

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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 - Training
 - Special assignments
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 - 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 26 – February 1, 2015 - Week 5; Edition 74)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

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

Somalia-Indian Ocean: Three incidents and one late reported incident during this period

Southeast Asia: One incident reported during this period

South America: No incidents reported during this period

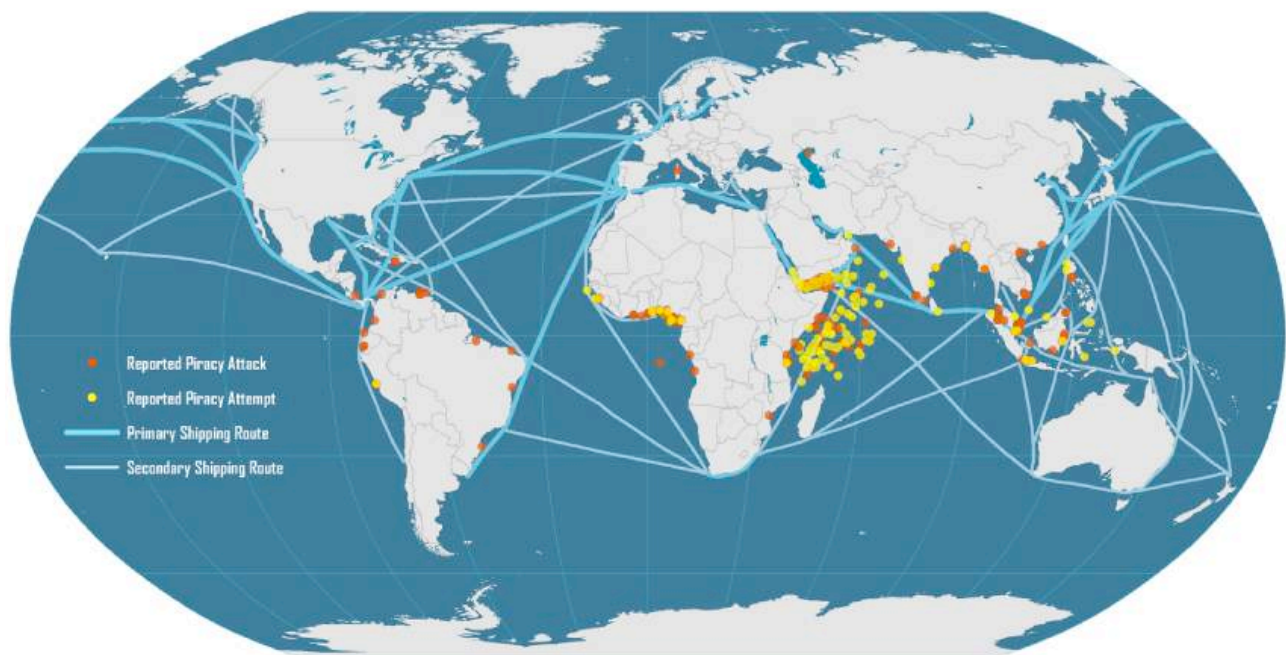
North America: No current incidents to report

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:

- **30 January 2015** – At 1008 UTC, in position 07:55N – 077:07E, course 124 speed 13.5 knots an MV was approached at speed by one blue hulled skiff, 6 meters long with a white band. Seven pirates were sighted on board, they were wearing yellow raincoats and weapons were sighted. The skiff approached the MV to a distance of 1.5 nautical miles on port quarter. The MV took evasive measures, started fire pumps; armed security team displayed their weapons and fired warning shots into the air. The skiff then ceased its approach. No ladders were sighted on board the skiff. Vessel and crewmembers have been reported safe.
- **28 January 2015** – At 1530 UTC, in position 21:36N – 060:06E, Master reported detecting one white/grey/orange-colored fishing boat and three skiffs 5 nautical miles away. Master reported then being

approached by three grey and white-hulled skiffs at speeds of 28 knots. Each skiff had three pirates on board. Skiffs cross the MV's starboard bow at a distance of five cables. Master activated the ship's alarm and turned the search light on. On board armed security team displayed their weapons. Skiffs moved away. No weapons or ladders were sighted on board the skiffs. MV and crewmembers on board have been reported safe.

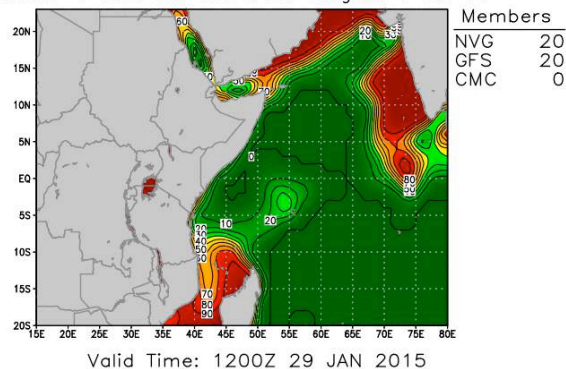
- At 0955 UTC in position 21:31N – 067:23E, master identified four skiffs on the ships head at 8 nautical miles. At 5 nautical miles, the skiffs split up into groups, with two skiffs on the port side and two skiffs on the starboard side. One skiff began to close in on the port side. The skiff was carrying four pirates on board. The master deployed the armed security team on to the port side. When the skiff came up to 1 nautical mile on the port side, the armed security team displayed their weapons, resulting in all the skiffs turning away. No weapons or ladders were sighted on board the skiffs. Vessel and crewmembers have been reported safe.
- **24 January 2015 (Late Report)** – At 1300 UTC in position 24:37N – 057:52E, Master identified two skiffs on his starboard side at 2 nautical miles, and one skiff on the port side, which was closing on the vessel. Master employed evasive maneuvers. Armed security team on board the vessel fired six warning shots on the port side. After the shots were fired, all the skiffs turned away. No weapons or ladders were sighted on board the skiffs. Vessel and crewmembers have been reported safe.

Weather Analysis

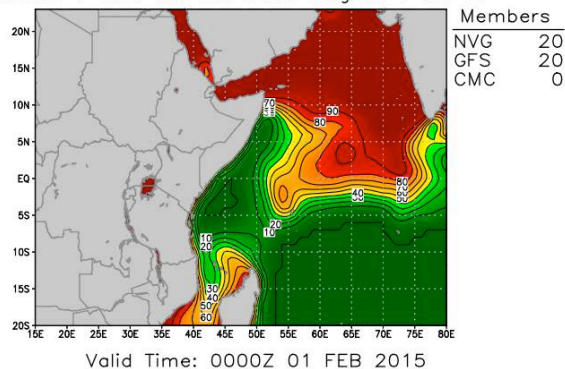
- **North Arabian Sea** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Southerly winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be southerly at 3 – 5 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – East-southeast 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 east-southeasterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **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 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – Northeast winds of 12 – 17 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 12 – 17 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Northerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** – West-northwest winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 13 – 15 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southerly at 12 – 17 knots with seas of 13 – 15 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** – The Northeast Monsoon continues to influence the region. Expect decreasing winds and abating seas 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

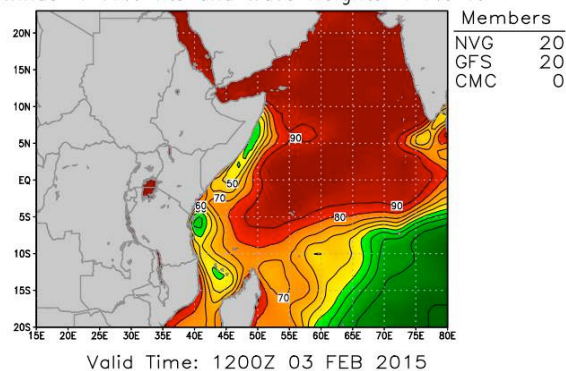
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



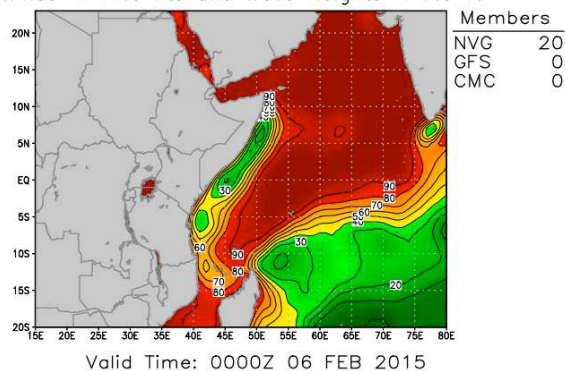
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



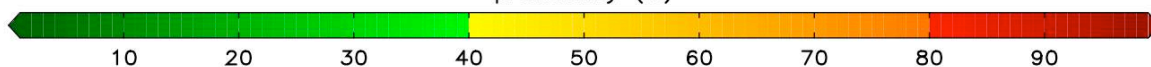
Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



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

- **1 February 2015** – Several people are believed to have been killed in an airstrike in southern Somalia, which apparently targeted a house used by members of al-Shabaab. An al-Shabaab source has confirmed that a missile hit the Islamist-held stronghold of Dinsoor, which is located 270 kilometres (170 miles) west of the capital Mogadishu, late Saturday. The source however declined to provide details on who was targeted and how many casualties there were from the attack. Abdukadir Mohamed Nur, a Somali government official in the lower Shabelle region, confirmed the strikes, stating that “many al-Shabaab militants were killed....” Officials have not commented on who was targeted in the strike and which country carried out the attack.
- **27 January 2015** – A former top al-Shabaab commander, Zakariya Ismail Ahmed Hersi, has called on his former comrades to follow his lead and to surrender to the country’s internationally-backed government. In his first public appearance since surrendering last month, Hersi on Tuesday stated “I call on and encourage all my friends to seek out a peaceful way of resolving all conflicts and towards reconciliation, as...al-Shabaab is now in total collapse.” Hersi, who is the subject of a US \$3 million bounty under the US State Department’s “Rewards for Justice” programme, spoke to reporters from the information ministry in Mogadishu. It remains unclear if Hersi, who has been described as a former al-Shabaab intelligence chief, will face trial, however a statement released by Somalia’s government has indicated that it had offered surrendering militants the “opportunity to reintegrate with Somali society and guarantees their safety.” The statement added that the government hopes that Hersi’s surrender will “inspire others to follow his example and join the peace process.” Hersi surrendered in late December in the southern Gedo region, where Somalia borders Kenya and Ethiopia. Sources have disclosed that he was reportedly once close to former al-Shabaab chief Ahmed Abdi Godane, who was killed by a US air strike in September. However Hersi has suggested that he was amongst a group of commanders who had already fallen out with Godane prior to his death, some of whom were later killed in a purge. According to Hersi, “there were a number of us who opposed the leadership’s approach and its flawed doctrine.” He has stated that the current al-Shabaab leadership, under Godane’s successor Ahmad Umar Abu Ubaidah, is carrying out a “distorted form of the holy jihad, which has resulted in countless innocent Somali citizens being killed.” He further indicated that his appearance in public on Tuesday was to put to rest those who had said he had been tortured in government custody or that he had been handed over to “foreign countries.”

Domestic News

- **28 January 2015** – Somalia’s newly appointed prime minister has proposed a new cabinet after the country’s parliament rejected his last list of candidates, a move that prompted international concerns that political power struggles were stalling progress. The new list features just eighteen ministers, rather than the previous 26 candidates, and includes many relatively young Somalis who have been educated abroad. Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, who was appointed last month after a spat between his predecessor and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, has appealed to lawmakers to pass the latest list, stating in a statement released Wednesday “the task ahead of us is no easy one and the clock is ticking.” Winning parliamentary approval however effectively means overcoming Somalia’s complex clan politics, in

which each group expects its share of power in Mogadishu. This has raised concerns that the already fragile government may be further weakened, which will in turn impact the country's fragile security gains. These concerns prompted international donors and regional nations last week to warn of their "concerns over political delays," in a joint statement that was signed by the African Union, the East African regional bloc IGAD and the United Nations. The statement, which was also signed by the European Union, United Nations and the United States, disclosed, "further delays could jeopardies the progress Somalia has made towards building peace and security."

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. 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 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:

- **29 January 2015** – Two robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 06:01S – 106:55.E, Tanjung Priok Outer Roads, Jakarta. Two deck watchmen on routine rounds swathe robbers on the forecastle deck. They immediately informed the duty officer, who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped with their accomplices in their boat. The crewmembers carried out a thorough search of the vessel with nothing noted missing. The incident was reported to Port Control.

Piracy Reporting

- **31 January 2015** – The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) has successfully foiled an attempt by pirates to hijack a vessel that was carrying 700 tones of marine fuel oil off Tanjung Siang. According to the MMEA's southern region operation director First Admiral Ibrahim Mohamed, the agency located the MT Sun Birdie at 15 nautical miles off eastern Tanjung Siang at around 9:45pm located time on Thursday, some nine hours after the vessel was reported missing. First Admiral Mohamed disclosed "the pirates had repainted the name of the ship and control tower and disguised themselves as crew members in

a bid to escape with the load worth an estimated RM 900,000,” adding “we found 17 people on board the ship, 10 of them were the original crew who were found safe and unharmed.” He further indicated that two other pirates, who had jumped off the vessel and were later picked up by a passing ship on Friday, have also been detained, adding “the group of nine hijackers, aged between 26 and 48 years, did not possess valid travel documents and are believed to be Indonesians based on their accents.” The suspects are currently being detained to facilitate investigations.

Weather Analysis

- **South China Sea** – Northeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots with seas of 8 - 10 feet.
- **Malacca Strait** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the northern Strait, with northeasterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the southern Strait.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast 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 1 - 3 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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