

Situation Update

Maritime Crime & Piracy

West Africa

- ▼ NIGERIA: The Speaker of the House of Representatives has told NIMASA that the Executive intends to expedite anti-piracy legislation, which is with the National Assembly.
> dailytrust.com.ng

- ▼ GHANA: The Ghana Maritime Authority, in collaboration with the IMO, has launched a regional workshop to encourage effective self-auditing of security at ports.
> ghanaweb.com

- ▼ GABON: President Ali Bongo's absence from the country and a reported failure to follow the constitutional process risks growing unease in the oil-rich nation.
> bloomberg.com

Indian Ocean

- ▼ SOMALIA: An Emirati base in Somaliland is now slated to be operational by June 2019; it will include a coastal surveillance system, naval jetty and airport.
> [@japanizar](https://twitter.com/@japanizar)

- ▼ ERITREA: The United Nations Security Council has renewed sanctions on Somalia while lifting sanctions on Eritrea; the monitoring group has been reappointed.
> un.org

- ▼ YEMEN: While overseeing a donation of fishing boats to communities in Shabwa, the fisheries minister has warned Iran continues to harass local fishermen.
> business-standard.com

South East Asia

- ▼ MALAYSIA: Eastern Sabah Security Command has said it is considering lifting a long-term ban on pump boats off the coast of Sabah at the beginning of next year.
> freemalaysiatoday.com

- ▼ PHILIPPINES: The Philippine Coast Guard is set to establish a new coastal radar station on the island of Boracay to improve visibility of maritime traffic in the Sulu sea.
> rappler.com

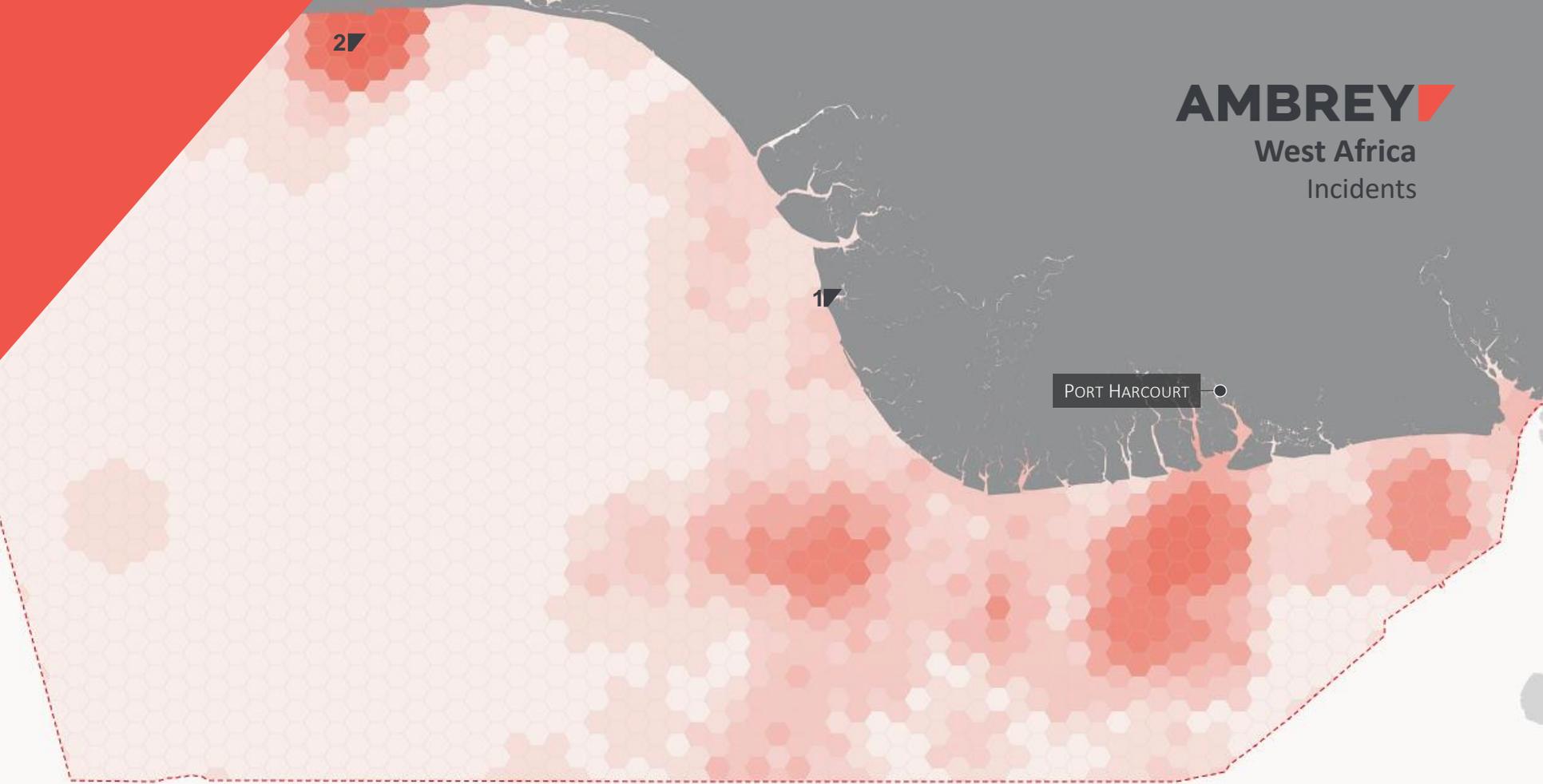
- ▼ BANGLADESH: The Bangladesh Coast Guard have conducted focused operations in Mongla, in a bid to halt illegal trafficking across the Sundarbans region.
> prothomalo.com



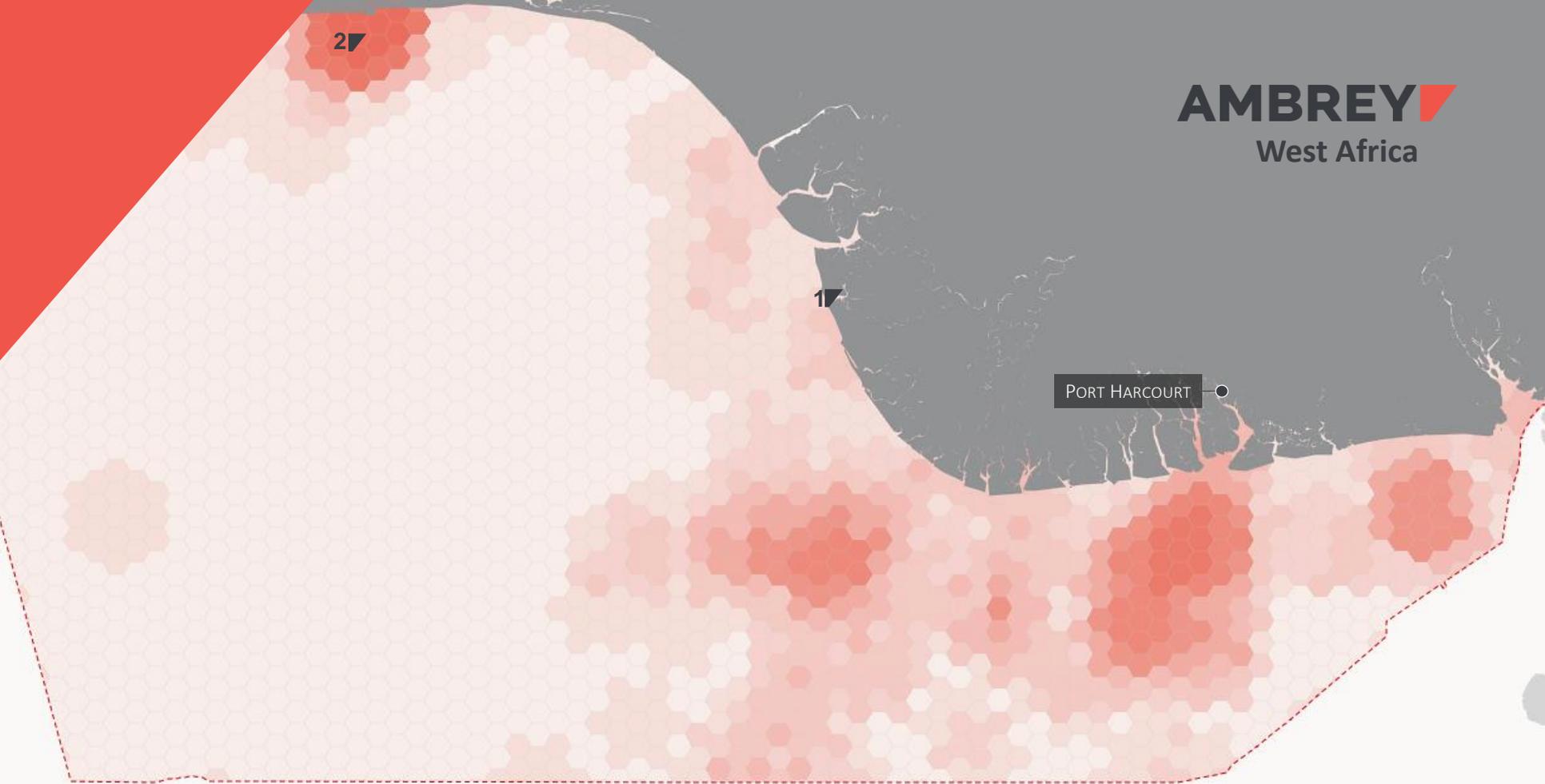
AMBREY

Incident Map



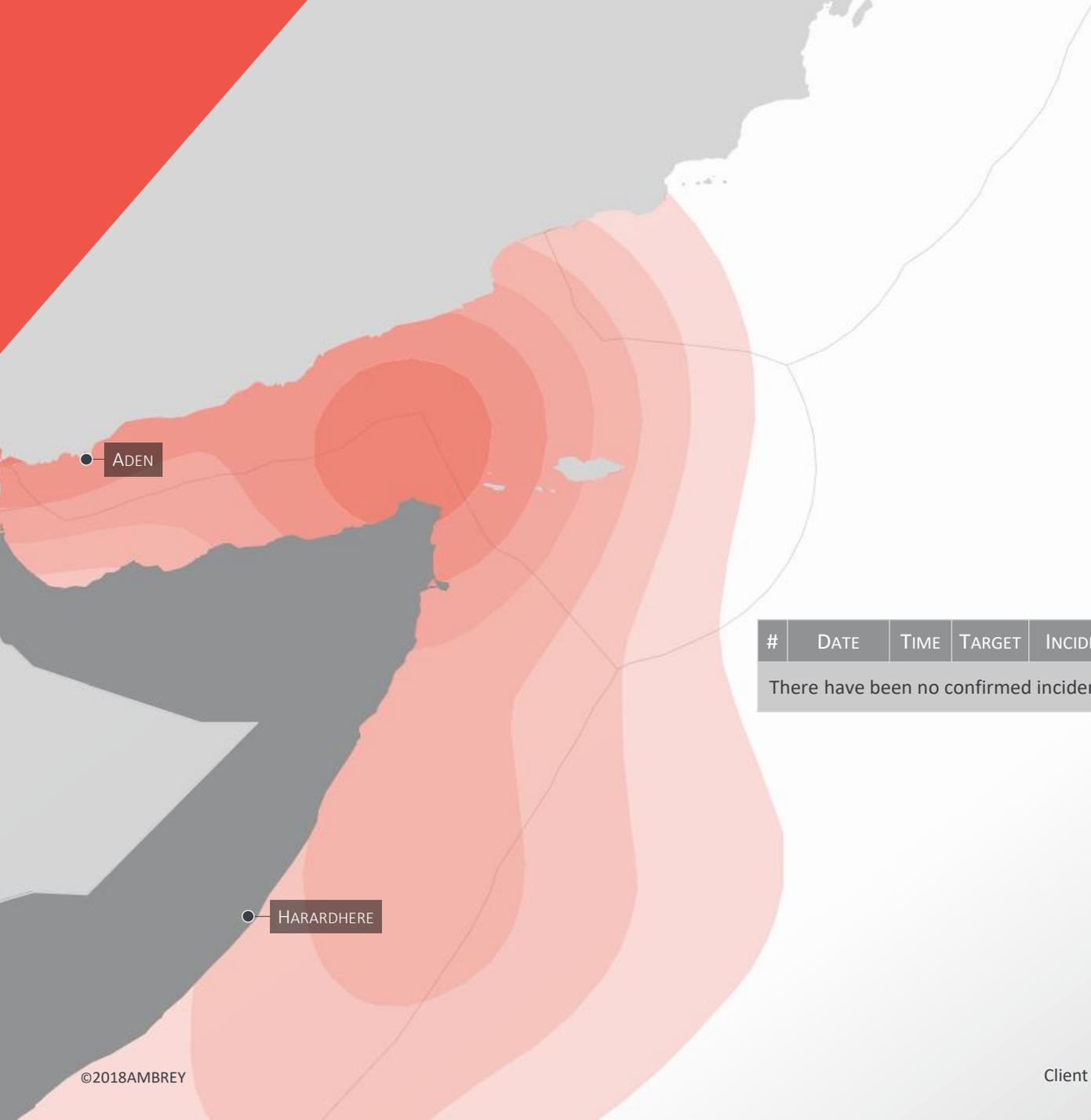


#	DATE	TIME	TARGET	INCIDENT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SOURCE
1	11 Nov 18	0600 UTC	Tanker	Attacked	5.1333	5.3333	MDAT GoG
2	14 Nov 18	0230 UTC	Tanker	Attempted Robbery	6.2666	3.2966	MDAT GoG



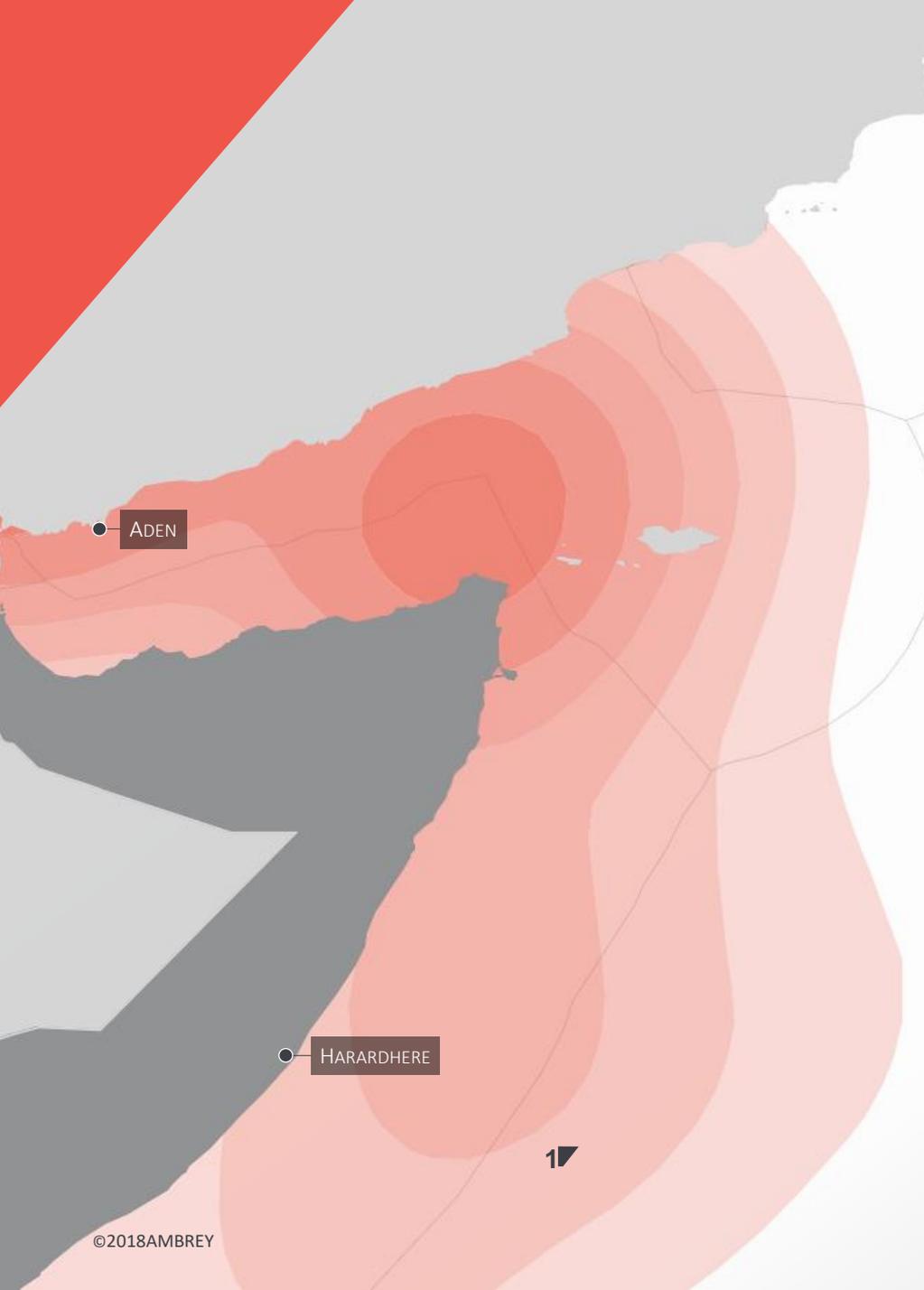
COMMENT | There have been two incidents off Nigeria in the past week. The first involved 3527 dwt Nigeria-flagged product tanker VISAKHA and took place off Agge, south of Forcados terminal. A distress call stated one blue-hulled boat with 8 armed occupants had attempted an attack. In the hours following the incident the target moved further offshore, but has since returned to the attack location and is reportedly safe. Incidents in this region are likely, though infrequent, and are typically directed towards domestic riverine assets, such as passenger vessels. It is unlikely this incident reflects a departure from the existing concentration of kidnap for ransom, which lies seaward of the Bonny Fairway Buoy.

The second incident this week took place on the edge of the Lagos Safe Anchorage Area. The anchored Malta-flagged HAFNIA LENE was boarded in the early hours of 14 November; the OOW observed an unknown individual aboard the vessel and raised the alarm, prompting the man to escape. There has been a discernible uptick in maritime crime off Lagos in the past twelve months. As is so often the case, the incident involving HAFNIA LENE did not garner a response from local naval units, which included NNS EAGLE and NNS BINI.



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There have been no confirmed incidents in the region in the last seven days.



COMMENT | The United Nations Security Council, acting by consensus, has decided to renew international naval force deployments against Somalia-based piracy until the close of 2019. Calling for recognition of ‘the ongoing threat that resurgent piracy and armed robbery at sea poses’, members stressed the continued need to address the underlying causes of this threat alongside efforts to prosecute not only suspects captured at sea, but also those that incite or facilitate piracy – evidenced by the recent destruction of a whaler in response to the attempted hijack of KSL SYDNEY last month.

Adopting Resolution 2442, the Security Council has also expressed ‘serious concern’ over reports of continued IUU fishing in Somalia’s Exclusive Economic Zone. Even a cursory look at fishing fleets at the time of writing shows a significant concentration of vessels off Harardhere, from where the attack on KSL Sydney was reportedly launched. In recent days, there have been unsubstantiated reports of suspicious activity in the vicinity [1 – 02.49 N 052.40 E].

GULISAN

JOLO

PULAU BODGAYA

#	DATE	TIME	TARGET	INCIDENT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SOURCE
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There have been no confirmed incidents in Southeast Asia in the last seven days.

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PULAU BODGAYA

COMMENT | An October communiqué issued by the inter-governmental body ReCAAP warning of an imminent attack on merchant shipping off eastern Sabah has not materialized. The last such warning singled out the island of Gulisan as a likely area for resurgent piracy operations, though the most recent case of kidnap for ransom (in September) occurred near Pulau Bodgaya.

Joint Task Force Sulu continues to wage a battle of attrition against Islamic State-aligned Abu Sayyaf across the remote island province. In recent weeks, several victims of kidnap for ransom have either been released or rescued on the island of Jolo. Notwithstanding a noteworthy reduction in piracy and maritime crime in the tri-state area, the terrain in the Sibutu Passage offers impunity to criminal syndicates; assets in transit through the region will remain exposed to an elevated threat in the coming three months.

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