

**Piracy Warnings in the Gulf Guinea: Where are they?**

Submitted by United States / NAVAREA IV/XII

**SUMMARY**

- Executive Summary:** WWNWS does not report incidents of piracy with the efficiency that mariners might expect in the Gulf of Guinea and most likely other parts of the world.
- Action to be taken:** More coordination and more efficient lines of communication with the International Maritime Bureau Piracy Centre (IMBPC), Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), and other organizations that collect piracy data.
- Related documents:** JRC Scientific and Policy Report for July 2013, LES 12 MSG 22622, LES 328 MSG 2668, RESOLUTION MSC.305(87), Best Management Practices 4 for Protection Against Somalia Based Piracy, MSC.1/Circ.1287--Resolution A.705(17)/Rev.1, MSC.1/Circ.1288/Rev.1—Resolution A.706(17).

**1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 NAVAREA IV/XII draws the attention of the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS-SC) to ineffective reporting of acts of piracy, specifically in the Gulf of Guinea.

1.2 IMO Resolution MSC.305(87) provides guidelines on operational procedures for the promulgation of Maritime Safety Information (MSI) concerning acts of piracy and piracy counter-measure operations. In its annex it states that MSI concerning acts of piracy and piracy counter-measure operations is broadcast through the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS) in accordance with the general guidance and requirements contained in MSC.1/Circ.1310: Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information (Joint MSI Manual). Draft messages concerning piracy and piracy counter-measures for input into the WWNWS should be routed through the Military Navigational Warning Coordinator (MNWC), if a Naval or military authority provided the information, to the Chairman of the IHO WWNWS-SC. Once the MNWC has forwarded information to the Chairman of the IHO WWNWS-SC for broadcast, the final decision on what to broadcast and how this is done rests with the NAVAREA or National Coordinator concerned.

1.3 Best Management Practices 4 (BMP4) recommends, if attacked by pirates off Somalia, to report the attack immediately to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO) (+971 505 523 215). The UKMTO is the primary point of contact during an attack but the Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) acts as a back-up contact point. Additionally, BMP4 recommends to send a distress message via Digital Selective Calling

(DSC) and Inmarsat-C, as applicable; see BMP4 Section 9 for more information. Following any piracy attack or suspicious activity, BMP4 recommends that the Master provide a detailed report of the event to UKMTO and MSCHOA. It further recommends providing a copy of the report to the IMB; see BMP4 Section 12 for more information.

## 2. COMMENTS

2.1 The Joint Research Center (JRC) of the European Commission, on behalf of EuropeAid, produces a monthly report, which is an output of the Pilot Project on Piracy, Maritime Awareness and Risks—Gulf of Guinea. Essentially, it contains the latest information on piracy incidents in the Gulf of Guinea region. This paper will focus on incidents reported in the month of July 2013.

2.2 During the month of July, the JRC reported 11 incidents (See Figure 1) in the Gulf of Guinea. Below is a summary of what it reported since January 2013. For July, the source for eight of the incidents was the IMB. NGA was the source for the remaining three.

| Category                 | Jan      | Feb      | Mar      | Apr       | May       | Jun      | Jul       | Total     |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Hijacked                 | 1        | 2        | 1        | 0         | 1         | 1        | 2         | 8         |
| Boarded                  | 1        | 4        | 2        | 4         | 5         | 4        | 6         | 26        |
| Fired upon and Attempted | 1        | 3        | 2        | 6         | 7         | 3        | 2         | 24        |
| Suspicious Approached    | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0        | 1         | 1         |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>3</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>59</b> |

Figure 1 JRC Piracy Incident Summary

2.3 The WNWNS reported 7 piracy incidents for the month of July (See Figure 2) with only three in the Gulf of Guinea. NAVAREA II reported on two incidents, neither of which JRC, Office of Naval Intelligence-United States (ONI), or IMBPC reported. NGA reported on the third, which IMBPC originally reported.

| AUTHORITY/DTG                    | POSITION             | PAC/LAN #   | NAVAREA AFFECTED | NAVAREA MSG # |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| IMBPC 041215Z JUL 13             | 12-59.6N 043-06.7E   | PAC 1944/13 | IX               | IX 174/13     |
| MSCHOA REQ 10/13 080806Z JUL 13  | 04-36N 048-05E       | PAC 1990/13 | VIII             | VIII 388/13   |
| SPOCC 112122Z JUL 13             | 03-07.5N 104-57.2E   | PAC 2035/13 | XI               | XI 507/13     |
| NAVAREA II 190/13 151504Z JUL 13 | 00-38S 008-45E       | LAN 1702/13 | II               | II 190/13     |
| IMBPC 160030Z JUL 13             | 00-26.49S 008-51.45E | LAN 1708/13 | II               |               |
| NAVAREA II 191/13 161136Z JUL 13 | 01-06.8N 004-41E     | LAN 1710/13 | II               | II 191/13     |
| NAVAREA XI 529/13 190543Z JUL 13 | 03-13N 104-58E       | N/A         | XI               | XI 529/13     |
| NAVAREA XI 547/13 260234Z JUL 13 | 01-18N 104-41E       | PAC 2212/13 | XI               | XI 547/13     |
| NAVAREA XI 548/13 260235Z JUL 13 | 01-16N 104-37E       | PAC 2213/13 | XI               | XI 548/13     |

Figure 2 WNWNS Piracy Incidents for July 2013

2.4 ONI reported all 11 events in its weekly Worldwide Threats to Shipping Reports for July 2013.

2.5 The timeliness of this information is of primary concern. While this critical information eventually becomes available, generally a week later but sometimes a month later, it does not make it into the hands of mariners when the need it most, which is in time for the master to make navigation safety-related decisions. IMBPC or MSCHOA provide notification of most

piracy incidents off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Guinea. However, there is duplication of effort when the IMBPC reports an incident via SafetyNET and the respective NAVAREA Coordinator does the same, using IMBPC as its source.

2.5 The below graphic (See Figure 3) depicts where the 11 incidents from July 2013 occurred and when.

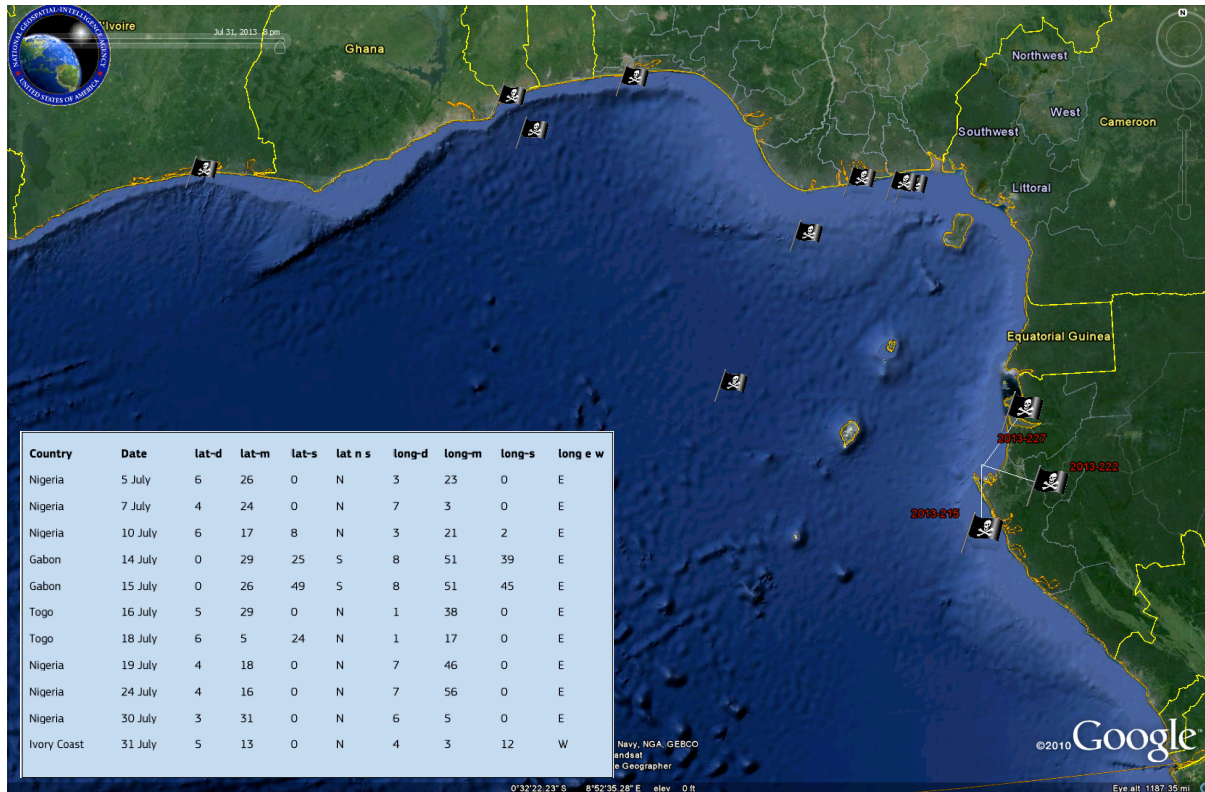


Figure 3 Piracy Incidents for July 2013 as reported by JRC

2.6 The IMBPC has a certificate to transmit MSI via SafetyNet and their information is timely. However, the IMBPC does not adhere to WWNWS guidance as outlined in the Joint MSI Manual, Resolution A.705(17) and Resolution A.706(17). Ultimately, the WWNWS is duplicating information, which is a duplication of cost too.

2.7 Example 1 of IMBPC Navigation Warning LES 112 - 22622

LES 12 - MSG 22622 - NavWarn Safety Call to Area: 60+90 S 90+110 W - PosOk

NL BURUM LES 16-JUL-2013 00:31:46 765071

160030 UTC JUL 2013

TO ALL SHIPS TRANSITING IN AND OFF GABON / WEST AFRICAN WATERS.

WARNING WARNING WARNING

ON 15.07.2013 AT 0552 LT, A MERCHANT SHIP AT ANCHORED WAS SUSPECTED TO BE HIJACKED BY PIRATES AT POSITION: 00:26.49S - 008:51.45E, AROUND 17.4 NM NORTH OF PORT GENTIL, GABON.

THE OWNER REPORTED THAT THEY HAD LOST COMMUNICATION WITH THE VESSEL. FURTHER DETAIL AWAITS.

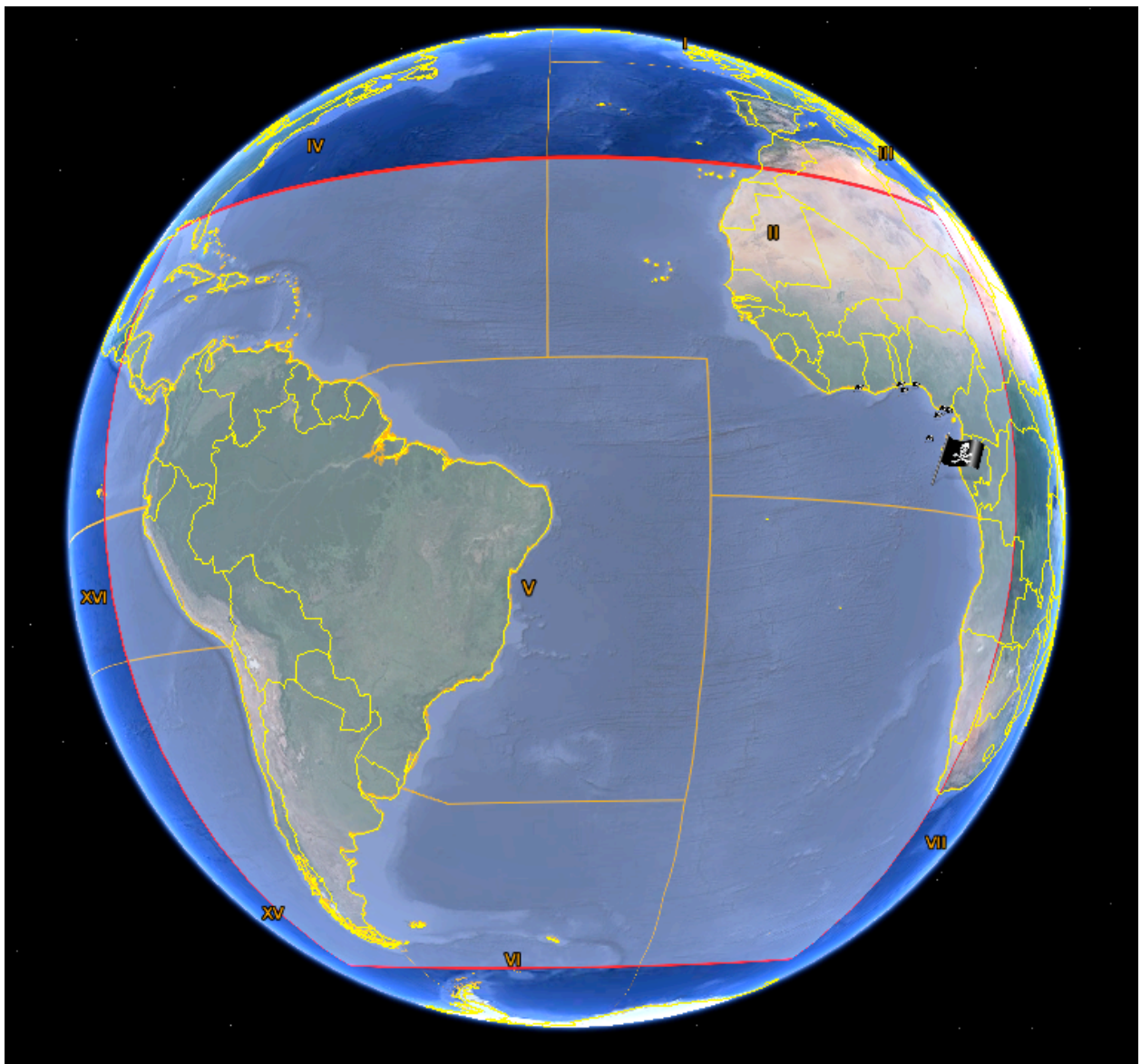
SHIPS ARE ADVISED TO MAINTAIN STRICT ANTI PIRACY MEASURES. VESSELS ARE ADVISED TO MONITOR THE IMB PRC SATELLITE BROADCAST WARNINGS VIA INMARSAT C EGC SAFETY NET AND REPORT ALL ATTACKS AND SUSPICIOUS SIGHTINGS TO THE IMB PIRACY REPORTING CENTRE.

IMB PIRACY REPORTING CENTRE

24 HOURS ANTI-PIRACY HELPLINE: +603 2031 0014 FAX:+60 3 2078 5769

EMAIL: [IMBKL@ICC-CCS.ORG](mailto:IMBKL@ICC-CCS.ORG) // [PIRACY@ICC-CCS.ORG](mailto:PIRACY@ICC-CCS.ORG)

Below is a visual representation for the affected area as described by this warning –*NavWarn Safety Call to Area: 60+90 S 90+110 W – PosOk*. It spans eight NAVAREAS: II, IV, V, VI, VII, XII, XV, and XVI. It should only affect NAVAREA II. The dissemination should have been through NAVAREA II and not involve unaffected NAVAREAS.



2.8 Below is another example of how IMBPC is using SafetyNET. It disseminates this several times per week. While this information may be useful, it does not fall within the established criteria for what NAVAREA Coordinators can and should disseminate.

02-00:12 344 0085 EGC

LES 328 - MSG 2668 - NavWarn Safety Call to Area: 30+60 S 20+120 E - Rep# 1

FROM 165.21.245.44 2-SEP-2013 00:04:23 MSG445185 SENTOSA C LES

020001 UTC SEP 2013

ANTI PIRACY SITREP MSG: P131/2013

THIS MSG IS BROADCAST BY THE 24HOUR MANNED IMB PIRACY REPORTING CENTRE (IMB PRC). THE IMB PRC CAN BE CONTACTED FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD BY MASTERS REQUIRING ASSISTANCE AND TO REPORT ANY INCIDENT OF PIRACY OR ARMED ROBBERY ON. TEL: +60 3 2078 5763 FAX: +60 3 2078 5769, E-MAIL: [IMBKL@ICC-CCS.ORG](mailto:IMBKL@ICC-CCS.ORG) / [PIRACY@ICC-CCS.ORG](mailto:PIRACY@ICC-CCS.ORG) . THE CENTRE'S 24 HOURS ANTI PIRACY HELPLINE IS: +60 3 2031 0014.

THIS BROADCAST WARNS SHIPS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY PRONE AREAS IN WATERS OF EAST AFRICA, THE INDIAN SUB CONTINENT, SOUTH EAST AND FAR EAST ASIA.

**WARNINGS/OVERVIEW:**

ATTACKS RELATED TO SOMALI PIRATES HAVE REDUCED. HOWEVER THE RISK OF BEING APPROACHED OR ATTACKED STILL EXISTS. VESSELS ARE ADVISED AND ENCOURAGED TO REMAIN VIGILANT AND COMPLY WITH ALL BMP4 PROCEDURES. THE THREAT OF THESE ATTACKS STILL EXIST IN THE WATERS OFF SOUTHERN RED SEA / BAB EL MANDEB , GULF OF ADEN, INCLUDING YEMEN AND THE NORTHERN SOMALI COAST, ARABIAN SEA / OFF OMAN, GULF OF OMAN AND OFF THE EASTERN, AND SOUTHERN SOMALI COAST. IN THE PAST VESSELS HAVE BEEN ATTACKED OFF KENYA, TANZANIA, SEYCHELLES, MADAGASCAR, MOZAMBIQUE AS WELL AS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND OFF THE WEST AND SOUTH COASTS OF INDIA AND WEST MALDIVES. INCIDENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTED CLOSE TO THE EAST AFRICAN COASTLINES.

SOMALI PIRATES TEND TO BE WELL ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND RPG AND SOMETIMES USE SKIFFS LAUNCHED FROM MOTHER VESSELS, WHICH MAY BE HIJACKED FISHING VESSELS OR DHOWS, TO CONDUCT ATTACKS FAR FROM THE SOMALI COAST. IT IS ADVISED TO MONITOR, KEEP CLEAR OF ALL SMALL BOATS AND REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS SIGHTINGS. SHIPS ARE ALSO ADVISED TO MONITOR THE IMB PRC WARNINGS THAT ARE TRANSMITTED VIA INMARSAT SAFETY NET SYSTEM. A STRICT 24HR VISUAL AND RADAR WATCH WILL ENSURE EARLY DETECTION AND ASSESSMENT OF A APPROACHING THREAT AND ALLOW MASTERS TO RESPOND AS ADVISED IN BMP4 AND AS PER THEIR COMPANY PROCEDURES. MASTERS ARE REMINDED THAT FISHERMEN IN THIS REGION MAY TRY TO PROTECT THEIR NETS BY ATTEMPTING TO AGGRESSIVELY APPROACH MERCHANT VESSELS. SOME OF THE FISHERMEN MAY BE ARMED TO PROTECT THEIR CATCH AND THEY SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH PIRATES.

**INDIAN COAST GUARD ADVISORY:**

INDIAN AUTHORITIES ADVISORY INDICATED THAT DENSE FISHING ACTIVITY MAY BE ENCOUNTERED OFF THE WEST COAST OF INDIA. GENERALLY LOCAL FISHING BOATS EQUIPPED WITH OUTBOARD MOTOR WITH ABOUT FOUR OF FIVE FISHERMEN MAY CAST THEIR NETS UP TO 50NM OR MORE FROM COAST. MERCHANT VESSELS APPROACHING THE FISHING NETS MAY ENCOUNTER FISHERMEN

TRYING TO PROTECT THEIR NETS BY CHASING AWAY THE MERCHANT VESSELS. THESE FISHERMEN SHOULD NOT BE MISTAKEN FOR SOMALI PIRATES OR PAGES IN SKIFFS. MASTERS SHOULD REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS BOATS TO MRCC MUMBAI /INDIAN COAST GUARD OR NAVY AND IMB PRC. IF POSSIBLE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOULD BE TAKEN.

REPORTED ATTACKS RECEIVED IN THE LAST 24 HOURS.

NIL

SUSPICIOUS SIGHTINGS/INCIDENTS RECEIVED IN THE LAST 24 HOURS.

NIL

GULF OF ADEN/EAST AFRICA/ARABIAN SEA/INDIAN OCEAN :  
ATTACKS HAVE REDUCED BUT THE THREAT IS STILL PRESENT.  
PAST ATTACKS ATTRIBUTED BY SOMALI PIRATES REPORTED AT GULF OF ADEN/SOUTHERN RED SEA/BAB EL MANDEB TSS/OFF YEMEN, OFF OMAN/GULF OF OMAN/OFF SOMALIA/OFF KENYA/OFF TANZANIA/OFF MOZAMBIQUE/MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL/OFF MADAGASCAR/OFF SEYCHELLES/OFF WESTERN MALDIVES/OFF WESTERN INDIA/ARABIAN SEA/INDIAN OCEAN

INCIDENTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY REPORTED FOR ABOVE AREAS FROM 25.08.2013 TO 01.09.2013.

NO INCIDENTS REPORTED TO BE ADDED

INDONESIAN PORTS AND WATERS: ATTACKS HAVE BEEN INCREASING AT / OFF DUMAI AND BELAWAN WATERS. INCIDENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTED OFF TANJUNG PRIOK (JAKARTA) / DUMAI / BALIKPAPAN / BELAWAN / TABONEO, MUARA JAWA AND MUARA BERAU. BE VIGILANT IN OTHER AREAS AS ATTACKS MAY HAVE GONE UNREPORTED.

INCIDENTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY REPORTED FOR ABOVE AREAS FROM 25.08.2013 TO 01.09.2013..

NO NEW INCIDENTS REPORTED SINCE THE REPORT OF 01.09.2013.

MALACCA STRAITS: ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF ATTACKS HAS DROPPED DUE TO INCREASE AND AGGRESSIVE PATROLS BY THE LITTORAL STATES AUTHORITIES, VESSELS ARE ADVISED TO CONTINUE TO REMAIN VIGILANT WHILE TRANSITING THESE WATERS.

INCIDENTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY REPORTED FOR ABOVE AREAS FROM 25.08.2013 TO 01.09.2013..

NO INCIDENTS REPORTED TO BE ADDED

SINGAPORE STRAITS INCLUDING EASTERN OPL: NO RECENT INCIDENTS REPORTED.

INCIDENTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY REPORTED FOR ABOVE AREAS FROM 25.08.2013 TO 01.09.2013..

NO INCIDENTS REPORTED TO BE ADDED

PHILIPPINES

INCIDENTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY REPORTED FOR ABOVE AREAS FROM 25.08.2013 TO 01.09.2013.

26.07.2013: 0225 LT: POSN: 14:33N - 120:55E, MANILA SOUTH HARBOUR QUARANTINE ANCHORAGE, PHILIPPINES.

AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF ROBBERS BOARDED AN ANCHORED CONTAINER SHIP UNNOTICED AND ESCAPED WITH SHIP'S PROPERTIES. DUTY CREW ON ROUTINE ROUNDS NOTICED FOOT PRINTS ON THE FORECASTLE DECK AND INFORMED THE D/O WHO REPORTED TO THE CAPTAIN, RAISED THE ALARM AND INFORMED MANILA VTMS AND COAST GUARD. A PATROL BOAT WAS SENT OUT TO SEARCH THE AREA AND BOARDED THE VESSEL FOR INVESTIGATIONS

INCIDENTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY REPORTED FOR ABOVE AREAS FROM 25.08.2013 TO 01.09.2013..

NO INCIDENTS REPORTED TO BE ADDED

FAR EAST

SOUTH CHINA SEA: OFF TIOMAN ISLAND / PULAU AUR, MALAYSIA / OFF MANGKAI ISLAND / NATUNA ISLAND /ANAMBAS ISLAND / SUBI BESAR. NO RECENT INCIDENTS REPORTED HOWEVER IN THE PAST VESSELS HAVE BEEN FIRED UPON AND BOARDED AS WELL. VESSELS ADVISED TO BE VIGILANT WHILE TRANSITING THESE WATERS.

INCIDENTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY REPORTED FOR ABOVE AREAS 25.08.2013 TO 01.09.2013

NO NEW INCIDENTS REPORTED TO BE ADDED

VIETNAM

INCIDENTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY REPORTED FOR ABOVE AREAS FROM 25.08.2013 TO 01.09.2013

28.08.2013: 2330 LT: POSN: 20:56N - 107:19E, CAM PHA ANCHORAGE, VIETNAM.

SIX ROBBERS BOARDED AN ANCHORED BULK CARRIER VIA THE ANCHOR CHAIN AND HAWSE PIPE BY REMOVING THE HAWSE PIPE COVER AND ANCHOR LASHING. THEY CUT OPEN THE PADLOCK TO THE FORECASTLE STORE AND STOLE SHIP'S PROPERTIES. DUTY OFFICER NOTICED THE ROBBERS AND RAISED THE ALARM. HEARING THE ALARM, THE ROBBERS ESCAPED WITH STOLEN SHIP'S PROPERTIES. INCIDENT REPORTED TO THE LOCAL POLICE WHO BOARDED THE SHIP FOR INVESTIGATION.

INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT

BANGLADESH (CHITTAGONG ANCHORAGES AND APPROACHES): ROBBERY INCIDENTS HAVE DECREASED. HOWEVER, IN THE PAST, ROBBERS HAVE TARGETED SHIPS AT ANCHOR OR PREPARING TO ANCHOR AND STOLEN SHIP STORES.

27.08.2013: 2025 LT: POSN: 22:11N - 091:42E, CHITTAGONG ANCHORAGE, BANGLADESH.

16 ROBBERS IN TWO BOATS APPROACHED AN ANCHORED CONTAINER SHIP. FIVE ROBBERS ARMED WITH LONG KNIVES BOARDED THE SHIP AND BEGAN TO LOWER SHIP'S STORES INTO THEIR BOATS. DUTY OFFICER NOTICED THE ROBBERS, RAISED THE ALARM AND CREW MUSTERED. SEEING CREW ALERTNESS THE ROBBERS ESCAPED WITH STOLEN SHIP'S STORES. INCIDENT REPORTED TO THE COAST GUARD.

IMB MARITIME SECURITY HOTLINE:

THE IMB PRC'S DEDICATED HOTLINE FOR SEAFARERS, PORT WORKERS, SHIPPING AGENTS, SHIPYARD PERSONNEL'S, BROKERS, STEVEDORES AND ALL CONCERNED PARTIES ENABLES THEM TO REPORT OF ANY INFORMATION THAT THEY MAY HAVE SEEN / HEARD / KNOWN OF, ETC. RELATING TO ANY MARITIME OR OTHER ILLEGAL CRIMES INCLUDING SECURITY THREATS. ALL INFORMATION RECEIVED WILL BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WILL BE PASSED ON TO THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR ACTION. MARITIME CRIME AND SECURITY CONCERNS US ALL AND WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN TRY TO MINIMISE THE RISKS AND HELP SAVE LIVES AND PROPERTY.

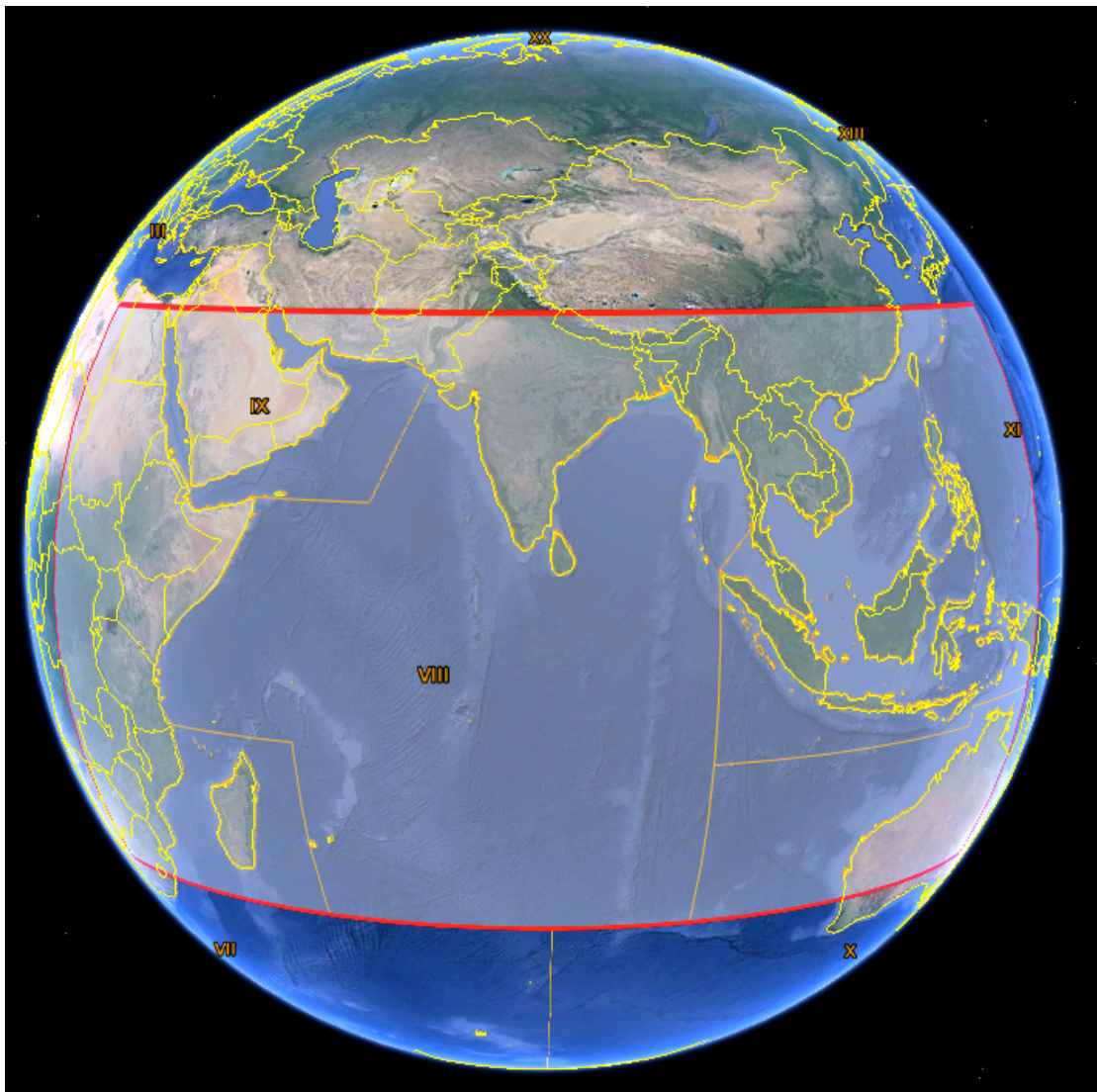
THE MARITIME SECURITY HOTLINE CAN BE CONTACTED 24 HOURS A DAY, EVERY DAY AT:-  
EMAIL: [IMBSECURITY@ICC-CCS.ORG](mailto:IMBSECURITY@ICC-CCS.ORG) OR TEL: +603 2031 0014; FAX: +603 2078 5769

REMEMBER: YOUR INFORMATION MAY SAVE LIVES. PLEASE CIRCULATE WITHIN YOUR CREW.

THE IMB PRC WISHES ALL SEAFARERS A SAFE AND SECURE VOYAGE

NNNN

Below is a visual representation for the affected area as described by this warning.





### **3. CONCLUSION**

3.1 The amount of source regarding piracy incidents that is not sent to NAVAREA Coordinators is concerning. That delta translates into critical navigation warnings not disseminated—roughly 90% for the month of July in the Gulf of Guinea.

3.2 There is no argument that the IMBPC provides an extremely valuable service to mariners, both afloat and ashore, regarding the collection and dissemination of piracy incidents. The concern is that the IMBPC utilizes SafetyNET contrary to the instructions outlined in WWNWS guidance documents. There is duplication of effort where the IMBPC broadcasts a piracy incident and the NAVAREA Coordinator repeats the same information, at a cost to both.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 NAVAREA IV/XII recommends establishing new guidance with the IMBPC and other similar organizations regarding the broadcast and dissemination of piracy incidents. The aim is to provide more timely warnings concerning piracy incidents and to broadcast the incident only once, and correctly, through the WWNWS.

4.2 Alternative 1: IMBPC should take on the primary role of broadcasting piracy incidents. However, it should follow prescribed WWNWS guidance much more closely and attend the WWNWS-SC annual meeting.

4.3 Alternative 2: IMBPC should take a subordinate role. It should cease broadcasting over SafetyNet. It should coordinate directly with the respective NAVAREA Coordinator concerning each particular piracy incident or follow IMO Resolution 305(87). The WWNWS SC should create more fluid partnerships with MSCHOA, IMBPC, and other piracy data centers to facilitate more effective reporting of piracy incidents through the WWNWS as soon as they occur.

4.4 Alternative 3: Compromise between Alternatives 1 and 2.

### **5. ACTION REQUESTED OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

5.1 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the recommendation in section 4.