

Weekly Advisory / Situation Report 23 Feb - 01 Mar 2018

Red Sea - Indian Ocean Incidents



- On 1st of March at 14.40 UTC, 4 skiffs were seen to approach an M/T with high speed. Vessel implemented BMP 4 measures and PAST took positions. All crew mustered at designated area. Skiffs approached the vessel at a distance of 1000yds and PAST showed weapons. Then skiffs turned away and followed the vessel for almost an hour. Ladders and drums were visible. Vessel and crew are safe.



- On February 23, While sailing enroute to Cape Town, South Africa, the ship was approached by a suspicious boat with three perpetrators on board. The perpetrators fired upon the ship. The master activated the security alert button and instructed the crew to muster at the citadel. The master altered the ship's course and increased speed to avoid the boat. The perpetrators escaped and aborted the attack.

Interesting information

- [Kuwait requests fast patrol boats](#) The US State Department has made a determination approving a potential foreign military sale of fast patrol boats to Kuwait under a package worth around \$100 million, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency announced on 20 February. Kuwait's request includes the purchase of fifteen fast patrol boats fitted with 36 .50 calibre machine guns.

- [EU NAVFOR confirms MT Leopard Sun attacked 160 nautical miles off the central coast of Somalia.](#) On 23rd February at 0030 local time, the Motor Tanker Leopard Sun was attacked by two skiffs 160 nautical miles off the coast of Somalia. The Singapore flagged 50,000 metric tonne chemical tanker was en route from Sohar, Sultanate of Oman to Cape Town, South Africa when the incident occurred.

- [India to host mega naval exercise amid China's manoeuvring in high seas](#) NEW DELHI: India will host navies from at least 16 countries for an eight-day mega naval exercise from March 6 with an aim to expand regional cooperation and combat unlawful activities in critical sea lanes. The biennial exercise 'Milan' is being organised at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the backdrop of China's growing military posturing in the Indo-Pacific region

- [Kenya pledges enhanced maritime security to develop blue economy](#) Kenya's defense forces will enhance surveillance along its coastline to ensure that development of blue economy, key to achieving food security, is not interrupted by emerging security threats like piracy, officials said on Wednesday. Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary for Defense, said

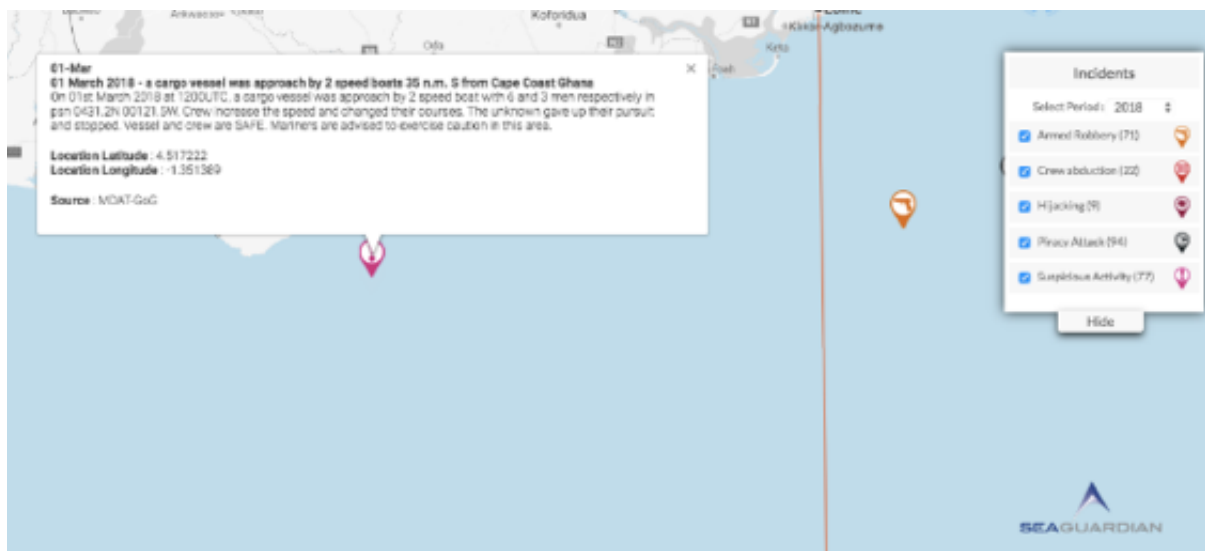
a secure coastline is key to stimulating growth of productive sectors of the economy like agriculture, fisheries and transport.

Threat assessment

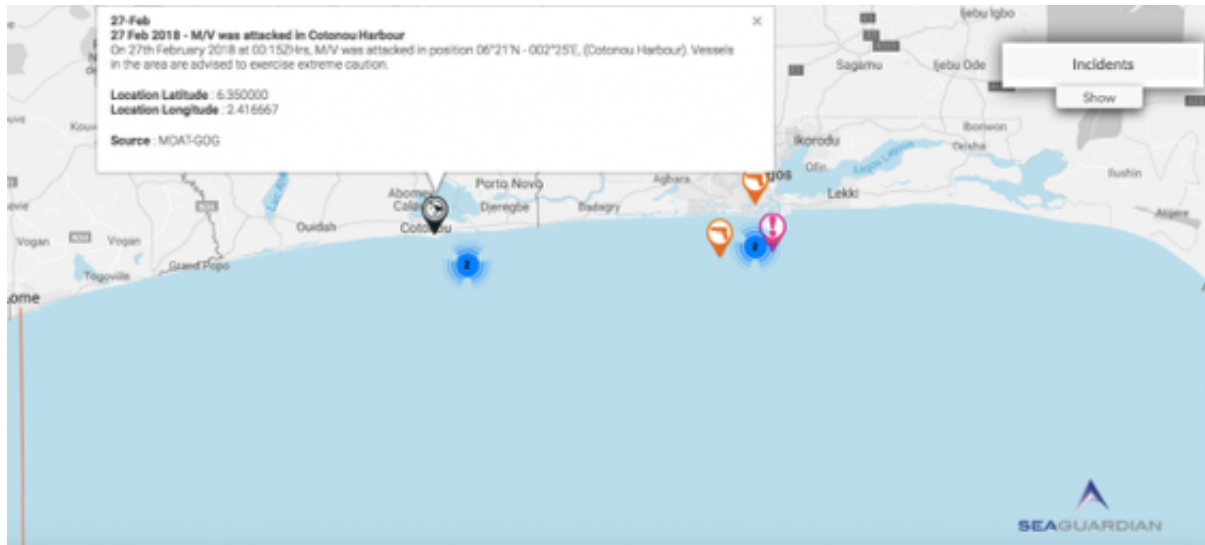
- There were reported 2 incidents last week. The first one took place almost 150nm off Somali coast, where fires were exchanged and the crew ended up seeking security in citadel after the master's directions. Fortunately, the attack was aborted the moment the ship increased speed. The second one took place at BaM strait, where 4 skiffs approached an MT and tripwires were visible. Fortunately when realized the presence of armed guards onboard by showing their weapons stopped the approach. This 2 incidents emphasizes the need for all vessels transiting Indian Ocean HRA to remain vigilant implementing BMP4 measures.

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 Incidents



- On 01st March 2018 at 1200UTC, a cargo vessel was approach by 2 speed boat with 6 and 3 men respectively in psn 0431.2N 00121.5W. Crew increase the speed and changed their courses. The unknown gave up their pursuit and stopped. Vessel and crew are SAFE. Mariners are advised to exercise caution in this area.



- On 27th February 2018 at 00:15Zhrs, M/V was attacked in position 06°21'N – 002°25'E, (Cotonou Harbor). Vessels in the area are advised to exercise extreme caution. Vessel and crew are safe.

Interesting information

- [Amaechi Threatens to Name Individuals Frustrating Execution of \\$198m Maritime Security Contract](#) House committee accuses transport ministry of secretly granting cabotage waivers to foreigners Eromosele Abiodun The Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, thursday revealed that certain individuals and vested interest profiting from the insecurity in the Niger Delta are frustrating the execution of the \$198 million maritime security contract approved by President Muhammadu Buhari.

- [Gulf of Guinea piracy evolving, crew on moving vessels 'easiest targets'](#) With more than 100 incidents of piracy in Nigerian waters in the last 12 months, piracy is becoming a more significant problem for vessels operating in the Gulf of Guinea in spite of a drop in piracy worldwide during 2017. According to independent brokerage Asket, which publishes its own daily security alerts for the shipping sector

[-Two Guards Injured From Shots In Piracy Attack Off Benin](#) EARLIER THIS WEEK, LUXEMBOURG INFORMED THAT FIVE PIRATES WITH GUNS ATTACKED THE PRODUCT TANKER ST MARSEILLE AT AN ANCHORAGE OFF COTONOU, BENIN. THE PIRATES BOARDED THE SHIP, AND TWO GUARDS WERE INJURED FROM GUNSHOTS. The pirates approached the anchored tanker in a speed boat and once they boarded the vessel they started firing and injured one of the Benin navy guards

Threat assessment

- There were reported 2 incidents in West Africa waters last week. The first one took place, where else, at Cotonou Harbour which is the hot spot in the Gulf of Guinea the last 40 days. During the incident exchange of firings took place between the perpetrators and the armed guards and as a result 2 Benin Navy guards were injured. The second one took place Off Takoradi, Ghana. All vessels should exercise extreme caution when passing this area.

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.

South East Asia

Incidents



- No incidents were reported in South East Asia during this time period.

Interesting information

-[China's ocean observatory in Maldives sparks fresh security concerns](#) NEW DELHI: A Joint Ocean Observation Station which China is looking to establish in the Maldives could prove to be another security challenge for the Indian government with the Maldivian opposition leaders claiming that the observatory will also have a military application with provision even for a submarine base.

- [Maldives Declines Indian Invite for Joint Exercise, Analysts Cite China as Cause](#) The Maldives' rejection of India's invitation for a multilateral military exercise without conveying any strong reason is being considered the biggest rebuff by the Indian Ocean archipelago since New Delhi started exerting pressure on the Abdulla Yameen government to withdraw the state of emergency.

Threat assessment

-No incidents were reported in this area during this time period; nevertheless, ships are recommended to exercise extreme caution while passing these waters. While no abduction cases have been reported since April 17, sea kidnappings remain a concern, as operations by enforcement agencies are still ongoing. Sulu-Celebes Sea and eastern Sabah region remain the most dangerous waters in SE Asia. Common patrols to fight the terrorist groups in addition with the shore-based efforts have managed to confine the surge of incidents comparing with the same period 2016 and the flast quarter of 2017.

SEAGUARDIAN continues to reiterate the need for collective efforts and shared responsibility among regional authorities and the shipping industry in addressing the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. In any case all ships transiting the areas of concern should enhance vigilance especially during hours of darkness and report all incidents to the nearest coastal State and flag State immediately.

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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