

Piracy Threat Analysis Report

14 September 2012 – 20 September 2012



Threat Analysis Center

Summary

There were two reported incidents worldwide this week. Weather conditions have begun to improve in the Indian Ocean, increasing the likelihood of pirate activity off the coast of Somalia. However, pirate attacks continue to remain at low levels compared to totals in 2010 and 2011. This is due in large part to the increased presence of armed security aboard vessels as well as improved efforts by vessel crews in enforcing Best Management Practices onboard their vessels. Pirates will continue operating in these areas, but will likely be more selective in targeting vessels. With armed guards continuing to be a factor, pirates may take more aggressive actions when attempting to board a vessel.

Suspicious activity in the Indian Ocean: One suspicious incident was reported on 18 September 2012, in position 14:14N – 061:14E, approximately 400NM northeast of Socotra. One of our AdvanFort security teams spotted a suspicious looking craft following the vessel 1 NM away for approximately one hour. Our security team took a defensive stance as a precaution until the boat eventually ended its pursuit and moved away. While we cannot confirm this was piracy related, we strongly advise all vessels transiting this area to remain diligent in utilizing best management practices.



1. Cameroon: LPG tanker robbed on 8 September at 04:03N – 09:41E, Douala Port Facility. The ship was boarded while the shore security watch was on a break. The robbers took the deck cadet on duty hostage, and stole ship's

stores. Before escaping they released the cadet who immediately raised the alarm. Incident reported to port control and a police team boarded for investigation. (IMB, ONI)



2. Bangladesh: Bulk carrier robbed on 19 September at 22: 54N - 91:45E, Chittagong Anchorage. Two armed robbers carrying knives boarded the ship while at anchor and awaiting cargo operations; they held a member of the crew hostage at knife point. Four additional robbers boarded the ship via the hawse pipe. They searched the crew member for keys to the store room and then tied him up. No keys were found and the robbers subsequently broke into the store room and managed to steal ship's stores. Stevedores on an approaching lighter vessel spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the alert crew and stevedores, the robbers escaped via the hawse pipe. Port control and coast guard units were informed of the event. (IMB, ONI)

Convoy Schedules

Escort services are provided by the following countries during the month of September for vessels transiting the Gulf of Aden:

Government of Japan convoy scheduled for September 2012. Merchant vessels that wish to apply for JMSDF escort operation should visit http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html and follow the application procedure. For further information, please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MILT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932 Fax: +81-3-5253-1643 Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp (MSCHOA).

Korean Navy convoy scheduled for September 2012. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at (INMARSAT: 870-773-110-374), (Email: rokcheonghae@gmail.com) (MSCHOA).

Chinese convoy scheduled for September 2012. For further information, please e-mail cnmrcc@msa.gov.cn, cnmrcc@mot.gov.cn, or call Tel: 86-10-652-92221 Fax: 86- 10-652-92245 (MSCHOA).

Indian Navy convoy schedule available on the Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa internet site:
<http://www.mschoa.org/on-shore/home> (MSCHOA).

Weather Forecast 21 Sep – 27 Sep 2012: Indian Ocean

Gulf of Aden: South-southwesterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; and south-southwesterly winds of 10 -15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet while in the eastern section. **Extended Forecast:** South-southwesterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; and south-southwesterly winds of 10 -15 knots, gusting to 20 knots, and seas of 3 – 5 feet while in the eastern section.

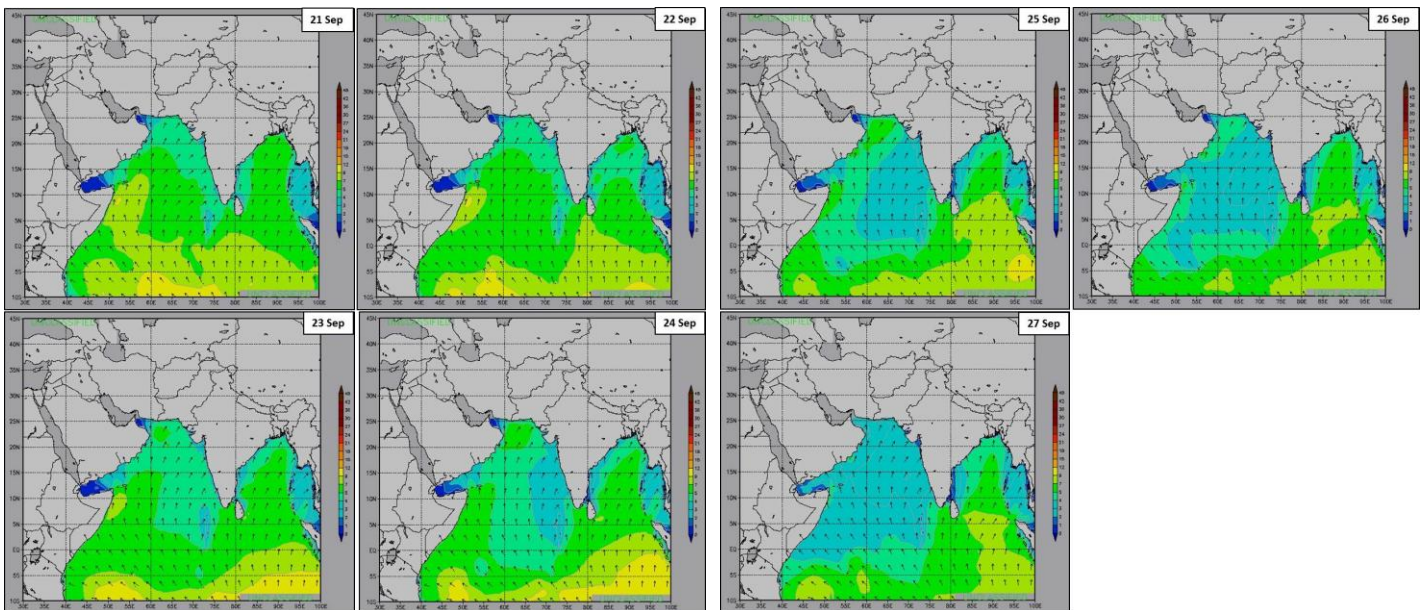
Somali Coast: South-westerly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet north of 5 degrees North; and southerly winds of 10 -15 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet south of 5 degrees North. **Extended Forecast:** Southwesterly winds of 15 – 20 knots, gusting to 25 knots, and seas of 8 – 10 feet north of 5 degrees North; and southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet south of 5 degrees North.

Arabian Sea: South-southwesterly winds of 10 -15 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet. **Extended Forecast:** South-southwesterly winds of 10 -15 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet.

Central African Coast/Indian Ocean: South-southwesterly winds of 10 -15 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet. **Extended Forecast:** South-southwesterly winds of 10 -15 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.

Mozambique Channel: East-southeasterly winds of 10 -15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern section of the Channel; and east-northeasterly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet in the southern channel. **Extended Forecast:** East-southeasterly winds of 10 -12 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet in the northern section of the Channel; and east-northeasterly winds of 12 – 14 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet in the southern channel.

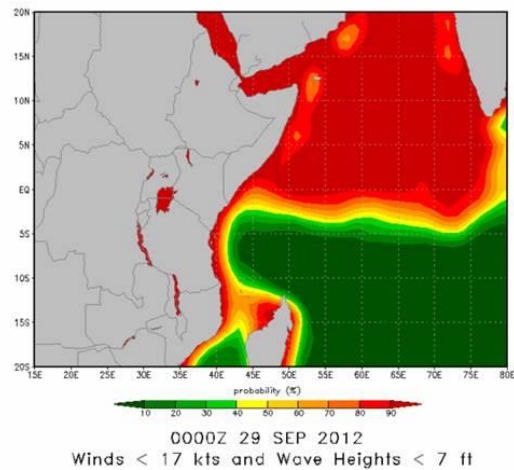
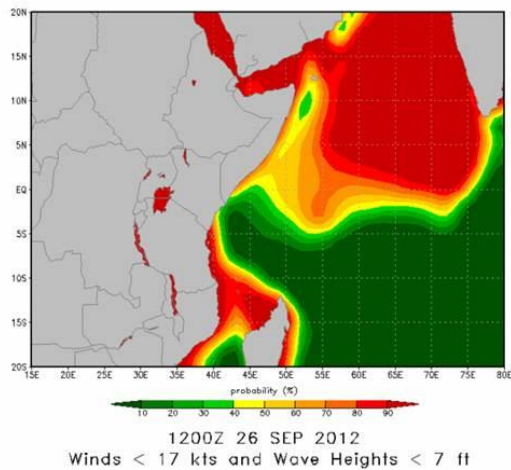
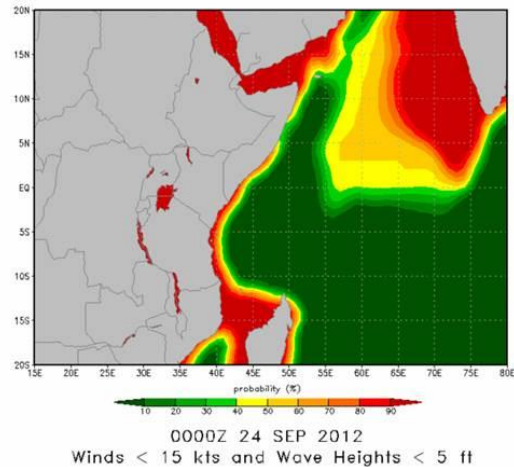
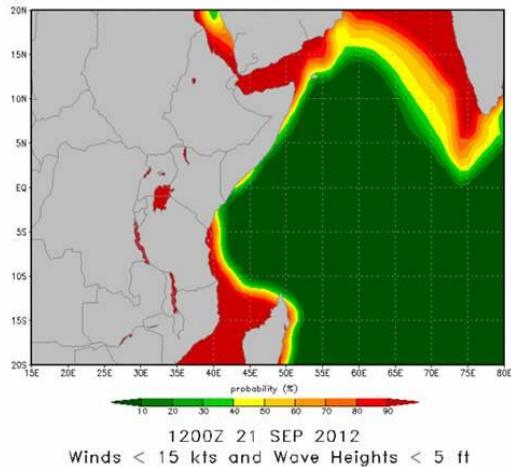
Surface Currents: The Northern Arabian Sea and the Mozambique Channel currents are variable with most areas having average speeds of 5-7 knots. Current speeds along the Somali basin average between 7 and 9 knots, while currents in most of the Gulf of Aden have an average speed of 1 -3 knots, with some areas having currents averaging around 3 – 5 knots.



10 Day Weather Conditions and Small Boat Operations Capabilities

In the graphic below, green shading represents a reduced likelihood of pirate activity while red represents a higher likelihood of pirate activity.

10 Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast



Terminology

Courtesy of the Naval Oceanographic Office
Warfighting Support Center

Attempted Boarding – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with reporting that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.

Boarding – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.

Fired Upon – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.

Hijacking – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.

Kidnapping – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.

Robbery – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.

Suspicious Approach – All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.

Information Cut-off Date: 20 Sep 2012