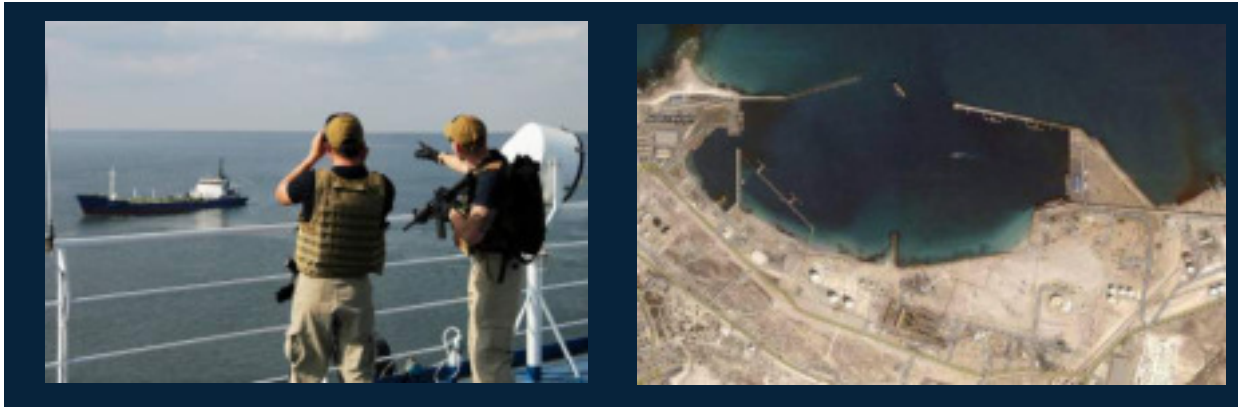




Maritime Security Review

29 February 2016

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Summary

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

Main Regions

Gulf of Aden/Arabian Sea: No incidents reported during this period

Gulf of Guinea: One vessel attacked off the coast of Nigeria during this reporting period

Southeast Asia: One late reported incident and one update to previously reported incident

Worldwide

North America: No current incidents to report

Central America/Caribbean/South America: One incident and two late reported incidents

Atlantic Ocean Area: No current incidents to report

Northern Europe/Baltic: No current incidents to report

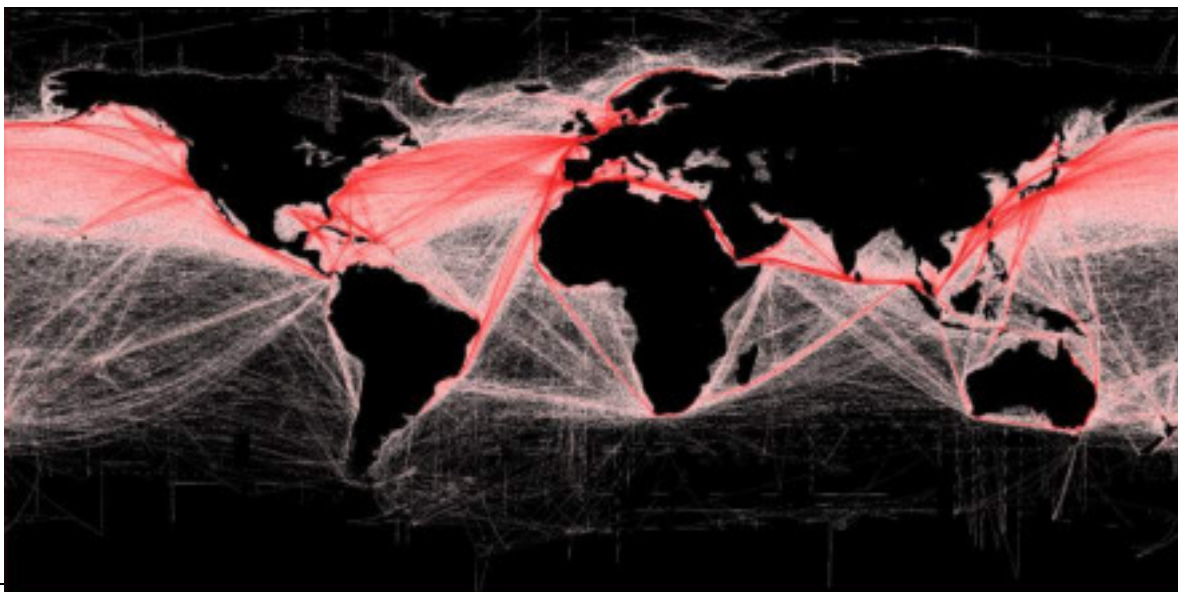
Mediterranean/Black Sea: One reported incident

Arabian Gulf: One late reported incident

East Asia/Indian Subcontinent: No current incidents to report

Northeast Asia: No current incidents to report

Pacific Ocean/Southern Ocean: No current incidents to report



Gulf of Aden/Arabian Sea

Somalia

Pirate and maritime crime activity in waters off East Africa remains at a low level, with no reports of suspicious activity during this reporting period.

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.

Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boardings

- None reported during this period.

Vessels Boarded

- None reported during this period.

Kidnapping

- None reported during this period.

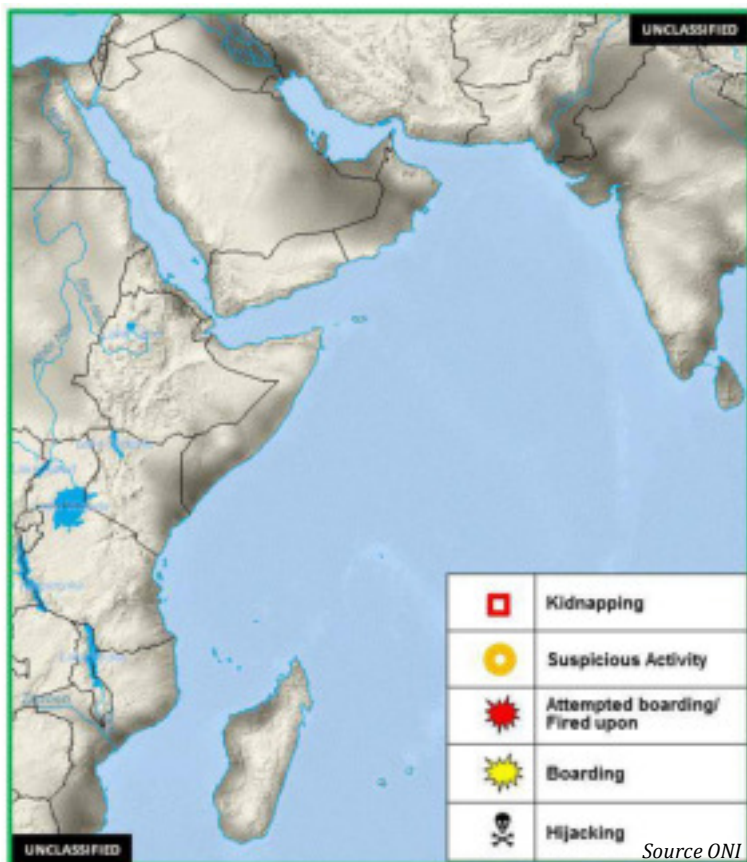
Suspicious Activity

- None reported during this period.

Other Activity

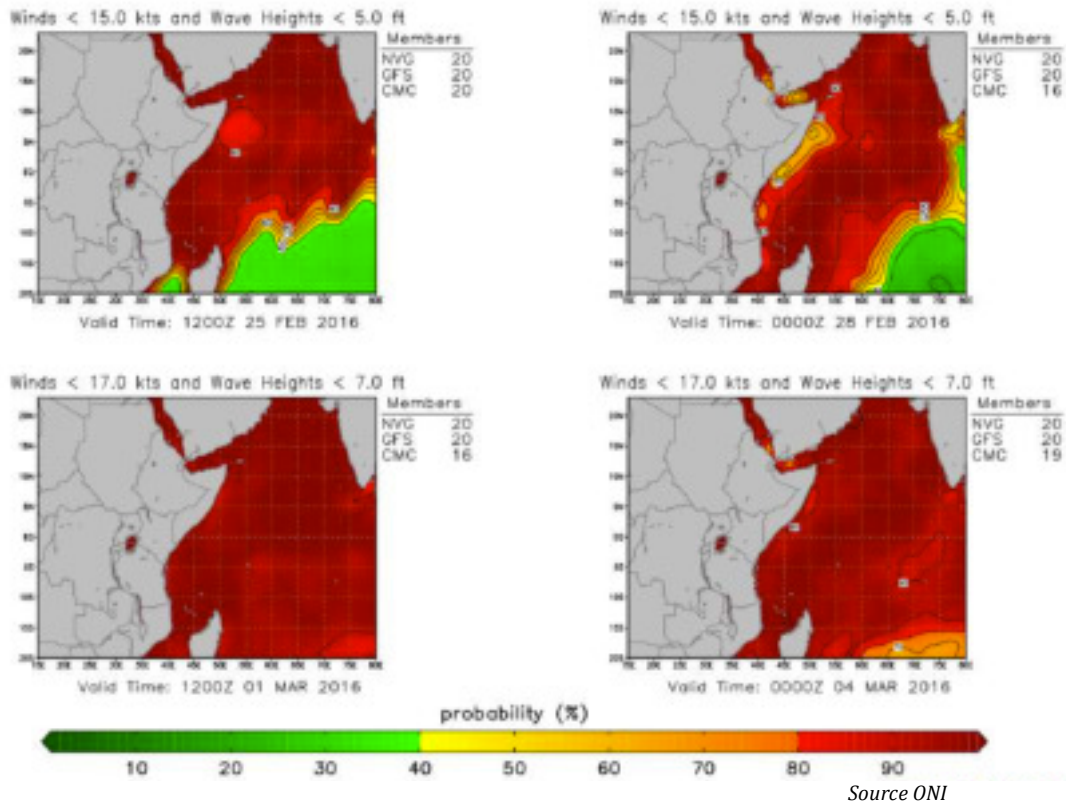
- None reported during this period.

Incident Map



Weather Forecast for Gulf of Aden/Arabian Sea

- **Northern Arabian Sea:** Northerly winds of 8 – 13 knots with seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Northerly winds of 8 – 13 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman:** Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with west-northwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with west-northwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden:** East-northeast winds of 13 – 18 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 1 – 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast:** East-northeast winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 18 – 22 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast:** Northeast winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with east-northeast winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the southern section of the coastline.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Northeast winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with east-northeast winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the southern section of the coastline.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean:** Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel:** Northerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southeasterly at 15 – 20 knots with seas of 5 – 8 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Northerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Channel; with east-southeast winds of 12 – 15 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:** The Northeast Monsoon is currently underway in the Somali Basin. Isolated thunderstorms and rain showers can be routinely expected along the Somali and eastern Africa coasts.



Spotlight Report: Yemen

As of 28 February, the following ports in Yemen are open:

- Aden
- Hodeidah
- Mokha
- Mukalla
- Salif

The remaining ports are closed due to the ongoing conflict between the pro-government coalition and Houthi rebels. **NOTE:** In a message dated 5 February, the Saudi Embassy in London has advised international organisations and aid agencies to move offices and staff from regions where Houthi Militia and supporters are active. The UN has reiterated that aid efforts will continue to facilitate access per the Saudi de-confliction mechanism. MS Risk advises that shipmasters and owners stay up-to-date on the situation, and be aware of changes to maritime guidelines for entry into Yemeni territorial waters.

Activity Report

Fighting has remained intense in Yemen as factions supportive of the Yemeni government continue to combat Houthi rebel forces and their allies. Amid the unrest, terrorist groups Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and the so-called Islamic State have expanded their presence in the region.

The expansion of Houthi control has given the rebel group control of areas surrounding key ports on Yemen's western border. As fighting between pro-government and Houthi forces enter their second year, Al Qaeda has used the power vacuum to gain control over key cities, including the port city of al Mukalla. In January, coalition forces evacuated unregistered ships from al Mukalla port; AQAP has responded by reinforcing its presence throughout the city and at key checkpoints.

Meanwhile, ISIS has conducted targeted attacks and assassinations in an effort to gain leverage in the poor nation. On 25 January, a Twitter message sent by an IS militant has called for extremists to travel to Yemen. The alleged militant, who calls himself Abu Osama Somali, referenced Wilayat Hadramawt, an ISIS-linked cell operating in eastern Yemen.

The fighting has resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe, as more than 21 million Yemenis are in need of some form of aid. Over 6,000 people had been killed since the beginning of coalition strikes; half were civilians, over 700 among them children.

In the absence of a diplomatic agreement, the situation remains highly volatile. Oil terminals, air and sea ports continue to be targets for strikes, and control over ports could change rapidly. Infrastructure and assets have been purposefully destroyed in an attempt to gain power or prevent the another faction from gaining control of an asset. However, in the event of a diplomatic compromise suitable to both the government and the Houthi rebels, the expansion of militants in the region will likely take longer to address, and could continue to be a destabilising force in the nation.

Procedure

MS Risk advises extreme caution for vessels traveling through the region. There is an increase of violence and criminal activity ashore. Shipping vessels should remain aware of the situation at all times, including changes to protocol when entering Yemeni maritime waters.

Gulf of Guinea

In recent weeks, pirate and maritime crime activity in waters off West Africa, particularly off the coast of Nigeria, increased, with a number of incidents reported. With the hijacking of a tanker off the coast of Ivory Coast earlier this month, pirates may be actively seeking to hijack another vessel. While the entire Gulf of Guinea region remains at a high risk to piracy, MS Risk advises all vessels transiting within 100 nautical miles of Tema, Ghana; Lome, Togo and Cotonou, Benin to remain particularly vigilant.

At Sea

Hijacks

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- None reported during this period.

Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boardings

- None reported during this period.

Vessels Boarded

- None reported during this period.

Kidnapping

- **23 February 2016 (Nigeria)** – *BOURBON LIBERTY 251*, a service vessel from French oil services Bourbon was attacked off the coast of Nigeria and two crewmembers from Russia and Nigeria were reportedly abducted.
- **21 February 2016 (Nigeria - Update)** – Chemical tanker *MAXIMUS* was hijacked on 11 February off Abidjan, Ivory Coast. There were eighteen crewmembers on board from China, India, Pakistan, South Korea, Sudan and Ghana when the vessel was hijacked. The pirates intended to sell the vessel's 4,700 tons of diesel fuel on the black market and had renamed the ship to *ELVIS 5*. On 21 February, the Nigerian Navy boarded the vessel and rescued the crew however two crewmembers, one Pakistani and one Indian, are still missing.

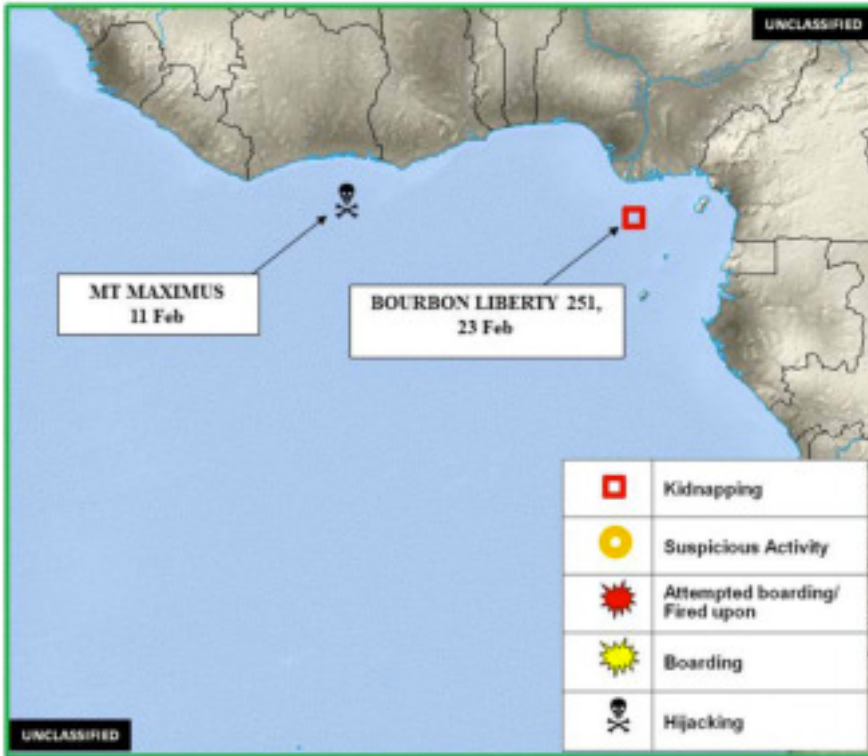
Suspicious Activity

- None reported during this period.

Other Activity

- None reported during this period.

Incident Map



Source ONI

Weather Forecast for Gulf of Guinea

- **Northern Arabian Sea:** 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:** Expected partly to mostly cloudy conditions for the Gulf of Guinea with associated rain showers.

Southeast Asia

Pirate and maritime crime activity in waters off Southeastern Asia remains at a low level however the threat of violent attacks, crime and hijackings remains high across this region. During this reporting period, there was one incident of fuel smuggling and the release of kidnapped fishermen.

Pirate Action Groups (PAG's) operating in this region 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.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- None reported during this period.

Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boardings

- None reported during this period.

Vessels Boarded

- None reported during this period.

Kidnapping

- **18 February 2016 (Philippines – Update)** – According to police reports, on 17 February, unidentified gunmen abducted a fishing boat operator and two crewmembers in the southern Philippines. A police spokesman disclosed in a statement that the vessel had been commandeered while fishing in the seas between Zamboanga peninsula and the island province of Basilan. Reportedly the kidnappers have demanded a ransom for their return. On 18 February, the kidnappers freed the two crewmen, Romeo Rubio (52) and Weni Pandiag (41) after learning that their families could not afford to pay the ransom. The kidnappers also gave them money for their fare to get home. The local captain is still being held.

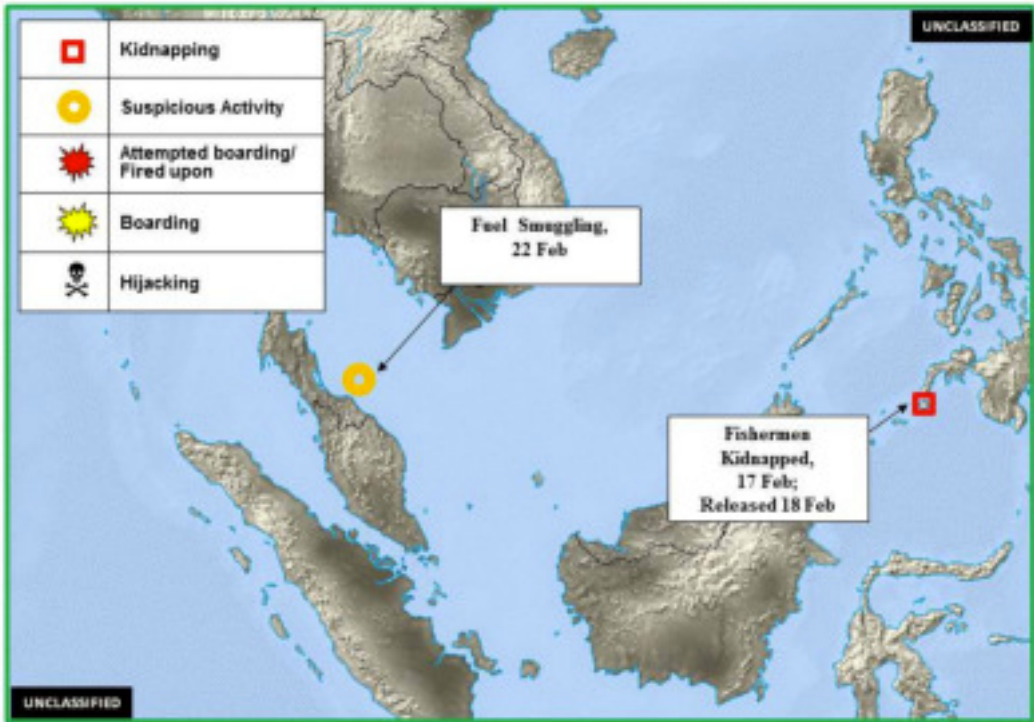
Suspicious Activity

- None reported during this period.

Other Activity

- **22 February 2016 (Thailand – Late Report)** – Police in southern Thailand detained a modified fishing boat in the waters of Pattani, and seized more than 70,000 litres of diesel believed to have been smuggled from Malaysia. Marine Police inspected the boat and detained four of its crewmembers, comprising of two Thai nationals, one Cambodian and one Laotian. According to a spokesman, the boat had been modified and was paid to smuggle diesel from Malaysia to Thailand. It was originally carrying 120,000 litres of diesel however part of it had been sold in the open seas.

Incident Map



Source ONI

Weather Forecast for Southeast Asia

- **South China Sea:** Northeast winds of 25 – 30 knots, gusting to 35 knots, and seas of 8 – 11 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Northeast winds of 25 – 30 knots, gusting to 35 knots, and seas of 12 – 14 feet.
- **Malacca Strait:** Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Strait; with variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the southern Strait.
 - **Extended Forecast:** East-northeast winds of 7 – 12 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:** North-northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast:** Northeast winds of 7 – 12 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 1 to 2 knots.
- **Andaman Sea:** A weak cold front will move along the southern China coastline through the first portion of the week with high pressure building in afterwards. Weak tropical disturbances progressively move across the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) over the southern South China Sea. The Andaman Sea and Malacca Strait will see isolated to widely scattered rain showers and thunderstorms throughout the forecast period.

Worldwide

North America

No current incidents to report

Central America/Caribbean/South America

- **23 February 2016 (Colombia - Late Report)** – Colombian Navy personnel found 379 kilograms of cocaine in a container welded to the hull, below the waterline, of the bulk carrier *LENE SELMER* while the vessel was in Puerto Bolivar. The device was removed and the ship left port on 23 February.
- **19 February 2016 (Mexico – Late Report)** – Officials in the port of Manzanillo found 438 kilograms of cocaine hidden in three containers aboard the container ship *TENO*.
- **6 – 12 February 2015 (Mexico Late Report)** – Between 6 – 12 February, police in the port of Progreso found cocaine hidden amongst the cargo of frozen fish aboard the container ship *SAN ADRIANO*. Police have launched an investigation and believe that up to 3 tons of cocaine is hidden either in the packing ice or inside the frozen fish.



Source ONI

Atlantic Ocean Area

No current incidents to report

Northern Europe/Baltic

No current incidents to report

Mediterranean/Black Sea

- **23 February 2016 (Italy)** – More than 700 migrants were rescued from six leaky boats in the sea between Tunisia and Sicily on Tuesday. Four migrants were found dead. According to the Italian Navy, one of its vessels went to help three boats, recovering 403 survivors and the four bodies. Another vessel rescued 219 people from two boats while a third coordinated the rescue of 105 migrants from their sinking boat. The navy did not disclose what nationality the migrants were nor did it release any other information about their identities. This year alone, more than 400 migrants have died in the Mediterranean as people continue to try to cross into Europe despite bad winter weather in the second year of Europe's biggest migration crisis since World War Two. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), more than 110,000 people, many fleeing poverty and war in the Middle East and Africa, have arrived in Greece and Italy this year. This represents a sharp increase on 2015. The European Union (EU) border agency Frontex has reported that while bad weather cut the number of people arriving last month in Greece, that number was still nearly forty times higher than in the previous January.

Spotlight Report: Libya

Libya's security situation remains critical; extreme caution is advised for commercial vessels operating in Libyan waters. Libya faces a significant rise in terrorism by Islamic State in Libya, which has now incorporated attacks via maritime trajectory. There is a significant threat to commercial vessels attempting to approach Libyan ports.

Port Status as of 28 February 2016

Port Name	Port Status	Risk Level	Risk Change
Port of Abu Kammash	Open	Low	
Port of al-Khums (Homs)	Open	Low	
Port of As-Sidra (Sirte, Es Sider)	Closed	High	
Port of Benghazi	Closed	High	
Port of Bouri (offshore port)	Open	No Known Risk	
Port of Derna	Closed	High	
Port El Brega (Marsa El Brega)	Open	High	Upgraded from Low. 1/16
Port of Hariga	Open	Medium	
Port of Mellitah	Open	Medium	
Port of Misrata (Qasr Ahmed)	Open	High	
Port of Ras Lanuf	Closed	High	
Port of Tobruk	Open	Medium	
Port of Tripoli	Open	High	
Port of Zawia (Zawia)	Open	Medium	
Port of Zueitina	Closed	High	Upgraded from Medium. 1/16

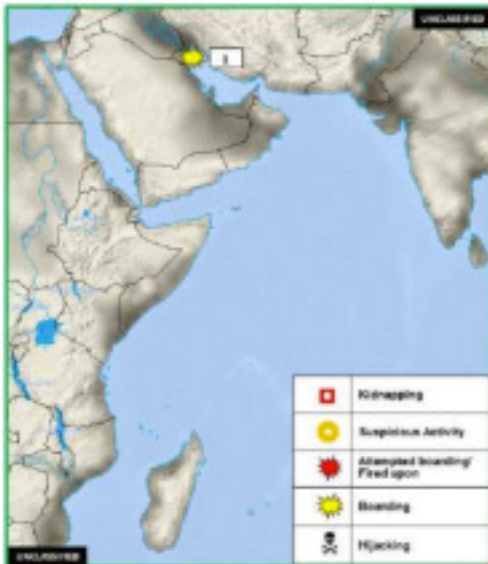
Incidents

- 22 February 2016** - Military forces loyal to Libya's eastern government reported Sunday that they had pushed by Islamist fighters in several areas of Benghazi and seized the strategic port of Marisa. The Libyan National Army also reported that it had taken control of the town of Ajdabiya, which is located about 150 kilometres (90 miles) south of Benghazi. Ajdabiya is another city where military forces have been battling Islamist groups. According to Munthir al-Khartoush, a spokesman for the army's Battalion 309, as well as Marisa port, the army had taken control of the nearby neighbourhood of Al-Halis and had advanced in the district of Boatni, which also saw heavy fighting on Saturday. The military has reported that at least three soldiers and fifteen Islamist fighters were killed in Sunday's clashes. Maris would be a significant gain for the army as the groups it has been fighting have been receiving weapons deliveries through the port. In Ajdabiya, military spokesman Akram Bouhaliqa reported that the army had forced Islamist fighters from the area around Galouz Street and the industrial zones, the last positions they held, adding that three soldiers were killed in Sunday's clashes. The violence comes as a unity government

nominated under a United Nations-backed plan is trying to win approval from Libya's internationally recognized parliament in the east. It also comes just two days after a US air strike targeted a suspected Islamic State (IS) training camp in the western city of Sabratha, which killed nearly fifty people including two Serbian embassy staff who had been abducted in Libya in November 2015.

Arabian Gulf

- **3 February 2016 (Kuwait – Late Report)** – A Kuwait-flagged fishing boat was attacked in international waters near Kuwait. The four attackers were believed to be Iranian. The Egyptian fishermen were able to overpower their attackers, reportedly throwing three of them into the sea and tying up the fourth and returning to port to turn him over to the authorities. One of the fishermen lost a finger during that attack, as the attackers used long knives.



Source ONI

East Asia/Indian Subcontinent

No current incidents to report

Northeast Asia

No current incidents to report

Pacific Ocean/Southern Ocean

No current incidents to report

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

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