

Update No: 03

1st of April 2009

The Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) is an EU led coordination centre dedicated to safeguarding the legitimate freedom of navigation in the GOA, Somali Basin and off the Horn of Africa in light of the pirate attacks against merchant vessels.

The IMB Piracy Reporting Centre (IMB PRC) is the only worldwide 24 hour Piracy Reporting Centre dedicated to be the first point of contact for the ship master & operator to report actual or attempted attacks and suspicious movements thus initiating the response process.

Recent Piracy Activity

19th March – Pirates hijacked a loaded 43K DWT bulk carrier underway (speed & freeboard unknown) in approximate position 12°36'N 047°23'E at 15:30 UTC. None of the 24 crew members are thought to be injured and the vessel is now at anchor off the east coast of Somalia.

Although following the IRTC the vessel was not part of a group transit and neither its owner or operator were registered with MSCHOA. Response centers were only notified of the attack when two pirate skiffs were within half a mile of the vessel. An EU Warship and helicopter operating in the area responded swiftly but the attackers were able to board and establish control quickly. From this report it is strongly suspected that anti piracy measures employed by the vessel (if any) were ineffective at delaying the attackers so that navy forces had time to intervene.

22nd March – A 23K DWT container vessel underway (speed: 17.8 knots, freeboard: 7.38m) was attacked in position 02°27'N 051°11'E at 15:30 UTC by 7 pirates in 2 boats using automatic weapons and RPG. Effective anti-piracy measures and evasive manoeuvres were successful in preventing boarding during an attack which lasted for more than one hour.

25th March – Pirates hijacked a 8K DWT Chemical & Product Tanker underway (speed: 12.5 knots, freeboard: 5.25m) in approximate position 01°42'N 053°42'E at around 13:00 UTC. None of the 19 crew members are thought to be injured and the vessel is now at anchor off the east coast of Somalia.

26th March – Pirates hijacked a 23K DWT Chemical Tanker underway (speed: 14.0 knots, freeboard unknown) in approximate position 02°26'N 048°11'E at around 07:45 UTC. None of the 27 crew members are thought to be injured and the vessel is now at anchor off the east coast of Somalia.

Further details on the above and other pirate attacks in the region can be found at: www.mschoa.eu & www.icc-ccs.org

Current number of captive vessels

09

Current number of captive crew

153

Short Term Metrological Synopsis (Gulf of Aden)

The outlook continues to be settled with light and variable winds and maximum expected wave height less than 1.0 m. Wind speed can be expected to increase slightly to Force 3/4 but sea state will remain slight with moderate/good visibility.

2009 East Coast of Africa Piracy Activity Statistics

Number of confirmed approaches	23	Number of confirmed attacks on vessels following GT	02
Number of confirmed attacks (not including hijacks)	32	Number of vessels following a GT hijacked	01
Number of hijackings	08	Number of pirates detained	56

Improving Group Transit Effectiveness

Operators and Masters are reminded that details regarding the Group Transit system can be found at www.mschoa.eu and specific Group Transit queries may be directed to postmaster@mschoa.org. Further to this, once a vessel agrees to a planned transit speed and joins that group, it is fundamental to Group Transit effectiveness that the vessel maintains that speed in order for all vessels in that days transit to gain enhanced mutual protection and for military assets to be effectively coordinated.

Interesting Information

EU NAVFOR is the first ever European Union maritime operation – Since the start of operation Atalanta no vessel has been hijacked during the hours of darkness, no vessel with a minimum freeboard greater than 7.00 meters has been hijacked and no vessel with a maximum service speed of 16.0 knots or over has been hijacked.

All vessels transiting the region are encouraged to report any sightings and observations of suspicious craft activity to MSCHOA, UKMTO or the IMB PRC using the following contact details:

MSCHOA : postmaster@mschoa.org

UKMTO : +971 505 523 215 & ukmto@eim.ae

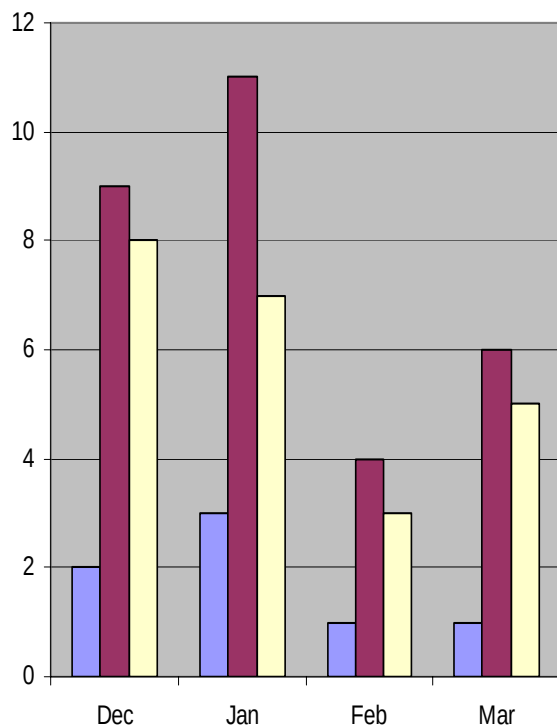
IMB PRC : +60 3 2031 0014 & imbkl@icc-ccs.org / piracy@icc-ccs.org

Such reporting will aid in building a clearer picture of pirate activity which will assist in better protecting shipping and eradicate the threat to freedom of navigation in the area.

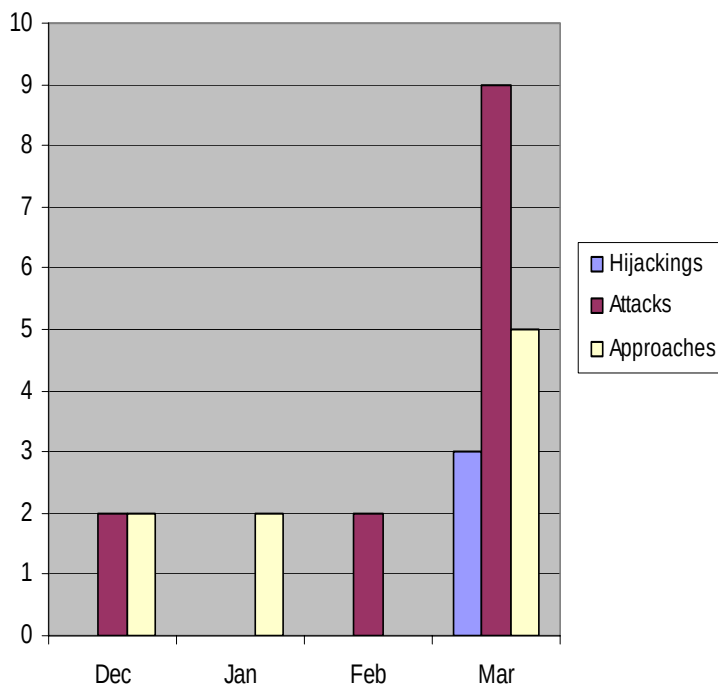
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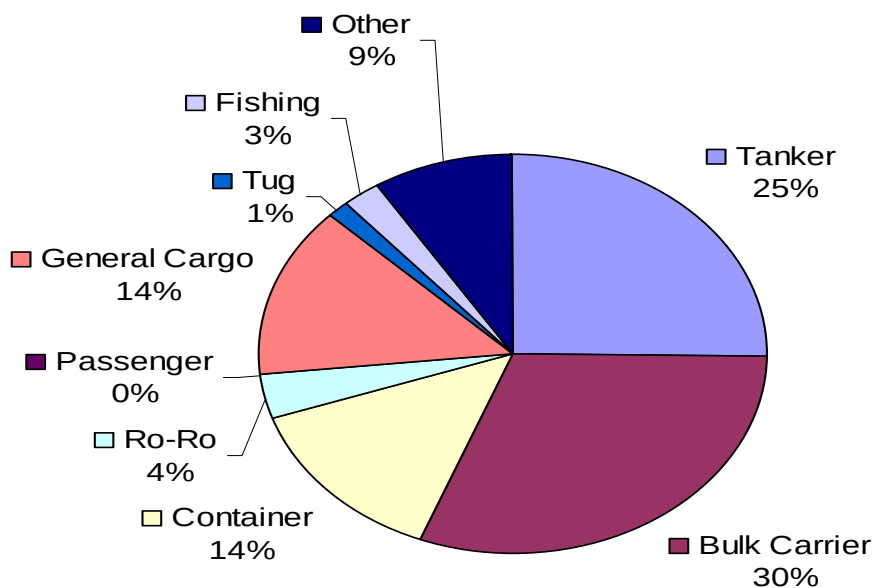
Gulf of Aden Piracy Activity Statistics



Somalia Basin / Indian Ocean Piracy Activity Statistics



**Ship Types Involved in East Coast Africa Pirate Activity
Dec 2008 onward**



All statistics are based on figures correct up until 31st March 2009