

Hijackings of sailing boats off Somalia

1 March 2011 (update 9 September 2011)

Since 2008 there have been at least 10 hijackings of private sailing boats (not including the super yacht LE PONNANT). During the 2008-2011 period a total of 185 vessels have been hijacked in the area (plus a number of unconfirmed dhows and fishing vessels) and of these 10 were sailing boats.

Please find a description of these incidents including the Danish yacht ING hijacked 24 February 2011 and the French TRIBAL KAT 8 September 2011.

Sailing vessel TRIBAL KAT	A sailing yacht was hijacked by pirates in the Gulf of Aden about 11 nm south east of Hasweyn, Yemen at 13:17 Z (16:17 LT) 8 September 2011. The attack took place in position 15:27N 052:14E, approximately 8nm off the coast of Yemen. The yacht was reported hijacked following the attack.	08-09-2011 13:17 UTC
Sailing vessel ING hijacked	The Danish-flagged sailing boat ING was hijacked in the Arabian Sea during Thursday 24 February 2011. The vessel has a crew of seven people, four adults and three children. The crew was held on the Greek-owned bulk carrier DOVER for the majority of their captivity and was released 6 September 2011.	24-02-2011
Sailing vessel QUEST hijacked	The sailing vessel QUEST was hijacked approximately 400 nautical miles northeast of Salalah at 13:23 Z on 18 February 2011. The QUEST is a Davidson 58 pilot house sloop owned by Jean and Scott Adam of California. The yacht was en route to Salalah, Oman. All four crew was shot.	18-02-2011 13:23
Yacht FELICITY	A sailing boat with a 9 person crew was hijacked in the Mozambique Channel on the 12 December and used as a mother ship for several attacks during the next two weeks in this area. The yacht was released as the pirates left 27 Dec	12-12-2011 03:30Z
Yacht CHOIZIL hijacked	The South African yacht CHOIZIL was hijacked in the Indian Ocean south of Dar es Salaam sometime in late October 2010. The yacht was on its way from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to Richards Bay when it was attacked. It was then taken to southern Somalia, most likely Baraawe. Twelve armed pirates armed boarded the yacht. A warship detected the yacht close to the shore and sent a boarding team to investigate. The pirates began firing at the boarding team. The skipper of the yacht contacted the warship and informed them that the pirates had three crewmembers held as hostages and as a result the boarding team was told to stand down. On 7 November the yacht apparently ran aground and the pirates took two of the hostages ashore. The skipper refused to leave his yacht. The skipper, Peter Eldridge, was saved by French naval forces, but a woman and a man are now held hostage by pirates. The two hostages were	26-10-2010 00:00

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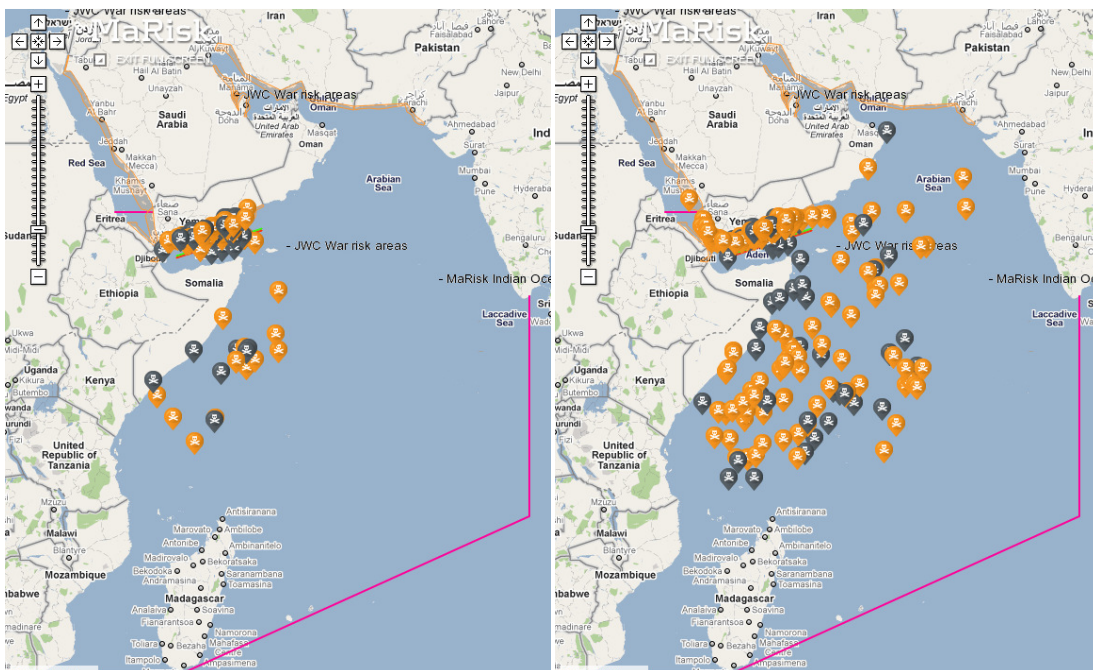
	subsequently identified as Bruno Pelizzari, a South African citizen of Italian descent, and his South African girlfriend known only as Deborah.	
Yacht LYNN RIVAL hijacked	The UK-flagged yacht LYNN RIVAL was hijacked by Somali pirates. A signal from its EPIRB was picked up off the Seychelles at 01:33 Z on 23 October 2009. The 38-foot yacht was crewed by two UK nationals, Paul and Rachel Chandler, both in their late 50s. They were sailing to the Amirantes Islands and on to Tanzania. An elder had told AFP on Saturday that the pirates had agreed to free the Chandlers following the payment of 320,000 dollars on top of 400,000 dollars already received during an aborted release attempt earlier this year.	23-10-2009 01:33
French yacht TANIT hijacked	A French 12.5 metre yacht TANIT was hijacked around 640 km off Ras Hafun in the Indian Ocean Saturday 4 April 2009. The TANIT carries a couple and their three year old daughter as well as another adult couple. The crew of the TANIT was freed by a French military operation Friday 10 April 2009, where the father Florent Lemacon unfortunately was killed along with two pirates. Three pirates were apprehended.	04-04-2009 00:00
Seychelles catamaran yacht SERENITY hijacked	A Seychelles catamaran yacht SERENITY with three crew members has now been confirmed as hijacked between Seychelles and Madagascar around 1 March 2009. The vessel was abandoned and washed ashore during the late summer of 2009 and on Sunday 6 September the 3 crew members were released in what seems to be a partial ransom and partial exchange with 23 suspected pirates held in the Seychelles.	01-03-2009 00:00
French sailing boat CARRE D'AS IV highjacked	A Venezuelan-registered 16 metre AMEL Super Maramu 2000 sailing boat "CARRE D'AS IV" with two French persons has been highjacked in the Gulf of Aden at 18:53 UTC. Jean-Yves and Bernadette Delane were sailing from France to Australia when they were highjacked in the Gulf of Aden. The couple was freed by French Special Forces the night of Monday 15 September and one pirate was killed while six others were captured.	02-09-2008 18:53
Sailing boat ROCKALL highjacked	Privately owned yacht ROCKALL highjacked, passengers kidnapped 23 Jun 2008, coastal town of Lasqorey. Three German tourists Sabine Merz., Jürgen Kantner. and their son were cruising in the Gulf of Aden when they reportedly ran out of gas. A local official said the foreigners were taking pictures from their small yacht when the pirates snatched them, took them ashore, and spirited them away into the neighboring mountains near Puntland. It is believed a ransom was paid for the safe release of the crew on 9 August 2008. According to local sources the total sum paid was 1 mil USD of which the pirates received 600,000 USD and "local assistance" 400,000 USD. All three crewmembers arrived safely in their respective countries. The yacht was believed to have been abandoned, but was later recovered by the couple.	23-06-2008 00:00

Source: MaRisk by Risk Intelligence

When yachts are hijacked the following is worth to note:

- Sailing boats and small private yachts are very difficult or impossible to secure against pirate attacks due to their low speed and low freeboard.
- Authorities and navies in the area are recommending not transiting the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden, and are currently doing their best to get the message out.
- The normal procedures related to a hijacking of a merchant vessel, where there is a shipowner and their insurance and response consultants is normally not present in cases of hijacking of private sailing boats. This may complicate the situation.
- France has apparently a policy of using military intervention in all hijackings of French nationals and with different levels of success as it is very complicated to free hostages onboard a small sailing boat with confined space:
 - There are often many people – crew and pirate guard team - on a confined space
 - A glass fibre boat is easy to penetrate and bullets may penetrate the whole ship if fired upon.
- The developments related to the US yacht QUEST is assessed to be a development out of the ordinary picture and not something that will fundamentally change the situation with hijacked vessels. Pirates will in general still have a main interest in keeping the lives of their hostages in order to get a ransom.

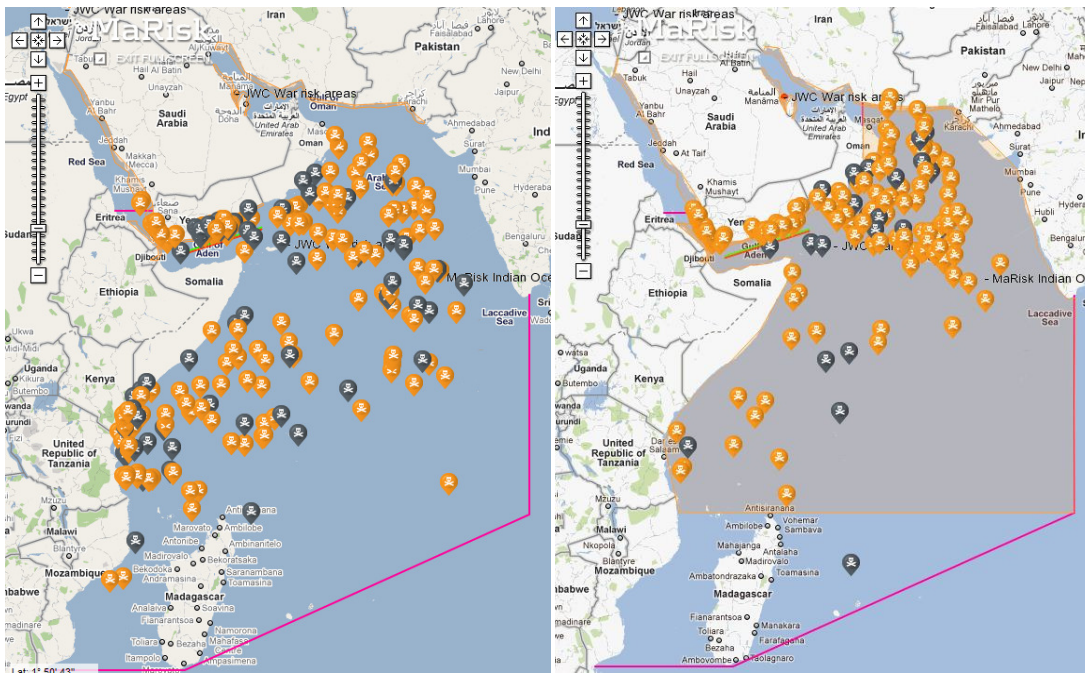
The development in Somali pirate operational range is shown below on screen shots from Risk Intelligence's maritime security risks monitoring system, MaRisk. Black icons are hijackings and orange are failed attacks (attacks by pirates where the vessel evaded the attack).



2008

2009

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2010

2011 to date (Source: MaRisk by Risk Intelligence)

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