

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.

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

- Security Consulting
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 - 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

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Summary (December 7 - 13, 2015 - Week 50; Edition 119)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

Gulf of Guinea/West Africa: One incident of illegal bunkering reported during this reporting period

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

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

South America: No incidents reported during this reporting period

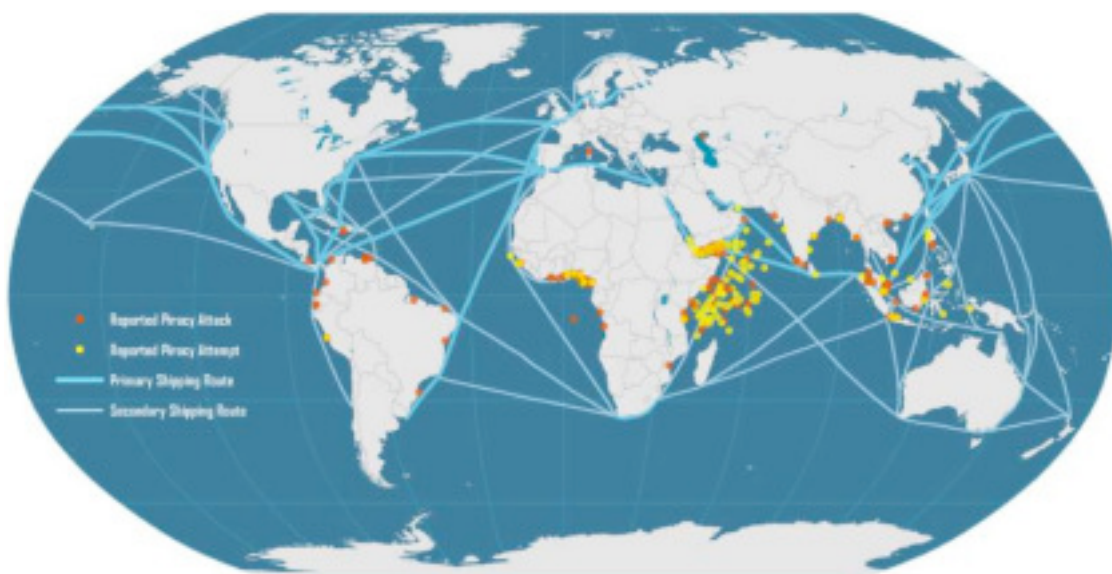
North America: No current incidents to report

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.

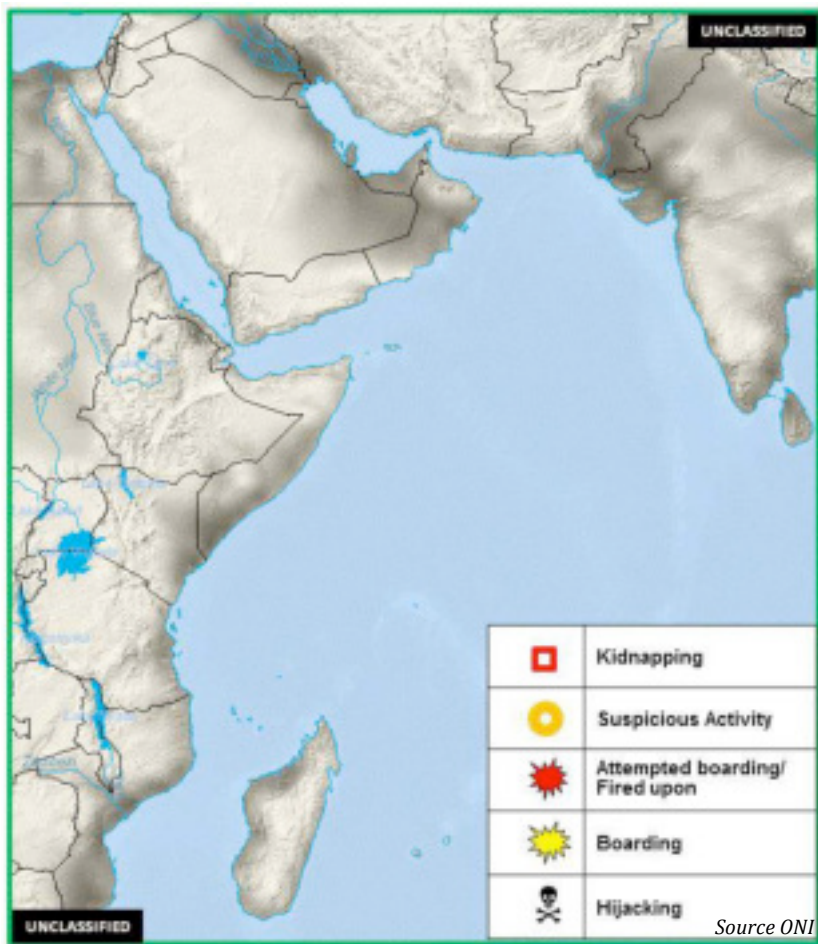
Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

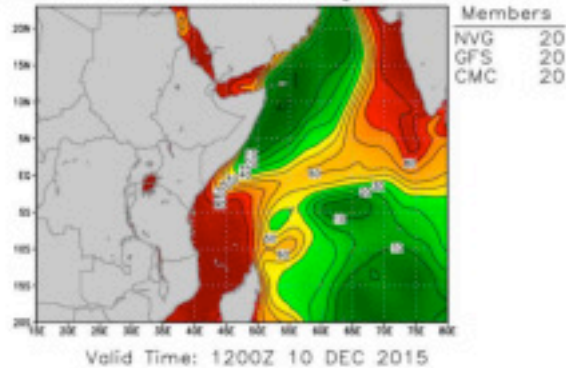
Incident Map



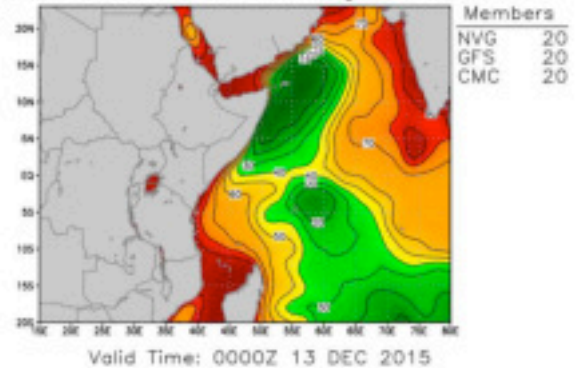
Weather Forecast for Horn of Africa

- **Northern Arabian Sea** – Northeast winds of 18 – 22 knots and seas of 6 – 9 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 4 – 7 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Variable 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 west-northwesterly at 10 – 15 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Easterly winds of 8 – 13 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 12 – 18 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – East-northeast winds of 8 – 13 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – Northeast winds of 18 – 22 knots, gusting to 28 knots, and seas of 8 – 11 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with east-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern section of the coastline.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 9 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with east-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern section of the coastline.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – East-northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – East-northeast winds of 8 – 13 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** – In the northern Channel, winds will be northerly at 8 – 13 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 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 is underway in the Somali Basin. As the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) continues to transition south, rain showers and thunderstorms increase along the Somali and Western African coasts. Isolated thunderstorms and rain can be routinely expected in these areas.

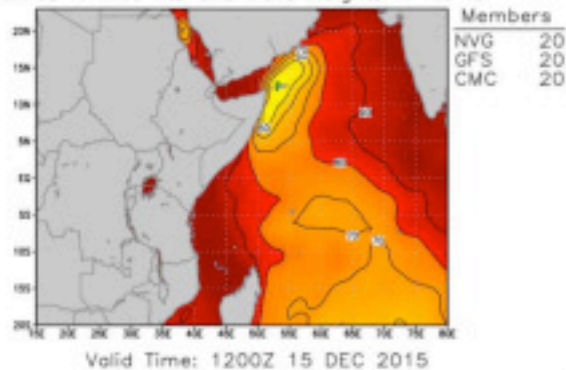
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



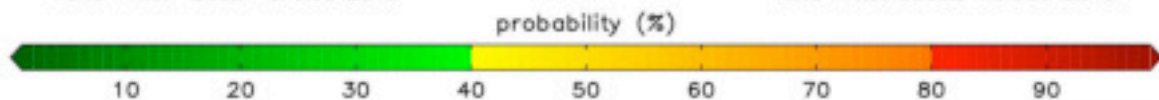
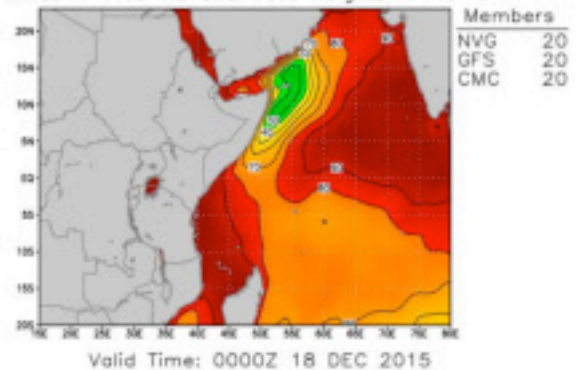
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



Source ONI

*** 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

- **11 December 2015** – On Friday, the so-called Islamic State (IS) group accused Somali's al-Qaeda affiliate al-Shabaab of killing several jihadi leaders who defected to its side, including a Sudanese who was sentenced to death for killing a US diplomat in Khartoum and his driver. In a detailed report, which was posted on two IS-affiliated websites on Friday, IS stated that al-Shabaab leaders ordered the killing and detentions of dozens of jihadis who expressed their willingness to join IS. The report indicated that they include Mohamed Makawi, a Sudanese who took part in the drive-by shooting of John Granville and his driver in Khartoum on 1 January 2008. Makawi and another accomplice, Abdelbasit Haj Hamad, were amongst four who were sentenced to death in Sudan for killing Granville, however they escaped from prison in 2010. The US offered up to US \$10 million for information leading to the capture of the two men.
- **8 December 2015** – The US State Department has revealed that an American resident, a Minnesota man named Mohamed Abdullahi Hassan, who joined al-Shabaab in Somalia more than seven years ago, surrendered to Somalia's federal government on 6 November. It is not immediately clear why his arrest was not announced earlier. Hassan was a lawful permanent resident of the US but not an American citizen. He had been fighting with al-Shabaab however recently went online to urge others to carry out violence on behalf of IS. A State Department spokeswoman has disclosed that Hassan is in the custody of the Somali National Intelligence and Security Agency in Mogadishu, adding that the US is discussing the case with the Somali Federal Government. The spokeswoman noted that Washington does not have an extradition agreement with Somalia. The defections of two fighters, an American who was arrested earlier this week and the US resident, highlight tensions within al-Shabaab, with analysts indicating that the tensions are over whether the militant group should remain affiliated to al-Qaeda or whether it should switch allegiance to the so-called Islamic State (IS) group. According to sources, foreign fighters are being alienated and feel trapped in Somalia over suspicions that they are plotting to switch allegiance to IS, which is fighting in Syria and Iraq. Sources have further reported that the "ambitions" by some foreign fighters within al-Shabaab to join IS have led to them being isolated within the group, with some even facing death at the hands of their comrades-in-arms. Late last month, al-Shabaab's leadership declared that fighters acting in contravention with the mainstream stand to be aligned with al-Qaeda would represent "Bid'ah," or misguidance, which would lead to them being killed.
- On Tuesday, the United Nations reported that at least twenty people were killed, 120 wounded and over 90,000 forced to flee days of rival militia battles that erupted in central Somalia, noting however that the situation has since calmed. According to officials, fighting broke out in the town of Galkayo on 22 November between gunmen loyal to the Puntland and Galmudug districts, with reports indicated that heavy gunfire, as well as mortars and artillery, were heard. Clashes continued after a ceasefire agreement, which was reached last week, however on the ground sources have disclosed that the situation has since been quieter. A statement released by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) disclosed that "relative calm has returned...armed forces from both states have started to withdraw from the frontline." The statement warned that the clashes had affected many people already struggling and in need of aid. Galkayo, which straddles the border between the two districts, has seen frequent fighting erupt between rival political or clan groups.

- **7 December 2015** – The Pentagon has confirmed that a top al-Shabaab military commander was killed in a US airstrike on 2 December. According to Pentagon spokesman Captain Jeff Davis, Abdirahman Sandhere, also known as ‘Ukash,’ was heavily involved in operations in Barawe, Lower Shabelle region and was killed in the village of Kunyo Barrow, which is located near the capital Mogadishu. Davis has disclosed that “Ukash’s removal from the battlefield is a significant blow to al-Shabaab and reflects the painstaking work by our intelligence, military and law enforcement professionals,” adding, “this is an important step forward in the fight against al-Shabaab, and the United States will continue to use the tools at our disposal – financial, diplomatic, intelligence and military – to dismantle al-Shabaab and other terrorist groups who threaten United States interests and persons.”
- On Monday, Somali security forces arrested an American who was fighting with the Islamic extremist group al-Shabaab. According to African Union (AU) spokesman Col. Paul Njuguna, Abdimalik Jones, who has said that he is from San Diego, was arrested in the southern port of Barawe, which is located southwest of Mogadishu. An official with Somali security forces has reported that Jones claimed that he fled al-Shabaab because of rifts within the rebel group, adding that he fled following his decision to pledge allegiance to al-Qaeda’s main rival, the so-called Islamic State (IS) group. An official has disclosed that Jones is missing the index finger of his right hand and that he does not speak any Somali, adding that he had been fighting with the al-Qaeda-linked group for several years in Somalia. Reports have indicated that he admitted to taking part in the attack at Garissa University in neighboring Kenya earlier this year, which left nearly 150 people dead. The arrest of an American comes amidst signs of increasing tensions within al-Shabaab between Somali and foreign fighters over whether the insurgents should remain aligned with al-Qaeda or should switch allegiance to IS.

Regional Reporting

- **11 December 2015** – On Friday, a grenade attack during evening prayers wounded twenty-four people, five of them seriously, at the largest mosque in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. Information Minister Getachew Reda confirmed that attack, stating that while investigations are currently underway, authorities are not sure who is responsible for the attack, which targeted the Grand Anwar Mosque. Despite deploying troops to neighboring Somalia, to fight al-Qaeda-linked militant group al-Shabaab, Ethiopia has largely avoided retaliatory attacks from the militants. Ethiopian authorities have, however, jailed a number of Muslims on charges of terrorism and a conspiracy to establish an Islamic State in the country. In August, a court sentenced eighteen people to lengthy prison terms. Al-Shabaab has previously targeted Ethiopia’s neighbors, including Kenya, Uganda and Djibouti, who have also deployed troops to Somalia under the banner of the African Union (AU) in a bid to bolster the country’s weak UN-backed government from an insurgency by the militants.
- **7 December 2015** – People living in northeastern Kenya have reported that they have discovered at least twenty bodies that have been buried in shallow graves. While the identity of the bodies remain unclear, one of the bodies is suspected to be that of a woman who was reported missing a week ago. According to locals, the bodies were found by a herder who was looking for his animals, adding that he noticed signs of

wild jackals in the area near the border with Somalia. The residents of ethnic Somali-dominated districts in the region have repeatedly accused Kenya's security agencies of being behind the arrest and disappearance of youths suspected to have links with Somali-based militant group al-Shabaab. However Kenya's security forces have denied charges that they have been killing ethnic Somalis. A report compiled by campaign group Human Rights Watch last year disclosed that there was strong evidence that Kenya's Anti-Terrorism Police Unit has carried out a series of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances in the region. Kenya's security forces have also denied that allegation.

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.

Vessels Boarded:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Kidnapping:

- None reported during this period.

Other Activity:

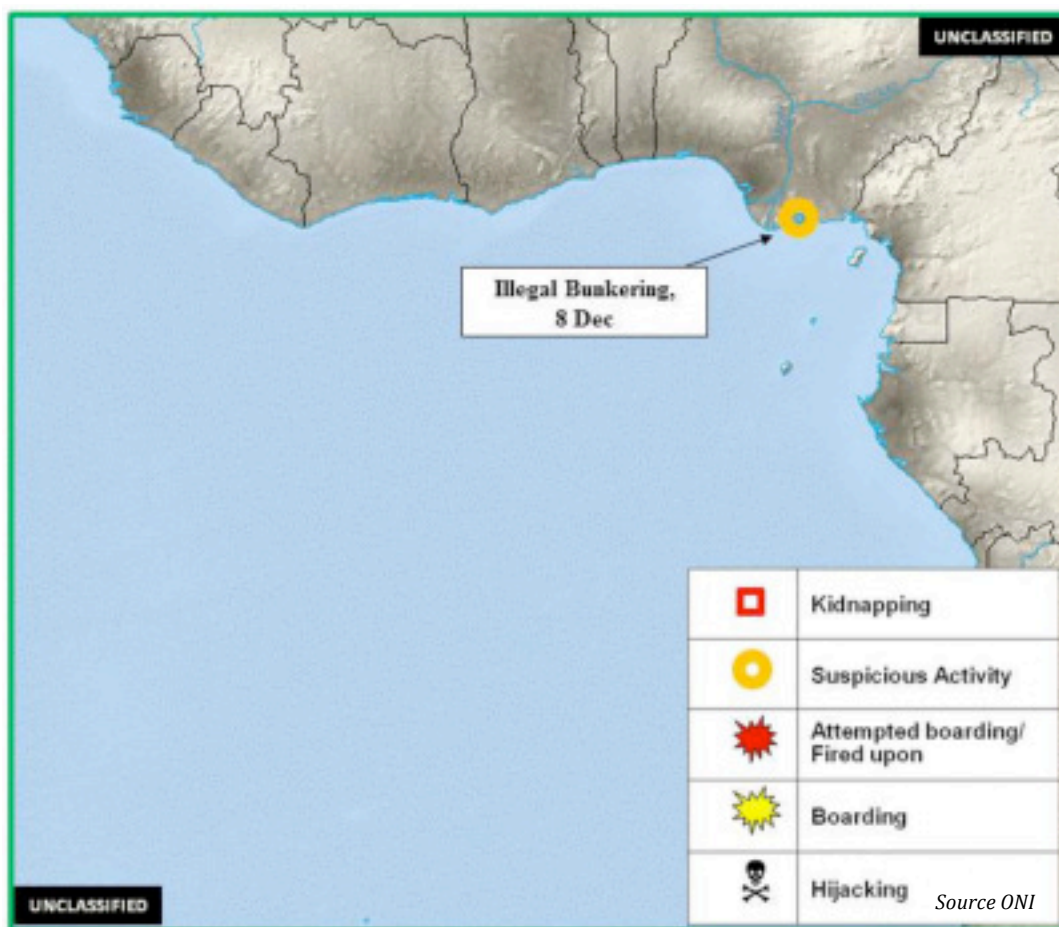
- **8 December 2015** – The Nigerian Navy impounded five vessels and two barges carrying 1.91 million liters of stolen diesel fuel during an inspection operation at the port of Onne, Port Harcourt. The vessels – MT MONA, MT ALICE, MT PURITY, MV SOLUTION III, MT TRADER – and two barges – ATLANTIC I and ATLANTIC II – were held and their crews were being questioned.

Piracy Reporting

- **8 December 2015** – Poland's prime minister announced on Tuesday that five Polish seamen abducted by pirates from a cargo vessel off Nigeria's coast in late November have been freed, adding that they will

return home soon. Beata Szydlo called a news conference to announce that the men were safe and in the care of Polish consular authorities in Nigeria, adding that they would be able to spend Christmas with their families in Poland. Standing next to Szydlo, Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski thanked the Nigerian authorities for their help. While neither Polish official provided details of how the men were freed, or whether any ransom was demanded or paid, the Foreign Ministry issued a statement indicating that the cargo ship company, EuroAfrica, “led tedious and difficult negotiations with the kidnappers.”

Incident Map



Weather Forecast for Gulf of Guinea

- **Gulf of Guinea** – South-southwest winds of 8 – 13 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – South-southwest winds of 8 – 13 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:

- **3 December 2015 (Late Report)** – Two gunmen hijacked a Thailand-flagged fishing vessel south of Phuket. The gunmen abandoned the six crewmembers on a nearby island. A patrol boat from the Royal Thai Navy rescued the crewmen. The pirates were later caught by Malaysian Police.

Vessels Boarded:

- **8 December 2015** – Duty watchman on routine rounds onboard an anchored chemical tanker noticed a suspicious person on the main deck near position 03:57 N – 098:47 E, Belawan Anchorage. He notified the duty officer who in turn raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Upon hearing the alarm, the person escaped empty handed in a wooden motor boat with his three accomplices. The incident was reported to port authorities.
- **4 December 2015 (Late Report)** – Robbers in a wooden boat, armed with long knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 20:42 N – 107:10 E, Campha Outer Anchorage. The robbers boarded the vessel and threatened the crewmen on anti-piracy watch. The crewmen notified the duty officer and retreated into the accommodation area. The vessel's alarm was raised and the crew was mustered and remained on the bridge until the robbers departed with stolen ship's stores.

Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boarding's:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

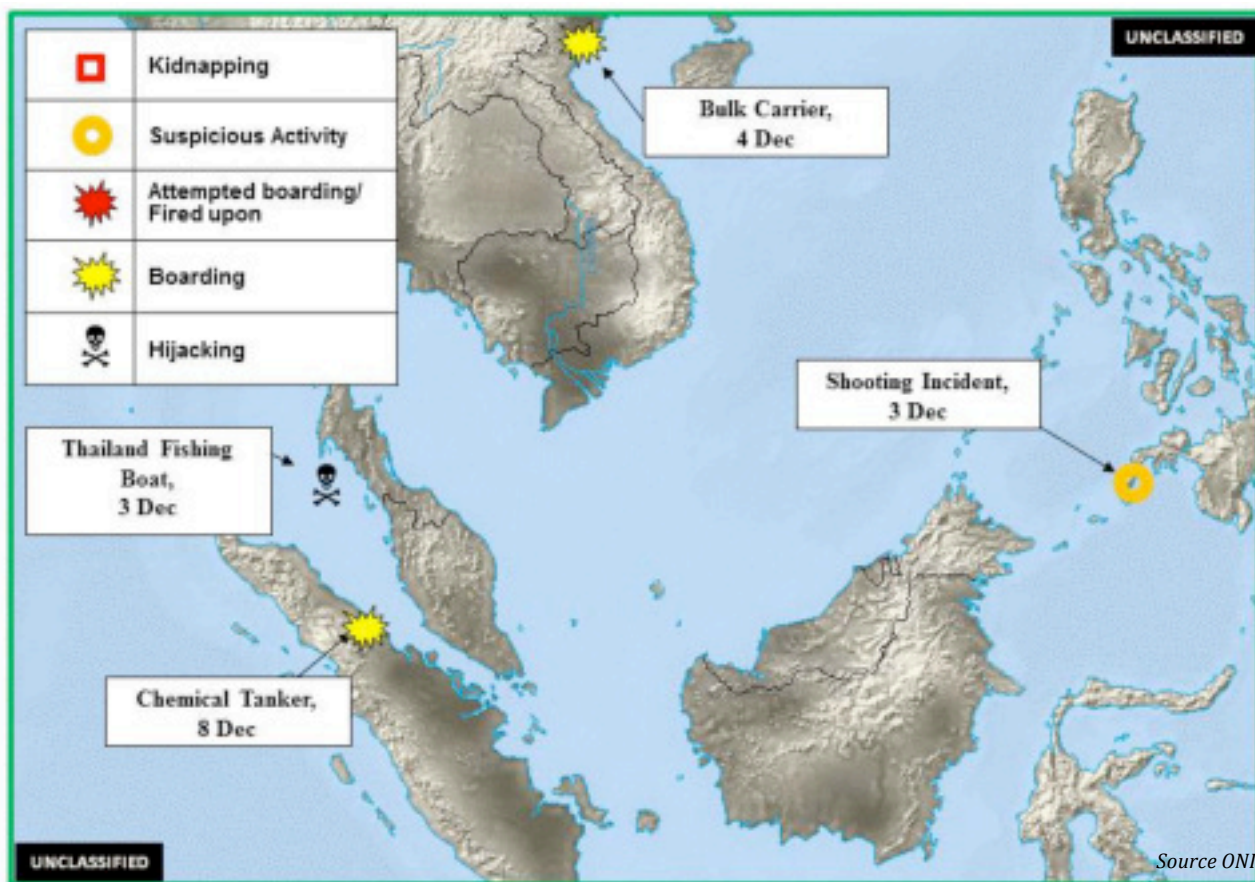
Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Other Activity:

- **3 December 2015 (Late Report)** – A fishing vessel captain shot his crew, killing one and injuring another on the high seas off Gotalac town, Zamboanga del Norte. The suspect, the captain of L/B KALEIGH 502, was arrested during a pursuit operation. The slain victim was the chief engineer. Another crew member shot by the captain went missing after falling overboard. The other crew members were rescued several hours after jumping off the ship to escape the shooting.

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 15 – 20 knots and seas of 4 – 6 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; in the southern Strait, winds will be variable at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
- **Andaman Sea** – North-northeast winds of 8 – 13 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – North-northeast winds of 8 – 13 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 to 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – High pressure is influencing the northern portions of the region while the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (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.

SPECIAL REPORT: REVIEW OF PIRACY IN ASIA (NOVEMBER 2015)

Number of Incidents Reported in November 2015

For a consecutive third month, there has been an improvement in the situation of piracy and armed robbery against vessels in Asia in November 2015. Compared to the previous month, October 2015, there has been a 53% decline in the number of incidents that were reported. Over the course of November, there were a total of seven incidents of armed robbery against ships that were recorded, compared to fifteen incidents reported in October 2015. Furthermore, of these seven incidents, six were actual incidents and one was an attempted incident.

While there has been a continued decline – as there have been no incidents involving the hijacking of tankers for theft or cargo oil reported and for the first time in 2015 there was no report of an incident occurring on board a vessel while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) - MS Risk reminds all vessels transiting this region that there is no room for complacency as further incidents are likely to occur. Furthermore, it is important to note that more needs to be done at certain ports and anchorages throughout the region. Specifically port authorities and enforcement agencies must enhance their surveillance while shipmasters and crewmembers must maintain stringent watch keeping while their vessels are anchored there.

Location of Incidents

Of the 7 incidents that were recorded in November 2015, three of them occurred in Indonesia; three occurred in Vietnam, and one attempted incident occurred in the SOMS.

During this reporting month, there was one attempted incident that occurred in the SOMS. It involved a tug boat, SALVIGILANT, which was towing a barge, POE GIANT 1, while underway in the westbound lane of TSS. In this incident, a small boat attempted to board the barge by coming alongside, however the boarding was aborted when the Master of the ship raised the alarm.

Of note is that for the first time in 2015, there was no incident of robbery reported on board vessels while underway in the eastbound lane of the SOMS.

Incidents: January – November 2015

From January 2015 until November 2015, a total of 183 incidents, comprising of 170 actual and 13 attempted incidents, were recorded in the region. This is 98% of the total number of incidents that were reported in all of 2014.

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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