

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.

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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.

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- Security Consulting
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 - Training
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- 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 (October 26 – November 1, 2015 - Week 44; Edition 113)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

Gulf of Guinea/West Africa: Two late reported incidents during this reporting period

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

Southeast Asia: One hijacking and three late reported incidents during this reporting period

South America: No incidents reported during this reporting period

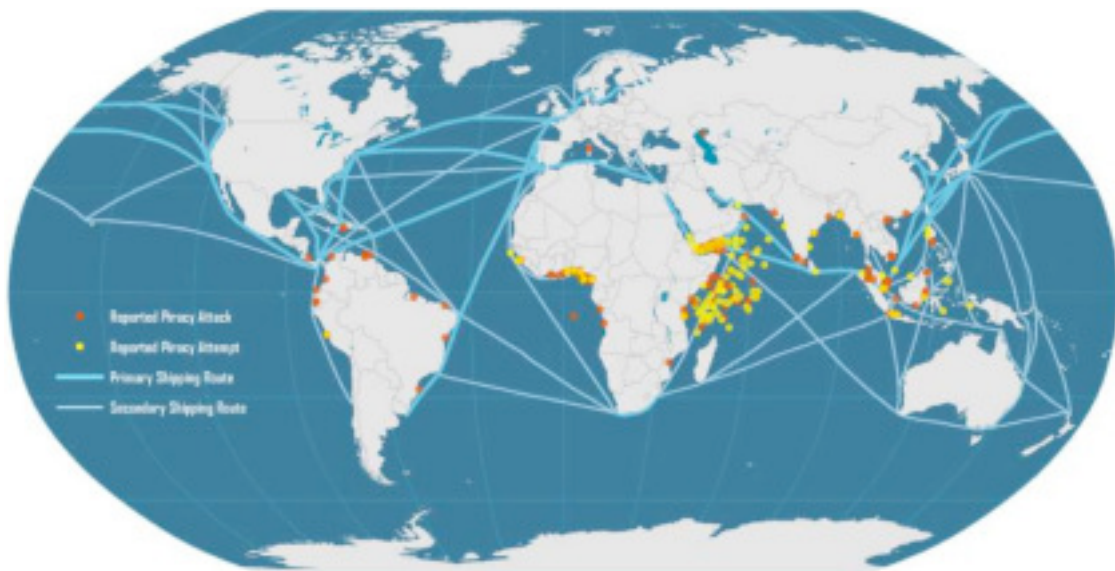
North America: No current incidents to report

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.

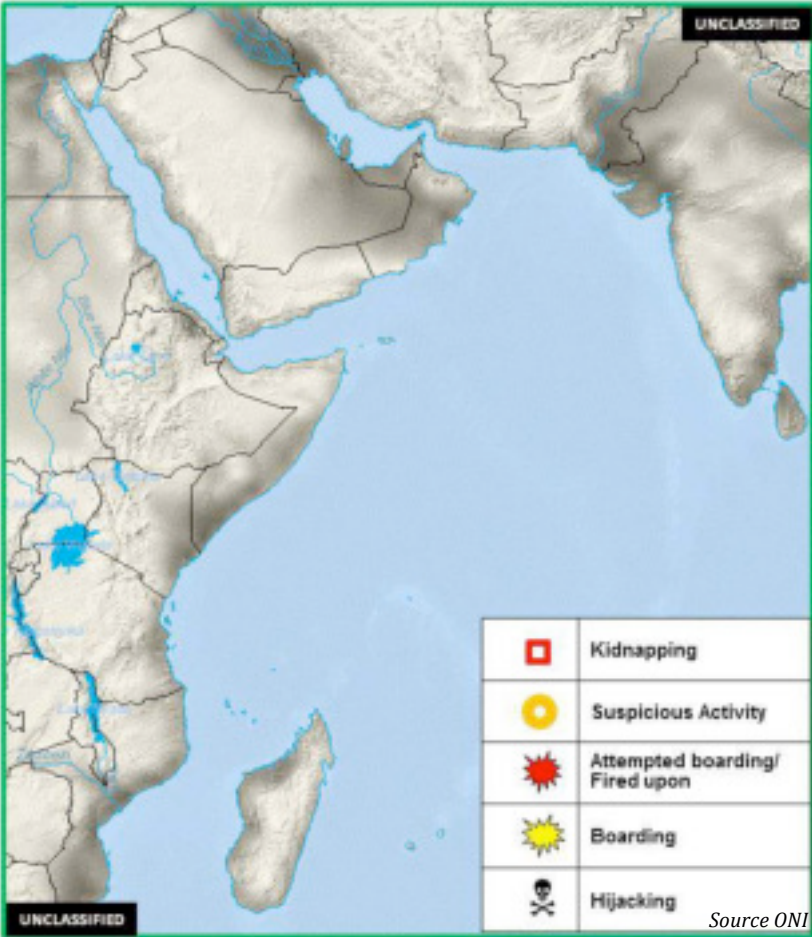
Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

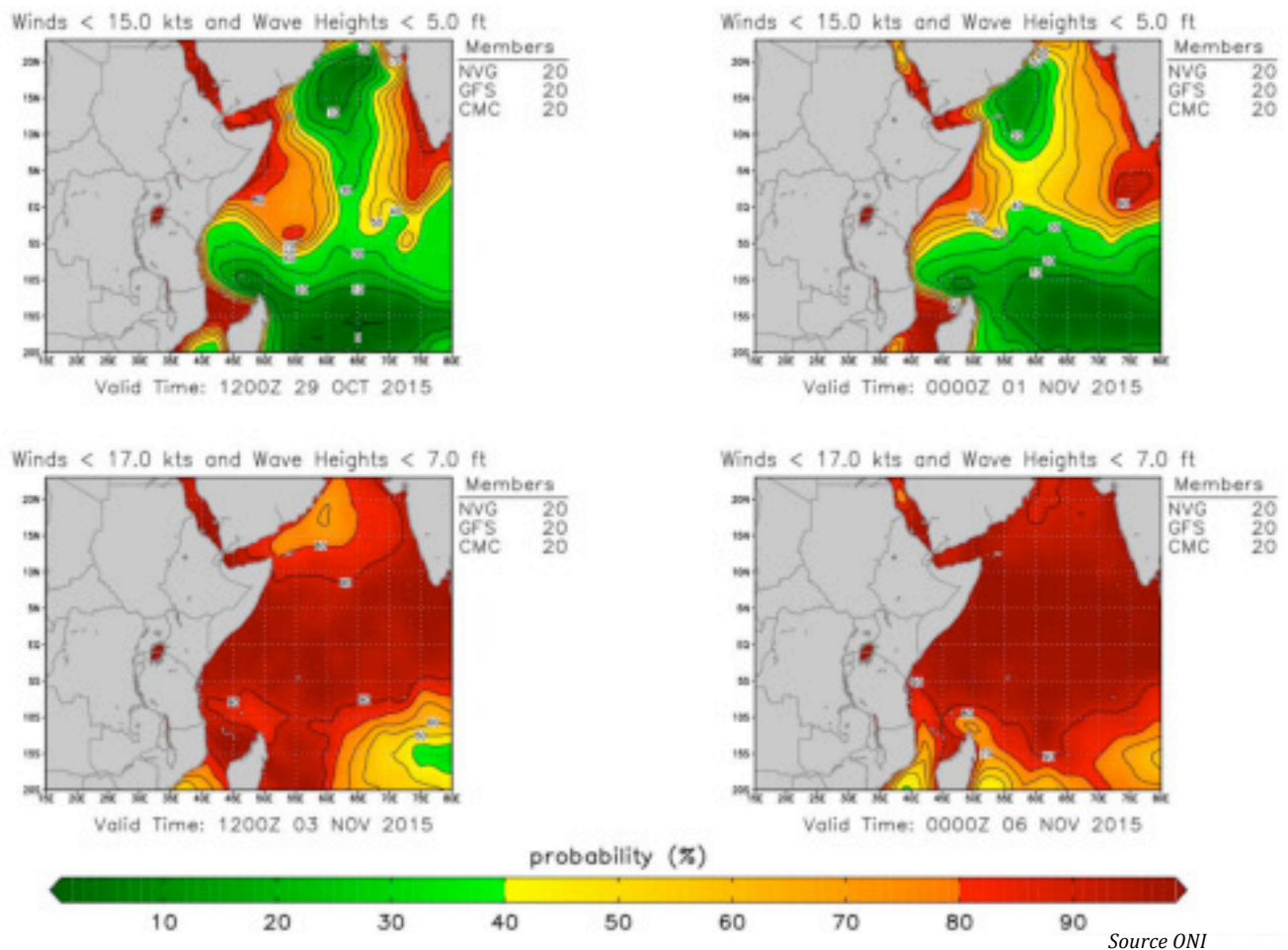
Incident Map



Weather Forecast for Horn of Africa

- **Northern Arabian Sea** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots, gusting to 25 knots, and seas of 4 – 6 feet, increasing to 9 – 12 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots, gusting to 25 knots; increasing to 20 – 25 knots, gusting to 50 knots, and seas of 9 – 12 feet, increasing to 12 – 15 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 8 – 13 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 8 – 13 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 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 8 – 13 knots, increasing to 10 – 15 knots, gusting to 20 knots, and seas of 8 – 12 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – East-northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern section of the coastline; in the southern section of the coastline, winds will be southeasterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the southern section of the coastline.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – South-southeast winds of 12 – 17 knots, gusting to 22 knots, and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – South-southeast winds of 12 – 17 knots, gusting to 22 knots, and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Southeast winds of 13 – 18 knots, gusting to 23 knots, and seas of 6 – 9 feet in the northern Channel; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 13 – 18 knots, gusting to 23 knots, and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the northern Channel; with northeast winds of 17 – 22 knots, gusting to 30 knots, and seas of 6 – 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** – High pressure is influencing the region, which is producing favorable conditions for the majority of the region. A tropical cyclone is continuing to strengthen and will slowly transit through the southern Arabian Sea and could produce moderate to significant impacts in this region.



*** In the graphic above, green shading represents a reduced likelihood of pirate activity while red represents a higher likelihood of pirate activity ***

On the Ground Reporting

- **1 October 2015** – On Sunday, security forces in Mogadishu fought for several hours before clearing a hotel of al-Shabaab gunmen who had stormed the building after two bombs ripped into it. At least thirteen people were killed. According to Ahmed Nur, a police officer, a car bomb rammed the entrance to the hotel and was followed by a second blast, which a security guard disclosed was another vehicle bomb. Nur further disclosed that after a gun battle that lasted several hours, the hotel had been cleared of gunmen, adding, “the hotel has been entirely secured.” Police officials have reported that amongst those killed were the hotel owner, a lawmaker, a former senior military commander, a radio journalist and other civilians. The hotel is located near a busy area in the capital city known as K-4. Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the assault on the Sahafi hotel, which is where government officials and lawmakers usually frequent. On Sunday, al-Shabaab’s military operations spokesman indicated that “mujahideen entered and took over Sahafi hotel where enemies lived.” The incident mirrored tactics used before by al-Shabaab, in which it detonates bombs in order to break through security at targets and then sends in fighters.
- **28 October 2015** – The United Nations has reported that flash floods in Somalia have destroyed thousands of makeshift homes, as well as latrines and shallow wells. The UN has predicted that up to 900,000 people could be hit by the strongest El Nino weather phenomenon in decades. Experts have indicated that the floods, which have made roads impassable and which have cut thousands from aid, could reverse many of the humanitarian gains that have been achieved in the southern region of the country since 2011, when the Horn of African nation was devastated by famine. In a statement issued late on Tuesday, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) indicated that “the El Nino conditions come amid an already fragile humanitarian situation,” adding that some 3.2 million Somalia, about a third of the population, already needed life-saving aid and over one million were internally displaced prior to the rains beginning on 7 October. The statement further reported that “flash floods have affected thousands of people in the low lying areas of the southern and central parts of Somalia.” While the UN indicated that it could not give a figure for the number of people hit by flooding nationwide, its regional breakdown detailed over 55,000 affected, at least 18,000 of whom had been displaced, in seven areas, adding that between 500,000 and 900,000 Somalis could be affected by El Nino. El Nino, which is caused by warming of the Pacific Ocean, has caused drought in other areas of Africa, including Ethiopia, where eight million people need food aid. In Somalia, aid workers have pre-positioned boats, food, medical supplies and hygiene and sanitation kits in the most at risk areas. Furthermore, river banks are being strengthened while people displaced in the capital Mogadishu have been moved to higher ground. The OCHA has reported that “protection efforts include a particular focus on internally displaced (IDP) given that many of the existing IDP settlements are located in areas prone to flooding, with shelters providing insufficient protection against heavy rains and winds.” They Dey rains, which are one of the country’s two annual rainy seasons, typically end in December, while this year’s El Nino phenomenon is expected to peak between October and January and may turn into one of the strongest on record.

Regional Reporting

- **30 October 2015** – Sources have reported that hundreds of students at Moi University, in western Kenya, are fleeing the school's dorms over fears of a deadly extremist attack by some of their previous colleagues. On the ground sources have disclosed that students were seeking accommodation outside the campus in the town of Eldoret after it was revealed that four missing students allegedly joined Somali-based extremist group al-Shabaab, which has claimed responsibility for the 2 April gun attack on Garissa University that killed 148 people. University Vice Chancellor Richard Mibey has reported that rumours that the four missing students had threatened to come back to attack the institution were causing panic. Sources have reported that heavily armed policemen were deployed to the campus, which has about 30,000 people, however students still were not confident about the security. Earlier this month, Kenyan officials warned of the threat of an attack by al-Shabaab, which has vowed retribution for Kenya's continued troop presence in Somalia.

GULF OF GUINEA

Executive Summary

Pirate and maritime crime activity in waters off West Africa is currently at a low level, with two late reported incidents, including a kidnapping, 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:

- **25 October 2015 (Late Report)** – A large canoe made a suspicious approach against an oil platform near position 04:19 N – 008:28 E, approximately 11 nautical miles offshore from the Bakassi area. A security vessel responded and the canoe turned around and headed into Nigerian territorial waters, only to return a short while later with an additional speedboat. Persons in both boats reported fired at the security vessel, which returned fire, and both boats retreated back into Nigerian territorial waters.

Vessels Boarded:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

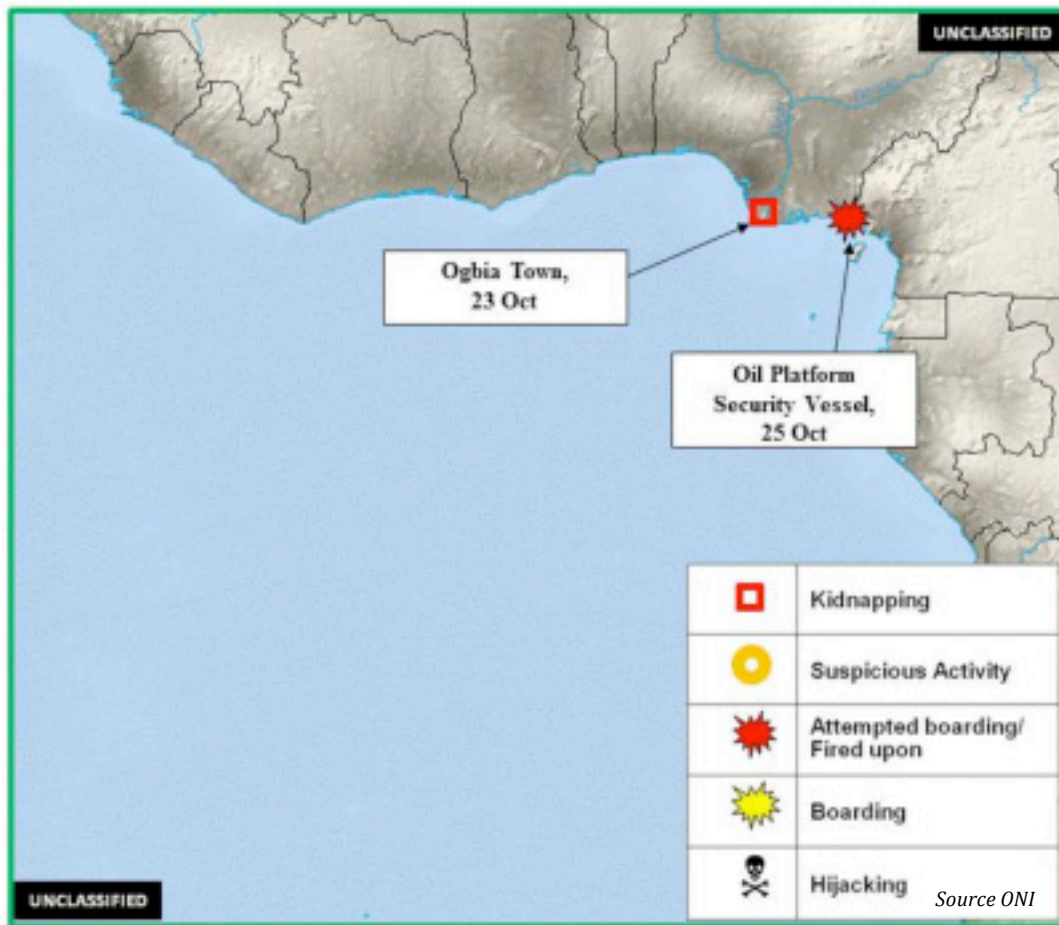
Kidnapping:

- **23 October 2015 (Late Report)** – A community leader in Ogbia Town, Ogbia Local Government Area, Bayelsa State, Chief Geoffrey Agorodo, has been kidnapped by unknown gunmen. The gunmen were reportedly dressed in army uniforms when they struck at Ogbia waterfront and seized the man. They were said to have taken Agorodo to a waiting speedboat and escaped after shooting sporadically in a bid to scare people away.

Other Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Incident Map



Weather Forecast for Gulf of Guinea

- **Gulf of Guinea** – Southwest winds of 12 – 18 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:

- **26 October 2015** – A German-flagged sailing yacht, FARAWAY, was reportedly hijacked in the Lombok Strait near Bali Island. Two German citizens were onboard. No ransom demand has been made.

Vessels Boarded:

- **22 October 2015 (Late Report)** – Three robbers armed with long knives boarded an underway bulk carrier near position 01:06 N – 103:32 E, 7.57 nautical miles east-northeast of Pulau Karimun Besar. Duty oiler sighted the robbers in the engine room storeroom and immediately informed the bridge. The ship's master raised the alarm followed by a ship's loudspeaker announcement. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. An Indonesian naval vessel approached the bulk carrier for assistance. Upon arrival in Singapore, a Coast Guard crew boarded for investigation.
 - A duty crewman on anti-piracy and robbery watch onboard an anchored bulk carrier noticed six robbers climbing onto the forecastle using a rope attached to a hook, near position 20:41 N – 107:13 E, Cai Lan Anchorage. He notified the duty officer, who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped. A search of the vessel was carried out and nothing was found stolen. Port authority and local agents were informed of the incident.

Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boarding's:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

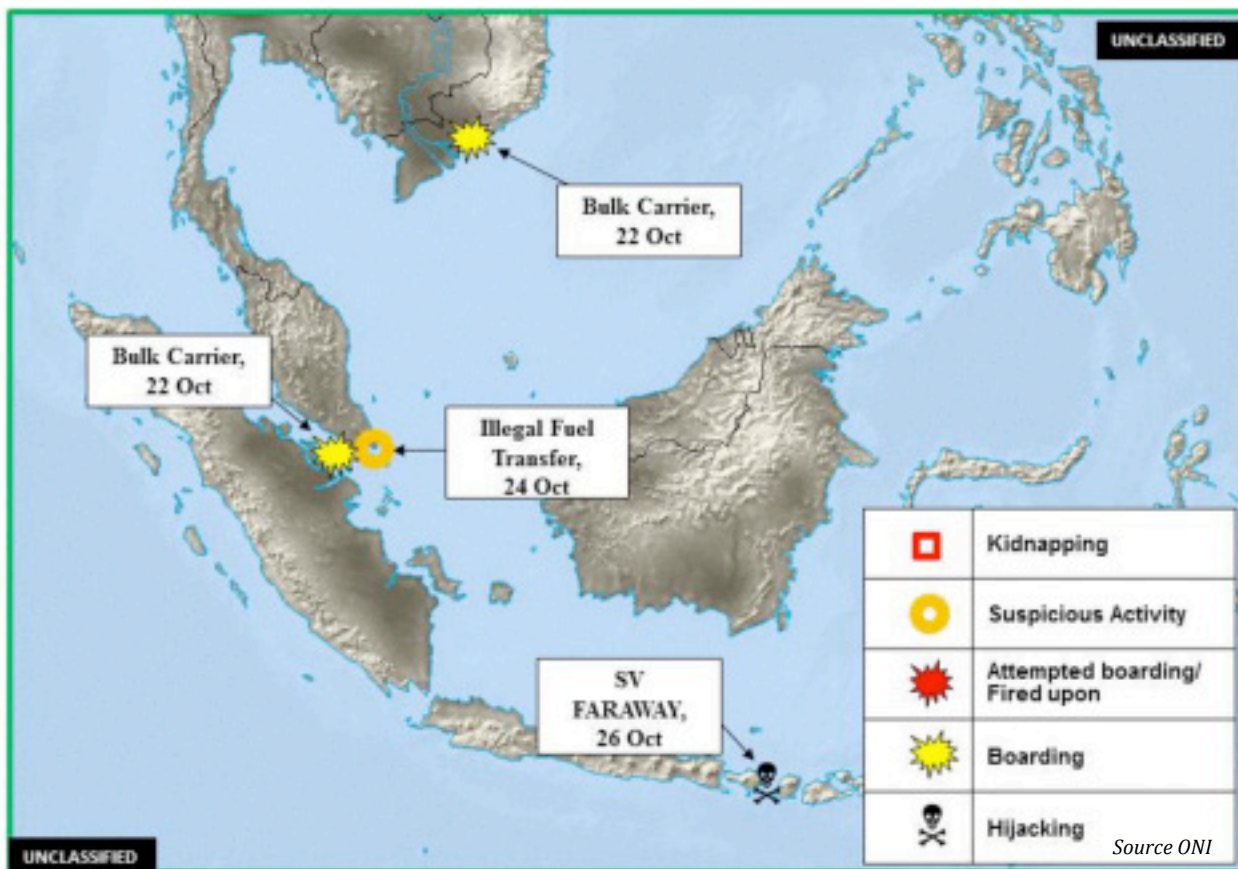
- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Other Activity:

- **24 October 2015 (Late Report)** – The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) detained two vessels over the alleged illegal transfer of fuel off Pengerang, Malaysia. According to an MMEA official, the agency arrested Singapore-registered CHELSEA II and China-registered LU RONG YUAN YU 978, about 2.2 nautical miles southeast of Tanjung Ayman. At the time of the arrest, CHELSEA II was transferring about 45,500 tonnes of marine gas oil to LU RONG YUAN YU 978.

Incident Map

Weather Forecast for Southeast Asia

- **South China Sea** – Northeast winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Malacca Strait** – Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; with variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the southern Strait.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; with variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the southern Strait.
- **Andaman Sea** – Northerly winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northerly winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
- **Surface Currents** – Currents in the South China Sea and Malacca Strait average speeds of 1 knots, while currents in the Andaman Sea average 1 – 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – High pressure is influencing the northern portions of the region while the ITCZ is impacting the southern portions. The Andaman Sea, Malacca Strait, and southern South China Sea will see isolated rain showers and thunderstorms throughout the forecast period.

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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