



*Maritime OPINTEL Report*

**(U) SOMALIA: Piracy Analysis and Warning Weekly  
(PAWW) Report  
(Horn of Africa) for 10 – 16 May 2012**

17 May 2012

*Maritime Crime/Piracy*

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**1. (U) Scope Note**

(U) The Piracy Analysis and Warning Weekly (PAWW) Report is a review of recent Somali piracy incidents and an outlook on threats around the Horn of Africa.

**2. (U) Piracy Events Over Past Week**

(U) Somali piracy incidents are occurring at low levels. There was one vessel reported as hijacked during this one week period. There was one vessel reported as attacked during this one week period.

**A. (U) Details**

**(U) Vessels Hijacked:**

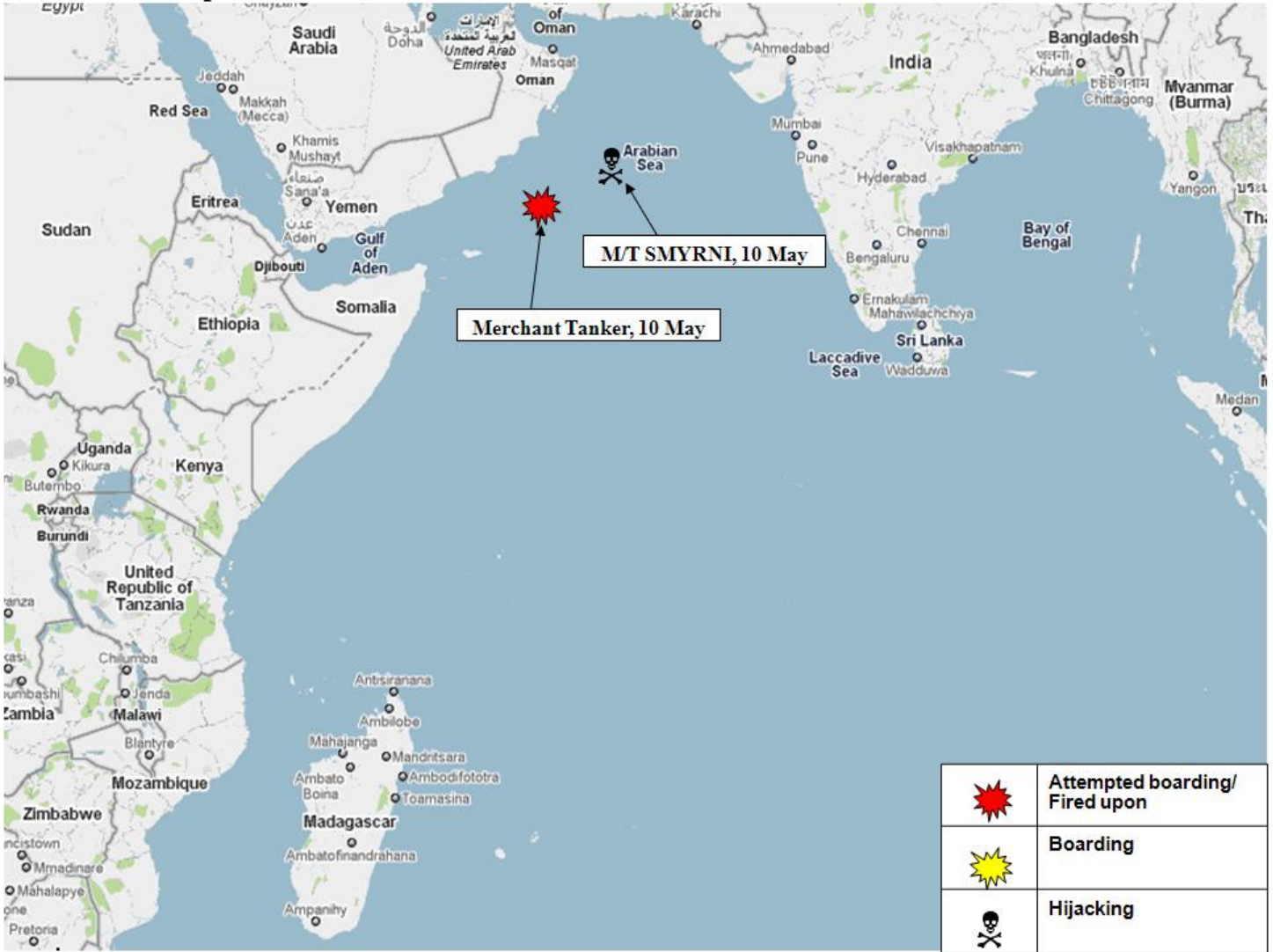
(U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 10 May, Somali pirates hijacked Liberian-flagged, Greek owned, crude oil tanker SMYRNI and its 26 crewmembers while it was underway near position 15:58 N – 061:02 E, approximately 250 nm southeast of Ras Al Madrasah, Oman. Ten pirates in two skiffs armed with automatic weapons reportedly chased the tanker underway. The tanker managed to evade the first boarding attempt by increasing speed and using evasive maneuvers. However, the pirate skiffs regrouped with a nearby mother ship and then launched a second attack on the tanker, approaching at a speed of 24 knots, successfully boarding, and hijacking the vessel. (IMB)

**(U) Vessels Boarded:** No current incidents to report.

**(U) Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boardings:**

(U) INDIAN OCEAN: Merchant tanker approached and fired upon on 10 May while underway near position 14:18 N - 058:27 E, approximately 260 nm east-northeast of Socotra Island, Yemen. Six pirates in one skiff reportedly fired upon the tanker from a distance of 500 meters. Onboard security team returned fire, resulting in the aborting the attack and moving away. (IMB)

**B. (U) Incident Disposition**



(U) Figure 1. HOA Pirate Activity, 10– 16 May

(U) Figure 1 is a visual depiction of the incidents detailed in above summary of events.

**C. (U) Tabulated Data**

	This Week	Last Week	May 2012	Apr 2012	2012	2011	2010	2009
<b>Vessels Hijacked</b>	1	0	1	1	7	27	51	52
<b>Boarding</b>	0	0	0	0	0	17	16	0
<b>Vessels Fired Upon/ Attempted Boarding</b>	1	1	2	2	19	122	119	129

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

### 3. Currently Hijacked Vessels

Name	Flag	Type	Hijacked Date
ICEBERG I	Panama	RoRo	29 March 2010
ALBEDO	Malaysia	Container Cargo	25 November 2010
ORNA	Panama	Bulk Cargo	20 December 2010
SHIUH FU NO.1	Taiwan	Fishing Vessel	25 December 2010
LIQUID VELVET	Marshall Islands	Tanker	31 October 2011
FREE GODDESS	Liberia	Bulk Cargo	7 February 2012
ROYAL GRACE	Panama	Chemical Tanker	2 March 2012
NAHAM 3	Oman	Fishing Vessel	26 March 2012
SMYRNI	Liberia	Crude Oil Tanker	10 May 2012

### 4. Weather Forecast for 17 - 24 May

**A. (U) GULF OF ADEN:** East-northeasterly winds of 8 – 12 knots and seas 1 – 3 feet. **EXTENDED FORECAST:** Expect west-northwesterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.

**B. (U) SOMALI COAST:** South-southwesterly winds of 10 -15 knots, gusting 35 knots in or near thunderstorms, and seas of 3 – 5 feet, with occasional swells of 5 – 7 feet in the southern half of the basin until 19 May. **EXTENDED FORECAST:** South-westerly winds of 10 - 15 knots, gusting to 35 knots in or near thunderstorms and seas of 3 – 5 feet.

**C. (U) ARABIAN SEA:** West-southwesterly winds 15 – 20 knots, with seas of 5 - 7 feet with occasional swells of 7 – 9 feet. **EXTENDED FORECAST:** West-southwesterly winds 15 – 20 knots, with seas of 5 - 7 feet with occasional swells of 7 – 9 feet.

**D. (U) CENTRAL AFRICAN COAST/INDIAN OCEAN:** Rain showers and thunderstorms continue to impact the Tanzania and Kenyan coasts due to the continued influence of the Great Rift Trough. A low pressure system from the east will move into the area by the middle of the week, expect strong southwesterly winds and thunderstorms; with south-southwesterly winds of 18 – 22 knots, gusting 35 knots in or near thunderstorms with seas of 5 – 7 feet.

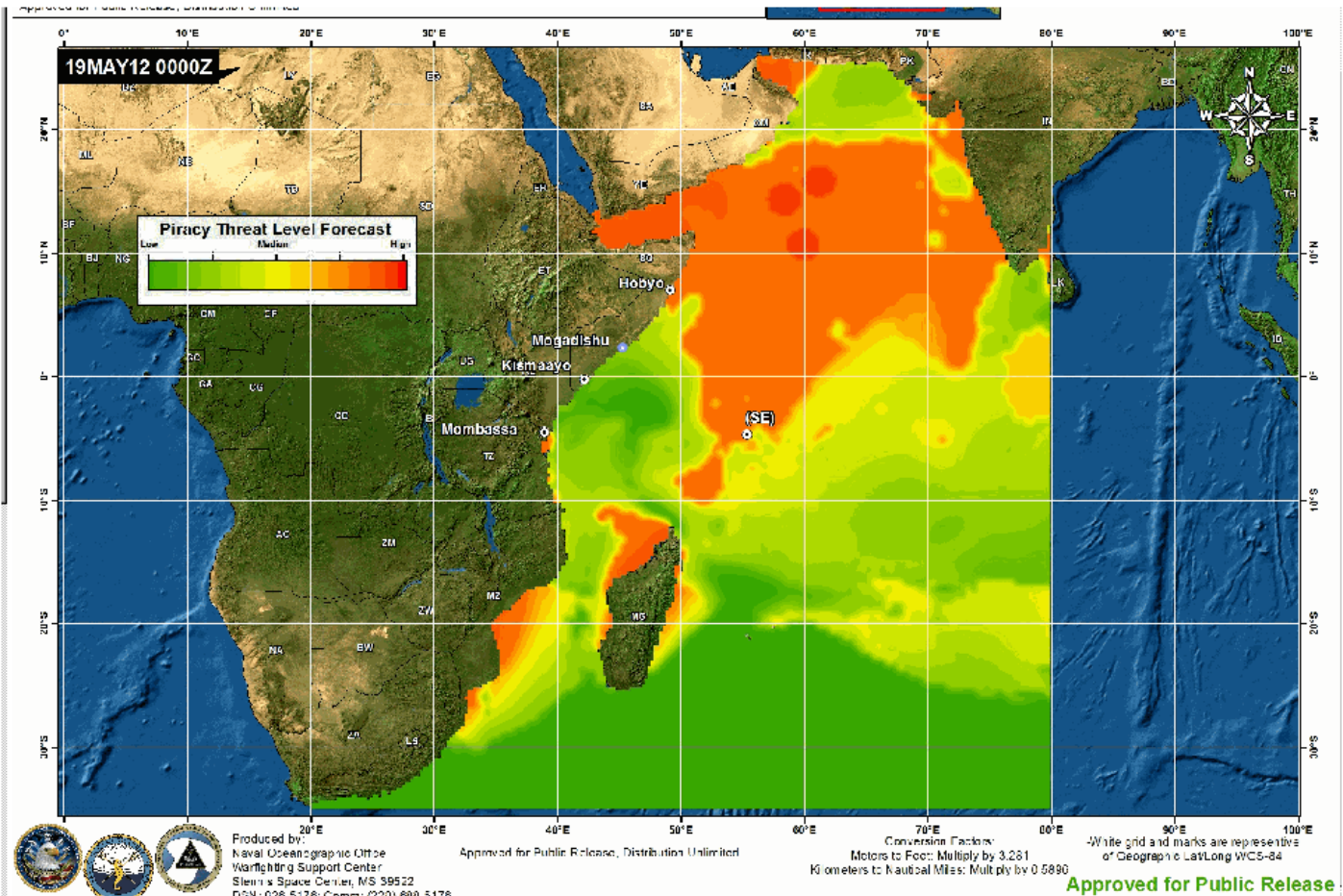
**EXTENDED FORECAST:** Southerly to south-southwesterly winds 15 – 20 knots, gusting to 35 knots in or near thunderstorms and seas of 9 – 12 feet, decreasing to 5 – 7 feet after 23 May.

**E. (U) MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL:** Southerly winds in the northern channel of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet. In the southern channel winds, south-southeasterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas 5 – 7 feet. **EXTENDED FORECAST:** In the northern channel, southerly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet, increasing to 9 – 12 after 23 May. In the southern channel, variable winds of 6 – 10 knots, becoming south-southeasterly at 15 – 20 knots and seas of 9 – 12 feet, with occasional swells of 12 – 15 feet after 21 May.

**F. (U) SURFACE CURRENTS:** Currents within the Somalia Basin, Gulf of Aden, and into the Indian Ocean remain variable with most areas having average speeds of less than 1 knot. Currents speeds along the Somali coast, continuing south off the northern Kenya coastline until about 10 degrees south will average around 2 – 3 knots. The Mozambique Channel has an average current of 1 - 2 knots but the current speed along the northwestern portion of the channel will average 2 - 3 knots.

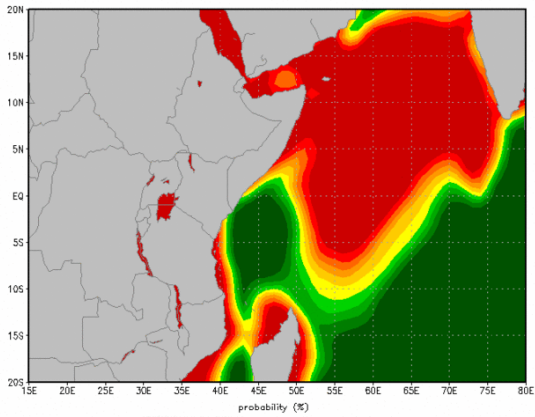
**5. (U) Graphic Aids to 10 Day Weather Conditions and Small Boat Operations Capabilities\***

\*(U) These include the environmental performance surface for Somalia and a 10 day weather forecast to provide better situational awareness to mariners.

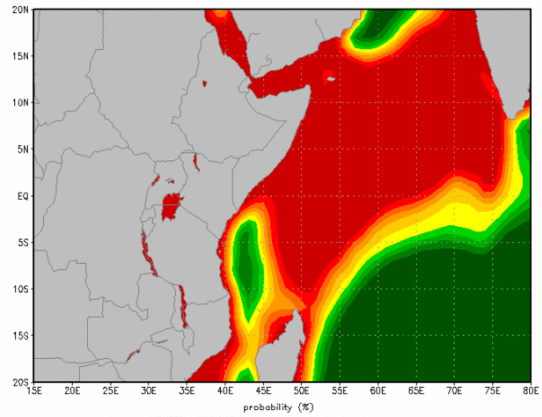


**(U) Figure 2. Pirate Skiff Capability (Graphic courtesy of the Naval Oceanographic Office Warfighting Support Center)**

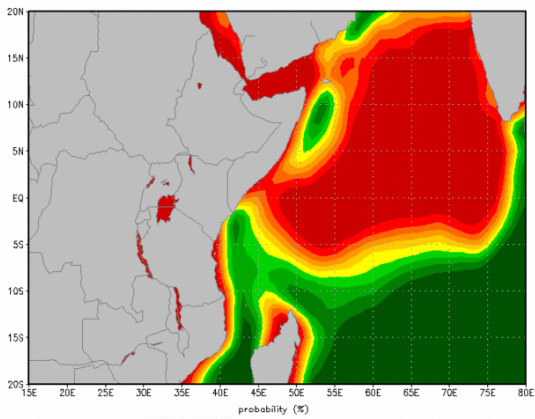
# 10 Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast



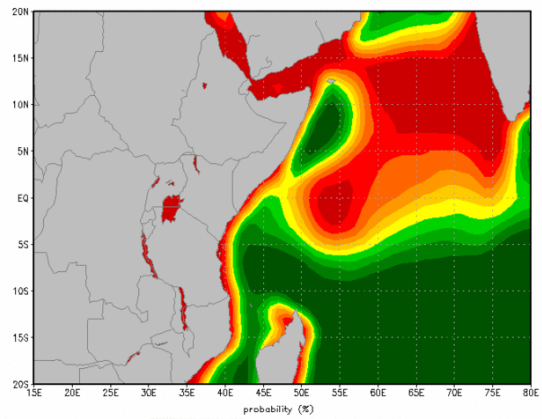
1200Z 18 MAY 2012  
Winds < 15 kts and Wave Heights < 5 ft



0000Z 21 MAY 2012  
Winds < 15 kts and Wave Heights < 5 ft



1200Z 23 MAY 2012  
Winds < 17 kts and Wave Heights < 7 ft



0000Z 26 MAY 2012  
Winds < 17 kts and Wave Heights < 7 ft

**(U) Figure 3. Ten-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast (Graphic courtesy of the Naval Oceanographic Office Warfighting Support Center)**

(U) In the graphic above, green shading represents a reduced likelihood of pirate activity while red represents a higher likelihood of pirate activity.

**(U) Appendix****(U) Terminology and References**

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

**(U) Terms of Reference**

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

- **(U) Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- **(U) Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- **(U) Boarding** – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- **(U) Firing Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- **(U) Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- **(U) Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- **(U) Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- **(U) Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.

**(U) Piracy levels**

- **(U) High:** More than 7 piracy incidents in this one-week period
- **(U) Moderate:** 3–6 piracy incidents in this one-week period
- **(U) Low:** 1–2 piracy incidents in this one-week period

**(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
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- 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)
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
- 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. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
- 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)

(U) ICOD: 16 May 2012

(U) **Contributors:** Maritime Crime/Piracy

(U) The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted each week on the ONI Intel Portal and can be found at:  
[http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence\\_Community/piracy.htm](http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm)