

# 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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- Project Management
  - Interim security
  - Training
  - Special assignments
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  - Crisis management
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- 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 (May 11 - 17, 2015 - Week 20; Edition 89)

### 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:** One incident; four late reported incidents during this period

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

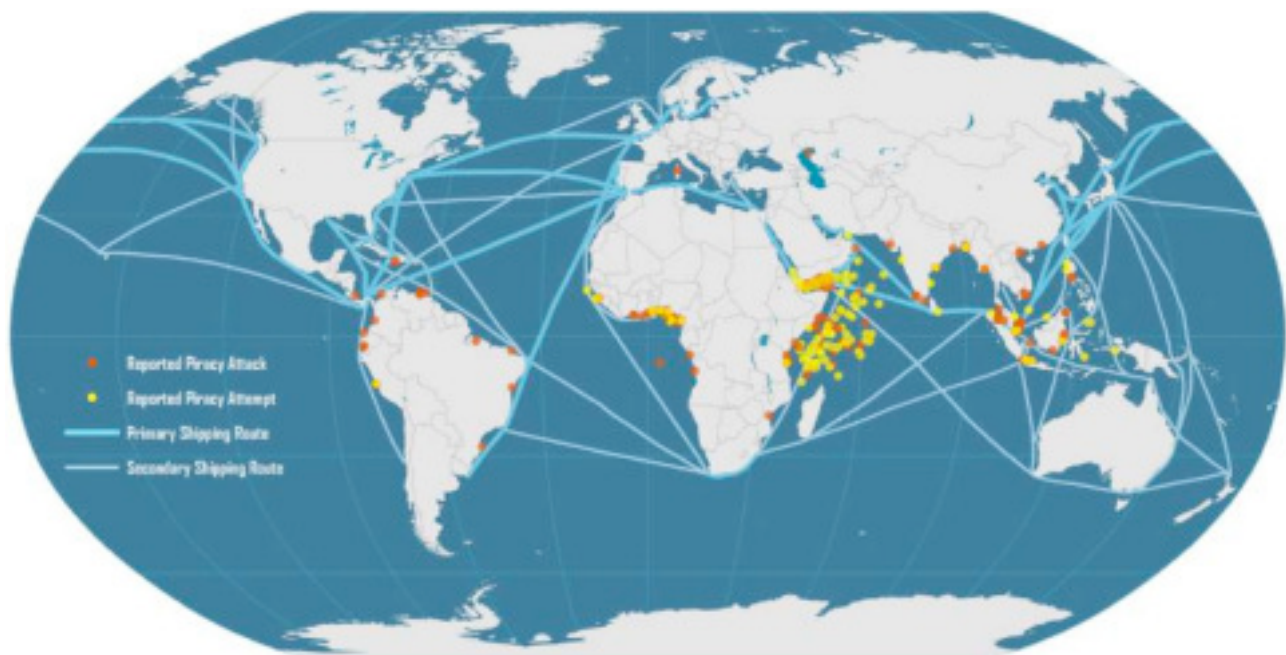
**North America:** No current incidents to report

**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

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.

### Piracy Reporting

- **13 May 2015** - Residents of the Somali town of El-Dher, located in the coastal region of Galgaduud, have reported that Islamic extremists have detained foreign sailors, believed to be Iranian nationals, and have seized their fishing vessel that washed up on the Somali shore. Al-Shabaab rebels are believed to have detained Iranian fishermen whose vessel had developed mechanical problems and drifted into the militants' stronghold. Officials have not confirmed the nationality of the sailors and have not disclosed how many were detained, however it is believed that at least ten foreigners were captured. Al-Shabaab has not commented on the incident. The incident highlights the threat of kidnap and piracy not only from Pirate Action Group's (PAG's) that operate in waters off Somalia, but also from al-Shabaab. On going military

operations in central and southern Somalia have pushed the militant group out of its strongholds, effectively forcing them into the northern and southern points of the country. In recent weeks, al-Shabaab has carried out deadly attacks in the semi-autonomous region of Puntland. On 20 April, at least six United Nations workers were killed when a large bomb placed by al-Shabaab militants destroyed a bus in Puntland's capital city, Garowe. The militant group has also continued to remain active in neighboring Kenya, where they have carried out a string of deadly attacks near the border with Somalia. On 2 April, gunmen launched an attack on Garissa University, in Garissa County, killing 148 people. The loss of key towns and villages means that al-Shabaab is no longer gaining money from taxes imposed on local residents. The militant group is now likely seeking other means to fund its operations and may seek to attempt to carry out kidnap for ransom operations, targeting either foreigners on the ground, or vessels near their strongholds. **Update (14 May 2015)** – Iranian state television has confirmed that al-Shabaab militants kidnapped fourteen crewmembers of an Iranian fishing boat Wednesday off the coast of Somalia, seizing them as their vessel washed ashore. Iran's Fisheries Organization also confirmed the capture of the Iranian fishing boat and its crew. Al-Shabaab has yet to claim responsibility for the kidnapping.

### Map

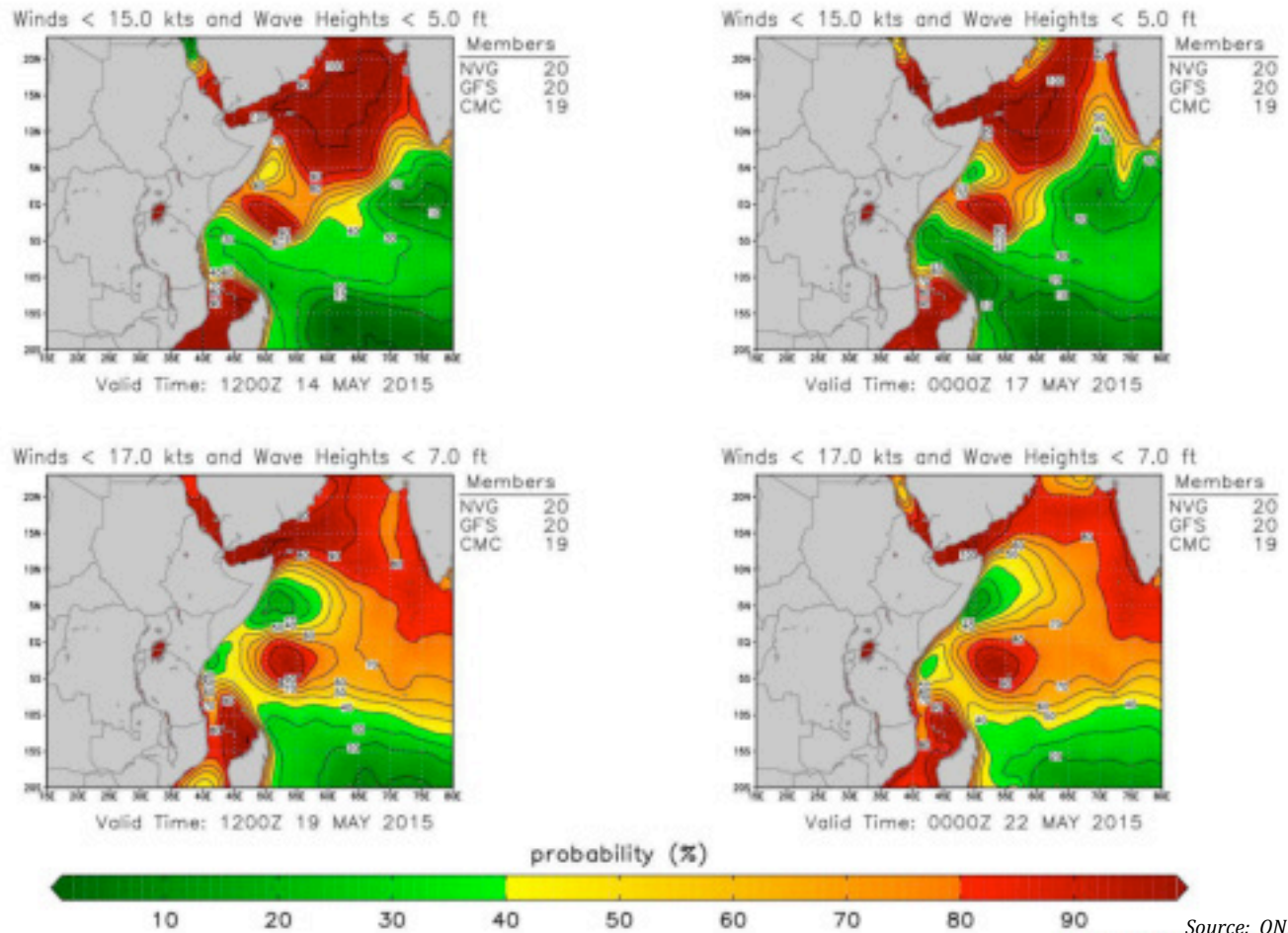




## Weather Forecast

- **Northern Arabian Sea:** Southwest winds of 12 – 17 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Southwest winds of 12 – 17 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman:** Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 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:** Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden:** Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - **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.
- **Somali Coast:** Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the southern section of the coastline.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet in the northern section of the coastline; in the southern section of the coastline, winds will be southwesterly at 15 – 20 knots with seas of 8 – 10 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean:** Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel:** Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the southern Channel.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 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, though the transition season appears to be starting. A low pressure system over western Turkey will produce increased cloud cover as well as isolated rain showers and thunderstorms in Syria and Iraq. A ridge building over the Arabian Gulf will produce favorable conditions while daytime heating over land will increase winds and seas in the Arabian Gulf.

## 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

- **13 May 2015** - Residents of the Somali town of El-Dher, located in the coastal region of Galgaduud, have reported that Islamic extremists have detained foreign sailors, believed to be Iranian nationals, and have seized their fishing vessel that washed up on the Somali shore. Al-Shabaab rebels are believed to have detained Iranian fishermen whose vessel had developed mechanical problems and drifted into the militants' stronghold. Officials have not confirmed the nationality of the sailors and have not disclosed how many were detained, however it is believed that at least ten foreigners were captured. Al-Shabaab has not commented on the incident. The incident highlights the threat of kidnap and piracy not only from Pirate Action Group's (PAG's) that operate in waters off Somalia, but also from al-Shabaab. On going military operations in central and southern Somalia have pushed the militant group out of its strongholds, effectively forcing them into the northern and southern points of the country. In recent weeks, al-Shabaab has carried out deadly attacks in the semi-autonomous region of Puntland. On 20 April, at least six United Nations workers were killed when a large bomb placed by al-Shabaab militants destroyed a bus in Puntland's capital city, Garowe. The militant group has also continued to remain active in neighboring Kenya, where they have carried out a string of deadly attacks near the border with Somalia. On 2 April, gunmen launched an attack on Garissa University, in Garissa County, killing 148 people. The loss of key towns and villages means that al-Shabaab is no longer gaining money from taxes imposed on local residents. The militant group is now likely seeking other means to fund its operations and may seek to attempt to carry out kidnap for ransom operations, targeting either foreigners on the ground, or vessels near their strongholds.
  - Two suspected al-Shabaab members have been executed by firing squad in the capital. A military court in Mogadishu found them guilty of killing five people, including four members of parliament. One of the MP's killed was Saado Ali Warsame, who died in a drive-by shooting last July.

## International Developments

- **13 May 2015** – US prosecutors announced Wednesday that two Swedish and one Somali national, who were handed over to the FBI more than two years ago in Africa, pleaded guilty Tuesday to conspiring to aid al-Shabaab in Somalia. Prosecutors in New York confirmed that the trio face up to fifteen years in an American prison and deportation. According to prosecutors, Madhi Hashi, 25, from Somalia, and Swedes Ali Yasin Ahmed, 30 and Mohamed Yusuf, 32, were members of al-Shabaab from December 2008 to August 2012. The two Swedish nationals had fought against US-funded African Union forces in Somalia while Mr Hashi was close to Omar Hammami, the US-born public face of al-Shabaab who was killed by fellow fighters in 2013. Mr Yusuf appeared in an al-Shabaab recruiting video, where he encouraged recruits to travel to Somalia and join the group. He also threatened a cartoonist who depicted the Prophet Mohammed. US officials have disclosed that local authorities in East Africa arrested the men while en route to Yemen in August 2012. They were handed over to the FBI in November 2012 and flown to New York to be prosecuted.
- **12 May 2015** – The nominee to be the United States ambassador to Somalia has withdrawn, a move that will slow down the appointment of the first envoy since the US pulled out a military mission in the early 1990's. A White House official confirmed Tuesday that Katherine Dhanani, who had been named in

February, withdrew for personal reasons. No further details have been released, however a US administration official has disclosed that the White House hopes to fill the post as soon as possible. In February, officials in Washington had indicated that the nomination of the career diplomat Dhanani was a sign that relationships between the two countries were deepening. A sign that was further demonstrated earlier this month when John Kerry visited Mogadishu, the first US secretary of state to visit Somalia. The US mission to Somalia is currently based in Nairobi, Kenya, however the State Department has indicated that Washington hopes to increase its diplomatic presence in Somalia as security in the Horn of Africa nation improves.

# 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. 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

## Piracy Reporting

- **11 May 2015** – French oil services company revealed Monday that three Nigerian crewmembers, who were kidnapped in April, have been released after being kept in captivity for one month. On 8 April, three crewmembers were kidnapped after one of its speedboats was boarded off the Nigerian coast. The crewmembers had been abducted on board a *Surfer 1440* boat. In a brief statement, Bourbon officials disclosed that all three crewmembers “...are in good health and arrived at Port Harcourt on May 8.”

## Weather Forecast

- **Gulf of Guinea:** South-southwest winds of 5 – 10 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.

## 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 May 2015** – Robbers in a fishing boat boarded an anchored bulk carrier with a hook attached with rope near position 10:12N – 107:04E, 6.5 nautical miles south of Vung Tau. They broke two padlocks of the deck stores and stole the ship's stores before escaping. The alarm was raised and the crew carried out a thorough search and found several footprints on the deck. The incident was reported to port control.
- **10 May 2015 (Late Report)** – The deck watchman onboard an anchored chemical tanker noticed two robbers trying to gain access into the engine room by opening the skylight near position 01:42N – 101:28E, Dumai Tanker Anchorage. Duty Officer was informed and the alarm was raised. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped. A search was carried out and ships in the vicinity were informed of the incident. The crew on board the vessel noted nothing stolen.
- **9 May 2015 (Late Report)** – Two robbers armed with long knives boarded an underway bulk carrier near position 01:10N – 103:50E, 5.6 nautical miles northwest of Pulau Batam. Duty crewman noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. All crewmembers were mustered into the citadel except for the bridge team. Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) Singapore was informed. They advised that the vessel should continue sailing at slow speed. While waiting for the Singapore Navy to approach the vessel, the crew thoroughly searched the ship and found no robbers on board and nothing stolen. The search results were passed to the VTIS and Singapore Navy.



- **6 May 2015 (Late Report)** – An unknown number of robbers boarded an anchored general cargo ship engaged in bunkering and stores replenishment near position 01:24N – 103:08E, 16 nautical miles west-southwest of Pontian District, Johor. The robbers were able to steal the ship's property and escape unnoticed. A search of the ship found no robbers however the ship's engine spares were stolen.
- **25 April 2015 (Late Report)** – An unknown number of robbers boarded an underway bulk carrier near position 01:20N – 104:24E, 7 nautical miles east-southeast of Tanjung Penyusop, Johor. They forced their way into the engine room, stole engine spares and escaped. The theft was noticed by the Second Engineer while trying to get some spares from the engine room.

**Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boarding's:**

- None reported during this period.

**Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:**

- None reported during this period.

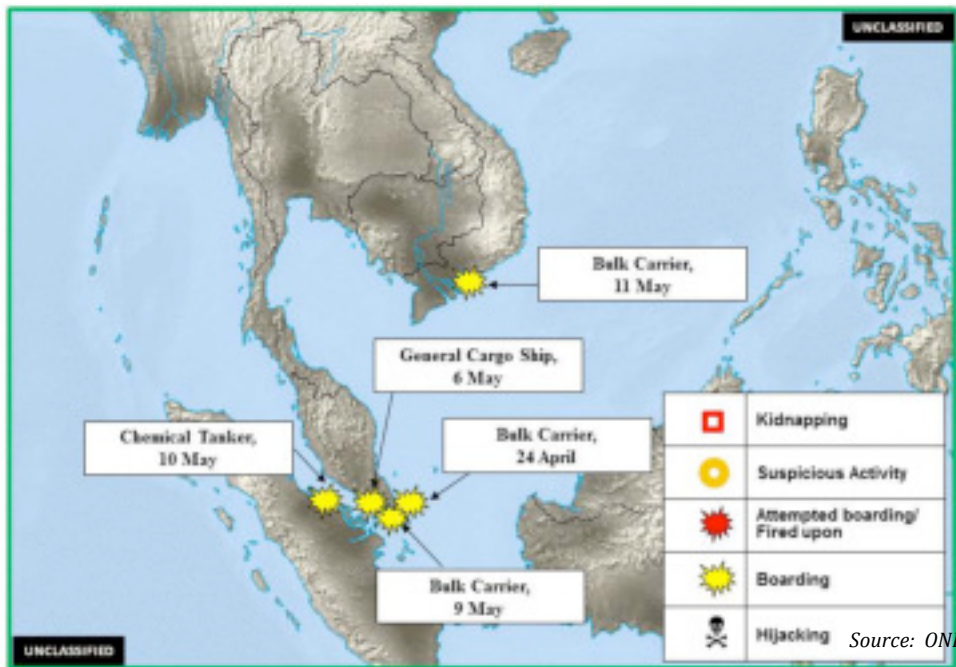
**Suspicious Activity:**

- None reported during this period.

**Other Activity:**

- None reported during this period.

## Map



## Weather Forecast

- **South China Sea:** Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 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 southeasterly at 3 – 5 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Northwest 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.
- **Andaman Sea:** Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** West-southwest winds of 15 – 20 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 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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