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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 22 December 2021 – 19 January 2022**

19 January 2022

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1. (U) **Scope Note**

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to merchant vessels, the shipping industry, and other maritime stakeholders worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) **Warnings and Advisories:** No active warnings or advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) YEMEN: On 20 January, an underway vessel reported a suspicious approach by three small boats with a larger vessel nearby, approximately 53 NM southwest of Aden.

B. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 January, a group of fishing boats were boarded and robbed while fishing at the Brass River entrance, Bayelsa State.

C. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 January, the Indonesian Navy arrested 47 robbers and seized eight boats while caught stealing coal from a barge at Muara Kembang, buoy 17, Samarinda, East Kalimantan.

D. (U) BANGLADESH: On 15 January, members of the Bangladesh Police Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested six suspected pirates in the Maheshkhali channel in the Bay of Bengal.

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E. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 January, three Cameroonian crew members kidnapped from a supply vessel off the coast of Sao Tome and Principe on 25 October 2021 were reported released.

F. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 January, six crew members kidnapped from a container ship off the coast of Equatorial Guinea on 13 December 2021 were reported released.

G. (U) VENEZUELA: On 7 January, a robbery occurred on a bulk carrier while berthed at the port of Pertigalete.

H. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 January, five crew members kidnapped from a general cargo vessel off the coast of Brass on 11 November 2021 were released after 52 days in captivity.

4. (U) Monthly Incidents by Region

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event that double-counting is detected, or an incident is later found to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) NORTH AMERICA: No current incidents to report.

B. (U) CENTRAL AMERICA – CARIBBEAN – SOUTH AMERICA:

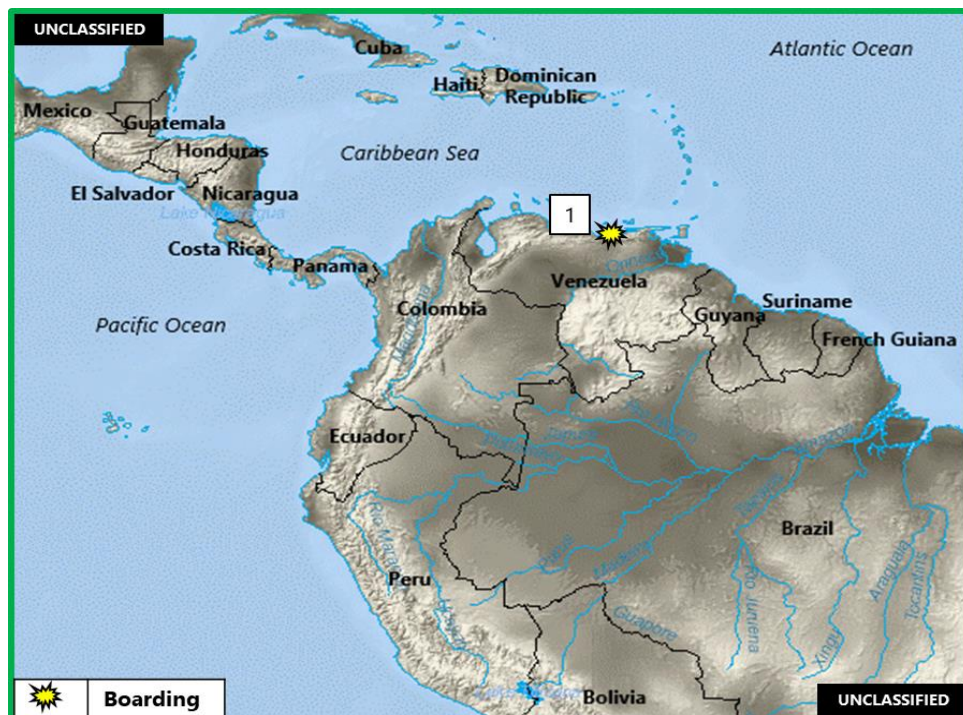


Figure 1. Central America – Caribbean – South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) VENEZUELA: On 7 January, a robbery occurred on a bulk carrier berthed in the port of Pertigalete, near position 10:14N – 064:33W. The robbers escaped with a stolen lifeboat engine and spare parts from the ship. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) BRAZIL: On 10 January, at 0615 local time, three armed robbers with knives and guns boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Macapa Anchorage, near position 00:01N – 050:59W. The alarm was raised and the crew were mustered. The robbers went to the muster station and threatened the crew with guns while they loaded stolen items from the ship's stores into a waiting boat. The incident was reported to the local agent and authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) PERU: On 23 December, at 1955 local time, a robbery occurred on a bulk carrier anchored at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:02S – 077:13W. Seven robbers approached the anchored ship in a wooden boat. Three of the robbers subsequently boarded the vessel. Armed with knives, the robbers broke into the forecastle store, stole the ship's properties, and threatened the crew conducting routine rounds. The threatened duty crew raised the alarm, and the robbers escaped. The incident was reported to TRAMAR, and the coast guard boarded the ship for inspection. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) ECUADOR: On 23 December, at 0555 local time, armed individuals in a speedboat approached and fired upon a container ship underway about 1.6 NM southeast of Puerto Pizarro, near position 02:36S – 080:09W. Armed guards onboard the container ship returned fire, and the speedboat, as a result, ended its approach and moved away. All crew were reported safe. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA: No current incidents to report.

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC: No current incidents to report.

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA: No current incidents to report.

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

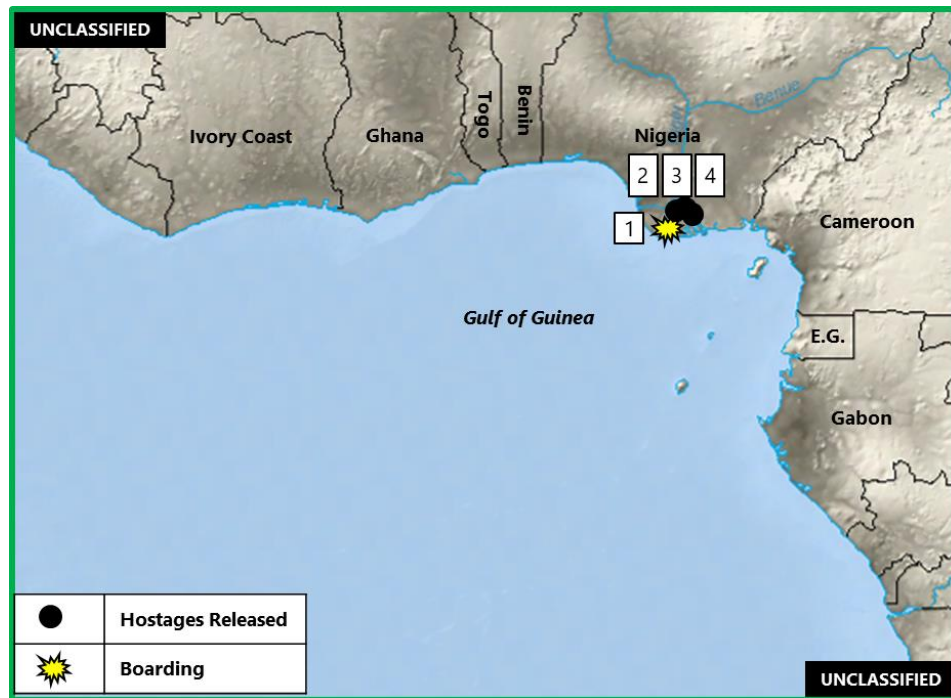


Figure 2. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 January, a group of fishing boats were boarded and robbed while fishing at the Brass River entrance, Bayelsa State, near position 04:15N – 006:15E. The robbers stole the outboard engines from the fishing boats and then escaped. The crew of the fishing boats were reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 January, three Cameroonian crew members, previously kidnapped from the Vanuatu-flagged supply vessel MONTET TIDE approximately 62 NM south of Santo Antonio, Sao Tome and Principe on 25 October 2021, were reported released. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 January, six crew members, previously kidnapped from the Liberia-flagged container ship TONSBURG approximately 48 NM southwest of Luba, Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea on 13 December 2021, were reported released. (Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 January, five crew members, previously kidnapped from the Cameroon-flagged general cargo vessel CAP SAINT GEORGES approximately 58 NM southwest of Brass, on 11 November 2021, were released after 52 days in captivity. (Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) LIBERIA: On 9 January, at 0500 local time, a robbery occurred on a tanker anchored at Monrovia Anchorage, near position 06:20N – 010:48E. The robbers stole an outboard engine and a fuel can, and then escaped unnoticed. The local authorities were informed and security in the area was increased. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 January, an underway passenger boat was boarded and robbed while on transit between Yenegoa and Brass Island, Bayelsa State waterways, near position 04:24N – 006:15E. The armed robbers stole passengers' valuables and the 115 horsepower Yamaha engine. The passengers were left stranded in the creeks and a rescue team was dispatched to assist. (Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 30 December, at 0430 local time, unknown number of armed pirates in a black speedboat attacked and boarded a fishing vessel approximately 12 NM southwest of Mbini, near position 01:30N – 009:25E. Six crew members were reported kidnapped including the captain, and one crew member was killed during the attack. The nationalities of the kidnapped crew are Ghanaian and Malian. Nine crew members were left onboard. The incident was reported to the Equatoguinean Navy which dispatched a vessel to assist. (The Maritime Executive; Dryad Global; MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

8. (U) LIBERIA: On 25 December, at 0052 local time, an unknown number of perpetrators committed a robbery onboard a vessel anchored at Monrovia Anchorage. The robbers boarded the vessel and carried out the robbery without being spotted. The incident was reported to local authorities. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

G. (U) ARABIAN GULF: No current incidents to report.

H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN – EAST AFRICA – RED SEA:



Figure 3. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) YEMEN: On 20 January, at 1610 local time, an underway chemical tanker reported a suspicious approach by three small boats with a larger vessel nearby, approximately 53 NM southwest of Aden, near position 12:09N – 044:19E. The three small boats approached to within one NM of the tanker while the larger vessel came within

three NM. The master reported that there appeared to be a ladder in one of the small boats. (UKMTO; Dryad Global; Clearwater Dynamics).

2. (U) OMAN: On 11 January, at 0948 local time, an underway tanker reported a suspicious approach by eight, white-hulled, unknown crafts, approximately 70 NM east of Muscat, near position 23:51N – 059:47E. The vessel and crew were reported safe and have continued their voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics).

3. (U) YEMEN: On 5 January, at 1644 local time, an underway vessel reported a suspicious approach by a single unidentified craft, approximately 30 NM west of Port Saleef, near position 15:36N – 041:55E. The vessel and crew were reported safe and have continued their voyage. (Dryad Global; UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics).

4. (U) YEMEN: On 3 January, at 0050 local time, it was reported that the United Arab Emirates-flagged landing craft RWABEE was attacked, seized, and held allegedly by Yemeni Houthi militia, approximately 23 NM west of Ras Isa, near position 15:13N – 042:12E. A Saudi-led coalition is negotiating for the release of the vessel. (Fleetmon; Dryad Global; S&P PLATTS; UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics).

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

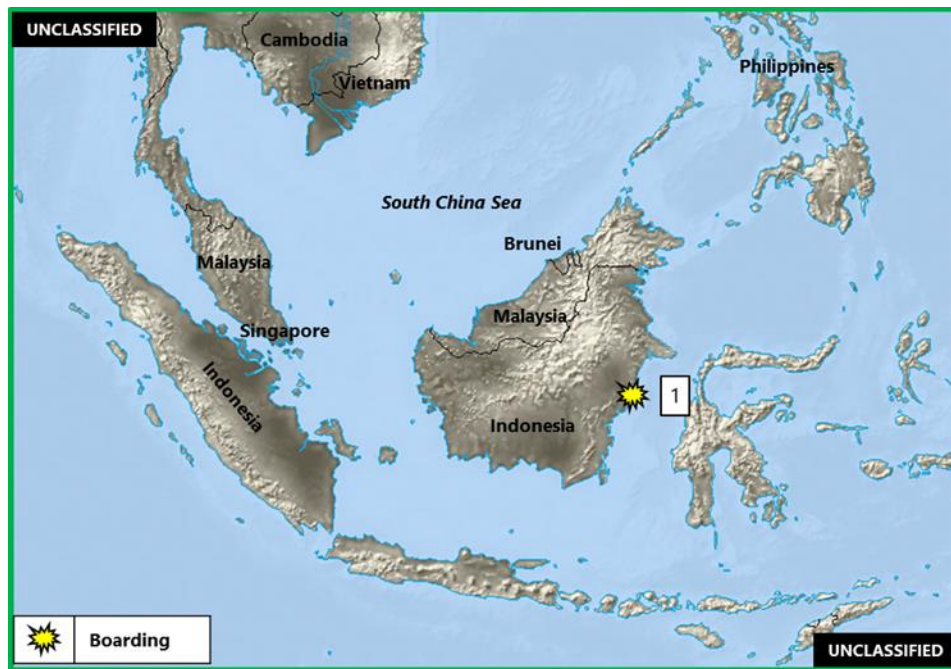


Figure 4. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 January, at 2110 local time, the Indonesian Navy arrested 47 robbers and seized eight boats caught stealing coal from a barge at Muara Kembang, buoy 17, Samarinda, East Kalimantan. According to press reports, the robbers managed to unload 31 tons of coal from the barge to the boats. The perpetrators and the boats were detained at Anggana naval station for further investigation. (Antara News; Kompas.com).

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 10 January, at 2200 local time, an attempted boarding occurred on an underway Malaysia-flagged tanker CARLA in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:13N – 103:32E. Five robbers onboard a sampan approached the tanker and were able to hook a ladder to the side of the vessel. The alarm was raised, which resulted in the perpetrators aborting their attempt to board. The incident was reported to the port operations control center. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
3. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 January, at 0540 local time, four robbers armed with knives managed to board a Norway-flagged tanker BOW SANTOS underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:14E. The robbers were sighted in the engine room. The alarm was raised, the crew were mustered, and the vessel was searched with no sighting of the perpetrators. Nothing was stolen, all crew were reported safe, and the ship resumed her voyage. The master reported the incident to the authorities. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
4. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 January, at 0320 local time, four robbers, one armed with a long knife, boarded underway Liberia-flagged tanker BLUE SEA in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:16E. The robbers were sighted in the engine room and escaped upon notice. The master reported that nothing was stolen and that all crew were safe. The ship required no assistance and resumed her voyage. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
5. (U) MALAYSIA: On 6 January, at 1138 local time, an unauthorized person boarded an underway barge KIEN SAN 8 towed by the Malaysia-flagged tug KIEN SAN 1 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:13N – 103:33E. The perpetrator managed to escape with scrap metal in a sampan tied alongside the barge. The master reported the incident to the port operations control center. All crew were reported safe and the tugboat continued towing the barge to its destination. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
6. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 January, pirates hijacked the Indonesia-flagged tanker GRAHA DUA SATU at night while anchored in Morosi waters, Southeast Sulawesi, near position 03:42S – 122:38E. Six masked robbers armed with machetes climbed onboard while two remained on their speed boat. The pirates immediately restrained the eight crew members in the mess hall and instructed the bridge to maneuver the vessel to a specified position. Once arrived, the crew were restrained again in the mess hall. An unknown vessel berthed alongside the tanker and the diesel cargo was transferred from the GRAHA DUA SATU. The robbers left the ship early on 7 January, after robbing the ship and crew of valuables and cash. The vessel sailed back to Morosi waters that morning around 0700 local time. The incident was reported to the local authorities which immediately conducted an investigation. (Maritime Bulletin, Fleetmon)
7. (U) MALAYSIA: On 31 December, at 1000 local time, a robber boarded an underway barge SAMWOH GALLANT towed by the Singapore-flagged tug SAMWOH COURAGE in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:11N – 103:33E. The master spotted a boat moving closer to the towed barge, the horn was sounded, and the tug maneuvered closer to the barge. The crew sighted a perpetrator on the barge who immediately escaped. The barge cargos were checked, and the master reported that nothing was stolen and that all crew were safe. (ReCAAP)
8. (U) INDONESIA: On 26 December, at 2125 local time, four unauthorized personnel boarded the Panama-flagged general cargo ship HAI XING underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:15N –

104:05E. The four perpetrators escaped after the crew raised the alarm. Nothing was stolen and all crew were reported safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

9. (U) INDONESIA: On 23 December, at 0530 local time, six unauthorized personnel boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier MEDI PORTLAND underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:13E. The perpetrators later escaped in a sampan. Following the incident, nothing was reported stolen and all crew were reported safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

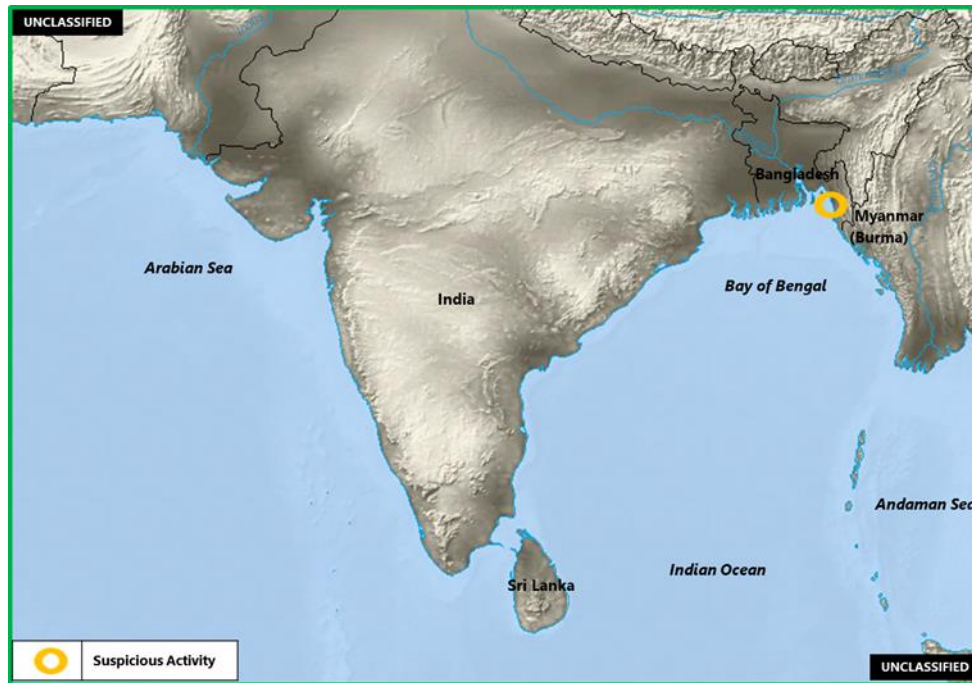


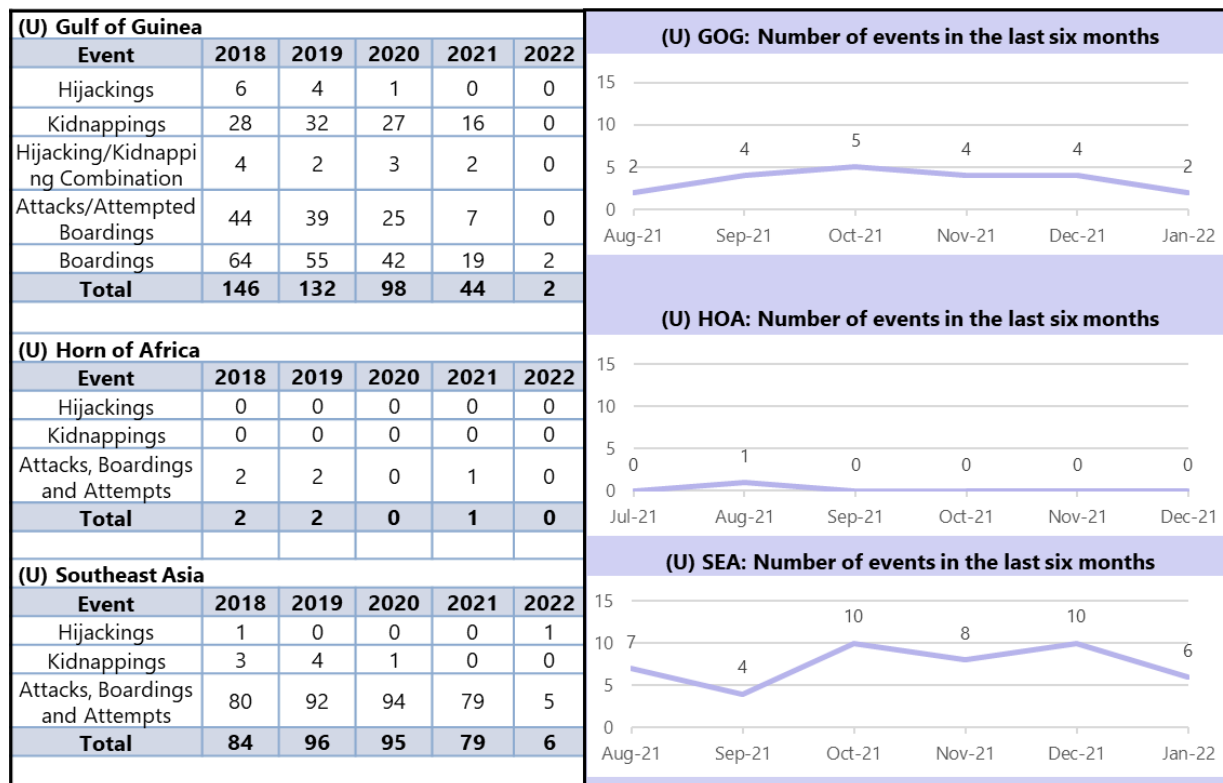
Figure 5. Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 15 January, at 0000 local time, members of the Bangladesh Police Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested six suspected pirates armed with guns onboard a trawler in the Maheshkhali channel in the Bay of Bengal. Acting on a tip-off, members of the RAB police unit headed out to sea onboard a fishing vessel in the guise of fishermen. According to press reports, a suspicious group of individuals were seen onboard a trawler. The police boarded the trawler which led to the arrest of the six suspects and the seizure of three guns and 11 bullets in their possession. The suspects were detained at the local police station for further investigation. (Dhaka Tribune; The Financial Express; DBC24/7newstv; bdnews24.com)

2. (U) INDIA: On 3 January, a robbery occurred on Cayman Islands-flagged tanker MID EAGLE anchored at Kandla Anchorage, near position 22:47N – 070:02E. Three robbers were spotted onboard by a duty crew member. The alarm was raised and a full search was conducted. The perpetrators escaped with 40 pieces of ship spare parts from the main deck. The incident was reported to port authorities. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

K. (U) **AUSTRALIA – NEW ZEALAND – PACIFIC OCEAN AREA:** No current incidents to report.

5. (U) **Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends**



6. (U) **Appendix B: Definitions and Sourcing**

A. (U) **Definitions:** In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, we use the following definitions to describe a range of criminal antishipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis.

- (U) **Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- (U) **Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- (U) **Boarding** – Unauthorized embarkation of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- (U) **Fired Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- (U) **Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.

- (U) **Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- (U) **Hijacking/Kidnapping Combination** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement who forcefully remove crew members from vessel when disembarking.
- (U) **Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- (U) **Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained activity in close proximity of an unknown vessel.

B. (U) Sourcing: ONI derives information in this report primarily from government agencies, piracy reporting centers, maritime security companies, and open press.

(U) **ICOD:** 19 January 2022

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intelligence Portal:
<https://www.oni.navy.mil/News/Shipping-Threat-Reports/>