



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 17 April - 22 May 2019



23 May 2019

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- 1. (U) Scope Note**

1. (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:

A. (U) No current incidents to report.

3. (U) Summary:

A. (U) INDIA: On 21 May, units from the India Coast Guard apprehended a Pakistan-flagged fishing vessel off Gujarat and seized 200 kilograms of heroin.

B. (U) PANAMA: On 20 May, robbers boarded a yacht anchored off the Bocas Marina through a small but unlocked hatch.

C. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 20 May, a robber boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Charlestown Bay.

D. (U) MALAYSIA: On 18 May, robbers boarded a barge under tow 3.3 nm southeast off Tanjung Piai.

E. (U) PERU: On 18 May, five robbers wearing face masks boarded an anchored LNG tanker in Callao Anchorage.

F. (U) GUINEA: On 14 May, four robbers armed with automatic rifles and knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier in Conakry Anchorage.

- G. (U) BRAZIL: On 13 May, security forces seized 1 ton of cocaine at the Port of Natal, northeastern Rio Grande do Norte.
- H. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 May, four robbers armed with long knives boarded a general cargo ship underway 4 nm east of Pulau Mapur.
- I. (U) ENGLAND: On 11 May, robbers boarded the museum fishing ship MINICARIO in Lowestoft.
- J. (U) INDIA: On 9 May, seven unarmed men boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker ARIONAS in Deendayal Port (Kandla) Outer Anchorage.
- K. (U) VENEZUELA: On 28 April, six persons in a small boat boarded a tanker anchored in Puerto Jose Anchorage.

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

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for May and June 2019. To apply for JMSDF escort, visit 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: hqt-info-piracy@mlit.go.jp (MSCHOA)

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: China Navy convoy schedule for May and June 2019. For further information, please email: planavy@navy.mil.cn, or call Tel: 441 202 486 or 00870 773907298. (MSCHOA)

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: South Korea Navy convoy schedule for May and June 2019. 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 the Escort Task Group CCC: 001-1-646-466-9521 / 001-1-646-466-9522, or INMARSAT: (001)-870-773-110-528. Email: cheonghae29@navy.mil.kr or cheonghae29@gmail.com (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 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:

1. (U) UNITED STATES: On 13 May, more than 1,000 pounds of marijuana were discovered in a maritime smuggling attempt gone wrong after a boat and car were found abandoned at Pescadero State Beach in northern California. The Sheriff's Office was alerted to the incident after a boat was seen along the coast and a white Chevrolet Suburban was found stuck in the sand. (www.smdailyjournal.com)

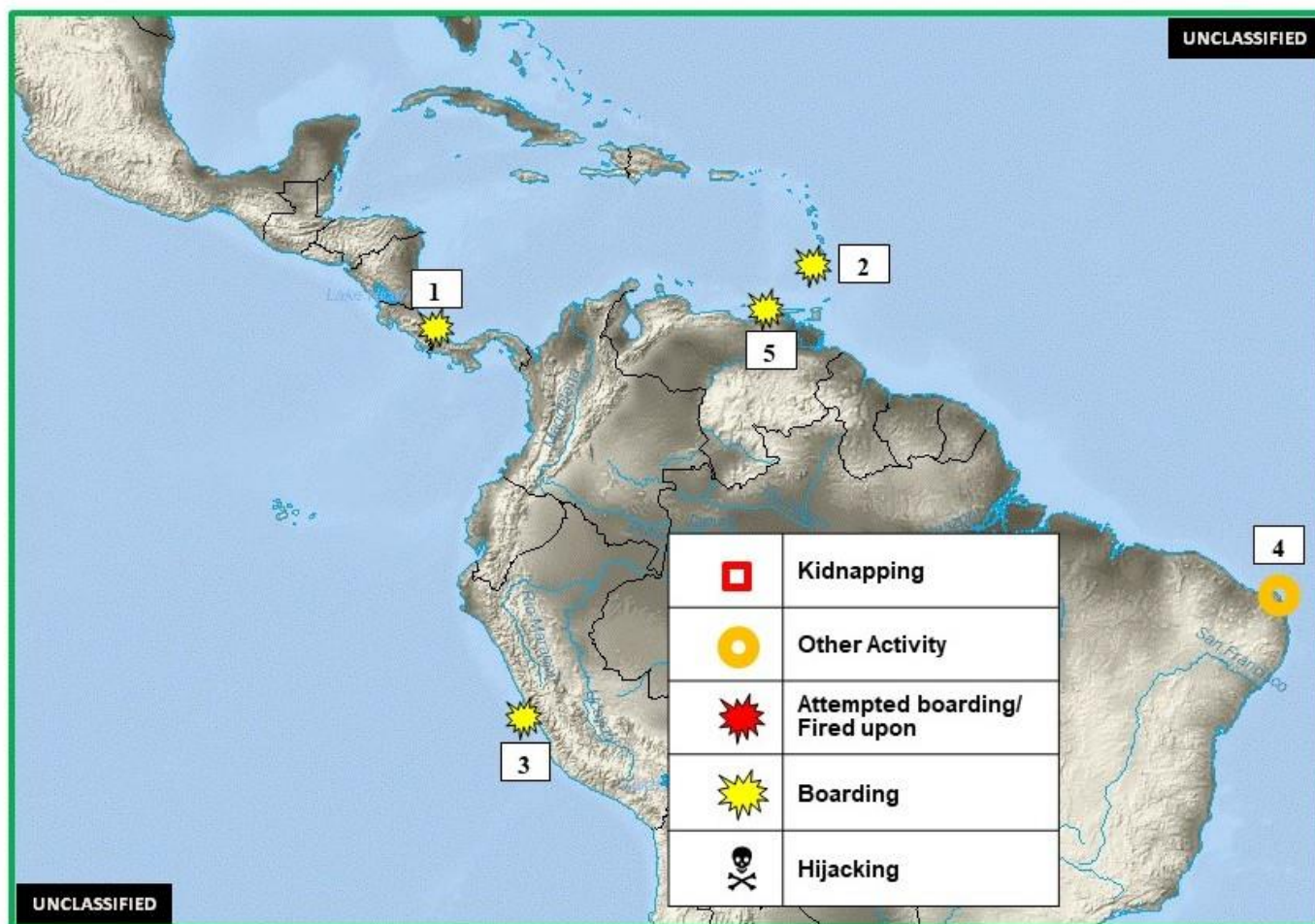
B. (U) CENTRAL AMERICA - CARIBBEAN - SOUTH AMERICA:

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

1. (U) PANAMA: On 20 May, robbers boarded a yacht anchored off the Bocas Marina through a small but unlocked hatch. Two laptops, a smartphone, binoculars and other personal items were stolen. A police report was made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

2. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 20 May, a robber boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Charlestown Bay. The yacht owners scared the thief who jumped in the water and disappeared. A police report was made the next day, and a good description of the thief was provided to the local police who seemed aware of this individual and the persistent but unresolved problems in this anchorage. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

3. (U) PERU: On 18 May, five robbers wearing face masks boarded an anchored LNG tanker via the hawse pipe near position 11:59S - 077:11W, Callao Anchorage. They took hostage the duty crewman on routine rounds. Alarm was raised, ship's whistle was sounded and crew was mustered. Hearing the alarm, the robbers took the duty crewman's radio, pushed him down and escaped in their boat. Incident was reported to Port Control and a patrol boat was dispatched to the anchorage area. (IMB)

4. (U) BRAZIL: On 13 May, security forces seized 1 ton of cocaine at the Port of Natal, northeastern Rio Grande do Norte state. The narcotics were seized from a Netherlands-bound container and were hidden in a fruit shipment. (www.pviltd.com)

5. (U) VENEZUELA: On 28 April, six persons in a small boat boarded a tanker anchored near position 10:12N – 064:45W, Puerto Jose Anchorage. Duty crewman on routine rounds saw the robbers and raised the alarm. Hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped in their boat. A search was carried out. Nothing reported stolen. Incident reported to the Coast Guard through the local agents. (IMB)

6. (U) COLOMBIA: On 12 May, authorities seized 2.2 tons of cocaine hidden inside four bags of copper ore in a container at Santa Marta Port. The narcotics belonged to the Clan del Golfo drug gang and were bound for Antwerp Port in Belgium, police said. (www.pvilt.com)

7. (U) ECUADOR: On 3 May, two speed boats with five persons in each boat approached a bulk carrier underway near position 00:08S - 081:19W, 52 nm west-northwest of Cabo Pasado. Alarm was raised and crew was mustered. Vessel increased speed, commenced evasive maneuvers and started spraying the boats with charged fire hoses, resulting in the boats moving away. Crew and vessel reported safe. (IMB)

8. (U) PANAMA: On 2 May, three armed robbers boarded the New Zealand-flagged yacht, AQUA LOBO, anchored near position 09:16N - 078:07W, 1.9 nm east-northeast of San Ignacio De Tupile. The captain, a New Zealand national, died of wounds received during the attack, and other family members were injured. Three suspects were taken into custody in the Colon jurisdiction. (IMB; www.tvnz.co.nz; www.safetyandsecuritynet.org; www.noonsite.com)

9. (U) COLOMBIA: On 25 April, two robbers in a small boat approached and boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 12:17N - 072:01W, Puerto Bolivar Anchorage. Alert crewman noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. Crew was mustered. Hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped empty-handed. Coast guard informed. (IMB)

10. (U) VENEZUELA: On 26 April, duty officer noticed on the CCTV one unauthorized person on the forecastle of a vessel anchored near position 10:17N - 064:42W, Puerto La Cruz Anchorage. Alarm was raised. Hearing the alerted crew, the robber escaped. A search of the vessel showed ship's properties stolen from the forecastle store room. (IMB)

11. (U) PERU: On 26 April, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier unnoticed near position 12:01S - 077:13W, Callao Anchorage, and escaped with ship's stores. The theft was noticed by the duty crew during routine rounds. Port control informed. (IMB)

12. (U) COLOMBIA: On 19 April, a boat with 8 to 10 persons approached a container ship under pilotage near position 03:47N - 077:14W, Buenaventura Channel, and attempted to board via the rigged pilot ladder. Duty lookout noticed the boat and raised the alarm. Crew mustered near the pilot ladder resulting in the boat aborting and moving away. The pilot notified the coast guard and a patrol boat was dispatched to investigate. (IMB)

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

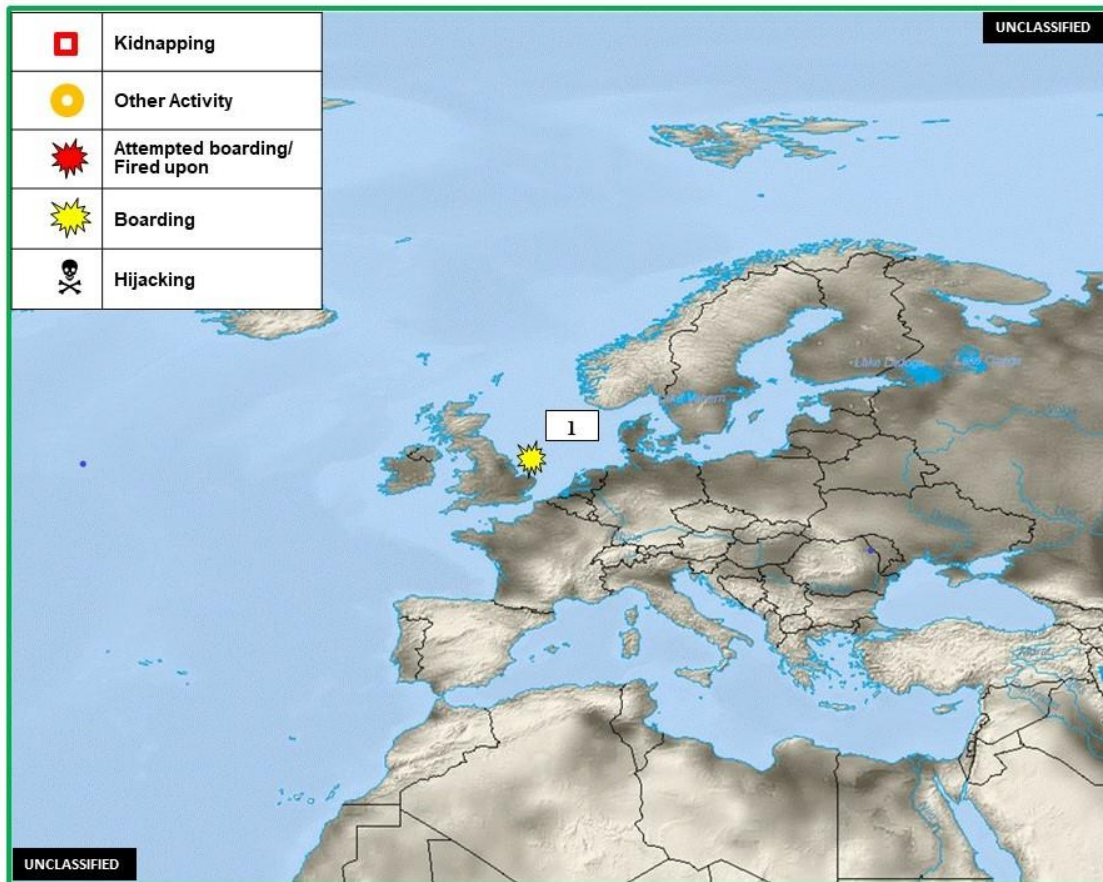
D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:

Figure 2. Northern Europe - Baltic Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) ENGLAND: On 11 May, robbers boarded the museum fishing ship MINICARIO in Lowestoft. The robbers vandalized bridge equipment, stole items, and escaped unseen. (www.edp24.co.uk)

2. (U) NETHERLANDS: On 29 April, police and customs officials in Rotterdam seized 1.6 tons of cocaine hidden in a shipment of bananas from Costa Rica. (www.dutchnews.nl)

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

1. (U) MONTENEGRO: On 19 April, police officials boarded the Montenegrin Navy training ship JADRAN in the Port of Tivat and searched the ship, finding 50 kilograms of drugs hidden onboard, hours before it was scheduled to take students on a training cruise. (www.gcaptain.com)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

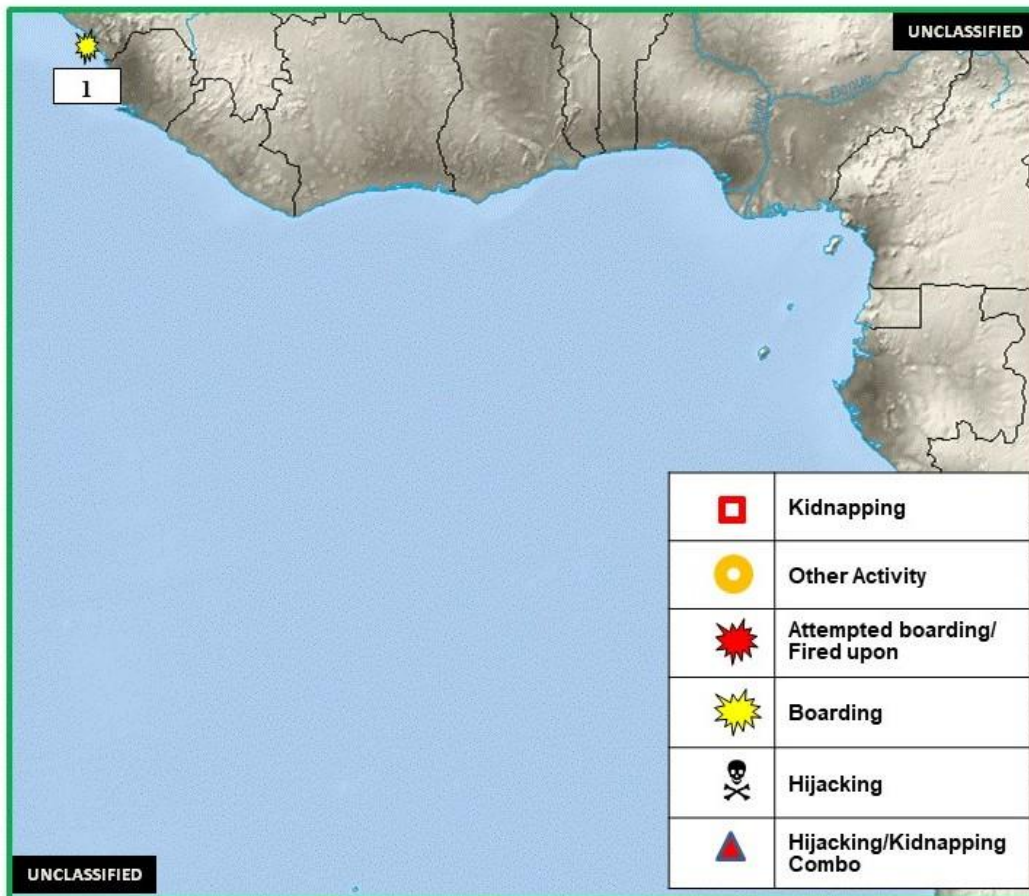


Figure 3. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GUINEA: On 14 May, four robbers armed with automatic rifles and knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 09:23N - 013:41W, Conakry Anchorage. They took the crew hostage, ransacked their cabins, and stole ship and crew cash and property before escaping. Master was injured during the incident. The incident was reported to Conakry port control, and a patrol boat came for investigation. (IMB)

2. (U) TOGO: On 12 May, armed persons boarded and hijacked an anchored chemical tanker near position 06:00N - 001:16E, Lome Anchorage. The Togo Navy received a call from the owners that their tanker had been attacked and immediately responded by dispatching patrol boats to investigate. The tanker was intercepted 25 nm from the anchorage area and forced to return to Lome Port. The crew were reported safe, and the armed persons were captured and handed over to the authorities. (IMB; www.pvilttd.com)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 7 May, two suspects boarded an offshore supply vessel berthed at the Federal Ocean Terminal in Onne Port. A duty crewman on watch saw the perpetrators and raised the alarm. Perpetrators escaped and port security was informed. (www.lss-sapu.com)

4. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 5 May, pirates hijacked a tug near position 03:04N - 007:59E, around 42 nm southwest of Luba. (IMB; www.guardian.com)

5. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 5 May, the semi-submersible heavy lift ship BLUE MARLIN was boarded by 7 pirates near position 03:00N - 007:50E, approximately 44 nm southwest of Luba Port, Bioko Island. As the attack started, master

activated SSAS, all 20 crew mustered in citadel. Pirates boarded and demanded from crew via PA to surrender, and give the pirates all crew money and valuables. Crew remained in citadel, pirates found a hole and fired through it into citadel, without injuring anyone. During this time, the Spanish Navy's Operations and Surveillance Center (COVAM), alerted by ship's distress signal, ordered their patrol boat SERVIOLA (P-71), deployed in an international navy security mission in Gulf of Guinea, to free the ship. On the morning of 6 May, teams from the Spanish Navy and the Equatorial Guinean Navy boarded and searched the ship. No pirates were found and the crew was freed from the citadel. All the crew members are in good health. The pirates shot several times during their time aboard the BLUE MARLIN and caused substantial material damage on the bridge, preventing the ship from being sailable. The ship's owners have arranged for a tow vessel to move the ship to a safe harbor. (MDAT-GoG; www.lss-sapu.com; www.marinelink.com; www.fleetmon.com)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 May, a duty crewman onboard an anchored tanker noticed two robbers near the cargo tank with a hose. The ship was anchored near position 06:16N - 003:13E, Secure Anchorage Area (SAA), Lagos. Alarm was raised and PA announcement was made. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped in their boat with their hose. A patrol boat was informed who came and searched the area. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB)

7. (U) DR CONGO: On 28 April, two robbers armed with long knives boarded a product tanker anchored near position 05:49S - 013:28E, Port Matadi Inner Anchorage. They broke into the forecastle store room. Duty crewman spotted the robbers and notified the duty officer. Alarm was raised and crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. (IMB)

8. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 April, three robbers in a small boat approached and boarded an anchored tanker near position 06:20N - 003:20E, Lagos Anchorage. Duty crewman on routine rounds noticed the robbers near the cargo tank and notified the duty officer. Alarm was raised, PA announcement was made, and crew was mustered. Hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers jumped overboard along with their hose and escaped in their boat. The incident was reported to a naval patrol boat. Nothing reported stolen.

9. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 April, armed men boarded the tanker APECUS in the Bonny Outer Anchorage. Six crewmen were kidnapped and the pirates escaped. Nigerian Navy has been notified and are investigating. Further details are awaited. (IMB; www.gcaptain.com)

10. (U) NIGERIA: On 18 April, authorities announced they had arrested nine people for the illegal possession of firearms in Nigerian waters. The nine suspects, thought to be part of a maritime security detail, were arrested during a joint operation called Junction Rain, a combined maritime law enforcement operation involving the U.S. Coast Guard and Navy in support of African Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership. The Nigerian Navy claims the vessel was in Nigerian waters, however, the maritime security company maintains the vessel was in international waters at the time and that all weapons were licensed. West African media reports that the suspects are comprised of three Greek nationals, an American and five Nigerians. A Nigerian Navy official told local media that the suspect's boat was boarded after the captain apparently lied about how many people were onboard. Upon boarding the vessel, the boarding team discovered that there were more people onboard and a subsequent search of the vessel turned up weapons, including four semi-automatic rifles, as well as ammunition and other military-style gear. (www.gcaptain.com; www.defencweb.co.za)

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

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

1. (U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: On 12 May, United Arab Emirates officials said that four commercial vessels were sabotaged at Fujairah anchorage, one of the world's largest bunkering hubs lying just outside the Strait of Hormuz, but did not describe the nature of the attack or say who was behind it. Authorities in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore have now identified all four ships. Two of the tankers, AMJAD and AL MARZOQAH, are flagged in Saudi Arabia, while a third vessel, A. MICHEL is a fuel bunkering ship and registered in Sharjah, one of the seven emirates that make up the UAE. The last vessel, the ANDREA VICTORY, is a Norway-flagged tanker. (www.gcaptain.com; www.marinelink.com;

www.fleetmon.com; www.thedrive.com; www.lss-sapu.com)

2. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 3 May, the Seychelles-flagged fishing support ship HAIZEA LAU reported being approached by suspected pirates off the coast of Somalia. The vessel managed to flee at full speed from a skiff manned by a group of presumed pirates. The pirates could not keep up, which meant that the private security agents of the HAIZEA LAU did not have to fire warning shots. (www.insurancemarineneews.com)

3. (U) OMAN: On 30 April, police officers arrested 12 foreign nationals and seized a ship and two smaller vessels used to smuggle 30,000 liters of diesel fuel off the coast of Ras Qabar Hindi, Musandam governorate. (www.pvilttd.com)

4. (U) SRI LANKA: On 22 April, the Sri Lanka Navy seized 275 kilograms of heroin from a boat off the Trincomalee coast. The Navy took into custody five suspected smugglers along with the contraband. (www.dailynews.lk)

5. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 21 April, fishing vessels ADRIA (South Korea-flagged) and TXORI ARGI (Spain-flagged) were involved in a suspected piracy incident near position 00:29S - 048:36E, 240 nm southeast of Mogadishu, Somalia. Pirates approached one of the vessels and fired upon the second vessel as it came to assist the first. The pirates were likely thwarted due to the use of Best Management Practices and the presence of armed embarked security teams (AESTs) on both fishing vessels. That same day, a Taiwan-flagged fishing vessel, SHIN SHUEN FAR 889, also reported being approached by two skiffs, which departed the area when the AEST showed their weapons. The pirates involved in these incidents might have used a mothership which was seized by armed men on 19 April off the central Somali coast. On 21 April, EU NAVFOR dispatched its Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft to search the area and identified a suspected mothership. On 23 April, ESPS NAVARRA successfully intercepted and boarded the dhow F/V AL AZHAM which was being used as a pirate mothership. (IMB; EU NAVFOR; UKMTO)

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

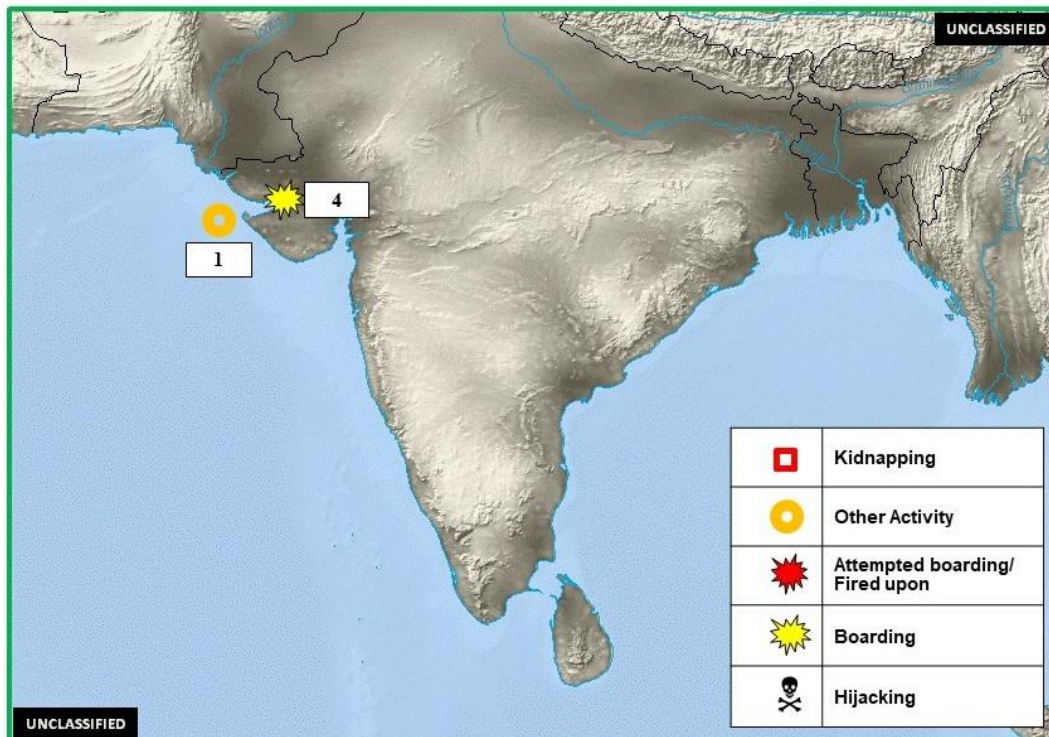


Figure 4. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

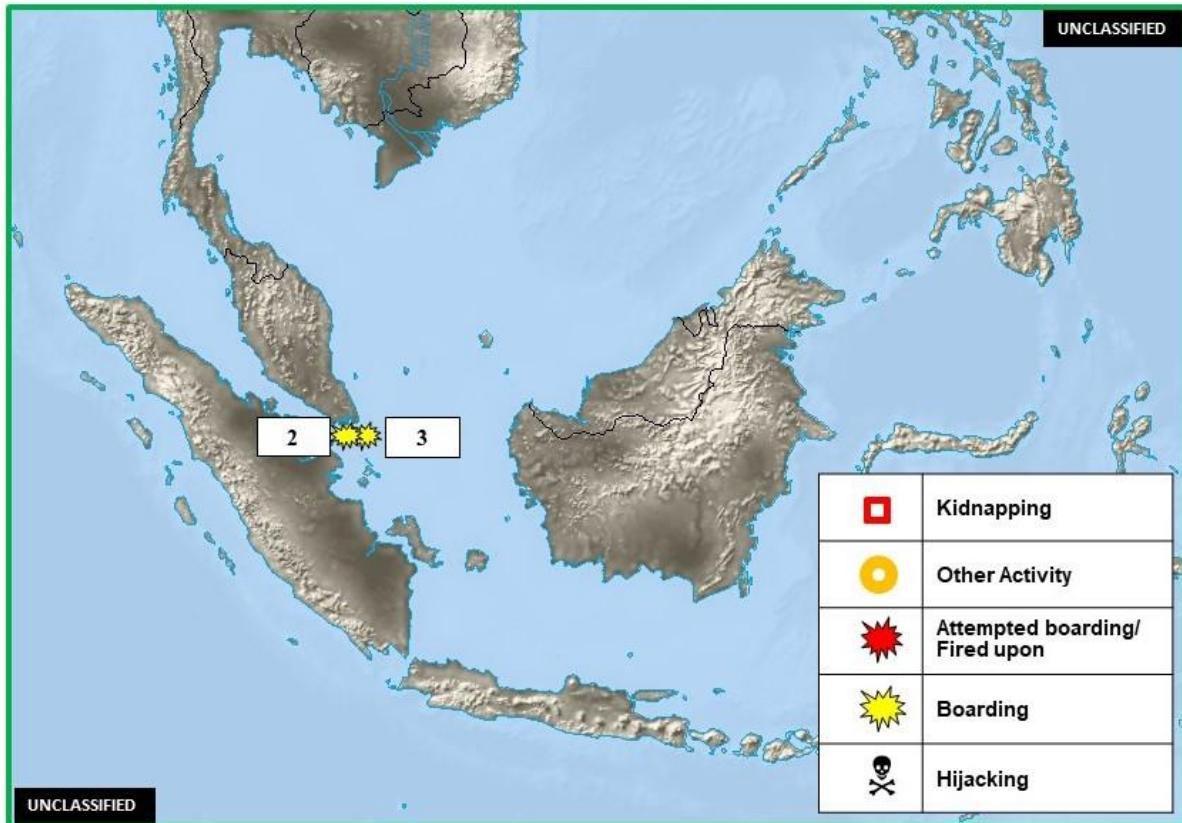


Figure 5. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDIA: On 21 May, units from the India Coast Guard apprehended a Pakistan-flagged fishing vessel off Gujarat, on the western coast, and seized 200 kilograms of heroin. (www.fis.com)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 18 May, the master of the Niue-flagged tug boat BARLIAN T1201 reported to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) via VHF that six perpetrators had boarded his barge from a small boat near position 01:13N - 103:32E, 3.3 nm southeast off Tanjung Piai, Malaysia. The master later reported that the perpetrators had left the barge with some tools stolen from the barge. The tug boat and barge continued their voyage to Port Klang, Malaysia. (ReCAAP)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 May, four robbers armed with long knives boarded a general cargo ship underway near position 01:00N - 104:54E, 4 nm east of Pulau Mapur. They took hostage a duty crewman and entered into the master's cabin. They tied up the crewman and the master, and escaped with their personal cash and effects. (IMB)

4. (U) INDIA: On 9 May, seven unarmed perpetrators boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker ARIONAS from a small boat near position 22:46N - 070:02E, Deendayal Port (Kandla) Outer Anchorage. They stole two cargo reducers from the amidships starboard-side manifold area. The Master raised the alarm, sounded the ship's whistle, mustered the crew and reported the incident to the ship's agent, Marine Police, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Kandla port authority. The crew was not injured. (ReCAAP)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 May, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier unnoticed and escaped with engine spare parts. The ship was anchored near position 01:42N - 101:26E, Lubuk Gaung Anchorage, Dumai Port. The third engineer noticed the robbery when he went to the engine room and found the spare parts room broken into. Alarm raised and a search was carried out. (IMB)

6. (U) PACIFIC OCEAN: On 10 May, unidentified persons in a speedboat approached and closed onto a bulk carrier underway near position 07:40N - 128:29E, 115 nm east of Baganga, Philippines. Alarm was raised, crew was mustered and fire hoses pressurized. The persons were observed to be shouting towards the ship while holding steel hooks. After 30 minutes of chasing, the boat aborted and moved away. The ship resumed her passage. (IMB)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 27 April, two robbers boarded a berthed container ship in the Jakarta Container Terminal. Duty oiler on routine rounds noticed the robbers in the engine room and raised the alarm. Hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped empty-handed. A search was made throughout the ship. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 24 Apr, the Cyprus-flagged tug boat UNION TOPAZ towing the backhoe dredger MAGNOR was underway near position 01:11N - 103:34E, approximately 5 nm west-northwest of Nipa Island, Indonesia, when two perpetrators boarded the dredger. Two wooden boats were sighted alongside the backhoe dredger. The master shone a large light at the backhoe dredger, and the two perpetrators escaped via the wooden boats. The crew was safe and no items were reported stolen. The pilot onboard the tug boat reported the incident to Singapore's authorities who initiated the safety navigational broadcast and notified the Singapore Police Coast Guard and Indonesian authorities. (ReCAAP: www.pvilttd.com)

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

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

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

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 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) 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
- DNK Intelligence & Operations Centre (DNK IOC)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Lloyd's
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S.
- Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)
- Marine Domain Awareness for Trade - Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG)
- Maritime Asset Security and Training (MAST) Ltd
- 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: 22 May 2019

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