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# Piracy Risk Update

Somalia, Gulf of Guinea, and Malay Peninsula

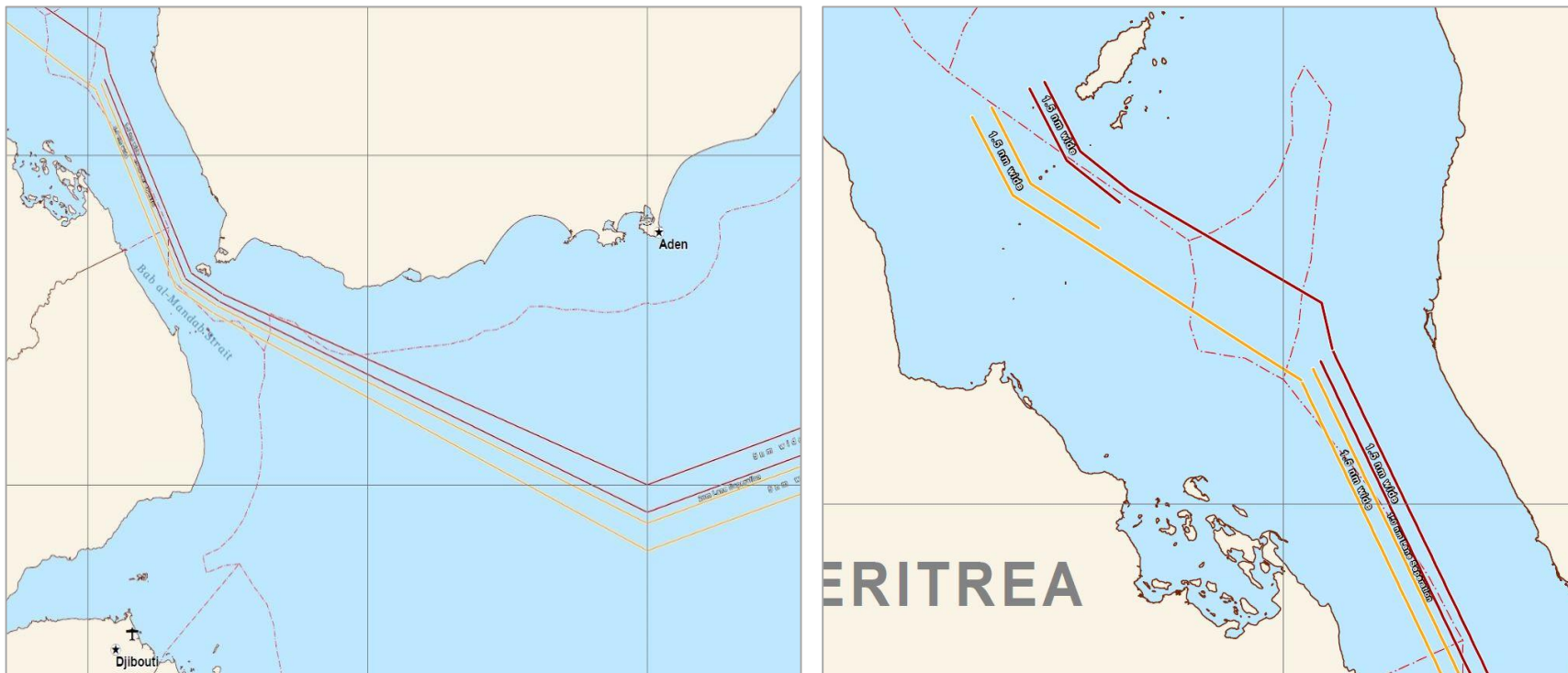
February 2020

# Somalia

No successful piracy incidents were reported in the last three months, but three suspicious approaches were reported in February 2020.

The hijack of the tanker 'Aris 13' in March 2017 is still the most recent hijack of a commercially significant vessel since May 2012.

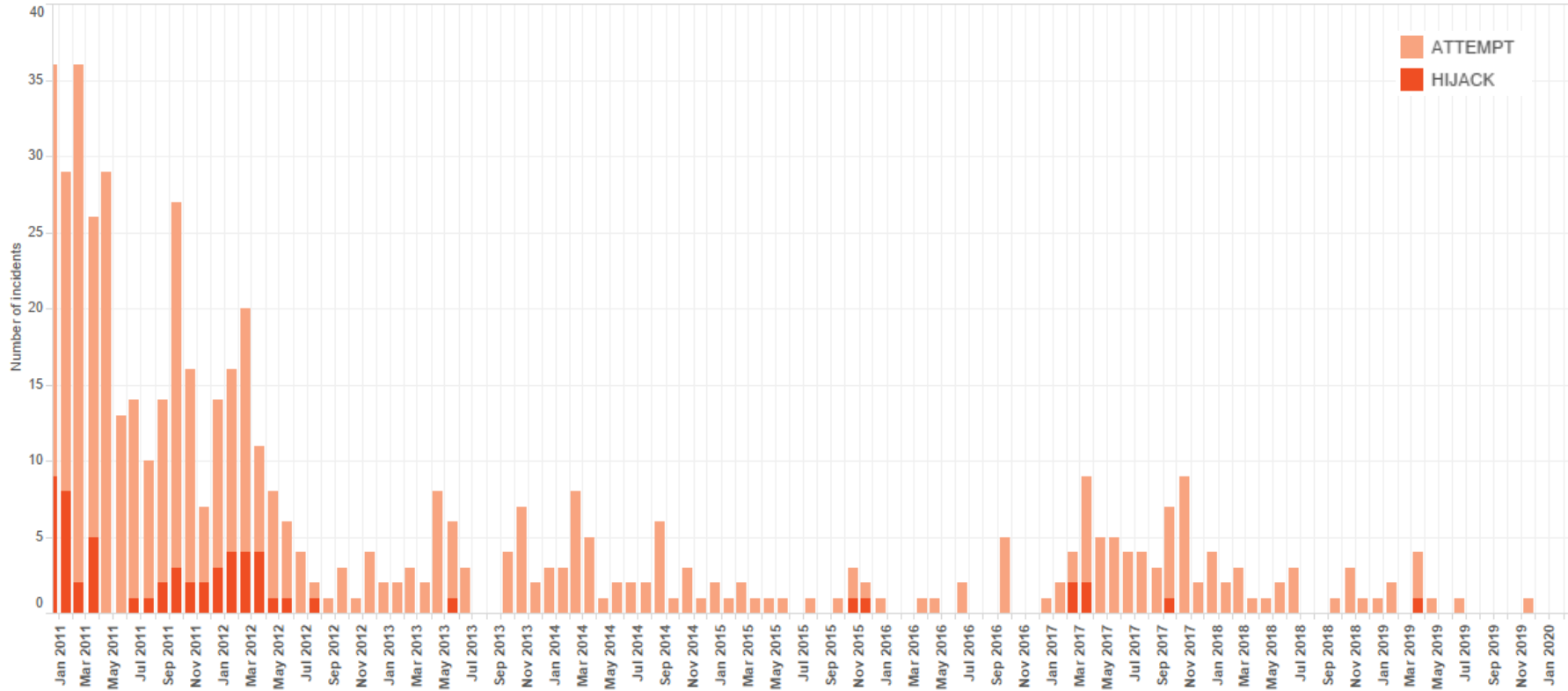
## Maritime Security Transit Corridor



Source: <https://combinedmaritimeforces.com/2017/09/06/guidance-on-maritime-security-transit-corridor/>

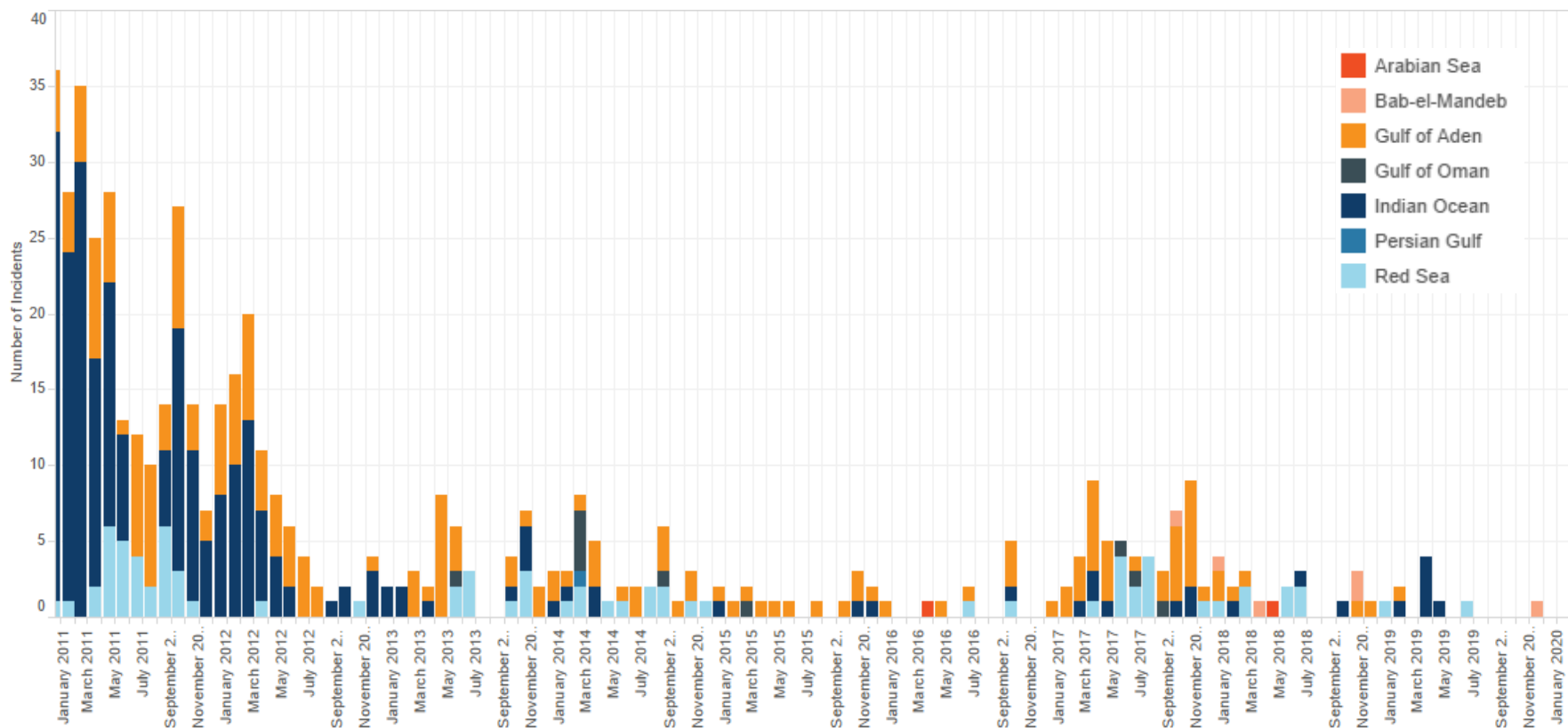
Combined Maritime Forces have established a 'Maritime Security Transit Corridor', extending into the Red Sea from the existing Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) and transiting the Bab al Mandeb Strait and west of the Hanish Islands. All vessels are recommended to use the MSTC to benefit from military presence and surveillance.

# Frequency of successful and attempted hijacks



Before the hijack of the tanker ‘Aris13’ in March 2017, the last successful hijack of a commercially significant vessel was of the ‘Smyrni’ in May 2012. Most successful hijacks since May 2012 have targeted commercially insignificant vessels, such as small fishing trawlers. There were **no** attempted hijacks against commercial shipping in the last three months (as at **27 February 2020**).

## Successful and attempted hijacks by attack area



The low number of attempted hijacks recorded in the last 12 months has been mainly spread between sea areas other than the Indian Ocean (except close to the Somalia coast), where there has been a decline reflecting the pirates' reduced operational range.

## Attack attempts on identified merchant shipping in the past 12 months

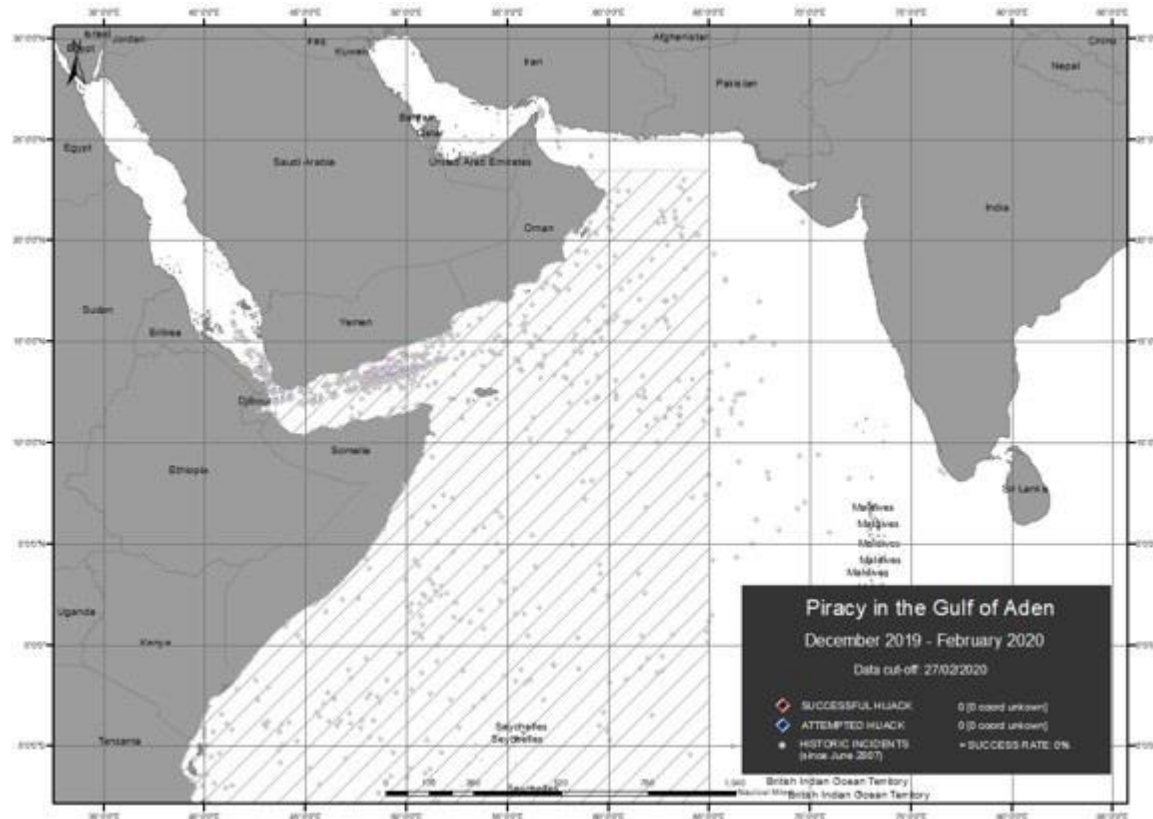
Date	Vessel type	Vessel name	Attack type	Flag state	Gross tonnage
21 Apr 2019	Fishing Vessel	Adria	Failed	South Korea	2,227
21 Apr 2019	Fishing Vessel	Txori Argi	Failed	Spain	4,134
21 Apr 2019	Fishing Vessel	Shin Shuen Far 889	Failed	Chinese Taipei	235
3 May 2019	Fishing Support vessel	Haizea Lau	Failed	Seychelles	482

Source: IHS Markit

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The hijack of the Aris 13 on 13 March 2017 is still the most recent hijack of a commercially significant vessel since May 2012.

## Piracy activity between December 2019 and February 2020



There were **no** successful or attempted hijacks in the last quarter (between 1 December 2019 and 27 February 2020). Three suspicious approaches were, however, reported in February (as at 27 February). On 20 February, a merchant vessel off east of Aden was approached by three skiffs. On 22 February, an underway merchant vessels off north-east of Djibouti fired warning shots as it was approached by 11 skiffs, and on 25 February another vessel in the same area was approached by three skiffs.

# Gulf of Guinea

Five piracy incidents were recorded in February 2020, including one successful kidnap of nine crew from the underway tanker 'Alpine Penelope' off Benin on 20 February, and four failed attempts.

Over the last decade, most 'piracy' in the Gulf of Guinea has been low-level 'sea robbery', conducted in Nigerian and other territorial waters, and targeting tankers, other cargo vessels, minor support vessels and oil rigs. The main motivation has been theft of ship or personal property and/or kidnapping for ransom. Tankers have also been targeted for oil theft.

The last fully successful oil theft was on 5 August 2016, from a berthed tanker at Apapa, Lagos, Nigeria.

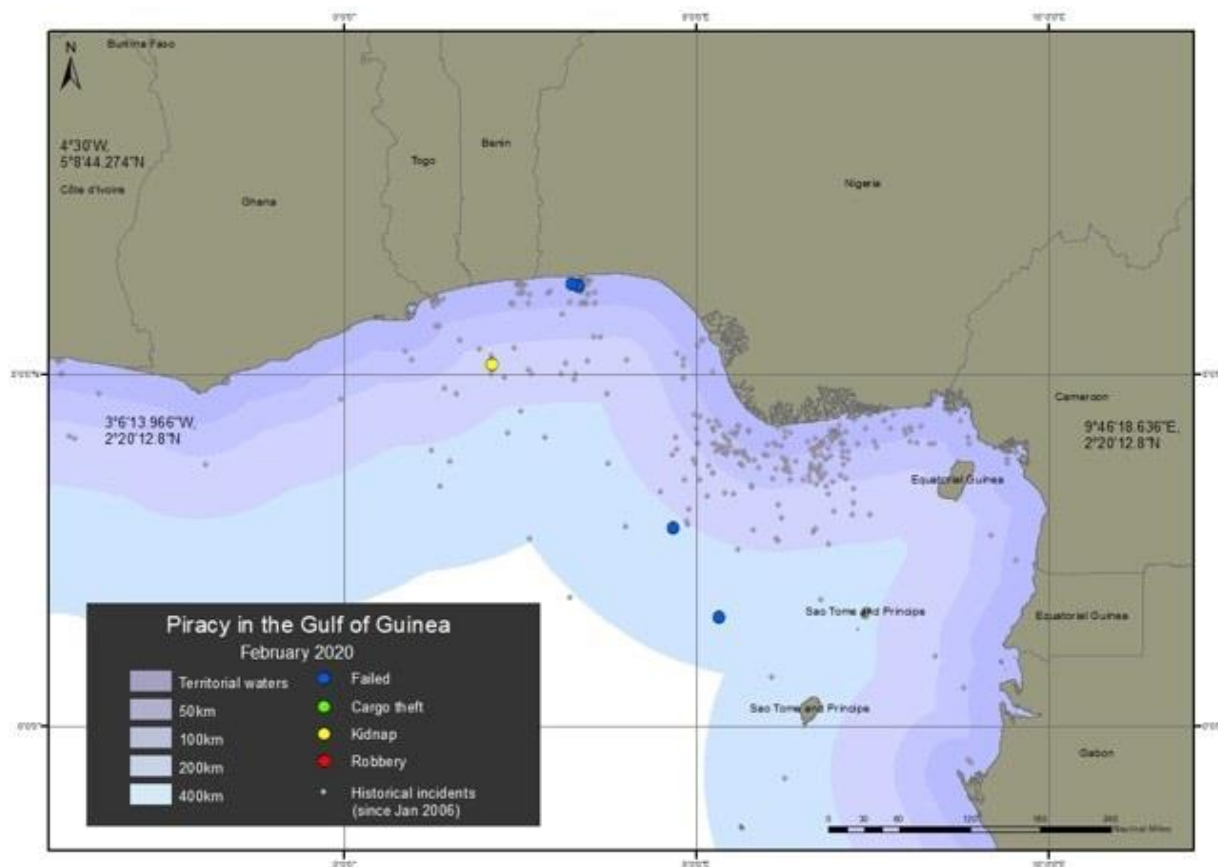


## Attacks on identified merchant shipping (past six months)

Date	Vessel type	Vessel name	Attack type	Flag state	Gross tonnage
2 Nov 2019	Bulk Carrier	Bonita	Kidnap	Norway	32,315
4 Nov 2019	Tanker	Elka Aristotle	Kidnap	Greece	55,096
20 Nov 2019	Supply Vessel	Warden	Kidnap	Singapore	2,327
03 Dec 2019	Tanker	Nave Constellation	Kidnap	Hong Kong	157,039
15 Dec 2019	Tanker	Duke	Kidnap	Marshall Islands	11,118
21 Dec 2019	Bulk Carrier	African Kalmia	Failed	Liberia	19213
21 Dec 2019	Fishing Vessel	Guoji 867	Kidnap	China	281
21 Dec 2019	Fishing Vessel	Guoji 838	Kidnap	China	281
24 Dec 2019	Tanker	Istanbul	Failed	Malta	83,377
28 Dec 2019	Tanker	LNG Lukoja	Failed	Bermuda	98,798
30 Dec 2019	Tanker	Happy Lady	Kidnap	Greece	30,201
30 Dec 2019	Bulk Carrier	Drogba	Failed	Singapore	36,449
30 Dec 2019	Bulk Carrier	Vinalines Mighty	Failed	Vietnam	14.851
02 Jan 2020	Dredger	Ambika	Kidnap	Nigeria	2,153
20 Jan 2020	Container Ship	Atlantic Discovery	Failed	Marshall Islands	30,024
21 Jan 2020	Container Ship	MSC Grace	Failed	Panama	13,258
14 Feb 2020	Container Ship	Maersk Tema	Failed	Marshall Islands	51,872
20 Feb 2020	Tanker	Alpine Penelope	Kidnap	Liberia	41,696

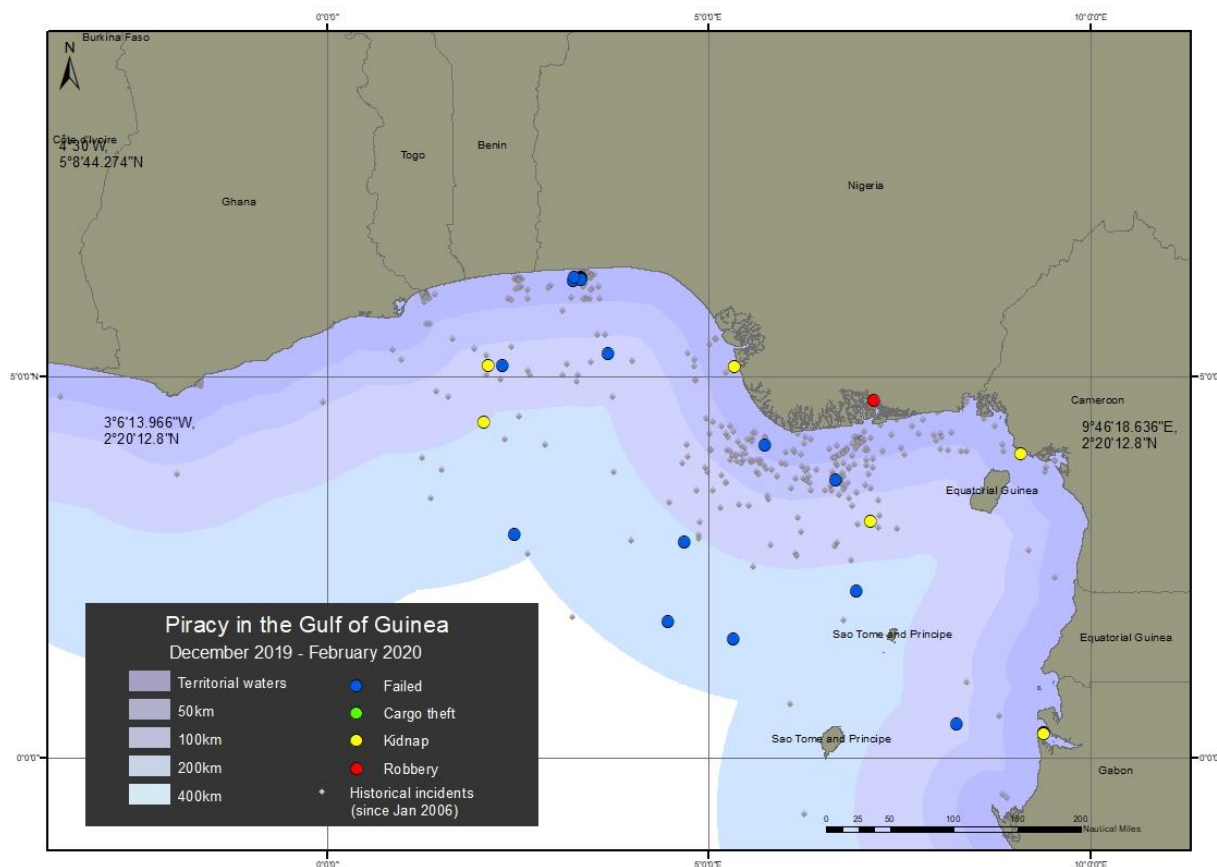
Attacks against **18** identified commercial vessels were recorded in the past six months (as at **27 February 2020**).

## Piracy activity in February 2020



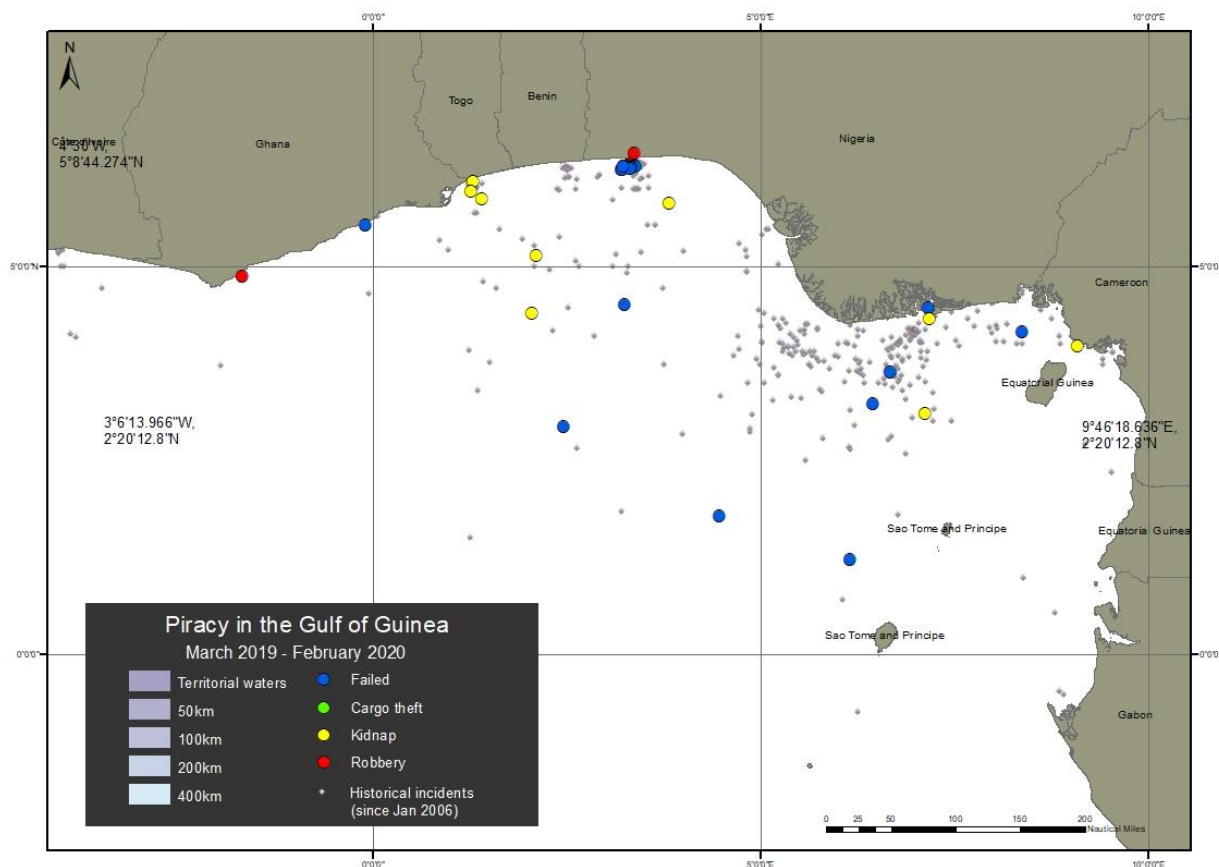
There were five recorded piracy incidents in February 2020, including four failed attempts and one successful kidnap. On 20 February, armed perpetrators kidnapped nine crew members from the underway tanker 'Alpine Penelope' off Cotonou, Benin. In a late reported incident, on 29 January, robbers boarded a berthed offshore supply vessel at Onne port, Nigeria, and stole ships' stores.

## Piracy activity between December 2019 and February 2020



There have been **25** recorded piracy incidents since the start of **December 2019** (as at **27 February 2020**). These include **seven successful kidnaps**, **one successful robbery**, and **17 unsuccessful attempts**.

## Tanker incidents in the last 12 months



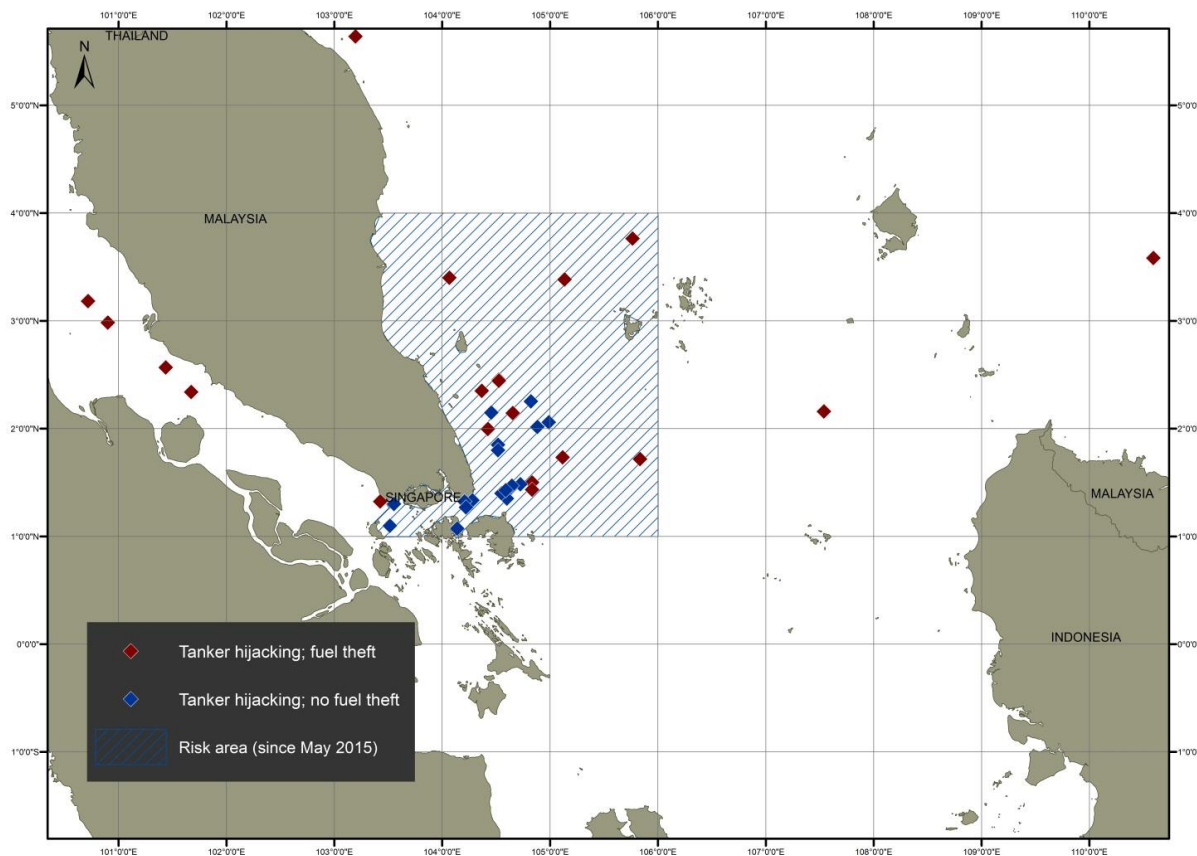
In the last 12 months since **1 March 2019** (as at **27 February 2020**), there have been **33** incidents involving tankers (all mapped). **Nine** incidents involved the kidnap of crew members and **three** involved the robbery of ships' stores and crew property. The remaining **21** attacks were unsuccessful.

# Malay Peninsula

Three piracy incidents were recorded in February 2020 and one late reported incident in January 2020.

The last successful attack involving oil theft from a tanker, the 'Joaquim', was in the Malacca Strait on 8 August 2015. On 6 September 2017, 900 tonnes of diesel were siphoned off the product tanker 'MGT 1' off northern Malaysia.

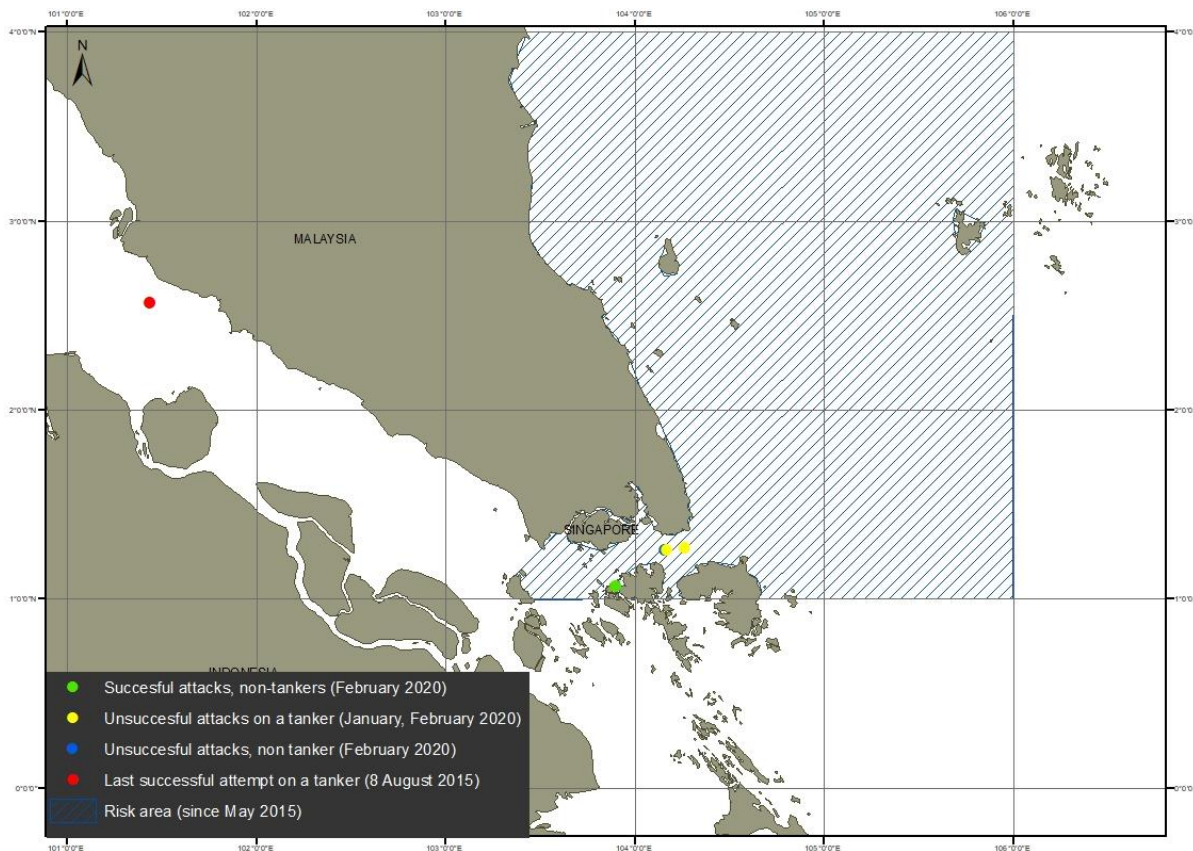
# Tanker incidents since August 2013



*The Malay Peninsula Risk Area (shaded) covers the 'Singapore Strait in its entirety and the South China Sea bound at 4°N to the north, 1°N to the south, and 106°E to the east'.*

There have been 42 tankers boarded by pirates since August 2013 (as at 27 February 2020); 23 of these involved successful oil theft (most recent on 8 August 2015), of which 16 were in the Risk Area. More recent incidents have largely involved the robbery of crews belongings and ships' stores.

## Tanker incidents since last report



The most recent incident targeting a tanker was an **unsuccessful attempted robbery on 9 February 2020**. There were two incidents targeting non-tankers in February (as at 27 February), and one late report of a failed attempt on an underway product tanker on 7 January.

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