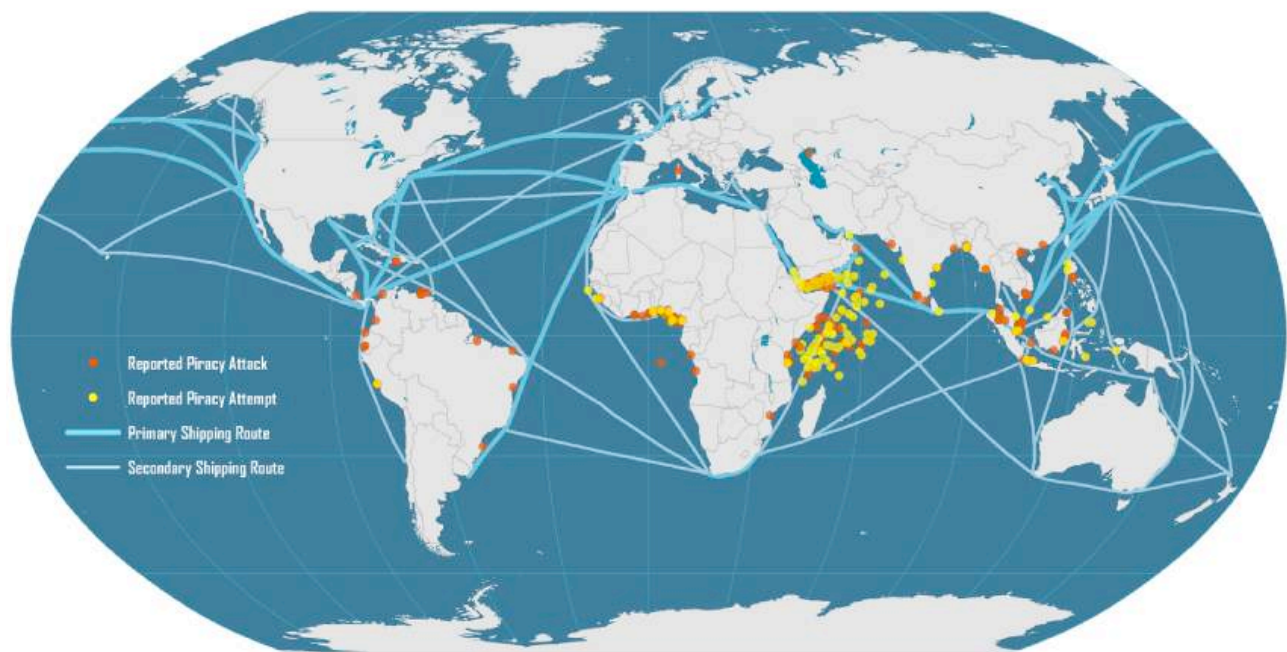
North America: No current incidents to report

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. The Southwest Monsoon season is now in a transition period. Waves off the eastern coast of Somalia are up to 1.5 meters with winds up to 20 knots – conditions that are becoming increasingly favorable for single skiffs and whalers to operate in. Vessels transiting the Gulf of Aden and waters off the coast of Somalia are reminded that skiffs and whalers will increasingly move their operations out of the Gulf of Aden and further out to sea in an attempt to hijack a vessel.

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.

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- **4 December 2014** – At 1330 UTC in position 12:22.42N – 046:42.08E, Master reported a brown dhow towing three blue hulled skiffs at 1.2 nautical miles distance on MV's portside on a parallel course. The dhow and three skiffs stayed on this parallel course for 30 minutes. MV altered course and alerted other vessels in the vicinity. No weapons or ladders were seen on board the dhow or the skiffs. The number of pirates on board these crafts could not be seen. MV and crewmembers on board the vessel have been reported safe.

- **1 December 2014** – At 2133 UTC in position 26:07N – 056:50E, an MV reported colliding with a dhow-type vessel. The dhow-type vessel had crossed ahead then turned toward the MV. Attempts made to hail the dhow-type vessel on VHR were unsuccessful. Use of the MV's searchlight revealed no signs of damage or distress. The dhow-type vessel displayed navigation lights throughout. The Master of the MV was unsure whether this was a suspicious incident or purely a navigational incident. An investigation into the incident is ongoing. The vessel and crewmembers on board have been reported safe.
- **29 December 2014 (Late Report)** – At 1140 UTC in position 12:17N – 042:54E, a vessel was reportedly followed by 1 other vessel to within 0.3 nautical miles. The suspicious vessel was blue in color. This lasted for fifteen minutes during which the vessel conducted evasive maneuvers, sounded the alarm, activated the hoses and mustered the security team. No weapons or ladders were seen on board the suspicious vessel.
 - At 1150 UTC in position 12:22.42N – 046:42.08E, a vessel was seen towing three skiffs. The vessel came to within 1.9 nautical miles of the reporting vessel and four people were seen on board the deck. No weapons or ladders were seen on board.

Piracy Related News

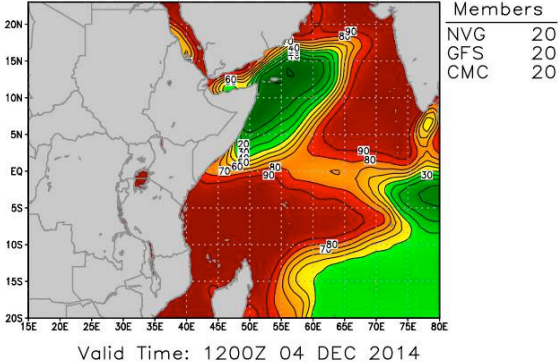
- **4 December 2014** – On Thursday, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ordered France to pay thousands of euros to Somali pirates who had attacked French ships, as they were not immediately brought before a judge. The ECHR disclosed that French authorities should have presented the pirates “without delay” to a judge when they arrived on French territory after being held at sea. In its ruling, the court acknowledged that there were “completely exceptional circumstances” to justify a long detention without seeing a judge - the arrest took place “more than 6,000 kilometres (4,000 miles) from French territory.” While the ECHR also noted that the Somali authorities were “incapable of fighting” against the pirates, it did rule that after their arrival on French soil, authorities were wrong to keep the pirates in custody for an additional 48 hours before bringing them before a judge. According to the ECHR's verdict “nothing justifies such an additional delay,” adding that this constituted a “violation of their rights to freedom and security.” France has now been ordered to pay one of the pirates 9,000 euros (£7,000) while the others will receive sums of up to 7,000 euros. The nine Somali pirates were apprehended on the high seas by the French army on two separate occasions in 2008. The pirates had held several French citizens hostage after they seized a French-flagged cruise ship and a French yacht. The French military captured the pirates on the Somali coast in tow operations after the hostages had been released for ransom of US \$2.1 million (£1.3m) and US \$2m.

Weather Analysis

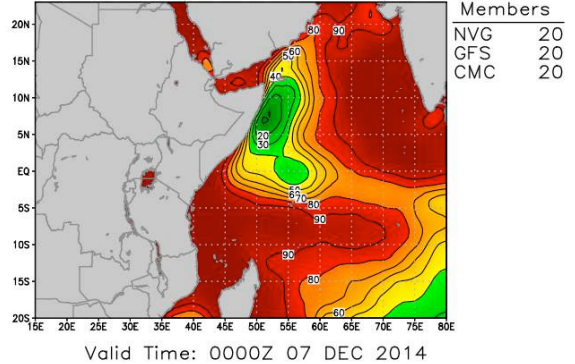
- **North Arabian Sea** – North-northwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Westerly winds of 10 – 15 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with westerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Westerly winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be westerly at 3 – 5 knots with seas of 1- 3 feet.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Easterly winds of 12 – 17 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 12 – 17 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Easterly winds of 12 – 17 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 12 – 17 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – East-southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be south-southeasterly at 10 – 15 knots with seas of 4 – 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 10 – 15 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** – As the Northeast Monsoon becomes the dominant feature across the region, increased winds and elevated seas in the Arabian Gulf are expected along with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms.

Sea Conditions for the Following Week

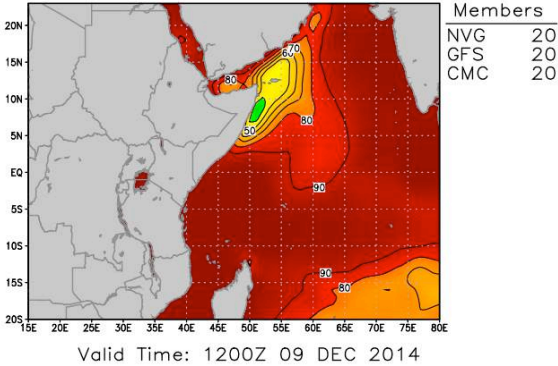
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



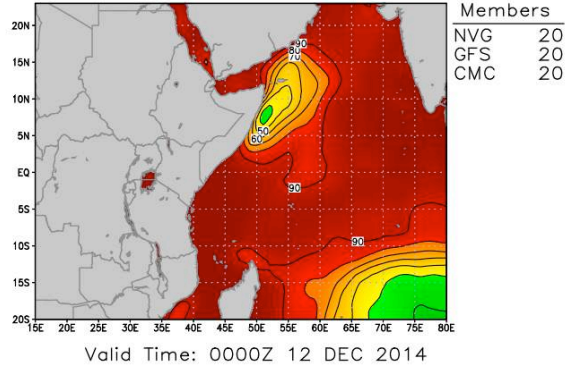
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



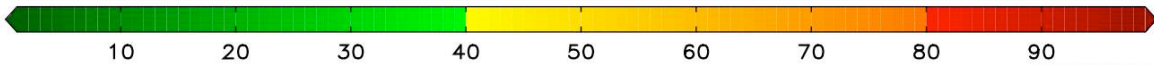
Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



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 Reporting

- **5 December 2014** - A police officer in Somalia disclosed Friday that militants detonated two suicide bombs in a city located just outside the capital, killing at least nine people. According to Capt. Hassan Nor, a suicide car bomber drove into a crowd on Friday in the south-central town of Baidoa, killing several people after he detonated the explosives. A second blast occurred when a suicide bomber walked into a restaurant. The dual attack comes just days after the region elected a new leader, Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden, the former speaker of parliament. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack however officials suspect al-Shabaab militants to be behind it.
- **4 December 2014** - A Kenyan military spokesman disclosed Thursday that a fighter jet returning from a combat mission has crashed in Somalia. Col. David Obonyo has indicated that the military has launched a search and rescue mission in order to locate the pilot, who ejected from the plane before the crash. On Thursday, the pilot had reported mechanical problems before the plane disappeared from radar over the southern port city of Kismayo. Shortly after this released statement, al-Shabaab claimed to have shot down the plane. . Al-Shabaab's spokesman for military operations, Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab disclosed late Thursday "we hit the Kenyan jet and downed it. It was bombing Bulaguduud town today...we hit it using a missile." Col. Obonyo however has denied these claims. The Kenyan army, which entered Somalia three years ago to fight al-Shabaab, has in recent weeks been carrying out heavy air strikes against al-Shabaab bases in southern Somalia after the militant group carried out a string of deadly attacks in Kenya.
 - Al-Shabaab insurgents have claimed responsibility for the assassination of a former lawmaker and his bodyguard and wounding another MP in a drive-by shooting in Mogadishu on Thursday. According to witnesses, gunmen in a moving car opened fire as the lawmaker drove through the center of the city, before racing off. Officials have indicated that MP Mustafa Mayow was wounded in the attack however they have not released the name of the former lawmaker who was killed. Shortly after the attack, al-Shabaab spokesman Abdiaziz Abu Musab stated, "the government say they have eradicated the Shabaab from Mogadishu, but this is to show that we are here and active. Over this past year, al-Shabaab militants have killed at least five lawmakers in Mogadishu. The extremist group has indicated that they are targeting MP's as they allowed the deployment of foreign troops on Somali soil. Recent al-Shabaab attacks have targeted key government and security sites in Somalia and have also targeted towns and villages in neighboring Kenya. On Wednesday, an al-Shabaab suicide bomber killed four security guards and bystanders when he rammed a car packed with explosives into a United Nations convoy. Late on Monday, the militant group continued its operations in neighboring Kenya by killing thirty-six non-Muslim quarry workers in a Kenyan border town. Both attacks have aptly demonstrated the militant group's continued threat not only in Somalia, but regionally, showing that they are capable of travelling far distances to carry out deadly attacks.
- **3 December 2014** – Four people were killed and nine wounded in Mogadishu on Wednesday when a suicide bomber rammed a car packed with explosives into a UN convoy. According to on the ground sources, the convoy of four armored vehicles was ferrying staff between Mogadishu's heavily fortified airport and a protected UN base in the capital city when it was hit close to the airport gate. Police officer Mohamed Liban confirmed that four people were killed, disclosing that all Somali nationals either providing security for the UN or those passing by who had been caught by the blast. He also confirmed that nine others were wounded. The UN mission in Somalia also confirmed the attack, stating that there were

“thankfully no injuries to UN staff” but regretting the “casualties amongst bystanders and security personnel.” A statement released by al-Shabaab shortly after the attack indicated that the militant group’s fighters had “targeted a convoy of foreign mercenaries and their apostate allies.” The attack appears to be a repeat of a similar attack that was carried out by al-Shabaab militants in February, when six people – Somali guards, passers-by and shop owners – were killed in a suicide attack on a convoy that was carrying UN staff near the airport.

Domestic News

- **6 December 2014** - On Saturday, Somalia's prime minister, who has been at odds with the country's president for the past several months, has lost a vote of confidence. The vote comes amidst warnings from the international community that the on going political struggles and turmoil may affect the fragile gains of the East African country’s democratically elected government. On Saturday, Prime Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Mohamud received support from only 80 lawmakers, while the remaining 153 lawmakers backed a motion to have him removed from power. Over the past several months, tensions between the prime minister and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud have increased. The prime minister took the post in December 2013 after his predecessor Abdi Farah Shirdon was ousted by parliament after just over a year in office.

Regional Reporting

- **5 December 2014** - On Friday, Ugandan authorities disclosed that they are in the process of drastically increasing security in the lead up to the holiday period, with police and army chiefs urging increased public vigilance over potential militant attacks. Ugandan police chief General Kale Kayihura confirmed Friday "I have ordered all unit commanders to heighten security and anyone who does not heed the order will have to explain why." The move comes just days after al-Shabaab militants massacred 36 quarry workers in neighbouring Kenya in what is just the latest in a string of attacks on that country's soil. Both Uganda and Kenya are part of the African Union force that is currently deployed to fight al-Shabaab in Somalia and both countries may be targeted over the holiday period. In September, Ugandan security forces stopped a cell of al-Shabaab insurgents said to be planning an imminent attack. Ten men and women were charged and remanded in custody after a major security operation was carried out in the capital Kampala. The operation took place shortly after Ugandan and Western intelligence services were alerted to the transfer of explosive suicide vests. Uganda was targeted by the militant group four years ago during the World Cup final, with insurgents killing at least 76 people after setting off explosions in two restaurants in the capital city.
- **2 December 2014** – On Tuesday, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta replaced his interior minister and police chief following a massacre that was carried out by al-Shabaab. Sources have indicated that Kenya’s police chief David Kimaiyo has stood down from his post while Interior Minister Joseph Ole Lenku was dismissed. Opposition and former army general Joseph Nkaissery has been nominated to replace the ousted Interior Minister. Sources have indicated that in recent weeks, both Mr Kimaiyo and Mr Lenko were under growing pressure to resign amidst an increasing concern over security in Kenya following several deadly attacks. The shake up of the president’s cabinet comes after al-Shabaab militants killed 36 quarry workers in the northeastern Mandera region, which is located near the Somali border. According to local

security officials, the militant group attacked the workers around midnight on Monday while they were asleep in tents at the quarry in Kormey, which is located 15 kilometres (9 miles) from Mandera. According to sources, non-Muslim workers were shot dead after they were separated from the Muslim workers. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack hours later, blaming the involvement of Kenyan forces in Somalia “and their ongoing atrocities therein, such as the recent air strikes on Muslims.” Speaking on national television, the president asked Kenyans to unite, stating, “we will not flinch in war against terrorists,” adding “this is a war against Kenya and Kenyans.... It is a war that every one of us must fight. The time has come for each and everyone of us to decide and choose – are you on the side of an open, free, democratic Kenya...or do you stand with repressive, intolerant extremists.” Sources have reported that most Kenyans will be happy with the decision to replace the police chief and interior minister as both men have been widely blamed for failing to prevent al-Shabaab from carrying out deadly attacks on Kenyan soil. In recent months, al-Shabaab has increased its attacks in Kenya. Just last week, the Islamist group killed twenty-eight people in Mandera county in an attack on a bus that saw the militant group targeting non-Muslims. In recent months, dozens of people have also been killed in a series of shootings carried out in Kenya’s coastal districts.

- **1 December 2014** – Explosions struck the town of Wajir, in northern Kenya near the border with Somalia, on Monday evening with sources reporting that one person was killed in a gun attack that coincided with the blasts. The incident occurred in an area in Wajir called Ngamia, where there are several police posts and a social club that is used by government workers. According to a police source, Somali militants likely carried out the assault. Kenya’s Interior Ministry has also reported that three armed men launched the attack, with the Kenyan Red Cross indicating that about a dozen people were taken to hospital shortly after the blasts and gunfire. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack however in recent weeks, al-Shabaab has increased its tempo of attacks on Kenyan soil.

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. Officials have reported two suspect pirate vessels, one operating in waters off Congo and the other operating in Gabonese waters. All vessels transiting this region are reminded to remain vigilant. 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:

- **30 November 2014 (Late Report)** – An underway tanker experienced an attempted boarding near position 00:45S – 006:15E, 47 nautical miles south-southwest of Sao Tome and Principe Island. The vessel's Master observed a black hull tug boat lowering a speedboat with eight men armed with machine guns and a ladder. The speedboat approached the tanker and started firing at the accommodation area. The vessel's master raised the alarm, activated the fire pumps, and took evasive maneuvers to prevent the boarding. Most of the crewmembers on board the vessel were mustered into the citadel. After several unsuccessful attempts to board the tanker, the pirates aborted the attack and returned to their mother vessel. All crewmembers have been reported safe however the tanker sustained some damage during the incident.

Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – South-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – South-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – Expect partly to mostly cloudy conditions for the Gulf of Guinea with associated rain showers.

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:

- **4 December 2014** – Four robbers in a small boat approached and boarded an anchored Liberia-flagged LPT tanker, Gaschem Pacific, from the stern at 0520 LT in position around 16 nautical miles north-northeast of Tg Berakit, Bintan Island, Indonesia. Duty AB spotted the robbers and informed the bridge who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robber escaped empty handed.
 - Three robbers in a small wooden boat approached and boarded an anchored Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier, Olympic Gemini, from the stern at 0415 LT in position around 13 nautical miles north-northeast of Tg Berakit, Bintan Island, Indonesia. Duty AB spotted one robber onboard the vessel. He informed the bridge who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robber escaped empty handed.
- **2 December 2014** – A Vietnam-flagged fishing vessel reported being attacked near position 11:02N – 115:58E, approximately 162 nautical miles west of Palawan Island.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Weather Analysis

- **South China Sea** – Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet.
- **Malacca Strait** – Northerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; with northerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the southern Strait.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; with variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the southern Strait.
- **Andaman Sea** – Northerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Surface Currents** – Currents in the South China Sea and in the Malacca Strait average speeds of 1 knots while currents in the Andaman Sea average between 1 – 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – The fall transition continues to influence the region. Expect mostly cloudy conditions with rain showers and thunderstorms.

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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