

# **Piracy & Robbery At Sea**

**November 2012**



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Security,  
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## Summary

### *Vessel renaming in November*

Asia, once again, saw the majority of attacks against seafarers. Only one hijack in November, which saw the crew cast adrift before the perpetrators were captured. Nigeria and Togo bore the brunt of attacks in West Africa with several arrests made in Nigeria. East Africa activity remains low with approaches being reported. The more surprising count is the increase in robberies in South America, in addition, shots fired during a boarding attempt.

A Malaysia tanker, *Zafirah* (below), was initially reported missing by its owners whilst the vessel failed to report on transit through the South China Sea and was suspected as having been hijacked. The crew had been set adrift in a liferaft but later picked up by a Vietnamese fishing vessel. The Vietnam Marine Police despatched two patrol vessels on locating the tanker, which had been renamed to *MD Seahorse* with a different IMO number, southeast of Vietnam. Eleven pirates were apprehended and were believed to have targeted the ship to sell its marine gas oil illegally.

More vessels were boarded by robbers than in the last few months combined in South America; six in total in four different countries.



*Rename of Zafirah to 'MTSEAHORSE'*



*VMP circling Zafirah*

Nigeria and Togo waters suffered attacks this month. Multiple approaches were mentioned but not all were reported, unfortunately. The Nigerian forces were involved in a focused operation to address the piracy problem. As a consequence, several pirates were arrested in connection with one incident.

The now much-vaunted success in the reduction of piracy in the Horn of Africa/Indian Ocean Region through the use of armed guards, better implementation of BMP4 and the naval presence nearer to the Somali coast continues to be effective. Suspicious activity, including PAG sightings, are more regularly reported, however, there is a growing concern relating to possible pirate 'soft approaches'. This was seen in three instances near the Omani coast and in the Gulf of Aden

### *The Numbers.*

HoA/IOR – 1 Robbery; 3 Approaches

W Africa – 5 Incidents

Asia – 16 Incidents; 1 Hijack

S America – 1 Boarding; 5 Robberies

Situational mapping in the following pages indicate the approximated positions of recorded incidents, wherever possible. (Note: NS = Not Shown).

The maps used in this report are for illustrative purposes only. They are not necessarily to scale, and do not imply the opinion on the part of OCEANUSLive concerning the status of any country or territory, or the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.

*Photographs courtesy of VPN*







## Horn of Africa/IOR



Fig 1: Horn of Africa/Indian Ocean Region

### HoA/IOR Piracy and Robbery At Sea – November 2012

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location (Type of Incident)
1	1 Nov			Suspicious Activity – Vessel fired upon. Not attributed to piracy
2	5 Nov			Suspicious Activity - Suspect dhow approached China convoy
3	16 Nov			Suspicious Activity – Suspect PAG; Area of concern
4	22 Nov			Suspicious Activity – Skiff w/ ladders sighted
5	22 Nov	Sea Challenger	Marshall Island Tanker	Approach – Small boat attempt board. Warship presence deterred approach
6	23 Nov	Azamara Journey	Passenger Ship	Approach – 3 skiffs approach in aggressive manner. Flares fired; evasive manoeuvres
7	28 Nov	Papua	Liberia Bulk Carrier	Suspicious Activity – PAG of 2 skiffs w/ ladders and weapons sighted
8	29 Nov			Suspicious Activity - Suspect dhow boarding by US VBSS
9	29 Nov	Hellespont Promise	Cargo Ship	Approach – Fishing/cargo dhow. Evasive manoeuvres conducted
10	30 Nov	Pecos	Marshall Islands Tanker	Cochin Outer anchorage, India (Robbery)





## West Africa

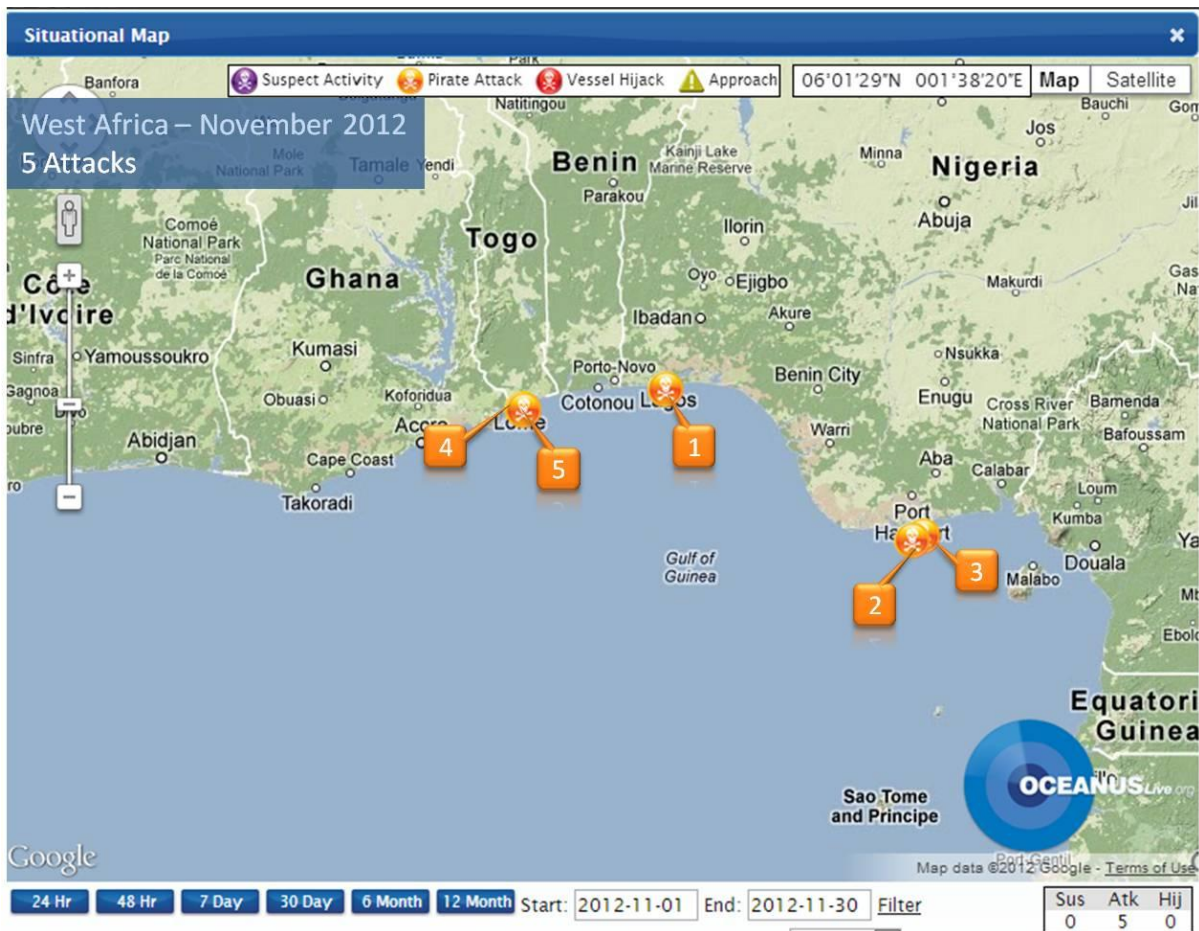


Fig 2: West Africa

### West Africa Piracy and Robbery At Sea – November 2012

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location (Type of Incident)
1	12 Nov	Maria E	Panama Tanker	Off Lagos, Nigeria (Boarded)
2	13 Nov	Orc 5	Fishing Trawler	E of Fairway Buoy, Nigeria (Attack/ 7 Arrested)
3	13 Nov	Taurado	Tanker	E of Fairway Buoy, Nigeria (Attack)
4	22 Nov	Ocean Atlas	USA Tanker	Lome anchorage, Togo (Attempted boarding)
5	30 Nov	Atlantic Lily	HK China Chemical Tanker	Lome anchorage, Togo (Attempted boarding)





## Southeast Asia

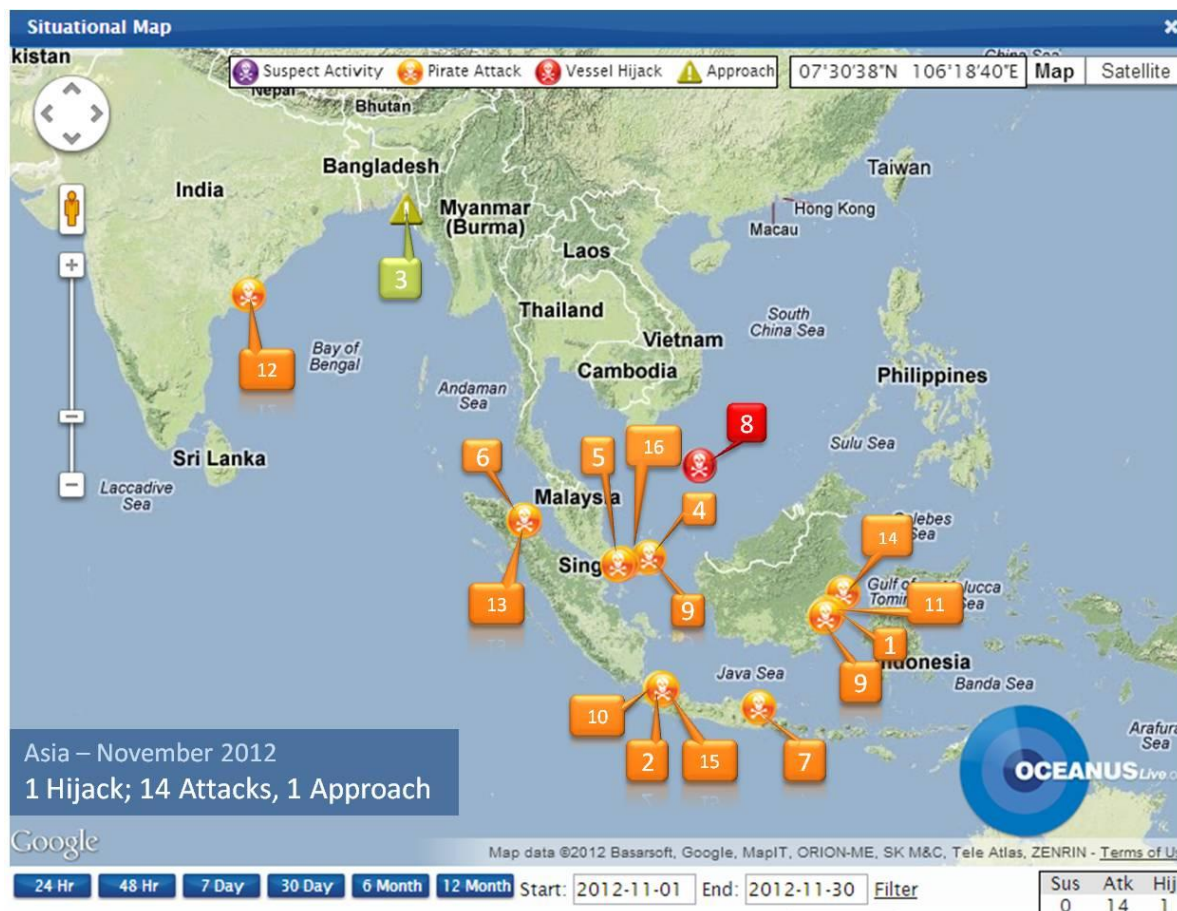


Fig 3: South East Asia

### South East Asia Piracy and Robbery At Sea – November 2012

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location (Type of Incident)
1	2 Nov	Vishva Nidhi	India Bulk Carrier	Adang Bay anchorage, Indonesia (Robbery)
2	3 Nov	Westerdick	Liberia Container Ship	Jakarta anchorage, Indonesia (Failed Robbery)
3	3 Nov	Nightwalk	Marshall Islands Bulk Carrier	Approach – Kutubdia anchorage, Bangladesh
4	6 Nov	Highline 66	Malaysia Tug	S of Pulau Airabu, Anambas Island, Indonesia (Robbery/Crew assaulted)
5	11 Nov	Yunita	Singapore Tanker	S of Pulau Mungging Lt, Malaysia (Robbery)
6	16 Nov	Moor	Singapore Chemical Tanker	E of Nipahlarangan, Belawan, Indonesia (Robbery)
NS	16 Nov	Penguin Swift (Kim Heng 50)	Singapore Tub & Barge	Eastbound Lane TSS, Malacca Strait (Boarded/Robbery)
7	17 Nov	Unnamed	General Cargo Ship	Surabaya Inner anchorage, Indonesia (Boarding)
8	19 Nov	Zafirah	Malaysia Chemical Tanker	South China Sea (Hijack/Crew Set Adrift/Rescued)
NS	19 Nov	Eagle Centaurus	Singapore Tanker	Nip Transit anchorage, Indonesia (Robbery)







9	21 Nov	APJ Kais	India Bulk Carrier	Adang Bay anchorage, Indonesia (Robbery/Bosun tied up)
10	21 Nov	CMB Maxine	Hong Kong, China Bulk Carrier	E Cargo anchorage, Jakarta Roads, Indonesia (Robbery/AB Hostage)
11	24 Nov	Unnamed	Crude Oil Tanker	Lawe Lawe anchorage, Balikpapan, Indonesia (Robbery)
12	24 Nov	APJ Shirin	Bulk Carrier	Kakinada anchorage, India (Robbery)
13	27 Nov	Torm Helvig	Denmark Chemical Tanker	Belawan anchorage, Indonesia (Robbery/ Attempt attack Duty AB)
14	28 Nov	Hispanic G	Italy Bulk Carrier	Samarinda anchorage, Indonesia (Robbery/Duty man knife threatened)
15	29 Nov	Kasugta	Liberia Chemical Tanker	Tanjung Priok anchorage, Indonesia (Robbery)
16	30 Nov	Hua An	Liberia Tug	N of Bintan Island, Indonesia (Robbery/Hostage; 2 crew injured)





## South America



Fig 4. – South America

### South America Piracy and Robbery At Sea – November 2012

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location (Type of Incident)
1	11 Nov	Overseas Jademar	Marshall Island Crude Oil Tanker	Talara anchorage, Peru (Robbery)
2	13 Nov	Madeleine	Antigua & Barbuda Container Ship	Guayaquil, Ecuador (Robbery/Guard tied up)
3	16 Nov	JBU Schelde	Panama LPG Tanker	Cartagena Inner anchorage, Colombia (Robbery)
4	20 Nov	CPO Norway	UK Product Tanker	San Pedro de Macois Port, Dominican Republic (Robbery)
5	25 Nov	Freja Andromeda	UK Chemical Tanker	Cartagena anchorage, Colombia (Robbery)
6	30 Nov	Alioth	Singapore Container Ship	Guayaquil Rover, Ecuador (Armed Boarding – Nothing Stolen)







## Miscellaneous

**PIRATE Action Groups** have made “soft-approaches” on merchant ships transiting the Horn of Africa High Risk Area (HRA). NATO Shipping Centre states that a skiff will often approach a vessel in order to probe the reaction of an embarked security team (if present). If no response, the pirates may proceed with an attack, sometimes accompanied by a second skiff. This practice is likely more economical as the pirates would avoid needless expenditure of resources (ammunition) and personal risk without a significant probability of success.

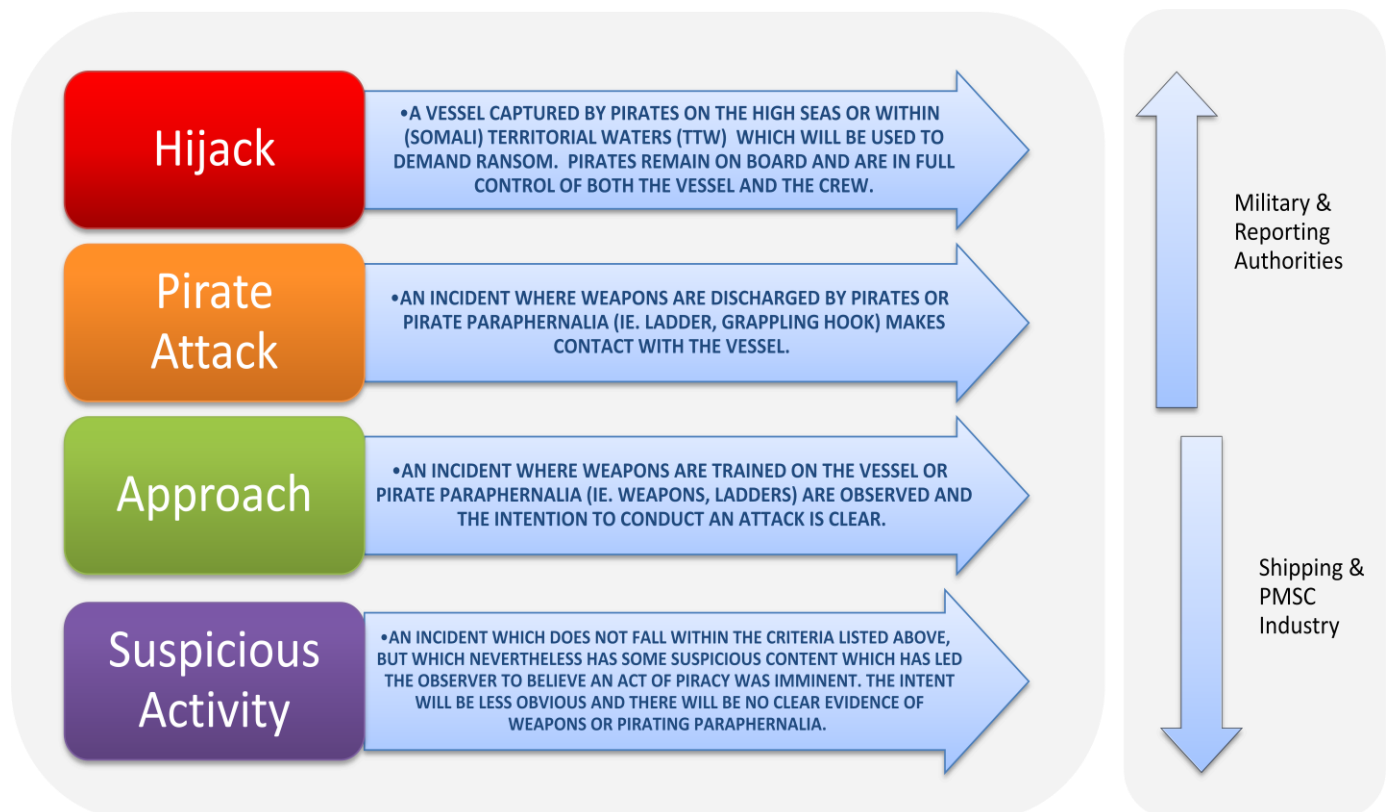
The definition of a ‘soft approach’ was later question in a comment by Liz McMahon of Lloyd’s List [HERE](#) {subscription required}.

An instance (possibly) of such a soft approach was seen on 23 November, when two skiffs with 3-4 POB, approached a cruise ship in an aggressive manner at high speed at 1429 LT in position 20:30.1N 059:14E, Northern Arabian Sea, approx 15nm off Masirah Island, Oman.

The embarked security team fired two flares at the first skiff resulting in it changing direction away from vessel.

A third flare was then fired from the aft position of the cruise ship at the second skiff resulting in both skiffs aborting their approach. The skiffs (Somali styled skiff) had white hulls, large outboard engine + 1 Dhow (observed in vicinity).

## Definitions





## Acknowledgements

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International Maritime Bureau (IMB) Piracy Reporting Centre;  
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EU Naval Force (EUNAVFOR);  
Somalia Report;  
OCEANUSLive Crowdsourced Information.

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