

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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  - 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](http://www.msrisk.com)

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## Summary (March 16 - 22, 2015 - Week 12; Edition 81)

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

**Gulf of Guinea/West Africa:** Two late reported incidents

**Somalia-Indian Ocean:** One incident reported during this period

**Southeast Asia:** Two late reported incidents

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

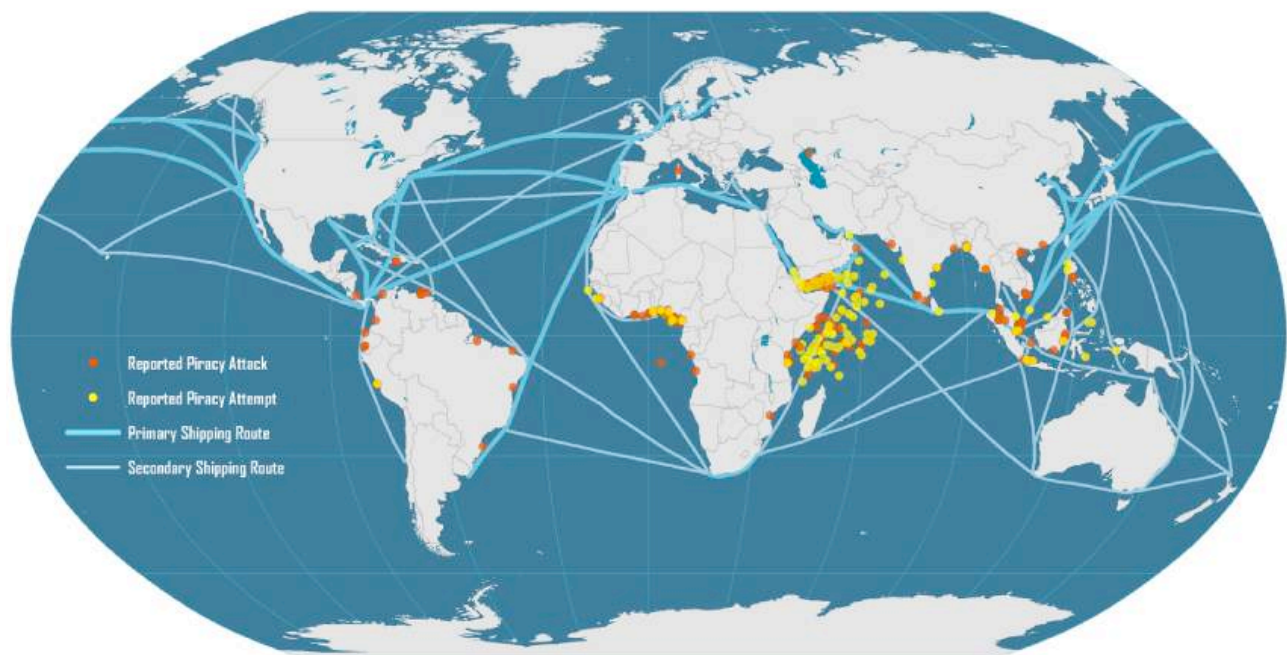
**North America:** No current incidents to report

**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.

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:

- **18 March 2015** – At 1418 UTC in position 26:25N – 056:36E, MV reported four skiffs approaching the vessel. CPA was 70 meters. MV increased speed and the skiffs moved away. No ladders or weapons were sighted on board the skiffs. Vessel and crewmembers have been reported safe.

### Map



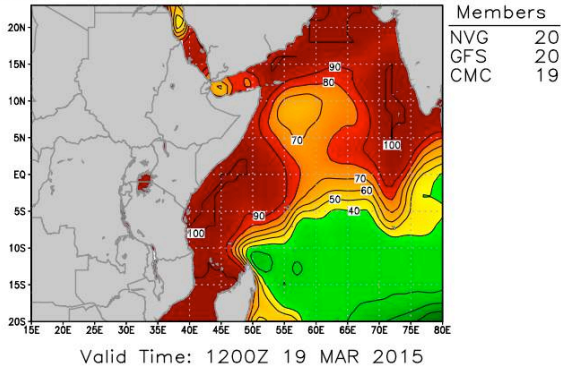


## Weather Forecast

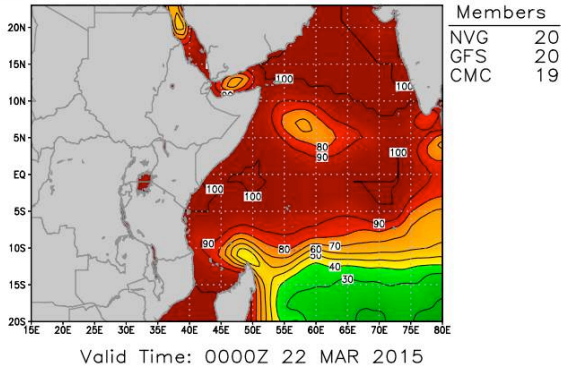
- **Northern Arabian Sea:** Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** West-northwest winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman:** Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be east-southeasterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** West-northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with west-northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden:** Easterly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Easterly winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast:** Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean:** Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel:** Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southeasterly at 10 – 15 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; with easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 4 – 6 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. A shortwave trough has stalled over the Arabian Gulf. Low cloud ceilings and isolated rain showers and thunderstorms over the area and possible towards the Gulf of Aden area are expected.

Sea Conditions for the Following Week

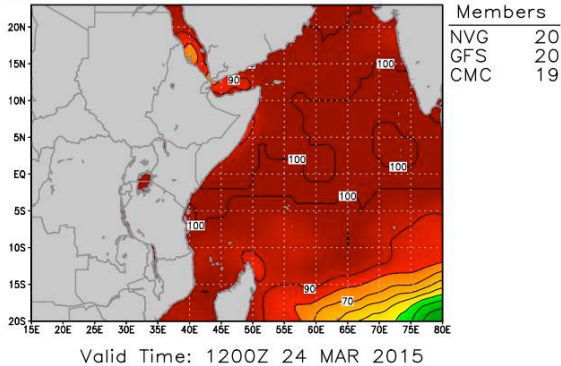
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



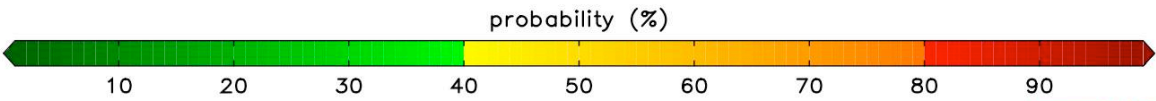
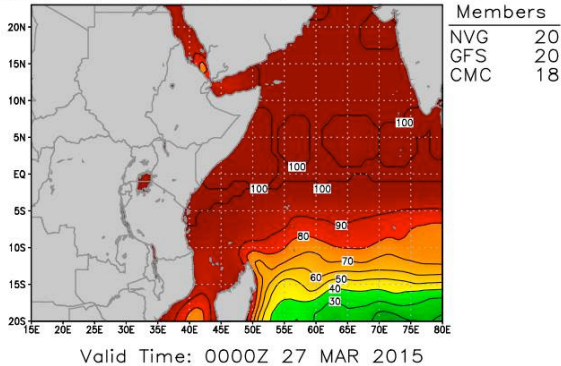
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



Source: ONI

\*\*\* In this graphic, the green shading represents a reduced likelihood of small boats and skiffs operating in the area due to harsh seas conditions, while the red indicates a higher likelihood of favorable sea conditions for skiffs and smaller boats \*\*\*

## On the Ground Reporting

- **18 March 2015** – The United States Defense Department has confirmed that a US drone strike has killed Adan Garar, an al-Shabaab leader. On Wednesday, the Pentagon confirmed that a drone, equipped with Hellfire missiles, targeted the militant in southern Somalia last Friday. The operation took place about 240 kilometres (150 miles) west of the capital Mogadishu, near the town of Dinsoor. Garar was suspected of being the mastermind of the 2013 Westgate Mall attack in Nairobi Kenya, which killed 67 people. According to the Pentagon, the US believes that Garar was overseeing operations that “target US persons and other Western interests,” adding that he was a member of the security and intelligence wing and a “key operative responsible for coordinating al-Shabaab’s external operations.”

## Regional Reporting

- **20 March 2015** – A court in Mombasa heard Friday that materials recovered from the home of a British terrorism suspect in Kenya were capable of making explosives. A Kenyan bomb disposal expert, giving evidence at the trial of alleged Islamist militant Jermaine Grant, stated that detectives found a long list of dangerous chemicals as well as electrical components, including a type of switch that is commonly used by suicide bombers. Sergeant Mwachuphi Salim told the court “upon mixing one or more of the chemicals, if the chemicals were detonated, high explosions would be experienced.” Grant, who has been accused of having ties to Somalia’s al-Shabaab, was arrested in Mombasa in December 2011 on charges of plotting bomb attacks. Prosecutors have also accused Grant of working with Briton Samantha Lewthwaite, the fugitive widow of British suicide bomber Germaine Lindsay, who blew himself up on a London Underground train on 7 July 2005. He has denied the charges. The next hearing in his case is due to take place on 30 April, when the prosecution’s last witness is due to testify before the court. Last month, a British counter-terrorism officer testified that Jihadist documents along with other materials “clearly dedicated to the making of explosives and weaponry” were found on a flash storage drive, which was allegedly in Grant’s possession.
- **19 March 2015** – A Kenyan intelligence report has revealed that Adan Garar, a suspected al-Shabaab militant killed in a US drone strike in southern Somalia last week, had acquired and smuggled into Kenya weapons that were used by four gunmen in the attack on the Westgate shopping center in September 2013. According to the intelligence reported, Garar was identified by CCTV cameras from a bank where he and another suspect had gone to meet another man from whom they purchased the car that was used to take the gunmen to the mall. On Wednesday, the Pentagon confirmed that Garar was killed on 12 March when a US drone attacked a vehicle in which he was riding in. A statement released by the pentagon called Garar a “major threat” and stated that his death had dealt a significant blow to al-Shabaab.
- **18 March 2015** – Officials reported Wednesday that at least four people have been killed in a gun and grenade attack in the town of Wajir in northeastern Kenya, in what appears to be the latest in a series of cross-border attacks carried out by al-Shabaab militants. Security sources have disclosed that a group of at least four armed men threw a grenade at a small shop in the town on Tuesday night. They also opened fire before escaping on foot. County police commander Samuel Mukindia confirmed the attack, stating “the assailants killed four people and wounded three others who were inside the shop at the time of the raid.” Local police officials have disclosed that the shop caught fire, burning the bodies of the victims beyond



recognition. This is the fourth attack to occur in Kenya's remote northeastern region in the past five days. Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attack, with Abdulaziz Abu Musab, the militant group's spokesman, warning, "...Such attacks will continue." The recent string of attacks has so far claimed at least eight lives. On Monday, the governor of Mandera, Ali Roba, who escaped an ambush on Friday, stated that the security situation in northeastern Kenya was "extremely hopeless."

- **16 March 2015** – Officials disclosed Monday that al-Shabaab militants have killed one man and wounded three others in a shooting in the northern Kenyan town of Mandera. Mandera East's deputy county commissioner, Elvis Korir confirmed the attack, which occurred Sunday evening, stating "the assailants opened fire at a group of shoppers killing one man instantly, while at the same time critically injuring three others." The gunmen were driving an estate car. They sprayed shoppers with gunfire before escaping towards the nearby border with Somalia. A spokesman for al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack. The latest cross-border attack to be carried out by Somali-based al-Shabaab militants comes just two days after the militant group's fighters ambushed the local governor's convoy. On Friday, al-Shabaab militants confirmed that they were behind an ambush on Mandera county governor Ali Roba. The governor escaped unharmed however three people in his convoy, which was attacked Friday morning, were killed. Roba's convoy was previously ambushed by militants in October 2014.

## International Developments

- **20 March 2015** – Prosecutors in Germany have charged six men over alleged links to al-Shabaab. On Friday, the federal prosecutor's office charged five of the men with membership of a terrorist organization and a sixth of attempting to join the group. Officials have disclosed that the men, aged 24 – 31, are all German citizens, adding that one of them also has Tunisian nationality. Five of them have been accused of undergoing weapons training at a camp run by al-Shabaab in Somalia in 2012. Prosecutors have also disclosed that two of them later planned to join the Islamic State (IS) group in Syria.

# GULF OF GUINEA

## Executive Summary

Pirate and maritime crime activity in waters off West Africa is currently at a low level, with two late-reported incidents during this reporting period. All vessels transiting this region however are reminded to remain vigilant.

## At Sea

### Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

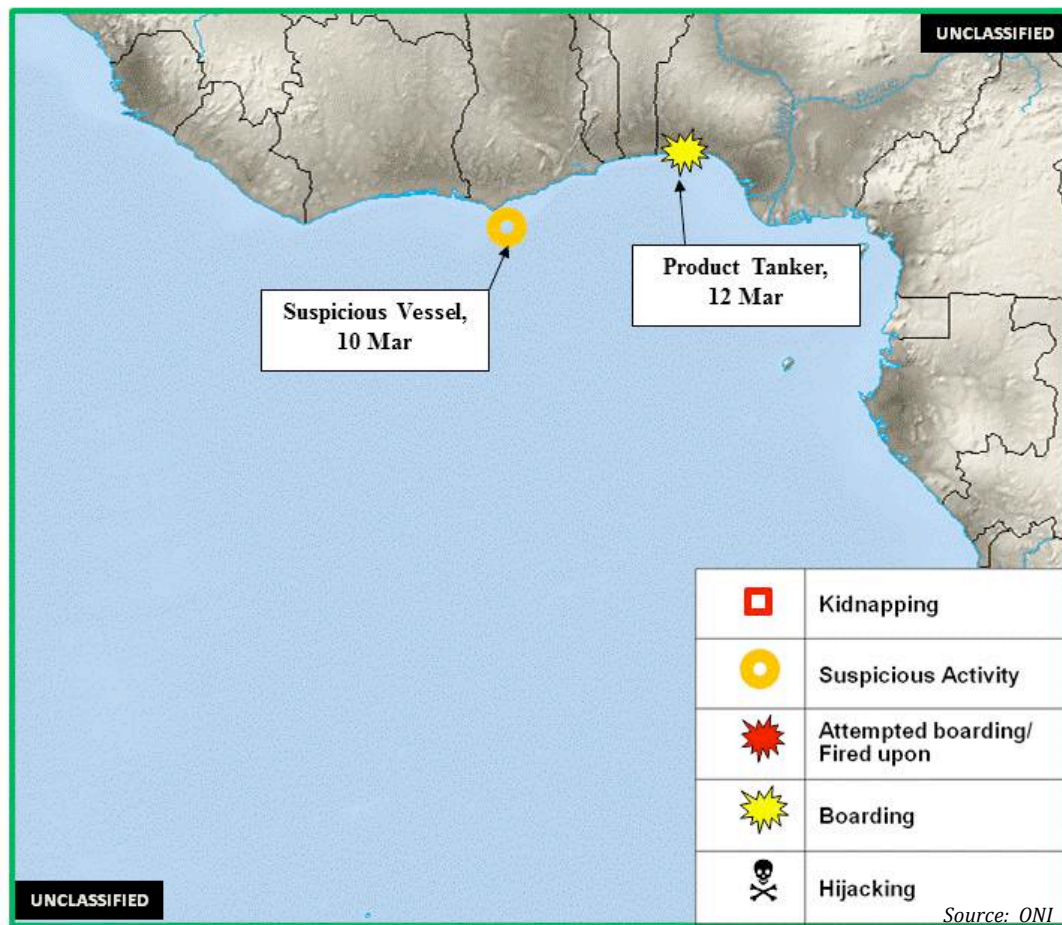
### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **12 March 2015 (Late Report)** – Two robbers boarded a berthed petroleum product tanker near position 06:27N – 003:22E, Terminal 5, Apapa Port, Lagos. Duty pump man noticed the robbers hiding near the hatch cover of No. 1 cargo oil tank. He immediately informed the duty officer and alerted all crewmembers. Upon seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped by jumping overboard. Upon inspection, it was noticed that approximately five cubic meters of base oil was stolen. Agents and Port Security Officer were informed of the incident.

### Suspicious Activity:

- **10 March 2015 (Late Report)** – A suspicious approach was reported near position 04:04N – 001:22W, approximately 54 nautical miles south-southeast of Takoradi. The suspicious vessel was described as a 50-meter long gray or white-hulled fishing boat.

## Map



## Weather Forecast

- **Gulf of Guinea:** West-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Southwest winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 3 – 5 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:

- **9 March 2015 (Late Report):** Seven pirates in a speed boat, wearing masks and armed with guns and long knives, hijacked the product tanker *MT SINGA BERLIAN* near position 01:43N – 105:50E, 37 nautical miles south of Pulau Repong. They took hostage the crewmembers, damaged all communication and navigational equipment, transferred the Marine Fuel Oil cargo into another vessel and escaped. One crewmembers suffered minor injuries during the incident. The owners informed the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, who dispatched a vessel in order to carry out an investigation.

#### Vessels Boarded:

- **11 March 2015 (Late Report):** Duty crewman onboard a bulk carrier anchored near position 10:15N – 107:02E, Vung Tau Anchorage, noticed robbers on deck. He informed the duty officer who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. The robbers managed to steal the vessel's stores before escaping. Crewmembers sustained no injuries during the incident.

#### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

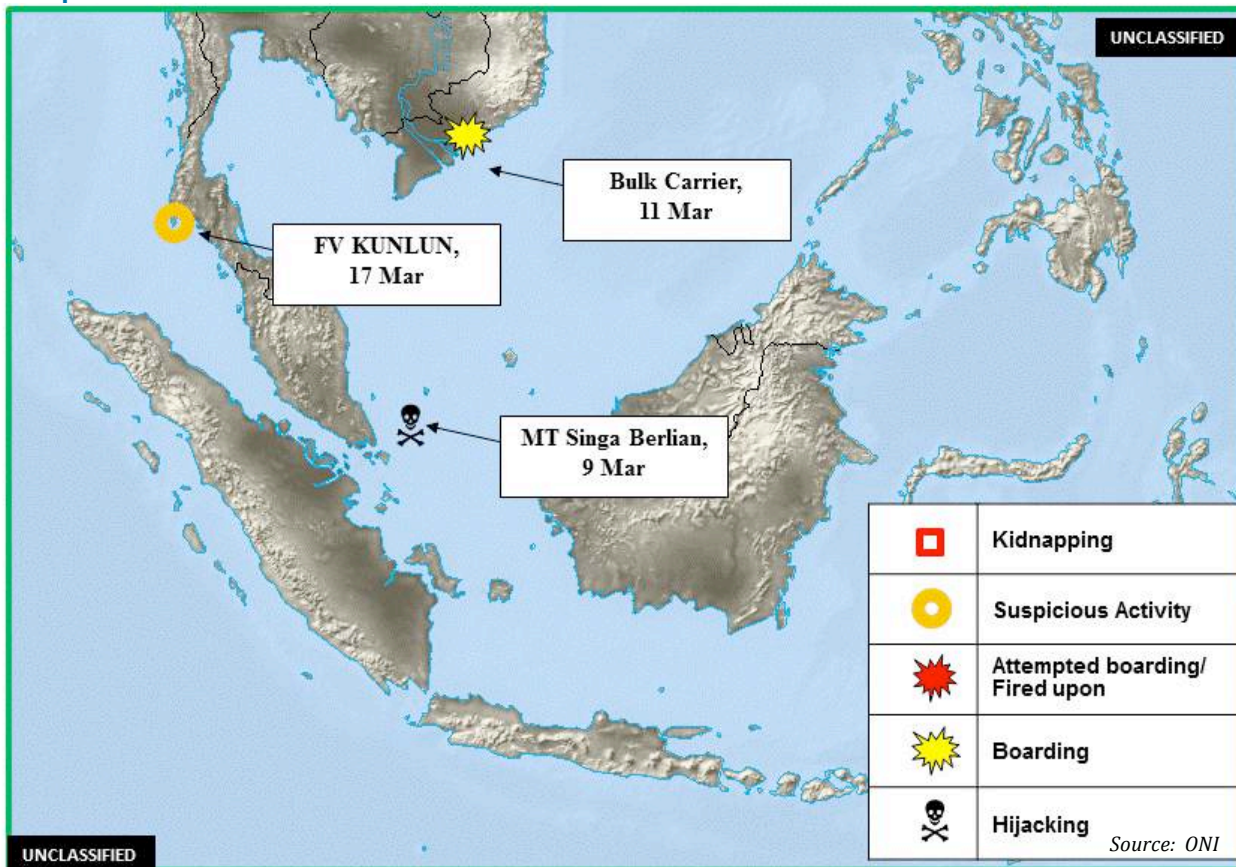
- None reported during this period.

#### Suspicious Activity:

- **17 March 2015:** Officials in Thailand announced that they have arrested FV KUNLUN in Phuket on suspicion of illegal fishing. The KUNLUN attempted to avoid detection by entering the Thai port under the name TAISHAN and claiming to be flagged in Indonesia. The vessel has a long history of illegal fishing in the Southern Ocean and is the subject of an INTERPOL Purple Notice, seeking information on the

individuals and networks that own, operate and profit from the actions of the vessel. Since 2008, the poaching vessel has reportedly changed names at least ten times in a bid to avoid prosecution.

## Map



## Weather Forecast

- **South China Sea:** Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** East-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
- **Malacca Strait:** North-northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; in the southern Strait, winds will be north-northwesterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Northeast winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; with northeast winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the southern Strait.



- **Andaman Sea:** Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 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 1 to 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion:** The Northeast Monsoon season continues to influence 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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