

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

July 22 – 28, 2013 (Week 30)



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At Sea:

- There have been no reports of hijackings, attacks or pirate sightings throughout this reporting period. Nevertheless, pirate action groups (PAG's) will continue to operate throughout the Red Sea and into the Gulf of Aden as these regions will remain relatively sheltered from the ongoing monsoon season. Any vessels transiting the HRA are reminded to remain vigilant.

Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 0
- Sightings: 0
- Releases: 0

Weather Analysis:

- The weather throughout the following week will continue to be affected by the Southwest Monsoon. Throughout the week, small skiffs and boats will experience decreased mobility throughout the Red Sea and into the Gulf of Aden, with conditions marginally improving by the end of the week. In the Gulf of Oman and into the waters off the coast of Somalia, water conditions will continue to be poor. Further out to sea, water conditions will worsen. The Red Sea and the waters off Mozambique will continue to have calmer seas. Consequently, this region will likely see a number of pirate skiffs over the coming week.

On Land:

- **27 July 2013** - Witnesses and officials have reported that al-Shabaab militants claimed to have carried out a suicide bomb attack on a Turkish embassy annex in Mogadishu on Saturday, in which one Turkish guard and a Somali bystander were killed.
 - In a separate incident, at least one person was killed on Saturday in a separate attack in Mogadishu when a car bomb exploded.
- **24 July 2013** - At least one person was killed while several others were wounded on Wednesday after a car bomb exploded in Somalia's capital Mogadishu in what is the latest string of attacks to be carried out during the month of Ramadan.
- **23 July 2013** - Two men who have been accused and convicted in court for that assassination of Sheikh Abdulkadir Nur Farah, the Mufti of Puntland, were executed by a Puntland military court on Tuesday in the city of Garowe.
 - Meanwhile Somali security forces, backed by African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops, have arrested dozens of people who have been suspected of instigating insecurity in the outskirts of Baidoa.

Regional Reporting:

- **22 July 2013** - Although Ethiopia has begun pulling troops out of a former rebel stronghold in Somalia, the country's foreign minister announced on Monday that his country has no plans for a complete withdrawal from the fight against al-Qaeda-linked insurgents.

International Developments:

- **25 July 2013** - The United Nations Security Council has extended the mandate of the UN expert panel monitoring compliance with sanctions against Somalia and Eritrea by an additional sixteen months.

About MS Risk

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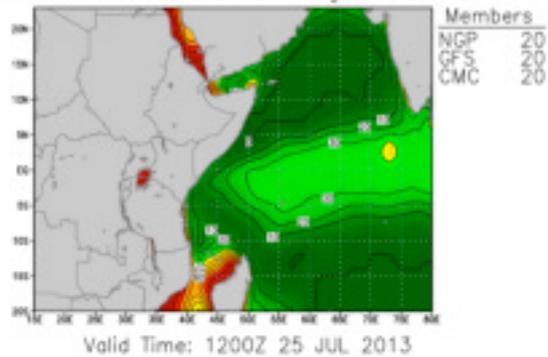
Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be at 15 - 20 knots with seas of 5 - 7 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Oman** - Northwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with northwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 5 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Northwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with northwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 5 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet; with southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 10 - 12 feet near the Horn of Africa.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet; with southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet near the Horn of Africa.
- **Arabian Sea** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Southerly winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southerly winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 6 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - Southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 5 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southerly at 10 - 15 knots with seas of 4 - 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 6 - 8 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 8 - 9 feet in the southern Channel.
- **Surface Currents** - The Northern Arabian Sea and GOA 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.
- **Surface Currents** - The northern and western Indian Ocean areas are currently under the influence of the southwest monsoon season, with high pressure and low pressure systems interacting, creating a northwesterly flow over the Arabian Gulf.

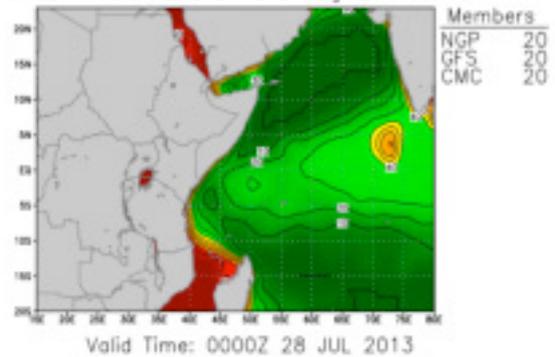
Sea Conditions For This Week:

10-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast, DTG: 2013072300

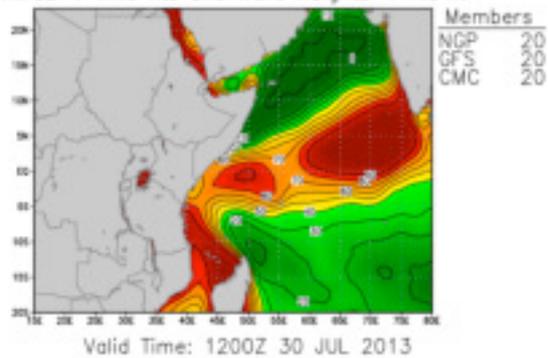
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



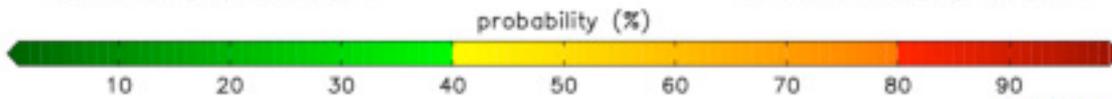
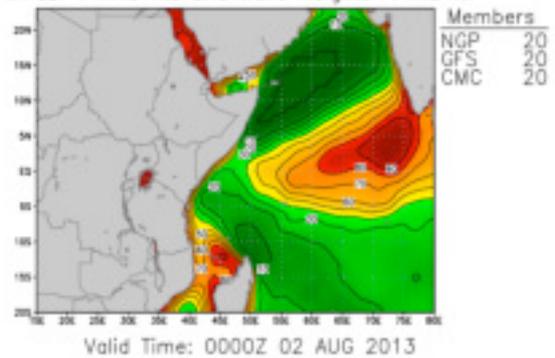
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



*** 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:

- **27 July 2013** - Witnesses and officials have reported that al-Shabaab militants claimed to have carried out a suicide bomb attack on a Turkish embassy annex in Mogadishu on Saturday, in which one Turkish guard and a Somali bystander were killed. This is the second attack to have occurred today. On the ground sources have indicated that an explosives-laden vehicle rammed the gates of a building that housed embassy staff, resulting in the vehicle exploding and also killing a passer-by. According to a statement that was released by the Turkish Foreign Ministry, “one of our policemen from the special forces tasked with protecting the embassy annex targeted in the attack has unfortunately died.” The statement further indicated that three other Turkish security forces were wounded, one of them seriously, in the attack which has been one of the worst against the Turkish presence in Mogadishu. Al-Shabaab has since claimed responsibility for the attack on its Twitter account, stating that their forces “have just carried out an operation targeting a group of Turkish diplomats.” In 2011, Turkey launched a major diplomatic, economic and humanitarian push in Somalia, and has since been one of the very few nations that has set up an embassy in the capital city. The embassy was opened following a visit in August of last year by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. In March 2012, direct flights between Somalia and Turkey were launched. Turkey has also aided in building hospitals and renovating other buildings in the capital. While security operations have been ongoing throughout Mogadishu, in which the overall security status of the city has greatly improved, al-Shabaab militants have nevertheless continued their efforts in destabilizing the city by carrying out a number of hit-and-run attacks, which have increased over the past few months with the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. On July 12, just a couple of days into Ramadan, Somali insurgents killed at least five people in multiple attacks in the capital, with a suicide bomber ramming an African Union convoy while later that day. Al-Shabaab fighters claimed that members of their suicide brigade had carried out the attack, calling it “a martyrdom operation targeting a convoy of crusaders.” The AU mission confirmed that a car packed with explosives “attempted to hit” one of their armored troop transport vehicles along one of Mogadishu’s main central highways, but that none of its troops were killed in the blast. Later that same day, unknown insurgents hurled a grenade into the Barwaqo hotel in central Mogadishu. At least two people were killed in that attack, which left at least ten people wounded. The month of Ramadan has often seen a surge in al-Shabaab attacks, in which gunmen have been urged by extremist preachers to carry out attacks on public places.
 - In a separate incident, at least one person was killed on Saturday in a separate attack in Mogadishu when a car bomb exploded. The car, a government vehicle, exploded near the Sanca intersection in the northern regions of the capital city. According to Muhidin Hassan Jurus, the Yaqshid district commissioner, “one person was killed in the blast, which destroyed a car belonging to the public works ministry.” Authorities are currently investigating the attack. Local residents have indicated that it looked as if the device attached to the vehicle had exploded as it drove through the district. The incident is similar to an attack which occurred earlier this week on Wednesday in which a car bomb that targeted a lawmaker’s car in the capital killed one civilian and injured several others. No one has claimed responsibility for this recent attack however al-Shabaab militant have increased their attacks throughout the capital city ever since the start of Ramadan earlier this month.
- **24 July 2013** - At least one person was killed while several others were wounded on Wednesday after a car bomb exploded in Somalia’s capital Mogadishu in what is the latest string of attacks to be carried out during the month of Ramadan. According to local police officials, the blast targeted a car that belonged to a member of Parliament who was not hurt in the attack. Somali police official Mohamed Ali has indicated that “the bomb destroyed the car of lawmaker Sheikh Adan Mader but he escaped the attack unharmed... One civilian was killed and several others injured.” No one has

claimed responsibility for the attack however al-Qaeda-linked insurgents have carried out a series of bombings, attacks and killings in a bid to overthrow the internationally-backed government.

- **23 July 2013** - Two men who have been accused and convicted in court for that assassination of Sheikh Abdulkadir Nur Farah, the Mufti of Puntland, were executed by a Puntland military court on Tuesday in the city of Garowe. The two men, Abdirahman Hussein Jama Bile and Abdullahi Osman Ahmed, were executed by a Puntland firing squad. Sheikh Abdulkadir was gunned down during afternoon prayers inside the Badr mosque in Garowe on 15 February this year. He was buried the following day, in which Puntland government leaders, Somali federal government officials, Islamic scholars from all regions of Somalia and the Puntland public attended his funeral. Puntland leader Abdirahman Mohamed Farole, along with a number of Islamic scholars, blamed al-Shabaab militants for the Sheikh's assassination. Mr. Bile, who is responsible for killing Sheikh Abdulkadir, was captured after attempting to escape the scene. The other convicted al-Shabaab member, Mr. Aynte, escaped to neighboring Somaliland however he was returned to Puntland authorities on March 13 after a request had been made by Puntland. Court records have revealed that on May 24, the Puntland military court sentenced to death seven persons who were found responsible for the killing of Sheikh Abdulkadir. Five of them were sentenced in absentia. Although the convicted men attempted to appeal their case, they lost the bid as the Puntland military appeals court upheld their death verdict on July 16. Puntland government officials have blamed al-Shabaab militants for a wave of killings and terrorist attacks that have targeted government officials, security forces and prominent civilians. In 2010, Puntland troops stormed al-Shabaab's mountain hideouts in the Golis mountain range, in which more than one hundred militants were killed during the military offensive. More recently, after a Puntland military court in Bossaso executed thirteen persons who were convicted of carrying out killings and terrorist attacks in Puntland on behalf of al-Shabaab, al-Shabaab's spokesman Ali Dheere threatened that more terrorist attacks would be carried out in Puntland, in which judiciary personnel and security forces would be targeted.

- Meanwhile Somali security forces, backed by African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops, have arrested dozens of people who have been suspected of instigating insecurity in the outskirts of Baidoa. Area commissioner for Aw Dinle Mohmaed Sheikh Abdillahi has stated that detainees arrested during the security operations would be questioned and those found blameless would be released. He further noted that "crimes that are allegedly carried out by al-Qaeda-linked militant sympathizers in the region and rapidly increased in the last couple of weeks..." Jubbaland security forces also continued to carry out security operations in Kismayo. Security personnel in the port city have arrested dozens of people, including soldiers who have been carrying illegal firearms in the city streets. According to senior police commissioner Mohamed Abdi Sugow, security forces have also seized a large number of guns, ammunition and explosive materials during the raids. Instability in the southern Somali region has continued over the past few weeks, with the Somali federal government in Mogadishu increasingly becoming concerned that al-Shabaab militants in the surrounding areas may carry out an attack in a bid to re-capture the port city of Kismayo, which they lost to coalition troops last August.

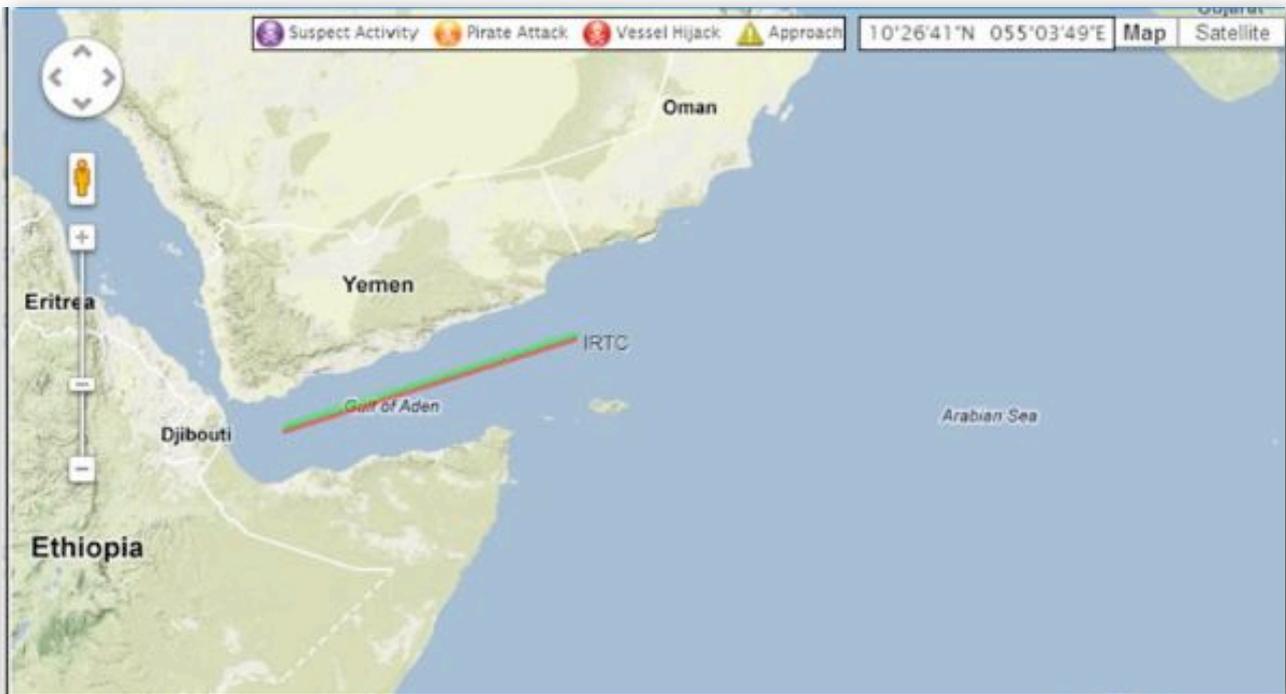
Regional Reporting:

- **22 July 2013** - Although Ethiopia has begun pulling troops out of a former rebel stronghold in Somalia, the country's foreign minister announced on Monday that his country has no plans for a complete withdrawal from the fight against al-Qaeda-linked insurgents. Although AMISOM troops have pushed out al-Shabaab militants from a number of urban strongholds in central and southern Somalia, suicide attacks have reinforced concerns that militants remain a potent force. In turn, Ethiopia's sudden withdrawal in March of this year from the town of Hudur, which is the capital of the Bakool province near the Ethiopian border, enabled al-Shabaab militants to retake control of the town.

International Developments:

- **25 July 2013** - The United Nations Security Council has extended the mandate of the UN expert panel monitoring compliance with sanctions against Somalia and Eritrea by an additional sixteen months. The Council has requested that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sustain the eight-member monitoring group on Eritrea and Somalia until 25 November 2014. In its resolution, which was adopted on Wednesday, the Council also further eased funding and equipment restrictions on the UN and EU missions in the region. The panel, which monitored compliance with the embargoes on the delivery of weapons and military equipment to Somalia and Eritrea, also investigated any seaport operations in Somalia that would generate revenue for al-Shabaab. The extension of the mandate also reminded the Federal Government of Somalia that it is required to notify the Council's sanctions committee at least five days in advance of any such deliveries of arms or equipment and provide details of the transactions. Alternatively, Member States delivering assistance could make the notification after informing the government of its intentions in that regard. The Council has also decided that until 6 March 2014, the arms embargo on Somalia will not apply to weapons, military equipment, training or advice that is intended to develop Somali's security forces.

Map:





About MS Risk

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References are always available.

More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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