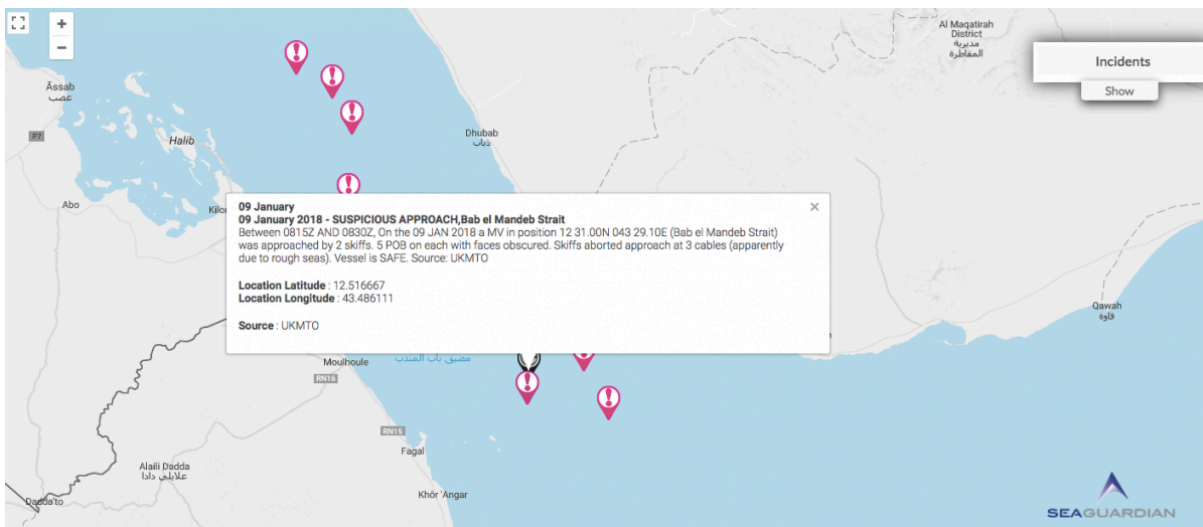


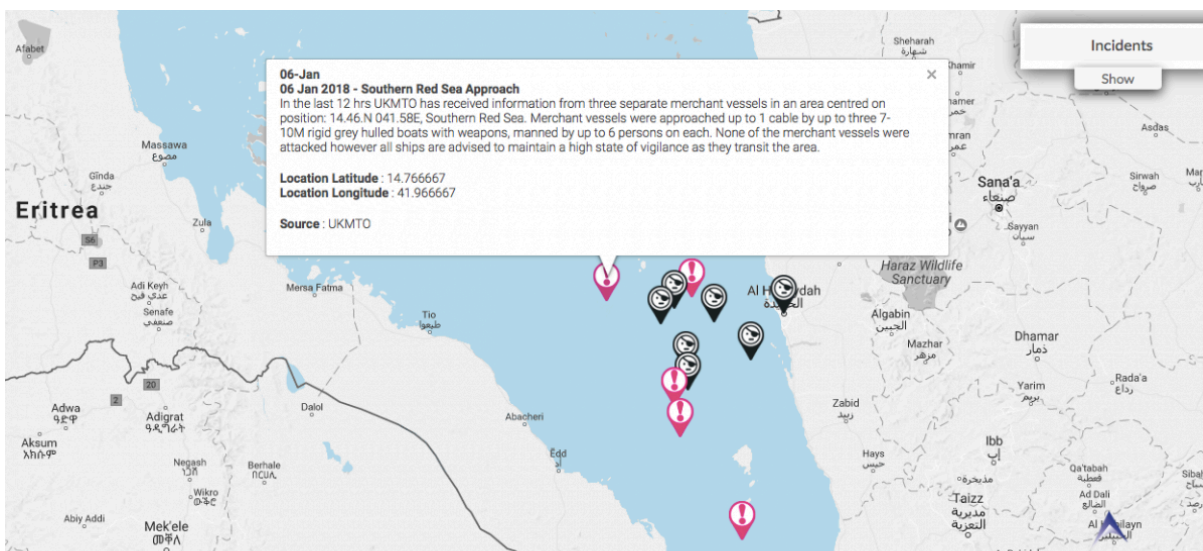


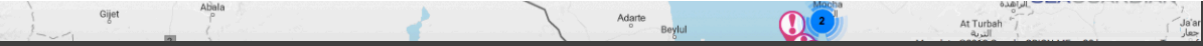
## Weekly Newsletter / Situation Report 6 Jan – 17 Jan 18

### Weekly Incidents INDIAN OCEAN



- On the 09 JAN 2018 a MV in position 12 31.00N 043 29.10E (Bab el Mandeb Strait) was approached by 2 skiffs. 5 POB on each with faces obscured. Skiffs aborted approach at 3 cables (apparently due to rough seas). Vessel is SAFE.





- On 06 Jan 2018 – Southern Red Sea Approach In the last 12 hrs UKMTO has received information from three separate merchant vessels in an area centred on position: 14.46.N 041.58E, Southern Red Sea. Merchant vessels were approached up to 1 cable by up to three 7-10M rigid grey hulled boats with weapons, manned by up to 6 persons on each. None of the merchant vessels were attacked however all ships are advised to maintain a high state of vigilance as they transit the area.

## Interesting Information

- [Charts Q6099 – Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea & Q6111 – Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea](#)

- [Red Sea likely to become a conflict zone](#) The security of the Red Sea has historically been an integral part of Arab national security, because this strategic waterway was the target of all colonial powers. Given the number of Arab states that have coasts on that sea, it is no exaggeration to call it an Arabian lake.

- [Houthis to block Red Sea shipping lane](#) Yemen's Houthi movement may block the Red Sea shipping lane, in case the Saudi-led coalition continues to pushing toward the port of Hodeidah it controls. While no detailed information were given on how Houthis will conduct such a move.

- [No detention centre, Somali pirates released from jail accommodated in a room at Yellow Gate police station](#) FIFTEEN SOMALI nationals, who were arrested during anti-piracy operations in January 2011, have been released, after they completed seven year jail sentence, on January 2. They were convicted by a sessions court on August 2, 2017, under various charges.

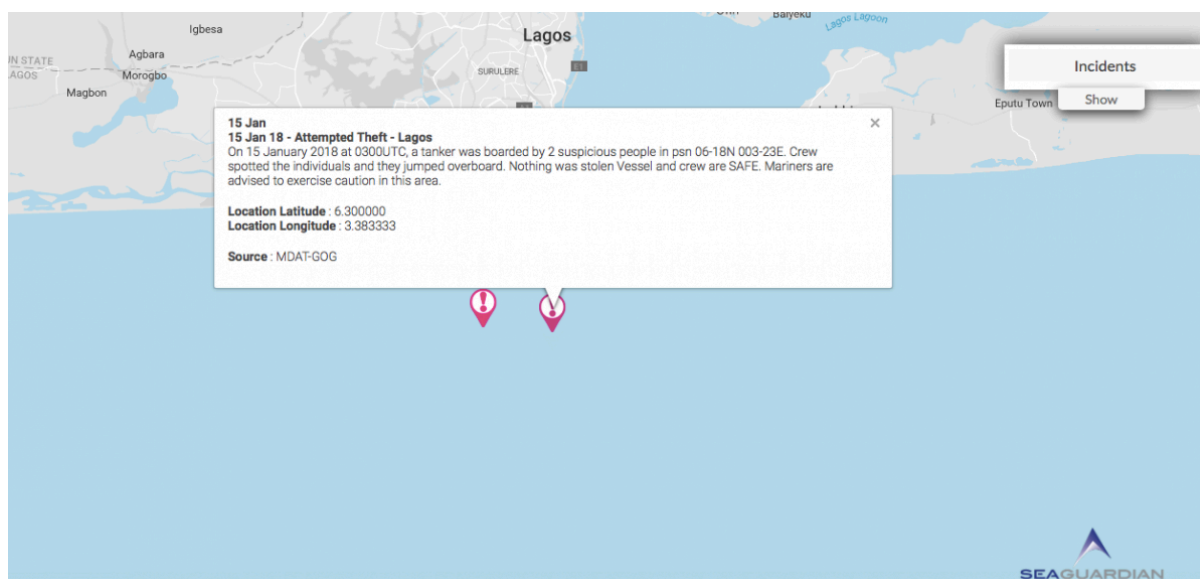
- [Attack on Saudi Oil Tanker Thwarted](#) The Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen said on Wednesday it had thwarted an attack on a Saudi oil tanker over the weekend by Houthi fighters near the Red Sea port of Hodeidah. The coalition destroyed a boat carrying explosives as it headed towards the tanker on Saturday, coalition spokesman Colonel Turki al-Maliki said.

- [What is happening to Africa's pirates?](#) MODERN African pirates prefer

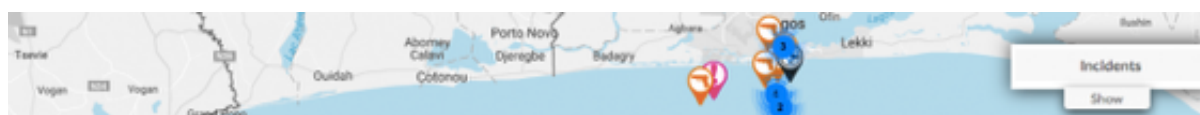
machetes, machineguns and ransoms to cutlasses and parrots. They can make millions of dollars from one captured ship. Ten years ago Somalia's coast was the centre of the maritime-hijacking world. The country lacked a coastguard or functioning state machinery, which allowed heavily armed pirates to sail up to huge cargo vessels in speedboats before boarding and taking crew and ship hostage.

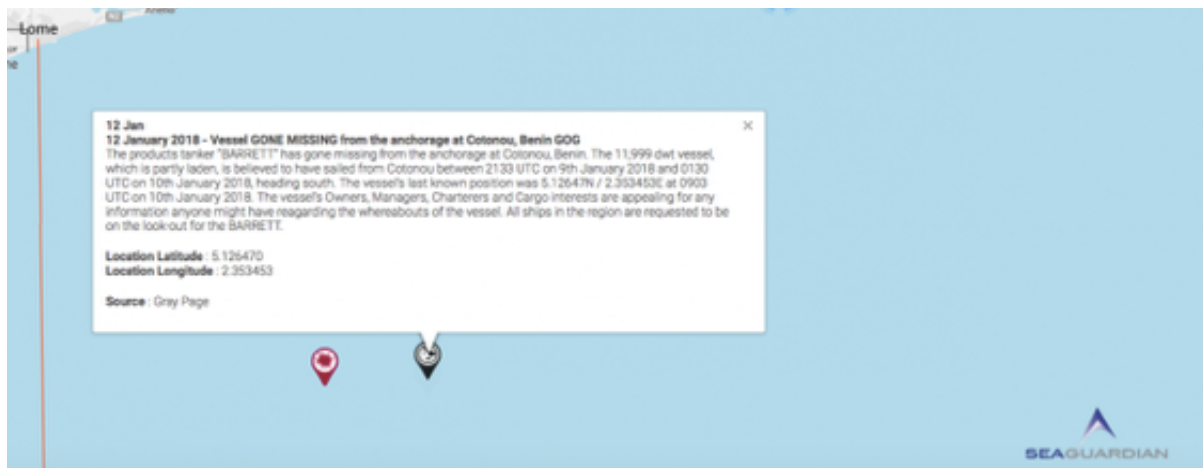
Sea Guardian continues to urge high levels of vigilance in the entire HRA with South Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman and Somali Coast, remaining areas where caution needs to be exercised considering the recent incidents. ALL advisories in effect in South Red Sea and Yemeni Coast must be adhered by all. Reduced military presence in the area makes strict BMP Implementation (including IRTC and group transit scheme use) of the outmost importance.

## WEST AFRICA



- On 15 January 2018 at 0300UTC, a tanker was boarded by 2 suspicious people in psn 06-18N 003-23E. Crew spotted the individuals and they jumped overboard. Nothing was stolen Vessel and crew are SAFE. Mariners are advised to exercise caution in this area.





- On 12 January 2018, the products tanker “BARRETT” has gone missing from the anchorage at Cotonou, Benin. The 11,999 dwt vessel, which is partly laden, is believed to have sailed from Cotonou between 2133 UTC on 9th January 2018 and 0130 UTC on 10th January 2018, heading south. The vessel’s last known position was 5.12647N / 2.353453E at 0903 UTC on 10th January 2018. The vessel’s Owners, Managers, Charterers and Cargo interests are appealing for any information anyone might have regarding the whereabouts of the vessel. All ships in the region are requested to be on the look-out for the BARRETT.

## Interesting information

- [Al Qaeda maintains operational tempo in West Africa in 2017](#) According to data compiled by FDD’s Long War Journal, al Qaeda and its many allies and affiliates launched at least 276 attacks in Mali and the wider West Africa region in 2017. That means the al Qaeda has largely kept its operational tempo in West Africa consistent when compared to last year

- [SPECIAL REPORT: How corruption fuelled allocation of Nigeria’s oil blocks](#) With barely a month to the 2003 presidential election in Nigeria, Funsho Kupolokun, the Special Assistant to then President Olusegun Obasanjo hurriedly put together a bid round for three oil blocks – OPLs 223, 251, and 257.

- [’19 Illegal Vessels Arrested In 2017?](#) The Nigerian Navy in Lagos on Thursday said it arrested 19 vessels carrying out illegal activities within the nation’s territorial waters last year. The Flag Officer Commanding (FOC), Western Naval Command, Rear Adm. Sylvanus Abbah, disclosed this when the House of Representatives Committee on Navy visited the command in Apapa, Lagos.

- [Arrest sponsors of criminals, Dickson tells Navy](#) Worried over the resurgence of crime and criminality, Governor Seriake Dickson of Bayelsa State has said that the Nigerian Navy is critical to maintaining stability, as well as to contain crime and criminality perpetrated on the waterways. He urged the Navy and other sister security agencies to treat political leaders sponsoring crime as common criminals.

- [Waterways' security: Worry as 'Tompson's' warships, NIMASA chopper rot away](#) If the recent announcement by the Director General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) Dr. Dakuku Peterside is anything to go by, the Agency would soon acquire three helicopters and 12 fast intervention vessels to ensure coastal and aerial surveillance and patrol of the Nigerian maritime environment by the Nigerian Navy, supported by the Nigeria Airforce.

- [Reps C'ttee Flay NIMASA for Awarding \\$195m Maritime Contract to Israeli Firm](#) Navy arrests 19 vessels, militants attack, disarm policemen in Ondo Chiemelie Ezeobi The House of Representatives Saturday flayed the Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) for awarding the contract of patrolling the nation's maritime domain to an Israeli firm to the tune of \$195 million.

- [Five ways poor maritime security fuels terrorists and criminal networks](#) OEF Research, part of One Earth Future foundation, issued a statement citing five ways in which rebel groups, transnational criminal networks, and terrorist organizations exploit inadequate governance at sea to undermine political stability around the world

*Sea Guardian continues to urge high levels of vigilance for all vessels operating GoG waters should adopt strict BMP4 implementation measures, follow MDAT-GoG guidelines and report any suspicious activity.*



- On 31 December 2017 while the tug boat towing barge was underway to Maishakali, the Second Officer spotted a small boat approaching the barge. The master instructed the crew to continue their watch and to attempt to make contact with the local naval force and coast guard. The communication was without success. The small boat continued its voyage behind the barge until at about 0430 hrs, it eventually moved away from barge. The master then instructed the crew to move alongside the barge and the crew went on board to conduct a search. They found some items missing from the barge, including an emergency pennant wire, emergency chaffing chain and manhole covers. The crew continued their voyage towards Maishakali.

## Interesting information

- [Anti-piracy mission helps China develop its blue-water navy](#) China's 27th and 28th naval escort task forces have recently completed their mission handover in the Gulf of Aden. Anti-piracy operations by the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) have become a constant in the area. And this has both immediate and long-term strategic implications for Beijing's military projection away from its traditional perimeter of action in East Asia.
- [Japan, Sri Lanka affirm maritime, security cooperation](#) COLOMBO (Kyodo) — Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono and his Sri Lankan counterpart Tilak Marapana agreed Friday in Colombo to strengthen bilateral maritime, security and defense cooperation. Sri Lanka lies near sea lanes in the Indian Ocean that are crucial to Japan's economy
- [Philippine Muslim Group's Violent Streak Raises Specter of New War](#) TAIPEI, TAIWAN — The Philippines, still recovering from battles last

year against a group of Islamic State-inspired, anti-government Muslim rebels, is confronting a rise in violence by another band from the same region and with a similar ideology. A new conflict would prolong decades of struggles between Muslim separatists and the Philippine government.

- [Piracy and armed sea robberies on the rise in Asia, Singapore Straits](#) There were 101 incidents of piracy and armed sea robberies in Asia last year, marking a 19 per cent increase from 2016's 85 cases. Of the reported attacks, 89 were actual incidents, while 12 were attempted incidents. Ports and anchorages in Bangladesh, the Philippines, the South China Sea and the Straits of Malacca and Singapore saw an increase in incidents.

*Sea Guardian continues to urge high levels of vigilance in the entire HRA with South Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman and Somali Coast, remaining areas where caution needs to be exercised considering the recent incidents. ALL advisories in effect in South Red Sea and Yemeni Coast must be adhered by all. Reduced military presence in the area makes strict BMP Implementation (including IRTC and group transit scheme use) of the utmost importance.*

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Overall Map of Incidents can be found [at our website](#).

We would also like to encourage the recipients of this report, to follow Sea Guardian's Social networks for up to date and real time information.

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