

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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 - Planning and management
 - Due diligence and investigations.
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 - 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

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Summary (July 20 - 26, 2015 - Week 30; Edition 99)

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: No incidents reported during this reporting period

South America: No incidents reported during this reporting period

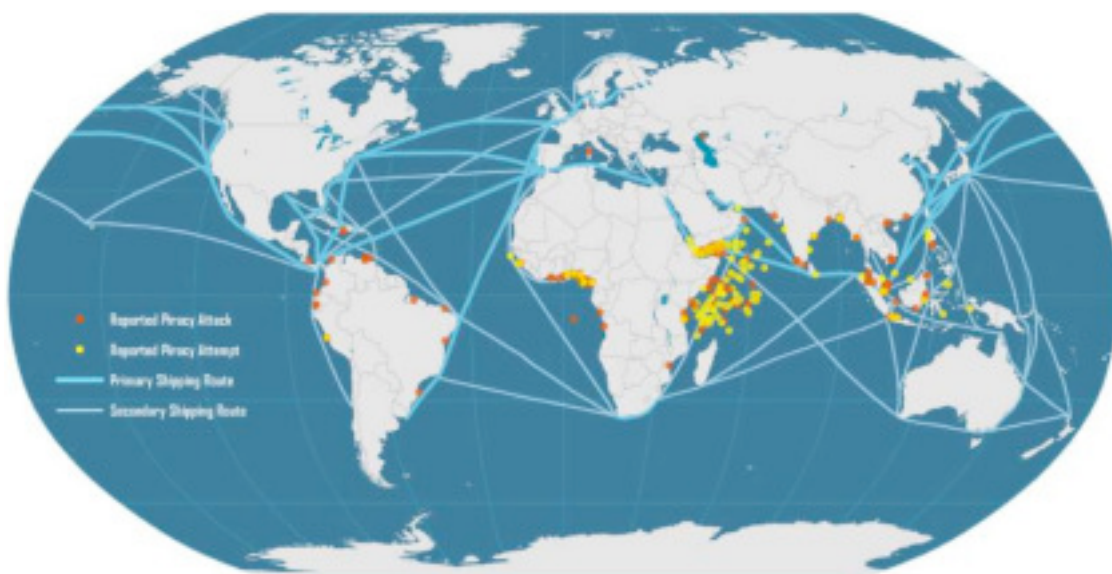
North America: No current incidents to report

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.

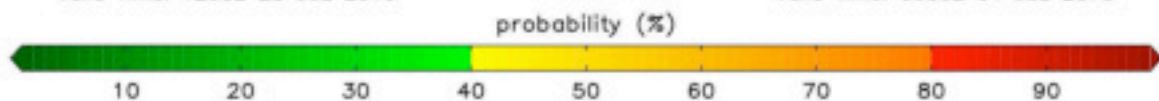
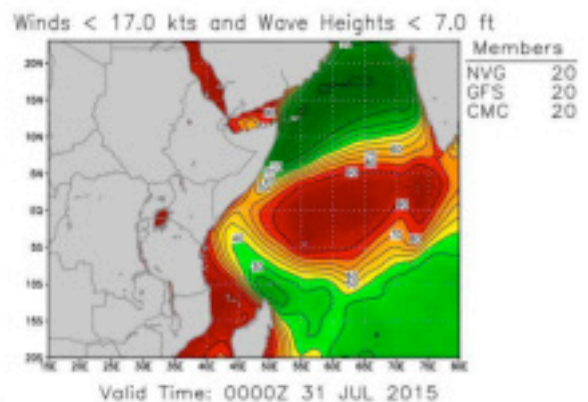
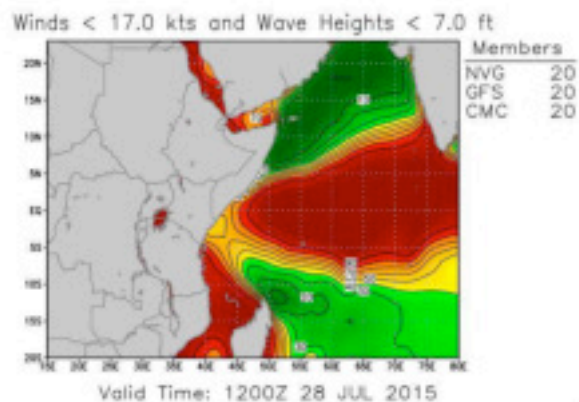
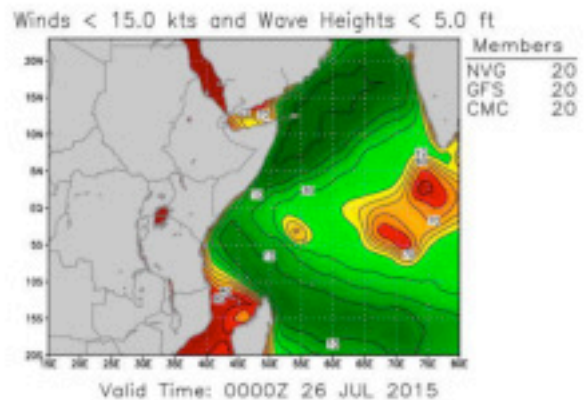
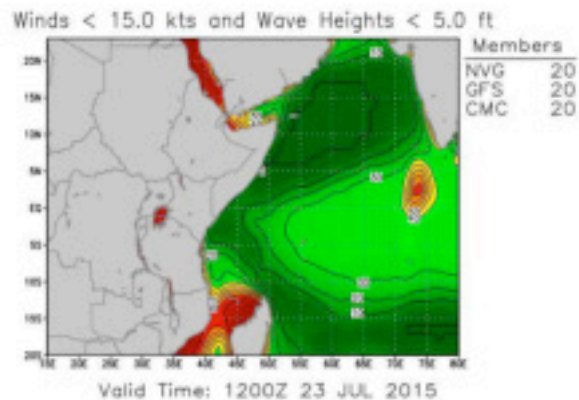
Incident Map



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 9 – 11 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be southeasterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with westerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 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 4 – 6 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – Southwest winds of 25 – 30 knots, gusting to 40 knots, and seas of 10 – 12 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, gusting to 40 knots, and seas of 10 – 12 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 5 – 7 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – South-southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern Channel; with south-southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** – East-southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots, gusting to 20 knots, and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern Channel; with east-southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots, gusting to 20 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** – An area of instability over the Zagros Mountains will provide increased cloud conditions over the Arabian Gulf. Monsoonal winds will continue to elevate seas in the Arabian Sea area.

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

- **26 July 2015** – Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for two attacks that were carried out in the Somali capital on Saturday, in which gunmen killed a lawmaker and his bodyguard as well as an official from the prime minister's office. The militant group's spokesman, Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, confirmed that the group was responsible for the killings, which occurred in Mogadishu's Madina district. Police officials disclosed that the gunmen escaped after shooting a government official in a morning attack and lawmaker Abdullahi Hussein and his bodyguard in the afternoon.
 - At least ten people have been killed in a huge bomb explosion at a hotel in the capital city. On the ground sources have reported that a lorry was used in order to carry out the attack, which targeted the Jazeera Palace Hotel located near the airport. International diplomats often stay at the Jazeera Palace Hotel, which has been targeted in the past. The hotel also accommodates several embassies, including those of China, Egypt and Qatar. Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the attack, stating that it was responding to recent assaults carried out by the African Union (AU) force and the Somali government. The attack came as US President Barack Obama was leaving Kenya for Ethiopia.
- **24 July 2015** – The defense ministry has reported that Somali government troops, backed by African Union (AU) forces captured the al-Shabaab stronghold of Dinsoor on Friday in what is the second town seized by the militants this week. Speaking to reporters, Somali defense minister General Abdulkadir Sheikh Ali Dini stated "our forces have secured control of Dinsoor, and the insurgents have fled after losing the battle... the troops are now conducting security operations to clear the town." Witnesses reported that Dinsoor fell without a major fight, with al-Shabaab militant fleeing the town ahead of the assault. The fall of Dinsoor, which is located in the southwestern region of the country, near the border with Kenya and Ethiopia, comes just days after AU troops captured the nearby town of Bardhere on Wednesday. The two towns were some of the last remaining al-Shabaab strongholds.
- **22 July 2015** - According to residents, African Union (AU) forces in Somalia have retaken one of the few remaining towns still being held by al-Shabaab militants. Residents reported that Kenyan soldiers entered the southeastern town of Bardhere, which has been under al-Shabaab's control since 2008, adding that troops were armed with heavy weapons and were supported by fighter jets. While al-Shabaab has confirmed the loss of the town, the militant group has insisted that they have not been defeated and that fighting is ongoing. The capture of Bardhere comes less than a week after the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) launched "Operation Jubba Corridor" an offensive, which aims to flush out the insurgents out of rural areas in southern Somalia. Officials have indicated that the offensive involves forces from neighboring Ethiopia and Kenya. The loss of the town is a severe blow to al-Shabaab, as control over this part of Somali has aided the militant group in finding recruits. It is also a source of revenue through taxes that it has imposed on trade and local business.
 - African Union (AU) troops have denied reports that they killed several civilians during fighting, stating that those shot were all al-Shabaab insurgents. Witnesses in the southern port town of Merka have reported that troops from the AMISOM force killed at least eight civilians on Tuesday, adding that they opened fire after insurgents threw a grenade at a passing convoy. According to one resident, Abdirahman Mohamed, "there was a grenade attack targeting the peacekeepers as they passed by...they opened indiscriminate fire killing many civilians, including children and a woman." Another

witness reported seeing the troops storm a house after the explosion, adding “two children and a woman are among the dead, they have shot anyone they saw moving in the area, and all of the victims were civilians.” The AU force however has denied these reports, stating that the only people killed were al-Shabaab fighters. In a statement issued late Tuesday, the force indicated “AMISOM categorically denounces this devious allegation,” adding, “as AMISOM is mandated to do, five Shebaab fighters were killed including one of their notorious leaders, Mohammed Dahir.” Al-Shabaab has not commented on the incident.

Regional Reporting

- **24 July 2015** - A massive security operation is in place to protect US President Barack Obama during his visit to Kenya. Ahead of the American president's arrival to the East African country on Friday evening, large numbers of security forces patrolled the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. On the ground sources also reported that several US military aircraft were spotted flying around the city. Major roads in Nairobi will be temporarily closed and authorities have indicated that the international airport will be close at times coinciding with the president's landing and departure for Ethiopia on Sunday. Safaricom, a mobile network operator, also warned of disruptions while the president is in Nairobi, where he will meet with entrepreneurs and hold talks with Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta. His schedule includes a Sunday address at a Nairobi stadium that will be broadcast live on Kenyan radio and television. US Ambassador Robert Godec has indicated that attendance to the event is by invitation only to representatives from “a wide range of Kenyan society. Ahead of the president's visit, there has been have been significant military attacks on Islamist militant targets in Somalia in recent weeks. A Somali intelligence official disclosed that the use of surveillance drones has increased in the past two weeks, adding, “they are watching militants' movement towards Kenya so closely.”

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.

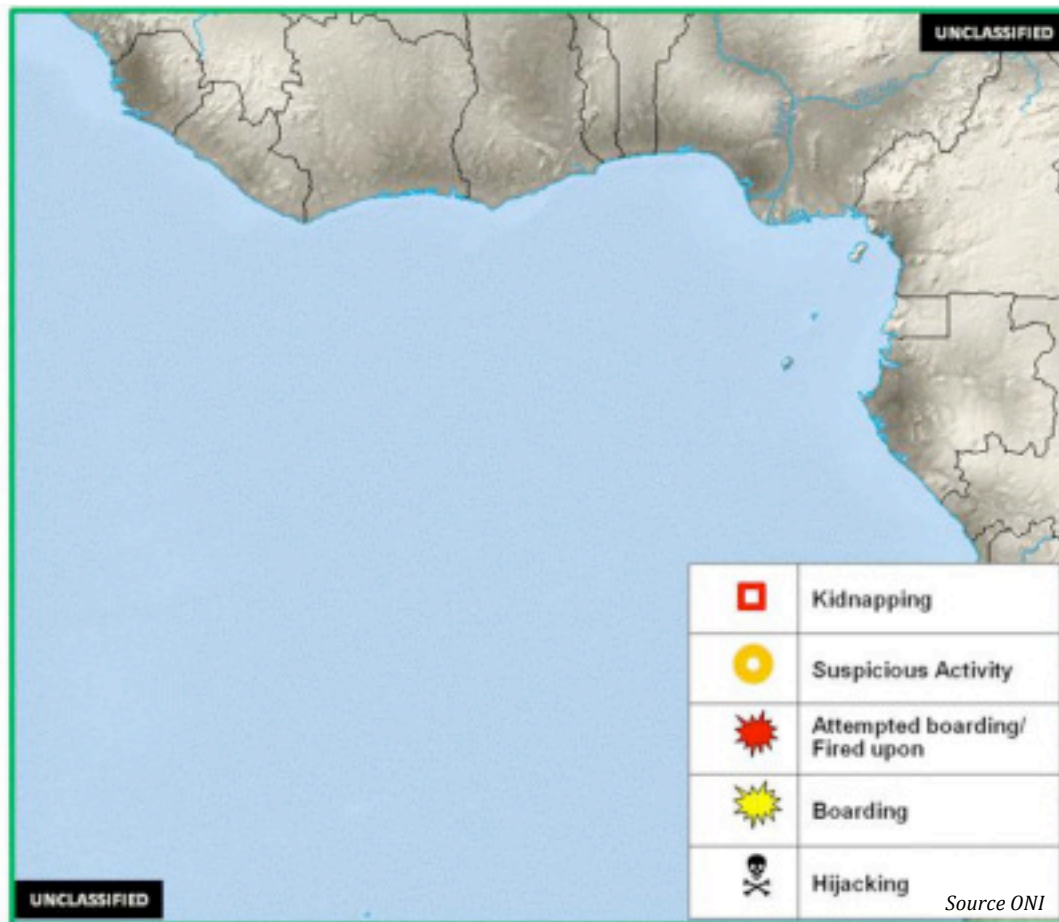
Kidnapping:

- None reported during this period.

Other Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Incident Map



Weather Forecast

- **Gulf of Guinea** – Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – Expect partly to mostly cloudy conditions for the Gulf of Guinea associated with 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:

- None reported during this period.

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** – Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Malacca Strait** – Southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Strait; with southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern Strait.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Strait; with southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern Strait.
- **Andaman Sea** – South-southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots, gusting to 30 knots, and seas of 5 – 7 feet.

- **Extended Forecast** – South-southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots, gusting to 30 knots, and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
- **Surface Currents** – Currents in the South China Sea and the Malacca Strait will average speeds of 1 knot, while currents in the Andaman Sea will average between 1 – 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – The Northeast Monsoon season continues to influence the region. Expect increasing cloud conditions with rain showers and thunderstorms.

Piracy Reporting

- **22 July 2015** – According to the latest data released by the International Maritime Bureau's Piracy Reporting Centre on Wednesday, pirates operating in Southeast Asia continue to hijack a coastal tanker on average once every two weeks in a bid to steal their cargo fuel. Between January and June of this year, a total of 134 incidents of piracy and armed robbery globally were reported to the centre, an increase from the 116 that were reported during the same period last year. So far this year, 250 crewmembers have been taken hostage, with one fatality and nine injuries. Meanwhile eleven of the 13 hijackings that have been reported in the first half of this year occurred in waters in Southeast Asia. According to IMB director Pottengal Mukundan, "the serious attacks are the hijackings of the tankers in Southeast Asia and this year there has been a higher number in the first two quarters of this year than in the first two quarters of 2014." The IMB has reported that overall, attacks in Southeast Asia are greater in number than those of all the other regions combined. Furthermore, one-third of all incidents in that region occurred off the coast of Indonesia, however the IMB has noted that "the majority of these related to low-level opportunistic theft from vessels." According to IMB figures, in the first half of 2015, there were 54 actual or attempted attacks that occurred in or near Indonesian waters, compared to 47 that were reported during the same period last year. Waters off Vietnam also saw an increase in pirate activity. In the first half of last year, there was only one incident reported in the area, however this year, there have already been 11 incidents reported. The IMB also reported a significant increase in armed robber attacks on vessels in Bangladesh, particularly in Chittagong. In the second quarter of this year, there were 10 incidents reported compared to only one that was reported in the first three months of 2015.

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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