

Situation Update

Maritime Crime & Piracy

NIGERIA

The Bayelsa chapter of the All Progressive Congress has denied allegations linking it to the killing of a naval officer off Brass during recent state elections.

PULSE.COM



YEMEN

Opposition groups have distanced themselves from reports they would relinquish control of Hodeidah to a neutral party, stating a “local force” should take control.

FARSNEWS.COM



JAMAICA

Ministers have confirmed that an investigation conducted by the Coast Guard has identified no illegal attachments to Petrojam’s underwater pipelines.

JAMAICAOBSERVER.COM



MOZAMBIQUE

US-based Anadarko has reported that evidence suggests their assets were not singled-out in February, when militants staged attacks resulting in one fatality.

ANADARKO.COM



INDONESIA

The Navy has seized four Vietnam-flagged ships accused of fishing illegally in the Natuna Sea, where Vietnam and Indonesia have overlapping territorial claims.

THEJAKARTAPOST.COM



VENEZUELA

A PDVSA-subsiary has declared an emergency after Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement said it would return ten vessels due to unpaid bills totalling US\$15m.

REUTERS.COM



TOGO

The Minister of Civil Security has published statistics for 2018, recording the seizure of only 446,683 litres of smuggled fuel last year.

LETEMPSTG.COM



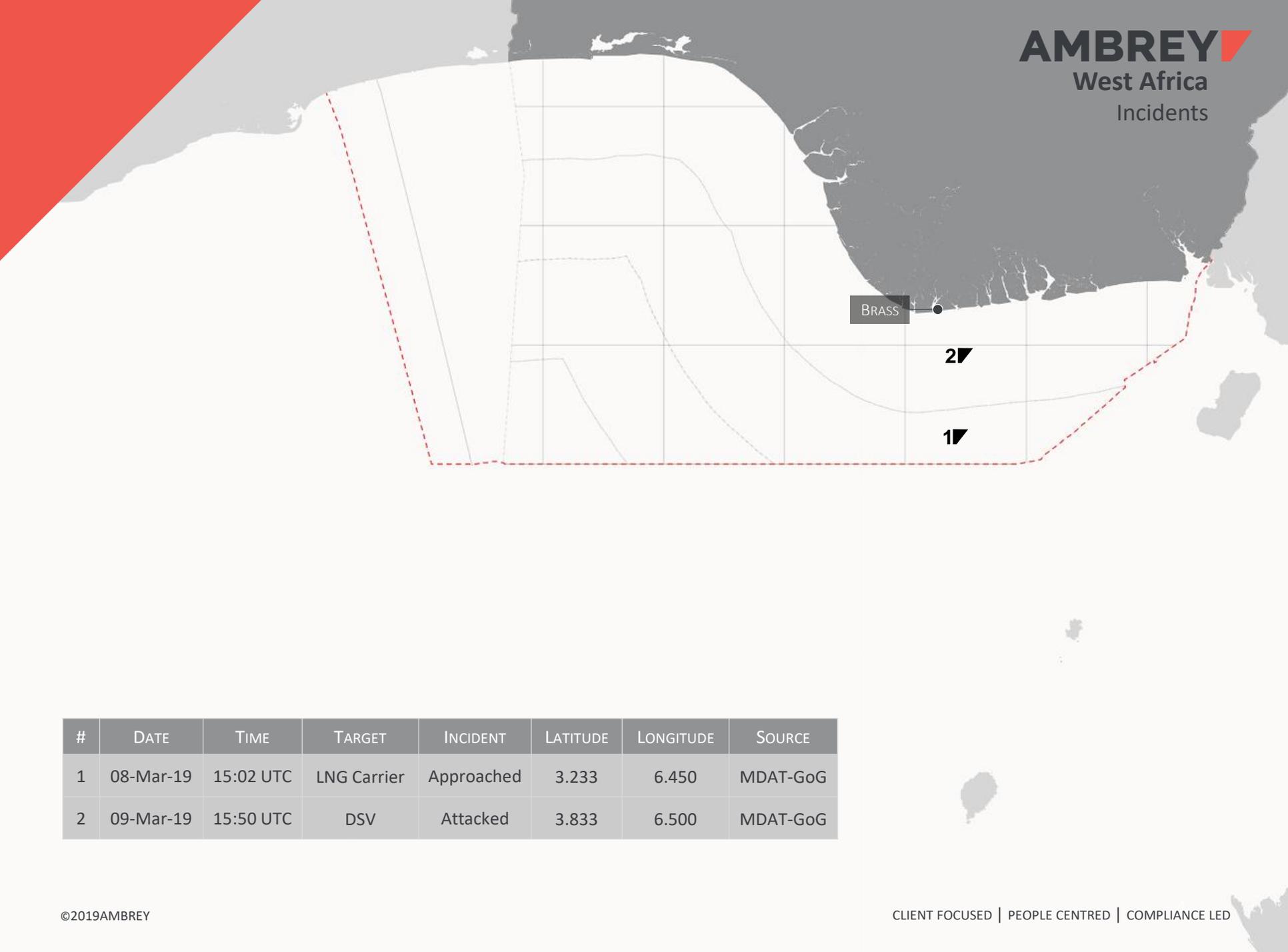
MALAYSIA

Eastern Sabah Security Command have reportedly foiled three attempts to smuggle controlled goods off Semporna and in Tawau Port, valued at US\$250,000.

THEBORNEOPOST.COM







#	DATE	TIME	TARGET	INCIDENT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SOURCE
1	08-Mar-19	15:02 UTC	LNG Carrier	Approached	3.233	6.450	MDAT-GoG
2	09-Mar-19	15:50 UTC	DSV	Attacked	3.833	6.500	MDAT-GoG

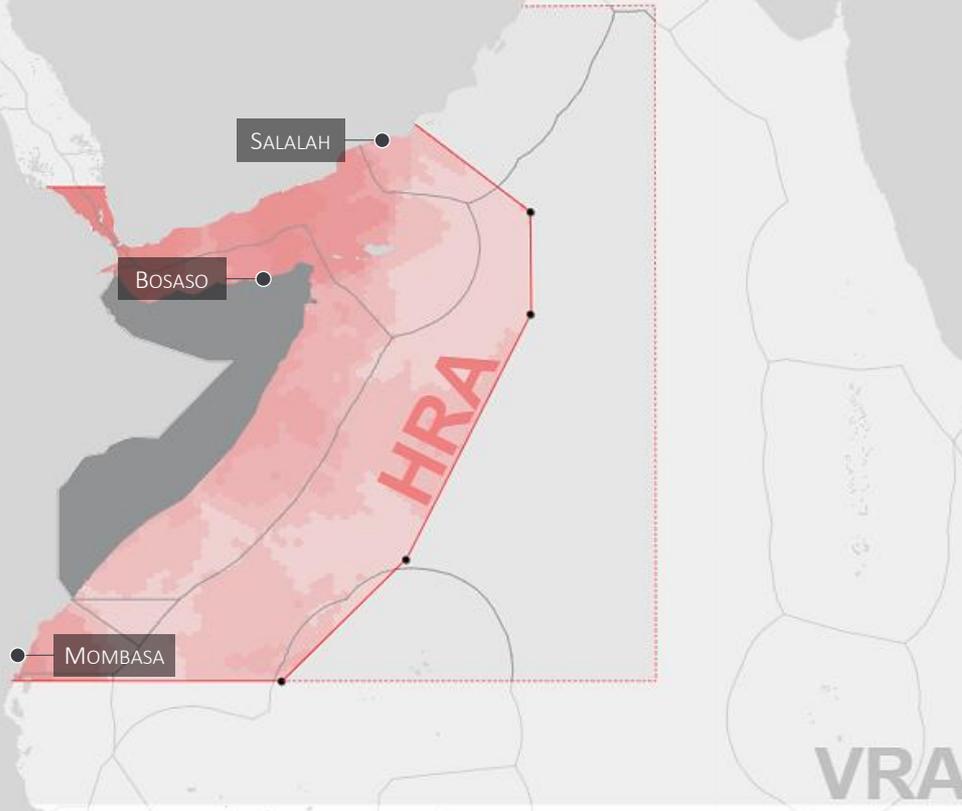


COMMENT | There have been two incidents off southern Nigeria in the past week.

The first involved 79,633dwt Bermuda-flagged LNG tanker AKWA IBOM. The Nigeria LNG-operated carrier, underway at 15 knots and displaying a significant freeboard, was bound for Bonny Island when approached 14nm inside the JWC Listed Area. Crew responded to the approach from two skiffs with twelve occupants by conducting evasive manoeuvres. Despite the presence of a 32m Nigeria-flagged security escort vessel, one of the approaching skiffs closed to within two cables.

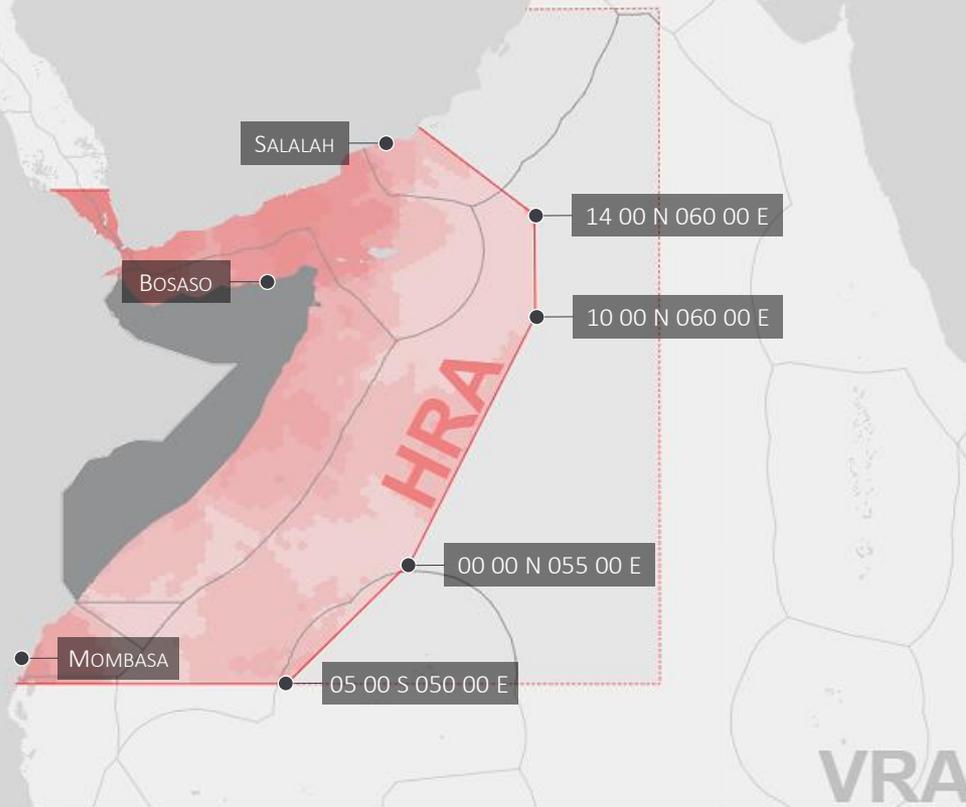
The second incident this week took place just 30nm south of Brass. Occupants of two skiffs are said to have attacked 38m Nigeria-flagged security escort vessel MOTHER TEGERI while it was on task supporting Maxsun Marine Services-operated DSV E. FRANCIS. In the ensuing firefight it was reported that seven pirates and one naval officer were killed. The criminal syndicate on one of the skiffs then allegedly boarded E. FRANCIS. Four crew members and one passenger were reportedly kidnapped. In the days since the attack, the opposition PDP have accused the ruling APC of being complicit in the death of a naval officer, who it has been reported was protecting the delivery of election material to Brass LGA. DSV E. FRANCIS is now alongside in Bonny and continuing operations as normal.

Off the Niger Delta, the area exposed to incidents involving two skiffs is a third greater than those that involve just one; attacks by two skiffs are also typically staged further offshore. On the approach to Bonny, crews of tankers and gas carriers can expect to be targeted on average 21nm before those of other asset types.



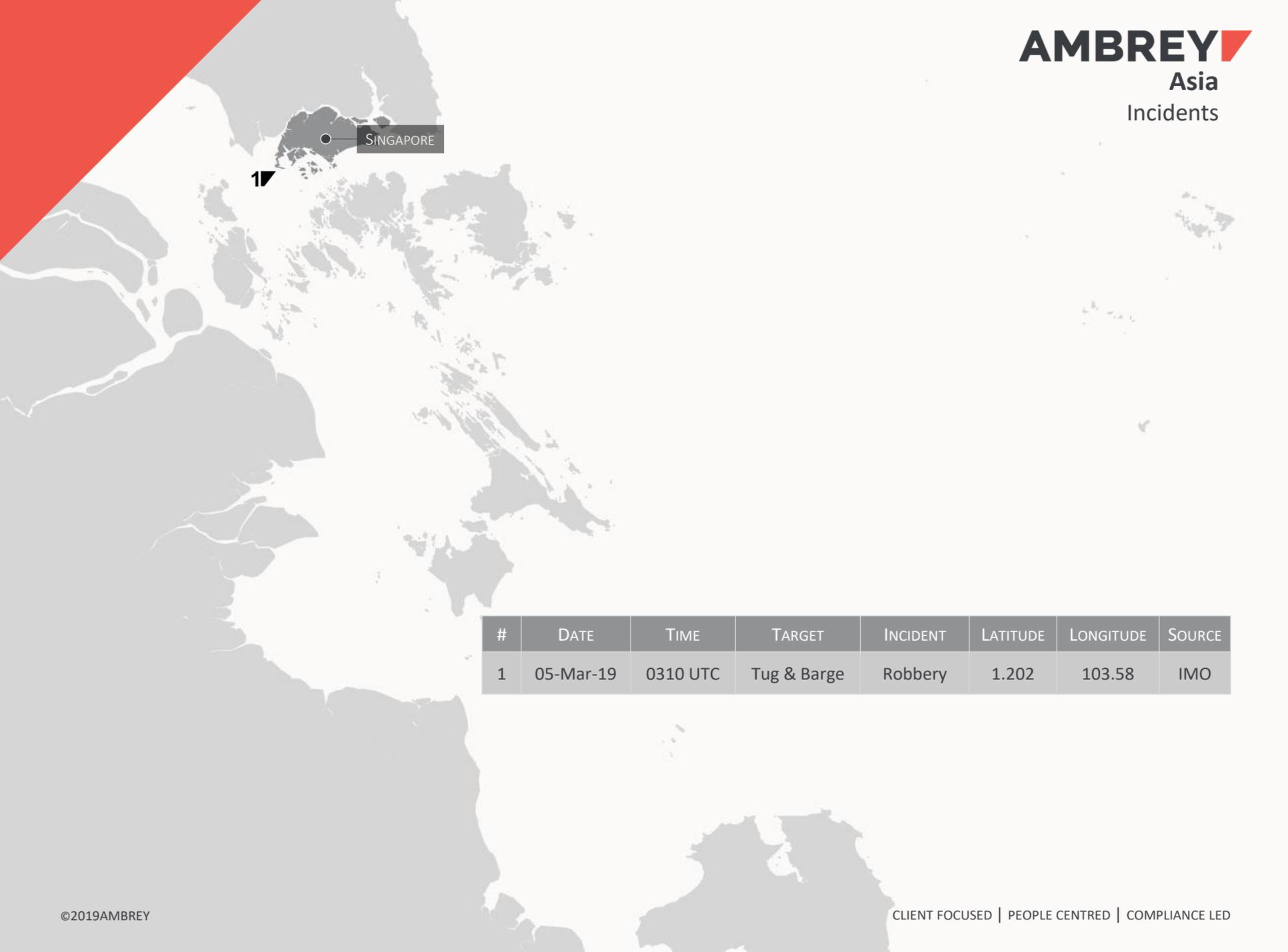
#	DATE	TIME	TARGET	INCIDENT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SOURCE
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There have been no cases of piracy or maritime crime in the Indian Ocean this week.



COMMENT | A group of shipping and oil industry associations, including BIMCO, ICS and OCIMF have issued an amendment to the High Risk Area in the Indian Ocean. Effective 1st May 2019, the HRA will contract 47.6%. The VRA will remain the same.

The new boundary extends in places 500nm from the Somali coastline and makes landfall in the north at Ash Shuwaymiyyah, Oman. Despite the reduction, the associations have warned that the threat from Somalia-based piracy remains extant and compliance with BMP5 is vital. Only this week, the Emirati-backed Puntland Maritime Police Force conducted an operation 20nm east of Bosaso, during which eight skiffs carrying heavy machine guns and fuel were intercepted.



SINGAPORE

1

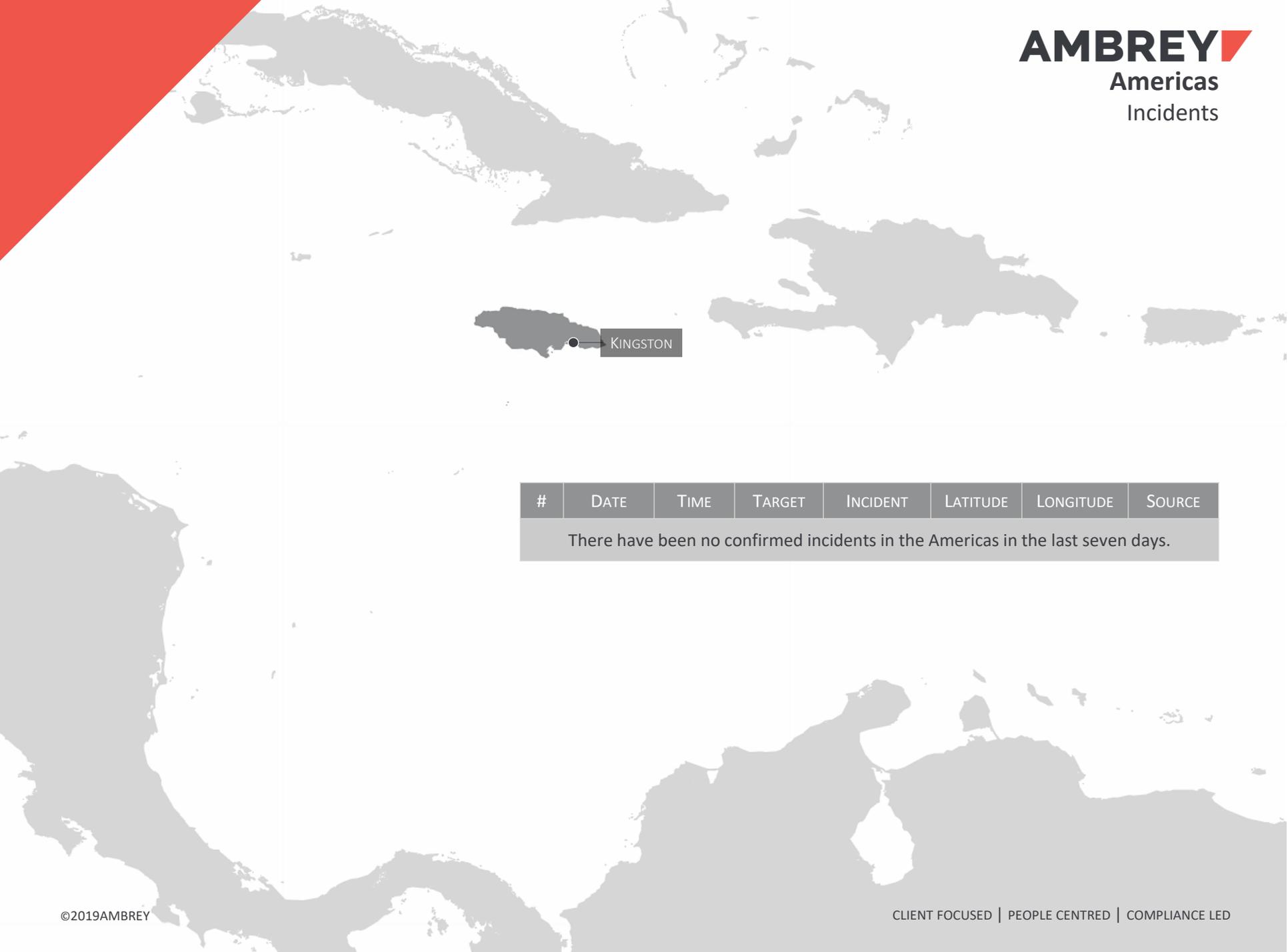
#	DATE	TIME	TARGET	INCIDENT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SOURCE
1	05-Mar-19	0310 UTC	Tug & Barge	Robbery	1.202	103.58	IMO

17

SINGAPORE

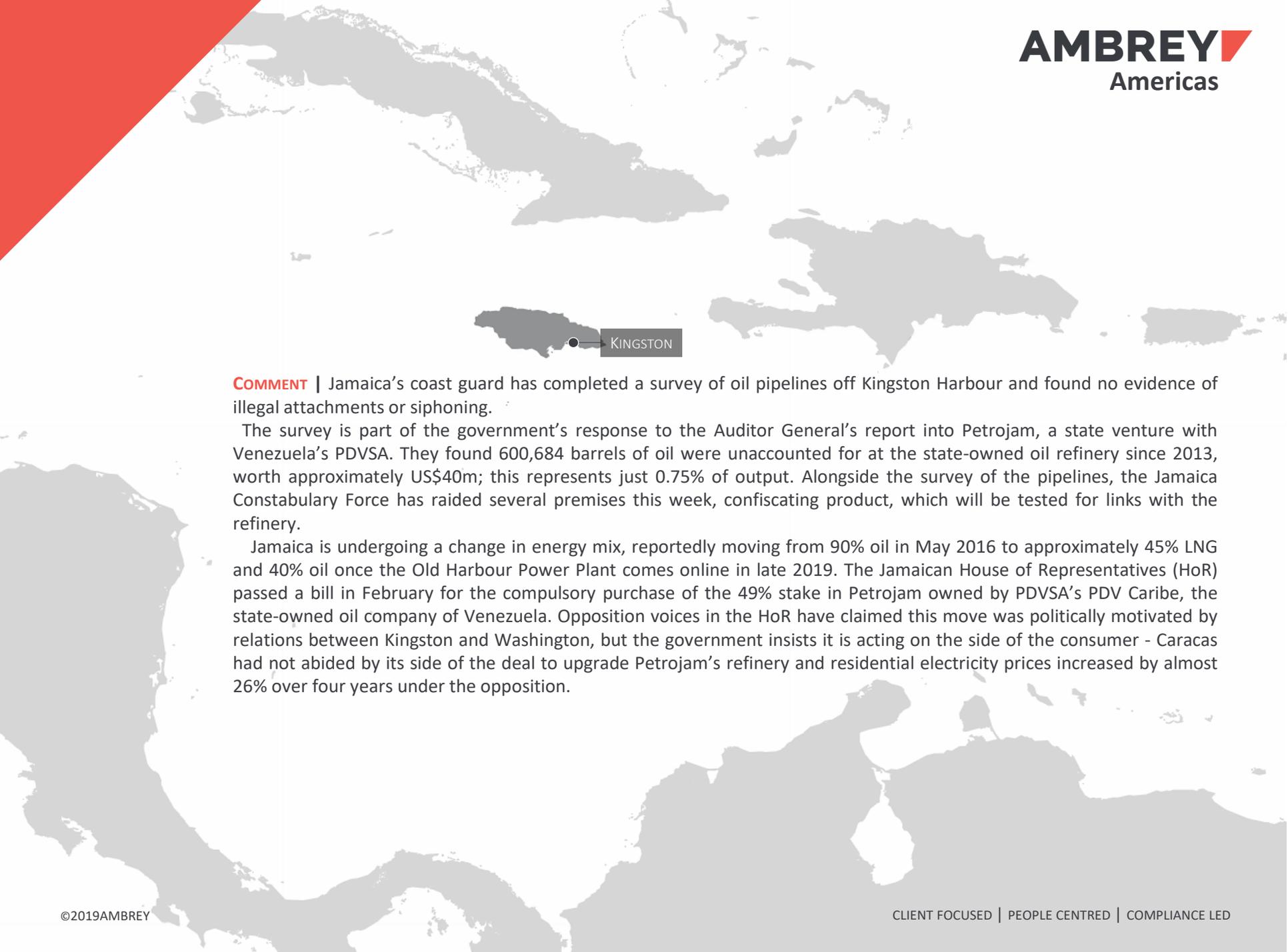
COMMENT | There has been one incident in Southeast Asia this week. The crew of a Malaysia-flagged tug boat, named by ReCAAP as SUNG FATT 31 and by IMO as HUB III, was robbed whilst underway through the western end of the Singapore Straits. The tug, towing a barge, was bound for Penang, Malaysia, when eleven perpetrators came alongside in two boats and proceeded to steal scrap iron. The criminals appear to have made their escape before authorities could interdict.

The SUNG FATT 31 has been robbed before: on the 3rd July 2018, ten perpetrators boarded a barge she was towing just 1.2nm from the location of this latest robbery. In that instance, a police boat was dispatched and the robbers disembarked, only to return once the authorities had left the scene. Unlike in these cases, in over half of the attempted robberies in the Singapore Straits in the past two years, the perpetrators have carried weapons - crew members have sustained injuries in at least two incidents.



KINGSTON

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

A light gray map of the Americas is shown in the background. A small black circle with a white dot is placed on the island of Jamaica, with a line pointing to a dark gray box containing the word "KINGSTON" in white capital letters.

KINGSTON

COMMENT | Jamaica's coast guard has completed a survey of oil pipelines off Kingston Harbour and found no evidence of illegal attachments or siphoning.

The survey is part of the government's response to the Auditor General's report into Petrojam, a state venture with Venezuela's PDVSA. They found 600,684 barrels of oil were unaccounted for at the state-owned oil refinery since 2013, worth approximately US\$40m; this represents just 0.75% of output. Alongside the survey of the pipelines, the Jamaica Constabulary Force has raided several premises this week, confiscating product, which will be tested for links with the refinery.

Jamaica is undergoing a change in energy mix, reportedly moving from 90% oil in May 2016 to approximately 45% LNG and 40% oil once the Old Harbour Power Plant comes online in late 2019. The Jamaican House of Representatives (HoR) passed a bill in February for the compulsory purchase of the 49% stake in Petrojam owned by PDVSA's PDV Caribe, the state-owned oil company of Venezuela. Opposition voices in the HoR have claimed this move was politically motivated by relations between Kingston and Washington, but the government insists it is acting on the side of the consumer - Caracas had not abided by its side of the deal to upgrade Petrojam's refinery and residential electricity prices increased by almost 26% over four years under the opposition.

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