

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
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 - 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 (April 20 - 26, 2015 - Week 17; Edition 86)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

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

Somalia-Indian Ocean: No incidents reported during this period

Southeast Asia: Three late reported incidents

South America: No incidents reported during this period

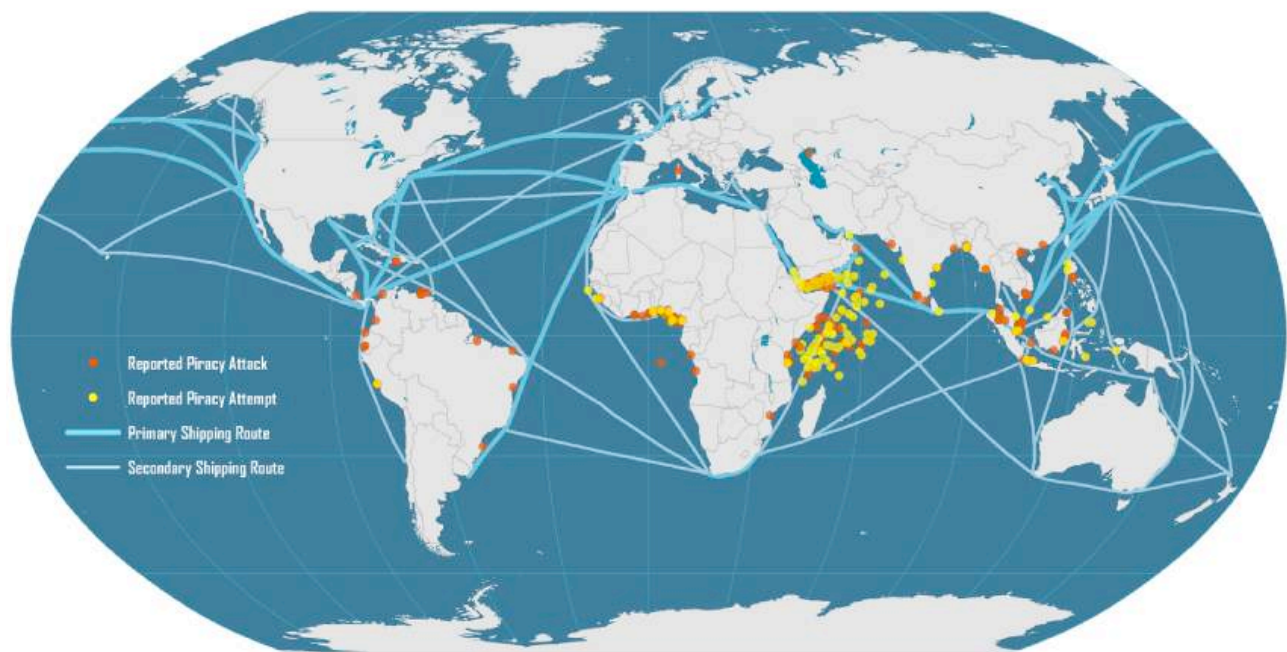
North America: No current incidents to report

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

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

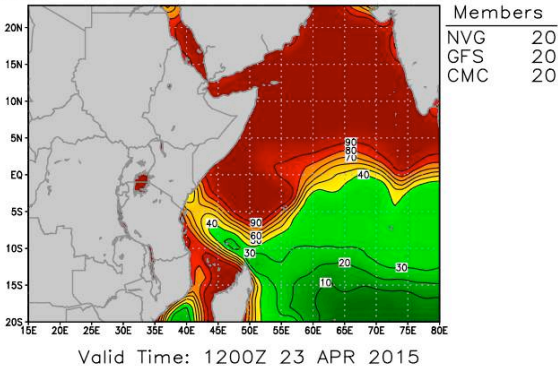


Weather Forecast

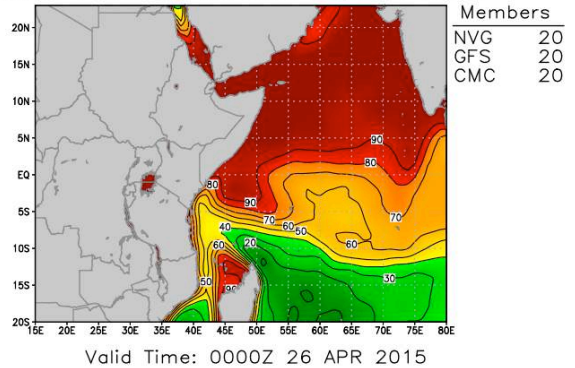
- **Northern Arabian Sea:** Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman:** Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, with seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be westerly at 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Westerly 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 westerly at 10 – 15 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Aden:** Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 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.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast:** Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern section of the coastline.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern section of the coastline.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean:** Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel:** South-southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the northern Channel; with southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly 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, however the transitional season appears to be starting. A low pressure system over northern Syria and Iraq will bring low ceilings, rain showers and isolated thunderstorms with increased winds over the Arabian Gulf. High pressure over Iran as well as the Arabian Sea will bring favorable conditions to the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman and the majority of the region.

Sea Conditions for the Following Week

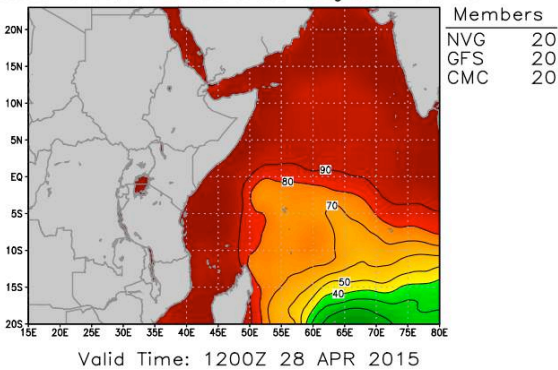
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



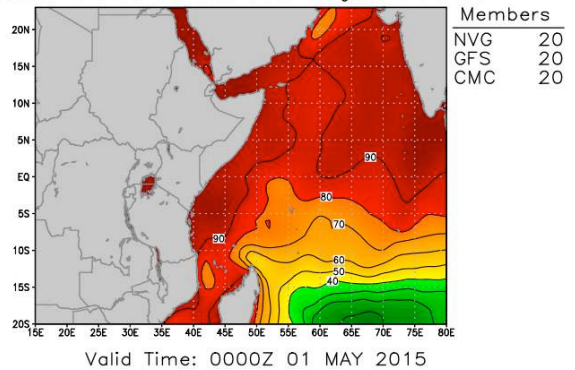
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



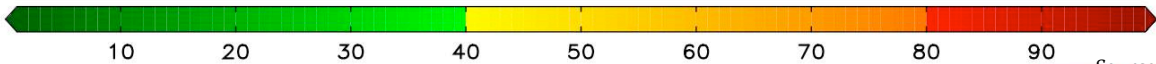
Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



probability (%)



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

- **24 April 2015** – According to witnesses, al-Shabaab has for the first time publicly killed a man for “insulting the prophet Muhammed.” On the ground sources have reported that crowds watched as the man was shot by a firing squad in the southern town of Jamame in the Lower Jubba region. Witnesses have disclosed that the man was shot by firing squad after he pleaded guilty in a Sharia court. Al-Shabaab has previously killed people accused of spying.
- **23 April 2015** – Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the shooting death of a senior military officer killed Thursday in the capital Mogadishu. In recent weeks, al-Shabaab has stepped up gun and bomb attacks in Somalia. On Monday, the militant group killed six people in an attack on a vehicle carrying UN staff members in the semi-autonomous region of Puntland while on Tuesday, a suicide bomber killed ten people in a restaurant in Mogadishu.
- **21 April 2015** – At least three people were killed and six wounded Tuesday when a car bomb exploded outside a popular restaurant in the center of Mogadishu. Police officer Ahmed Warhere confirmed the attack, stating, “there are at least three dead, and six others have been injured,” adding “a vehicle loaded with explosives was parked outside the restaurant.” Security forces have secured the area around the Banoda restaurant. Al-Shabaab spokesman Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab claimed responsibility for the attack, stating that the lunchtime attack was targeted at officials from government ministries and the presidential palace who eat at the restaurant. Nick Kay, the UN envoy to Somalia who was visiting colleagues in the northeastern town of Garowe a day after al-Shabaab militants killed six people in an attack on a UN bus there, has condemned the attack, stating that the “killing needs to stop.” Despite losing some of its top leaders in US air strikes and being pushed by African Union (AU) forces out of the capital city and into rural regions in central and southern Somalia, al-Shabaab continues to have the capabilities to carry out deadly bombings against government targets and public places in Mogadishu. **Update (22 April)** – Officials have indicated that that the death toll from Tuesday’s attack has risen to ten, with a dozen wounded.
- **20 April 2015** – Police officials have confirmed that at least six UN workers were killed in Somalia on Monday when a huge bomb placed by al-Shabaab militants destroyed a bus in the northeastern town of Garowe, the capital of the semi-autonomous Puntland region. Somali police official Abdullahi Mohamed disclosed Monday “we have confirmed the death of six UN staff, including a foreign national,” adding “the bomb is believed to have been attached to the minibus and was detonated near the UN office.” While officials are currently carrying out an investigation into the attack, witnesses and security officials have suggested that the explosion may have come from a roadside bomb that was detonated as the minibus, which is used to transport staff from a guesthouse to the UN compound, was passing. Mr Mohamed has indicated, “investigations are still ongoing to establish how it happened but I can confirm you that the UN compound was not affected.” The head of the UN in Somalia, Nick Kay, has condemned the attack, stating that he was “shocked and appalled by (the) loss of life.” Shortly after the attack, al-Shabaab insurgents claimed responsibility, stating that the UN is a “colonization force in Somalia.” The militant group has in the past targeted the UN. In December 2014, four people were killed when a suicide bomber rammed a car packed with explosives into a UN convoy in the capital Mogadishu. **Update (21 April)** – On Tuesday, the UN’s children agency mourned four staff members killed in what UN chief Ban Ki-moon condemned as a “barbaric attack” in Somalia. Four UNICEF workers were killed in Monday’s bombing in the northeastern

town of Garowe. UNICEF has named the two Kenyans killed Monday as Woki Munyui, who worked in education, and administrative officer Stephen Oduor. Payenda Gulf Abed, from Afghanistan, had been working to vaccinate children against polio, along with Ugandan citizen Brenda Kyeyune. Two Somali guards were also killed in the attack and eight UNICEF staff members, including one American, one Sierra Leonean, one Ugandan, one Kenyan and four Somalis were wounded.

- African Union officials confirmed Monday that al-Shabaab militants killed three AU soldiers in Somalia on Sunday. AU envoy to Somalia Maman Sidikou condemned “the cowardly ambush” on a convoy of troops. The incident occurred Sunday as the convoy was travelling in the southern Lower Shabelle district, between the settlements of Lego and Balidogle. Al-Shabaab spokesman Abdulaziz Abu Musab confirmed that the militant group was responsible for the attack, adding that five AU soldiers had been killed and that several vehicles were destroyed. While he indicated that the soldiers were from Burundi, AU force officials have not released any details pertaining to the nationalities of the victims.

Regional Reporting

- **24 April 2015** – Suspected al-Shabaab militants have abducted and killed a traditional chief in northern Kenya. According to locals, Chief Muktar Otieno was seized early on Thursday morning on the road to Mandera town, which is located close to the border with Somalia. While a group of local elders had managed to track down the assailants, they were unable to pay a ransom of 4m Kenyan shillings (US \$42,000; £28,000). Assistant chief Abdinoor Dakane has disclosed that Mr Otieno was tied to a tree and shot dead by the militants after locals failed to pay a ransom. Mr Otieno was kidnapped 10 kilometres (5 miles) from the place where al-Shabaab gunmen killed 28 people travelling on a bus in Mandera county last November.
- **21 April 2015** – Seven top Kenyan policemen have been suspended following an inquiry into security failings during the attack on Garissa’s university earlier this month. Two civil servants were also suspended, including Garissa County Commissioner Njenga Miiri, who was previously in charge of Lamu county when al-Shabaab militants last June killed anyone who was unable to recite verses from the Koran. Kenya’s Interior minister disclosed Tuesday that a further investigation would establish possible criminal culpability of those suspended. The suspensions come after reports surfaced that police had ignored warnings that the campus in the northeastern town could be raided. In the wake of the deadly attack, there has been public outrage and calls for action over the alleged security failings. On the ground sources have disclosed that universities across Kenya had posted memos warning students of possible violence before the attack occurred.

International Developments

- **21 April 2015** – On Tuesday, the United States blacklisted two top al-Shabaab leaders a day after the Islamist group killed at least ten people, including four UN workers, in a huge bus bombing. According to officials, Ahmed Diriye, who took over as the militant group’s leader in September 2014, and intelligence chief Mahad Karate have been designated as terrorists by the State Department.

GULF OF GUINEA

Executive Summary

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

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Vessels Boarded:

- None reported during this period.

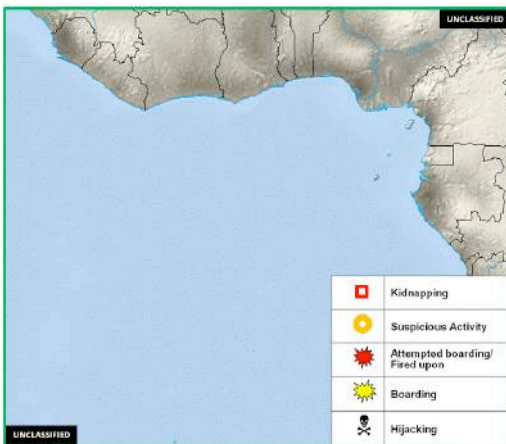
Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Map



Source: ONI

Weather Forecast

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

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:

- **20 April 2015 (Late Report)** – Four robbers armed with long knives boarded an underway tanker near position 01:04N – 103:04E, 5 nautical miles south of Pulau Nipah. Duty crewman noticed the robbers in the engine room and raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped empty handed.
 - **Pirates armed with knives boarded an underway bulk carrier near position 03:36N – 104:18E**, 42 nautical miles north of Tioman Island. They took hostage all the crew members, stole the ship's and crew's cash, properties, documents, and crew personal belongings and escaped. The crew sustained no injuries during the incident. The incident was reported to the Vietnam Maritime Security Centre.
- **16 April 2015 (Late Report)** – Five robbers armed with knives boarded an underway bulk carrier near position 01:03N – 103:40E, 4.6 nautical miles south-southeast of Nipah Island. The robbers were able to enter the engine room store unnoticed. Duty oiler on routine rounds was threatened with a knife and tied up. The third engineer noticed the robbers and raised the alarm resulting in the robbers escaping with stolen ship stores. Singapore Coast Guard boarded the vessel to carry out an investigation.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

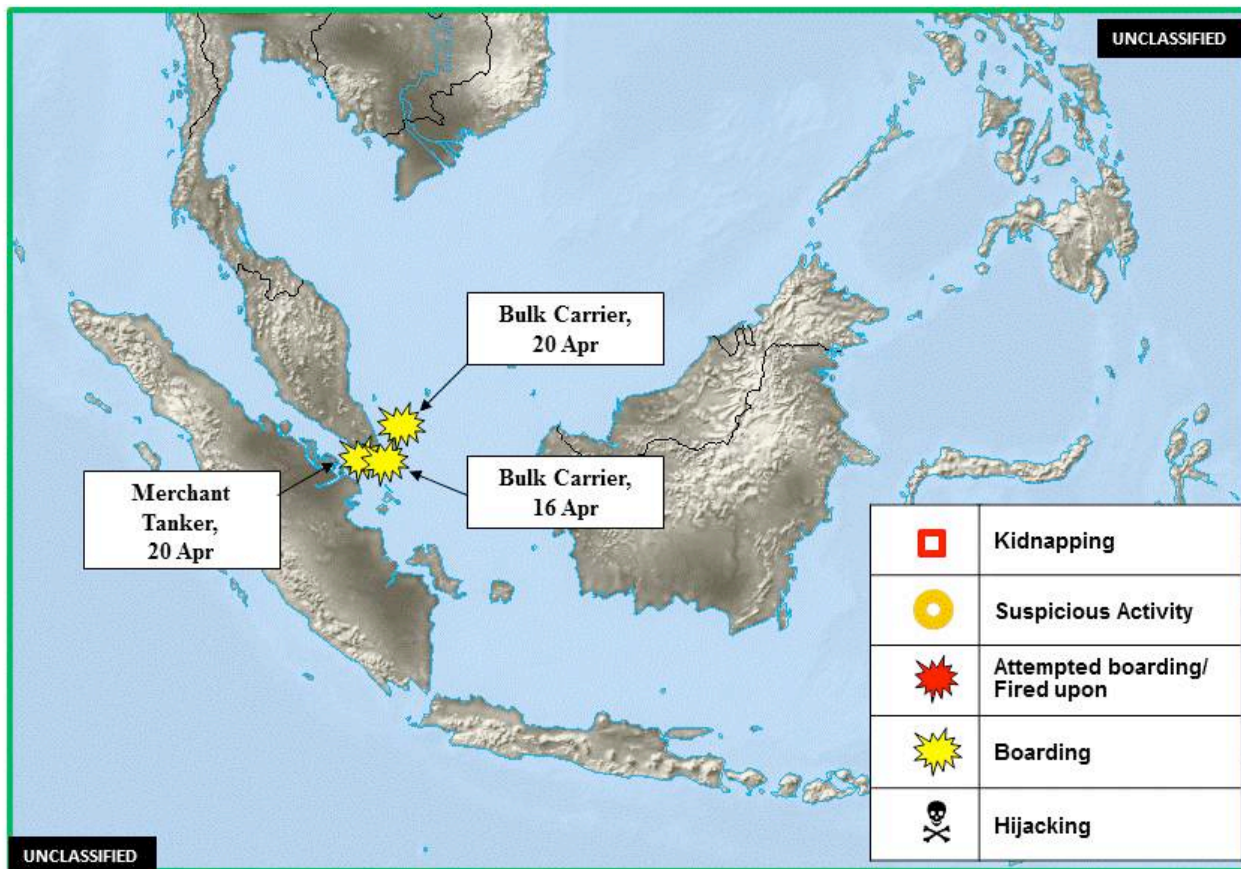
Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Other Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Map



Source: ONI

Weather Forecast

- **South China Sea:** Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 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 1 – 3 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
- **Surface Currents:** Currents in the South China Sea and Malacca Strait will average speeds of 1 knots, while currents in the Andaman Sea will average between 1 – 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion:** 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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