

# 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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References are always available.  
More information is found at [www.msrisk.com](http://www.msrisk.com)

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## Summary (August 17 - 23, 2015 - Week 34; Edition 103)

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

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

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

**Southeast Asia:** Two incidents and three late reported incidents during this reporting period

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

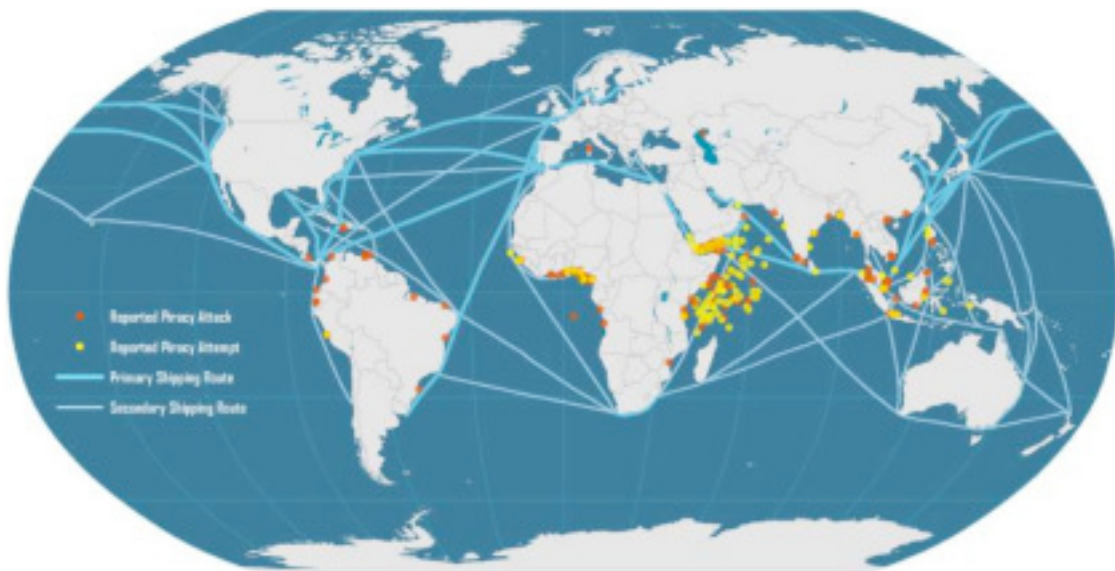
**North America:** No current incidents to report

**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.

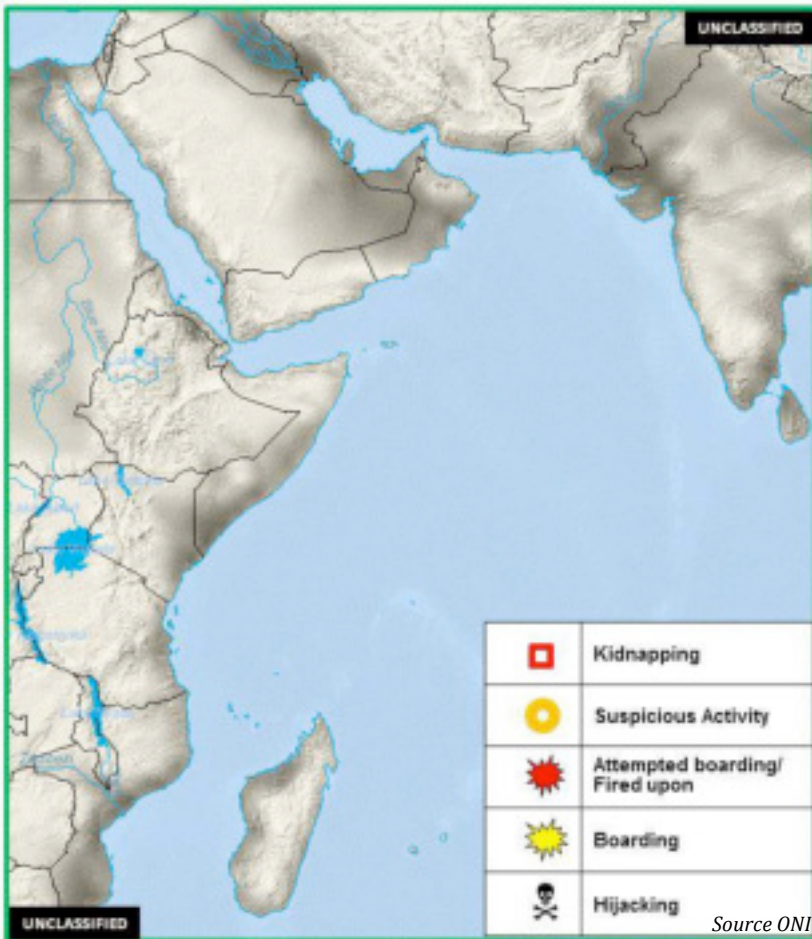
**Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:**

- None reported during this period.

**Suspicious Activity:**

- None reported during this period.

## Incident Map



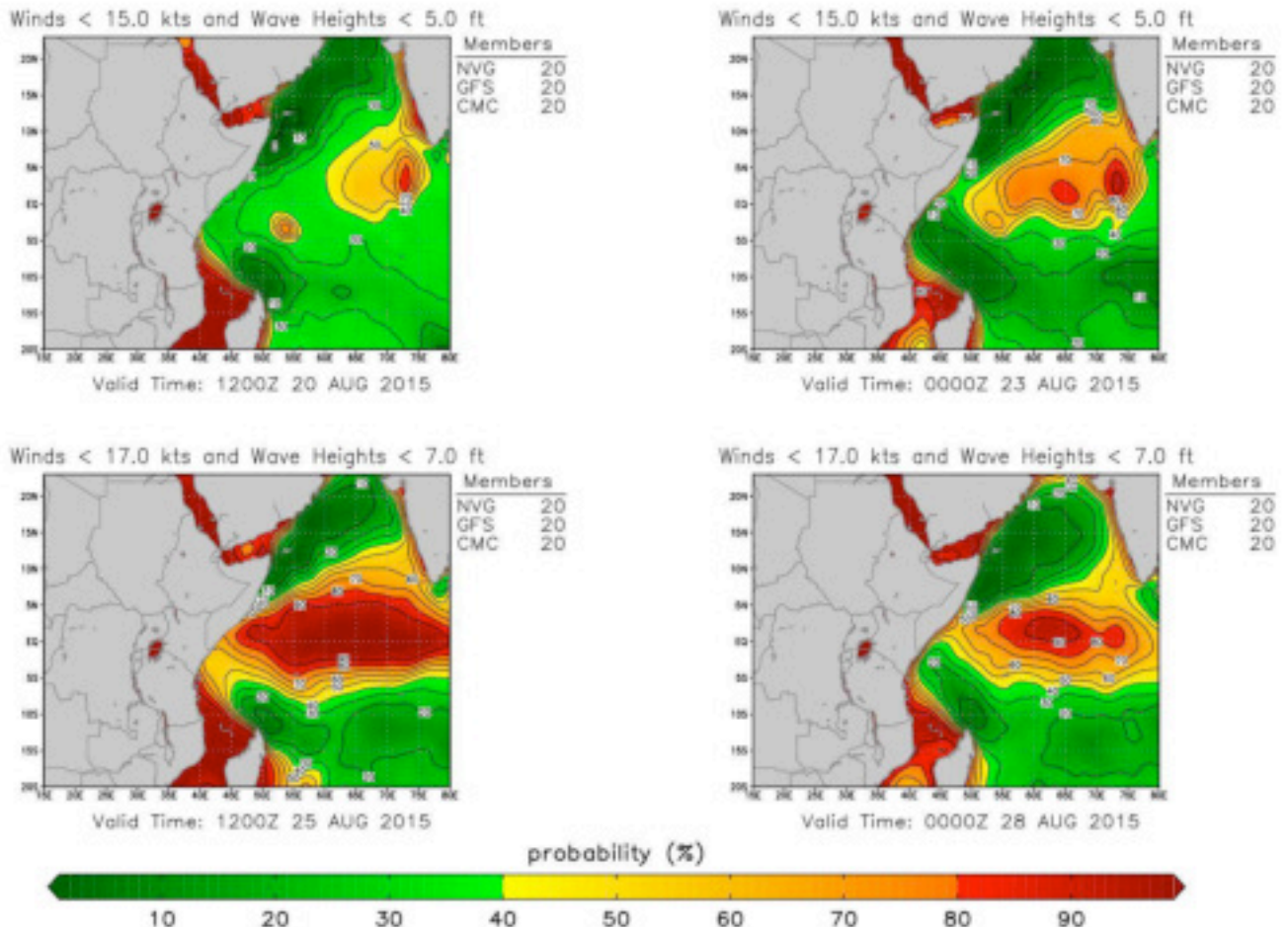
## Piracy Reporting

- **20 August 2015** – Authorities in Germany disclosed Friday that they have arrested a Somali man who is suspected of being amongst a group of pirates who seized a German freighter four years ago. German news agency dpa quoted Osnabrueck prosecutor Alexander Retemeyer as stating that the unidentified Somali had admitted to taking part in the hijacking, adding that he was arrested three weeks ago in a home for asylum seekers in the southern town of Reutlingen. The MV Susan K, which was operated by a German shipping firm, was hijacked off the coast of Oman in 2011. Pirates held the crew hostage for more than two months until their demand for a US \$3.5 million ransom was met.

## Weather Forecast

- **Northern Arabian Sea** – Southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – East-southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be east-southeasterly at 10 – 15 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – East-southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with south-southeast 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 south-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast** – West-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.
- **Somali Coast** – Southwest winds of 25 – 30 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet in the southern section of the coastline.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 25 – 30 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet in the southern section of the coastline.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – Southeast winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – South-southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – 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 2 – 4 feet in the southern Channel.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 5 – 7 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** – High pressure dominates the majority of the region, providing favorable conditions in the northern portion of the region. The Southwest Monsoon continues to provide increasing moisture and instability over the southern portion of the area as monsoonal winds continue to elevate the seas in the northern Arabian Sea and the Somali Basin.

## Weather Map



Source ONI

\*\*\* The green shading represents a reduced likelihood of pirate activity while the red shading represents an increased likelihood of pirate activity \*\*\*

## On the Ground Reporting

- **22 August 2015** – According to police and military sources, at least 21 people were killed in two separate suicide attacks in Somalia, one in the capital Mogadishu and one that targeted a military training base located in the southern port city of Kismayo. Military officials have reported that the attack at Kismayo University, which is currently being used as a base for training government troops, was launched as soldiers were lining up for training. Colonel Ahmed Ato has indicated that at least 16 Somali soldiers were killed and another 21 were wounded in the blast. Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, al-Shabaab's spokesman for military operations, has indicated that the militant group was behind the car bombing in Kismayo. The second car bombing attack occurred in the capital Mogadishu at a busy junction during the evening hours. According to Mohamed Yusuf, the spokesman for the interior security ministry, "so far we know 5 civilians died in this evening's blast and 7 others were injured," adding that the death toll may rise in the coming days. So far there has been no claim of responsibility for the attack in Mogadishu.
- **21 August 2015** – On Friday, the African Union (AU) force in Somalia apologized for the "tragic" killing of seven civilians at a wedding last month. While the AU had previously denied that the attack occurred, on Friday, AU officials disclosed that three soldiers have been charged. On 21 July, witnesses in Somalia's southern port town of Merka reported that troops from the 22,000-strong AU force in Somalia, known as AMISOM, had opened fire after insurgents threw a grenade at the passing convoy. Hours after the attack, AMISOM released a statement, "categorically" denouncing the "devious allegation." Human Rights Watch (HRW) later alleged that Ugandan troops with AMISOM had massacres six men in "cold blood" at a wedding after a bomb attack. In its report, HRW disclosed that "at one house, where the Malim lidey family was celebrating a wedding, the soldiers separated the men from the women and shot the six adult men – four brothers, their father and an uncle," adding, "four died immediately, one brother hid under a bed after being shot but later died, and the father died during the night after the soldiers allegedly refused to allow the family to take him to the hospital." On Friday, AU envoy and AMISOM head Maman Sidikou admitted that the killings of the civilians had taken place. In a statement, which was released in Kenya, Sidikou disclosed that AU officials "...have established that, on that occasion, seven civilians died following an incident involving our troops," adding "I would like on behalf of the African Union, to offer my sincere apology for these deaths. We regret these deaths." Sidikou noted that three AMISOM soldiers have been "indicted and are awaiting to be arraigned before a military judicial process," adding, "I have instituted a board of inquiry composed of military, civilian and police officers who are not from the contingent concerned in order to ensure impartiality." Sources have disclosed that the three soldiers are from Uganda.

## Domestic News

- **20 August 2015** – On Thursday, Somali lawmakers disclosed that they were determined to stage a vote of no confidence in a bid to oust the president, effectively dismissing international warnings that such a move would hamper ongoing peace efforts in the war-torn East African country. MP Abdi Barre Yusuf, who is backing the motion, which accuses President Hassan Sheikh Muhamoud of corruption, stated Thursday that "this motion is not aimed at destruction, but rather correction." According to Abdirahman Hosh Jibril, another lawmaker, "the whole objective is to bring about change," adding that the group pushing the motion



accused the president of having “intervened with the independent constitutional institutions of the country like the courts.” The motion, which was filed earlier this week, still has to be approved by the speaker before being put to parliament. While it remains unclear how many are in support of it, lawmakers have claimed that they have around 100 MP’s behind it. At least 90 members are required in order for a motion to be debated in parliament while two-thirds of the 275-member house would have to back the vote in order to force the president from office. International backers, including the UN, regional nations and the 22,000-strong African Union (AU) force (AMISOM), have issued a warning on the move. In a joint statement, they expressed “deep concern that the parliamentary notion...will impede progress on Somalia’s peace and state building goals.” They have warned that efforts to impeach the president will “consume extremely valuable time, not least in the absence of essential legal bodies,” adding, “the submission of any such motion requires a high standard of transparency and integrity in the process.” The East African regional IGAD bloc, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, as well as the United States, Britain and the European Union also signed the statement. Clan elders, along with foreign backers, appointed the current president and parliament in 2012. While at the time they promised full democracy in 2016, last month, Somali officials admitted that insecurity and lack of political progress effectively means that there cannot be elections in 2016 with individual suffrage, as was envisaged by the UN, foreign diplomats and the government itself. What the electoral process may look like is due to be decided by the end of the year, with the Somali government due to hold public consultations before presenting proposals to the international community in early 2016.

## Regional Reporting

- **18 August 2015** – Kenyan police have named three men, which it believes are major recruiters of young Kenyans to Islamist terror groups, particularly Somali-based al-Shabaab. The Kenyan police report, “Tracing the Disappearing Kenyan Youth” has named the three key recruiters as: Abdifatah Abubakar Ahmed – an al-Shabaab commander and planner of the Westgate attack who co-ordinates recruitment in Kenya’s coastal region, including young women as wives for fighters in Somalia. According to the report, he held fraudulent Kenyan ID and was deported to Somalia in 2008; Ramadhan Hamisi Kufungwa – once imam in charge at Musa Mosque in Mombasa and continues to facilitate movement of recruits to Somalia; and Ahmed Iman Ali – who studied engineering at University of Nairobi, preached at a mosque in Nairobi’s Majengo area and appears in al-Shabaab propaganda videos. He went to Somalia in 2009. According to a police report, all three men were operating in Kenya but are now based in Somalia. The report disclosed that young Kenyans from around the county were being targeted without the knowledge of their parents adding that most of their recruits travelled to Somalia for training and came back to take part in attacks in Kenya. The report disclosed that recently, the Islamic State (IS) group had also become an “attractive group” to “vulnerable Kenyans.”

# GULF OF GUINEA

## Executive Summary

Pirate and maritime crime activity in waters off West Africa is currently at a low level, with no incidents reported during this period. All vessels transiting this region however are reminded to remain vigilant.

## At Sea

### Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

### Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boardings:

- None reported during this period.

### Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

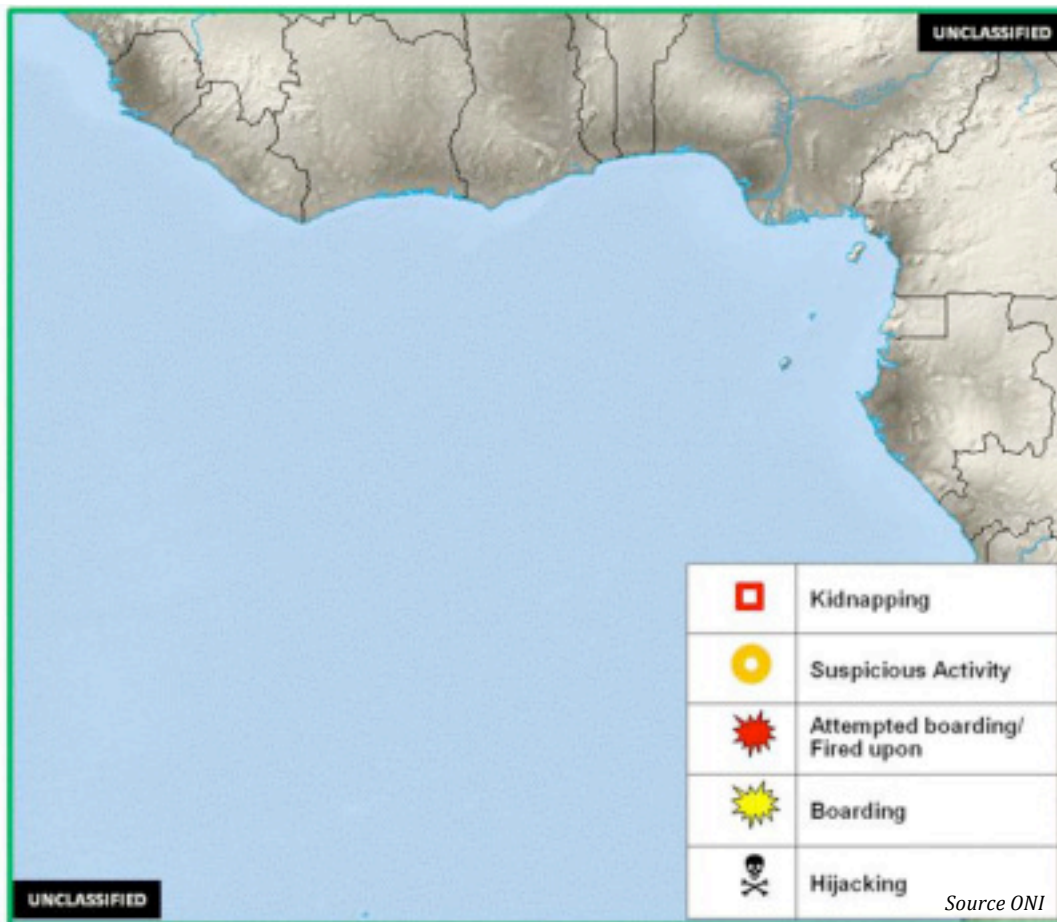
### Kidnapping:

- None reported during this period.

### Other Activity:

- None reported during this period.

## Incident Map



## Weather Forecast

- **Gulf of Guinea** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 5 – 7 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 August 2015** – Duty crewman onboard a berthed product tanker saw an unauthorized person on deck near position 07:02 N – 125:39 E, New Davao Oil Mill, Davao Port. The duty crewman shouted at the unauthorized person, who jumped overboard and escaped. The vessel was searched with nothing reported stolen.
  - Seven robbers boarded an underway bulk carrier near position 01:04 N - 103:36 E, 4.1 nautical miles south-southwest of Pulau Nipah. Crew spotted the robbers and immediately retreated to the bridge. Two crewmen remained in the engine room. The vessel transmitted a SSAS alert and informed VTIS Singapore, which indicated that a patrol boat was dispatched to provide assistance. Later the vessel informed VTIS that the robbers had left the ship. All crewmembers have been reported safe.
- **15 August 2015 (Late Report)** – A duty crewman onboard a container ship noticed padlocks on three store rooms damaged near position 01:15 N – 104:07 E, 4.1 nautical miles north-northeast of Pulau Batam. He immediately raised the alarm and crew was mustered. Upon hearing the alarm, a robber was observed escaping from the CO2 room. A search was carried out. Nothing was reported stolen.
- **13 August 2015 (Late Report)** – Five robbers armed with long knives boarded an underway container vessel near position 01:07 N – 103:30 E, 5.3 nautical miles east of Pulau Karimun Kecil. Alarm was raised and the crew was mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers

escaped. A search was carried out. Nothing was reported stolen. Incident was reported to VTIS Singapore.

- **12 August 2015 (Late Report)** – Robbers boarded an anchored product tanker via the anchor chain and hawse pipe near position 04:00 N – 098:45 E, Beawan Anchorage. The robbers stole the vessel's properties and escaped before being spotted by the crew. When the crew returned to work after the morning break, they noticed the forward storeroom door broken into and wet foot prints on the deck. Shipping agents were notified.

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

- None reported during this period.

**Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:**

- None reported during this period.

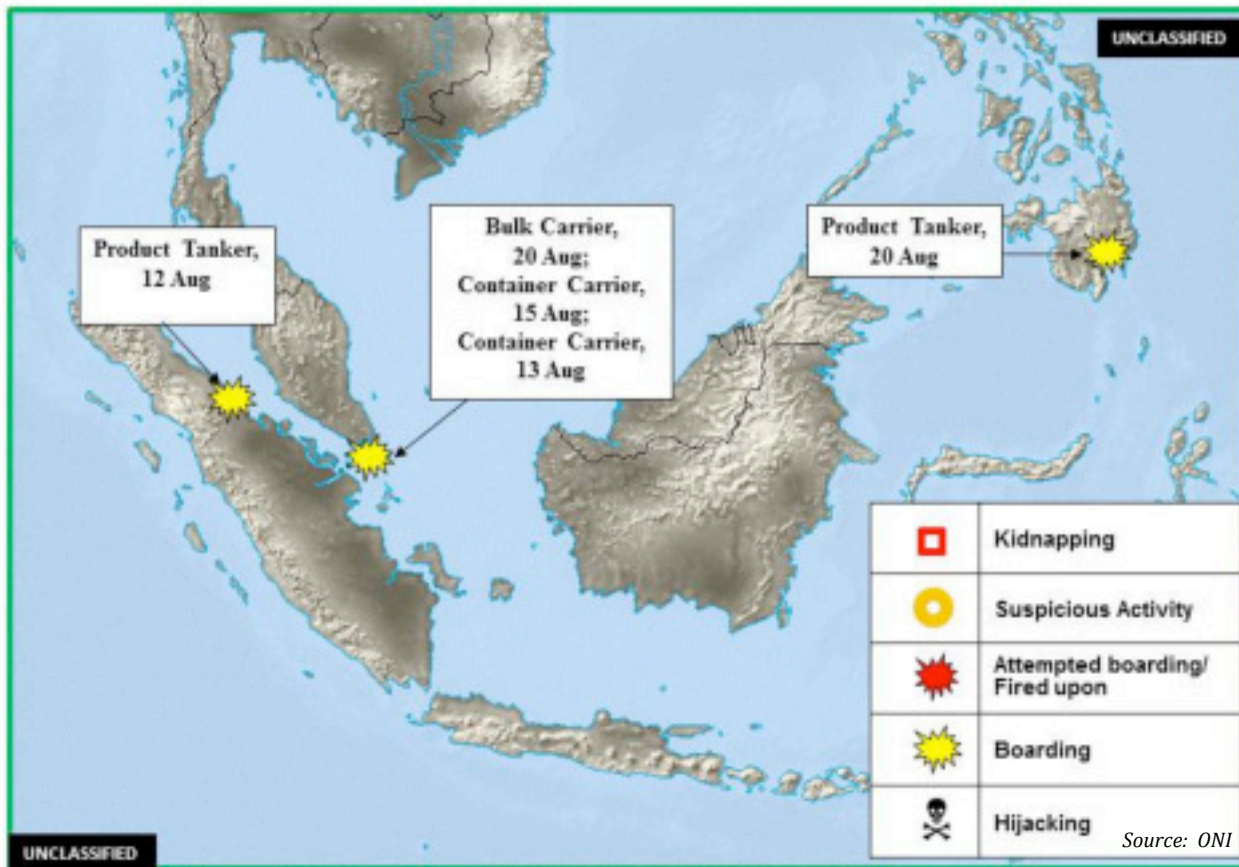
**Suspicious Activity:**

- None reported during this period.

**Other Activity:**

- None reported during this period.

## Incident Map



## Weather Forecast

- **South China Sea** – Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots, gusting to 20 knots, and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – West-southwest winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet, building to 4 – 6 feet. (*Note: Seas east of Ho Chi Minh City are expected to build to 10 feet by 26 August*).
- **Malacca Strait** – Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Strait; with southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern Strait.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Strait; with southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern Strait.
- **Andaman Sea** – Westerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Westerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.

- **Surface Currents** – Currents in the South China Sea and Malacca Strait average speeds of 1 knot, while currents in the Andaman Sea average between 1 – 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – The southwest monsoon persists in the South China Sea and in the Malacca Strait region. ***Super Typhoon 17W and Typhoon 16W continue to impact the areas in and around the Philippine Sea, bringing wide spread rain showers, thunderstorms, high winds and seas.***

## 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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