

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

MS Risk is a privately owned company domiciled in the Isle of Man. It is underwritten by a syndicate of Lloyd's of London for special risks case management in all jurisdictions. It also acts as retained advisors to syndicates in the Lloyd's of London specialty risk insurance markets: kidnap for ransom, extortion, hijack, illegal detention, illegal war tax, malicious product tamper, terrorism, political and war risk.

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MS Risk has a dedicated team of researchers, a 24/7 hotline service and a pool of trained and experienced consultants to support client needs.

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- Security Consulting
 - Risk assessments and intelligence reporting
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- 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 (February 9 - 15, 2015 - Week 7; Edition 76)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

Gulf of Guinea/West Africa: One late reported incident during this period

Somalia-Indian Ocean: One incident reported during this period

Southeast Asia: One incident and one late reported incident during this period

South America: No incidents reported during this period

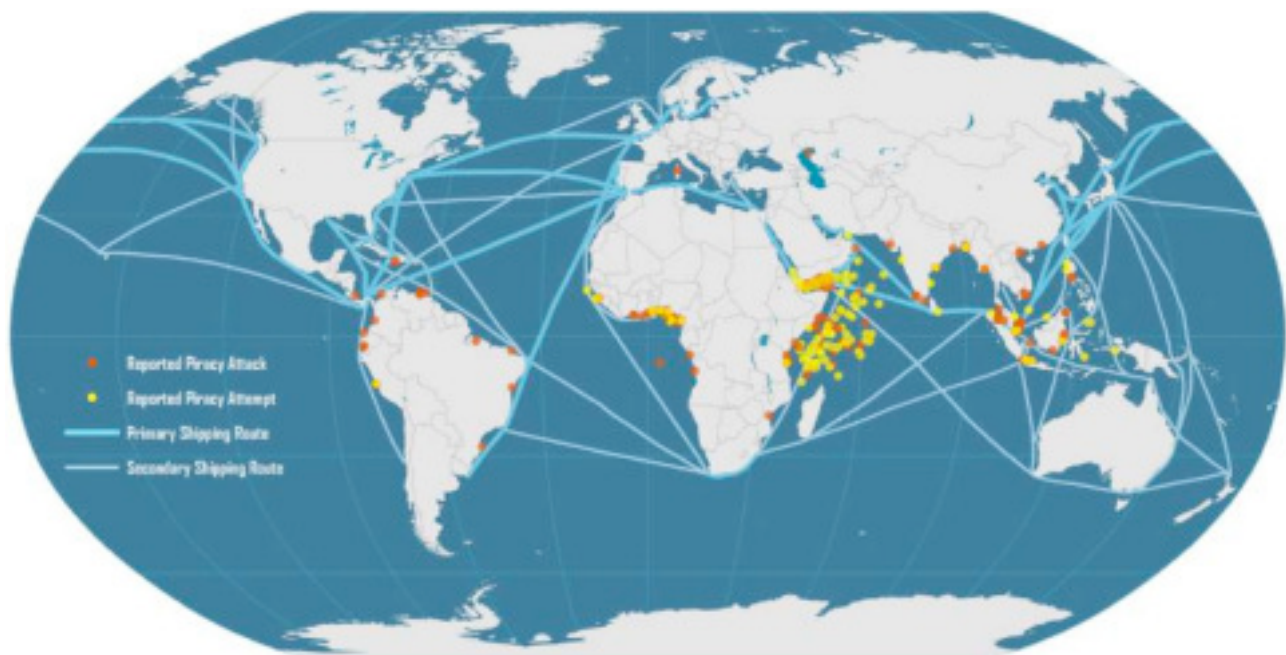
North America: No current incidents to report

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 February 2015** – At 0905 UTC, in position 02:04.3S – 05:043.3E, a MV reported seeing a suspicious vessel (30/35 meters long, blue hull with white structures and a crane) on radar at 26 nautical miles. At 11 nautical miles, the suspicious vessel alerted its course to close CPA at 1.6 nautical miles. The MV altered the vessels' course to open the CPA however the suspicious vessel made a similar adjustment. At 3 nautical miles, the suspicious vessel launched a small boat, which proceeded towards the MV. Security team on board the MV fired a parachute flare towards the boat, which then returned to the suspicious vessel. The suspicious vessel then changed its course, moving away from the MV. The MV and all crewmembers on board have been reported safe.

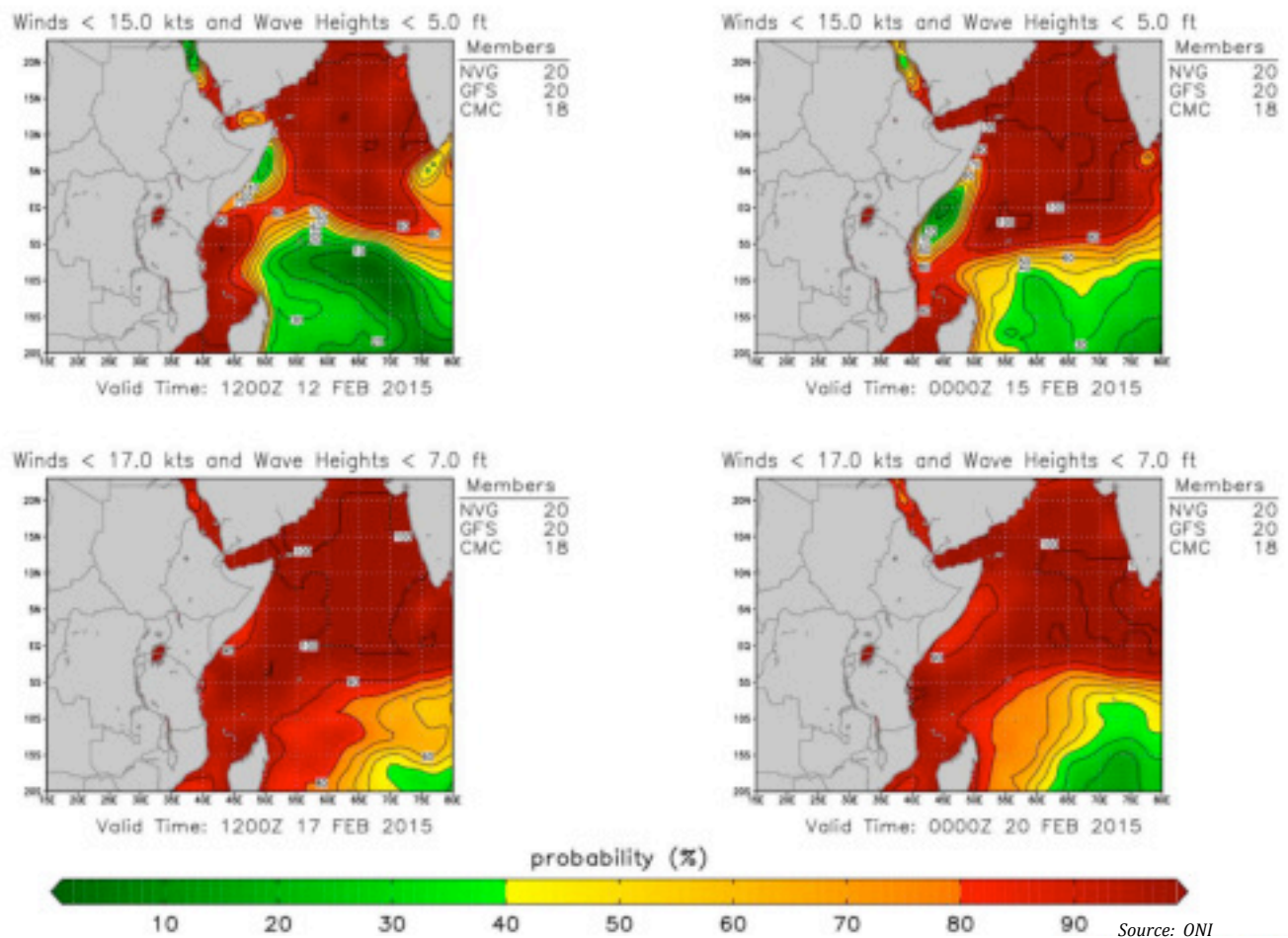
Map



Weather Analysis

- **North Arabian Sea** – Northeast 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.
- **Gulf of Oman** – 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 southeasterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – East-northeast winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – East-northeast winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be east-northeasterly at 13 – 18 knots with seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Somali Coast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – East-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Southerly winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southeasterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be northerly at 10 – 15 knots with seas of 4 – 6 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



*** 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

- **11 February 2015** – At least ten al-Shabaab militants were killed and scores of others injured early Wednesday after heavy fighting erupted between African Union (AU) forces and the al-Qaeda-linked militant group in the southern town of Barawe. Lower Shabelle's governor Abdulkadir Mohamed Nor Sidii confirmed the fighting, stating that the clashes "...ran into the night and early hours of Wednesday. The combined forces of AMISOM and SNA (Somali National Army) killed ten militants, but we also lost a regional officer who was killed at his home." Barawe, which was considered to be one of al-Shabaab's last remaining strongholds, fell into government control late last year after a joint operation carried out by AMISOM troops and SNA forces.
- **10 February 2015** – Over 500 people have been arrested in Mogadishu after police officials and AU forces carried out a joint operation, targeting individuals suspected to have links to al-Shabaab. On the ground sources have reported that government forces and AU troops raided homes and shops of suspected militants in the capital on Tuesday. According to Abdulkadir Mohamed, the mayor of Hamar Weyne district, "all the individuals arrested will be questioned and whoever found guilty will be taken to face justice," adding that the operations will continue until the security of the district is assured. Security officials in the capital city believe that armed groups have used residential areas as bases in a bid to prepare attacks. They then mingle amongst the residents in urban areas to carry out the attacks.
- **9 February 2015** – Al-Shabaab militants shot dead a lawmaker in Mogadishu on Monday. Fellow MP Abdulkarim Hajji confirmed that "Abdulahi Qayad Barre was shot dead, men killed him as he left his house to go to parliament." According to Police Captain Mohamed Hussein, the attack on the MP occurred in an area close to the presidential palace in Mogadishu, adding that gunmen travelling in a car sprayed bullets into the lawmaker's car as he was heading to parliament. Monday's attack came amidst tightened security in the capital city as lawmakers gathered to vote on whether to approve a new cabinet after parliament rejected the new prime minister's last list of candidates. Al-Shabaab spokesman Sheik Abdul Aziz Abu Musab confirmed, "Shabaab commandoes shot and killed Barre, and all the so-called MP's are legitimate target subject to be killed or captured, to face the justice of Allah." The extremist group has indicated that they are targeting MP's as they allowed the deployment of foreign troops on Somali soil. Last year, at least five MP's were killed. Barre is the first MP to be assassinated in 2015.

Domestic News

- **9 February 2015** – Somali lawmakers have approved a new cabinet. Speaker of parliament Mohamed Osman Jawari disclosed Monday that 191 out of 220 legislators present had endorsed the new cabinet, which consists of 26 ministers and 40 deputy ministers.

GULF OF GUINEA

Executive Summary

Pirate and maritime crime activity in waters off West Africa is currently at a medium level. Over this reporting period, there was one reported hijacking, two reported kidnappings and one reported attack. All vessels transiting this region are reminded to remain vigilant.

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- **5 February 2015 (Late Report)** – A duty crewman on board a berthed chemical tanker near position 06:26N – 003:22E, ENL Jetty, Lagos Harbor, spotted a robber attempting to board the vessel. He alerted the onboard security team who chased the robbers away. Soon afterward, the robbers attempted to return and the security team fired on warning shot, resulting in the robbers aborting the approach. The vessel and all crewmembers on board have been reported safe.

Map



Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – East-northeast winds of 10 – 15 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.

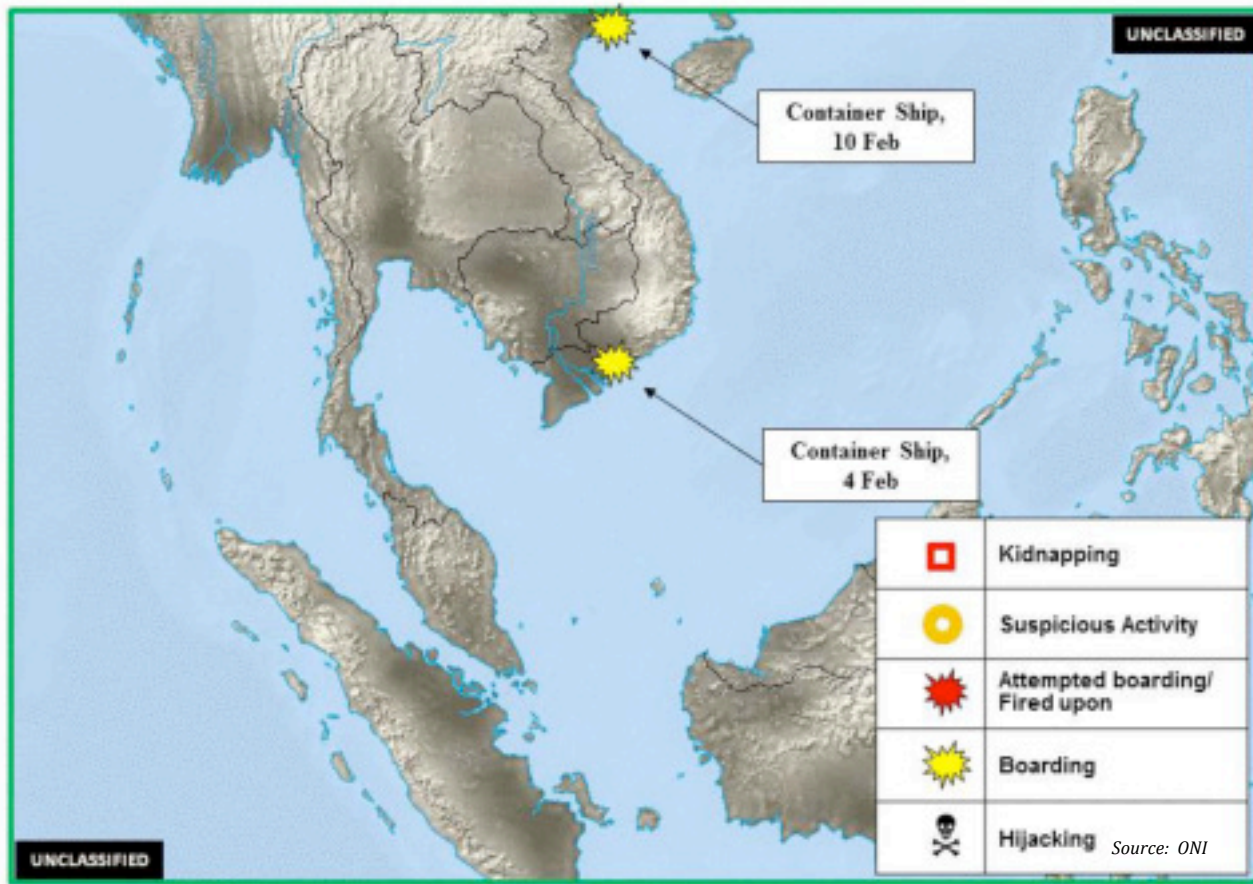
Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- **10 February 2015** – A deck watchman on routine rounds aboard a berthed container ship near position 20:52N – 106:40 E, Nam Hai Container Terminal, Haiphong saw two robbers near the forward store room and alerted the Duty Officer and local police officers aboard the vessel. Alarm was raised and the vessel was searched. The robbers were able to escape and a search of the vessel revealed the theft of items from the storeroom. The vessel and all crewmembers on board have been reported safe.
- **4 February 2015 (Late Report)** – Five robbers boarded an anchored container ship near position 10:12N – 107:03E, 7 nautical miles south of Vungtau. Alert crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. The vessel and all crewmembers on board have been reported safe.

Map



Weather Analysis

- **South China Sea** – Northeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots with seas of 4 - 6 feet.
- **Malacca Strait** – Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; with easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern Strait.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Easterly 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** – North-northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast 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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