FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
8 June 2015

OCEANS BEYOND PIRACY (OBP) REPORT NOTES CONTINUED THREATS TO SEAFARERS FROM MARITIME PIRACY, NOT LEAST IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

The Study finds:

- Southeast Asian piracy is especially dangerous for seafarers based on the quantity of attacks and 90% boarding success rate. Nearly 3,600 seafarers were on board vessels boarded by pirates in SE Asia.

- Gulf of Guinea piracy continues at unacceptable levels. There have been no piracy prosecutions and there is a lack of effective cooperation between regional governments and industry. Total economic cost estimated at $983 million for 2014.

- Collective efforts to address Somali piracy continue to dwindle, while there are indications that pirate activity and intent remain. Total economic cost for 2014 estimated at $2.3 Billion.

- At least 5,000 seafarers attacked in Southeast Asia, the Gulf of Guinea, and Western Indian Ocean in 2014.

London, 10 June 2015: In its fifth State of Maritime Piracy Report, Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP) analyzes the impacts of this crime during 2014 in the Western Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Guinea and, for the first time, in Southeast Asia.

The Report will be officially launched at the Army and Navy Club (the Rag), 36 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5JN, on Wednesday, 10 June at 13:00, where a panel of experts will address key issues and answer questions. The panel will be moderated by Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent, OBP Senior Fellow, with an overview of the report by Matt Walje from OBP. Please see attached list of panelists, summaries for the three key regions and a copy of the report itself.

OBP’s analysis of pirate attacks in Southeast Asia documents a clear and reemerging threat to seafarers. The study found that more than 90% of the reported attacks resulted in pirates successfully boarding target vessels, and 800 seafarers were involved in incidents in South East Asia where violence or the threat of violence was specifically documented.

In the Gulf of Guinea, the number of reported attacks remained within historic patterns. However, the region faces a variety of challenges related to chronic under-reporting of incidents and an absence of prosecutions. “We have observed that up to 70% of piracy-related incidents in the Gulf of Guinea are never reported, so we currently lack a complete understanding of the problem,” says Pottengal Mukundan, Director of the International Maritime Bureau. “This also makes it difficult to assess the extent of the threats seafarers face in this region.”

In the Western Indian Ocean, OBP found that while naval mandates, recommended industry self-protection practices and the size of the High Risk Area remain unchanged, the observed commitment of naval assets and use of vessel protection measures such as increased speed and rerouting by merchant vessels continued to decrease, resulting in the total economic cost...
dropping by 28% in 2014. Alarmingly, the perceived reduction in the piracy threat has also resulted in more foreign fishing vessels returning to areas close to the coast of Somalia. Alan Cole, Head of UNODC’s Global Maritime Crime Programme notes, “These provocations are similar to those that triggered piracy off the coast of Somalia in the first place. We are already seeing an upturn in regional piracy incidents since the beginning of the year.”

Finally, the report recognizes that seafarers across the globe are the primary victims of piracy and armed robbery at sea. A chilling example of this are the twenty-six high-risk hostages from the Naham 3 who remain in pirate captivity in Somalia today, more than three years after the initial hijacking of their ship. According to Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent, “The evidence shows that piracy continues to be a world-wide threat to seafarers. There are specific contexts that distinguish each region, but there is a common lesson in the need to address piracy through cooperation, vigilance, and sustained effort by all actors across the maritime sector.”

For further information on the report, please contact Matt Walje at mwalje@oneearthfuture.org. For media coordination, contact William Reeve at reeve.william@gmail.com or on +44 774 865 4183. For inquiries in the US, please contact Maisie Pigeon at mpigeon@oneearthfuture.org or on +1 571 215 1782.

Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP) is a project of One Earth Future Foundation (OEF). OEF is a private foundation located near Denver, Colorado in the United States, which is committed to multi-stakeholder initiatives to resolve issues related to conflict. OBP encourages close cooperation across the international maritime community to develop long-term, sustainable solutions to piracy. More information can be found at: www.oceansbeyondpiracy.org
State of Maritime Piracy 2014 Launch Event
Panelist Contact Information

- **Admiral Sir James Burnell-Nugent**, Fellow, Oceans Beyond Piracy –
  Moderator
  Please contact Mr. Jens V Madsen at jvmadsen@oneearthfuture.org or phone
  +1 303 709 4776
  Expertise: Counter-piracy coordination and strategies

- **Simon Church**, Industry Liaison, EU Naval Force
  jocmnlo2@mschoa.org
  Expertise: Indian Ocean shipping patterns, naval operations

- **Alan Cole**, Head, Global Maritime Crime Program, Transnational
  Organised Crime Programme, Regional Office for Eastern Africa, UNODC
  Alan.COLE@unodc.org
  Expertise: Global transnational maritime crime and prosecution, Somali
  prison administration, humanitarian support to hostages, capacity building

- **Cyrus Mody**, Assistant Director, ICC International Maritime Bureau
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  Expertise: Global piracy reporting statistics

- **Giles Noakes**, Chief Maritime Security Officer, BIMCO
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  Expertise: Global industry security practices

- **Arild Nodland**, Founder & CEO, Bergen Risk Solutions
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  Expertise: Maritime analysis and risk mitigation strategies, West Africa
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