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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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- Virtual Security Director service for clients lacking a full time security executive.

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Summary (November 17 - 23, 2014 - Week 47; Edition 64)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

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

Somalia-Indian Ocean: Six incidents reported during this period

Southeast Asia: Two incidents reported and one late incident during this period

South America: No incidents during this period

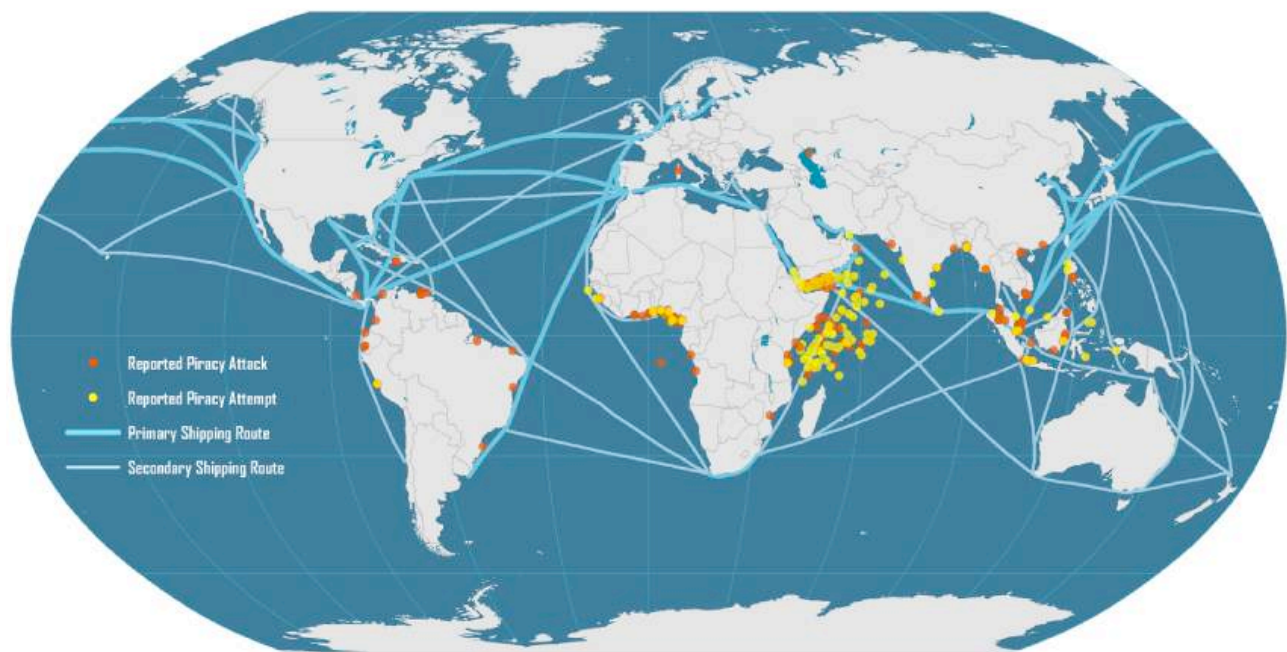
North America: No current incidents to report

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:

- **21 November 2014** – At 0633 UTC in position 25:37N – 057:18E a vessel was followed and approached over a period of two hours by 2 green-hulled skiffs each carrying 3 pirates on board wearing face masks. The skiffs approached the vessel to within 3 cables before eventually turning away. No weapons or ladders were sighted on board the vessel. Vessel and crewmembers on board are safe.

- At 0915 UTC, in position 25:35.7N – 057:18.5E, two small craft approached an MV to within 1.5 nautical miles. MV altered course away from small craft in order to increase distance. Approach lasted 25 minutes.
- **18 November 2014** – At 0633 UTC, a vessel reported hearing a message via CH16 that another vessel was under attack/suspicious approach by speedboats at a range of 1.5 nautical miles. The subject vessel later confirmed that it had been approached by two green-hulled skiffs with 3 pirates on board to 2 cables in position 25:37N – 057:18E. A further report at 0740 UTC indicated that the vessel is safe.
- **17 November 2014** – At 1325 UTC, in position 13:30.00N – 049:58.00E, a white hulled dhow was sighted carrying a large number of fuel drums towing three skiffs. Two of the skiffs were blue hulled and one was orange-hulled. Four pirates were sighted on board the dhow however no weapons or ladders were seen. The dhow was travelling on a course of 136 at a speed of 5.5 knots, CPA 6 cables.
 - Master reported sighting one suspicious dhow and one skiff in position 20:56N – 059:18E. Skiff closed to within 4 nautical miles and then stopped its approach. Vessel and crewmembers have been reported safe.
- **16 November 2014** – At 0640 UTC, in position 12:20N – 044:58E, one skiff approached a vessel from port beam at a speed of 20 knots. Skiff continued approaching port quarter to 2.9 nautical miles and proceeded to starboard quarter to 3 nautical miles. Skiff continued approach for approximately 2 hours. Armed security team on board the vessel displayed their weapons. The ship's alarm and fire hoses were activated. Skiff discontinued its approach and stopped at 9.8 cables. No weapons or ladders were sighted on board the skiff, which was blue in color and which had 4 pirates on board.

Piracy Related News

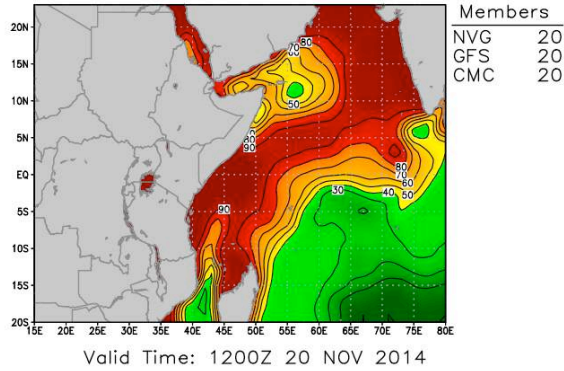
- **21 November 2014** – The European Union's counter-piracy EU Naval Force Somalia, Operation Atalanta, has been extended for an additional two years as the threat of Somali piracy remains eventhough the number of incidents has decreased dramatically in recent years.

Weather Analysis

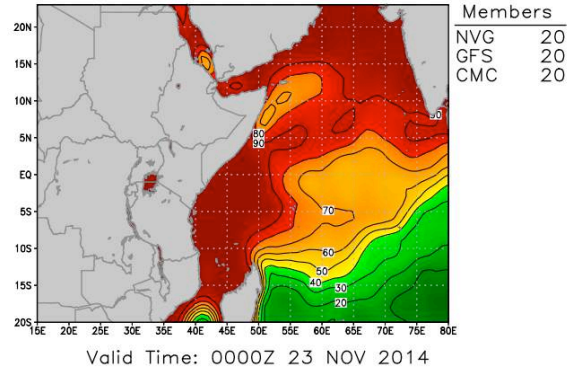
- **North Arabian Sea** – North-northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – North-northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with westerly winds of 5 – 10 and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be easterly at 10 – 15 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **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** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – East-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – South-east winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Easterly winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – South-southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 12 – 15 feet in the northern Channel; with south-southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 12 – 15 knots in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be easterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Surface Currents** – The northern Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden currents are variable with most areas having an average speed of 1 knot. The Mozambique Channel currents are variable having an average speed of 2 knots. Currents speeds along the Somali basin are northeasterly averaging between 1 – 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – As the Northeast Monsoon becomes the dominant feature in the region, calms seas and light winds are expected in the Arabian Sea with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms off the coast of the Somali Basin. Weak pressure gradient will produce moderate winds and minimal seas in the Arabian Gulf. Expect isolated rain showers and coastal thunderstorms in the Gulf of Aden.

Sea Conditions for the Following Week

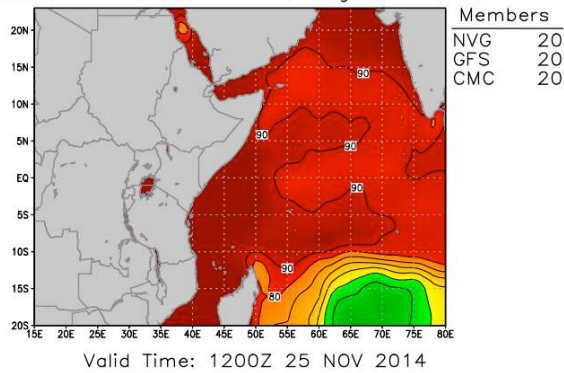
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



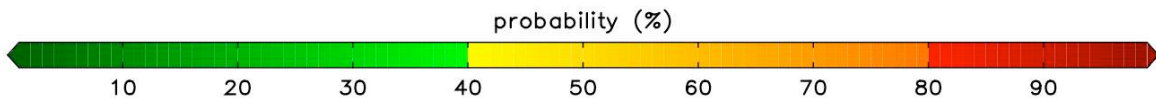
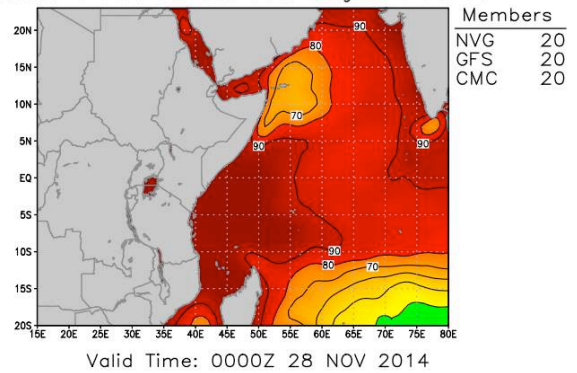
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



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 Reporting

- **19 November 2014** – On Wednesday, the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) reported that gunmen shot dead a journalist in the semi-autonomous region of Puntland. This is the third journalist to be killed in Somalia this year. According to police sources, radio journalist Abdirisak Ali Abdi was killed in the Puntland town of Galkayo late Tuesday. According to NUSOJ, Abdi also worked for a London-based television station. While it was not clear what motivated the attack, al-Shabaab militants have often targeted journalists.
- **17 November 2014** – Police officials reported Monday that at least two people have been killed after clashes erupted in the town of Baidoa in what appears to be the latest violence sparked by political power struggles. On Monday, hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets, burning tires and attacking vehicles, in a bid to stop elections for the local president of the federal South West state based in Baidoa, which is located 250 kilometers (155 miles) northwest of the capital, Mogadishu. According to local police officer Mohamed Adris, “the demonstration turned violent after people started burning tires and threw stones at vehicles, then they stopped a pickup with gunmen who opened fire.” Witnesses later reported that a pick up truck was torched and thrown off a bridge, with two people killed in the fighting. African Union (AU) troops, deployed in Somalia to fight alongside government troops against al-Shabaab, protected the center where the voting took place. Local officials later reported that former national parliament speaker, Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden, was elected to the post. Somalia has splintered in multiple local regions, with varying degrees of autonomy and acceptance of the internationally backed central government in Mogadishu, where leaders are currently competing for power. The violence comes as national President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has left the country to attend official meetings with foreign donors in Copenhagen. In Mogadishu, tensions remain high between the president and his prime minister, Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed, who have been at odds for several months. Two attempts at pushing a vote of no confidence on the prime minister have failed. The violence also comes amidst repeated calls for clam by foreign donors. Last week, representatives from the United Nations, the United States and the European Union warned that political power struggles are putting at risk the fragile gains that the Horn of Africa nation has achieved since a democratic government was elected in August 2012. On Monday, UN envoy Nicholas Kay warned that the “ongoing political crisis in Somalia is a serious risk to further progress.”
 - Gunmen have shot and killed a Somali-American from Minnesota who had left a well-paying job in the US in order to help the city government in Mogadishu. According to police Capt. Mohamed Hussein, Abdullahi Ali Anshur, 60, was an engineer helping the Mogadishu government with urban planning and drainage system. He was killed Monday after armed al-Shabaab militants stopped his vehicle and sprayed it with bullets. His relatives have indicated that Mr Anshur was buried Wednesday in Mogadishu. He had left his work in Minnesota in order to help the capital city’s municipal government. According to his relatives, Mr Anshur had held a similar job in Mogadishu more than two decades ago before the Somali government collapsed in the early 1990’s. Many Somalis who fled the country’s chaos, moving to the US or Europe, have recently returned to Mogadishu in a bid to use their expertise in order to help the country move past decades of war. Mr Anshur’s killing has sent shock waves through that community, with one British-Somali man, who returned to Mogadishu to open a café, calling his death discouraging, adding “insecurity is the biggest threat for now.” Hussein Ali, a

Somali-American who lives in Mogadishu also stated that such attacks leave US and European Somalis scared and disappointed, noting, "it makes many of us contemplate leaving Mogadishu."

Regional Reporting

- **22 November 2014** – Gunmen seized a bus in northeastern Kenya near the border with Somalia early Saturday and executed 28 non-Muslim passengers. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack hours later, stating that it was in retaliation for recent killings of Muslims by Kenyan security forces in the coastal town of Mombasa. According to sources, the gunmen ambushed the bus, which was headed for the capital Nairobi, a few kilometers after it left Mandera, a town that lies right on the border with Somalia in Kenya's northeasternmost corner. Some sixty passengers on board were ordered off the vehicle, with gunmen separating the travellers into groups of Muslims and non-Muslims. While the militants attempted to board the bus again with the non-Muslim civilians, and tried to drive off, the vehicle got stuck and they executed the civilians before escaping. Kenya's Red Cross has confirmed the death toll. The latest attack carried out by the Islamist group on Kenyan soil comes after a week in which police raids on mosques in the port city of Mombasa increased tensions in the troubled city. One person was shot dead and more than 350 people were arrested as Kenyan security forces carried out raids on mosques in the port city of Mombasa, in search of arms and sympathizers of al-Shabaab. During the raid, police seized weapons and found black Islamist flags such as those flown by al-Shabaab.
- **19 November 2014** – On Wednesday, Kenyan security forces carried out new raids on a mosque in the port city of Mombasa, searching for weapons and supporters of Somalia's al-Shabaab. According to police officials, officers seized grenades, ammunition and petrol bombs during the raid on the Swafaa mosque, the third to be searched since Monday. Security forces cordoned off streets around the mosque and soldiers patrolled the Kisumu district of the city, which is east Africa's main port. Local police chief Richard Ngatia confirmed that the security operation is ongoing, disclosing that dozens of people were arrested. This adds to the more than 250 people who were arrested on Monday. On Monday, police raided and closed the Musa and Sakina mosques in the same city in a search for weapons and radical supporters of al-Shabaab. During those raids, police seized hand grenades and a pistol, and arrested more than 250 people. Thirteen of those arrested have been charged with possession of explosive materials and pleaded not guilty. Others held in the mass arrests are still being questioned. Black Islamist flags, such as those flown by al-Shabaab, were also found. In the wake of the raids, a statement released by Kenyan Interior Minister Joseph Ole Lenku late Tuesday disclosed "I want to make it clear that houses of worship cannot and shall not be taken over by criminals or used for criminal activity, including terrorism," adding "I want to assure Kenyans that the process will separate those with criminal intent from the innocent Kenyans who will be released immediately." The raids have raised tensions in the city, which has in recent months been hit by a string of bombings and shootings. In an apparent revenge attack on Monday, four people were stabbed to death after gangs took to the streets beating some and knifing others.
- **17 November 2014** – One man was killed Monday and over two hundred people were arrested as Kenyan security forces carried out security operations in the port city of Mombasa. According to sources, security forces began the operation in the early hours of Monday morning, targeting the Masjid Musa and Sakina mosques. The operation, which seized several weapons including grenades and pistols, targeted mosques accused of having links to Somalia's al-Qaeda affiliated al-Shabaab. According to Mombasa police chief

Geoffrey Mayek, police officials carried out the operation after attaining "...information that the group had been planning an attack," adding that 251 people were arrested. A 20-year-old man was shot dead by police during the raid in the Musa mosque after he attempted to throw a grenade at officers. In recent years, several Islamic preachers have been shot dead in Mombasa in alleged extra-judicial killings by security forces. Churches in the port city have also been targeted in the past. The city has also been hit by a number of bombings and shootings since the East African country entered Somalia in 2011 in a bid to fight al-Shabaab. **Update (18 November)** - Four people were stabbed to death in the port city of Mombasa following security raids, in which one man was killed and over 200 were arrested. According to on the ground sources, a gang of armed men took to the streets Monday night in an apparent revenge attack, beating some and stabbing others. The attacks occurred hours after security raids targeted two mosques accused of having links to Somalia's al-Shabaab. Local police chief Richard Ngatia confirmed the incidents, indicating that police "...are investigating the incident and have arrested some of the suspects." Police have disclosed that the group was armed with crude weapons when they attacked residents of the city's Kisauni district.

International Developments

- **20 November 2014** – On Thursday donors gathered at the two-day High Level Partnership Forum on Somalia in Copenhagen, where a communiqué issued shortly after the first day indicated that donors had praised Somalia's political and security progress and outlined priorities for future efforts. According to the communiqué, the 56 delegates attending the conference noted that Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamed's government has chartered a number of successes since the 2013 New Deal conference on Somalia, including the appointment of state formation committees for the Central and South-western state administrations. The communiqué however has called on the Somali government to establish an Inter-regional Consultative Forum, in order to complete the constitutional review process in a timely manner, and to establish the National Independent Electoral Commission and the Boundaries and Federation Commission. Somalia's cabinet approved legislation on the two commissions this week, which will go to parliament for approval. The communiqué also praised the country's progress in its fight against al-Shabaab, combating piracy and upholding the rule of law, however it did reflect stakeholders' concerns over the recent political feud between the president and Prime Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed.

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:

- None reported during this period.

Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – Southwest winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 4 – 6 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:

- **20 November 2014** – At 0545 LT, in position 21:47.9N – 091:47.6E, Kutubdia Anchorage, Bangladesh, six robbers armed with knives boarded a bulk carrier during anchoring. Duty crew sighted the robbers on the deck. Bridge was notified and the alarm was raised. Crewmembers were mustered. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped with stolen ship properties. Chittagong Coast Guard was informed of the incident.
- **19 November 2014** – At 0230 LT in position 01:29N – 104:51E, around 22 nautical miles northeast of Tg Berakit, Bintan Island, Indonesia, about 4 – 6 persons armed with knives boarded an anchored tanker. Alarm was raised and the crew was mustered. Upon seeing the alerted crew, the men confronted the deck watch keeper, stole his portable radio and escaped.
- **16 November 2014** – At 0522 LT, in position 01:08N – 103:30E, around 5 nautical miles east of Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia. Four robbers boarded a chemical tanker underway. Duty crew noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. Upon seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped. During a search of the vessel, no robbers were found. POCC Singapore was informed of the incident.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Weather Analysis

- **South China Sea** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 20 knots, and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Easterly winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
- **Malacca Strait** – Northeast winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; in the southern Strait, winds will be variable at 3 – 5 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
 - **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** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **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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