

Office of Naval Intelligence

Special Notice

Piracy Outlook During The Monsoon Season

The southwest/summer monsoon season in the Indian Ocean usually sets in towards the end of May or early June. The southwest/summer monsoon season begins in the southern Indian Ocean and moves northward toward the Horn of Africa as the season unfolds. Once it has become fully established over the Somali Basin and North Arabian Sea, monsoon conditions will persist throughout most of June, July and August. Winds up to 23-28 knots with gusts of 35 knots and sea states up to 20-24 feet are expected.

Piracy Outlook:

Weather conditions during the monsoon season will likely reduce the number of pirate attacks. However, pirates will continue to operate when and where weather conditions permit.

Pirates will likely continue to operate in the Gulf of Aden where weather conditions are not as severe. During late May and early June, pirates may attempt to operate off the coast of Oman and the Northern Arabian Sea until the monsoon moves into the area. Pirates may also attempt to operate near the Maldives and east of 075 longitude, which is less impacted by the monsoon. In mid-to-late August, pirates will likely begin operating around Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania and Mozambique, as the monsoon begins to clear and weather conditions start improving in the south.