



## OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

### (U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 31 July - 30 August 2017

31 August 2017

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#### 1. (U) Scope Note

1. (U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides info on piracy threats to, and criminal action against, merchant vessels and the shipping industry worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

#### 2. (U) Warnings and Advisories

1. (U) **UKMTO ADVISORY NOTICE 004/AUG/2017**: Category: SIGHTING. Description: On 28 August 2017 at 0302 UTC in position: 130012N 0431024E (Bab el Mandeb), a Merchant Vessel reported sighting 4 skiffs with 5 to 6 POB. Vessel reports seeing one ladder on board two of the skiffs, no weapons were sighted. The skiffs did not approach any closer than 0.8NM. AST showed weapons and skiffs turned away. Vessel is safe. Source: Reported to UKMTO by the vessel via EMAIL at 0840 UTC 28 Aug 17. Any queries regarding this Advisory Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 for further information.

2. (U) **UKMTO ADVISORY NOTICE 003/AUG/2017**: Category: Suspicious Sighting. On 19 August at 0840Z, a Merchant Vessel was approached by 3 skiffs with 5 POB in each skiff and ladders sighted. Armed Security team on board showed weapons, skiffs then altered course. Sighted in PSN 1250N 04312E. Source: Reported to UKMTO by the vessel via EMAIL at 1004 UTC. Any queries regarding this Advisory Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 for further information.

3. (U) **UKMTO ADVISORY NOTICE 002/AUG/2017**: Category: Suspicious Vessel. On 18 August, a merchant vessel near position 12:38N - 043:21E, approximately 2.5 nm from Perim Island, was approached by a number of skiffs with 5 to 6 persons in each skiff. Ladders reportedly sighted. Armed security team on board fired warning shots. Source: Reported to UKMTO by the vessel via EMAIL at 1138 UTC. Any queries regarding this Advisory Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 for further information.

4. (U) **MDAT-GOG ADVISORY NOTICE 002/AUG/2017**: Category: Attempted Theft Description: At FOLAWIYO TERMINAL, APAPA PORT, NIGERIA. On 7 Aug 2017, at about 2240Z, a tanker reported sighting three unknown persons on board attempting to steal gasoline. They escaped once the alarm was raised. A search was carried throughout the tanker and nothing was reported stolen. Port control informed. Crew and vessel are safe.

5. (U) **UKMTO ADVISORY NOTICE 001/AUG/2017**: 1. Category: Notice. Description: GUIDANCE ON TRANSITS THROUGH THE BAB EL MANDEB AND ASSOCIATED WATERS. The following information from the UK government relates to transits through the Bab el Mandeb (BeM) and associated waters. It replaces previous guidance UKMTO Notice 001 July 2017 (which refers to CMF advice dated 16 July 2017) and UKMTO Notice 002 July 2017. Recent attacks against merchant shipping in the Gulf of Aden and Bab el Mandeb have highlighted the risks associated with transiting these waters. Daylight attacks by small boats were conducted against two tankers in the southern approaches to the BeM. The method of these attacks has seen two or more skiffs approaching at high speed. In each case, one or more have fired small arms and Rocket Propelled Grenades and carried explosives. In both attacks, the skiffs carrying explosives detonated at a distance from the target vessel, but the presumed intent was to detonate the explosives against the hull. The assessment of the attacks against merchant vessels in the southern approaches to the BeM indicates that due to the low levels of sophistication, the exposure to the threat is greater in daylight hours. However, an attack during the hours of darkness cannot be excluded. The risk of the conflict in Yemen spilling into the maritime domain also continues to exist in the area to the North of the BeM and around the Hanish Islands. Even though we do not expect merchant vessels to be targeted by the forces fighting in Yemen, the threat of collateral damage to commercial shipping is present and should not be ignored. This threat is assessed as greater in the hours of darkness (when attackers may be more likely to misidentify their targets) to the North of the Traffic Separation Scheme to the West of the Hanish Islands. Therefore, operating in these waters requires thorough planning and the use of all available information. The maritime threat environment is dynamic; the risks will not remain constant for subsequent visits. It is essential therefore, that Masters, Ship Security Officers and Company Security Officers carry out detailed Risk Assessments for each voyage to the region and for each activity within the region. All vessels transiting the Gulf of Aden and Bab el Mandeb should follow the guidance of BMP 4 to the maximum extent possible and consider the use of embarked armed security. Recent attacks in 2017 serve to emphasize the importance of robustly following this guidance. This information is aimed to help inform effective mitigating actions and has been developed through cooperation between Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) and UKMTO. The use of BMP4, armed security, shifting transit times, or any other defensive measures remain the sole decision of the vessel operator based on its own dedicated risk assessment and the requirements of the flag state. Cancel UKMTO Notice 001/JUL/2017 & UKMTO Notice 002/JUL/2017. Any queries regarding this UKMTO Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 for further information.

6. (U) **MDAT-GOG ADVISORY NOTICE 001/AUG/2017**: Category: Suspicious Approach. Description: On 3 August 2017, at 2200UTC, a Merchant vessel was approached in psn 1648N 01651W (less than 30 NM shore Mauritanian coast) by a small vessel/craft claiming to be Mauritanian Navy who requested the MV to stop or they will fire. Evasive manoeuvring taken. MV and crew SAFE. Mariners are advised to exercise caution in this area. Source: Reported to MDAT-GoG via telephone. Any queries regarding this Warning Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information.

### 3. (U) Summary

A. (U) TURKEY: On 30 August, security forces intercepted 150 Syrian refugees who boarded a fishing boat to Romania from the city of Kastamonu.

B. (U) JAMAICA: On 28 August, narcotics detectives and customs agents seized 187 pounds of cocaine at the Kingston Container Terminal.

C. (U) RED SEA: On 28 August, a merchant vessel reported sighting 4 skiffs with 5 to 6 persons in each boat in the Bab el Mandeb.

D. (U) NIGERIA: On 28 August, unknown gunmen, suspected to be militants, attacked a Navy boat and killed four soldiers and a civilian in Bayelsa State.

E. (U) NEW CALEDONIA: On 27 July, a French Navy ship boarded sailing yacht AFALINA and during the course of a search, 1.46 tons of cocaine were found.

F. (U) GRENADA: On 27 August, an unoccupied catamaran was boarded while anchored in Mt. Hartman Bay.

G. (U) BAHAMAS: On 27 August, a large amount of marijuana was seized in Williams Town.

- H. (U) LIBYA: On 27 August, Libyan naval forces seized the Liberia-flagged oil tanker LEVANTE with its crew of 20 on suspicion of smuggling.
- I. (U) LIBYA: On 25 August, Tripoli's Rada Special Deterrence Force announced it had arrested one of the biggest Libyan fuel smugglers and human traffickers.
- J. (U) INDIA: On 25 August, India's Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized 40 metric tons of red sandalwood logs which were about to be smuggled to Malaysia.
- K. (U) GREECE: On 23 August, Greek authorities intercepted a smuggling boat carrying 62 migrants northwest of Strofades Island.
- L. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 22 August, a thief stole a dinghy and outboard motor from a yacht anchored in Le Marin.
- M. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 19 August, Philippine troops raided an Islamist militants' camp on a remote southern island and rescued a Vietnamese sailor held captive for nine months.
- N. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 August, two Moroccan sailors kidnapped on 30 July were released.
- O. (U) SOMALIA: On 11 August, Cambodia's Foreign Affairs Ministry announced that they are working to repatriate 18 migrant workers who are on a Thai fishing boat in Somalia.
- P. (U) COLOMBIA: On 10 August, Colombian police seized 1,054 kilograms of cocaine at the country's main Pacific port of Buenaventura.
- Q. (U) MALAYSIA: On 9 August, marine police recovered 3,300 sea turtle eggs from two abandoned boats in a mangrove swamp near Sandakan.
- R. (U) GUYANA: During the week of 7 August, pirates attacked four fishing vessels in the Waini River.

#### **4. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements**

- A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for August and September 2017. To apply for JMSDF escort, visit [http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime\\_fr2\\_000000.html](http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html), please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MILT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932; Fax: +81-3-5253-1643. Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp. (MSCHOA)
- B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korean Navy convoy schedule for August and September 2017. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at 1-203-574-6387. Email: bluesea24@navy.mil.kr. (MSCHOA)
- C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese Navy convoy schedule for August and September 2017. For further information, please e-mail [planavy@navy.mil.cn](mailto:planavy@navy.mil.cn), or call Tel: 00870 773 121 248; or 441 203 136. (MSCHOA)
- D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for August and September 2017. To register, email [dgcommcentre-dgs@nic.in](mailto:dgcommcentre-dgs@nic.in); or visit [www.dgshipping.com](http://www.dgshipping.com). Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22-22613636. (MSCHOA)
- E. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Russian Navy convoy escort schedule for August and September 2017. For further information e-mail [smb@msecurity.ru](mailto:smb@msecurity.ru); [isps@msecurity.ru](mailto:isps@msecurity.ru); or fax +7 (499) 642-83-29. (MSCHOA)

## 5. (U) Details: 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 double-counting is detected, or an incident is later learned 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:

1. (U) UNITED STATES: On 20 August, two men were reportedly stabbed while aboard the fishing vessel BILLY B near Pensacola, Florida. The two victims, one in critical condition and one in stable condition, were flown off the vessel by a coast guard helicopter and taken to a local hospital, according to a press release. The U.S. Coast Guard is investigating the incident. ([www.pnj.com](http://www.pnj.com))

### B. (U) CENTRAL AMERICA - CARIBBEAN - SOUTH AMERICA:

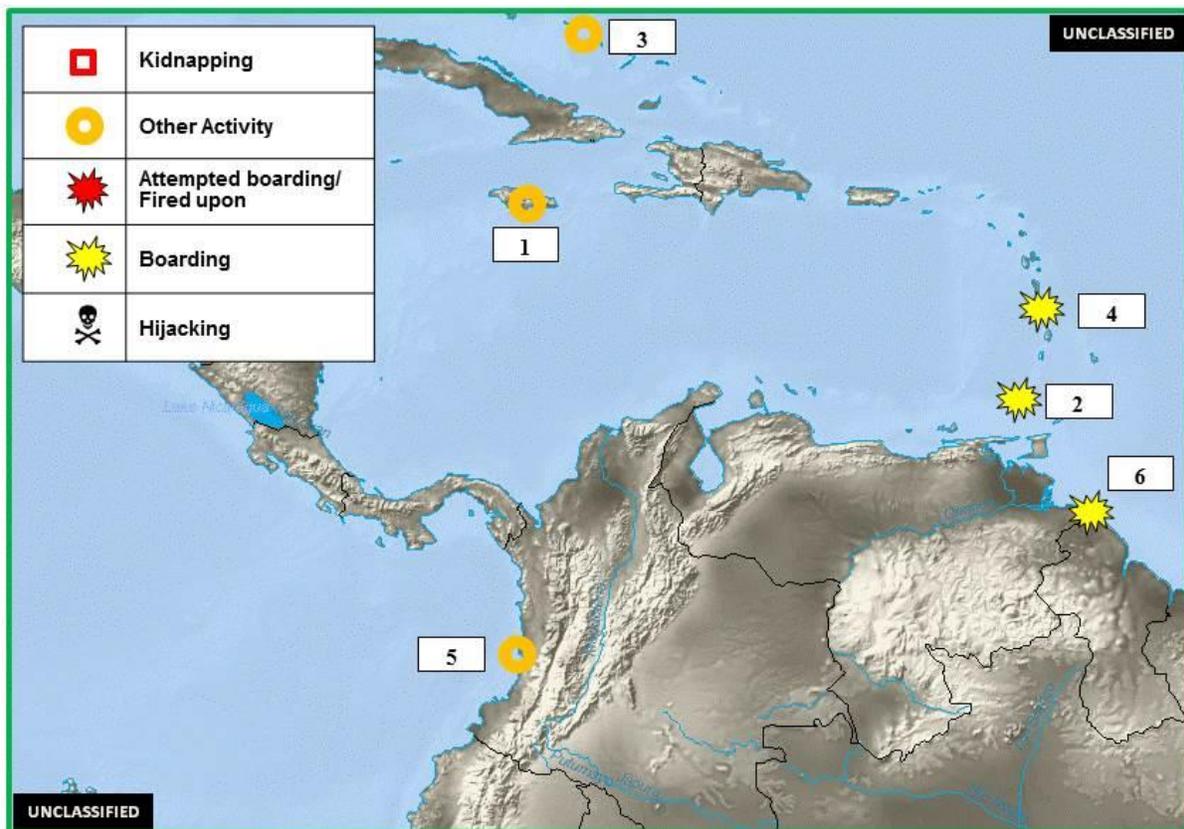


Figure 1. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) JAMAICA: On 28 August, narcotics detectives and customs agents seized 187 pounds of cocaine at the Kingston Container Terminal. During a routine examination of a 40-foot shipping container, a total of five leather bags were reportedly found hidden amongst the shipment. The bags reportedly had a total of 78 parcels, each filled with cocaine. Initial reports are that the container, which was also loaded with a shipment of rice destined for a local distributor, transited through Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from Guyana on its way to Jamaica. ([www.loopjamaica.com](http://www.loopjamaica.com))

2. (U) GRENADA: On 27 August, an unoccupied catamaran was boarded while anchored in Mt. Hartman Bay. The break-in was discovered the next morning by the care taker. The thieves broke the door lock and thoroughly ransacked the interior of the boat, then badly damaged the main electrical panel and cut cables before removing electronics. Davit lines for the raised dinghy with outboard motor were slashed and it was stolen. There was no attempt to conceal the break-in. The Coast Guard and police were notified and are investigating. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
3. (U) BAHAMAS: On 27 August, a large amount of marijuana was seized in Williams Town and two Bahamian men were arrested, police say the arrests are just the beginning in this major investigation. A speed boat was also seized in the bust and brought into Nassau along with the 30 bales of marijuana it carried. It was offloaded by the Drug Enforcement Unit of the Royal Bahamas Police Force. ([www.magneticmediatv.com](http://www.magneticmediatv.com))
4. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 22 August, a thief stole a dinghy and outboard motor from a yacht anchored in Le Marin. Incident reported to the marina and on the local VHF net. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.com](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.com))
5. (U) COLOMBIA: On 10 August, Colombian police seized 1,054 kilograms of cocaine at the country's main Pacific port of Buenaventura before it could be shipped to Europe, police said in a press release. Police used an X-ray scanner to locate the cocaine in a shipping container, which called attention to itself due to its weight when the documentation was registered with port authorities. ([www.malaysiandigest.com/world](http://www.malaysiandigest.com/world))
6. (U) GUYANA: During the week of 7 August, pirates attacked four fishing vessels in the Waini River. The masked gunmen also stole one of the vessels named "PRIYA 2" after dumping its workers onto another vessel that was in the area and which they had also raided. ([www.barbadostoday.bb](http://www.barbadostoday.bb))
7. (U) PANAMA: On 21 August, an in-the-water but chain locked dinghy and outboard motor were stolen overnight from a sailing yacht anchored in Portobello Bay. The dinghy minus the outboard motor was recovered the next morning. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.com](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.com))
8. (U) DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: On 18 August, an unoccupied trimaran on a mooring in Luperon Bay had its primary mooring line released and the secondary anchor and rope stolen. The boat went adrift and damaged its stern mounted radio antenna when it struck another yacht before grounding on nearby mudflats. Both yachts had minor damage. Report made to the local police. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.com](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.com))
9. (U) VENEZUELA: On 12 August, six fishermen on Lake Maracaibo were assaulted and murdered by pirates during two simultaneous assaults by armed gangs that ply Lake Maracaibo. Local media reports indicate that the first attack was against some 30 workers fishing for shrimp. The group had sailed from Puntica de Piedras the previous day when they were approached by two boats; an orange boat and a black one that fired upon the boats that were standing guard. At the same time in an area nearby, another attack was taking place, where two other fishermen were murdered. (El Universal Online; Panorama)
10. (U) ST MARTIN: On 9 August, a dinghy and outboard motor were stolen from a sailing yacht anchored in Simpson Bay Lagoon. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.com](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.com))
11. (U) ECUADOR: On 13 August, Chinese refrigerator ship FU YUAN YU LENG 999, with 20 crew, was arrested by the Ecuador Navy near San Cristobal Island, Galapagos, in a Marine Reserve area. Large numbers of frozen sharks, including hammerhead, an endangered species, were found in the hold. The ship is suspected of engaging in illegal fishing and other activities causing environmental damage. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com); [www.fis.com](http://www.fis.com); BBC)
12. (U) PANAMA: On 2 August, a U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer seized more than 800 kilograms of cocaine off the coast of Central America. While conducting a routine patrol, an embarked helicopter sighted a small boat with three passengers and two outboard engines. The vessel's characteristics met the description of vessels that frequently traffic narcotics in Central and South America and investigated further. As the helicopter approached the small craft, the passengers began jettisoning the boat's contents. The helicopter crew identified 37 bales of an unknown substance, and coordinated with the ship that deployed the small boat crew to recover the floating packages. Once the bales were onboard, it was confirmed the substance was cocaine. A solar-powered GPS tracking buoy was attached to the bales of narcotics. ([www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil); [www.southcom.mil/MEDIA](http://www.southcom.mil/MEDIA))

13. (U) ECUADOR: On 5 August, robbers, unnoticed by the crew, boarded a berthed container ship near position 01:00N - 079:39W, Esmeraldas Port. The thieves stole brass sounding pipe covers and escaped. The theft was noticed by duty crew on routine rounds. (IMB)

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

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:

1. (U) LITHUANIA: On 9 August, more than 600 kilograms of cocaine was seized in the port city of Klaipeda, one of the biggest cases of drugs smuggling in Lithuania's history, a port spokesman said. The drugs were discovered in equipment received from Ecuador by officers of the Customs Criminal Service and the Klaipeda Territorial Customs Division. The shipment was found after customs specialists conducted a risk analysis for more thorough checks of cargo arriving from South America. (www.baltictimes.com)

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

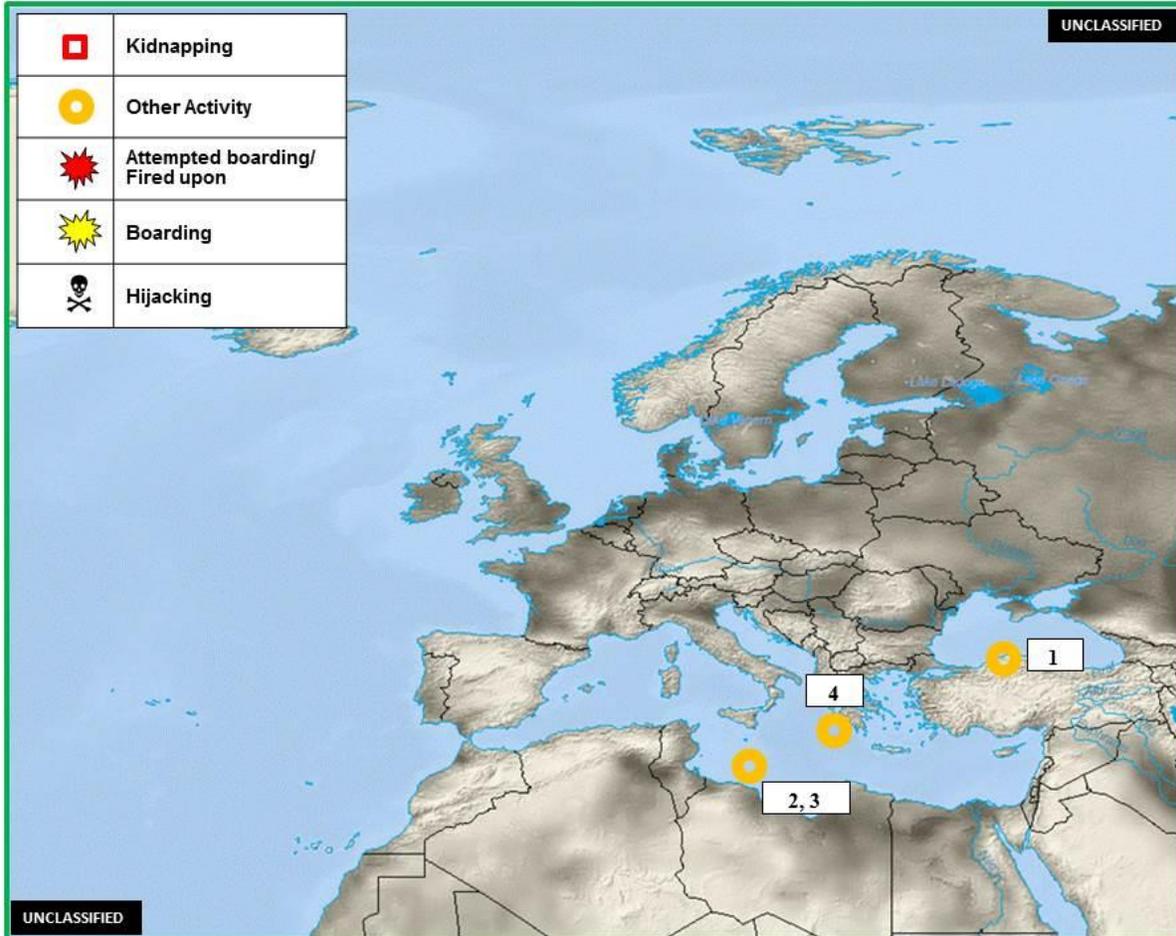


Figure 2. Mediterranean - Black Sea  
Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) TURKEY: On 30 August, security forces intercepted 150 Syrian refugees who boarded a fishing boat to Romania from the city of Kastamonu on a route probably used for the first time by migrants trying to reach Europe. Villagers in Kastamonu's Cide district noticed the crowd who arrived in three buses to the coast and alerted authorities. Eighty-two migrants were nabbed on the shore while others were stopped by the Coast Guard. (www.dailysabah.com)

2. (U) LIBYA: On 27 August, Libyan naval forces seized the Liberia-flagged oil tanker LEVANTE with its crew of 20 on suspicion of smuggling oil off the Abu Kammash area west of Tripoli, a naval spokesman said. The tanker can carry a total of six million liters and it is a Greek-owned tanker. The members of the crew are being questioned. ([www.hellenicshippingnews.com](http://www.hellenicshippingnews.com); [www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

3. (U) LIBYA: On 25 August, Tripoli's Rada Special Deterrence Force announced it had arrested one of the biggest Libyan fuel smugglers and human traffickers; Fahmi Salim Musa Bin Khalifa from Zuwara, whom Rada dubbed the "king of smuggling." The United Nations' panel of experts on Libya has told the Security Council in a report that fuel smuggled from Libya was being transferred between ships on the high seas and brought to Malta. They identified the mastermind as Fahmi Ben Khalifa, who co-owns ADJ Trading with former Malta international footballer Darren Debono and an Egyptian man, Ibrahim Arafa Ahmed. The company is now in dissolution. The UN's panel of experts said in their report on Khalifa that ships smuggling fuel sail south from Malta to between 40 and 60 nautical miles off the Libyan coast, where they turn off the automated identification system, a tracking system. After they are loaded, they return to Malta. The vessels remain adrift at least 12 nautical miles off the coast, outside Maltese territorial waters, while they discharge the fuel to other vessels that carry it to the coast. (Malta Today Online)

4. (U) GREECE: On 23 August, Greek authorities intercepted a smuggling boat carrying 62 migrants northwest of the Strofades Island complex in the Ionian Sea. The vessel, a US-flagged sailboat, was spotted by a surveillance aircraft of the EU's border monitoring agency, Frontex. The migrants, whose nationality has not been made public, were transferred to the port of Katakolo, in the western Peloponnese. ([www.ekathimerini.com](http://www.ekathimerini.com))

5. (U) ROMANIA: On 13 August, a Turkey-flagged motor-yacht was intercepted by a patrol ship belonging to Romania's Black Sea Coast Guard, 10 nautical miles away from Mangalia Port. The ship was intercepted and inspected, during which authorities found that the ship, EMEK 1, operated by two facilitators, a Bulgarian citizen and a Cypriot, was carrying 69 illegal migrant Iraqi citizens onboard (30 men, 10 women and 29 minors). Investigation in this case is still ongoing. ([www.focus-fen.net/news](http://www.focus-fen.net/news))

6. (U) SPAIN: On 17 August, Spain's Coast Guard says it rescued 600 migrants crossing from Morocco in a 24-hour period, amid a spike in the number of migrant arrivals. The UN says more than 9,000 people have arrived in Spain so far this year, three times as many as the previous year. More than 120 people are believed to have drowned attempting the crossing. Most are sailing across the seven-mile Strait of Gibraltar and many are choosing cheap, child-sized paddle boats without motors or jet skis and other small craft that allow them to bypass people-smuggling networks and their fees. The majority are West Africans, with Nigeria, Guinea and Ivory Coast the top countries of origin. But Bangladeshis have also been leaving North Africa in the thousands. (BBC)

7. (U) GREECE: On 11 August, Greek authorities seized two tons of Albania-grown marijuana on an Italy-flagged yacht destined for the Aegean Sea islands. The coast guard says the seizure followed a tip-off and took place south of the Greek island of Kythira, at the entrance to the Aegean Sea. A coast guard statement says the yacht departed from an Italian port and picked up the drugs in Albania. The two-man crew, an Italian and an Albanian national, were arrested and the yacht and cargo impounded. ([www.greece.greekreporter.com](http://www.greece.greekreporter.com))

8. (U) SPAIN: On 8 August, the general cargo ship LADY BOSS was intercepted by the Spanish Tax Agency, Agencia Tributaria, east of the Strait of Gibraltar in the Alboran Sea. The vessel was suspected in possible drug trafficking after she was spotted by a Tax Agency surveillance plane in an area known for being used by traffickers for loading drugs. Customs and Tax Agency teams intercepted the vessel and took her to Almeira, where she was inspected. They found 600 bales of hashish, approximately 18 tons. The vessel and crew, 11 Ukrainians and 2 Bulgarians, were arrested. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

9. (U) LIBYA: On 7 August, the Libyan Navy rescued 155 immigrants off the coast of Sidi Bilal west of Tripoli. Social networking sites posted an article stating that a coastal guard patrol from the Tripoli region rescued the immigrants, who were on a rubber dinghy 10 miles from coast of Sidi Bilal. They have been transported to the Tripoli Navy base and were handed over to local shelters. (FCBK social networking website)

10. (U) TURKEY: On 7 August, police raided a Liberia-flagged cargo ship near Mersin Port after a tipoff that it was carrying drugs, according to a statement from the Mersin Chief Prosecutor's Office. The containers, which were filled with bananas, were unloaded for a police search. During the search the police, with the support of x-ray devices and specially trained dogs, found drugs stuffed in the bananas. They also found almost 123 kilograms of

cocaine in 102 different packages placed in the ceiling of containers. Seven suspects were detained by police. (www.gnnliberia.com)

#### F. (U) WEST AFRICA

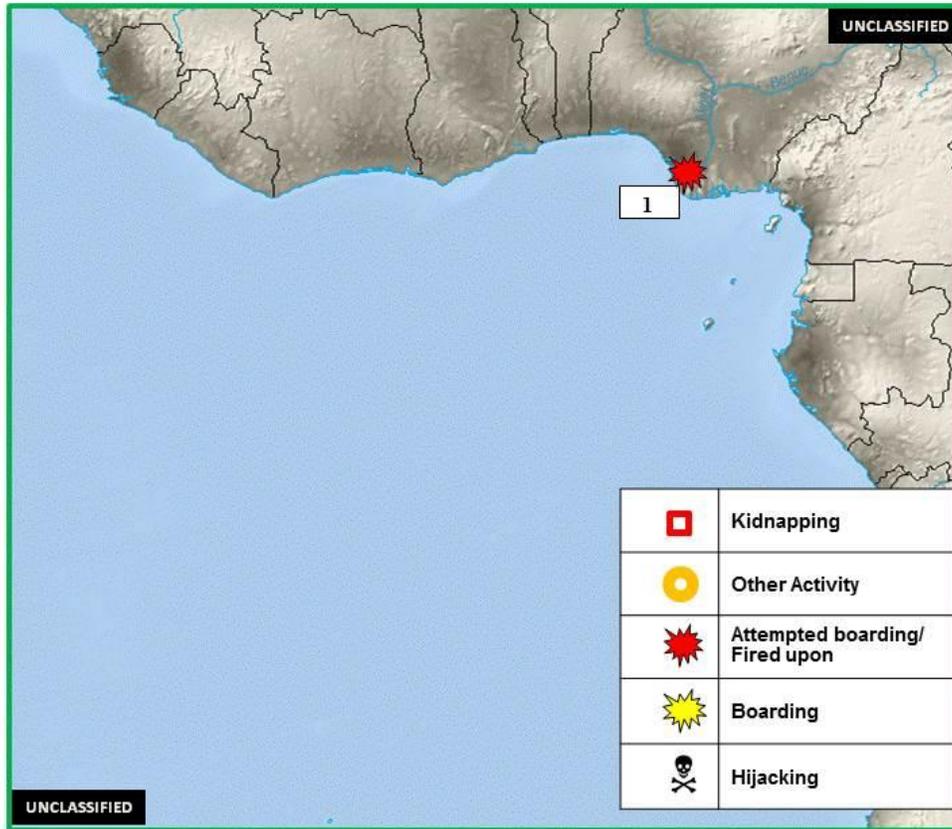


Figure 3. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 28 August, unknown gunmen, suspected to be militants, attacked a Navy boat and killed four soldiers and a civilian in Bayelsa State. The suspects were said to have laid an ambush for the soldiers along the waterways of Letugbene, Ekeremor Local Government Area of the State. Security sources confirmed that a team of soldiers were returning from Letugbene community when they were attacked. (www.nigeriatoday.ng)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 30 July, armed pirates boarded the general cargo ship OYA 1 underway near position 04:10N - 006:59E, 15 nm southwest of Bonny Island. The pirates kidnapped five crewmen and escaped. The Nigerian Navy was alerted and the vessel was taken to Bonny Island for further investigation. (IMB; www.fleetmon.com) **UPDATE:** On 19 August, two Moroccan sailors kidnapped on 30 July were released, according to a spokesman for the Moroccan government. (TelQuel Online)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 August, an alert duty crewman onboard the bridge of a tanker anchored in position 06:20N - 003:18E, Lagos General Purpose Anchorage, spotted a floating object near the starboard bow and informed the armed security guard who fired warning shots. One robber was seen jumping overboard from the forecandle. Alarm raised and PA announcement made. All crew except watch keepers retreated to the citadel. After the security guards checked the deck areas, the crew emerged from the citadel and carried out a thorough search of the vessel. They noticed a flexible hose pipe inserted into a deck hatch. One robber was noticed hiding in the hawse pipe, was apprehended and tied up by the security guard and later handed over to the local agents. It was reported that the robbers had managed to steal some oil from the tanker. (IMB)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 August, a merchant vessel reported that eight black-hulled skiffs with two persons onboard each skiff made a suspicious approach 14 nm off Delta state. The skiffs travelled at 7 knots and came within 0.3 nm of the vessel. ([www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))

5. (U) GHANA: On 4 August, deck watch personnel onboard an LPG tanker anchored near position 04:54N - 001:39W, Takoradi Anchorage. Crew noticed a robber near the starboard side poop deck and informed the duty officer who raised the alarm. Hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the robber jumped overboard and escaped with his accomplice waiting in a boat. After carrying out a thorough search, it was reported that the ship's properties were stolen. (IMB)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 7 August, a duty crewman onboard a tanker berthed near position 06:27N - 003:22E, Folawiyo Terminal, Apapa, Lagos, noticed two robbers trying to insert a flexible hose into a cargo tank. He immediately informed the duty officer who raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with their flexible hose. A search was carried out throughout the tanker. Nothing reported stolen. Port control informed. (IMB)

7. (U) MAURITANIA: On 3 August, a merchant vessel was approached near position 16:48N - 016:51W, approximately 30 nm from Mauritania, by a small vessel claiming to be Mauritanian Navy which requested the MV to stop or they would open fire. Evasive maneuvering commenced and the small vessel went away. Vessel and crew are safe. (MDAT-GOG)

8. (U) NIGERIA: On 31 July, pirates attacked a tanker near position 04:00N - 007:00E, 21 nm south-southwest of Bonny. The pirates kidnapped three crewmembers and stole the crew's personal belongings. A Nigerian Navy patrol boat escorted vessel to Bonny anchorage. (IMB)

**G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:**

1. (U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: On 22 August, a state-owned newspaper in Dubai reported that a man was recently arrested for smuggling 5.7 million amphetamine pills into the sheikhdom hidden inside barrels full of sheep intestines. The drums were headed into Dubai's massive Jebel Ali port where they were found during a customs inspection. ([www.miamiherald.com](http://www.miamiherald.com))

## H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN - EAST AFRICA:

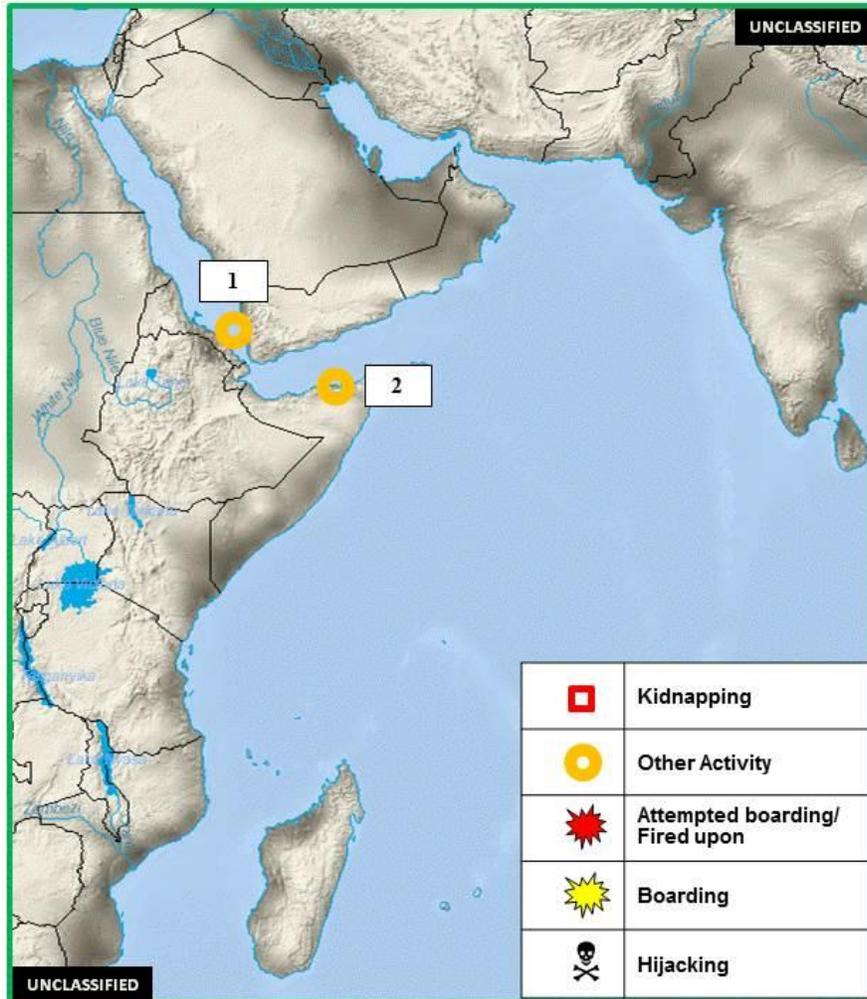


Figure 4. Indian Ocean - East Africa  
Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) RED SEA: On 28 August in position 13:00N - 043:10E a merchant vessel reported sighting 4 skiffs with 5 to 6 persons in each boat. Vessel reported seeing one ladder onboard two of the skiffs, no weapons were sighted. The skiffs did not approach any closer than 0.8 nm. Onboard security team showed their weapons and skiffs turned away. Vessel is safe. (UKMTO)

2. (U) SOMALIA: On 11 August, Cambodia's Foreign Affairs Ministry announced that they are working to repatriate 18 migrant workers who are on a Thai fishing boat in Somalia. According to a statement from Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman, the ministry has instructed its embassy in Bangkok to cooperate with Thai police and the International Organization for Migration to help repatriate the Cambodians. He added that Thai police had rescued one Cambodian migrant worker, who reported that there were another 18 Cambodians on Thai boats in Somalia. Thai police consider the case to be human trafficking and has ordered two Thai fishing boats to dock at Bassaaso port in Somalia. Thai police have also asked Interpol to send the men to Kenya in order to return them to Thailand. ([www.khmertimeskh.com](http://www.khmertimeskh.com))

3. (U) RED SEA: On 19 August, a merchant vessel near position 12:50N - 043:12E was approached by 5 skiffs with three persons in each skiff. Armed security team onboard showed weapons and the skiffs altered course away from the vessel. (UKMTO)

4. (U) RED SEA: On 18 August, a merchant vessel near position 12:38N - 043:21E was approached by a number of skiffs with 5 to 6 persons in each skiff. Ladders reportedly sighted. Armed security team onboard fired warning shots, after which the skiffs moved away. (UKMTO)

5. (U) RED SEA: On 10 August, a merchant vessel sighted 7 skiffs in the vicinity of 13:12N - 042:58E, 16 nm southeast of Mocha Port. Two of the skiffs closed to 1 cable then withdrew. Vessel and crew are reported to be safe. (UKMTO)

6. (U) YEMEN: On 9 August, at least 50 migrants drowned when they were thrown into the sea by a boatman they had paid to take them across the Gulf of Aden, according to the United Nations migration agency. The International Organization for Migration, a United Nations agency, said in a statement that it had found 27 survivors from among the people thrown into the sea. They described how their smuggler had tossed them overboard as their boat approached Shabwa, on the southern Yemeni coast. (www.nytimes.com)

**I.(U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA - INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:**

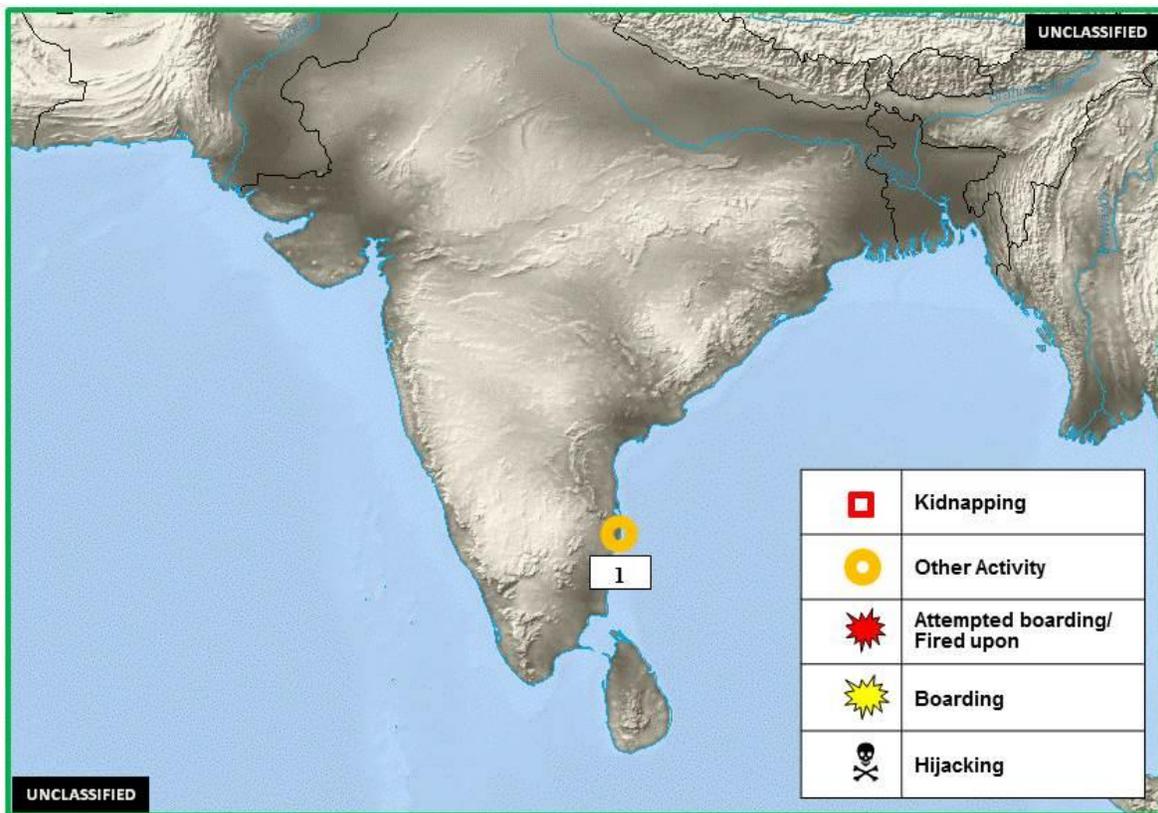


Figure 5. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

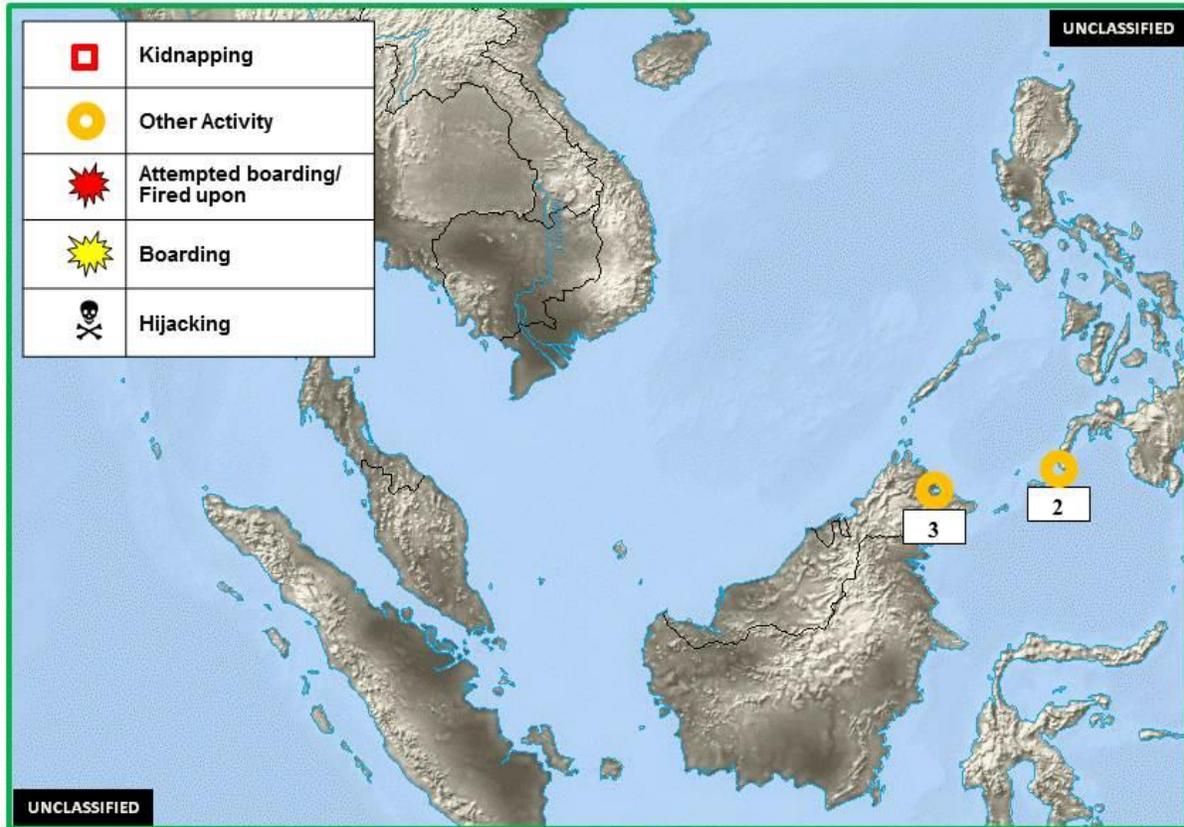


Figure 6. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDIA: On 25 August, India's Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized 40 metric tons of red sandalwood logs which were about to be smuggled to Malaysia from the port of Chennai. The smugglers declared that the containers contained export cargo consignments and got it sealed at the Container Freight Station. The seal was subsequently tampered with and the logs were loaded when the containers were being transported to the port from the freight station. ([www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com](http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com))
2. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 11 November 2016, ten persons armed with guns approached the underway bulk carrier ROYAL 16 near position 06:40N - 122:31E, 10 nm north-northeast of Basilan Island. Ship's master raised the alarm and activated the SSAS. The armed persons boarded the vessel and took its crew hostage. They stole ship's properties, kidnapped six crewmen, and escaped. One crewman was injured during the incident. Incident reported to the Philippines Coast Guard. A patrol vessel was dispatched and the authorities boarded and escorted the vessel to a safe port. (IMB; [www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com); gCaptain) UPDATE: On 19 August, Philippine troops raided an Islamist militants' camp on a remote southern island and rescued a Vietnamese sailor held captive for nine months, a Navy spokeswoman said. Do Trung Huige, 33, was left behind when troops attacked an Abu Sayyaf camp on Mataja Island. Two Vietnamese sailors are still being held, two were beheaded and another was rescued. (Reuters)
3. (U) MALAYSIA: On 9 August, marine police recovered 3,300 sea turtle eggs from two abandoned boats in a mangrove swamp near Sandakan. A senior police spokesman said a marine police boat on patrol spotted two boats coming from the direction of the open sea heading towards a river. The two boats raced off but ended up in shallow waters of the mangrove swamp as the boatmen fled into the mangroves. The marine police team checked the abandoned boats and found seven sacks of turtle eggs believed to have been smuggled into Sandakan from neighboring Philippines. ([www.nst.com.my/news](http://www.nst.com.my/news); [www.cleanmalaysia.com](http://www.cleanmalaysia.com))

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 August, two robbers boarded an underway bulk carrier near position 01:04N - 103:41E, 4.7 nm south-southeast of Pulau Nipah, and entered the steering gear room. They threatened the duty oiler with a knife. Once the robbers left the steering gear room, the oiler informed the duty engineer who notified the bridge. Master noticed, on the radar, two small boats heading towards Indonesia. Alarm raised and crew mustered. VTS Central Traffic Control informed. A warship responded and assisted the ship to the anchorage area. The Chief Officer made checks and found all crew to be safe. The ship anchored in Singapore Anchorage and Coast Guard and customs officers boarded for investigation. (IMB; [www.safety4sea.com](http://www.safety4sea.com))

5. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 15 August, an alert duty crewman on security rounds onboard a container ship anchored near position 14:33N - 120:55E, Manila South Harbor Anchorage, noticed two persons inside the starboard hawse pipe trying to open the cover and gain access to the ship. Crew alerted and alarm raised. Hearing the alerted crew, the two robbers escaped in a waiting boat along with three accomplices. Incident reported to local authorities via VHF. (IMB)

6. (U) MALAYSIA: On 13 August, two robbers attempted to board a berthed tanker near position 05:48N - 118:04E, Sandakan Port, but failed in their attempt. Port authorities informed. (IMB)

7. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 9 August, robbers boarded a container ship anchored near position 14:32N - 120:55E, Manila Anchorage. The robbers entered the forecastle store room. Security guard on routine rounds noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with ship's properties. (IMB)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 August, an unnoticed robber boarded a tanker anchored near position 01:24N - 104:33E, 10 nm north of Tanjung Berakit, Pulau Bintan, stole ship's properties and escaped. The theft was noticed by the deck crew the following day. (IMB)

J. (U) **NORTHEAST ASIA:** No current incidents to report.

K. (U) **PACIFIC OCEAN - SOUTHERN OCEAN:**

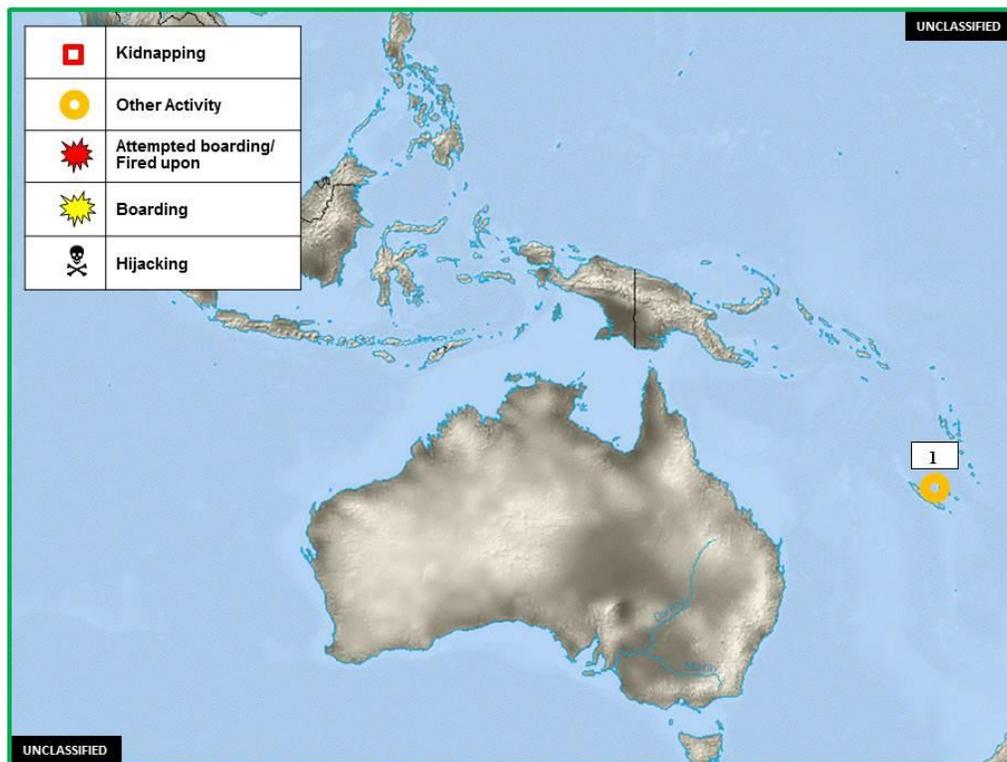


Figure 7. Pacific Ocean - Southern Ocean  
Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NEW CALEDONIA: On 27 July, a French Navy ship boarded sailing yacht AFALINA and during the course of a search, 1.46 tons of cocaine were found. The vessel was towed to Noumea for further investigation. Four persons onboard the yacht were arrested, believed to be Lithuanian and Latvian, the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) said in a press release. ACIC officials worked closely with French authorities to foil the plot, which is believed to have been organized by a South American crime syndicate. ([www.news.com.au/national/crime](http://www.news.com.au/national/crime))

2. (U) VANUATU: During a 10-day period in August, 117 fishing vessels were boarded at sea and in port during a regional operation to crack down on illegal tuna fishing. Nine patrol boats from 10 member nations of the Forum Fisheries Agency took part in Operation ISLAND CHIEF, with support from the navies of Australia, New Zealand and the United States. More than 350 personnel were involved in the operation that covered 14 million square kilometers of ocean. Four fishing vessels, three flagged to China and one to Taiwan, were found to be violating fishing regulations. The infringements in Vanuatu and on the high seas, centered on misreporting of information and unmarked gear. ([www.radionz.co.nz/news](http://www.radionz.co.nz/news))

## 6. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

### (U) Contact

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

### (U) Other Resources

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: [http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence\\_Community/piracy.htm](http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm).

## 7. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

### (U) Terminology

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

- **(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 boarding 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) 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.

#### **(U) Sourcing**

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- LSS-SAPU.com (LSS)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S.
- Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)
- Marine Domain Awareness for Trade - Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG)
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- The Maritime Executive (website)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

**(U) ICOD:** 30 August 2017

(U) The PAWW and WTS reports are posted each week on the ONI Intel Portal and can be found at:  
<http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence-Community/Piracy>