

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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References are always available.
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24 hr Contact Information:

Email: operations@msrisk.com
Telephone: +44 207 754 3555

Summary (January 12 - 18, 2015 - Week 3; Edition 72)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

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

Somalia-Indian Ocean: One late reported incident

Southeast Asia: No incidents reported during this period

South America: No incidents reported during this period

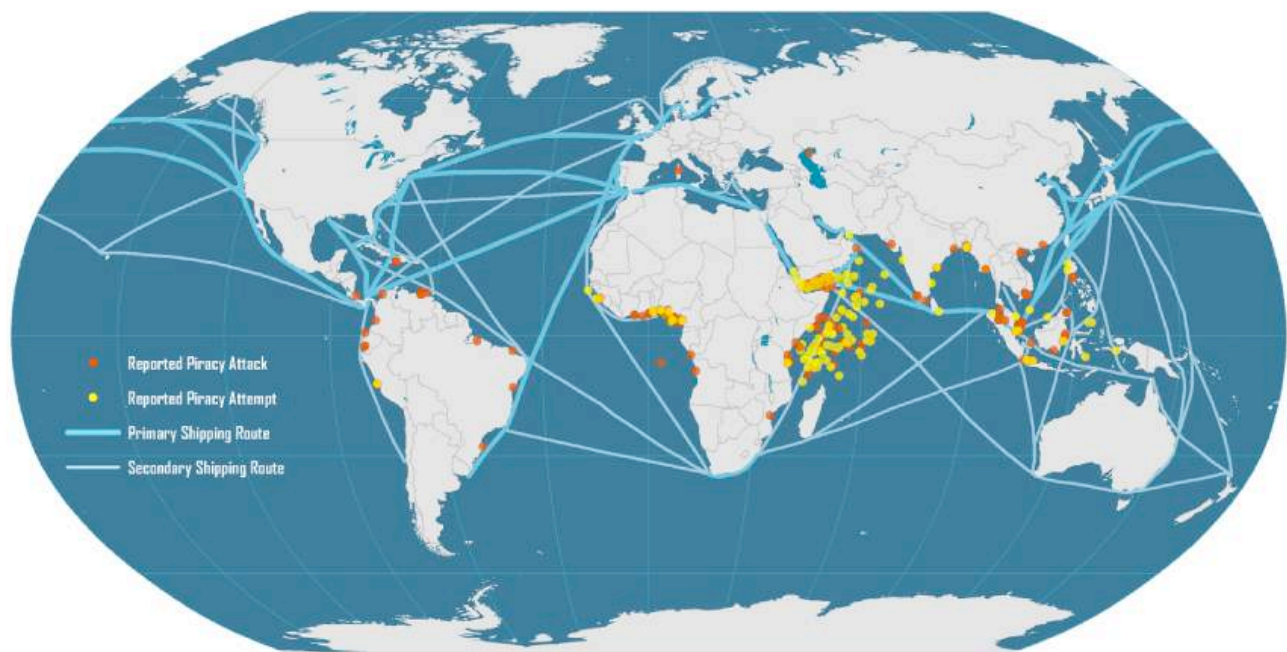
North America: No current incidents to report

Central America-Caribbean: No current incidents to report

Atlantic Ocean Area: No current incidents to report

Northern Europe-Baltic: No current incidents to report

Mediterranean-Black Sea: No current incidents to report



SOMALIA

Executive Summary

While there has been no successful hijacking of a vessel transiting the region in over two years, the threat of piracy remains high as Pirate Attack Groups (PAG's) continue to approach vessels in a bid to attack and hijack them. Sea conditions in the GoA IO are now increasingly favorable for pirate action groups. With three of the four incidents in the past week occurring north of the Bab el Mandeb, vessels transiting the region are advised to remain on high alert.

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:

- **10 January 2015 (Late Report)** – At 1605 UTC, in position 14:04.5N – 052:08.1E, a vessel reported being approached by two skiffs, one each on the port and starboard sides. Both approached the vessel to within 2.5 cables. The embarked armed security team fired six parachute flares and two warning shots, resulting in the skiffs moving away from the vessel. The vessel and crewmembers on board have been reported safe.

Piracy Reporting

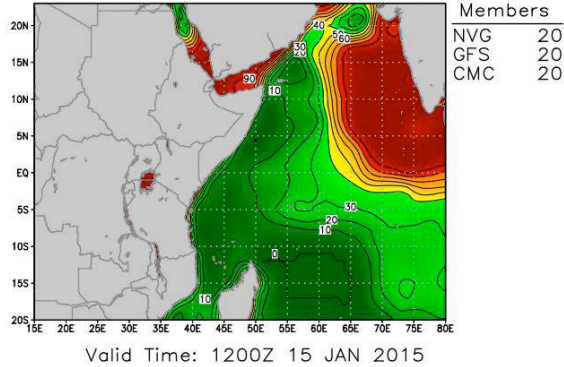
- **12 January 2015** – Despite attacks at sea declining globally to the lowest level in eight years, according to the International Maritime Bureau’s (IMB) global report for 2014, Asia accounted for three quarters of global maritime piracy over the last year, after a surge in tanker hijackings, effectively resulting in a 22 percent increase in armed robbery and pirate attacks on vessels transiting the region. The IMB’s new report indicated that there were 183 actual and attempted piracy and robbery incidents in Asian waters in 2014, in comparison to 150 incidents that occurred in 2013. There were 245 actual and attempted acts of piracy worldwide last year. While in 2013, piracy in Asia accounted for less than 60 percent of the total, in 2014, its share was 75 percent of the total. Officials at the IMB have noted that attacks in Asia are mainly low-level theft compared to the kidnappings and more violent hijackings that have occurred in waters off West Africa and Somalia. The number of attacks in Asia last year was the highest, since the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia began compiling incident reports in 2006, and was due to the increase in tanker hijackings and due to better reporting by ship owners. While 114 attacks reported by ReCAAP were thefts from ships, mainly at ports and anchorages, officials have warned that the danger to crewmembers on board these vessels should not be ignored. In December last year, an engineer died after being shot by pirates who seized a tanker near Singapore. The vessel was one of fifteen tankers that were hijacked in Asian waters last year. Additionally, twelve tankers in Asian waters had their gasoil cargoes siphoned and stolen. ReCAPP has proposed an extension of naval and coast guard patrols from the Malacca Strait into the South China Sea in a bid to help combat tanker hijackings and piracy incidents. In waters off Somalia, while all eleven attacks were thwarted, the IMB has warned that a single successful hijacking of a merchant ship would effectively “rekindle” the appetite of pirate action groups operating in the region. Meanwhile in waters off West Africa, 41 piracy incidents were reported last year, with the IMB warning that there are probably several more cases that have gone unreported. Of the 18 attacks that occurred in waters off Nigeria, 14 involved vessels related to the oil industry.

Weather Analysis

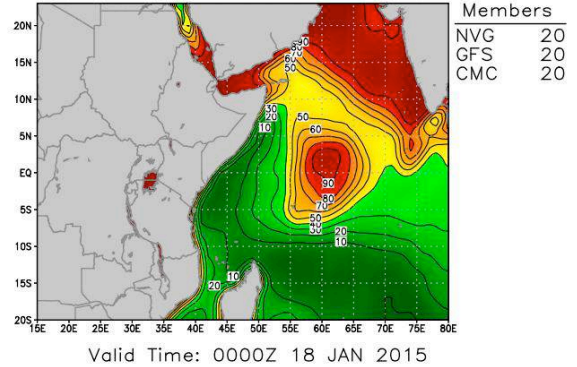
- **North Arabian Sea** – North-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be westerly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Westerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and 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.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – Northeast winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 9 – 12 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 9 – 12 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – North-northeast winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – North-northeast winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 9 – 12 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Northwest winds of 25 – 30 knots and seas of 9 – 12 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southeasterly at 20 – 25 knots with seas of 12 – 15 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 12 – 17 knots and seas of 7 – 10 feet in the northern Channel; with southeast winds of 12 – 17 knots and seas of 7 – 10 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 throughout the region, expect increasing winds with reduced visibility due to heavy dusty and early morning coastal fog with mist in the Arabian Gulf. In the Gulf of Aden, expected increased cloud cover and rain showers. Tropical Cyclone Banis is producing power sustained winds in the southern Indian Ocean. Mauritius and La Reunion Island are under advisories calling for heavy rain, high waves and strong winds.

Sea Conditions for the Following Week

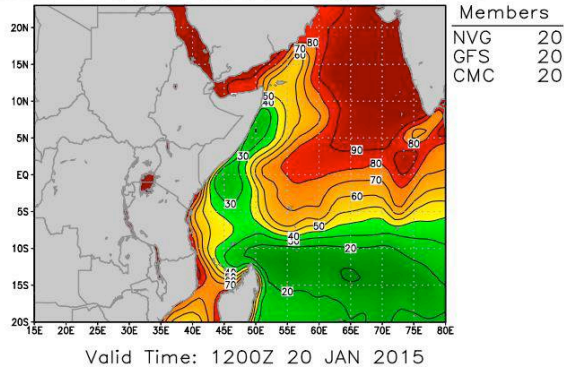
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



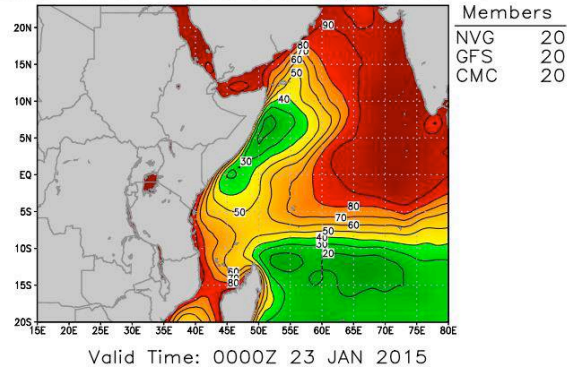
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



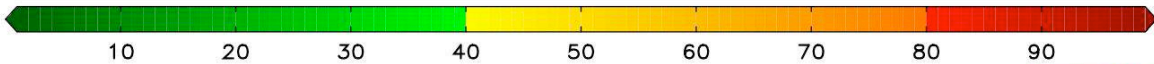
Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



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 ***

Domestic News

- **17 January 2015** – Officials indicated on Saturday that Somalia’s new prime minister has dissolved his cabinet due to strong opposition from parliament over the large list that was unveiled less than a week ago. Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, who was appointed last month after a damaging spat between his predecessor and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, has been given another two weeks to come up with a new cabinet list. Parliament speaker Mohamed Osman Jawari told deputies Saturday “the prime minister has dissolved the new cabinet list he has announced recently and is asking for fourteen more days to form another government.” In a letter to parliament that was read out by Mr Jawari, the new prime minister disclosed that he had taken into account the “feelings and emotions of the lawmakers,” adding that his decision to retract the list effectively means that he will avoid what would be a highly damaging no-confidence vote. Last week, Prime Minister Sharmarke presented a large cabinet composed of sixty people, including 26 ministers, 25 deputies and nine state ministers. This is an increase of five posts from the previous cabinet.
- **12 January 2015** – Somalia’s newly appointed prime minister has named a cabinet of sixty people as he warned of the “huge task” ahead to bring peace to the war-torn country. Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, who was endorsed by the country’s parliament last month after the president fell out with the previous premier amidst bitter infighting, released his choice of names for lawmakers. The sixty members include 26 ministers, 25 deputies and nine state ministers, an increase of five posts from the previous cabinet. Many of those named were present in the previous cabinet. Somalia is due to vote on a new constitution next year ahead of presidential elections in 2016, however al-Shabaab continues to pose a major threat as it continues to stage regular attacks in the capital city and in the southern regions of the country.
 - Foreign Ministers from seven countries in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) met in the Somali capital over the weekend for the first time in nearly 25 years. The high level session in Mogadishu brought together top diplomats from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The trade group’s talks focused on the political and security progress that has been achieved in the Horn of Africa nation along with the anticipated presidential elections, which are due to take place in 2016. Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud welcomed the IGAD delegation and thanked the regional bloc for selecting Mogadishu as this year’s host capital, stating, “this IGAD council ministerial session is significant because it’s the first time IGAD member states at this level are disclosing Somalia’s political matters inside Somalia.” The president also thanked IGAD member states for assisting in the stabilization of Somalia – four members of the regional bloc have contributed troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Speaking during the session, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom, who is the chair of the IGAD Council of Ministers, indicated that the IGA regional bloc, along with the international community, have both witnessed the progress that has been achieved in Somalia over the past several years, and has reiterated the bloc’s continued commitment to the country’s security. The top UN envoy to Somalia, Ambassador Nicholas Kay, echoed the Ethiopian Foreign Minister’s statement, stating that Mogadishu’s successful hosting of the 53rd IGAD summit is a clear indication of progress, adding, “it shows that peace and security is returning to Somalia. It shows that Somalia is returning to the community of nations. It is now able to operate as a full member of IGAD and host IGAD council ministers.” At the conclusion of the session,

Somali President Mohamud thanked the international community and paid a special tribute to the IGAD, stating “following the positive developments over the past two years, achieved with the support of our international partners and in particular IGAD member states, we have to continue working tougher...towards the implementation of the agenda on the federal government of Somalia’s political way forward.”

Regional Reporting

- **14 January 2015** – One Kenyan soldier and five suspected Islamist insurgents loyal to Somalia’s al-Shabaab fighters were killed Wednesday in a battle that erupted in Kenya’s coastal Lamu district. According to an army official, Kenyan troops, who are part of the UN-backed African Union (AU) force that is currently deployed across Somalia to fight the militant group, were travelling northwards close to the Somali border when they were attacked. In a statement released late Wednesday, army spokesman David Onboyo disclosed, “a firefight ensued and five suspected al-Shabaab militants were killed,” adding that one Kenyan soldier was killed and three others were wounded in the fighting. According to Onboyo, “some militants escaped with multiple injuries, and immediately an operation was launched in pursuit.” Wednesday’s attack occurred on the mainland in Lamu country, near Basuma, which is located over 60 kilometres (40 miles) north of Lamu Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site that has been targeted by a string of attacks in recent months.
- **12 January 2015** – Police officials reported Monday that gunmen believed to be members of an extremist group have shot dead a pastor in Kenya’s coastal town of Mombasa. Henry Ondiek, who is in charge of the criminal investigation, disclosed that the pastor was shot at the entrance of the Mvita Primary School, which hosts the Maximum Revival Centre, a mosque and another church. While Mr Ondiek did not disclose who was responsible for the attack, the incident follows a pattern of gun and explosive attacks that have occurred in recent months in Kenya’s coastal region and which have been blamed on al-Shabaab. Al-Shabaab has vowed retribution for the presence of Kenyan troops fighting the militant group, which is based in neighboring Somalia. Kenya has suffered a string of deadly attacks since it deployed troops to Somalia in October 2011.

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** – West-southwest of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – Expect partly 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:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Weather Analysis

- **South China Sea** – Northeast winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 12 – 15 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots, gusting to 25 knots, with seas of 8 – 10 feet.
- **Malacca Strait** – Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Strait; with easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern Strait.
 - **Extended Forecast** – North-northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Strait; with easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern Strait.
- **Andaman Sea** – Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots, gusting to 20 knots, and seas of 2 – 4 feet.

- **Extended Forecast** – Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2- 4 feet.
- **Surface Currents** – Currents in the South China Sea and in the Malacca Strait will average speeds of 1 knot, while currents in the Andaman Sea will average between 1 – 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – Tropical Storm Mekkhala is located east of the Philippines, tracking westerly, and is expected to bring heavy rains and wind to the region.

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.



South Suite, Ragnall House, 18 Peel Road
Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 4LZ

24 hr Global Contact: +44 207 754 3555

www.msrisk.com

Directors

S.J. Bingham, V.K. Prentice, P.O.J Tracy

Registered in the Isle of Man No. 007435V