

Friday, January 17, 2014

Down with Pirates!

There are fewer pirate attacks off the coast of Somalia.

Pirates exist in real life. They don't wear eye patches and funny hats, though. Today's pirates look like regular people! They travel in small boats and follow big ships that they think have money. Then the pirates try to climb onboard and take over the ship!

In the past, the waters around Somalia — a country on the east coast of Africa — were the most **dangerous**. In 2011, Somali pirates attacked 237 ships. In 2012, that number went down to 75. And in 2013, there were just 15 attacks. These numbers came out in a report by the **International Maritime Bureau (IMB)** on Wednesday.

What has caused the drop in pirate attacks? The report said that armed guards on ships, better protection on the boats, and international navy patrols have kept pirates away. Piracy around the world is now the lowest it has been in six years.

The work is not over, though. The IMB director said it is very important that countries continue to work together against piracy.

By Alexandra Friedell



A pirate by a fishing ship in Somalia

FACT:

There was a movie about a Somali pirate attack. It's called *Captain Phillips*. On Thursday, it was listed as a choice for the "Best Picture" Oscar award.

ACT:

If you ever want to have more money, earn it fairly and honestly — without stealing. Many Somali pirates are in jail now, so stealing did not make them richer!

VOCABULARY:

dangerous: unsafe; risky

International: involving two or more countries

Maritime: related to the sea

Bureau: official group

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Qandala,
Somalia



Somalia is part of an area called "The Horn of Africa." That's because it's in the shape of a horn!