

# OFFICER OF THE WATCH

MARITIME PIRACY

MONTHLY REPORT



MAY 2015



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## MARITIME PIRACY MONTHLY REPORT FOR MAY 2015

### INTRODUCTORY NOTES

On a monthly basis the Officer of the Watch publishes a report regarding maritime piracy incidents. The report focuses mainly in vessels of the Merchant Navy (Bulk Carrier, Chemical Tankers, Containerships etc). Although the numbers of maritime piracy incidents have decreased the last few years, still the problem remains and increased vigilance should be shown by crew of vessels travelling through piracy infested waters.

The aim of this report is to highlight piracy related incidents and give background information on what has happened in each one of them. Such information might be useful to persons involved in the maritime industry since it may be used as reference on attack patterns/tactics being followed by pirates.

The information contained in this report has been compiled from data available in the websites of the following organizations:

- ICC Commercial Crime Services (CCS)
- IMO - Global Integrated Shipping Information System

For any queries, suggestions or feedback regarding the present publication please contact us by sending a direct message to [info@officerofthewatch.com](mailto:info@officerofthewatch.com).

This publication was written, developed and prepared by Stavros Kairis, developer of the OOW, Mechanical Engineer working in the Maritime Industry. More information on the [officerofthewatch.com](http://officerofthewatch.com) initiative can be found at the end of this document.



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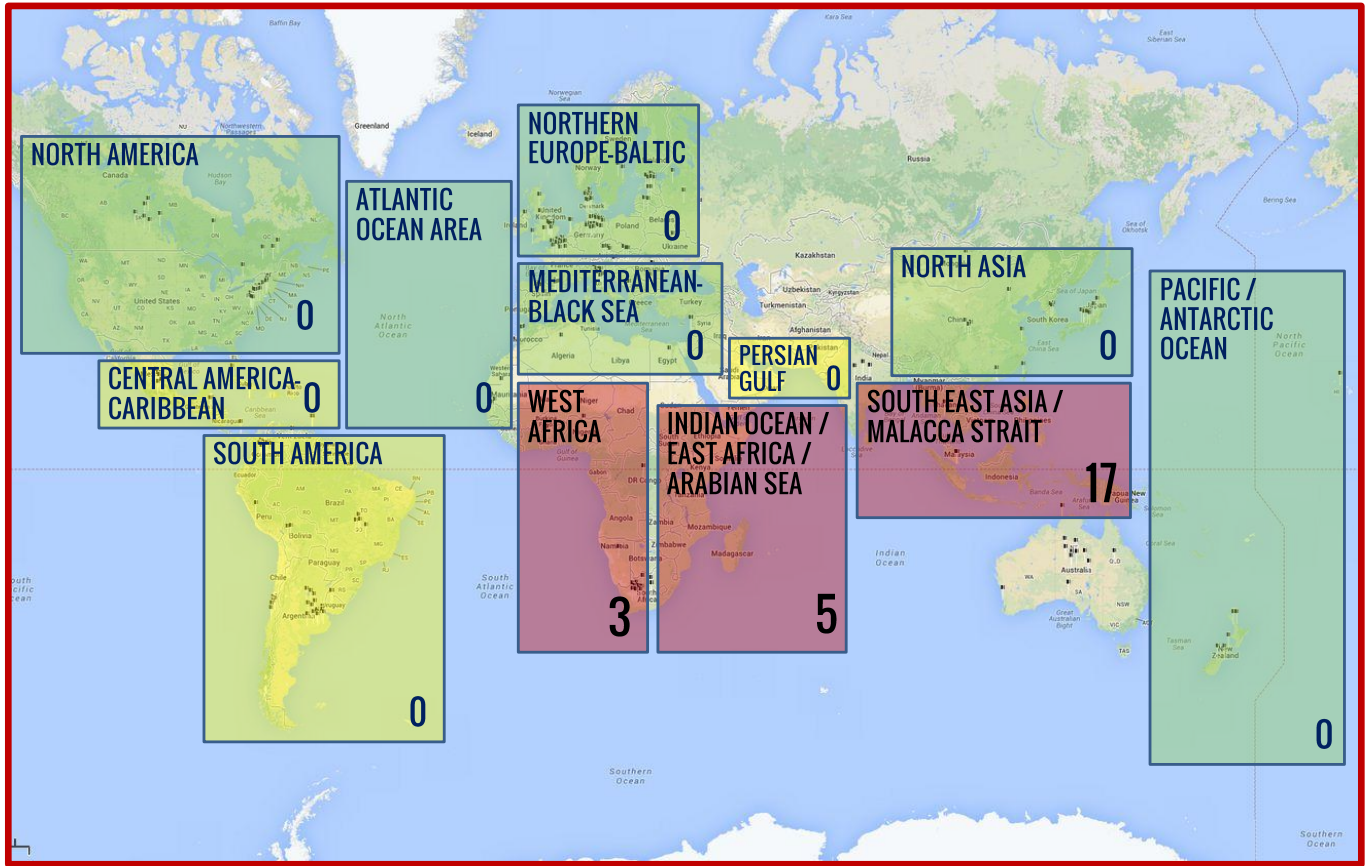
### MARITIME PIRACY INCIDENTS OVERVIEW

OOW - Maritime Piracy Report MAY 2015 Area Analysis	TOTAL INCIDENTS	TYPES OF VESSELS INVOLVED
ARABIAN SEA	2	Product Tanker (2)
EAST AFRICA	0	N/A
MALACCA STRAIT	12	Bulk Carrier (5), Chemical Tanker (1), General Cargo (1), Product Tanker (3), LPG Tanker (1), Containership (1)
SOUTH CHINA SEA	5	Bulk Carrier (1), General Cargo (1), Product Tanker (2), Container ship (1)
WEST AFRICA	3	Bulk Carrier (1), General Cargo (1), Product Tanker (1)
INDIAN OCEAN	3	Bulk Carrier (1), General Cargo (1), Oil Tanker (1)

OOW - Maritime Piracy Report MAY 2015 Flag Analysis	TYPES OF VESSELS INVOLVED & TOTAL INCIDENTS
ANT. & BARBUDA	General Cargo (2)
BAHAMAS	Bulk Carrier (1)
DENMARK	Product Tanker (1)
EGYPT	Bulk Carrier (1)
HONG KONG	Bulk Carrier (2), General Cargo (1), LPG Tanker (1)
LIBERIA	Product Tanker (1)
MALAYSIA	Product Tanker (1), Container ship (1)
MALTA	General Cargo (1), Oil Tanker (1)
MARSHALL ISL.	Bulk Carrier (1), Chemical Tanker (1), Product Tanker (3), Container ship (1)
PANAMA	Bulk Carrier (1)
SINGAPORE	Bulk Carrier (2), Product Tanker (2)



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### PIRACY & ARMED ROBBERY INCIDENTS DETAILS

#	INCIDENT INFORMATION	INCIDENT NARRATION
1.	Date: 2015-05-01 Time: 0410 Vessel Type: Product tanker Flag: Liberia GRT: 6149 Position: 1°43.00'N 101°24.00'E Area: Malacca Strait	Duty motorman on board the anchored product tanker spotted a small boat roaming around the ship with five unknown persons in it. After some time they attempted to board the tanker from the poop deck. Consequently, the alarm was raised and the crew mustered. Upon seeing the alertness of the crew, the unknown persons jumped overboard and fled. Nothing was stolen.
2.	Date: 2015-05-02 Time: 2130 Vessel Type: Product tanker Flag: Singapore GRT: 4832 Position: 2°14.00'N 101°56.00'E Area: Malacca Strait	Eight robbers armed with guns and knives boarded the tanker en route from Singapore to Myanmar and carrying gas oil. They held the 3/O at gunpoint, took control of the bridge, locked the Master in a cabin and all other crew members in the ship's hospital. The robbers also damaged all communication equipment on board and anchored in position 02:19.3N - 101:40.4E (approximately 13nm SSW of Port Dickson, Malaysia), Malacca Strait, before a barge came alongside the ship and 2023 metric tons of its gas oil cargo was siphoned off into the barge. Before fleeing the robbers stole ship's and crew's cash, Iridium phone and the crew's personal belongings. All 18 crew members safe. The Master informed the Owners, and the Malaysian Authority boarded the tanker (en route to Singapore) for investigation.
3.	Date: 2015-05-03 Time: 1500 Vessel Type: Bulk carrier Flag: Bahamas GRT: 24065 Position: 3°47.00'N 98°42.00'E Area: Malacca Strait	Three robbers armed with knives boarded the berthed bulk carrier. After being spotted by the Duty crew on patrol the alarm was raised and the crew mustered. When approached the robbers threatened the crew, both watchmen were held and tied up before the robbers fled with stolen ship stores. All crew safe.
4.	Date: 2015-05-04 Time: 0403 Vessel Type: Bulk carrier Flag: Singapore GRT: 18873 Position: 1°05.40'N 103°43.60'E Area: Malacca Strait	While sailing, four suspected robbers were spotted in the engine room. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. Upon seeing the crew's alertness the robbers fled empty handed. A search was conducted throughout the ship but no trespassers were found on board. No injury to the crew, no damage to the ship and nothing stolen.
5.	Date: 2015-05-05 Time: 1958 Vessel Type: Oil tanker Flag: Malta GRT: 56227 Position: 21°48.10'N 91°42.00'E Area: Indian Ocean	Armed robbers boarded the anchored tanker and confronted the two shore watchmen. Duty crew noticed the robbers attacking the watchmen and informed the bridge. A gun shot was heard and the crew immediately proceeded to the accommodation. The alarm was raised, ship's whistle sounded and the crew mustered. Seeing the crew's alertness the robbers jumped overboard and fled. Both watchmen had been



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#	INCIDENT INFORMATION	INCIDENT NARRATION
		held and tied up. Attempts to contact port control were unsuccessful. Upon investigation, it was determined that the robbers escaped with ship's stores.
6.	Date: 2015-05-06 Time: 0445 Vessel Type: Bulk carrier Flag: Hong Kong GRT: 51209 Position: 1°03.60'N 103°37.20'E Area: Malacca Strait	A skiff came alongside the ship underway. The crew on anti-piracy watch spotted two men trying to board the ship from the skiff and informed the bridge. The Master raised the alarm and alerted the crew through the PA system. The two robbers who attempted to climb on board using a hook retreated when they saw the alertness of the crew. A search was subsequently conducted but no trespassers were found on board. No injury to the crew, no damage to the ship and nothing stolen. Singapore VTIS informed.
7.	Date: 2015-05-06 Time: 1730 Vessel Type: General cargo ship Flag: Hong Kong GRT: 29758 Position: 1°17.00'N 104°01.00'E Area: Malacca Strait	While at anchor, unauthorized persons boarded the general cargo ship engaged in bunkering and replenishment of ship stores. They stole ship's property and fled unnoticed. Upon investigation it was determined that engine spares were stolen.
8.	Date: 2015-05-07 Time: 0700 Vessel Type: General cargo ship Flag: Malta GRT: 5338 Position: 5°51.00'S 13°24.00'E Area: West Africa	Duty crew on routine rounds on board the anchored general cargo ship spotted two boats approaching and immediately informed the D/O. Subsequently, the robbers boarded the ship armed with knives. The alarm was raised, ship's whistle sounded and all crew mustered on the bridge. Attempts were made to contact Port control but no response was received. Master reported the incident to the agents. At 0735 LT, the robbers escaped with ship stores and cargo. Upon investigation, one container was found open and its contents stolen.
9.	Date: 2015-05-08 Time: 0355 Vessel Type: LPG tanker Flag: Hong Kong GRT: 46632 Position: 1°02.66'N 103°39.03'E Area: Malacca Strait	While sailing, seven robbers were spotted in the engine room by members of the crew. In response, the alarm was raised and the crew mustered. Upon seeing the alerted crew the robbers fled. Subsequently, a search was conducted throughout the ship but no trespassers were found on board. No injury to the crew, no damage to the ship and nothing stolen.
10.	Date: 2015-05-09 Time: 0140 Vessel Type: Bulk carrier Flag: Hong Kong GRT: 42114 Position: 1°10.00'N 103°50.00'E Area: Malacca Strait	Two robbers armed with knives boarded the bulk carrier underway. Duty crew spotted the robbers on the aft deck of the ship and raised the alarm. All crew members mustered in the citadel except the bridge team. Singapore VTIS was informed and advised the crew to continue sailing at slow speed. Eventually, while waiting for the Singapore navy, the crew conducted a search throughout the ship but no robbers were found on board. No injury to the crew, no damage to vessel and nothing stolen. The Singapore VTIS and Singapore Navy were updated once the search was completed.



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#	INCIDENT INFORMATION	INCIDENT NARRATION
11.	Date: 2015-05-09 Time: 0312 Vessel Type: Bulk carrier Flag: Panama GRT: 92944 Position: 1°05.28'N 103°42.78'E Area: Malacca Strait	While sailing, five men were spotted in the engine room of the ship. In response, the alarm was raised and the crew mustered. Eventually, a search was conducted throughout the ship but no trespassers were found on board. No injury to the crew, no damage to the ship and nothing stolen.
12.	Date: 2015-05-10 Time: 0415 Vessel Type: Chemical tanker Flag: Marshall Islands GRT: 30031 Position: 1°42.00'N 101°28.00'E Area: Malacca Strait	During watch changeover, the deck watch keeper on board the anchored tanker noticed two robbers attempting to enter the engine room by opening the butterfly nuts of the skylight. The OOW was informed and raised the alarm. Upon seeing the alertness of the crew the robbers jumped overboard and fled. A search was eventually conducted and ship's in the vicinity informed.
13.	Date: 2015-05-11 Time: 1230 Vessel Type: Bulk carrier Flag: Singapore GRT: 26283 Position: 10°12.00'N 107°04.00'E Area: South China Sea	Robbers in a fishing boat boarded the anchored bulk carrier using a hook attached to a rope. They broke two padlocks of the deck stores and stole ship's stores before fleeing. The alarm was raised and the crew conducted a search, during which several footprints were found on the main deck. Incident reported to port control.
14.	Date: 2015-05-15 Time: 0300 Vessel Type: Product tanker Flag: Marshall Islands GRT: 30031 Position: N/A Area: Arabian Sea	Unauthorized persons boarded the berthed tanker during cargo operations and stole ship's property before fleeing. Subsequently, duty crew on routine rounds noticed the theft and raised the alarm. Upon investigation, it was determined that the robbers gained entry through the forward fire wire and escaped by opening the anchor cover securing bolts and nuts. Small footprints were visible on forecandle deck. Local agents and PFSO informed.
15.	Date: 2015-05-15 Time: 0345 Vessel Type: Bulk carrier Flag: Marshall Islands GRT: 34769 Position: 9°22.00'N 13°43.00'W Area: West Africa	Six robbers armed with rifles boarded the anchored bulk carrier. 2/O spotted two robbers on the poop deck, raised the alarm and informed the Master. The robbers aimed a gun towards the 2/O and the duty A/B who retreated to the citadel. The robbers broke into the Master's cabin, fired shots towards the deck head and demanded money from the Master. Before fleeing the robbers stole crew's property and ship's cash. Port control was informed.
16.	Date: 2015-05-15 Time: 0600 Vessel Type: Product tanker Flag: Malaysia GRT: 2223 Position: 3°35.00'N 110°35.50'E Area: South China Sea	More than 10 pirates in two big fishing boats and four small boats, wearing masks, armed with a pistol, knives and an axe, approached and boarded the product tanker underway. All crew members were held, while the pirates damaged the ship's equipment. The pirates also transferred the oil cargo into another vessel, stole the crew's personal belongings and fled on 16.05.2015. The tanker managed to sail to a safe port and Malaysian authorities boarded the ship for investigation. All crew



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#	INCIDENT INFORMATION	INCIDENT NARRATION
		safe.
17.	Date: 2015-05-16 Time: 0001 Vessel Type: Bulk carrier Flag: Egypt GRT: 33234 Position: 21°46.00'N 91°42.00'E Area: Indian Ocean	Robbers boarded the anchored bulk carrier, stole ship's property and ship stores before fleeing. Duty crew on routine rounds spotted the incident and raised the alarm. Port Control and Coast Guard were notified.
18.	Date: 2015-05-16 Time: 0525 Vessel Type: General cargo ship Flag: Antigua & Barbuda GRT: 12838 Position: 8°19.30'N 108°51.80'E Area: South China Sea	While underway, the chief officer on board the heavy lift cargo ship heard suspicious noises near the aft of the ship. He switched on the deck lights, sent the duty crew to investigate and informed the Master. As the duty crew approached the aft, he noticed a boat moving away from the stern of the ship. Upon investigation, it was determined that the padlocks to all the ship stores and engine room entrance were missing and ship's property had been stolen.
19.	Date: 2015-05-17 Time: 0240 Vessel Type: General cargo ship Flag: Antigua & Barbuda GRT: 12974 Position: 22°12.00'N 91°43.00'E Area: Indian Ocean	Three robbers armed with knives boarded the anchored general cargo ship using a hook attached to a rope. Duty crew spotted the robbers, raised the alarm, sounded the ship's whistle, directed search lights towards the forecastle and the crew mustered. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers fled in their boat empty handed. Port Control and Coast Guard informed. A coast guard boat provided assistance and conducted an investigation.
20.	Date: 2015-05-20 Time: 0001 Vessel Type: Product tanker Flag: Marshall Islands GRT: 29708 Position: 13°44.00'N 121°02.30'E Area: South China Sea	While the ship's crew was busy with pilot arrangements and berthing procedures, three robbers in an unlit boat boarded the anchored product tanker using a hook attached to a rope. The robbers broke into the bosun store and stole ship's property. The duty officer on the bridge spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers jumped overboard and fled in their boat with the stolen items. VTMS Batangas and Philippines Coast Guard were informed.
21.	Date: 2015-05-20 Time: 0630 Vessel Type: Product tanker Flag: Singapore GRT: 29445 Position: 1°43.00'N 101°29.00'E Area: Malacca Strait	Robbers boarded the anchored tanker unnoticed. They broke the padlock of the aft E/R casing door but nothing was reported stolen. The Master informed the CSO of the security breach.
22.	Date: 2015-05-22 Time: 0630 Vessel Type: Container ship Flag: Marshall Islands GRT: 26412 Position: 10°11.00'N 107°03.00'E	Duty Bosun on routine rounds on board the anchored container ship noticed that the forward paint locker had been broken into. Upon investigation, footprints were found on the deck and ship's stores were reportedly stolen from the paint locker. Incident reported to the local agents and CSO. On berthing, an immigration





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#	INCIDENT INFORMATION	INCIDENT NARRATION
	Area: South China Sea	officer boarded the ship to inspect the paint locker.
23.	Date: 2015-05-23 Time: 0330 Vessel Type: Container ship Flag: Malaysia GRT: 10743 Position: 1°02.50'N 103°39.00'E Area: Malacca Strait	Four robbers boarded the container ship underway. Some crew members spotted them near the aft deck and alerted the others. Upon seeing the alertness of the crew the robbers fled in their speed boat. A search was eventually conducted. Nothing stolen.
24.	Date: 2015-05-26 Time: 0100 Vessel Type: Product tanker Flag: Denmark GRT: 5706 Position: N/A Area: West Africa	The deck watch on board the anchored tanker raised the alarm after spotting three persons in a small boat, attempting to board the ship. Upon seeing the alertness of the crew, the robbers aborted their attempt and moved away. Lagos Port Control informed.
25.	Date: 2015-05-27 Time: 0400 Vessel Type: Product tanker Flag: Marshall Islands GRT: 30128 Position: N/A Area: Arabian Sea	Four suspected robbers in a fast boat approached the berthed ship. One robber managed to board the tanker and steal ship's stores from the forward lockers. Duty crew spotted the robber and raised the alarm. The robber fled as a result. Incident reported to local agents.



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### ADDITIONAL REFERENCES ON MARITIME PIRACY INFORMATION

For up to date live and accurate information:

1. [Piracy Report](#)
2. [ICC Commercial Crime Services \(CCS\)](#)
3. [IMO Global Integrated Shipping Information System](#)

Information and news regarding maritime piracy can also be found in the following websites:

1. [Maritime Piracy-Humanitarian Response to Piracy \(MPHRP\)](#): A pan-industry alliance working together with one aim of assisting seafarers and their families with the humanitarian aspects of a traumatic incident caused by a piracy attack etc. MPHRP offers related training courses and additional information can be found in the publications section of the website.
2. [EU NAVFOR Somalia](#): Website of the the European Union Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) Somalia which was established in response to the rising levels of piracy and armed robbery off the Horn of Africa and in the Western Indian Ocean. The website offers interesting news related to maritime piracy.
3. [Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa \(MSCHOA\)](#): The Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) aims to provide a service to mariners in the Gulf of Aden, the Somali Basin and off the Horn of Africa. The website includes many valuable information to registered users such as vessel movements, live advice etc.
4. [NATO Shipping Centre](#): The NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) is the link between NATO naval forces and the merchant shipping community.
5. [Oceans Beyond Piracy](#): Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP) is a project of the One Earth Future Foundation, a privately funded and independent non-profit organization located in Colorado, USA. OBP is a response to maritime piracy through the mobilization of industry stakeholders, public-private partnerships.
6. [IMO's Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships Information Webpage](#)
7. [Save our Seafarers](#): An international, not-for-profit, anti-piracy campaign which was launched in March 2011 by a group of five influential maritime associations.
8. [United Nations National Legislation on Piracy](#)
9. [Security Association for the Maritime Industry \(SAMI\)](#): SAMI is a global organisation representing companies working in the maritime security industry and a focal point for global maritime security matters.
10. [BIMCO GUARDCON](#): Standard contract for the employment of security guards on vessels. This contract has been developed to provide ship owners and private maritime security companies (PMSC) with a clearly worded and comprehensive standard contract to govern the employment and use of security guards, with or without firearms, on board merchant vessels.
11. [Piracy Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) by International Group of P&I Clubs](#)



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### ABOUT THE OFFICER OF THE WATCH

Officer of the Watch (OOW) is a project focusing on a variety of themes that are related directly or indirectly to merchant vessels and offshore operations. The aim of the Officer of the Watch is to highlight selected maritime and offshore news and articles in an alternative approach with a more practical and easy to read method, making OOW an important training tool to anyone who seeks knowledge or is involved in the maritime and offshore industry.

OOW was initially developed, during 2011, as a self-learning tool for maritime issues, but slowly took the form of an informative blog. In the process more young professionals willing to participate to the project got involved and thus the OOW Team was formed.

For more information about the officerofthewatch.com project please refer to the following web pages:

1. [About OOW](#)
2. [Contact Us](#)
3. [Get Involved](#)
4. [OOW How To](#)
5. [OOW Policy](#)

For any queries or feedback regarding the present publication please contact us by sending a direct message to [info@officerofthewatch.com](mailto:info@officerofthewatch.com).

### OFFICER OF THE WATCH & SOCIAL MEDIA

Just like wind and sails were made for each other the same goes for internet and social media. Apart from the Officer of the Watch website which is the core of the entire effort being made, various OOW social media accounts have been developed representing a different manifestation of maritime and offshore aspects. Whether you are an individual working in the maritime or offshore industry or you are just seeking to have fun then FOLLOW US in the virtual world of social media.



*"Memory has always been social. Now we're using search engines and computers to augment our memories, too."*  
*Clive Thompson*



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