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

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Summary (March 9 - 15, 2015 - Week 11; Edition 80)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

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

Somalia-Indian Ocean: One incident reported during this period

Southeast Asia: One incident reported during this period

South America: No incidents reported during this period

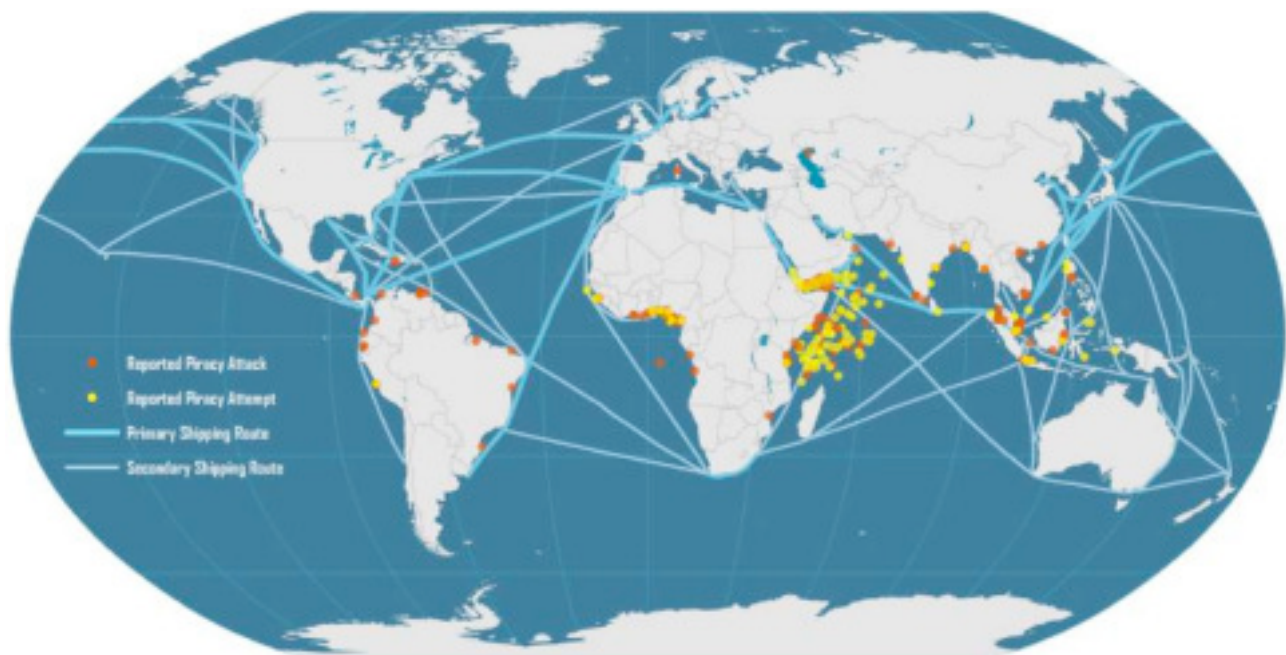
North America: No current incidents to report

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.

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 March 2015** – In position 13:24N – 050:02E, at 1508 UTC a vessel reported two skiffs, with seven to eight persons on board, that closed to 1 nautical miles. Ladders were seen on board the skiffs. The armed security team on board the vessel fired two warning shots and the vessel continued on her course. Skiffs stopped in the water. The duration of the event was 20 minutes. Vessel and crewmembers on board have been reported safe.

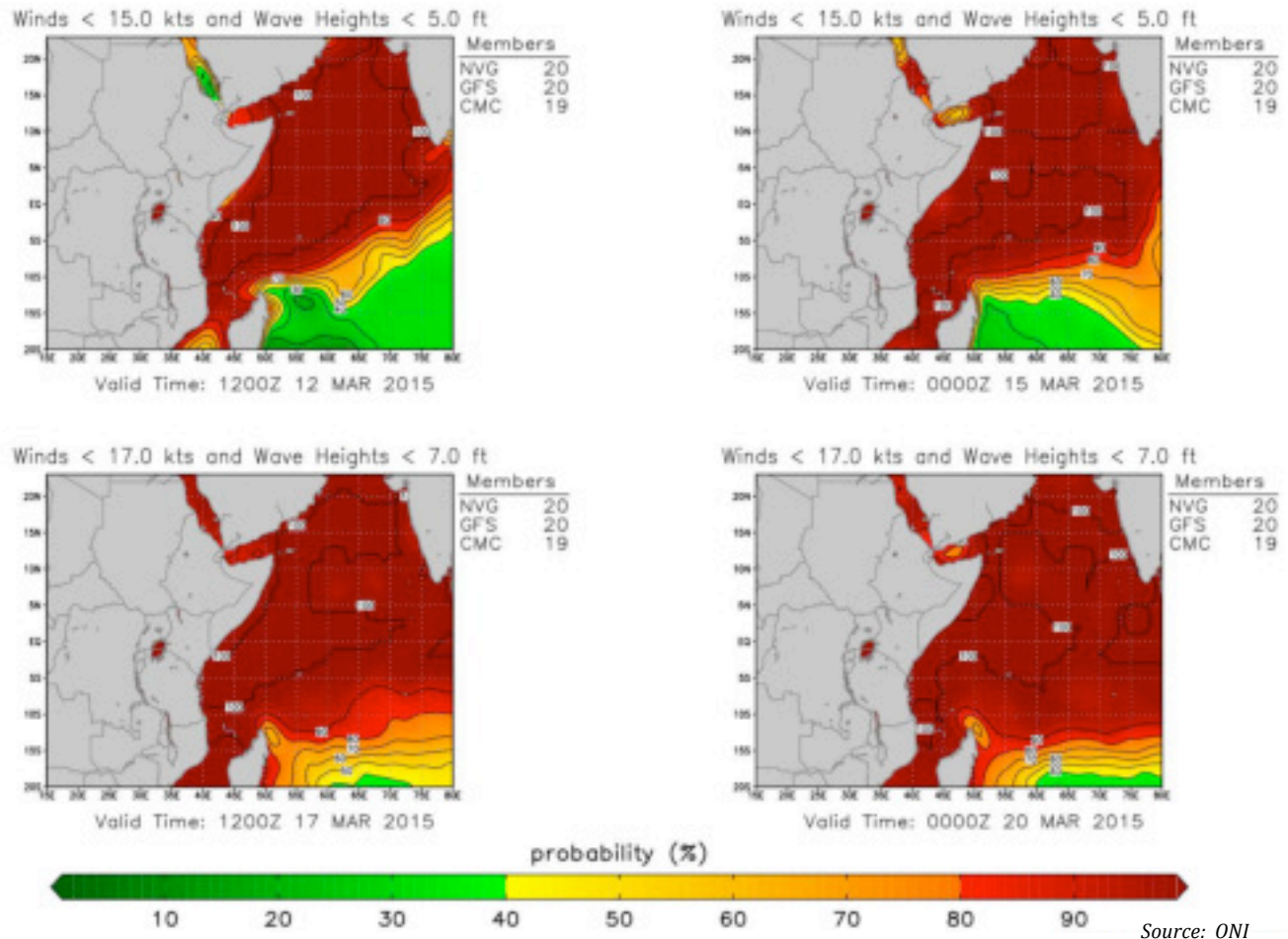
Map



Weather Forecast

- **Northern Arabian Sea:** East-southeast 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.
- **Gulf of Oman:** East-southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots with seas of 3 – 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be east-southeasterly at 15 – 20 knots with seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden:** 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.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Easterly winds of 10 – 15 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 15 – 20 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **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:** 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.
- **Mozambique Channel:** Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southeasterly at 15 – 20 knots with seas of 6 – 8 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 2 – 4 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. Isolated rain showers and isolated ceilings over the western Gulf of Aden and western Yemen are expected. High pressure over the Arabian Sea will provide favorable winds and seas.

Sea Conditions for the Following Week



*** 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

- **14 March 2015** - Somali government troops, along with African Union forces, have conducted a massive security operation in the Bay regional capital of Baidoa, just days after al-Shabaab militants targeted the strategic town. Commanders in charge of the operation told reporters on Saturday that troops had located a weapons cache and that nearly twenty suspected al-Shabaab members were captured, including youth, businessmen and three women.
- **12 March 2015** - A drone strike in Somalia on Thursday is believed to have killed a senior al-Shabaab member who allegedly helped plan the 2013 attack on the West gate shopping center in Nairobi, Kenya. According to Kenyan and US officials, Adan Garar and two others are believed to have been killed after their car was targeted near the town of Dinsoor. The senior Kenyan official also disclosed that Garar was also suspected of planning failed attacks on Kenya's coast and in the Ugandan capital Kampala last year. In March 2014, anti-terror police foiled a planned attack in the coastal city of Mombasa after they intercepted a car that was packed with explosives. According to police, al-Shabaab militants had planned to simultaneously attack the international airport in Mombasa, the ferry crossing and a supermarket. The car laden with explosives was to be detonated on a ferry. **Update (13 March)** – Pentagon officials disclosed Friday that US forces targeted a leader of al-Shabaab in an operation in southern Somalia earlier this week. Army Colonel Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, told reporters Friday that officials "...are currently assessing the results of this operation and will provide additional information as and when appropriate." Col. Warren did confirm that the operation had occurred Thursday about 240 kilometres (140 miles) west of Mogadishu, near the town of Dinsoor. He added that it was aimed at a "high-value target" but declined to name the individual or specify how it was carried out, other than to say that no US troops were on the ground in Somalia. Dinsoor is located not far from the village of Abaq Zaluul, where residents on Thursday reported a drone attack that occurred around sunset and which killed three al-Shabaab members.
 - On Thursday, al-Shabaab militants attacked a fortified area in the central strategic town of Baidoa, which is home to a key regional government headquarters, killing at least eight people. According to United Nations officials, five gunmen opened fire at the gate of the high-security zone however Ethiopian and Somali government troops managed to hold them off. UN officials have disclosed that the compound where aid agencies are located did not appear to be the target of the militants. Sources have indicated that an Ethiopian soldier was killed in the attack while three of the attackers blew themselves up. Another was host dead and a fifth was shot and wounded. Mohamed Dahir, a Somali police official in Baidoa, confirmed the attack, stating, "they are Shabaab disguised in Somali military uniforms. That's how they managed to enter." A statement released by al-Shabaab confirmed that the militant group had carried out the attack, with it insisting that it was a "success" and stating that the objective was to "disrupt a security meeting" between local authorities and Ethiopian troops, who are part of the African Union's (AU) AMISOM force. In a statement released hours after the attack, Maman Sidikou, the AU representative to Somalia, stated "these are desperate attempts by al-Shabaab to seek relevance, following the massive defeats they continue to suffer from the Somali National Army working together AMISOM troops." The representative vowed to "pursue them further until they are completely eliminated." Baidoa is situated 220 kilometres (140 miles) northwest of the capital Mogadishu. Ethiopian forces captured the strategic town in February 2012, effectively ending three years of al-Shabaab rule, a move that dealt a severe blow to the militant group. In

November 2014, the city became the capital of Somalia's newly created South West State. It also became the seat of its president, Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan, who is a former parliamentary speaker and key ally of Somalia's internationally backed government. Sources have disclosed that the president's office appeared to be the main target in Thursday's attack however the militants failed to enter the building and the regional leader was unharmed.

- **11 March 2015** – On Wednesday evening, at least one person was killed in a suspected al-Shabaab car bombing that targeted a popular hotel in the capital city. The attack came several weeks after the militant group launched a suicide raid against another hotel in the city, killing at least twenty-five people.
 - Officials disclosed Wednesday that Somali police have arrested four foreign fighters suspected of having ties to al-Shabaab insurgents. According to a police commander in the town of Dhobley, which is located near the border with Kenya, the four suspects are Kenyan and Tanzanian citizens. Col. Haibe Ahmed Abdullahi, the commander based in Dhobley, disclosed that the suspects "...were heading to al-Shabaab bases in this region when we stopped them... They are under investigations now," adding that two other Somali nationals were arrested alongside them. They are believed to have been escorting the suspects. In the past, several foreigners, including Westerners, have been arrested in the same region on suspicion of having ties to the militant group. Kenya has been seen as a major transit point into the war-torn Horn of Africa nation.

Regional Reporting

- **13 March 2015** – Officials reported early Friday that al-Shabaab militants launched a cross-border raid into northern Kenya, ambushing a convoy of Kenyan officials in the northeastern region of the country and wounding several people. According to officials from the Kenyan Red Cross, at least six people were injured in the attack, one of them critically. Kenyan media reports have disclosed that Mandera county governor Ali Roba, who was travelling in the convoy at the time of the attack, escaped unharmed. Al-Shabaab has confirmed responsibility for the attack, with the militant group's military spokesman Abdulaziz Abu Musab stating "a Shabaab commando unit attacked a Kenyan convoy travelling from Mandera to Nairobi." He also claimed that the militants destroyed two vehicles, hijacked another and captured weapons. The Mandera region is located in Kenya's far northeast. It borders Somalia and has been affected by insecurity as the area has been scene of a number of attacks that were recently carried out by al-Shabaab militants. Roba's convoy was previously ambushed in October 2014. In November, al-Shabaab gunmen held up a bus outside the town of Mandera, on the same stretch of road as Friday's ambush. During that attack, the militants separated passengers according to their religion and executed 28 non-Muslims. Ten days later, 36 non-Muslim quarry workers were killed after al-Shabaab militants attacked the area.

GULF OF GUINEA

Executive Summary

Pirate and maritime crime activity in waters off West Africa is currently at a low level with no 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:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Map



Weather Forecast

- **Gulf of Guinea:** Southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Southerly 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:

- **11 March 2015:** 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. All crewmembers have been reported safe.

Map



Weather Forecast

- **South China Sea:** Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** East-northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
- **Malacca Strait:** Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; in the southern Strait, winds will be northeasterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Northerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; with northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern Strait.
- **Malacca Strait:** Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; with northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the southern Strait.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Northerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; in the southern Strait, winds will be northeasterly at 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Andaman Sea:** Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.

- **Extended Forecast:** Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
- **Surface Currents:** Currents in the South China Sea and in the Malacca Straits will average speeds of 1 knot. Currents in the Andaman Sea will average between 1 – 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion:** The Northeast monsoon season continues to influence the region. Increasing cloud conditions with rain showers and thunderstorms are expected.

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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