

**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
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References are always available.  
More information is found at [www.msrisk.com](http://www.msrisk.com)

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## Summary (January 5 - 11, 2015 - Week 2; Edition 71)

### List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

**Gulf of Guinea/West Africa:** One incident during this reporting period and one late reported incident

**Somalia-Indian Ocean:** Four incidents reported during this period

**Southeast Asia:** No incidents reported during this period

**South America:** No incidents reported during this period

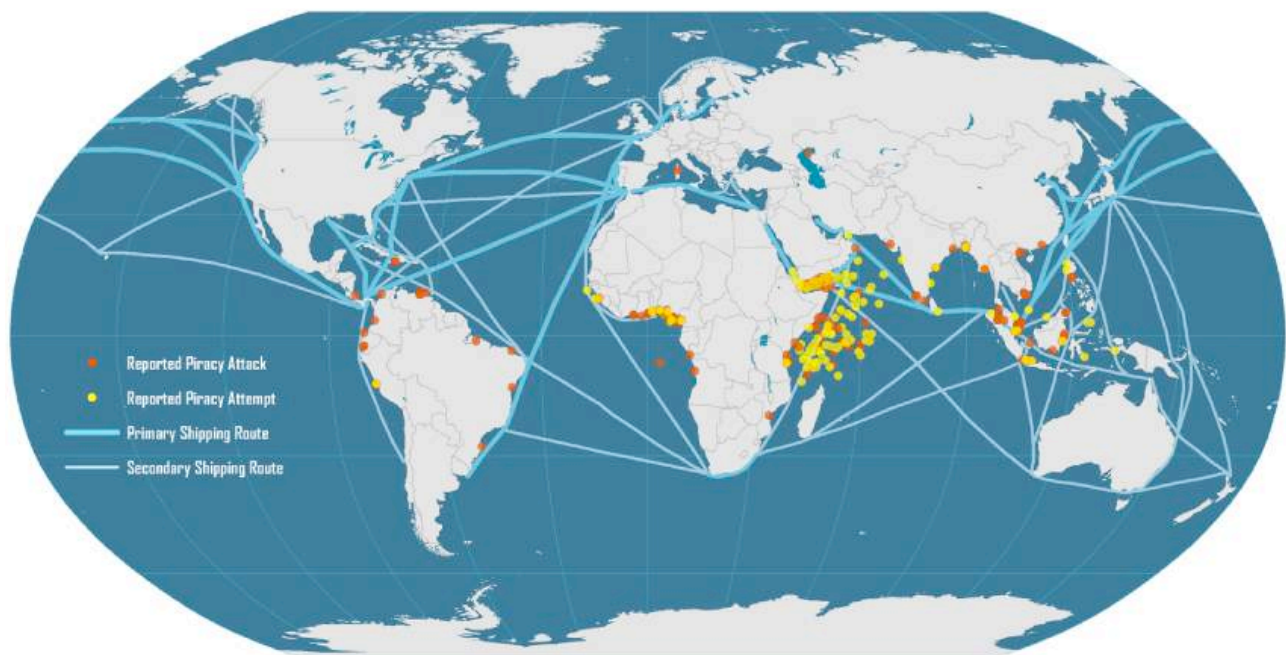
**North America:** No current incidents to report

**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:

- **10 January 2015** – At 1605 UTC in position 12:04.5N – 052:08.1E, Master reported being approached by 2 skiffs, one from the port side and the other on the starboard side, at a distance of 2.5 cables. Armed security team on board the vessel discharged 6 parachute rockets and 2 warning shots, resulting in the skiffs moving away from the vessel. The vessel and crewmembers on board have all been reported safe.
- **6 January 2015** – At 1315 UTC in position 13:15.2N – 042:57.4E, Master reported sighting four skiffs on his port bow and another four skiffs on the starboard bow. The skiffs crossed each other at 1.5 nautical miles away and then four skiffs began to approach the vessel. Armed security team on board the vessel stood to on the bridge and the firehouses were activated. Four – five personnel were sighted on board the

skiff. At 300m from the vessel, the armed security team displayed their weapons. All crew on board the vessel were mustered into the citadel. The Master, chief officer, duty AB and three security personnel were left on the bridge. Skiffs closed to 170 m when the armed security team fired one warning shot. The skiffs however continued their approach, resulting in the security team firing another three warning shots before the skiffs stopped following the vessel. The vessel and all crewmembers on board have been reported safe.

- **4 January 2015** – At 0601 UTC in position 12:33.2N – 043.25.6E, Master reported being approached by two skiffs on the starboard bow to 1.2 nautical miles distance and three skiffs on the port side. The skiffs approached the vessel at high speeds. The vessel's whistle and alarm were sounded. Embarked armed security team showed their weapons however the skiffs continued their approach. Armed security team fired warning shots resulting in the skiffs stopping their approach at 1 nautical mile from the vessel. Four – five pirates were seen on board the skiffs and they were wearing yellow colored clothing. No ladders and no weapons were sighted on board the skiffs. One skiff was seen 1.5 nautical miles ahead of the vessel. Armed security team displayed their weapons, resulting in the skiff moving away. MV alerted authorities in Djibouti and vessels in the vicinity were also alerted.
- **3 January 2015** – At 0840 UTC in position 12:57.7N – 043:09.2E, Master reported being approached by 3 blue and white hulled skiffs at 25 knots on the MV's port quarter closing to 6 cables. Each skiff had 5 – 6 pirates on board who were wearing yellow rain suits. Armed security team on board the vessel displayed their weapons resulting in the skiffs stopping their approach and falling behind the MV. No weapons and no ladders were seen on board the vessel.

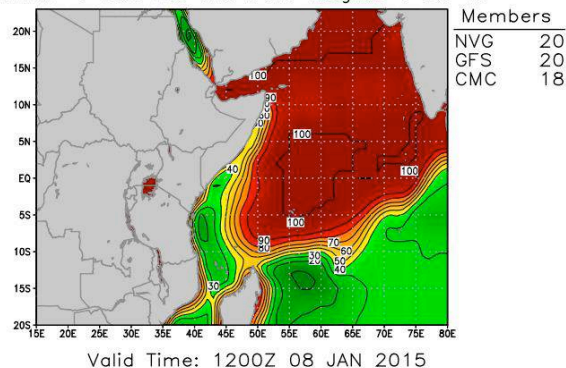


## Weather Analysis

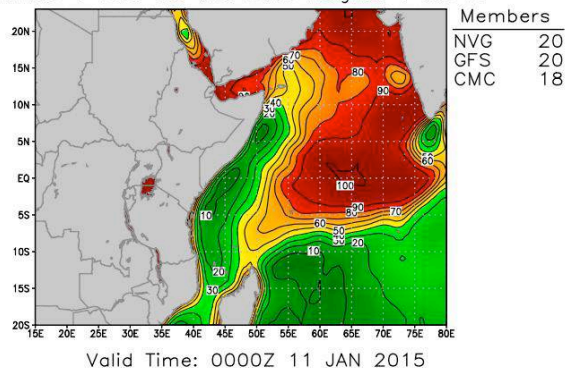
- **North Arabian Sea** – Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Northerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be westerly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Easterly winds of 5 – 10 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 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – 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 6 – 8 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 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 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – North-northeast winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 9 – 12 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Northwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southwesterly at 15 – 20 knots with seas of 6 – 8 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – West-southwest winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 15 – 18 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 15 – 18 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 in the region, expect increasing winds with reduced visibility due to heavy dust in the Arabian Gulf along with early morning coastal fog with mist. In the Gulf of Aden, expect increased cloud cover and rain showers.

## Sea Conditions for the Following Week

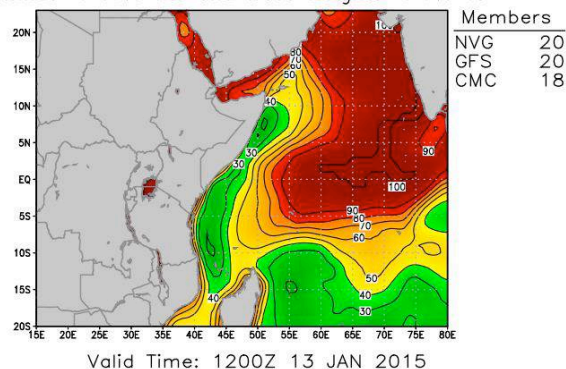
Winds &lt; 15.0 kts and Wave Heights &lt; 5.0 ft



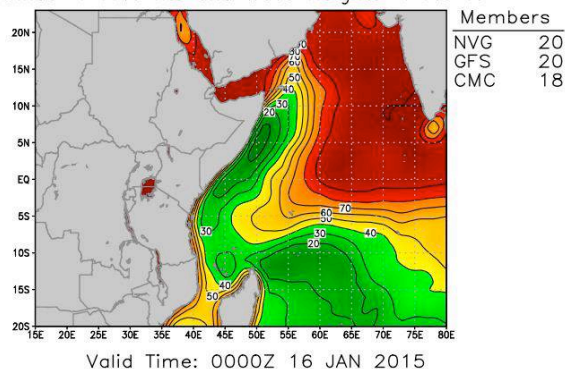
Winds &lt; 15.0 kts and Wave Heights &lt; 5.0 ft



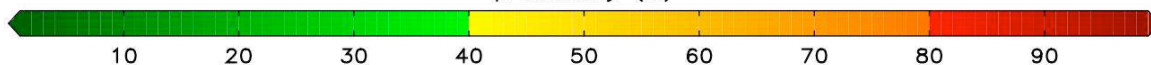
Winds &lt; 17.0 kts and Wave Heights &lt; 7.0 ft



Winds &lt; 17.0 kts and Wave Heights &lt; 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

- **10 January 2015** – Police officials reported Sunday that a remote-controlled bomb hit a vehicle in a troop convoy in the southern Somali port city of Kismayo. Three soldiers were killed in the attack. Local residents reported that troops in the convoy opened fire after the blast went off, killing two women who were passing by. Ismail Hussein, a police officer in the city, has rejected this claim, stating “the forces did not kill residents after the blast.” Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the attack, which hit the convoy as it was driving through Gulwade village in Kismayo late on Saturday.
- **9 January 2015** – Large areas of the capital Mogadishu were placed under lockdown Friday ahead of the first meeting of a regional east African trade block. Daud Aweys, spokesman for the presidential palace, has indicated, “security has been tightened because of the IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) delegation.” According to the spokesman, “the agenda of the meeting includes security, political reconciliation and other key issues.” Dozens of heavily armed soldiers and police patrolled the streets Friday, where al-Shabaab militants have carried out regular bombings and killings. On the ground sources have reported that all roads across the capital city have been closed and that movement is nearly impossible. Representatives have already begun to arrive for one of the largest and most profile meetings to be held in Mogadishu for years. Ministers from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, who have all contributed troops to the 22,000-strong African Union (AU) in Somalia, are expected to attend Saturday’s IGAD talks. Representatives from Sudan and South Sudan are also believed to be attending.
  - On Friday, al-Shabaab praised the massacre at the Charlie Hebdo satirical weekly in Paris, calling the act “heroic.” In a commentary, Radio Andalus, the official mouthpiece of the militant group, stated “they made millions of Muslims happy by taking action. Some misguided people claim that freedom of expression was attacked, but that is not the case, and the two heroic people acted accordingly.” It further stated that the satirical magazine had “insulted our prophet and annoyed millions of Muslims,” describing the attackers as “our two brothers (who) were the first to take revenge.” In line with earlier reports, the radio also noted that the two brothers had “declared that they are part of al-Qaeda,” the Islamist network to which al-Shabaab is also affiliated. Al-Shabaab, who control large areas of southern Somalia, are reported to have close links with al-Qaeda fighters in neighboring Yemen, where one of the two brothers suspected of carrying out the attacks is believed to have trained.
- **7 January 2015** – According to the African Union’s (AU) special envoy a military offensive by Somali and AU forces has pushed al-Shabaab militants into two dwindling pockets of territory in the northern and southern regions of the country. The AU force, known as AMISOM, along with Somali soldiers have recaptured swathes of territory since launching an offensive last year, which the AU envoy has indicated had driven al-Shabaab from “85 percent” of areas it had controlled. According to the AU envoy, al-Shabaab militants are now located in the Jubba valley in the south and in the northern Puntland region, adding that the militant group had its largest concentration of forces in the fertile stretch of land that straddles the Jubba river in the south. While he did not provide additional details pertaining to the offensives, he did indicate, “discussions are ongoing and plans are very much advanced.” Al-Shabaab however has maintained that the ongoing offensives have not diminished their capabilities of striking across the southern region of the country. While the semi-autonomous northern region of Puntland has been relatively calm, over the past week Puntland troops have battled al-Shabaab forces in the Galgala hills region. According to Puntland authorities, troops killed twenty rebels and lost five soldiers, with officials reporting that they now control the



battleground. In a contradicting statement, an al-Shabaab official disclosed that the militant group had killed 23 troops and that fighting was still ongoing. Al-Shabaab, which controlled Mogadishu and southern Somalia until it was driven out of the capital in 2011, has since then steadily lost territory however militants have continued to launch guerrilla-style attacks. On Wednesday, the militant group was blamed for a car bomb that severely wounded a university lecturer.

- A car bomb in Mogadishu has critically injured a university lecturer. While there was no immediate claim of responsibility, officials have blamed al-Shabaab. According to police captain Isa Ahmed, “it was a planted bomb probably controlled remotely,” adding that it remained unclear whether the bomb had targeted the lecturer. A source at the Madina hospital indicated that the man, a lecturer at Mogadishu’s SIMAD University, was in critical condition. The rebel group, who has promised to keep up attacks even as they continue to lose territory to the ongoing military offensive, has in the past used such devices to carry out deadly attacks. On Sunday, an al-Shabaab car bomb killed four people in the capital city.
- Officials and eyewitnesses have reported that al-Shabaab militants have executed four people accused of spying for the United States, Ethiopia and the country’s internationally backed government. Sources have reported that the executions by firing squad occurred at a square in the town of Bardhere, which is an al-Shabaab stronghold in the southwestern region of Gedo. The executions occurred late Tuesday and come a week after the US indicated that it had killed the militant group’s intelligence chief in an air strike. Prior to the executions being carried out, an al-Shabaab judge in the town disclosed that “one of the spies worked with the CIA and facilitated the killing of an al-Shabaab commander,” adding that another one of those executed had been aiding US operations in Barawe, a port town and former al-Shabaab stronghold that was captured last year by Somali and AU forces, while the other two had worked for Ethiopian intelligence services and for Somalia’s security agency. According to the judge, “after hearing the charges against the four and their confession, the Islamic court sentenced them to the death penalty.” According to an eyewitness, hundreds of locals watched the execution.
- **6 January 2015** – The president of Somalia’s semi-autonomous Puntland Government Abdiweli Mohamed Ali has confirmed that Puntland Defense Forces (PDF) killed twenty al-Shabaab militants during a two day raid on their bases in the Galgala region. Speaking at a press conference in the state capital of Garowe on Tuesday, the president disclosed that Puntland army troops had seized control of Guri-xoor, Dhagxdher, Guri Dharkeyn, Gurihis, Karin Xagared and the largest hideout of Digjigle, which is located some 37 kilometres from the village of Galgala. The president further indicated, “Puntland forces killed 20 and wounded 29 others. Five Puntland soldiers were martyred in the military offensive and four sustained injuries,” adding that the troops also destroyed a cache of weapons and seized surveillance equipment. He also disclosed “Puntland soldiers captured senior al-Shabaab officials including Mukhtar Abdinur Ahmed (Ahmed Gurey) and Ahmed Abdi Mohamed...” The Puntland leader noted that the two captured men were militia commanders who played a pivotal role in the latest clashes.

### 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:

- **5 January 2015** – Unidentified gunmen attacked a houseboat belonging to Nigeria's Joint Task Force (JTF). The gunmen were said to have carried out the attack at Kula community in Akuku Toru local government area of Rivers state. They were said to have kidnapped a Sergeant and stolen weapons and ammunition.
- **27 December 2014 (Late Report)** – Nigerian Naval personnel rescued the captain and chief engineer of MT EQUINOX, a Panamanian-flagged tanker. They had been kidnapped and held for ransom for more than two weeks in a hotel in Warri, Delta State. The vessel's captain is reportedly from Romania while the nationality of the engineer is unknown. Of note, a German and Belgian employee of a local oil company were arrested for perpetrating the crime.

## Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – West-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 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:

- 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 6 – 8 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 9 – 12 feet.
- **Malacca Strait** – Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Strait; in the southern Strait, winds will be northwesterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Strait; with northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern Strait.
- **Andaman Sea** – Northerly 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.

- **Surface Currents** – Currents in the South China Sea and Malacca Strait will average speeds of 1 knot while currents in the Andaman Sea will average between 1 – 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – The Northeast Monsoon season influences the region. 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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