

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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 - Interim security
 - Training
 - Special assignments
- Crisis Response
 - 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 (May 4 - 10, 2015 - Week 19; Edition 88)

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; two late reported incidents and one late reported hijacking

South America: No incidents reported during this period

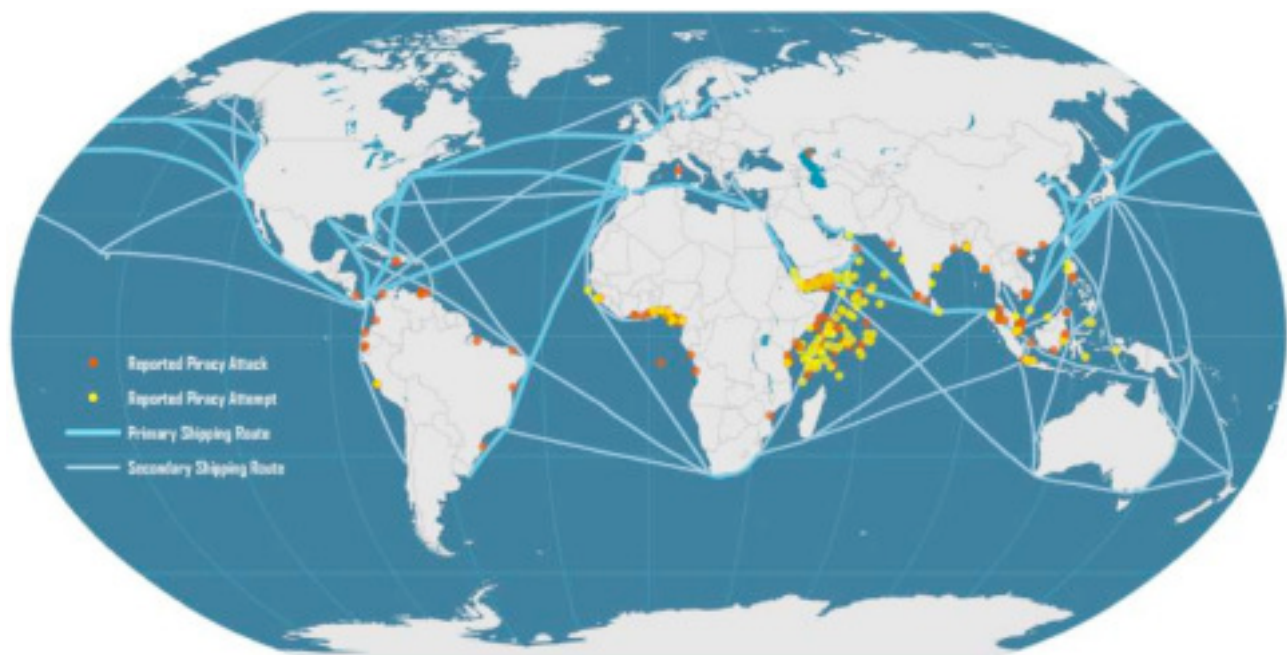
North America: No current incidents to report

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

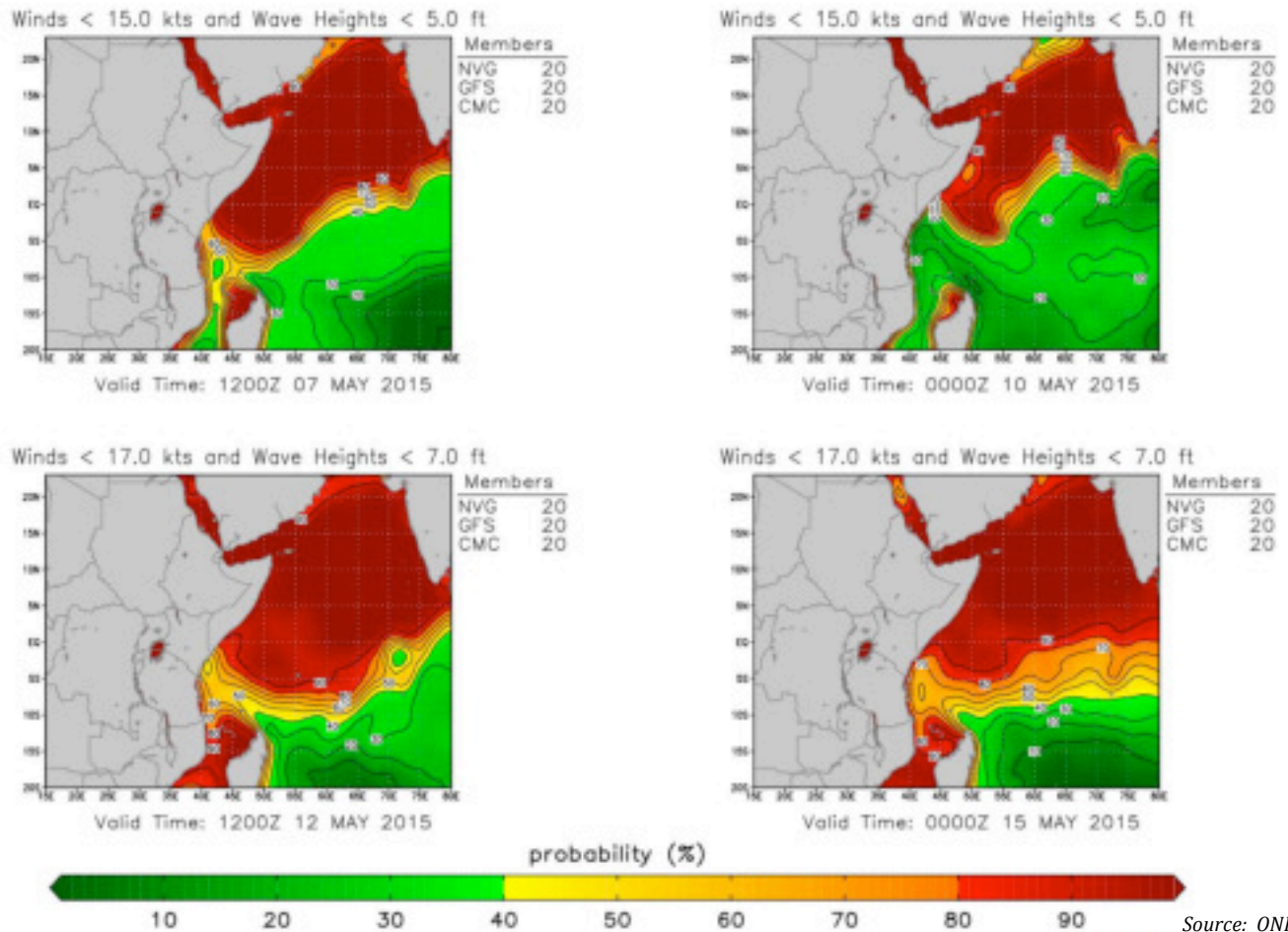


Weather Forecast

- **Northern Arabian Sea:** Southwest winds of 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:** South-southeast 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 south-southeasterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden:** East-northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast:** East-northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be east-northeasterly at 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
- **Somali Coast:** Southwest, becoming east-southeast, winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with southwest, becoming east-southeast, winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern section of the coastline.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with southeast 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 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel:** Southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 5 – 10 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 period continues to influence the region, however the transition season appears to be starting. A high pressure system over the Arabian Gulf will produce

favorable conditions in Iraq, Syria and the Arabian Sea. A short-wave trough over Yemen and Saudi Arabia will produce low cloud ceilings and isolated coastal rain showers over the southern Red Sea. An area of instability will produce rain showers and thunderstorms in the Gulf of Aden. Unfavorable conditions for the Mozambique Channel will persist as an area of instability will produce rain showers and thunderstorms over the Somali Basin.

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

- **9 May 2015** – Militants have claimed responsibility for the assassination of a member of parliament on Friday in the semi-autonomous northern Somali state of Puntland. Lawmaker Said Hussein Nur was shot dead as he left a mosque after evening prayers. A statement released by al-Shabaab disclosed, “the Mujahedeen fighters got rid of an apostate member in the Puntland parliament in northern Galkayo,” adding that “such attacks will continue.” Puntland’s vice president, Abdihakim Abdulahi Haji, confirmed the attack. Witnesses in the northern town of Galkayo described the attack by heavily armed gunmen outside a mosque on Friday evening, with one witness reporting “they opened fire and killed the lawmaker who had come out of the mosque together with his security guard,” adding “the gunmen also hurled a hand grenade into a crowd of people who tried to chase the killers and several people were wounded.” Nur is the second Puntland lawmaker to be shot dead in recent weeks by al-Shabaab militants as they continue to carry out suicide attacks and assassinations targeting government figures.
- **5 May 2015** – United States Secretary of State John Kerry made a surprise trip to Somalia on Tuesday, effectively becoming the first US secretary of state to visit the war-ravaged nation. The top US diplomat spent just a few hours in the capital, and was not scheduled to leave the confines of the fortified airport, where he met with Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmakre. According to officials, Kerry’s visit was designated to give a diplomatic push to Somalia’s internationally-backed government in their fight against al-Shabaab as well as efforts to build political security in the war-torn country. Speaking shortly after meeting with the Somali president, Kerry indicated that the US will begin the process of reestablishing a diplomatic mission in Somalia after a more than 20-year break. A number of senior foreign officials and leaders have visited Mogadishu in recent years, including Britain’s former foreign minister William Hague and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.
- **4 May 2015** – Somalia’s government has ordered journalists to call al-Shabaab insurgents “the Group that Massacres the Somali people,” or “Ugus,” which is the acronym of the phrase in Somali. Speaking to reporters, Somalia’s intelligence chief Abdirahman Mohamud Turyare stated, “the meaning of al-Shabaab is ‘The Youth,’ and that is a good name... We cannot allow that good name to be blemished, so the enemy we are fighting is called Ugus, an acronym of ‘The Group that Massacres the Somali People,’” adding the new acronym “... represents what they do, they massacre people.” After its introduction several weeks ago, the term Ugus has already been in use by government-run radio and television stations.
 - Late on Monday, al-Shabaab militants stormed a police station in the country’s semi-autonomous region of Puntland, killing three policemen. Several militants were also killed during the brief siege of the police station in the village of Yalho, which is located near the port town of Bossaso. According to Major Ismail Aden, a local police officer, “al-Shabaab attacked us with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns last night. They briefly captured the station and killed three of my colleagues,” adding “we later came with reinforcement and recaptured the station, and we killed several of the militants.” A spokesman for al-Shabaab confirmed the group’s involvement in the attack, however he indicated that five policemen had been killed.

Regional Reporting

- **6 May 2015** – On Wednesday, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta promised not to force refugees home, comments that effectively backtrack on a three-month deadline, issued by his deputy, which would have pushed hundreds of thousands back into Somalia. Following last month’s university massacre, in which 148 people were killed in Garissa by al-Shabaab insurgents, Kenya threatened to send refugees home, and to close the world’s largest camp complex in Dadaab, where more than 360,000 Somali refugees live. However on Wednesday, President Kenyatta met with UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) chief Antonio Guterres, who stated that the government had clarified that returns would only be voluntary, as set out in an earlier three-way agreement between the UN, Kenya and Somalia. Speaking to reporters shortly after the meeting, Guterres disclosed, “the government of Kenya has already clarified that return will take place within context of the tripartite agreement for voluntary return,” adding “the worst thing that might happen would be to send back a large number of people when conditions are not right – who are then forced to come back, move to another country, or be recruited by extremist groups.” Just days after the attack last month, Vice President William Ruto indicated that he had told the UNHCR to relocate refugees or “we shall relocate them ourselves.” At the time, the UN warned that such a move would have “extreme humanitarian and practical consequences,” and that it would violate international law. Guterres traveled to the Somali capital Mogadishu on Thursday in order to discuss efforts “to ensure that Somalia is ready for sustained return of refugees,” before travelling onwards to Dadaab on Friday.

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.

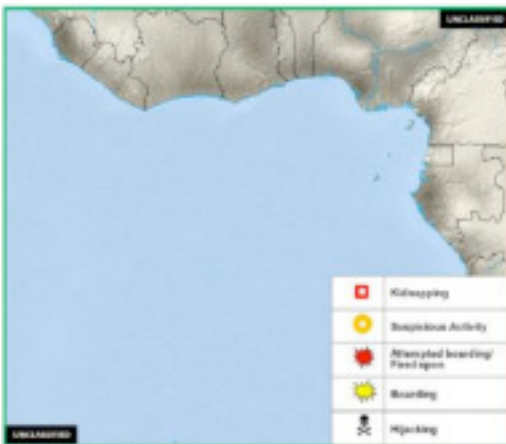
Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Map



Source: ONI

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:

- **2 May 2015 (Late Report)** – Pirates hijacked the Singapore-flagged tanker MV OCEAN ENERGY and had the crew move the vessel to a position near 02:19N – 101:40E, approximately 13 nautical miles south of Port Dickson. After locking up the tanker's master and crew, the pirates then discharged 2,023 metric tons of gasoil into an unknown barge that had come alongside. The pirates left the vessel at around 4:30 PM the following day after damaging the vessel's communication equipment and taking the vessel's satellite phone as well as the crew's cash and mobile phones. The tanker has returned to Singapore with its crew reported to be safe and uninjured.

Vessels Boarded:

- None reported during this period.

Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boarding's:

- **5 May 2015:** Two robbers attempted to board an underway bulk carrier near position 01:03N – 103:37E, 4.9 nautical miles south of Nipah Island. Bridge crew spotted the robber's small boat as they made their approach. The bridge crew raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Two robbers with the help of a rope and hook climbed up to the ship rails however they retreated when they saw the crew's alertness. Singapore maritime authorities were informed.
- **1 May 2015 (Late Report)** – A duty motorman on board an anchored product tanker noticed a small boat with five persons circling around the vessel near position 01:43N – 101:24E, Dumai Anchorage. The persons attempted to board the vessel. Alarm was raised and the crew was mustered. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the persons jumped into the water and escaped. Nothing was stolen.

- **21 April 2015 (Late Report)** – A nine meter long, light green fishing boat with two outboard engines approached an underway tanker near position 02:28N – 104:26E, 4 nautical miles east of Pulau Aur, Johor. The vessel’s master raised the alarm, sounded the fog horn, increased speed, mustered the crew and took anti-piracy preventative measures as the boat closed to seven meters and tried to get alongside the tanker. There were reportedly seven persons armed with knives onboard the boat. Due to the increase in speed, the boat was unable to keep up and eventually it moved away. The vessel and all crewmembers on board have been reported safe.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

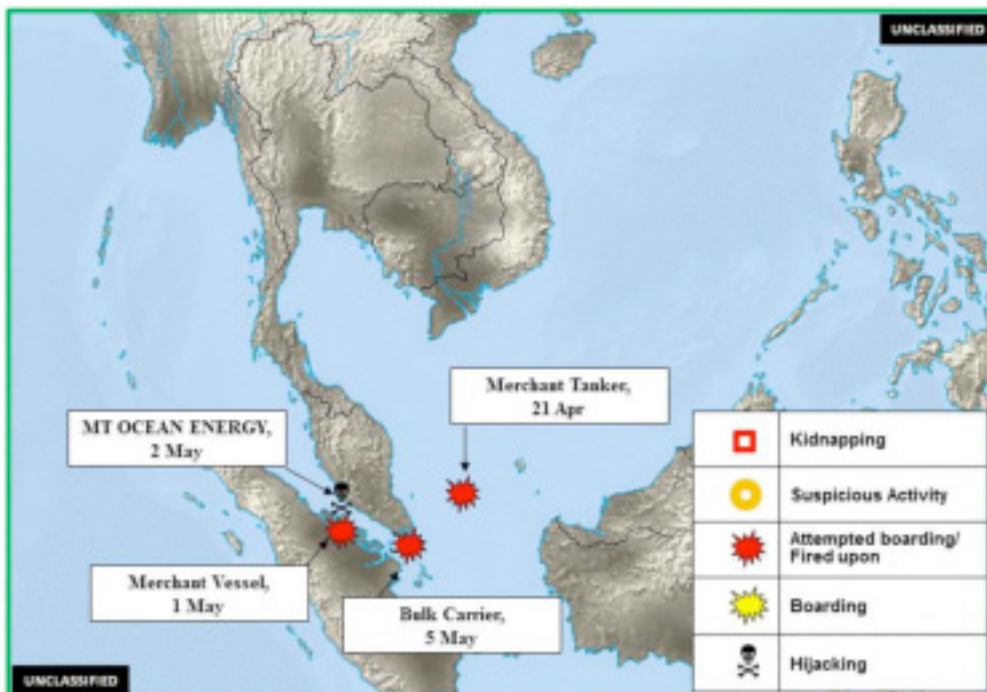
Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Other Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Map



Source: ONI

Weather Forecast

- **South China Sea:** Variable winds of 4 – 6 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Southwest winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Malacca Strait:** Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 -3 feet in the northern Strait; with southwest 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 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:** Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Surface Currents:** Currents in the South China Sea and in the Malacca Strait will average speeds of 1 knot, while currents in the Andaman Sea will average between 1 – 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion:** Typhoon Noul is in the western Pacific Ocean and tracking west-northwest in the general direction of Luzon, Philippines; a new disturbance is also forming about 355 miles west-southwest of Kosrae in Micronesia.

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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