

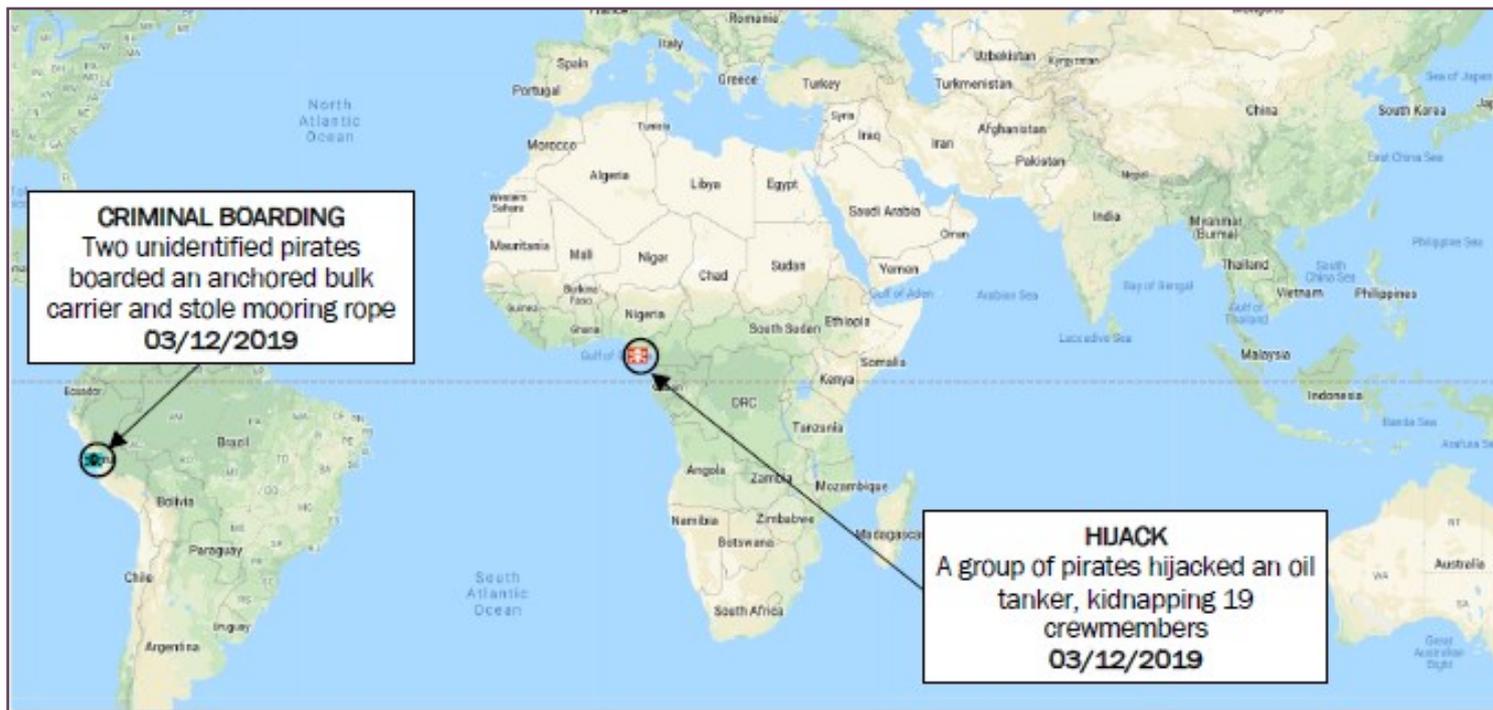


## Executive Summary 09/12/2019

- Two incidents were recorded globally during the reporting period
- East Africa HRA and Indian Ocean: No incidents was recorded during the reporting period
- West Africa HRA: One incident was recorded during the reporting period
- South and Southeast Asia: No incident was recorded during the reporting period
- Americas: One incident was recorded during the reporting period

## Advisories

- MEDITERRANEAN: Turkey to begin oil and gas exploration within disputed corridor of Mediterranean Sea
- WEST AFRICA: Hijacked oil tanker represents a continuation in GoG PAG activity



**REGIONAL SUMMARY**

- No incidents were recorded during the reporting period
- Continuous piracy threat off the Somali coast and extending to the Gulf of Aden and Gulf of Oman. Actors involved in the ongoing conflict in Yemen have targeted vessels transiting the Bab-el-Mandeb Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS); increased vigilance is advised during daylight hours
- High pressure dominates the weather pattern over the region producing mostly clear skies. Southwest monsoon conditions resume after and will continue until September. Expect increased localised wind flow through the Strait of Hormuz due to funnelling effects (Source: US ONI)

**RECORDED INCIDENTS****NSTR**

## REGIONAL SUMMARY

- One incident was recorded during the reporting period
- Continuous threat off Nigeria, Benin, Togo and Ghana in addition to the coastlines of Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo

## RECORDED INCIDENTS



1. **03/12/2019. 1820 UTC. HIJACK. 02:40:60N - 006:57:00E. NYA, IMO. 25NM SE of Egina FPSO, Nigeria.** Whilst in transit, an oil tanker was boarded by an unknown number of armed pirates. The assailants reportedly kidnapped 19 crewmembers, consisting of one Turkish national and 18 Indian nationals. The vessel's ownership team notified the MRCC and Nigerian Navy, who dispatched a security vessel. Following the incident, the remaining seven crewmembers navigated the vessel back to an undisclosed safe area.

**REGIONAL SUMMARY**

- No incidents were recorded during the reporting period
- Criminal boardings remain the primary threat to the region. However, the threat from Extended Duration Cargo Theft (EDCT) is present across the Malacca Strait and South China Sea
- Expect strong gusts in and around scattered thunderstorms throughout the Malacca Strait and the Andaman Sea due to funnelling effects and daytime heating. The west Pacific Ocean's Tropical Cyclone Season runs from April to October. Expect numerous Tropical Cyclones to impact the region during this timeframe that could change the forecast (Source: US ONI)

**RECORDED INCIDENTS****NSTR**

**Due to delayed reporting the following incidents were not included in last week's report:**

1. **30/11/2019. 2140 UTC. CRIMINAL BOARDING. 14:19:43N - 120:31:36E. IMO. Manila Anchorage, Philippines.** An unknown number of assailants boarded an anchored container vessel awaiting berthing instructions. Assailants climbed the anchor cable, broke the bosun store's lock and stole vessel properties before escaping. The theft was noticed during routine rounds and reported to port authorities.
2. **30/11/2019. 0330 UTC. CRIMINAL BOARDING. 13:26:21N - 121:01:38E. IMO. Alpha Anchorage, Tabangao, Batangas, Philippines.** Two perpetrators boarded an anchored tanker vessel and stole pieces of vessel equipment. The duty officer noticed the assailants, alerted the vessel's master and raised the alarm, causing them to flee.
3. **28/11/2019. 2320 UTC. CRIMINAL BOARDING. 01:08:11N - 103:05:38E. IMO. Approximately 8NM NW of Pulau Tanjung Buntung Besar, Indonesia.** The Chief Officer (CO) of an underway bulk carrier noticed four perpetrators in the vessel's engine room. One of the perpetrators was armed with a knife. The CO alerted the Master who activated the vessel's alarm system and deck lighting, causing the assailants to flee. The crew mustered on the vessel's bridge while a search was conducted. No properties were stolen and all crew members were reported safe.

**MEDITERRANEAN: TURKEY TO BEGIN OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION WITHIN DISPUTED CORRIDOR OF MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

On 4 December Turkey’s Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Dönmez announced that Turkish drilling vessels will begin searching for oil and gas reserves in a disputed corridor of the Mediterranean Sea, once a delineation of Libya’s EEZ is ratified. According to unconfirmed reports, Greek naval forces have been dispatched to the area to contest any such claims.

**NYA Analysis:** On 27 November Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj, leader of Libya’s Government of National Accord (GNA), and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed two memorandums of understanding (MOU) outlining their plans to delineate shared economic interests by ‘redrawing’ maritime boundaries. According to a map released by Turkish government sources, this newly intended maritime corridor will intersect with Greek and Cyprus EEZ claims – an area reportedly rich in hydrocarbon resources. The development prompted Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and President Erdogan to discuss the matter in London early last week, reportedly yielding little progress. While unofficial reports claim that Greek naval vessels have been deployed to the area in an attempt to prevent “illegal” drilling operations, Greek Defence Minister Nikos Panagiotopoulos stated on 5 December that “we are preparing for all eventualities on all levels”. Due to increasing naval deployments within this corridor of the Mediterranean Sea, disruptions to commercial shipping operations in the area are likely to heighten in the short to medium term.

**WEST AFRICA: HIJACKED OIL TANKER REPRESENTS A CONTINUATION IN GOG PAG ACTIVITY**

On 3 December at approximately 1820LT an unidentified number of pirates hijacked an oil tanker and kidnapped 19 crewmembers – consisting of one Turkish national and 18 Indian nationals – located approximately 25NM southeast of the Egina FPSO terminal and 100NM south of Bonny Island, Nigeria. According to reports, the remaining seven crewmembers navigated the vessel to safety after the Nigerian Navy responded.

**NYA Analysis:** This incident represents a continuation in PAG modus operandi in the GoG, where Niger Delta based pirates target commercial vessels with the intention of securing ransom payments for kidnapped crewmembers. According to NYA MarTrack data, 36 commercial vessels have been hijacked in the region since the beginning of 2019, resulting in the kidnap of at least 122 crewmembers. These totals represent a 24% increase in the number of recorded hijacks in comparison to the same period in 2018 (29 incidents affecting at least 90 crewmembers). As evidenced by the location of the 3 December incident, PAGs operating across the GoG are likely aware of the limitations of security vessels operating beyond respective EEZs, increasing the threat to shipping operations in the vicinity of oil installations along these boundaries in the medium term.

The report's findings are predictive and estimative. To communicate these findings clearly and in order to accurately compare threat levels, the report uses a variation of terminology used by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

TERMINOLOGY	DESCRIPTION
Critical	The likelihood of an incident is <b>certain</b>
Severe	The likelihood of an incident is <b>almost certain</b>
Substantial	The likelihood of an incident is <b>probable</b>
Moderate	The chances of an incident are <b>about even</b>
Low	The likelihood of an incident is <b>improbable</b>

Piracy: CV/NYA uses a modified version of the definition of piracy adopted by BMP5. For the purposes of this report, the term 'piracy' includes all violent and non-violent acts against vessels, her crew and cargo occurring either in internal waterways, territorial waters or deep offshore. Based on this definition, CV/NYA classifies piracy incidents into six categories:

**Hijacking** – Crew lost control of the vessel and / or pirates kidnapped at least one crewmember and / or passenger (s)

**Boarding** – Pirates successfully board a vessel with the intent to hijack it but their attempt to take control of the vessel or kidnap crewmember(s) and / or passenger(s) failed

**Attack** – Vessel was attacked with gunfire or RPG fire, no boarding was successfully completed

**Pirate Action Group (PAG)** – Sighting or reporting of firearms and boarding equipment on board a suspicious vessel or sighting of a confirmed pirate mother ship

**Criminal boarding** – Vessel boarded with criminal intent, theft does not have to occur

**Suspicious approach** – Suspicious activity reported (i.e. a vessel was approached by unidentified skiff(s) with one or more persons on board).

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UK Switchboard: [+44 \(0\)118 900 1406](tel:+44(0)1189001406) | Operations Centre (24Hrs): [+44 \(0\)118 900 1417](tel:+44(0)1189001417) / [+254 \(0\)20 440 9614](tel:+254(0)204409614)

Website: [www.castorvali.com](http://www.castorvali.com) | [ops@castorvali.com](mailto:ops@castorvali.com) |



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**UK Global Head Office:** Castor Vali Ltd

Davidson House, Forbury Square, Reading, RG1 3EU, United Kingdom

**Regional Headquarters:** Castor Vali Africa

The Stables, Karen Road, Office 45. PO Box 2042-00606, Nbi.

