

Report on Somalia

Detailed Weekly Piracy Report and On-the-Ground Analysis



Piracy - At Sea - On Land - Domestic News - International Developments

Report on Somalia ~ SUMMARY

June 3 – 9, 2013 (Week)



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At Sea:

The presence of coalition warships, who were tracking an Indian dhow that was hijacked by Somali pirates, was sufficient enough to encourage the pirates to release the vessel. However pirate action groups (PAG's) will continue to approach and attack vessels in the region until they have successfully hijacked a vessel for ransom. Vessels transiting the region are reminded that despite the onset of the monsoon season, pirate groups will be operating in the region, particularly in the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Oman as these areas provide a shelter from the harsh waters which are seen further out to sea.

Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 1
- Attacks: 3
- Sightings: 2
- Releases: 1

Hijacks

- **5 June 2013** - Indian-flagged dhow, **Shaze Faize Noori**, was hijacked by pirates at 0545 UTC while in position 11:36N - 049:15E.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Boardings/Robberies

- **4 June 2013** - Two MV's have reported being attacked in vicinity of position 15:20N - 041:50E in the Red Sea, approximately 185 nautical miles northwest of the Bab el Mandeb.
- **3 June 2013** - Mayday call received by armed security team on an MV. The vessel in distress, a Singapore-flagged cargo ship, **Tongbao World**, stated at 1950 UTC that it was being chased by multiple skiffs while in position 15:31N - 041:05E, in the southern Red Sea, approximately 70 nautical miles west of al-Hudaydah, Yemen.
- **1 June 2013** - Two robbers armed with long knives boarded a berthed Hong Kong, China-flagged chemical tanker, **EShips Liwa**, during cargo operations at 2155 LT in Beira Port, Mozambique.
- **27 May 2013** (Late Reporting) - Alert duty on board an anchored Liberia-flagged bulk carrier, the **Global F**, noticed three robbers near the forecastle.

Suspicious Activity

- **5 June 2013** - Panama-flagged VLCC at 0810 UTC while in position 17:12.5N - 066:47.2E, in the Arabian Sea, found one small boat about 3 nautical miles ahead.
- **4 June 2013** - Singapore-flagged chemical tanker reported two suspicious skiffs observed at 0420 LT in position 14:25.2N - 042:34.E, in the Red Sea.
- **1 May 2013** (Late Reporting) - MV's embarked armed security team observed a longboat doing 10 knots to starboard of the MV at 0815 UTC while in position 16:49.4N - 057:43.6E, approximately 210 nautical miles east-southeast of the port of Salalah, Oman at a distance of 2.5 nautical miles.

Weather Analysis:

- The weather forecast throughout the following week will continue to deteriorate as the Southwest Monsoon season sets in. By the end of the week, small skiffs and boats will experience increased difficulty in moving in waters off the coast of Somalia. Water conditions in the Gulf of Aden and in the Gulf of Oman will deteriorate

slightly throughout this week, as such, maneuverability for small skiffs and boats may be difficult however pirate action groups are likely to continue operating in the region.

On Land:

- **7 June 2013** - At least seven people have died in the port of Kismayo after fighting occurred between two self-declared leaders.
 - Meanwhile on Friday, Mahad Abdirahman Adan, the security chief of the south-central Bay region, was ambushed by al-Shabaab militants while on his way from the city of Baidoa to Mogadishu.
- **6 June 2013** - Resident in the town of Bararwe have reported that al-Shabaab militants have killed two men by firing squad after they had indicated that the men were allegedly spying for the Somali government and for the African Union military force.
- **5 June 2013** - Officials have confirmed that the head of al-Shabaab in Somalia's north-easter region of Puntland has been captured.
 - Meanwhile reports from the town of Jawhar, which is located in the lower Shabelle region, have confirmed that five civilians were shot dead by al-Shabaab militants.
- **3 June 2013** - According to witnesses' al-Shabaab militants have paraded two prisoners, who are believed to be Kenyans that were captured last month after a cross border raid.
 - Meanwhile reports have indicated that a reconnaissance drone crashed in north eastern region of Bari in Puntland.

Domestic News:

- **4 June 2013** - The Somali Federal Government administration in Gedo held a security meeting in Luq in order to repair the relations between the local leaders and security officials.

Regional Reporting:

- **6 June 2013** - Somali Federal Government President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Puntland state President Abdirahman Mohamed Farole met in Nairobi, Kenya on Thursday.

International Developments:

- **7 June 2013** - Members of the Somali community in South Africa have marched to parliament in Cape Town in order to protest against recent attacks that have targeted Somalis.
- **3 June 2013** - The United Nations has announced that the number of children killed, maimed, abused and recruited to fight in Somalia decreased by more than half in the first quarter of 2013.
- **4 June 2013** - The trial of three alleged Somali pirates, who have been charged with the 2001 murder of four Americans aboard a yacht off the coast of East Africa, is set to begin as jury selection began on Tuesday in Norfolk, Virginia, which is home to the US Navy's Atlantic fleet.

Piracy and Robbery at Sea - Incidents for April 2013

About MS Risk

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June 3 – 9, 2013 (Week)

At Sea:

The presence of coalition warships, who were tracking an Indian dhow that was hijacked by Somali pirates, was sufficient enough to encourage the pirates to release the vessel. However pirate action groups (PAG's) will continue to approach and attack vessels in the region until they have successfully hijacked a vessel for ransom. Vessels transiting the region are reminded that despite the onset of the monsoon season, pirate groups will be operating in the region, particularly in the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Oman as these areas provide a shelter from the harsh waters which are seen further out to sea.

Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 1
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Hijacks

- **5 June 2013** - Indian-flagged dhow, **Shaze Faize Noori**, was hijacked by pirates at 0545 UTC while in position 11:36N - 049:15E. Fourteen crew members were reported taken hostage. An EU warship, Carlskrona, was tasked to proceed to the position where the dhow was hijacked. Puntland Marine transport ports and Counter Piracy dispatched two dhows with rescue police in order to investigate the incident. Update (6 June) At 1925 UTC Counter Piracy Unit reported that the dhow Shaze Faize Noori was released. Boarding of the dhow was conducted to verify that all suspected pirates were no longer on board and to ensure that the crew members and that the vessel was safe.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Boardings/Robberies

- **4 June 2013** - Two MV's have reported being attacked in vicinity of position 15:20N - 041:50E in the Red Sea, approximately 185 nautical miles northwest of the Bab el Mandeb. Mariners should remain vigilant for the potential presence of a pirate attack group in the southern Red Sea.
- **3 June 2013** - Mayday call received by armed security team on an MV. The vessel in distress, a Singapore-flagged cargo ship, **Tongbao World**, stated at 1950 UTC that it was being chased by multiple skiffs while in position 15:31N - 041:05E, in the southern Red Sea, approximately 70 nautical miles west of al-Hudaydah, Yemen. At 2138 UTC, a separate armed security team on another MV observed a flare fired from the vessel (believed to be the same cargo ship) approximately 22 nautical miles west-northwest of the initial incident, in position 15:23N - 041:43E. The Master of the vessel then issued a further distress call, stating that the vessel was being chased by two skiffs, supported by a mother ships. On board armed security guards fired warning shots and the pirate action group (PAG) was unable to hijack the vessel. The vessel was not damaged and no injuries to the crew members were sustained. The vessel proceeded northwards.
- **1 June 2013** - Two robbers armed with long knives boarded a berthed Hong Kong, China-flagged chemical tanker, **EShips Liwa**, during cargo operations at 2155 LT in Beira Port, Mozambique. The robbers used the forward fire wire to board the vessel. Alert shore and deck watchman noticed them and raised the alarm, resulting in the robbers escaping via the anchor chain. Nothing was stolen from the vessel. Port authorities and local police were notified.
- **27 May 2013** (Late Reporting) - Alert duty on board an anchored Liberia-flagged bulk carrier, the **Global F**, noticed three robbers near the forecandle. At the time of the incident, the vessel was in

position 31:12.7N - 029:46.6E, El Dekheila Anchorage, Alexandria Port, Egypt. The Master on board the vessel raised the alarm, resulting in the robbers escaping with stolen ship stores.

Suspicious Activity

- **5 June 2013** - Panama-flagged VLCC at 0810 UTC while in position 17:12.5N - 066:47.2E, in the Arabian Sea, found one small boat about 3 nautical miles ahead. Suddenly a boat started proceeding towards the vessel, closing to a distance of 1.5 nautical miles. The ship attempted to increase its speed but only up to 13.8 knots due to the prevailing swells. The Master ordered 2 parachute signals to be fired against the boat, then an additional 4 parachute signals as the boat continued its approach. Finally the boat gave up a further approach. The boat was 56 meters in length and seemed to be a wooden boat. Number of persons on board the boat, along with ladders and weapons could not be ascertained due to the distance.
- **4 June 2013** - Singapore-flagged chemical tanker reported two suspicious skiffs observed at 0420 LT in position 14:25.2N - 042:34.E, in the Red Sea. The skiffs were observed from the vessel port side. First skiff sighted in position 14:24.9N - 042:34E. The second skiff was sighted in position 14:23.7N - 042:34.2E. The vessel's distance from the first skiff was 1 nautical mile and from the second skiff it was 1.5 nautical miles. The vessel consequently changed course 20 Deg to Stbd until it passed the two skiffs. It then switched back to its original course after the Master assessed that the vessel was safe. Skiffs with six possible pirates on board. The color of the skiffs was white and blue however due to visibility, no weapons were sighted. Skiff actions indicated that these were not fishing boats.
- **1 May 2013** (Late Reporting) - MV's embarked armed security team observed a longboat doing 10 knots to starboard of the MV at 0815 UTC while in position 16:49.4N - 057:43.6E, approximately 210 nautical miles east-southeast of the port of Salalah, Oman at a distance of 2.5 nautical miles. The longboat headed to the stern of the MV and maintained the same speed. The Master attempted to contact the suspect vessel via VHF however there was no response. Two skiffs were seen on board the longboat. The armed security team on board demonstrated their presence on the vessel, resulting in the longboat slowing down and aborting any further approaches.

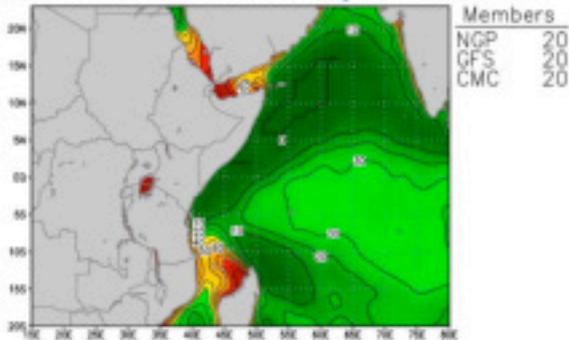
Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - West-southwest winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the eastern section.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be southwest at 15 - 20 knots with seas of 7 - 9 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** - Southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with south-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southerly winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be southerly at 5 - 10 knots with seas of 1 - 3 feet.
- **Somali Coast** - Southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet, with seas of between 10 - 12 feet on the northeast coast of Somalia.
- **Arabian Sea** - West-southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - South-southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 6 - 8 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 6 - 8 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - Southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southerly at 10 - 15 knots with seas of 7 - 9 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - South-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet in the northern Channel; with southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet in the southern Channel.
- **Surface Currents** - The north 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 average speeds of 2 knots. Current speeds along the Somali coast average between 1 - 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** - The northern and western Indian Ocean areas are under the influence of the Southwest Monsoon season. The Mozambique Channel will be under the influence of a large low pressure system. Expect cloudy to mostly cloudy conditions with thunderstorms and rain showers throughout the east African coastal areas.

Sea Conditions For This Week:

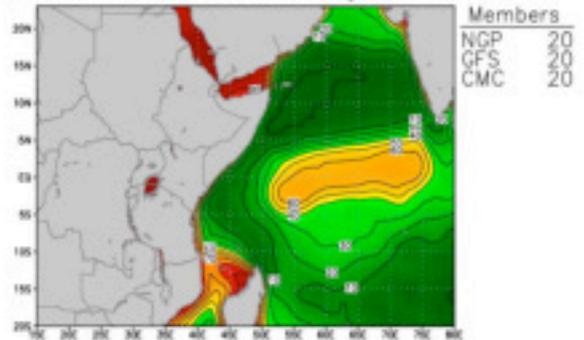
10-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast, DTG: 2013060500

Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



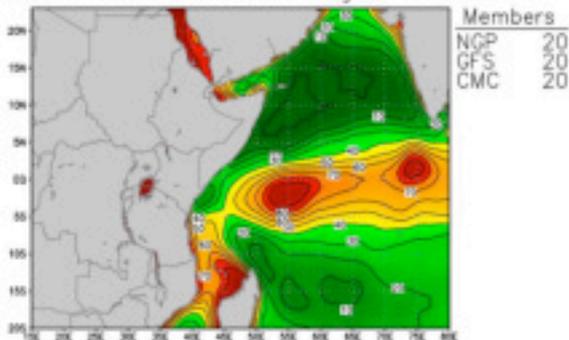
Valid Time: 1200Z 07 JUN 2013

Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



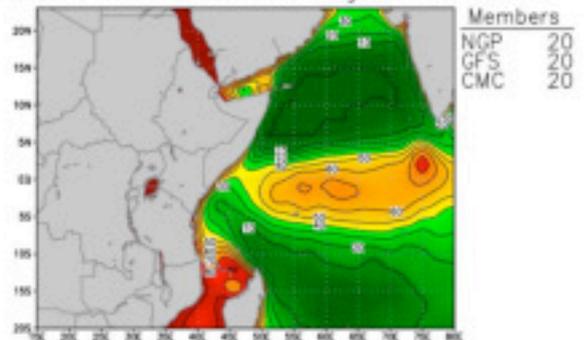
Valid Time: 0000Z 10 JUN 2013

Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



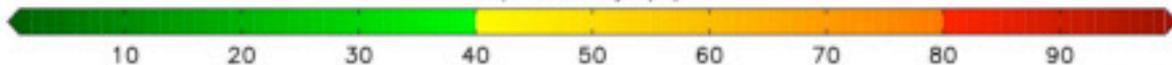
Valid Time: 1200Z 12 JUN 2013

Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



Valid Time: 0000Z 15 JUN 2013

probability (%)



*** In this graphic, the green shading represents a reduced likelihood of small boats and skiffs operating in the area due to harsh sea conditions, while the red indicates a higher likelihood of favorable sea conditions for skiffs and smaller boats ***

On Land:

- **7 June 2013** - At least seven people have died in the port of Kismayo after fighting occurred between two self-declared leaders. Residents have reported that the clashes began in the town centre at midday and lasted about forty minutes. The fighting broke out after one of the leaders had attempted to meet the defence minister who is trying to resolve the crisis. Kismayo is located in a strategic area and has changed hands frequently over the past two decades. Within the region, which is known as Jubbaland, there are about twenty varying clans, all of which are competing for control of Kismayo which is located 480 km (300 miles) south of Mogadishu. Currently there are several self-declared presidents of Jubbaland however the central government in Mogadishu does not recognize any of them. Instead, the government wants the groups to come to a meeting in the capital city in order to resolve the issue. This is why Defence Minister Abdihakim Mahmudis Haji is in Kismayo. Friday's clashes began when fighters loyal to Ahmed Madobe prevented his rival, Istin Hassan, from meeting with the Defence Minister who was staying at a hotel in central Kismayo. According to medical sources, three civilians and four fighters died when the two sides exchanged fire. Both men are known to have large militias supporting them, and local residents fear that there may be continued fighting as the troops have mobilizing. The loss of Kismayo was a major setback for al-Shabaab as the port, and especially the export of charcoal, had provided the Islamist militants with important funding. African Union (AU) troops are currently in charge of security in the city since they captured it from al-Shabaab militants last October.
 - Meanwhile on Friday, Mahad Abdirahman Adan, the security chief of the south-central Bay region, was ambushed by al-Shabaab militants while on his way from the city of Baidoa to Mogadishu. During the attack, his driver was killed. Mr. Adan is currently being treated in an Africa Union hospital in Leego, which is located about 60 km north-west of Mogadishu. Although the AU and Somali government had driven al-Shabaab out of the major cities, its fighters still control smaller towns and rural areas in central and southern Somalia where they continue to launch attacks on government-controlled territories.
- **6 June 2013** - Resident in the town of Bararwe have reported that al-Shabaab militants have killed two men by firing squad after they had indicated that the men were allegedly spying for the Somali government and for the African Union military force. According to local residents, dozens of local s watched as the masked militants killed the two men late on Thursday in Bararwe, which is located in the southern region of Somalia. A self-proclaimed judge for the group read out the verdict against the two men. The judge indicated that the two men had admitted to the charges of spying. Al-shabaab's ad-hoc courts have often carried out executions and other punishments such as amputations.
- **5 June 2013** - Officials have confirmed that the head of al-Shabaab in Somalia's north-easter region of Puntland has been captured. Puntland's Security Minister, Khalif Isse indicated that Abdikafi Mohamed Ali was wounded during a raid that was carried out at a militant safe house in the port city of Bossaso. He was the head of operations for al-Shabaab in Puntland. According to the minister, Ali's whereabouts were discovered on Tuesday and he was captured shortly after a shoot-out. His identity was revealed on Wednesday when the suspect was paraded in front of a number of journalists in Bossaso. One soldier was killed during the operation and the city continues to be on a lockdown as troops search for other militants. No traffic is being allowed in or out of Bossaso as the security forces continue to search for other militants who are believed to be in hiding in the city. Over the last few years, many opponents of al-Shabaab in the region - including government officials, judges, security officers, religious leaders and scholars - have been assassinated. In the semi-autonomous region of Puntland, the militants have a base located in Galagala, which is a mountainous and forested region to the west of Bossaso. More al-Shabaab fighters reportedly moved to Puntland towards the end of last year after losing some key footholds in the south, including the port of Kismayo, to the Somali army and an 18,000-strong African Union force.

- Meanwhile reports from the town of Jawhar, which is located in the lower Shabelle region, have confirmed that five civilians were shot dead by al-Shabaab militants. Residents in the western part of the town have indicated that the five people who were killed were farmers. The reasons behind the killing have not yet been established however this incident has created fear amongst the residents who live in the town. Government troops have already been alerted off the incidents and they will be providing security for the residents. The lower Shabelle region's administration has not yet released a statement regarding the killings. Some towns in the this southern region remain to be under the control of al-Shabaab militants while other towns are controlled by the central government in Mogadishu. This split in control has often resulted in frequent attacks which have been carried out by the militant groups.
- **3 June 2013** - According to witnesses' al-Shabaab militants have paraded two prisoners, who are believed to be Kenyans that were captured last month after a cross border raid. According to Ali Moalim, who was among the crowd who gathered in Jilib, which is an al-Shabaab-controlled town in Somalia's southern Lower Jubba region, "hundreds of people came to see the hostages who Shabaab said were Kenyans." Last month, al-Shabaab fighters attacked a Kenyan police border post. At least five civilians were killed and the militant group has claimed that two police officers were kidnapped. Other witnesses reported that rifles and ammunition which were allegedly captured at the same time were also paraded alongside the men.
 - Meanwhile reports have indicated that a reconnaissance drone crashed in north eastern region of Bari in Puntland. This is the second drone crash to have occurred in Somalia this week. Puntland authorities confirmed that the reconnaissance drone crashed in the early hours on Saturday in the town of Qow, which is located 20 kilometers from Bossaso. Qow is located in the foothills of the Golis Mountain Range where al-Shabaab insurgents have a number of strongholds located deep in the mountain range that stretches beyond northern Somalia. It is currently not known which country the drone belonged to, however the drone, which was described as a small jet, is currently in the custody of Puntland officials. The Pentagon has identified the drone that crashed near Bulo Marer last Tuesday as a Schiebel Camcopter S-100, which is a relatively small helicopter drone. The US, which rarely admits to its clandestine operations, admitted to this drone crash after al-Shabaab posted photos of the drone and its serial number.

Domestic News:

- **4 June 2013** - The Somali Federal Government administration in Gedo held a security meeting in Luq in order to repair the relations between the local leaders and security officials. Luq District Commissioner Ahmed Bulle Mohamed has indicated that security has improved in the region, while senior security official Diyad Abdi Kalil has called on area resident to work with officials in order to maintain the security improvements that have been achieved so far. Meanwhile a spokesman for the Somali forces in Gedo, Nur Seyla Hareed, has confirmed that government troops won a battle against al-Shabaab militants near Fahfah Dhun. The fighting broke out after the militants had fired mortar shells on a government base that is located in the region. Somali forces have indicted that they will continue fighting al-Shabaab until the militant group is defeated and has retreated from the region.

Regional Reporting:

- **6 June 2013** - Somali Federal Government President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and Puntland state President Abdirahman Mohamed Farole met in Nairobi, Kenya on Thursday. According to a Puntland press release, the two leaders met at the Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi in order to discuss

the Provisional Federal Constitution (PFC), the ongoing situation in Jubbaland, federalism, Shilling Somali, the financial crisis, the reconciliation process and the distribution of foreign aid to all the regions of Somalia. The press release did not indicate what came out of the meeting between the two leaders however government officials in Mogadishu have indicated that the two leaders have reached a consensus on most of the issues, apart from the ongoing crisis in Jubbaland and the drafted changes in the constitution. It is believed that Mr. Hassan rejected the unbalanced administration that was proposed by Mr. Farole. Mr. Hassan believes that a reconciliation process should be held as the long lasting wars have affected the communities that are living in the Jubbaland region. The Somali President also met with Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta on Wednesday where the two leaders discussed the issue of security and cooperations.

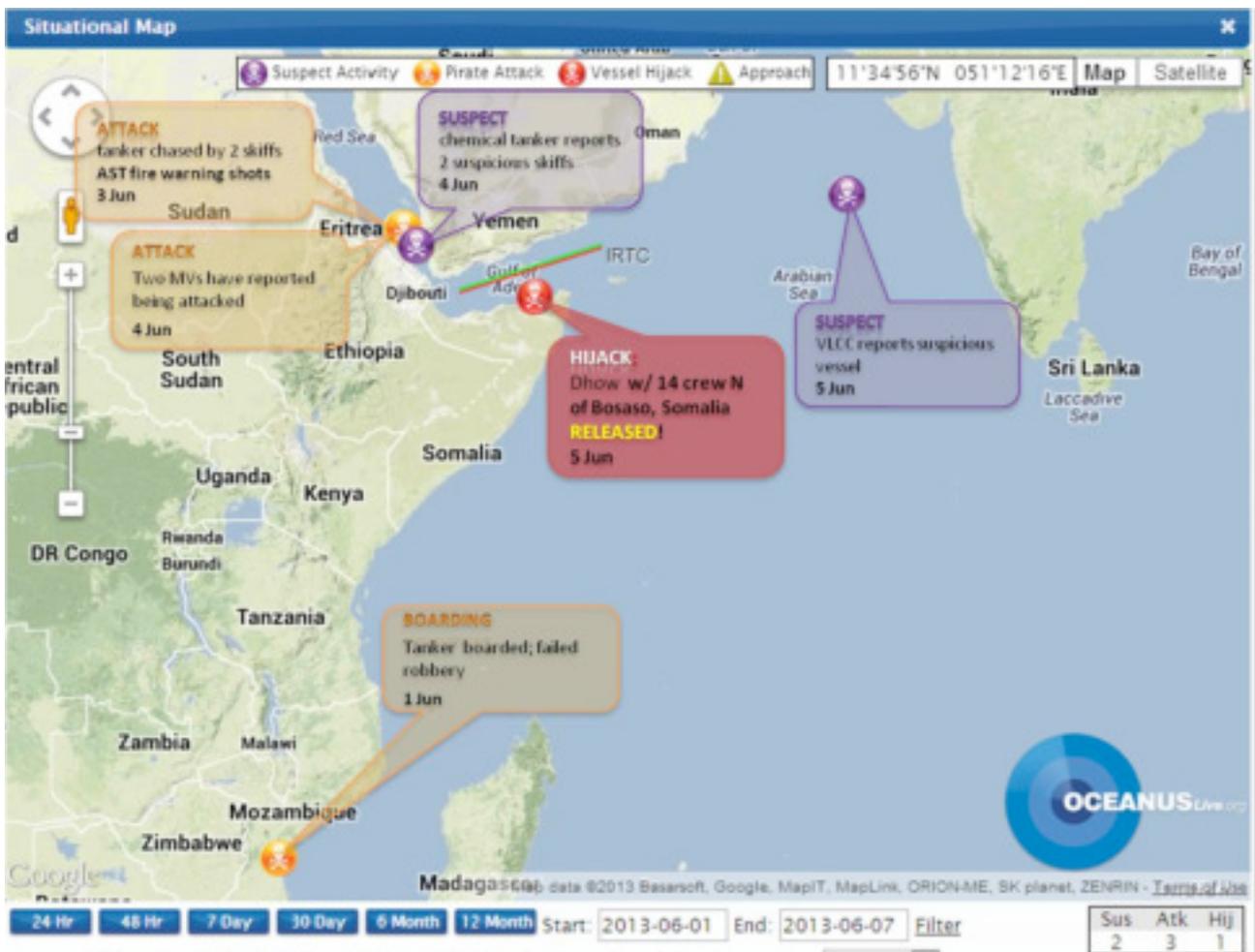
International Developments:

- **7 June 2013** - Members of the Somali community in South Africa have marched to parliament in Cape Town in order to protest against recent attacks that have targeted Somalis. Some 200 people took part in the protest, holding a banner that read “everyone is a foreigner somewhere.” According to officials, three Somalis have been killed this month in South Africa and the Somali government has requested that authorities in South Africa do more to protect their nationals. Some of the protesters have accused authorities of not doing enough to prevent attacks on foreigners, especially Somalis, or prosecute those responsible. The most recent attack occurred on Thursday night when two Somali brothers were allegedly hacked to death with an axe in the northern province of Limpopo. Last week, Abdi Nasr Mahmoud was stoned to death in the Port Elizabeth. While sources have indicated that xenophobic attacks have increased recently, the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria has indicated that South Africans are becoming “increasingly desensitized to attacks on foreigners and that the violence is likely linked to the massive unemployment amongst young South Africans. Over the past two decades, thousands of Somalis have fled conflict at home and moved to South Africa, in which many have opened small shops and kiosks in their townships.
- **3 June 2013** - The United Nations has announced that the number of children killed, maimed, abused and recruited to fight in Somalia decreased by more than half in the first quarter of 2013. This is due to less fighting between Islamist al-Shabaab militants and government forces. In a report to the UN Security council on Somalia, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated that there had been 552 verified “grave violations” against children between January and March, down from 1,288 cases during the same period in 2012. According to the report, almost two-thirds of the violations were committed by al-Shabaab militants while the rest were blamed on the Somali National Security Forces. In the report, the Secretary-General indicated that “the downward trend in killing, maiming and recruitment are attributed to the decrease in open fighting between al-Shabaab government forces, while the rate of abductions remains worryingly high.” He further indicated that “the (Somali forces) and allied militia were the main perpetrators of killings while al-Shabaab committed the most abductions, recruitments, sexual violence and attacks on schools.” The United Nations also indicated that 37 children had been killed, 63 children maimed, 219 recruited to fight, 19 sexually abused and 205 abducted, while there had been seven attacks on schools and one on a hospital. The report also stated that Somali troops are in the process of releasing 41 children to the UN children’s agency, UNICEF, for integration and the United Nations is working with the Somali government to stop the recruitment, use, killing and maiming of children. With respect to the African Union peacekeeping force, which is composed of troops from Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, Ban indicated in his report that he was concerned that the peacekeeping mission was “reaching the limits of its operational capacity within existing resources, in terms of holding and territory and expanding areas under its control.” In March of this year, Ethiopian troops unexpectedly withdrew from Hudur, the capital of Bakool province, which is located near the Ethiopian border. This withdrawal effectively enabled al-Shabaab to retake the town. Ethiopia has

since indicated that it will withdraw its troops from Somalia due to frustrations with the government in Mogadishu and with the peacekeeping mission.

- **4 June 2013** - The trial of three alleged Somali pirates, who have been charged with the 2001 murder of four Americans aboard a yacht off the coast of East Africa, is set to begin as jury selection began on Tuesday in Norfolk, Virginia, which is home to the US Navy's Atlantic fleet. The trial is expected to last five to six weeks. About 100 people are on the list of potential witnesses, including US military personnel, FBI agents, forensic experts, relatives of the deceased and Somali nationals. If convicted of murder, kidnapping and other charges, Ahmed Muse Salad, Abukar Osman Beyle and Shani Nurani Shiekh Abrar face the death penalty. The three men are accused of maintaining an armed guard over the Americans and intentionally shooting and killing them "without provocation before the hostages could be rescued by members of the military." Eleven other men have pleaded guilty to piracy in the case and have already been sentenced to life in prison. They are expected to testify in federal court in Virginia against the three charged with murder in exchange for the possibility of receiving reduced sentences. Jean and Scott Adam, along with their guests Bob Riggle and Phyllis Macay, were taken hostage for ransom as they were sailing around the world. Their yacht was boarded off the coast of East Africa on 18 February 2011 by nineteen men who were seeking to ransom the American for millions of dollars. Within days, the US warships USS Sterett intercepted the stolen yacht as it was sailing towards Somalia. According to the indictment, Shani Nurani Shiekh Abrar fired a gun over Scott Adam's head and ordered him to warn the Navy that the hostages would be executed if the ship ventured any closer to the captured yacht. The Navy offered to let the pirates keep the yacht in exchange for the hostages however they refused. Later, one of the men aboard the S/V Quest fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the Sterett, and the US sailors heard gunfire from the yacht. Special forces fighters boarded the vessel and found that the American had been killed. They were the first US citizens killed in a wave of pirate attacks that has plagued the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean in recent years.

Map:



Piracy and Robbery at Sea – Incidents for April 2013

Summary: There were a total of 43 reported incidents that occurred in April. The Horn of Africa and IOR saw relatively low activity across the High Risk Area (HRA) throughout the month of April. Most of the incidents that occurred were suspicious sightings of dhows towing skiffs however a single attack was confirmed. Meanwhile in Western Africa, in the Gulf of Guinea, attacks have occurred mainly off the coast of Nigeria, mainly south of Brass, in the state of Bayelsa. In Asia, incidents remained largely to be petty thefts in ports however a number of attacks were more violent and occurred on vessels underway. A barge was also reported stolen in the region. Lastly, robbery in South American ports remained at a steady count in April, however there are fears that a number of incidents were unreported.

Key Statistics

- **Horn of Africa:** 1 Attack; 10 Incidents; 1 NavWar
- **West Africa:** 1 Hijack; 8 Attacks; 2 Incidents
- **Asia:** 17 Incidents; 1 Suspicious Incident
- **South America:** 3 Incidents

Early in the morning of March 30, off the island of Masirah, Oman, the Liberian flagged cargo bulk carrier, the Atlantik Confidence, reported to have a fire in the engine room and requested assistance. Upon receiving the message, Admiral Antonio Natale, Commander of the NATO Task Force engaged in the fight against piracy off the Horn of Africa, promptly ordered the nearest vessel under his command, the frigate USS Nicholas, to proceed at maximum and to provide assistance. Sometime later, the Captain of the Atlantik Confidence ordered his crew members, which comprised of 21 Turkish Seamen, to abandon the ship as he had assessed that the fire was now out of control. Upon reaching the scene, it was seen that the merchant vessel was already partially sunk but still floating. After verifying that the survivors appeared to be safely in life-boats and did not need immediate medical assistance, the NATO Ship coordinated the embarkation operations on board an oil tanker called Pluto transiting in the area and which was also manned entirely by a Turkish crew. According to a NavWar that was issued by US MARAD, the damaged ship sank around 140 nautical miles off the Wusta coast on April 3.

In Western Africa, one hijack was reported this month in the region. The offshore crew boat, Utai 8, with a crew of 3, went missing. The boat was reported to have been involved in a 2-boat attack on the MT City of Xiamen where 5 crew were kidnapped.

In Asia, fifteen pirates armed with guns and long knives in three high speed boats boarded the tug Hub 21 which was underway in the South China Sea. They took nine crew members hostage, assaulted some of the crew and tied them up. They ransacked all the cabins and stole the ship's property as well as the crew members' cash and personal items before escaping. Meanwhile the crew from a neighboring barge noticed an unknown tug boat pulling the cargo barge off Tanjung Ayajm, Malaysia. Eng Tou 266 was stolen and remains to be missing.

South America saw three incidents, with robberies occurring in Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

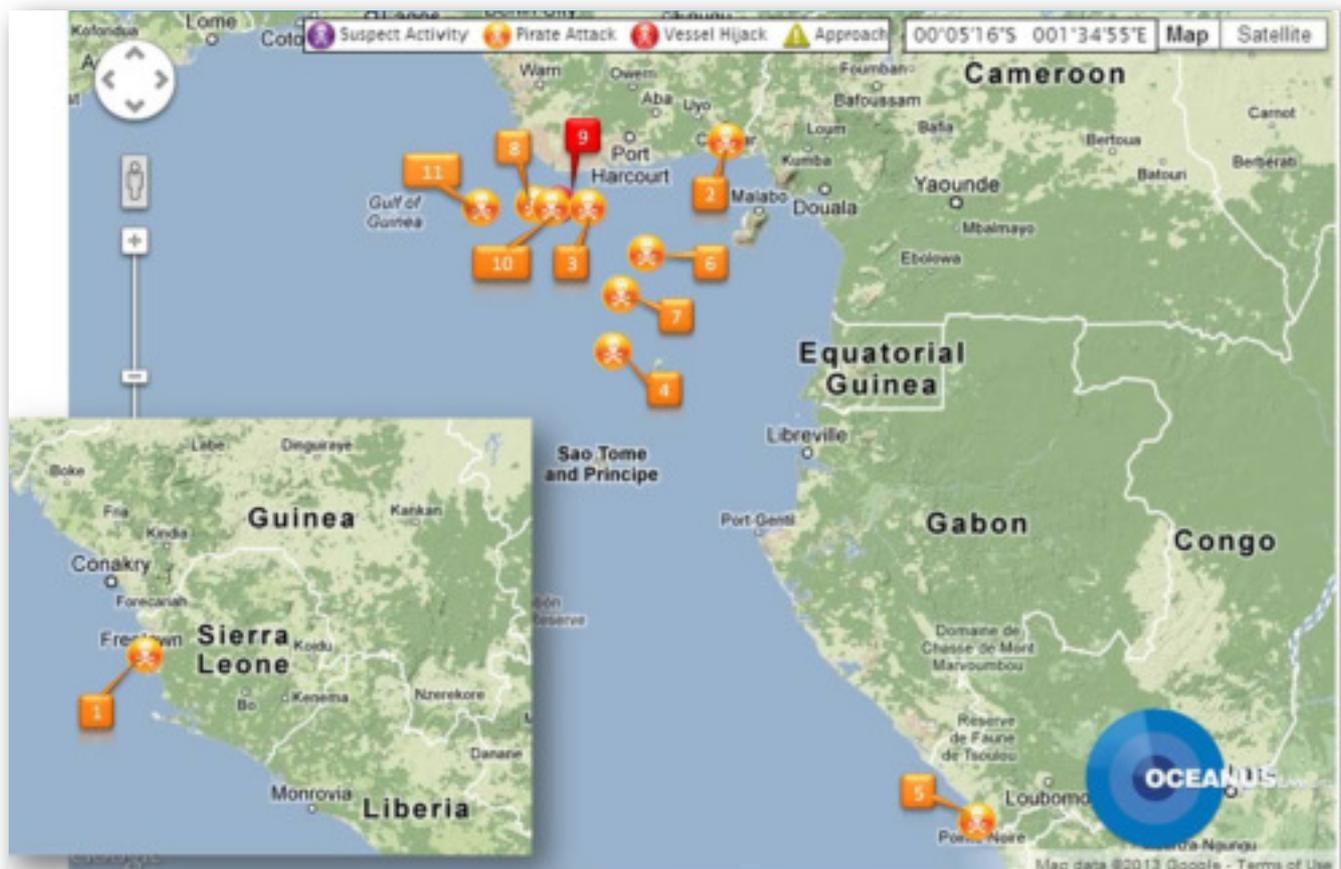
Horn of Africa



Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location/Type of Incident
1	1 April	Unknown		Suspicious Activity - IRTC, GoA/ Dhow and four skiffs
2	2 April	Alpha Kirawira	Sierra Leone/ General Cargo ship	NE of Kismayo, Somalia/Attack: Skiff fired, AST warning shots ship
3	2 April	Unknown		Suspicious Activity - Gulf of Aden/2 dhows and 3 - 4 skiffs
4	3 April	Atlantik Confidence	Bulk Carrier	NavWarn - MV sank Apr 3 after fire & abandonment - possible empty lifeboat adrift
5	3 April	Unnamed	Panama/Bulk Carrier	Suspicious Activity - NE of Masirah Island, Oman/Lifeboat and 5 skiffs observed MV, AST stood to
6	3 April	Unnamed	Liberia/Tanker	Suspicious Activity - Lifeboat and 2 skiffs, skiffs approached MV; MV moved away
7	4 April	Unnamed	Cayman Islands/ Tanker	Suspicious Activity - IRTC, GoA/ 4 Dhows and 11 skiffs
8	8 April	Unnamed	Unknown	Suspicious Activity - IRTC, GoA/ Dhow and 4 skiffs, AST report

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location/Type of Incident
9	9 April	Unnamed	Panama/Tanker	Suspicious Activity - IRTC/GoA/ Mothership and 2 skiffs trailed MV for 20 mins; AST weapons displayed
10	10 April	Unnamed		Suspicious Activity - Gulf of Aden/Dhow and 2 skiffs
11	11 April	Unnamed		Suspicious Activity - Red Sea/3 skiffs
12	29 April	Unnamed		Suspicious Activity - IRTC, GoA/ Dhow and 2 skiffs; Warship response; helicopter investigated

West Africa



Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location/Type of Incident
1	11 April	RMS Baerl	Antigua & Barbuda/ General Cargo Ship	Freetown Inner Roads, Sierra Leone/ Robbery; AB held at knifepoint
2	13 April	Gyre	USA/Offshore Support Vessel	Parrot Island, Calabar River, Nigeria/ Attack; Warning shots fired
3	13 April	Leon Dias	Liberia/Chemical Tanker	SE of Brass, Nigeria/Attack; board; robbery; release
4	16 April	Cap Theodora	Greece/Crude Tanker	WNW Principe Island, Gulf of Guinea/Attack; evaded hijack
5	18 April	Corinth	Marshall Islands/General Cargo Ship	Pointe Noire anchorage, The Congo/ Attempted boarding
6	22 April	Cap Theodora	Greece/Crude Tanker	SSE of Brass, Nigeria/Attack; numerous boarding attempts
7	23 April	Hansa Marburg	Liberia/Container Ship	105 nm off Nigeria/Attack, board and kidnap of 4 crew members
8	24 April	Bosun	Antigua & Barbuda/ Container Ship	SSW of Nigeria coast/Attack; fired upon; evaded
9	25 April	Utai 8	Nigeria Crew/Change Boat	S of Brass, Nigeria/Hijack with 3 crew members; possible Mothership
10	25 April	City of Xiamen	Antigua & Barbuda/ Container Ship	WSW of Brass, Nigeria/Attack 2 boats - Utai 8 - Citadel Breach, 5 kidnapped
11	26 April	City of Guangzhou	Antigua & Barbuda/ Container Ship	WSW of Brass, Nigeria/Attack, attempt board, 1 hour chase

Southeast Asia



Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location/Type of Incident
1	1 April	Crane	Marshall Islands/Bulk Carrier	Chittagong anchorage A, Bangladesh/ Boarding and failed robbery; 6 robbers, whilst discharging ops
NS	1 April	Condor	Marshall Islands/Bulk Carrier	Suspicious Activity - Indian Ocean/Group of boats, crew to citadel, evasive action, AST stood to
NS	2 April	Wehr Blankenese	Marshall Islands/ Container Ship	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam/Robbery, unnoticed
2	3 April	Ivor Exact	Gibraltar (UK)/ Chemical Tanker	Dumai anchorage, Indonesia/Approach, 4 robbers
3	3 April	Sher-e-Punjab	Liberia/Bulk Carrier	Adang Bay anchorage, Indonesia/Robbery
4	4 April	Garden River City	Singapore/Crude Tanker	Dumai Inner anchorage, Indonesia/ Robbery
5	5 April	New Century	Marshall Islands/Oil Tanker	Visakhapatnam anchorage, India/ Attempted boarding, 7 robbers in 3 fishing boats

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location/Type of Incident
6	6 April	Maersk Bering	Singapore/Chemical Tanker	Belawan anchorage, Indonesia/Robbery, unnoticed; Attempt to "sell back" to ship
7	9 April	Westgate	Liberia/Bulk Carrier	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam/Robbery, unnoticed
8	12 April	Densa Jaguar	Malta/Bulk Carrier	Surabaya Port, Indonesia/Attempted robbery
9	17 April	IVS Magpie	Singapore/Bulk Carrier	Campha Outer anchorage, Vietnam/Board and robbery
10	19 April	Singapore River	Singapore/Tanker	Dumai inner anchorage, Indonesia/Robbery
11	22 April	Eng Tou 266	Singapore/Barge Carrier	Off Tanjung Ayajm, Malaysia/Barge stolen
12	23 April	AD Phoenix	Singapore/Tanker	NE of Bintan Island, Indonesia/Robbery; no response authorities
13	24 April	Hub 21	Malaysia/Tug	South China Sea/Robbery; 15 pirates in 3 speedboats, 9 crew taken hostage, some assaulted and tied up.
14	24 April	Nadiya Melisende	Kiribati/Product Tanker	NE of Bintan Island, Indonesia/Robbery
15	27 April	Fairchem Maverick	Panama/Chemical Tanker	Berth Ocean Quay 106, Belawan Port, Indonesia/Robbery, 2 robbers board vessel
16	29 April	Crest Gold1/Crest 2821	Singapore/Tug and Barge	Singapore Straits/Robbery from barge being towed by tug
17	30 April	Kohinoor	Panama/General Cargo Ship	Belawan Port, Indonesia/Robbery during customs/Discharge ops

Southeast Asia



Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location/Type of Incident
1	13 April	Unique Guardian	Hong Kong, China/ Chemical Tanker	Punta Talara anchorage, Peru/ robbery
2	15 April	Maersk Nienburg	Hong Kong, China/ Container Ship	Guayaquil, Ecuador/Boarding
3	16 April	Shamrock	Barbados/Ro-Ro Cargo Ship	Cartagena Inner anchorage, Colombia/Robbery



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References are always available.

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