

# 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

MS Risk is a privately owned company domiciled in the Isle of Man. It is underwritten by a syndicate of Lloyd's of London for special risks case management in all jurisdictions. It also acts as retained advisors to syndicates in the Lloyd's of London specialty risk insurance markets: kidnap for ransom, extortion, hijack, illegal detention, illegal war tax, malicious product tamper, terrorism, political and war risk.

MS Risk is always mindful and compliant to legislation and guidelines on the use of private security services including, but not limited to the US FCPA (1977), UK Bribery Act (2010), Canadian Bill C-48 (2007), ASX 8 Corporate Governance Principles, and the World Bank/IFC Voluntary Principles on the Use of Government and Private Security Forces. MS Risk is a signatory of the Swiss government's International Code of Conduct. It is transparent and compliant to market expectations on legal and ethical conduct in the performance of services.

MS Risk has a dedicated team of researchers, a 24/7 hotline service and a pool of trained and experienced consultants to support client needs.

MS Risk supports clients in a variety of business sectors with the following services:

- Security Consulting
  - Risk assessments and intelligence reporting
  - Planning and management
  - Due diligence and investigations.
- Project Management
  - Interim security
  - Training
  - Special assignments
- Crisis Response
  - 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](http://www.msrisk.com)

## 24 hr Contact Information:

Email: [operations@msrisk.com](mailto:operations@msrisk.com)  
Telephone: +44 207 754 3555

## Summary (August 3 - 9, 2015 - Week 32; Edition 101)

### 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:** One incident and six late reported incidents during this reporting period

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

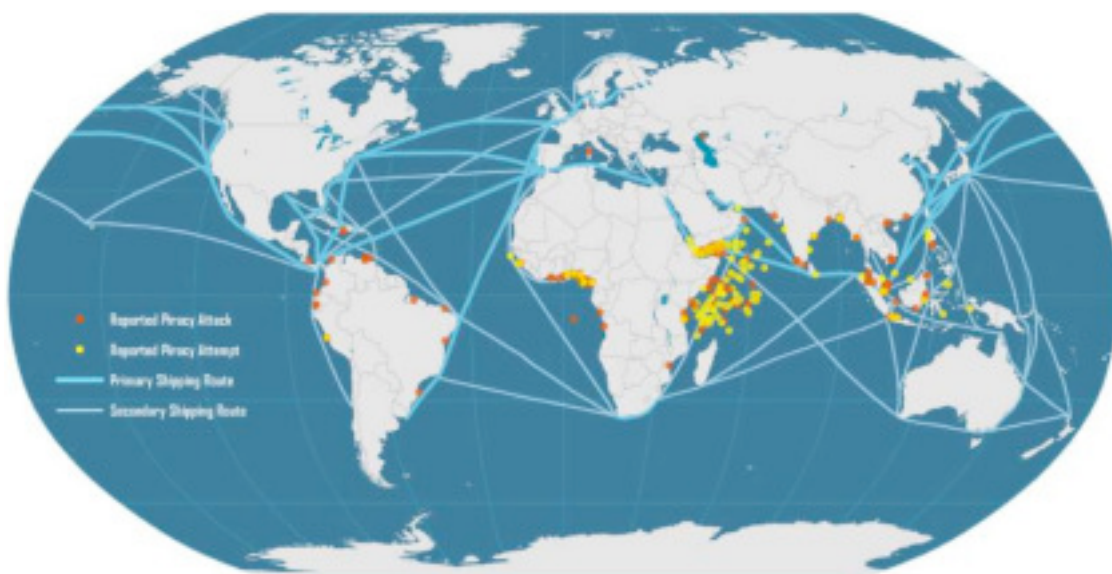
**North America:** No current incidents to report

**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

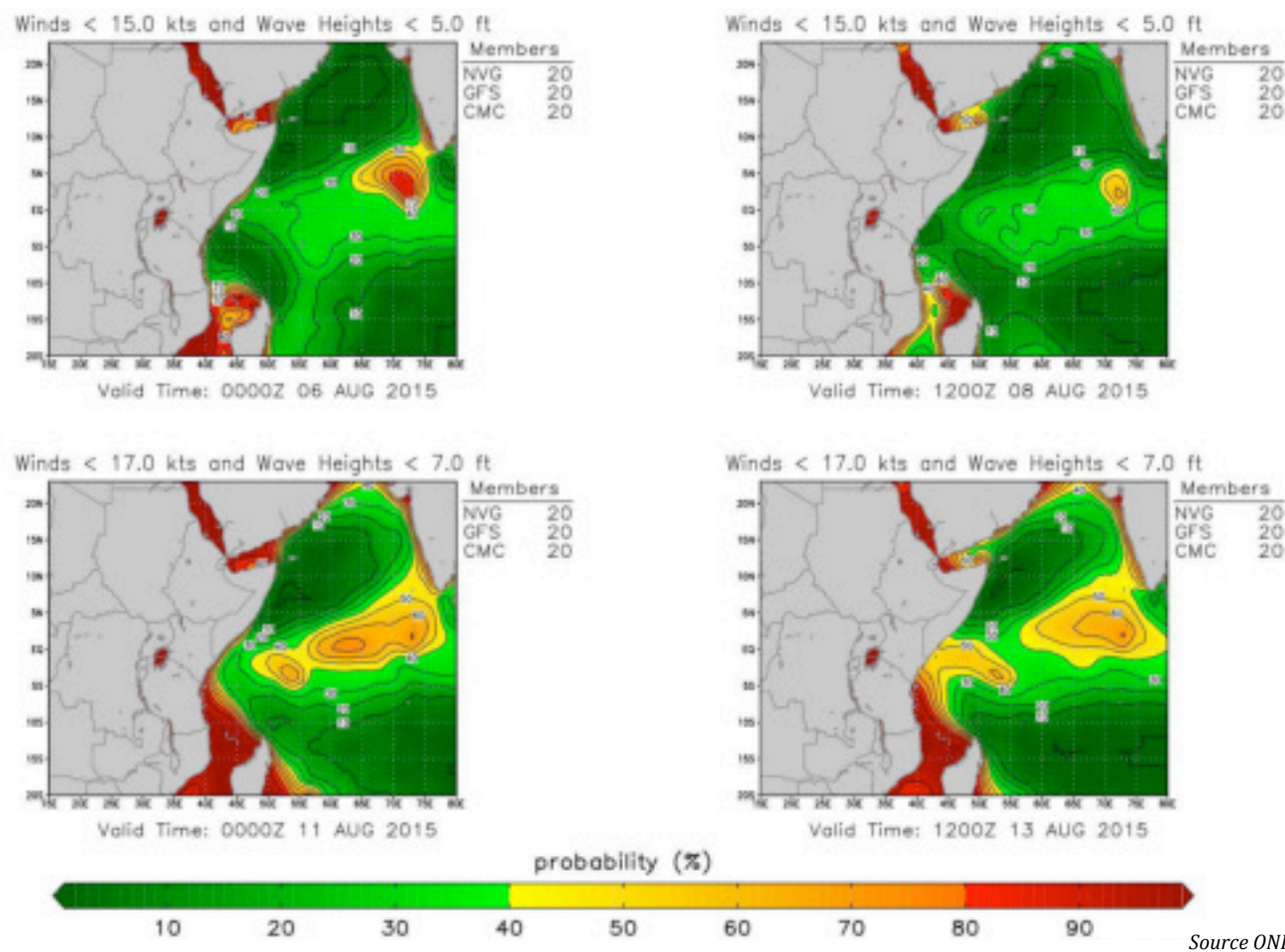


## Weather Forecast

- **Northern Arabian Sea** – Southwest winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – West-northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast** – West-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Southwest winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 5 – 7 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 4 – 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – Southwest winds of 20 – 25 knots, gusting to 35 knots, and seas of 8 – 10 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet in the southern section of the coastline.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 25 – 30 knots, gusting to 35 knots, and seas of 8 – 10 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with southerly 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 15 – 20 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – South-southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – South-southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet in the northern Channel; with easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet in the southern Channel.
  - **Extended Forecast** – South-southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet in the northern Channel; with south-southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 7 – 9 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** – A monsoonal trough drapes across the southern Red Sea into the Arabian Gulf; Afghanistan and India, increasing moisture and instability over the southern portion of the region as monsoonal winds continue to elevate the seas in the Arabian Sea.



Weather Map



\*\*\* 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

- **5 August 2015** - A UN sanctions committee wants Somalia to open a corruption investigation after uncovering evidence that British oil firm Soma may have paid off several Somali civil servants under a 2013 contract. The evidence was highlighted in a 28-page report compiled by the UN's Somali and Eritrea monitoring group. The report listed 14 employees of Somalia's petroleum and mineral resources ministry who allegedly received payments ranging from US \$1,600 to US \$36,000 from Soma. The report further disclosed that six officials on Soma's payroll drew civil servant salaries and that nearly US \$500,000 was paid to Canadian lawyer J. Jay Park as an independent legal advisor to the ministry. A letter, which was drafted Monday by the chairman of the UN's Somalia-Eritrea Sanctions Committee, Venezuelan Ambassador to the UN Rafael Ramirez, called on Somalia to investigate. In 2013, Soma, chaired by former British Conservative Party leader Michael Howard, won a lucrative contract to survey Somalia's southern and central coast, later securing the rights to explore twelve offshore oil and gas blocks. While the deal had raised hopes of reviving the East African country's oil and gas industry, which has been on hold for decades during civil war and years of Islamic insurgency, the sanctions committee letter has now requested that Somali authorities "promptly investigate and undertake prosecutions, where appropriate, of individuals and entities found to have been engaged in misappropriation of public resources in violation of the Somalia sanctions regime." The report further stated that "the (monitoring) group has obtained evidence demonstrating that Soma has been making regular payments since June 2014 to civil servants in the ministry of petroleum and mineral resources, some of whom were instrumental in both securing the company's initial contract and negotiating subsequent agreements." Soma however has denied any wrongdoing. In a statement released Monday, it stated that the UN monitors had "fundamentally misunderstood the nature, purpose and destination of the payments made."



# 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.

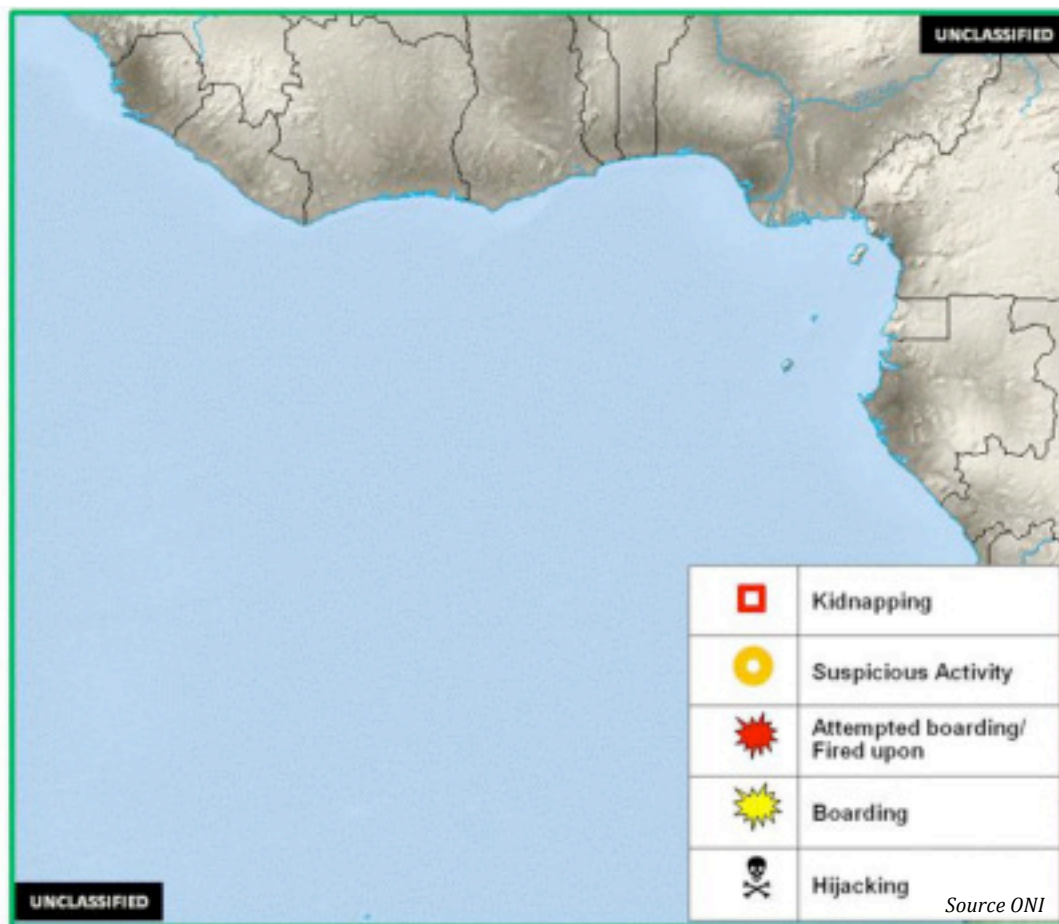
### Other Activity:

- None reported during this period.

## Piracy News

- **8 August 2015** – A police spokesman reported Saturday that suspected pirates killed four soldiers and a policeman in an attack on a military base in the town of Nembe, located in the Niger Delta. According to spokesman Asinim Butswat, “four speedboats loaded with unknown gunmen, suspected to be sea pirates, attacked the Joint Task Force (JTF) base at Nembe Water front,” adding, “they killed four soldiers and one policeman. The gunmen carted away two HP (high power) guns and other arms from the base.” The incident occurred Friday. Butswat disclosed that efforts are currently underway to “recover the arms and arrest the culprits.” Military authorities in the capital Abuja confirmed the attack however they have not reported on the death toll.

## 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:

- **3 August 2015** – Two robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored chemical tanker near position 03:56 N – 098:44 E, Belawan Anchorage. Duty crewman on routine rounds sighted the robbers at the forecastle and informed the bridge. The alarm was raised and the crew was mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped in their boat. A search was carried out. The vessel's properties were reported stolen from the forecastle store.
- **31 July 2015 (Late Report)** – Vietnam-flagged fishing ship, QNg 96507 TS, reported that a group of pirates from three Chinese ships boarded the fishing ship, attacked the crewmen and ransacked the ship in an area of the western Paracel Island group. The Chinese ships were reportedly white and carried the numbers 46102, 45101 and 37102 on their hulls. Several of the Vietnamese fishermen were reportedly able to obtain photographs of the boarding and robbery as it occurred.
  - Five robbers armed with long knives in a small unlit high speed boat approached an underway bulk carrier near position 01:04 N – 103:41 E, 2.1 nautical miles southwest of Pulau Takong Kecil. One of the robbers attempted to board the ship using a hook attached to a rope. Alert crew noticed the robbers and raised the alarm, resulting in the crew rushing to the area in question. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers aborted the attempted boarding and moved away. The incident was reported to VTIS Singapore. On arrival in Singapore, the Coast Guard boarded the vessel and carried out an investigation.

- **28 July 2015 (Late Report)** – A tug with a barge under tow departed Batam Island anchorage at 1600 local time for Kuantan Port, Malaysia. A duty crewman discovered that some properties on the barge were missing during routine rounds the next morning. Duty officer notified the master and owners. On arrival in Kuantan port, a report was lodged and the police boarded to carry out an investigation.
- **27 July 2015 (Late Report)** – The duty engineer onboard an underway product tanker discovered three robbers in the engine room near position 01:03 N – 103:36 E, 5.6 nautical miles southwest of Pulau Nipah. The robbers escaped onto the deck. The engineer immediately closed and locked the engine room door from inside and raised the alarm. Crew was mustered and all the deck lights were switched on. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped in their boat. A search was carried out. No robbers were found on board the vessel and nothing was reported stolen. VTIS Singapore was informed. Singapore Coast Guard boarded the tanker for investigation upon arrival at Singapore Pilot Eastern Boarding Area.
- **26 July 2015 (Late Report)** – An unknown number of persons in an unlit boat attempted to board an underway tanker near position 01:04 N – 103:36 E, 5.1 nautical miles southwest of Pulau Nipah. Duty crewmen observed the boat approaching to within 20 metres. Crew flashed lights resulting in the boat aborting the attempt and moving away. VTIS Singapore was informed of the incident.
- **25 July 2015 (Late Report)** – Two duty crewman on board an underway bulk carrier saw two robbers armed with knives in the engine room stealing engine spares near position 01:03 N – 103:39 E, 4.3 nautical miles southwest of Pulau Takong Kecil. Emergency alarm was raised, the crew was mustered and all the deck lights were activated. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped in their unlit boat with the stolen spares.

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

- None reported during this period.

**Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:**

- None reported during this period.

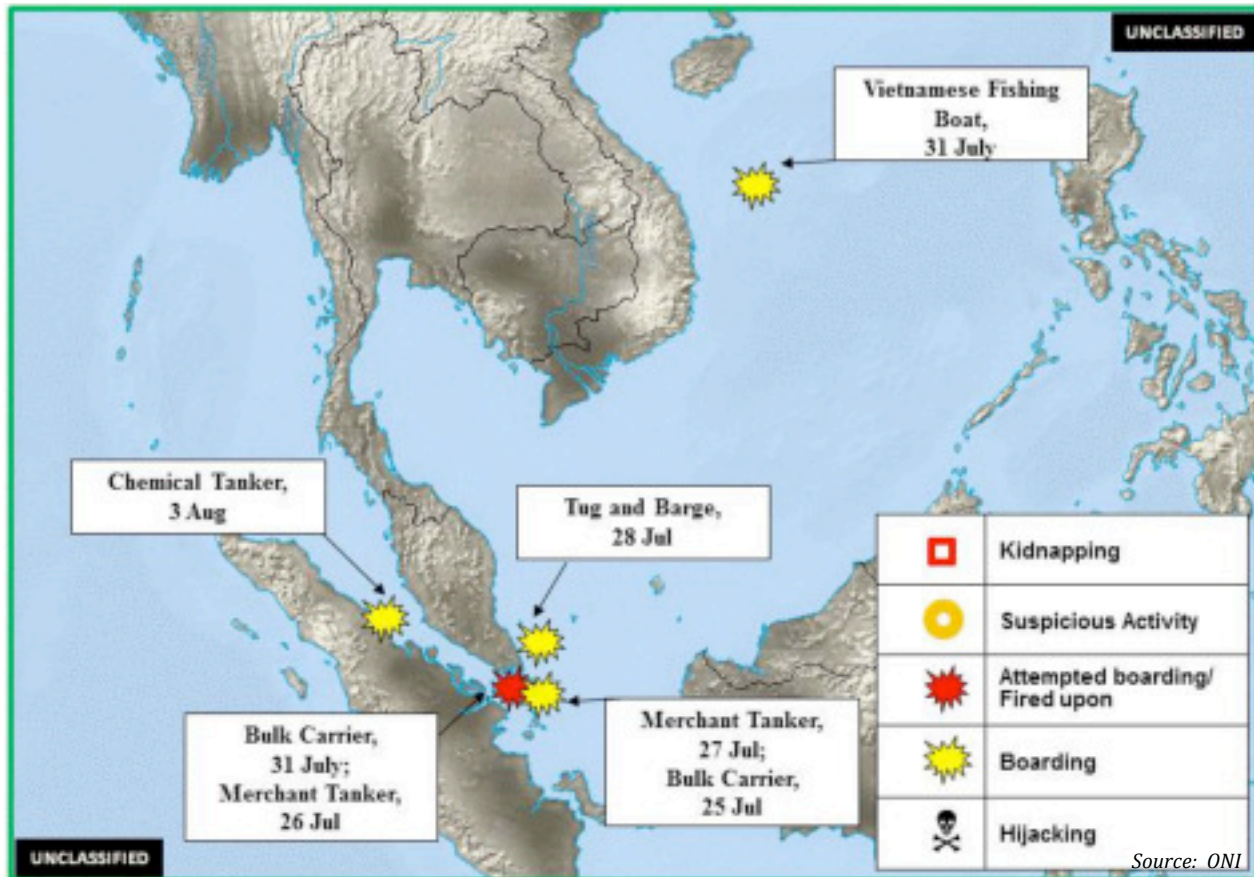
**Suspicious Activity:**

- None reported during this period.

**Other Activity:**

- None reported during this period.

## Incident Map



## Weather Forecast

- **South China Sea** – Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – West-northwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet, building later in the week to 9 – 12 feet.
- **Malacca Strait** – Southerly winds of 3 – 8 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** – Southeast winds of 5 – 10 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** – West-southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots, gusting to 30 knots, and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Westerly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 5 – 7 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** – The Southwest monsoon persist in the South China Sea. Tropical Cyclone 13W will impact Taiwan and the Fujian Coastal areas. The seas are 40 feet at the centre of the storm as it travels in a west-northwest direction.



## 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.



South Suite, Ragnall House, 18 Peel Road  
Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 4LZ

24 hr Global Contact: +44 207 754 3555

[www.msrisk.com](http://www.msrisk.com)

**Directors**

S.J. Bingham, V.K. Prentice, P.O.J Tracy

Registered in the Isle of Man No. 007435V