



Maritime OPINTEL Report

(U) SOMALIA: Piracy Analysis and Warning Weekly (PAWW) Report (Horn of Africa) for 13-18 November 2009

18 November 2009

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1. (U) Scope

(U) The *Piracy Analysis and Warning Weekly (PAWW) Report* provides a review of incidents, an assessment, and an outlook on the threat to merchant shipping in or near the Gulf of Aden and off the East coast of Somalia from piracy and associated maritime crime. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces operating in and near the Horn of Africa of recent pirate activity.

2. (U) Advisory

(U) ONI assesses that vessels attacked off Somalia are randomly selected and not specifically targeted for any reason other than how easily the vessel can be boarded. Pirates simply patrol an area, wait for a target of opportunity, and attempt to board. ONI defines a high risk vessel as one that travels at a speed of less than 15 knots with low hook points. All vessels, especially vessels that fit this profile, are advised to proceed with extreme caution when transiting the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Somalia. Pirates have shown a capability to operate in waters off the Omani coast (in the southern Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea). There have also been incidents reported in the southern Red Sea of aggressive small boat activity. Caution must be taken when transiting these waters. Pirates have achieved significant success in recent months and have shown their capability to operate for sustained periods in the Gulf of Aden and at a considerable distance (>1000NM) off the coast of Somalia. Not all attacks were successful, and considerable caution is always required since the areas around failed hijackings remain at high risk for at least 48 hours after the incident. ONI releases Indications and Warning spot reports to assist mariners in avoiding these areas. It is strongly recommended that vessels transiting the region take counter-piracy measures as: continuous anti-piracy shipboard drills, fixed barbed wire in high densities around the main deck rail and any low hook points so as not to interfere with shipboard safety, fixed fire hoses along the outside of the vessel—especially near potential boarding points, assignment of additional watch standers to ensure 360 degree coverage for vessel, and consideration of employment of a pirate security team.

3. (U) Projected Risk of Attack

A. (U) *GULF OF ADEN*: Over the next 72 hours conditions will be favorable for small boat activity in the Gulf of Aden with winds at 5-10 knots and associated wave heights of 2-5 feet (UK Weather Online).

B. (U) *INDIAN OCEAN*: In the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Somalia, weather continues to be conducive to small boat operations. Forecasts indicate wind speeds of 5-15 knots with associated wave heights of 2-6 feet (UK Weather Online).

4. (U) Piracy Events

(U) This section provides information on threats to, and criminal action against, merchant shipping in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa.

A. (U) Summary of the Week

(U) There are four incidents to report in this period.

1. (U) Vessels Hijacked

1. INDIAN OCEAN: Chemical tanker (THERESA VIII) hijacked 16 Nov 09 at 1053 UTC while underway in position 08:00.11S – 045:58E, approximately 600NM south of Mogadishu, Somalia. Pirates armed with machine guns attacked and hijacked the vessel, taking hostage 28 crewmembers. The pirates are in control of the vessel and are sailing it to an undisclosed location (IMB, AFP).

2. (U) Vessels Fired Upon

1. INDIAN OCEAN: Cargo Vessel fired upon 18 Nov 09 at 0715 UTC while underway in position 01:48S – 049:01E, approximately 395NM east of Kismayo, Somalia. The vessel reported coming under attack by two skiffs who fired automatic weapons and two RPG rounds. The master conducted counter-piracy measures and evaded the attack (UKMTO).

2. INDIAN OCEAN: Container ship (MAERSK ALABAMA) fired upon 18 Nov 09 at 0320 UTC while underway in position 06:35N – 054:30E, approximately 285NM east of Eyl, Somalia. The vessel reported coming under fire by one skiff with four men onboard. The skiff made an aggressive approach toward the vessel which prompted them to deploy a long range acoustic device. When the skiff continued toward the vessel, the master authorized the firing of one warning shot. The men in the skiff then opened fire with automatic weapons, which prompted the embarked security team to return fire and strike the skiff. The skiff approached no closer than 300 yards before breaking off the attack. No casualties or damage to the vessel was reported (Operator, AFP).

3. INDIAN OCEAN: General cargo ship fired upon 13 Nov 09 at 0446 UTC while underway in position 00:42S – 047:58E, approximately 220NM southeast of Mogadishu, Somalia. Men in a white skiff armed with guns chased and opened fire on the vessel while underway. The master raised the alarm, contacted coalition forces, increased speed and conducted evasive maneuvers to evade the attack (IMB).

3. (U) Vessels Aggressively Approached

(U) No vessels were aggressively approached in this period.




B. (U) Tabulated Data

(U) Table 1 is a summary of piracy events that have occurred this week, this month, and current/prior year.

	This Week (Last)	November 09 (October 09)	2009 (2008)
Vessels Fired Upon	3 (7)	12 (12)	117 (42)
Vessels Hijacked	1 (3)	4 (6)	42 (44)
Attempted Boarding *Data Set originates 22 May 2009	0 (0)	0 (1)	4 (N/A)

C. (U) Incident Disposition

(U) The incidents contained within this report were noted to have taken place, or reported, within the last week and are illustrated in Figure 1.

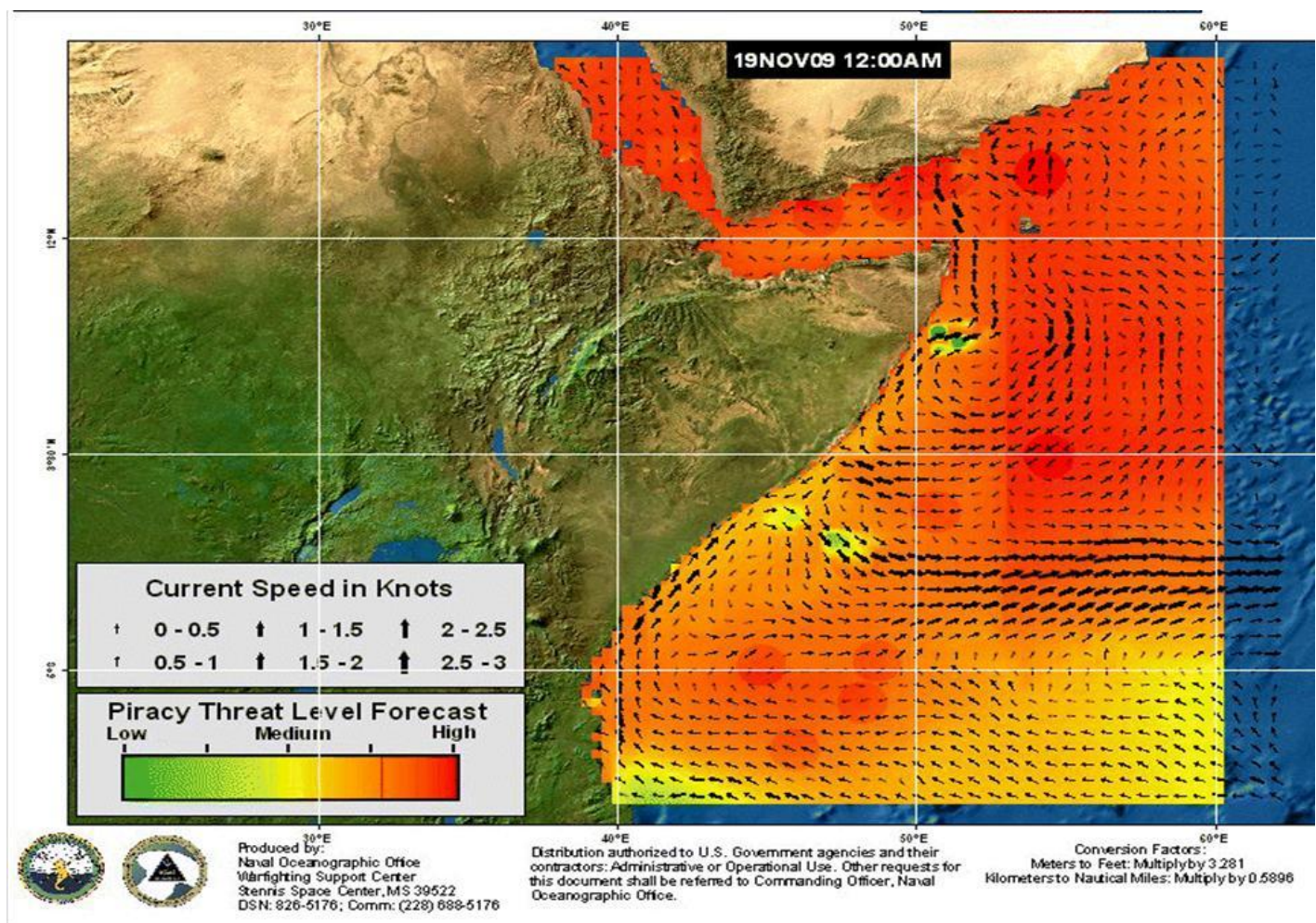
-  Attempted boardings
-  Vessels fired upon
-  Vessels hijacked



(U) Figure 1. HOA Pirate Activity, 13-18 November 2009 (IMB).

5. (U) Forecast for Week of 19-25 November 2009

(U) Weather conditions continue to be conducive to small boat operations in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Somalia, and in the Gulf of Aden. Mariners are warned to remain vigilant in their counter-piracy measures as an increase in aggressive small boat activity is expected in the coming weeks. Somali pirates currently hold fewer vessels for ransom than they have shown recent capacity to hold. This week, ONI assesses the risk of pirate attacks is high in the Indian Ocean with increased risks in the areas noted in red on the map below. Please note pirates south of the equator in the Indian Ocean have recently demonstrated the ability to operate in the capability range of Medium. Prevailing currents are significant between latitudes 1 degree north and 5 degrees south and tend to flow in an easterly direction with speeds up to 3.5 kts. Therefore, increased risk of attack exists due east of the Somali coast out as far as 1000NM between these latitudes. The Gulf of Aden remains a prime operating area for Somali pirates.



(U) Figure 2. Likelihood of Small Boat Operations (Graphic courtesy of the Naval Oceanographic Office Warfighting Support Center).

(U) Please note that in Figure 2, the colors have been adjusted to represent color schemes familiar to our customers. In the picture, green represents a reduced risk for small boat activity while red signifies areas with a high likelihood of small boat activity. The waters marked in yellow through red may represent an increased risk to vessels operating in the area and mariners are encouraged to maintain a strict watch at all times when transiting these high-risk waters.

(U) Appendix A

(U) Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental authorities in lawful pursuit of their authority.

(U) Terms of Reference

(U) The following terms are adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis:

- **(U) Boarding** - Unauthorized presence on the ship whether in port or underway.
- **(U) Robbery** - Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- **(U) Kidnap** - Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- **(U) Hijack** - Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- **(U) Firing Upon** - Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- **(U) Attempted Boarding** - Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- **(U) Suspicious Approach** - All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.
- **(U) Blocking** - Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.

(U) Sourcing

(U) Information contained in this report is derived through direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources:

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)

- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark
- BBC News
- Fairplay (FP), London
- Informa Group (INFO), formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Latitude38.com (LAT) website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local Media (LM)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S.
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)
- Maritime Security Council (MSC), U.S.
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Brussels
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

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