

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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 - Planning and management
 - Due diligence and investigations.
- Project Management
 - Interim security
 - Training
 - Special assignments
- Crisis Response
 - Crisis management
 - Business continuity management
 - Hostile operations support to commercial interests
- Virtual Security Director service for clients lacking a full time security executive.

References are always available.
More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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Summary (January 19 - 25, 2015 - Week 4; Edition 73)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

Gulf of Guinea/West Africa: Two incidents reported during this period

Somalia-Indian Ocean: Two incidents reported during this period

Southeast Asia: No incidents reported during this period

South America: No incidents reported during this period

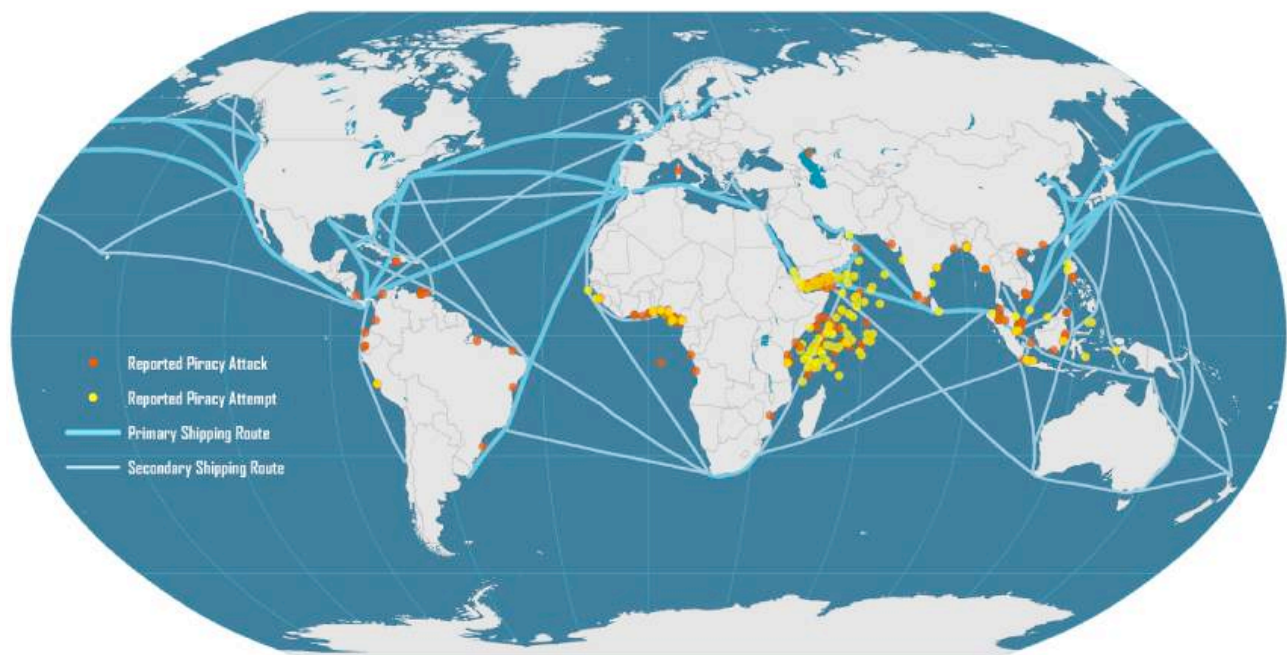
North America: No current incidents to report

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:

- **21 January 2015** – At 0834 UTC in position 13:10N – 043:06E, Master reported being approached from the port bow by two white-hulled skiffs, one with three pirates on board and the other with four, all carrying automatic rifles. Vessel carried out evasive maneuvers resulting in the skiffs moving away. Vessel and crewmembers on board have been reported safe.
- **20 January 2015** – At 0715 UTC in position 14:07.0N – 042:49.0E, Master reported being approached by 1 skiff from a distance of 4 nautical miles at a speed of 13 knots. At 2.5 nautical miles, five personnel were observed on board the skiff. When the skiff closed in at 1.5 nautical miles, three men hid inside while the

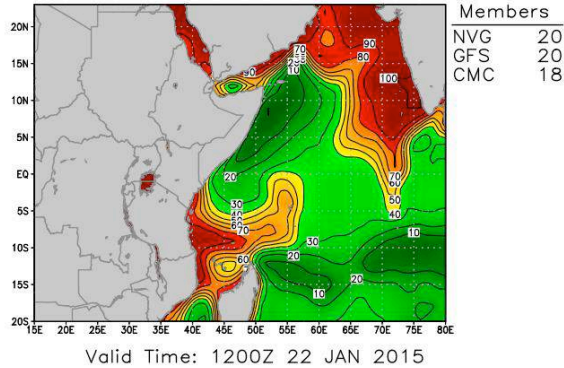
skiff continued its approach. No ladders or weapons were sighted on board the skiff. The vessel's armed security team revealed their weapons, resulting in the skiffs slowing down to 10 knots however it continued its approach. The skiff reached 0.5 nautical miles when the armed security team fired a rocket flare, resulting in the skiff stopping in the water. After five minutes, the skiff moved away. The vessel and all crewmembers on board have been reported safe.

Weather Analysis

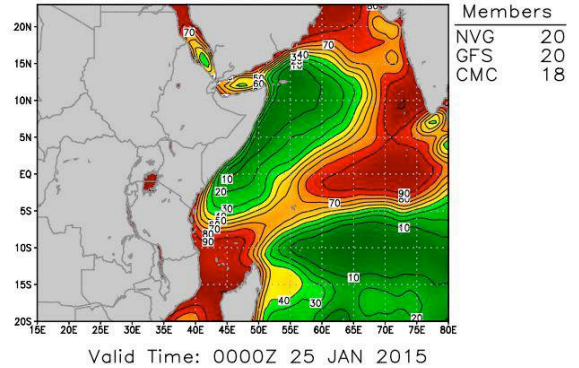
- **North Arabian Sea** – Northwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with westerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Variable 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 east-southeasterly at 3 – 5 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
- **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 17 – 21 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 17 – 21 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – North-northeast winds of 12 – 17 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – North-northeast winds of 12 – 17 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – West-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southeasterly at 12 – 17 knots with seas of 6 – 8 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northwest winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern Channel; with southeast winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 3 – 5 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 Northeast Monsoon continues to influence the region. Decreasing winds and abating seas are expected in the Arabian Gulf, with increasing winds and building seas with moderate restricted visibility due to dust in the Gulf of Aden.

Sea Conditions for the Following Week

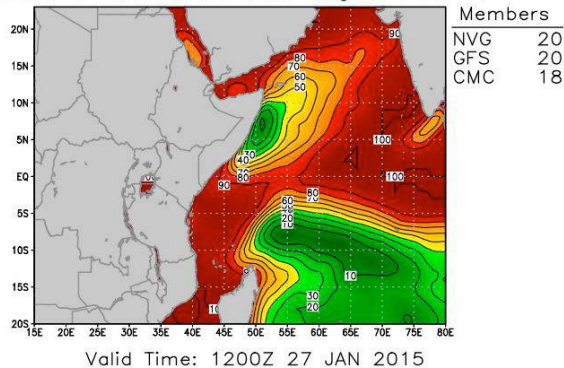
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



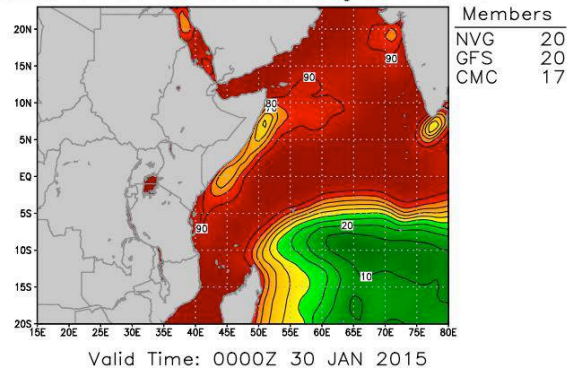
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



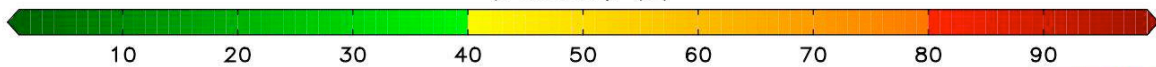
Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



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

- **22 January 2015** – At least five people were killed Thursday in a suicide car bombing that targeted a hotel in Mogadishu on the eve of a visit to the Somali capital by Turkey’s president. Local police official Mohamed Adan confirmed “five people were killed in the attack, among them three security guards,” adding “the attacker drove a car loaded with explosives aiming at the gate of the hotel but did not manage to get inside. The explosion partially destroyed the perimeter.” The area around the hotel was quickly sealed off, with police firing shots to keep locals away. According to sources at the hotel, which is located close to the heavily-fortified presidential palace, there were around seventy members of a Turkish delegation at the hotel at the time of the bombing. None of them were killed or seriously injured in the blast. Sources have disclosed that many of the Turkish officials inside the hotel were security personnel preparing for the President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s arrival. Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the attack. Turkish President Erdogan, whose country is a major investor in Somalia, is due to arrive in Mogadishu on Friday in what will be a rare visit by a foreign leader. Despite the attack, officials have indicated that his trip will go ahead as planned.
- **21 January 2015** – On Wednesday, Somalia’s al-Shabaab, which is one of al-Qaeda’s main affiliates in Africa, urged supporters in Europe to follow the example of Islamist gunmen who carried out attacks in Paris two weeks ago. Al-Shabaab, who have called the attack on the Charlie Hebdo satirical weekly in Paris a “heroic operation” against a “lair of evil and center of disbelief,” offered a specific warning to France. A statement released by the militant group read “we warn France and those who tread her course about the implications of their hostility towards Islam and the consequences of their oppression and belligerence against Muslims.” The militant group has stated that the attacks, in which seventeen people died in three days of bloodshed, were “worthy of being emulated,” adding “we also take this opportunity to thank our brothers, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, who have been – and continue to be – the pioneers of external operations that target the heart of the Crusader enemies.” Al-Shabaab, which controls large areas of central and southern Somalia, are reported to have close links to al-Qaeda fighters in neighboring Yemen, where one of the two brothers who carried out the attacks is believed to have trained. Al-Shabaab were also linked to Mohamed Geele, a Somali man who was convicted of the 2010 axe attack against Danish cartoonist Kurt Westergaard, who faced numerous death threats since his caricature of the Prophet Mohammed appeared in the Danish daily Jyllands Posten in 2005.
- **19 January 2015** – A Somali official and two of his guards were killed Monday when their car struck a landmine in Mogadishu. According to security sources, the landmine explosion targeted Mr Ali Adown, the district commissioner of the southeastern city of Agooye. The explosion left two passersby injured and was followed by gunfire. Government troops arrived on the scene shortly after the explosion and closed off the area to vehicles. There has been no claim of responsibility for the attack.
 - The government of Somalia has increased security measures ahead of Turkish President Recep Dayyib Erdogan’s official tour of the capital Mogadishu later this week. Sources have reported that security personnel have been deployed to sensitive areas and along the roads that lead to the capital’s airport and presidential palace, with officers checking all cars and vehicles. Police and other security personnel in several parts of Mogadishu have been placed on high alert. A delegation from the Turkish government, composed of diplomats and security officials, is due to arrive in Mogadishu on Monday in order to assess the security situation. It will be the second time that Turkey’s President

has visited Somalia in four years. He is expected to hold talks with his Somali counterpart along with other government officials, with talks focusing on bilateral relations. In 2011, he became the first major Western leader in decades to visit the Horn of Africa nation. That visit was designed to demonstrate Turkey's readiness to help victims of a devastating famine but also to showcase the government's ambitions of becoming a major political and economic play in Africa. **Update (23 January)** – Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday postponed his planned trip to Somalia in order to attend the funeral of Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah. President Erdogan, who is currently on a tour of Africa, was due to travel later Friday to Somalia, however instead, he will go to the Saudi capital after completing an official visit to Ethiopia and will complete the day in Djibouti. Officials have indicated that the Turkish President will visit Somalia on 25 January following his visit to Djibouti.

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:

- **22 January 2015** – A vessel was being pursued by a suspected pirate vessel off the coast of Angola. The pirate vessel has a white hull and was travelling at 14 knots, in position 11:31S – 006:34E. All vessels travelling within this area are advised to operate at a heightened level of security.
 - A suspicious approach was reported against a vessel near position 03:52N – 003:29W, approximately 75 nautical miles south of Abidjan. A suspicious boat was approximately ten meters long, with a white hull and blue band, low freeboard and eight persons standing on board. Vessels within the vicinity are advised to operate at a heightened level of security, particularly around the coast of Abidjan.

Piracy Reporting

- **19 January 2015** – A military spokesman indicated Monday that Ghana's navy has freed a tanker ship hijacked off the coast of Nigeria and arrested eight pirates believed to be responsible for seizing it. While Colonel Aggrey Quarshie did not disclose when the MT Mariam was seized by pirates, sources have indicated that using an onboard tracking device, the small tanker's owners informed Ghanaian authorities of its position in Ghanaian waters on Saturday. According to Colonel Quarshie, "the Ghana Navy responded swiftly with a patrol team to the area and they were able to overpower the pirates and free the ship. But when they got there, the cargo had already been transferred to another vessel," adding it was not immediately clear what cargo the ship had been transporting. The crewmembers on board the vessel were

unharmful. The pirates, who were armed with weapons, including AK-47 rifles, were arrested and handed over to Ghana's Bureau of National Investigations. All the pirates are suspected of being Nigerians. Ghana's Navy, along with other forces from Benin, Togo and Nigeria, have launched a search for the vessel carrying the stolen cargo. Cash was also recovered during the operation. In recent years, pirate attacks in waters off the coast of West Africa have increased, prompting insurance costs for shipping companies to rise. Experts have indicated that gangs based in waters of Nigeria are extending their reach across the region's Gulf of Guinea.

Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 10 - 15 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 15 - 20 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots with seas of 6 - 8 feet.
- **Malacca Strait** – 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.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; with northeastern winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern Strait.
- **Andaman Sea** – North-northeast 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 will average speeds of 1 knot while currents in the Andaman Sea will average between 1 – 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – Expect increasing cloud 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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