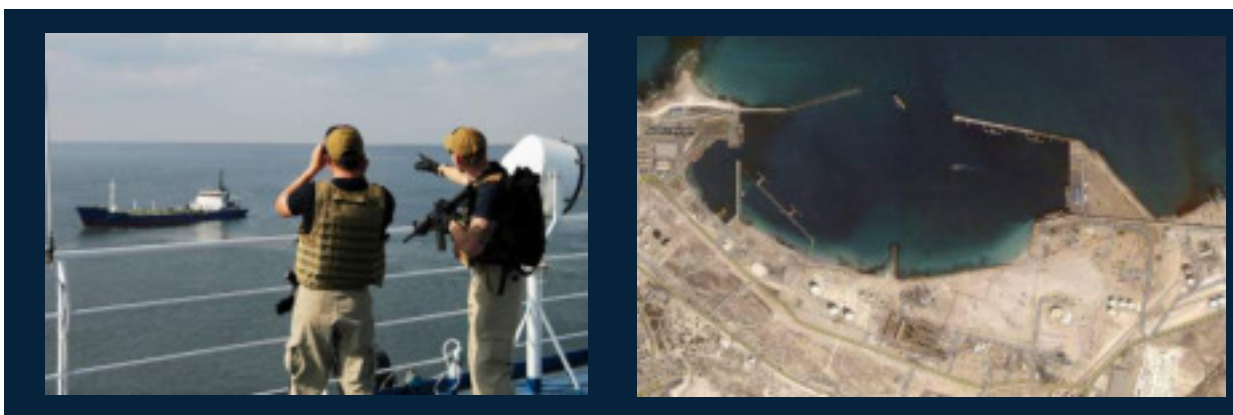




# Maritime Security Review

28 March 2016

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## Summary

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### *List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period*

#### Main Regions

**Gulf of Aden/Arabian Sea:** No current incidents to report

**Gulf of Guinea:** Update on incident that occurred in February

**Southeast Asia:** One incident and two late reported incidents during this period

#### Worldwide

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

**Central America/Caribbean/South America:** One late reported incident

**Atlantic Ocean Area:** No current incidents to report

**Northern Europe/Baltic:** No current incidents to report

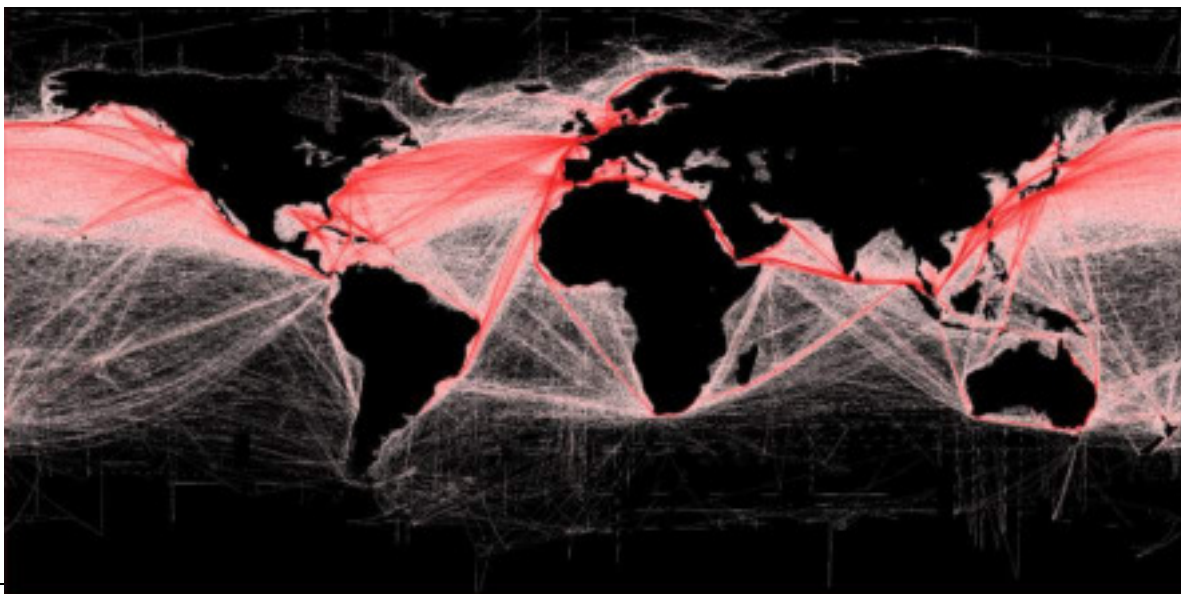
**Mediterranean/Black Sea:** No current incidents to report

**Arabian Gulf:** No current incidents to report

**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

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### Somalia

***Pirate and maritime crime activity in waters off East Africa remains at a low level. There were no incidents reported during this 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.

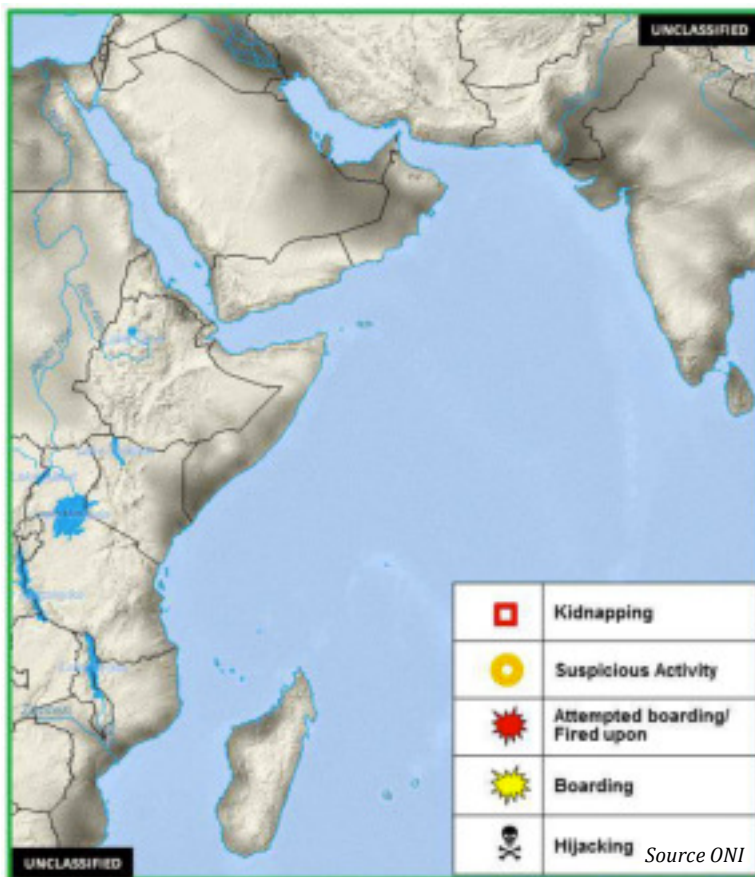
#### Suspicious Activity

- None reported during this period.

#### Other Activity

- None reported during this period.

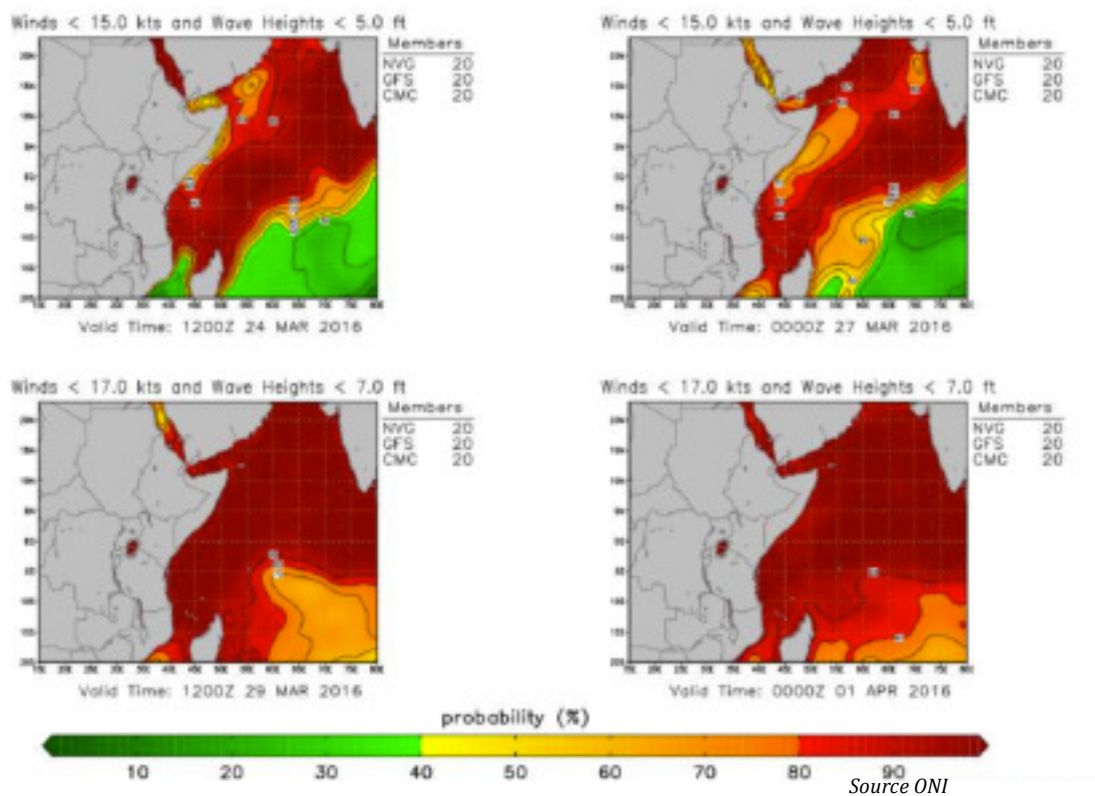
## Incident Map



## Weather Forecast for Gulf of Aden/Arabian Sea

- **Northern Arabian Sea:** West-northwest winds of 12 – 17 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Westerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman:** West-northwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with westerly winds of 15 – 20 knots, and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Westerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 1 – 3 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 1 - 3 feet.
- **Gulf of Aden:** East-northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast:** East-northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast:** Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 – 6 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with east-northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern section of the coastline.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 – 6 feet in the northern section of the coastline; in the southern section of the coastline, winds will be east-southeasterly at 15 – 20 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean:** Northeast winds of 8 – 13 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Northeast winds of 8 – 13 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel:** North-northeast winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 7 – 12 feet in the northern Channel; with south-southeast winds of 25 – 30 knots and seas of 10 – 14 feet in the southern Channel.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Northerly winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern Channel; with south-southeast winds of 25 – 30 knots, gusting to 35 knots, and seas of 9 – 13 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. A cold front will move through the Gulf of Oman and Northern Arabian Sea, bringing isolated rain showers and thunderstorms as the front passes through the region. High pressure will then dominate the pattern when multiple weak disturbances will move through southern Iran mainly creating impacts along the coastal region of the Gulf of Oman and Northern Arabian Sea.





## Spotlight Report: Yemen

As of 27 March, 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

No major incidents to report.

## 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

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*Over the past week, pirate and maritime crime activity in the Gulf of Guinea remained at a low level with no incidents reported during this period.*

*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

- **11 March 2016 (Nigeria – Late Report)** – A vessel reported being fired upon near position 03:30 N – 005:02 E.

#### Vessels Boarded

- None reported during this period.

#### Kidnapping

- None reported during this period.

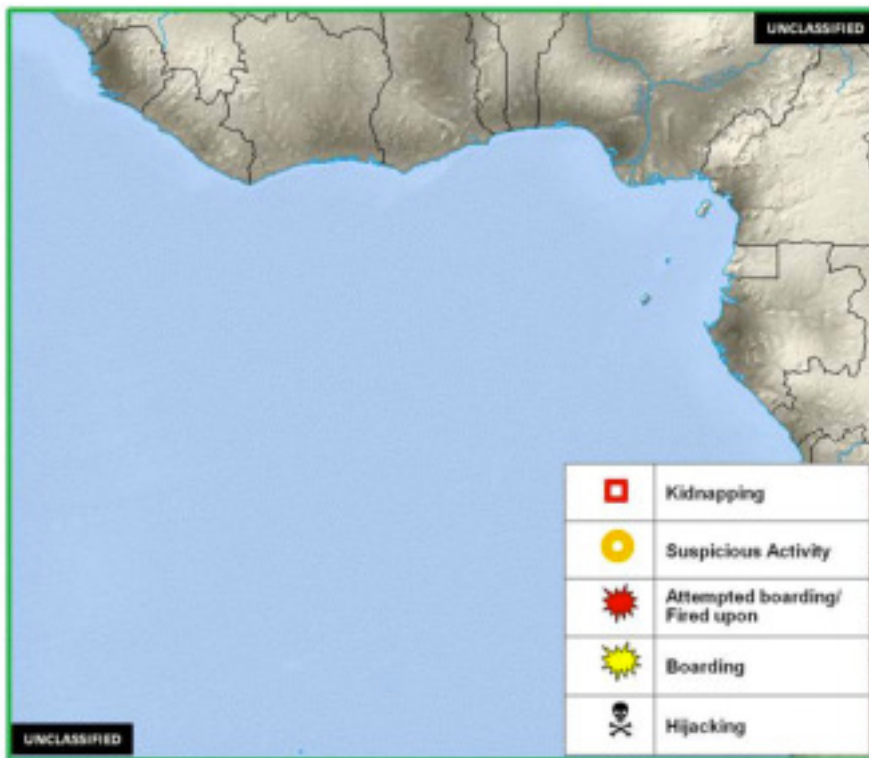
#### Suspicious Activity

- None reported during this period.

#### Other Activity

- **20 March 2016 (Nigeria – Late Report)** – Chemical tanker *MAXIMUS* was hijacked on 11 February off Abidjan Ivory Coast. There were eighteen crewmembers from India, Pakistan, China, South Korea, Sudan and Ghana when the vessel was boarded. The pirates intended to sell the vessel's 4,700 tonnes of diesel fuel on the black market and had renamed the ship MT ELVIS 5. On 21 February, the Nigerian Navy boarded the ship and rescued the crew, however, two crewmembers are still missing, one Pakistani and one Indian. **Update 20 March** – The kidnapped crewmen were reportedly released on 20 March.

## 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:** Expect partly to mostly cloudy conditions for the Gulf of Guinea with associated rain showers.

## Southeast Asia

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***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 boarding, one incident of possible fuel smuggling and a late reporting on one ramming event.***

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

- **7 March 2016 (Vietnam – Late Report)** – A Vietnamese fishing boat, *KH 96640 TS*, operating in the Paracel Island area, was reportedly rammed and sunk by a much larger ship that was painted grey with Chinese characters on the prow. Five crewmembers were able to escape into a very small work boat and were rescued on the evening of 9 March.

#### Vessels Boarded

- **22 March 2016 (Indonesia)** – Five robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 06:07 S – 106:52 E, Tg. Priok, Jakarta. Duty crewman on routine rounds was attacked and hit on the head. One robber stood guard near the crewman, while the remaining robbers entered the accommodation area. The crewman managed to call the bridge on a handheld radio. The alarm was raised and the crew was mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped with items stolen from the engine room.

#### Kidnapping

- None reported during this period.

#### Suspicious Activity

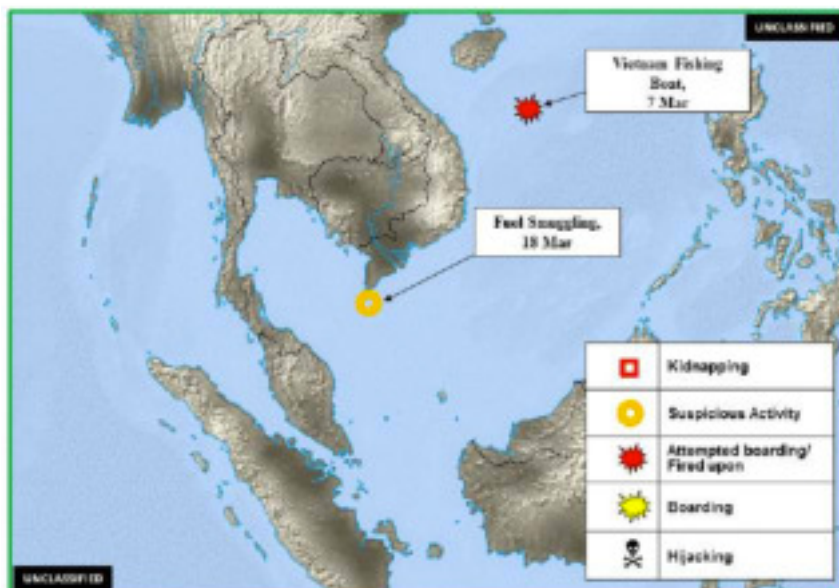
- None reported during this period.

#### Other Activity

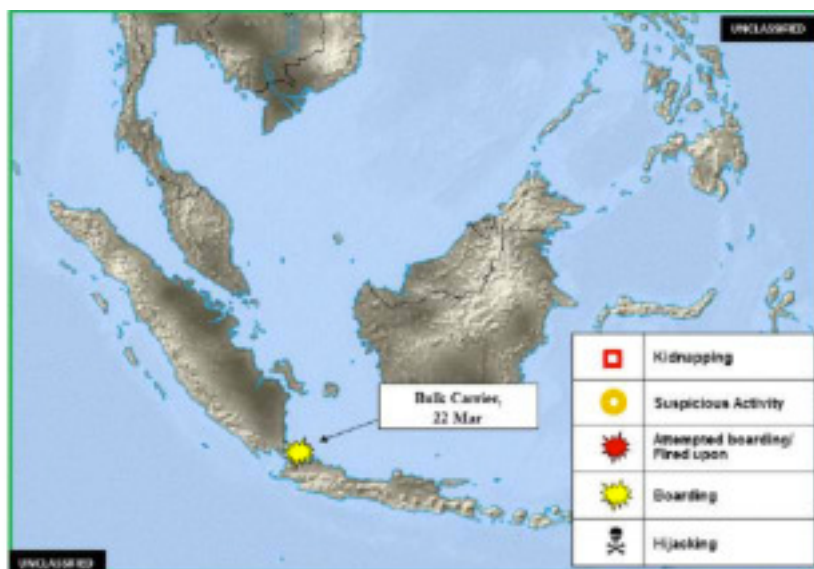
- **18 March 2016 (Vietnam – Late Report)** – The Vietnam Coast Guard caught three vessels from Thailand illegally transferring fuel to three Vietnamese fishing boats in the southern waters off Khoai Island. One of the Thai boats was carrying approximately 500,000 litres of diesel fuel with four Thai crewmen and five Cambodians onboard. The two vessels, which were carrying a total of 190,000 litres of diesel, had five Thai people and 11 Cambodian people on board. According to the Coast Guard Command in the area,

there were no documents for the fuel. All of the boats were escorted to An Thoi Port in Phu Quoc Island for further investigation.

## Incident Map



Source ONI



Source ONI

## Weather Forecast for Southeast Asia

- **South China Sea:** Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 4 – 7 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots, gusting to 25 knots, and seas of 4 – 7 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:** Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast:** Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 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 – 2 knots.
- **Andaman Sea:** Strong high pressure over China interacting with transiting lower pressure systems near Indonesia is influencing the weather pattern. Weak tropical disturbances continue to move across the Inter-Tropical Convergence zone (ITCZ) producing isolated showers and thunderstorms over the Malacca Strait and Andaman Sea.

## Worldwide

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### North America

No current incidents to report

### Central America/Caribbean/South America

1. **14 March 2016 (Colombia – Late Report)** – During the week of 14 March, Columbian Navy and police in a coordinated operation found 33 kilograms of cocaine onboard bulk carrier *BLUE SEA* in Barranquilla. The cocaine was hidden in the rudder trunk, and a report was received from informant concerning the contraband. The vessel originally loaded a cargo of coal that was destined for France.



Source ONI

### Atlantic Ocean Area

No current incidents to report

### *Northern Europe/Baltic*

No current incidents to report

### *Mediterranean/Black Sea*

No current incidents to report

### *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 27 March 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)	<b>Closed</b>	High	
Port of Benghazi	<b>Closed</b>	High	
Port of Bouri (offshore port)	Open	No Known Risk	
Port of Derna	<b>Closed</b>	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	<b>Closed</b>	High	
Port of Tobruk	Open	Medium	
Port of Tripoli	Open	High	
Port of Zawia (Zawia)	Open	Medium	
Port of Zueitina	<b>Closed</b>	High	Upgraded from Medium. 1/16



## Incidents

No current incidents to report

## *Arabian Gulf*

No current incidents to report

## *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](http://www.msrisk.com)

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