

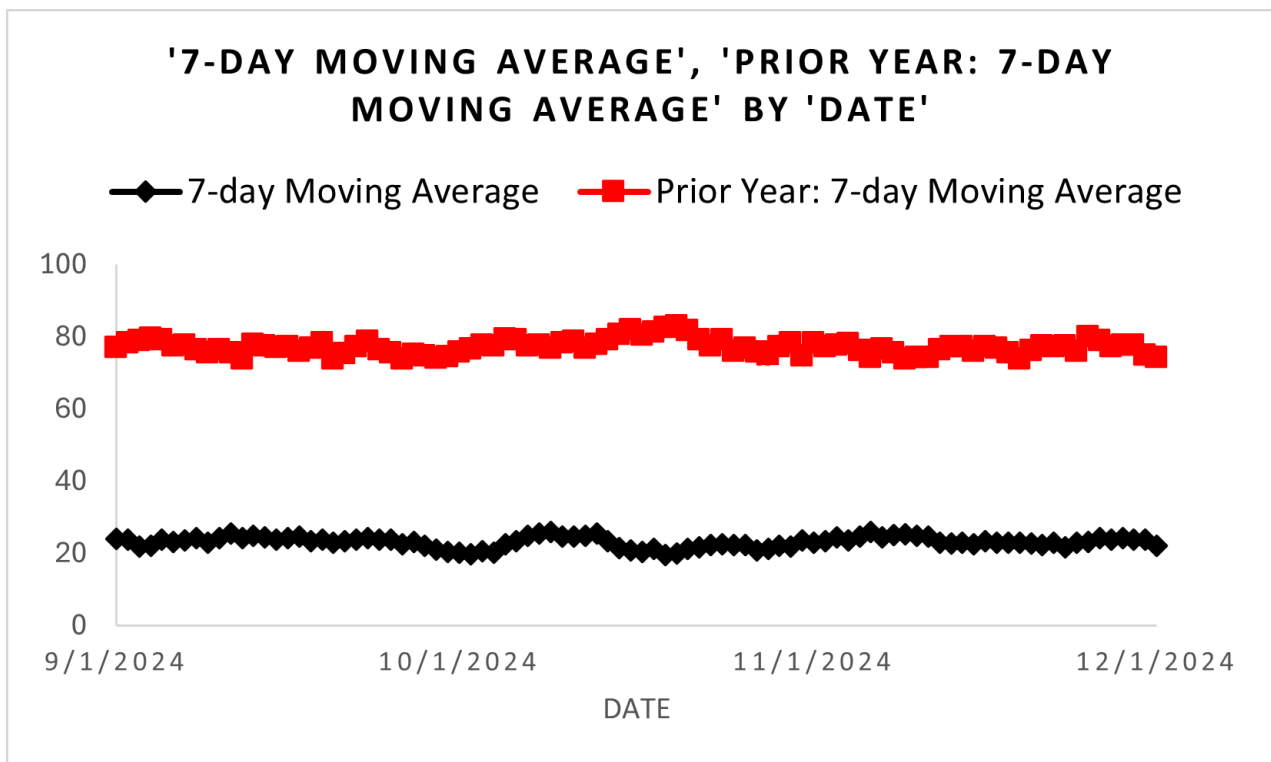


## RESURGENCE OF PIRACY: ACTIONS OFF THE NORTHEASTERN COAST OF PUNTLAND

On December 6, 2024, a Chinese fishing vessel with 18 crew members transiting off the northeastern coast of Puntland, Somalia, was seized by a suspected pirate threat group armed with AK-47 assault rifles and machine guns. The European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR), operating under Operation Atalanta, assessed the event as a maritime interdiction by hostile actors. The crew was taken under control without reported casualties, marking a significant escalation in piracy activity within the area of operations.

This incident underscores the resurgence of piracy in Somali waters, driven by geopolitical instability in the region. Heightened conflict in the Red Sea, particularly Houthi-led attacks disrupting maritime trade routes, has forced vessels to reroute through Somali territorial waters, creating lucrative targets for pirate groups.

The vessel's seizure aligns with a broader trend of increased maritime traffic in the Gulf of Aden, doubling in volume compared to previous years. This rise in transit activity has emboldened pirate operations, often leveraging hijacked vessels as mobile bases for extended range attacks. Notably, international naval assets have shifted focus to the Red Sea, leaving Somali waters less protected.



SOURCE:PORT WATCH IMF

# ANALYSIS

The security situation in Somali waters continues to be delicate, as evidenced by a recent uptick in piracy that underscores the persistent challenges facing maritime traffic. This resurgence of activity aligns with increasing instability in the region, influenced by geopolitical tensions in the Red Sea and the internal governance and security challenges faced by Somalia. Pirate groups are taking advantage of diminished security protocols, employing increasingly audacious strategies to approach commercial and fishing vessels. The current situation suggests that the lack of adequate naval presence in the region has led to a notable rise in concerns regarding maritime traffic safety.

Maritime operators are encouraged to exercise increased vigilance, adopt robust security measures aligned with industry standards, and foster proactive collaboration with regional maritime authorities to facilitate safe passage through these challenging waters.

## SOURCES

SeaHawk Maritime Intelligence provides actionable, land-based intelligence on Somali piracy and other emerging threats in the region.

### CNN

["https://edition.cnn.com/2024/12/06/china/chinese-fishing-vessel-somalia-piracy-intl-hnk/index.html"](https://edition.cnn.com/2024/12/06/china/chinese-fishing-vessel-somalia-piracy-intl-hnk/index.html)

### Hiiran Online

["https://www.hiiraan.com/news4/2024/Dec/199198/red\\_sea\\_conflicts\\_leave\\_somali\\_waters\\_vulnerable\\_to\\_renewed\\_piracy.aspx?utm\\_source=hiiraan&utm\\_medium=SomaliNewsUpdateFront"](https://www.hiiraan.com/news4/2024/Dec/199198/red_sea_conflicts_leave_somali_waters_vulnerable_to_renewed_piracy.aspx?utm_source=hiiraan&utm_medium=SomaliNewsUpdateFront)

## RESTRICTED

This document is strictly intended for the designated recipient(s) only and is not to be shared with any third parties without prior written authorisation from SeaHawk Maritime Intelligence. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the content, it is subject to updates or revisions at any time. Recipients use the information at their own discretion and risk. SeaHawk Maritime Intelligence disclaims any responsibility or liability for any products or services mentioned or recommended in this document.

