

# 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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  - 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 (April 13 - 19, 2015 - Week 16; Edition 85)

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

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

**Somalia-Indian Ocean:** No incidents reported during this period

**Southeast Asia:** One late reported incident

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

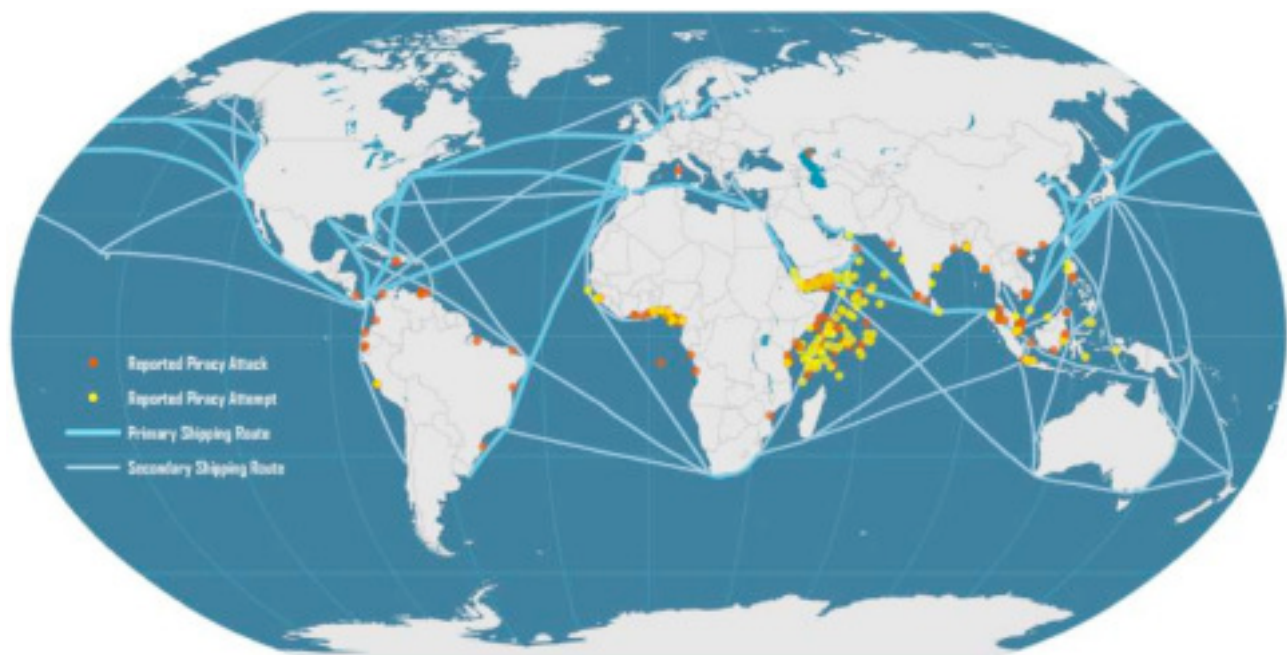
**North America:** No current incidents to report

**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

Masters are advised to remain vigilant at all times inside the 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:**

- None reported during this period.

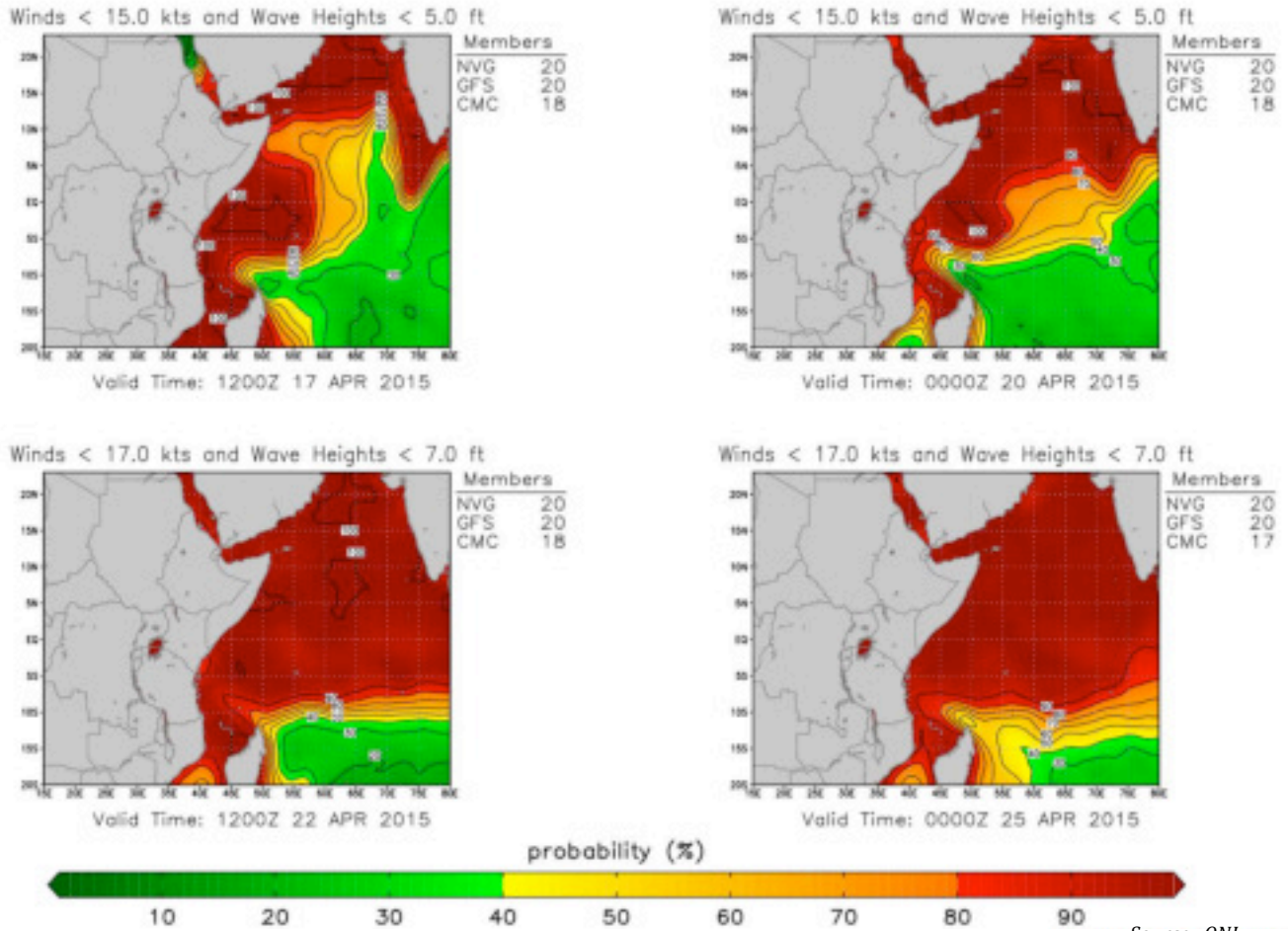
Map



## Weather Forecast

- **Northern Arabian Sea:** Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Westerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman:** West-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with west-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest 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; 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 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern section of the coastline; in the southern section of the coastline, winds will be southeasterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean:** Southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel:** East-southeast winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southwesterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Southeast winds of 8 – 13 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; with southeast winds of 15 – 20 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 along the Somali Basin are northeasterly averaging between 1 – 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion:** The Northeast Monsoon continues to influence the region, though the transition season appears to be starting. A low pressure system is moving over the eastern Mediterranean Sea towards Syria and Iraq. This is bringing low ceilings, scattered thunderstorms and rain showers. The trailing end of a cold front, extending over Iran and the Arabian Gulf, is moving out and weakening the pressure gradient, effectively allowing winds and seas to decrease over the next 48 – 72 hours. As low pressure over Iraq continues to move eastward, interacting with the high pressure ridging over eastern Saudi Arabia, expect seas to increase throughout most of the region later in the week.

## 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

- **18 April 2015** – On Saturday, al-Shabaab militants shot dead a lawmaker in the capital Mogadishu in what is the latest in a string of assassinations of politicians in the Horn of Africa nation. According to an al-Shabaab spokesman, Adan Haji Hussein, an MP in the semi-autonomous northern region of Puntland, was killed in Mogadishu during a visit to the capital city. Abdulaziz Abu Musab confirmed “our commandos shot and killed Adan for being a member of the apostate administration,” warning “all MPs, whether they are regional or so-called national MPs, we will kill them.” Omar Dalha, a fellow MP, confirmed the death and has called on the government to investigate the murder.
- **14 April 2015** – On Tuesday, al-Shabaab militants attacked the higher education ministry in Mogadishu, Somalia. They used a car bomb before storming the building, killing at least fifteen people and wounding twenty others. Police officer Mohamed Dahir disclosed that troops backed by African Union (AU) forces regained control of the building after around an hour-long attack, which began when “a car loaded with explosives rammed the gate.” Police and eyewitnesses reported that the car bomb caused a huge explosion that effectively allowed the gunmen to force their way into the fortified building. According to Mohamed Yusuf Osman, the internal security ministry spokesman, six al-Shabaab gunmen were killed in the attack, “the security forces and AU peacekeepers shot and killed four of the attackers, while the other two blew themselves up.” Al-Shabaab spokesman Abdulaziz Abu Musab claimed responsibility for the attack, indicating that al-Shabaab gunmen had been “fully in control” of the ministry and that they were also able to enter a neighbouring building that houses the oil ministry. Both buildings are located in the capital’s K5 district, which has been targeted by a string of similar attacks in recent months, with a car bombing to force entry into fortified buildings followed by an armed raid becoming the militant group’s trademark tactic. Last month, al-Shabaab gunmen stormed the fortified Maka al Mukurama hotel in Mogadishu. While earlier this month, the militant group carried out its deadliest attack yet, when al-Shabaab gunmen killed 148 people in a day-long siege at a university in neighbouring Kenya’s northeastern town of Garissa.

## Regional Reporting

- **16 April 2015** – Reports have surfaced that Somali-based al-Shabaab is heavily recruiting in northeastern Kenya. The news comes just days after the militant group targeted Somalia’s higher education ministry in the capital city, Mogadishu. On the ground sources have reported that in the town of Isiolo in northeastern Kenya, twenty-six young men have disappeared, with officials suspecting that they have joined the militant group. Sources have indicated that there are similar concerns in other parts of the country. Al-Shabaab’s recruitment in Kenya marks a change of tactic for the group and highlights fears voiced by Kenyan intelligence services and MP’s that the Somali-based militant group is increasingly threatening Kenya and the wider Horn of Africa region. In the wake of a recent string of deadly attacks in northeastern Kenya, al-Shabaab has warned Kenyan officials that this is just the beginning, and that they will carry out further deadly attacks in the coming months. With al-Shabaab militants increasingly being forced out of key areas in central and southern Somalia, increasing recruitments of militants in Kenya is likely to be seen as a way for them to not only replenish the group’s numbers, but for them to more power to stage deadly attacks.
  - Unconfirmed reports have indicated that all four al-Shabaab gunmen who carried out the attack on a university in Garissa earlier this month were Kenyans themselves. One of the four gunmen killed by



Kenyan Special Forces has already been named as Abdirahim Abdullahi, an ethnic Somali Kenyan national, however sources have indicated that the other three gunmen killed were also Kenyan, believed to be from the port city of Mombasa and the far western district of Bungoma. The fact that all four gunmen are reportedly Kenyan nationals highlights al-Shabaab's abilities to recruit militants within Kenya.

- Despite critics stating that the project is infeasible, on Thursday, Kenyan youths began constructing a security barrier along the vast and porous border with neighboring Somalia in a bid to prevent al-Shabaab militants from crossing the border and carrying out deadly raids in northeastern Kenya. On the ground sources have reported that members of a government youth training scheme began digging a ditch this week in Kiunga, which is located in Kenya's coastal Lamu district – an area that has repeatedly been targeted by the militant group. Kenyan officials have indicated that the security barrier will stretch some 700 kilometres (435 miles), with Immigration Services director Gordon Kihlangwa stating, "the fence will consist of various obstacles including a ditch and a patrol road." The Kenyan government has released no details pertaining to the construction of the security barrier, the cost and how long it will take in order to complete the fence, which will effectively separate the country's northeastern region from Somalia. Since the deadly attack on a university in Garissa earlier this month, the Kenyan government has introduced a number of initiatives aimed at tackling the threat from Somali-based militant group al-Shabaab. Amongst these initiatives, Kenya has demanded that the United Nations refugee agency close down the world's largest refugee camp in Dadaab, and repatriate hundreds of thousands of Somalis by July. Nairobi has also frozen key money transfer companies, which are vital for those living in Somalia, and has suspended two key Muslim civil society organizations over their suspected links to al-Shabaab. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the 2 April attack on Garissa university, which killed almost 150 people. Since the attack, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta has warned his country that the masterminds are "deeply embedded" inside Kenya, not just Somalia.
- **13 April 2015** – According to Kenya's Deputy President William Ruto, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees has been given three months to close a refugee camp located in eastern Kenya and to send the more than 400,000 Somalis living there back to their country adding that if the UNHCR fails to meet this deadline, the Kenyan government will relocate the refugees. Ruto has indicated that the Kenyan government firmly believes that the Dadaab refugee camp has become a center for recruitment for al-Shabaab. In a statement distributed by his press office, Ruto indicated "we have asked the UNHCR to relocate the refugees in three months, failure to which we shall relocate them ourselves. The way America changed after 9/11 is the way Kenya will change after Garissa." In the wake of the recent attack in Garissa, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta has vowed a sharp response. Earlier last week, Kenyan warplanes targeted al-Shabaab training camps in eastern Somalia. The government has also announced that it was freezing the accounts of organizations and individuals suspected of financing Islamic extremists. While the opposition has called for Kenyan troops to official withdraw from Somalia, the government has dismissed this call. **Update (14 April)** – On Tuesday, the UNHCR urged Kenya to reconsider its demand for the closure of a vast camp for Somali refugees. According to spokeswoman Karin de Gruijl, the UNHCR is concerned that abruptly closing the Dadaab camp and forcing the refugees back to Somalia "would have extreme humanitarian and practical consequences, and would be a breach of Kenya's international obligations," adding that the agency is now urging that the Kenyan government consider the matter further,

noting that the agency is ready to intensify work with Kenyan officials in order to strengthen law enforcement at the camp. While Ms Gruijl indicated that the UNHCR is already working with Kenya and the Somali government on a pilot programme that was launched in December, and which effectively supports people who want to return to three relative safe areas in neighboring Somalia, she noted that the agency believes that “large-scale returns are still not possible in many parts of the country.”

# GULF OF GUINEA

## Executive Summary

Pirate and maritime crime activity in waters off West Africa is currently at a medium level, with three late reported boardings and a kidnapping. All vessels transiting this region however are reminded to remain vigilant.

## At Sea

### Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

### Vessels Boarded:

- **11 – 12 April 2015 (Late Report)** - During the weekend of 11 – 12 April, ten pirates in two speedboats boarded the MT IMAS near Lagos Anchorage. The crew of the ship was able to make a distress call, resulting in a Nigerian Navy patrol ship quickly responding and capturing one of the pirates and forcing the remainder to flee their captured ship.
- **10 April 2015 (Late Report)** – Suspected pirates boarded a passenger boat and robbed five aides to the Deputy Speaker of the Bayelsa State House of Assembly, Chief Sam Ateki, along the waterways of Brass in the Brass Local Government Area of the State.
- **9 April 2015 (Late Report)** – Two robbers boarded an anchored product tanker near position 06:17 N – 003:23 E, Lagos Anchorage. The onboard Nigerian Naval personal spotted the robbers and fired warning shots, resulting in the robbers jumping overboard to escape. A Nigerian patrol boat captured one of the robbers.

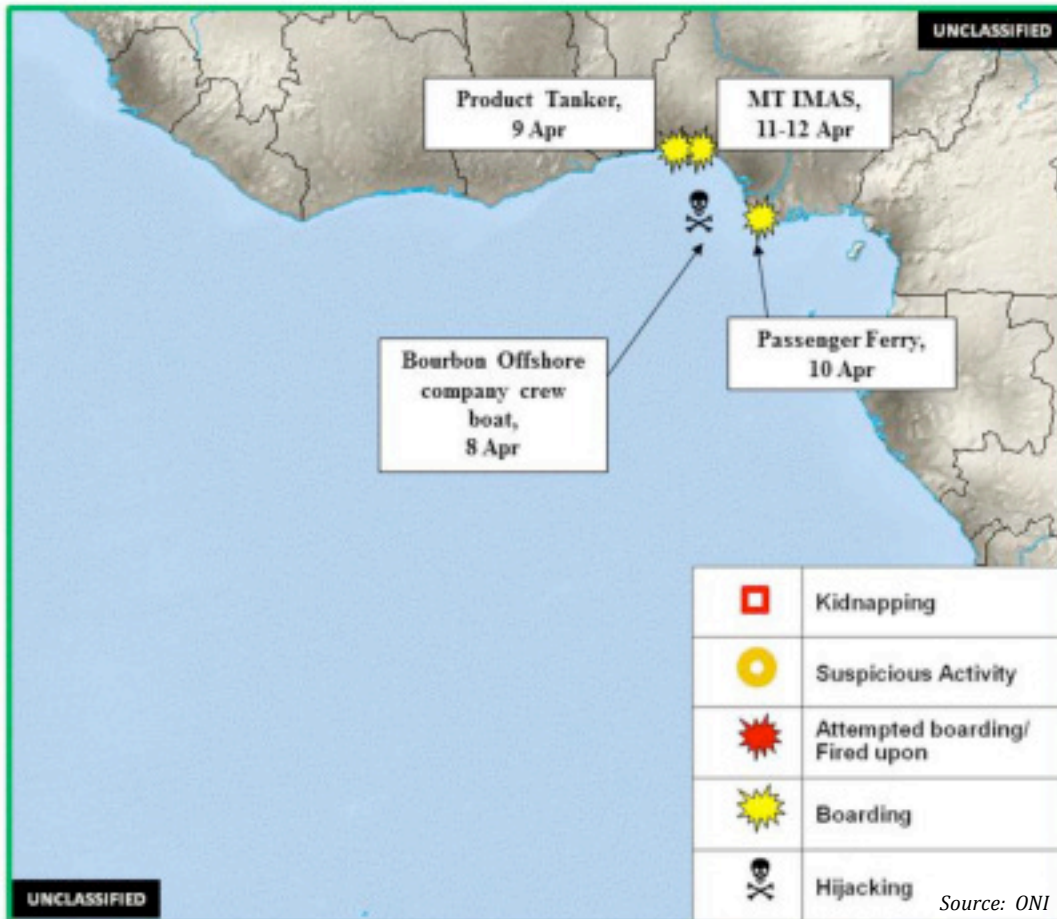
### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

### Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

## Map



## Weather Forecast

- **Gulf of Guinea:** South-southwest winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** South-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion:** Expect partly to mostly cloudy conditions for the Gulf of Guinea with associated rain showers.

## Piracy Reporting

- **13 April 2015** – French oil services company Bourbon Offshore confirmed Monday that three Nigerian crewmembers have been kidnapped after one of its crew boats was boarded the night of 8 April. According to a statement issued by Bourbon, the crewmembers were aboard the SURFER 1440 when they were kidnapped, adding, “an emergency unit based in Nigeria has been immediately activated. Bourbon Interoil Nigeria is in contact with the families, supports and informs them regularly.”

## 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.

#### Vessels Boarded:

- **11 April 2015 (Late Report)** – Duty crewman onboard a bulk carrier anchored near position 01:25 N – 104:37 E, 12 nautical miles north-northeast of Bintan Island, noticed robbers on the deck. He immediately informed the duty officer. The alarm was raised and the crew was alerted. Upon seeing the crew's response, the robbers fled the vessel empty handed.

#### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

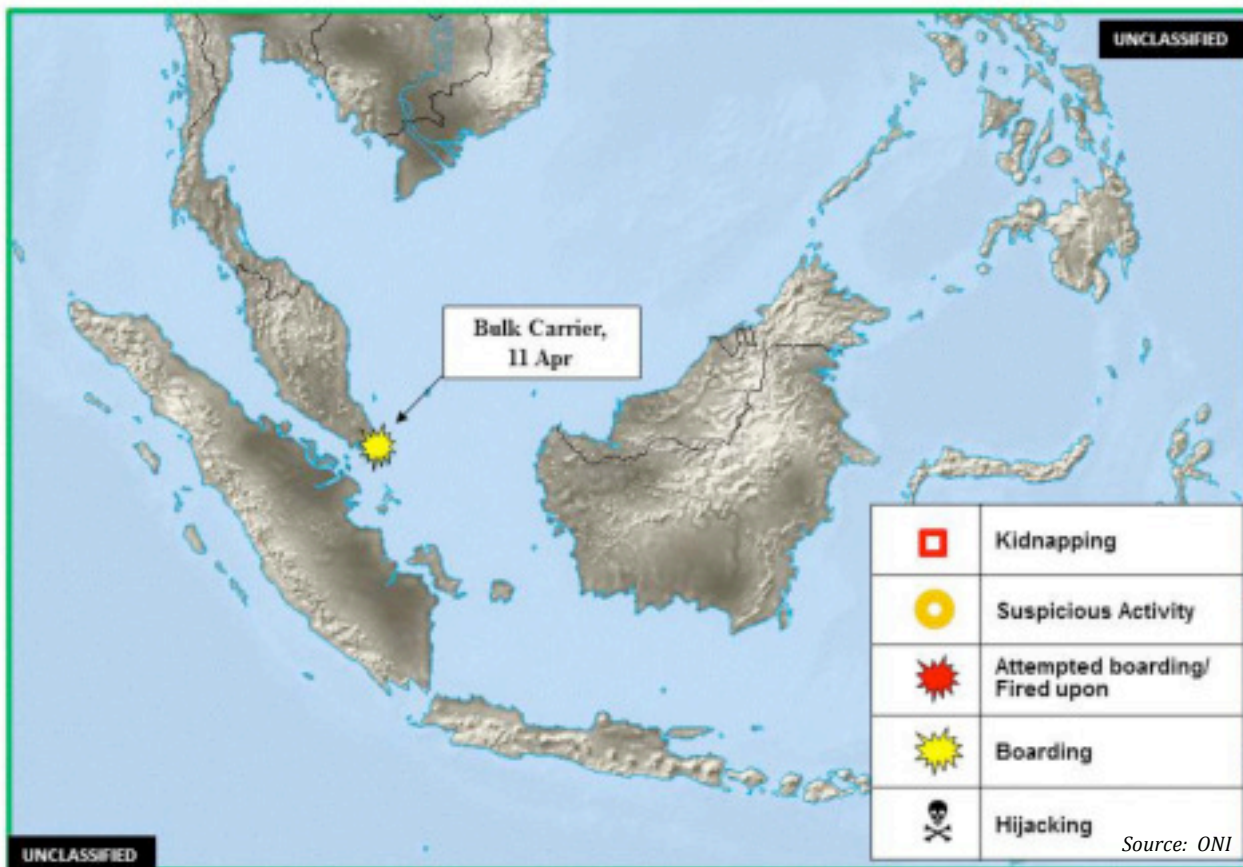
#### Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

#### Other Activity:

- None reported during this period.

## Map



## Weather Forecast

- **South China Sea:** Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
- **Malacca Strait:** Southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; with southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the southern Strait.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; with northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the southern Strait.
- **Andaman Sea:** Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** East-southeast winds of - 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.

- **Surface Currents:** Currents in the South China Sea and the Malacca Strait average speeds of will average 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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