

Modern Oceanic Piracy

Adding to the inherent dangers of traveling by boats, Seafarers have an additional concern on their plates. Modern day pirates patrol international waters are seeking large ships transporting goods to other countries, specifically in the waters of the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. They target these ships to hold the crew, the ship, and its goods hostage in hopes of receiving a large ransom payment. The recent increase in piracy is dually caused by a poorly orchestrated Somalian government in addition to the decline of the fishing industry many Somali Citizens relied on for income.

To eliminate the risk of piracy, international governments have cooperated to implement patrols of naval military forces to ensure the safety of travelers. Shipping companies sometimes employ private security personnel to ride on the ship. Finally, shipping companies will also reroute ships around the areas that are most susceptible to attack.

Even with the measures taken to mitigate the possibility of attack, piracy remains a problem near Somalian waters. The pirates are well-equipped with weapons and other tools to increase their chances of a successful hi-jacking. Pirates also travel and operate in groups, sometimes using multiple ships to attack their target. In some cases, the pirates are willing to attack the naval ships to get closer to their goal.

To conclude, piracy is a difficult issue to counter when traveling near the Somalian coast. While increased protection measures reduce severe attacks, the unpredictability of pirates still leaves ships at risk for hi-jackings. There are still a significant number of issues that need to be addressed to continue to ensure the safety of international shipping.