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MSC.4/Circ.139
22 September 2009

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

First quarterly report (January to, and including, March 2009)

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its sixty-fifth session in May 1995, instructed the Secretariat to issue, as from 31 July 1995, monthly reports of all incidents of piracy¹ and armed robbery against ships² reported to the Organization and, in addition and on a quarterly basis, composite reports accompanied by an analysis, on a regional basis, of the situation and an indication whether the frequency of incidents was increasing or decreasing and advising on any new feature or pattern of significance. Further, and as instructed by the Committee (MSC 75/24, paragraph 18.41), the Secretariat has, since July 2002, started classifying separately any reported incidents of piracy and armed robbery **at sea** (international or territorial waters) *vis-à-vis* acts of armed robbery allegedly committed **in port areas**, as well as **attempted** acts of armed robbery.

2 Annexed hereto is a composite report covering all reported incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships which occurred between 1 January 2009 and the end of March 2009, and a regional analysis thereof, including a distinction between acts of piracy, acts of armed robbery against ships and attempted attacks.

3 The areas affected over the period under review were, the South China Sea (8 incidents, down from 18 reported last quarter), East Africa (62 incidents, up from 51 reported last quarter), the Indian Ocean (4 incidents, up from 3 reported last quarter), West Africa (9 incidents, down from 13 reported last quarter), South America (14 incidents in total, up from 6 reported last quarter, 2 incidents in the Caribbean Ocean area, up from 1 reported last quarter, 8 incidents in the Pacific Ocean area, up from 4 reported last quarter and 4 incidents in the Atlantic Ocean area,

¹ "Piracy" is defined in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (article 101) as follows:

"Piracy consists of any of the following acts:

- (a) any illegal acts of violence or detention, or any act of depredation, committed for private ends by the crew or the passengers of a private ship or a private aircraft, and directed:
 - (i) on the high seas, against another ship or aircraft, or against persons or property on board such ship or aircraft;
 - (ii) against a ship, aircraft, persons or property in a place outside the jurisdiction of any State;
- (b) any act of voluntary participation in the operation of a ship or of an aircraft with knowledge of facts making it a pirate ship or aircraft;
- (c) any act inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described in sub-paragraph (a) or (b)."

² "Armed robbery against ships" is defined in the draft Code of Practice for the Investigation of the Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships (resolution A.922(22), Annex, paragraph 2.2) as follows:

"Armed robbery against ships means any unlawful act of violence or detention or any act of depredation, or threat thereof, other than an act of "piracy", directed against a ship or against persons or property on board such ship, within a State's jurisdiction over such offences."

up from 1 reported last quarter) and no incident in the Mediterranean Sea, as reported last quarter. No incidents were reported in the Malacca Strait, the Arabian Sea, the Persian Gulf or North Atlantic Ocean. Most of the attacks were reported in international waters while the ships were steaming.

4 During the period under review, about 144 crew members were held hostage, about 5 crew members were injured/assaulted and 2 crew members lost their lives and 8 vessels were hijacked. In several of the incidents reported, the crew were violently assaulted/attacked by individuals or groups of two to ten persons carrying guns or knives.

5 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 4,918, out of which 97 occurred during the first quarter of 2009. Of these 97 reported acts, 53 constituted alleged attempted attacks.

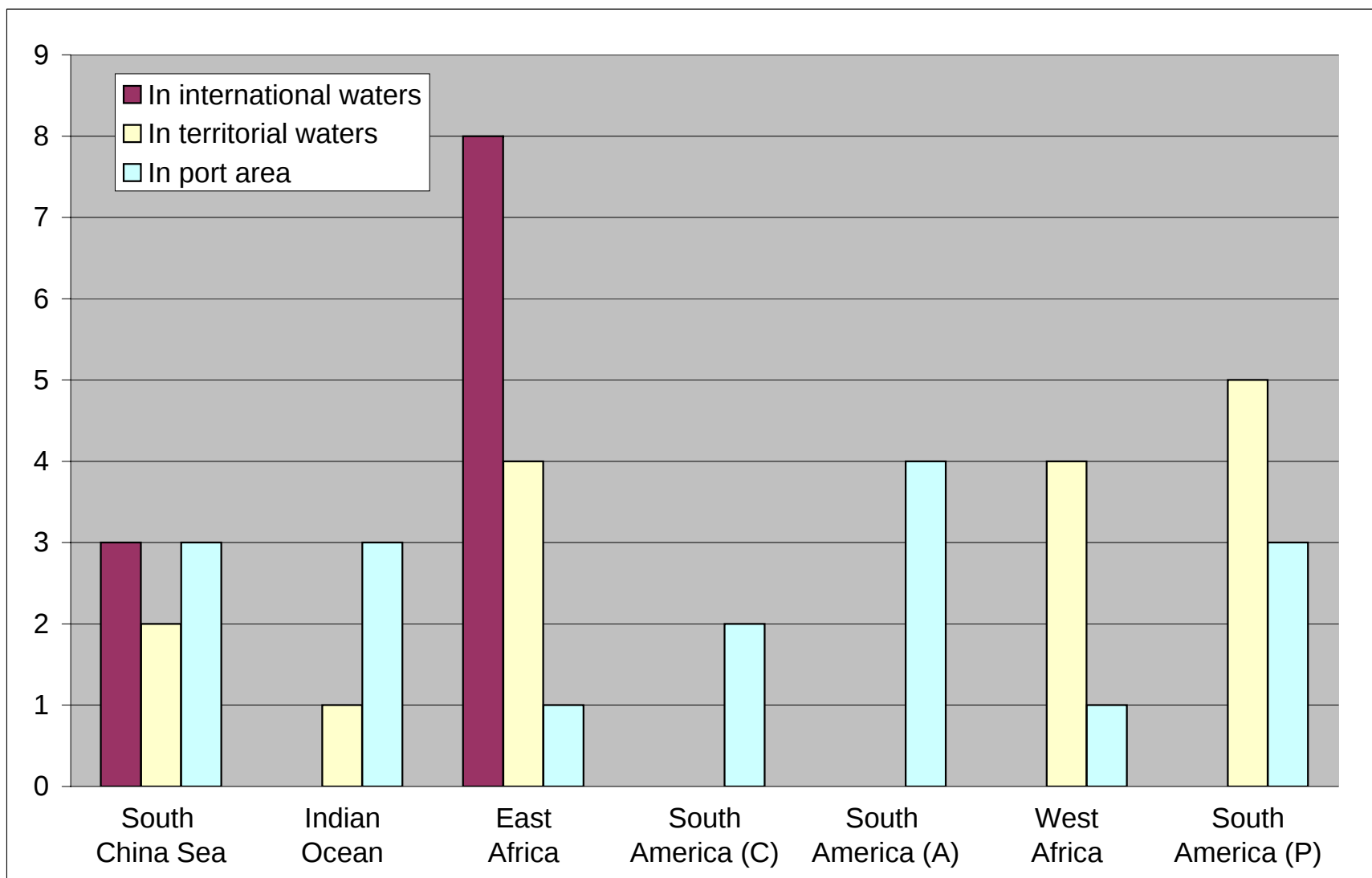
ANNEX 1
REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS
WHICH WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2009

	South China Sea	Indian Ocean	East Africa	South America (C)	South America (A)	West Africa	South America (P)
Location of incident							
In international waters	3	0	8	0	0	0	0
In territorial waters	2	1	4	0	0	4	5
In port area	3	3	1	2	4	1	3
Status of ship when attacked							
Steaming	2	0	9	0	0	0	0
At anchor	5	4	3	1	4	5	8
Not stated	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Number of persons involved in the attack							
1-4 persons	4	0	1	2	4	0	0
5-10 persons	0	0	2	0	0	1	4
More than 10 persons	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Not stated	3	4	10	0	0	3	4
Consequences to the crew							
Actual violence against the crew	2	0	3	0	1	4	4
Threat of violence against the crew	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ship missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ship hijacked	0	0	9	0	0	0	0
None/not stated	4	4	0	2	3	1	4
Weapons used by attackers							
Guns	0	0	1	0	1	4	0
Knives	1	0	1	1	1	0	2
Other	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
None/not stated	5	4	7	0	1	0	4
Parts of ship raided							
Master and crew accomodation	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Cargo area	0	0	1	0	1	1	2
Store rooms	4	4	0	1	1	2	6
Engine room	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not boarded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not stated	1	0	7	1	1	1	0
Other							
Lives lost (unit: people)	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Wounded crew (unit: people)	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Missing crew (unit: people)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crew hostage (unit: people)	2	0	144	0	0	1	2
Assaulted (unit: people)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ransom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total number of incidents reported per area	8	4	13	2	4	5	8
Total number of incidents reported	44						

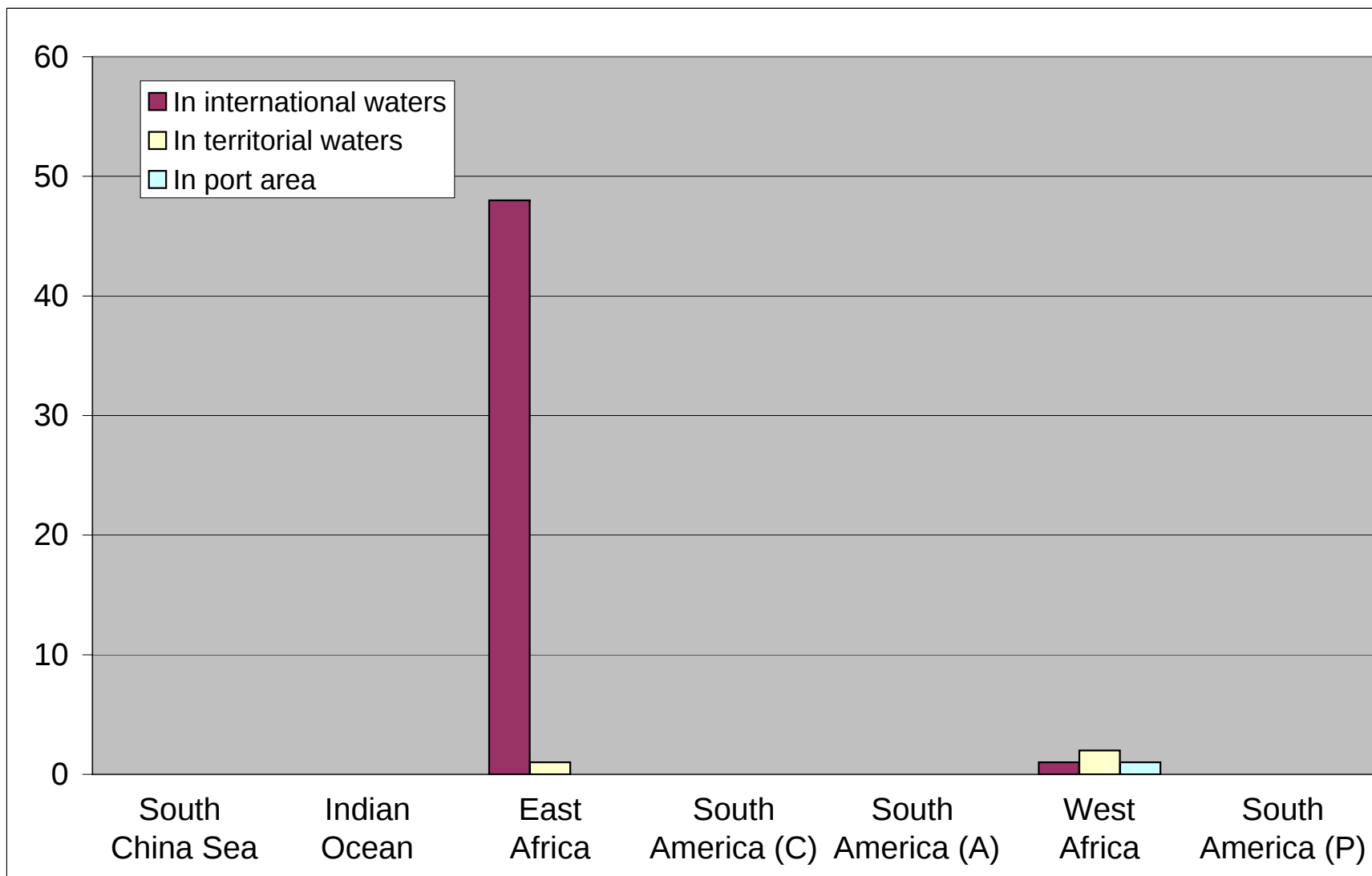
ANNEX 2
REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS
WHICH WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2009

	South China Sea	Indian Ocean	East Africa	South America (C)	South America (A)	West Africa	South America (P)
Location of incident							
In international waters			48			1	
In territorial waters			1			2	
In port area			0			1	
Status of ship when attacked							
Steaming			45			2	
At anchor			1			2	
Not stated			1			0	
Number of persons involved in the attack							
1-4 persons			1			0	
5-10 persons			17			1	
More than 10 persons			0			0	
Not stated			31			3	
Consequences to the crew							
Actual violence against the crew			26			2	
Threat of violence against the crew			2			0	
Ship missing			0			0	
Ship hijacked			0			0	
None/not stated			14			2	
Weapons used by attackers							
Guns			32			3	
Knives			1			0	
Other			0			1	
None/not stated			15			0	
Parts of ship raided							
Master and crew accomodation			0			0	
Cargo area			0			0	
Store rooms			0			0	
Engine room			0			0	
Not boarded			49			4	
Not stated			0			0	
Other							
Lives lost (unit: people)			0			0	
Wounded crew (unit: people)			4			0	
Missing crew (unit: people)			0			0	
Crew hostage (unit: people)			0			0	
Assaulted (unit: people)			0			0	
Ransom			1			0	
Total number of incidents reported per area	0	0	49	0	0	4	0
Total number of incidents reported	53						

ANNEX 3
REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS
WHICH WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2009

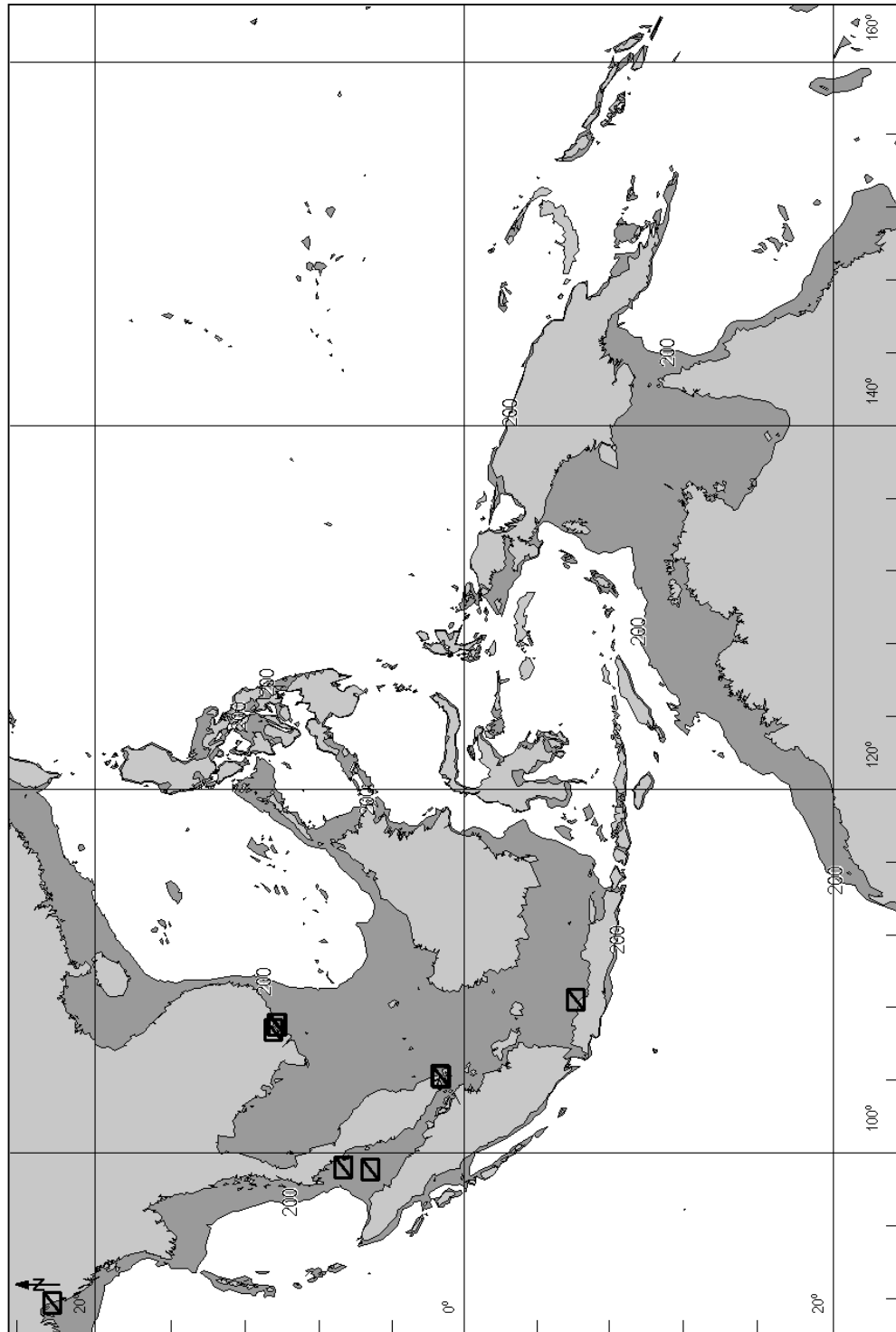


ANNEX 4
REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS
WHICH WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2009



ANNEX 5

SOUTH CHINA SEA AND MALACCA STRAIT

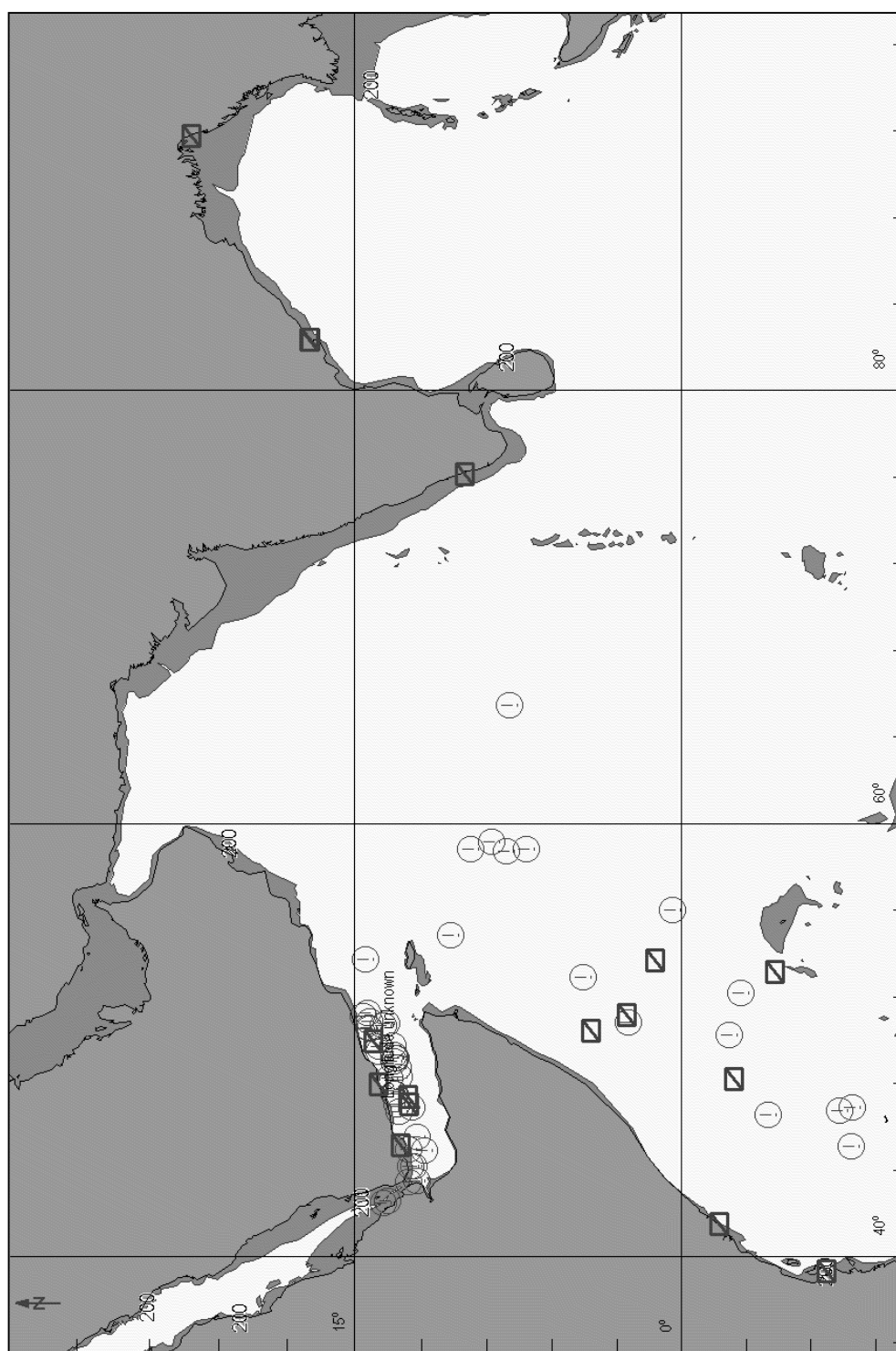


Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships



Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

INDIAN OCEAN AND EAST AFRICA

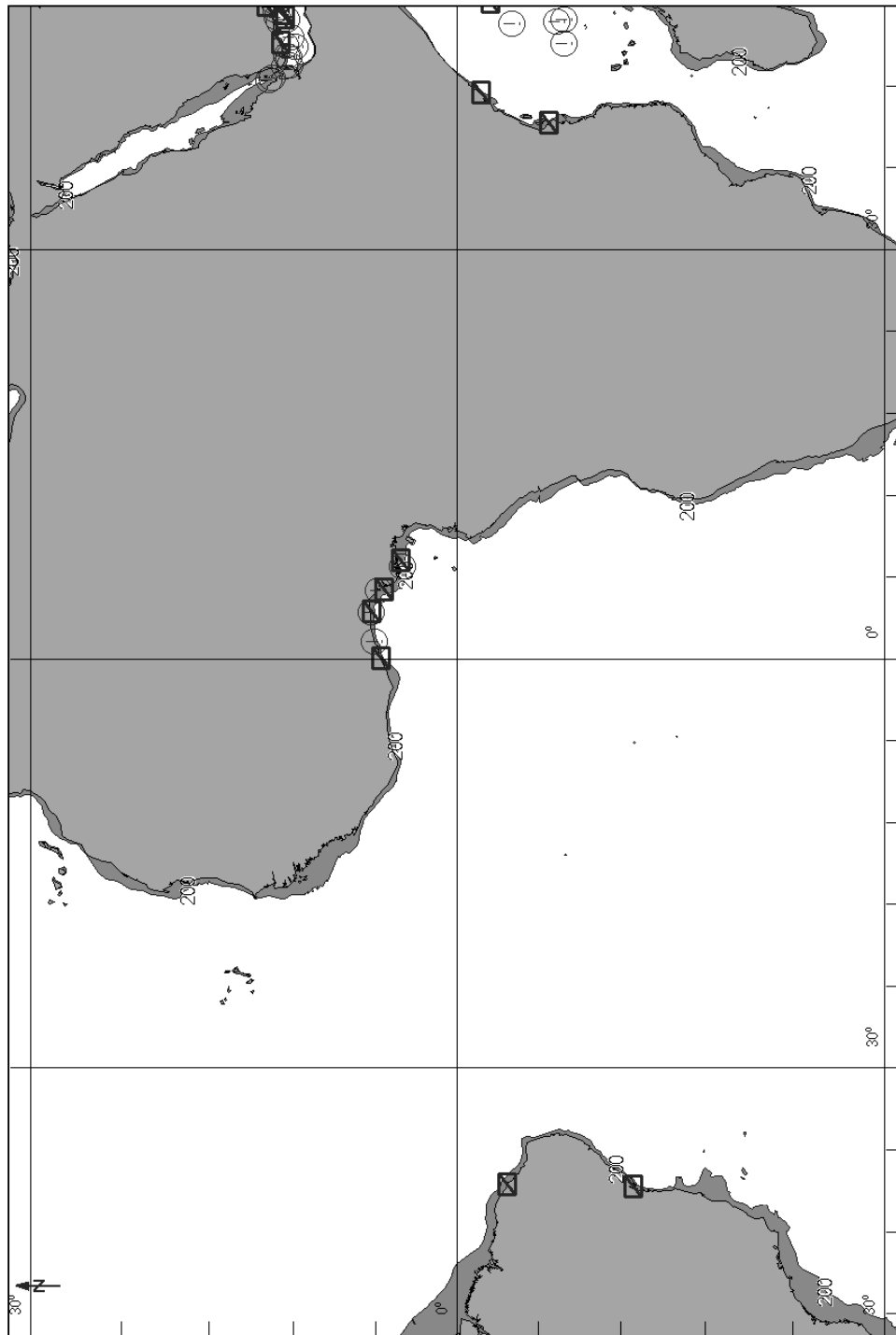


Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships



Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

WEST AFRICA

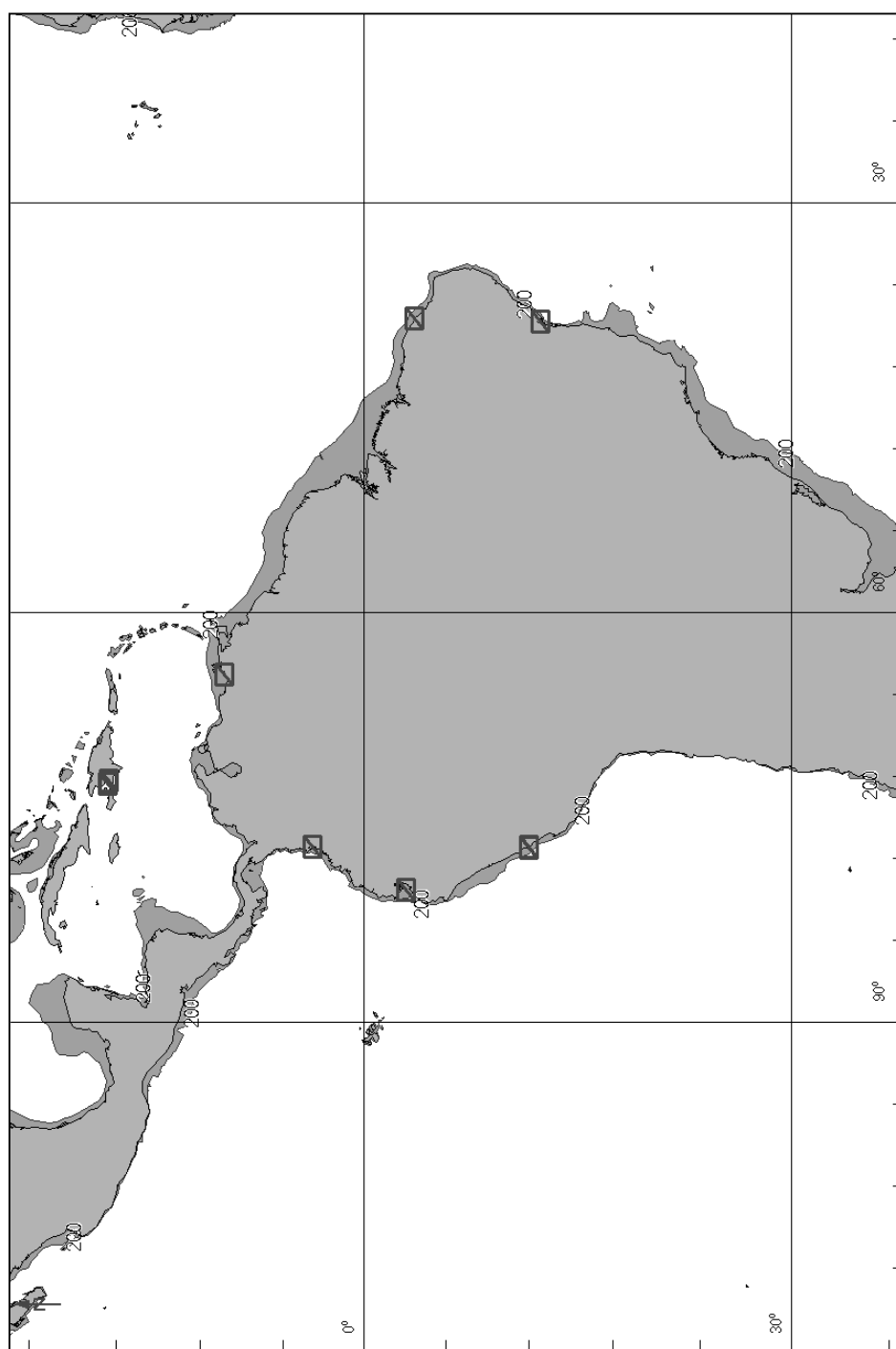


Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships



Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships



Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships