

Statistics of pirated vessels and crews, January 02, 2012. Year 2011, final results and analysis.

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There are presently 7 ocean-going freighters, hold by pirates, with 145 crew on board, and 19 seamen and yachtsmen on land.

Classification of highjacked vessels

Filed in Table only ocean-going merchant marine vessels, with unique IMO number, with more or less transparent history and known owners and operators, with known number and nationalities of crews. There are no international fishing vessels hold by pirates now, with IMO number and known owner. No local vessels included, almost all of them, with regards to Somali piracy region, are so-called "dhow". They are engaged in regional trade, goods may be anything from charcoal to illegal migrants. They don't have IMO number, they aren't listed in international reference books, they aren't insured with international insurers, their owner may be any petty company or person along the coastlines of India, Pakistan, Persian Gulf, Oman or Red Sea. For world shipping, these vessels, their owners, their masters and their crews, are simply non-existent. Their costs may be thousands of USD, even maybe tens of thousands, but not anywhere close to the costs of international freighters. Their goods may cost thousands or tens of thousands USD, but not anywhere close to costs of cargoes carried by international freighters. to include in statistics local vessels and illegal fishing vessels means to mess all up – even those who're trying to monitor hijacked local vessels (Ecoterra Intl) can't tell exact details of vessels and crews (including number of crews and nationalities), and hijack circumstances, whether vessel was really hijacked or it was prearranged, and vessel stays with pirates on some agreement.

No	Name and type	Nationality	Date of hijack	No of crew	Remarks
1	Ro-ro Iceberg I	UAE	29.03.10	24	Owner in fact, abandoned vessel and crew. Vessel aground and is a total loss. Fate of crew unclear.
2	Tanker Olib G.	Greece	08.09.10	18	
3	Boxship Albedo	Malaysia	26.11.10	23	Nationalities Pak, Bangla, Shri L, Iran
4	Bulk carrier Orna	UAE	20.12.10	19	
5	Chemical tanker Fairchem Bogey	Singapore	20.08.11	21	Management by Singapore and US companies, owner based Singapore
6	Product tanker Liquid Velvet	Greece	31.10.11	22	
7	Chem tanker Enrico Levoli	Italy	27.12.11	18	
7	Total 7 vessels			145	

19 hostages from yachts and vessels which are not in captivity: 2 yachtsmen from the yacht Choizil (SAR), 6 crew (2 Danish, 4 Philippinese) from MV Leopard, 7 Indian crew from released tanker Asphalt Venture, 4 South Korean crew from tanker Gemini. Total 164 (145+19) seamen and yachtsmen.

Crews by nationality:

Ghana: 4(Iceberg I)

Georgia: 15 Olib G

Greece: 1 (Liquid Velvet)

India: 6(Iceberg I) + 7(Asphalt Venture – vessel released, but 7 still hold by pirates) + 21(Fairchem Bogey) + 7 (Enrico Levoli) = 41

Italy 6 (Enrico Levoli)
Yemen: 9(Iceberg I)
Pakistan: 2(Iceberg I)
Philippines: 1(Iceberg I) + 21(Liquid Velvet) = 22
South Korea: 4 (Gemini – kept on land after tanker release)
Syria: 18 (Orna)

Sri Lanka 1(Orna)
Sudan: 2(Iceberg I)
Turkey: 3 (Olib G)
Ukraine 6 (Enrico Levoli)
Boxship Albedo crew 23: Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan.

Vessels' nationality:

Greece 2
Italy 1
Malaysia 1
Singapore 1
UAE 2

Type of vessels:

Tankers – 4
Boxships - 1
Ro-ro – 1
Bulk carriers - 1

List of merchant vessels presently held by Somali pirates

Ro-ro Iceberg I, UAE

Ro-ro Iceberg I pirated on March 29 10 nm off Aden, crew 24: nationalities 9 Yemen, 6 India, 4 Ghana, 2 Sudan, 2 Pakistan, 1 Philippines. Iceberg I IMO 7429102, dwt 3960, built 1976, flag Panama, owner Azal Shipping & Cargo Dubai.

Tanker Olib G., Greece

Tanker Olib G. Pirated on September 8 2010 in 13 23 N 049 58 E, Gulf of Aden. Crew 18: 15 Georgia, 3 Turkey. Olib G. - IMO 8026608, dwt 6406, built 1988, flag Malta, manager Frio Ventures S.A. Greece.

Boxship Albedo, Malaysia

Boxship Albedo highjacked on Nov 26 2010 in Indian ocean, vessel was enroute from Jebel Ali UAE to Mombasa Kenya, loaded with containers. Crew 23, nationalities Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Iran. Albedo IMO 9041162, dwt 15562, built 1993, flag Malaysia, owner Majestic Enrich Shipping Sendirian Berhad.

Bulk carrier Orna, UAE

Bulk carrier Orna highjacked at midday Dec 20 2010 in Indian ocean in pos in 01 46S 060 32E, some 400 nm NE off Seyshelles. The attack was launched from 2 attack skiffs, with pirates firing small arms and rocket propelled grenades at the merchant vessel. The vessel was stopped and boarded by at least 4 pirates. Vessel was enroute Durban South Africa - Zhangzhou China carrying 26,500 tonnes of coal. Crew 19: 1 Sri Lanka and 18 Syria. Orna IMO 8312162, dwt 27915, built 1984, flag Panama. Registered owner Sirago Shipmanagement Co., operator Swedish Management, Dubai United Arab Emirates.

Chemical tanker Fairchem Bogey, Singapore

20 August 2011 pirates hijacked chemical tanker Fairchem Bogey. Tanker was anchored in the designated anchorage area of Salalah port Oman, in position 16 54 N and 054 03 E, awaiting berthing instructions, when the hijackers managed to board the ship from a vessel that was ferrying a load of cattle, at 0150 UTC. The ship prior to reaching Salalah had discharged cargo at Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia, after Salalah tanker was destined for China. Tanker had armed guards on board, but had released them in Oman. Hijacked vessel was taken to Garacad, Somali.

Chemical tanker Fairchem Bogey IMO 9423750, dwt 25390, built 2010, flag Marshall Islands, ISM manager Anglo-Eastern Shipmanagement (Singapore) Pte Ltd., owner Eurys Maritime SA, Singapore, manager Fairfield Chemical Carriers, Wilton, USA. Crew 21, all Indians.

Product tanker Liquid Velvet, Greece

Product tanker Liquid Velvet was hijacked by Somali pirates at 1152 UTC Oct 31 in position 1200N 04533E, while transiting the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) from Suez to Mormugao, Goa, India. Vessel was fully complying with BMP4, after pirates boarded tanker crew, including 1 unarmed security personnel, hid in citadel, but pirates broke in and hijack tanker. Crew is 22: 21 Filipino and 1 Greek (security). Product tanker Liquid Velvet (Liquid Challenge till 01.10.2009) IMO 9083940, dwt 11559, built 1994, flag Marshall Islands, owner Minimal Enterprises Co., manager Elmira Tankers Management SA, both Greece.

Chem tanker Enrico Levoli, Italy

On Dec 27 2011 pirates hijacked chemical tanker Enrico Levoli in position 18.18N - 57.36E, some 30 nm off Oman coast. Vessel loaded with 15750 tons of caustic soda was en route from Fujairah UAE to Yumurtalik, Adana Province, Turkey. Crew 18: 6 Italian, 5 Ukrainian and 7 Indian. Judging from news and owner's press-release, there were no armed guards on board. Chemical tanker Enrico Levoli IMO 9188415, dwt 16630, built 2000, flag Italy, owner Marnavi SPA, Napoli.

Release statistics 2011							
No	Name and type, IMO	Nationality	Crew	Dates		Ransom (\$ million)	Remarks (*)
				hijacked	released		
1	Product tanker Motivator 9340386	Greece	18	04.07.10	16.01.11		
2	General cargo Izumi 9414955	Japan	20	10.10.10	27.02.11	4.5	*
3	General cargo Ems River 9551662	Germany	8	27.12.10	28.02.11	3	*
4	LPG tanker York 9220421	Greece	17	23.10.10	10.03.11	4.5	*
5	General cargo Rak Africana 8200553	UAE	26	11.04.10	09.03.11	2	* Abandoned by the crew after release, fate unknown, presumably sank
6	Bulk carrier Jahan Moni 9102954	Bangladesh	26	05.12.10	14.03.11	4.2	*
7	Chemical tanker Hannibal II 8011756	Tunisia	31	11.11.10	17.03.11	2	*
8	VLCC Irene SL 9285823	Greece	25	08.02.11	08.04.11	13.5 (?)	*
9	General cargo Thor Nexus 8712491	Thailand	27	25.12.10	11.04.11	4.77	*
10	Heavylift Beluga Nomination 9356402	Germany	8	22.01.11	13.04.11	5	*
11	Asphalt tanker Asphalt Venture 8875798	UAE	15	29.09.10	15.04.11	3.6	* 7 Indian crew still in capture
12	Bulk carrier Renuar 9042221	Greece	24	11.12.10	23.04.11	6.0	*
13	General cargo Sinar Kudus 9172507	Indonesia	20	16.03.11	01.05.11	4.5	*
14	Bulk carrier Khaled	Syria	25	20.01.11	26.05.11	2.5	*

	Muhieddine K 8105650						
15	General cargo Yuan Xiang 7609192	China	29	12.11.10	08.06.11	3.6	*
16	Tanker Aframax Zirku 9237802	UAE	29	28.03.11	10.06.11	12.0 (?!)	*
17	General cargo Suez 8218720	Egypt	23	02.08.10	11.06.11	2.1	*
18	General cargo Susan K 9344370	Germany	10	08.04.11	16.06.11	5.7	*
19	Bulk carrier Sinin 9274941	Iran	21	12.02.11	13.08.11		
20	Bulk carrier Eagle 8126408	Greece	24	17.01.11	20.08.11	6.0 (?!)	*
21	Tanker Polar 9299563	Greece	24	30.10.10	26.08.11		1 crew died in captivity
22	Boxship MSC Panama 8902125	USA	23	10.12.10	06.09.11	7.0 (?!)	*
23	Bulk carrier Hoang Son Sun 8323862	Vietnam	24	19.01.11	15.09.11	4.5	*
24	Bulk carrier Dover 7433634	Greece	23	28.02.11	30.09.11	3.8	*
25	Bulk carrier Blida 7705635	Algeria	27	01.01.11	03.11.11	2.6	*
26	Bulk carrier Rosalia D'Amato 9225201	Italy	21	21.04.11	25.11.11	6	* first pirates voiced 0.6 mil, later said it was 6 mil
27	Product tanker Gemini 8412352	Singapore	25	30.04.11	30.11.11	4	*
28	Aframax tanker Savina Caylyn 9489285	Italy	22	08.02.11	21.12.11	11.5 (?!)	*

* - sum of the ransom reported by pirates, no confirmation or otherwise from other sources
Total some \$130 million. Favourite figure given by pirates was \$4.5 million. Well, it doesn't matter much, because all those millions pirates are bragging about hardly exist, actual ransoms were at least one third less, so my estimation is, pirates got in total something between \$80-90 million.

Year 2011, final results and analysis

Year 2011 was really a pivotal one in Somali piracy phenomena, though not in the way claimed by officialdom. First and most important is the fact of a sharp decline in hijacks number during the second half of the year. Few doubt that the decline should be attributed to a widespread use of private armed guards, because shipping finally, got the true meaning of the events – maritime officialdom, politicians, States and UN pursue their own benefits in “Fighting Piracy” strategy, and have absolutely no intention of giving shipping what it needs, “Protection from Piracy”. Shipping, in a rather chaotic way, started to defend itself with the only one guaranteed method of thwarting pirates, with armed guards. Obviously, there is another reason for piracy decline in the second half of the last year 2011. There is a growing unrest and fight, more resembling a full-scale war, in Somalia itself, where exterior forces are trying to wipe out notorious Al Shabaab movement, and pirates, along with civil population, may be called collateral damage in this war.

Well, there are claims of operations against pirates, carried out by Puntland authorities, but frankly, this is highly doubtful, knowing the character of the Puntland authorities, and the relations between them and the pirates.

Another important fact is the hike in periods of captivity of many hijacked vessels, and inflated ransom demands. Two reasons lie behind those sad realities. Pirates demand, in many cases, absolutely unrealistic ransoms, because the whole matter of ransom statistics and figures was left to pirates and world media, with blessings from maritime and navies officialdom, and of course, businessmen from the UN (disguised as politicians). Pirates were made the only one source of information about ransoms, so what should we expect, that pirates are so honest they'll give real figures, harming their future profits? Pirates inflated the ransoms they already got, inflated the hopes of ransoms they're bargaining, and finally, lost the feeling of the reality in their fantasies, sparked by world media, and demand ransoms which owners simply can't afford, it's cheaper for them to abandon their vessels and crews, than collect such fortunes.

Another reason is the number of hijacks, or to be more correct, the lack of it. They're running out of stock, so to say. They don't know when if ever, they'd be able to hijack another vessel, that's why they're trying to twist out of each vessel they still have as much money as possible.

Speaking about the near future, with regards to all the tendencies of year 2011, the main thing which comes to mind is the growing risk for all vessels who transit dangerous waters without armed guards on board. Many vessels still sail without guards, not because their owners trust BMP4, or Navies, or UN, but simply because owners are too greedy to hire them. Owners should know then, that presently, their vessels are the only prey pirates can hunt, and most probably, pirates will try to build up some kind of intelligence net with the main purpose of obtaining vitally important for them information about the presence of armed guards on board. Before widespread use of armed guards, in times when shipping was "protected" by BMP and IMO's "Fighting the Piracy" campaigns, pirates were a happy careless flock – they went to high seas and chased everything they saw, without a second thought or care. Now they care. Hence the growing risk for all unarmed vessels.

Hijack statistics, comparative Table years 2010 - 2011

2010			2011		
No	Date of hijack	Vessel	No	Date of hijack	Vessel
1	Jan 2	m/v Asian Glory	1	Jan 01	m/v Blida
			2	Jan 17	m/v Eagle
			3	Jan 19	m/v Hoang Son Sun
			4	Jan 20	m/v Khaled Muhieddine K
			5	Jan 22	m/v Beluga Nomination
2	Feb 03	m/v Rim	6	Feb 8	m/t Savina Caylyn
			7	Feb 9	VLCC Irene SL
			8	Feb 12	m/v Sinin
			9	Feb 28	m/v Dover
1	Mar 01	m/t Al Nisr Al Saudi	1	Mar 16	m/v Sinar Kudus
2	Mar 05	m/t UBT Ocean	2	Mar 28	m/t Zirku
3	Mar 23	m/v Frigia			
4	Mar 23	m/v Talca			
5	Mar 29	m/v Iceberg I			
6	Apr 04	VLCC Samho Dream	3	Apr 8	m/v Susan K
7	Apr 07	m/v Yasin C.	4	Apr 21	m/v Rosalia D'Amato
8	Apr 11	m/v Rak Africana			
9	Apr 21	m/v VOC Daisy			
10	May 08	m/t Marida Marguerite			
11	May 11	m/t Panega			
12	May 12	m/v Eleni P			
1	Jun 28	m/t Golden Blessing			
2	Jul 04	m/t Motivator			
3	Aug 02	m/v Suez	1	Aug 20	m/t Fairchem Bogey
1	Sep 08	m/t Oilb G			
2	Sep 29	m/t Asphalt Venture			
3	Oct 10	m/v Izumi			
4	Oct 23	m/t LPG York			
5	Oct 30	m/t Polar	1	Oct 31	m/t Liquid Velvet

6	Nov 11	m/t Hannibal II			
7	Nov 12	m/v Yuan Xiang			
8	Nov 26	m/v Albedo			
1	Dec 10	m/v MSC Panama			
2	Dec 11	m/v Renuar			
3	Dec 20	m/v Orna			
4	Dec 25	m/v Thor Nexus	1	Dec 27	m/t Enrico Levoli
Total 26 vessels			Total 16 vessels		

Release statistics, comparative Table years 2011 - 2010

2011					2010			
	Name type IMO	Hijack	Release	Ran s \$mil	Name type IMO	Hijack	Release	Ran s \$mil
1	Product tanker Motivator 9340386	04.07.1 0	16.01.1 1		Tanker Marida Marguerite 9445655	08.05.10	28.12.10	5.5
2	General cargo Izumi 9414955	10.10.1 0	27.02.1 1	4.5	Bulk carrier Eleni P 9128025	12.02.10	11.12.10	
3	General cargo Ems River 9551662	27.12.1 0	28.02.1 1	3	Tanker Al Nisr Al Saudi 9058696	01.03.10	07.12.10	
4	LPG tanker York 9220421	23.10.1 0	10.03.1 1	4.5	VLCC Samho Dream 9235737	04.04.10	06.11.10	9.5
5	General cargo Rak Africana 8200553	11.04.1 0	09.03.1 1	2	Tanker Golden Blessing 9539016	28.06.10	06.11.10	2.8
6	Bulk carrier Jahan Moni 9102954	05.12.1 0	14.03.1 1	4.2	Bulk carrier VOC Daisy 9154555	21.04.10	16.10.10	
7	Chemical tanker Hannibal II 8011756	11.11.1 0	17.03.1 1	2	Tanker Panega 8511586	11.05.10	09.09.10	
8	VLCC Irene SL 9285823	08.02.1 1	08.04.1 1	13.5	Bulk carrier Frigia 7507485	23.03.10	29.07.10	
9	General cargo Thor Nexus 8712491	25.12.1 0	11.04.1 1	4.77	Product tanker UBT Ocean 9408360	05.03.10	20.07.10	
10	Heavylift Beluga Nomination 9356402	22.01.1 1	13.04.1 1	5	Car carrier Asian Glory 9070474	02.01.10	11.06.10	5.8
11	Asphalt tanker Asphalt Venture 8875798	29.09.1 0	15.04.1 1	3.6	Tanker St. James Park 9072836	28.12.09	13.05.10	
12	Bulk carrier Renuar 9042221	11.12.1 0	23.04.1 1	6.0	Reefer Talca 8616324	23.03.10	11.05.10	
13	General cargo Sinar Kudus 9172507	16.03.1 1	01.05.1 1	4.5	Chemical tanker Theresa VIII 8105923	16.11.09	16.03.10	3.5
14	Bulk carrier Khaled Muhieddine K 8105650	20.01.1 1	26.05.1 1	2.5	Tuna fishing vessel Thai Union 3 8919415	29.09.09	07.03.10	3 – 3.5
15	General cargo Yuan Xiang 7609192	12.11.1 0	08.06.1 1	3.6	Bulk carrier Navios Apollon 9211145	28.12.09	28.02.10	
16	Tanker aframax Zirku 9237802	28.03.1 1	10.06.1 1	12.0	Chemical tanker Pramoni 9408803	01.01.10	26.02.10	
17	General cargo Suez 8218720	02.08.1 0	11.06.1 1	2.1	VLCC Maran Centaurus 9073050	30.11.09	18.01.10	5.5
18	General cargo Susan K 9344370	08.04.1 1	16.06.1 1	5.7				

19	Bulk carrier Sinin 9274941	12.02.1 1	13.08.1 1					
20	Bulk carrier Eagle 8126408	17.01.1 1	20.08.1 1	6.0				
21	Tanker Polar 9299563	30.10.1 0	26.08.1 1					
22	Boxship MSC Panama 8902125	10.12.1 0	06.09.1 1	7.0				
23	Bulk carrier Hoang Son Sun 8323862	19.01.1 1	15.09.1 1	4.5				
24	Bulk carrier Dover 7433634	28.02.1 1	30.09.1 1	3.8				
25	Bulk carrier Blida 7705635	01.01.1 1	03.11.1 1	2.6				
26	Bulk carrier Rosalia D'Amato 9225201	21.04.1 1	25.11.1 1	6				
27	Product tanker Gemini 8412352	30.04.1 1	30.11.1 1	4				
28	Aframax tanker Savina Caylyn 9489285	08.02.1 1	21.12.1 1	11.5				