

Situation Update

Maritime Crime & Piracy

In The News

West Africa

- ▼ COTE d'IVOIRE: Opposition youth groups have raised the prospect of mass demonstrations calling for the release of military prisoners and equitable distribution of resources.
> koaci.com

- ▼ TOGO: Four mosques have been vandalised in the Abbas Bonfoh district of Agoe-Sogbossito, Lome; the acts have been condemned by a coalition of political parties.
> icilome.com

- ▼ CAMEROON: The Paramount ruler of the Balondo, Ndian Division, in the country's Southwest Province, has reportedly been shot dead by unidentified gunmen.
> journalducameroun.com

Indian Ocean Region

- ▼ SOMALIA: A militant faction said to be aligned to Islamic State has reportedly imposed heavy taxes on local businesses in the port city of Bosaso, Puntland.
> garoweonline.com

- ▼ COMOROS: The offices of the opposition Juwa party have been closed and seven people arrested, just weeks after opposition leader el-Barwane was jailed.
> comores-infos.net

- ▼ BANGLADESH: In Barguna District, local fishermen have held protests citing the continued illegal trespassing of Indian fishing trawlers in the Bay of Bengal.
> dhakatribune.com

South East Asia

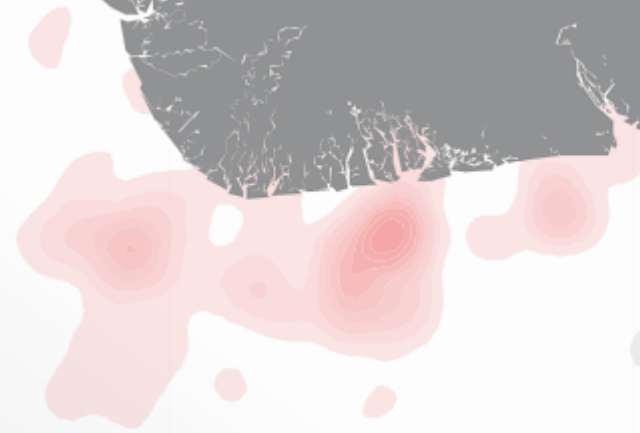
- ▼ PHILIPPINES: Western Mindanao Command has said that a local leader of Islamic State-aligned Abu Sayyaf has been killed during an offensive on the island of Jolo.
> philstar.com

- ▼ MALAYSIA: The Defence Ministry has said it has scrapped a Maritime Patrol Aircraft programme in line with a recent review of defence requirements.
> theedgemarkets.com

- ▼ INDONESIA: The Government is set to begin the US\$3bn construction of Patimban Port in Subang later this month, in order to ease traffic through the port of Tanjung Priok.
> ship-technology.com

AMBREY 
Incident Map



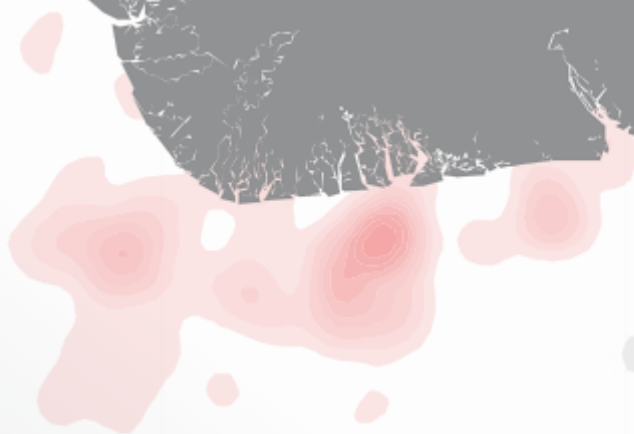


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LIBREVILLE

#	DATE	TIME	TARGET	INCIDENT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SOURCE
1	14 Aug 18	0200 UTC	Tanker	Irregular Activity	0.469167	9.004167	MDAT-GoG



COMMENT | A CSO has reported that communication and positioning information has been lost with a tanker after reportedly arriving at Libreville. The vessel in question has since been reported as Panama-flagged PANTELENA, which departed Lomé on 11 August. The Lotus Shipping-owned tanker had run the same passage a week earlier and in the hours prior to the incident, had slowed from 12.5 knots to just 4.3 knots, before deviating south west away from Libreville. While there remains no definitive confirmation of a hijacking, these details are nonetheless suggestive of one. If confirmed, the PANTELENA would be among several vessels this year in which the criminal syndicate involved sought to try and profit from selling adulterated fuel as the market strengthens.

  LIBREVILLE



#	DATE	TIME	TARGET	INCIDENT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SOURCE
1	16 Aug 18	2100 UTC	Tanker	Approached	14.55056	42.0175	Withheld



1   HODEIDAH

COMMENT | A Saudi-flagged tanker in transit from Ain Sukhna to Ras Tanura has been approached whilst under naval escort due west of Hodeidah, Yemen. A single boat closed towards the vessel's port beam at 15 knots, prompting a naval vessel to fire a series of warning shots. As the unidentified boat continued its approach, the tanker was instructed to increase speed and alter course, before continuing southbound through the Bab el-Mandeb.

The tanker in question was not displaying AIS as it passed Hodeidah and no other vessel has since reported similar concerns in the immediate area. It may therefore be a simple case of interaction with local maritime traffic. However, the proximity of the approach to a host of attacks against Saudi-aligned interests and the decisive response from the escorting naval vessel would indicate those involved had malign interests. Also in the convoy was another Saudi-flagged tanker that earlier this year suffered a suspected missile strike in the immediate vicinity. It is therefore probable that this approach was not benign, but was ultimately unsuccessful.



CHENNAI

#	DATE	TIME	TARGET	INCIDENT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SOURCE
1	10 Aug 18	1000 UTC	Tug & Barge	Boarded Underway	5.62299	119.1220	IMB
2	10 Aug 18	2055 UTC	Cargo Ship	Robbery at Anchor	21.6950	88.02083	IMO

CHENNAI

COMMENT | There have been two incidents across Southeast Asia this week. The first took place off Tambisan Island, Sabah. The IMB has reported that several people in speed boats approached Malaysia-flagged tug EVER ALPHA whilst underway. Due to the hardening of the tug the criminal syndicate were unable to enter the accommodation and escaped when they noticed a security boat approaching.

The second incident this week took place 3nm off Sagar Island, India. The IMO has reported that a group of at least ten people in a single boat came alongside Liberia-flagged cargo ship STARGATE before two in the group then boarded and stole ship stores. This is the first incident in the Hooghly River for over six months, after the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier TEAM CHALLENGE suffered a similar fate in February.

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