

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 23 March – 20 April 2022**



20 April 2022

(U) **Table of Contents:**

1. (U) **Scope Note**
2. (U) **Warnings and Advisories**
3. (U) **Summary**
4. (U) **Details: Monthly Incidents by Region**
5. (U) **Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends**
6. (U) **Appendix B: Definitions and Sourcing**
7. (U) **Appendix C: Active MARAD Advisories**

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 warnings or advisories issued this week. See Appendix C for active advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) SINGAPORE: On 19 April, the Singapore Police Coast Guard arrested nine robbers onboard a barge being towed by a tugboat in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

B. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 18 April, an unknown number of robbers boarded a container ship anchored in General Santos Anchorage.

C. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 April, a robber boarded a tanker underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

D. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 12 April, crew members from three general cargo vessels berthed at the port of Mariupol were taken off the ships by Russian forces.

UNCLASSIFIED

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: No current incidents to report.

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

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC:

1. (U) GERMANY: On 23 March, a group of 20 protesters onboard rubber boats, and swimming in the water with lifejackets, swarmed the Malta-flagged tanker STAMOS while underway transiting from Ust-Luga, Russia, to Rotterdam, Netherlands, near position 54:33N – 011:12E. According to press reports, these environmental activists were protesting against oil imports from Russia. The group painted the hull of the STAMOS with “Oil Fuel Wars” in large letters, demanding the suspension of oil transport from the Baltic Sea to western European ports. (Bietegheimer Zeitung; vesseltracker.com)

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA:



Figure 1. Mediterranean – Black Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 12 April, crew members of three general cargo ships (Jamaica-flagged LADY AUGUSTA, Panama-flagged BLUE STAR I, and Malta-flagged AZOV CONCORD), berthed at the port of Mariupol, were taken off the ships by Russian forces. According to press reports, the ships have been in the port since 24 February. The crew members of the three vessels were reportedly taken to an undisclosed location. (Fleetmon; TradeWinds; CMIO; TASS; tsn.ua; The Press United)
2. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 11 April, crew members from the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier SMARTA were detained by the Russian military while berthed at the port of Mariupol. According to press reports, all 19 crew members (18 Ukrainians and one Egyptian) as well as the captain's wife were detained and taken to an undisclosed location. (Fleetmon; Maritime Executive; Splash247)
3. (U) UKRAINE: On 11 April, the Ukraine-flagged seagoing tug SAPFIR arrived in the port of Izmayil, Ukraine after being released by the Russian Navy. The Russian Navy previously intercepted and detained the SAPFIR in the vicinity of Snake Island. According to press reports, the vessel's crew members were released on 25 March. (The Odessa Journal; vesseltracker.com)
4. (U) SEA OF AZOV: On 8 April, at 2253 local time, the Malta-flagged general cargo ship APACHE was fired upon by Russian Navy and Coast Guard vessels while underway, after deviating from a convoy transiting from Taganrog Bay, eastern Sea of Azov, to the Kerch Strait. According to press reports, the vessel was in a convoy when she deviated her course towards Mariupol and was ordered by the Russian Navy to return to the convoy. After not

complying, the Russian Navy and Coast Guard fired upon the vessel, which was struck on her stern. The master of the vessel then contacted the Russian Navy and Coast Guard to cease firing and agreed to rejoin the convoy. According to the Russian military, there were no casualties nor injuries to the crew members, and the vessel was escorted to the port of Yeysk, on the Sea of Azov, for investigation. (Fleetmon; Maritime Executive)

5. (U) UKRAINE: On 7 or 8 April, the Ukraine-flagged ice breaker KAPITAN BELOUSOV was fired upon while berthed at the port of Mariupol. According to press reports, one of the crew members was killed and several were injured during the attack. There is no further information available. (Fleetmon; frontnews.eu; The Observatorial)

6. (U) UKRAINE: On 4 April, at 2240 local time, the Dominica-flagged general cargo ship AZBURG was shelled or struck by missiles while berthed at the port of Mariupol. Reports indicate the attack destroyed the ship's bridge and hit the ship's engine room, causing the ship to take on water. The captain ordered the crew to abandon ship. Ukraine's maritime border guard assisted the wounded and evacuated the crew to safety. One of the 12 crew members was reported injured. (Fleetmon; Maritime Executive; Clearwater Dynamics)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:

1 (U) GHANA: On 13 April, at 0400 local time, a robber boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier MARGRET OLDENDORFF, anchored in Takoradi Anchorage. The duty crew member spotted the robber and raised the alarm, after which the perpetrator escaped with four stolen buckets of marine paint. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; IMB; MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 3 April, at 1848 local time, an unknown number of pirates boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier ARCH GABRIEL while underway approximately 275 NM south of Lome, Togo, near position 01:31N – 001:30E. After alerting the authorities, all crew members took refuge in the vessel's citadel. According to press reports, the Italian Navy frigate LUIGI RIZZO, which was approximately 280 NM from the drifting bulk carrier, responded to the distress signal sent by the vessel. On 4 April, a helicopter was dispatched from the frigate and contacted the crew members who were safely sheltered in the citadel. After the frigate arrived in the area, a team of Italian Navy Special Forces boarded and searched the bulk carrier, and confirmed that all pirates had fled the vessel. The crew members were released from the citadel, and all were reported safe. The frigate escorted the vessel into an anchorage area. (Maritime Executive; MDAT-GoG; Dryad Global; Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)

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

H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN – EAST AFRICA – RED SEA: No current incidents to report.

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



Figure 2. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SINGAPORE: On 19 April, at 2230 local time, the Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) arrested nine robbers who had boarded a barge towed by a tug boat in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), in the vicinity of Kusu Island near position 01:13N – 103:53E. The PCG spotted a suspicious sampan alongside the barge and conducted an investigation, which led to the arrest of eight perpetrators onboard the barge as well as one of the tug boat crew members who had colluded with the robbers. (Singapore Police Force; The Straits Times; CNA; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 18 April, at 0305 local time, an unknown number of robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged container ship KOTA HAPAS, anchored in General Santos Anchorage, near position 06:05N – 125:09E. The perpetrators escaped empty-handed and the incident was reported to the local authorities. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 April, at 0442 local time, a robber boarded the Malta-flagged tanker MEGALI underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:14N – 103:58E. The perpetrator was sighted at the engine room entrance. The alarm was raised and a search was conducted. It was reported that the ship and all crew members were safe and nothing was stolen. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 April, three unauthorized personnel boarded the Singapore-flagged bulk carrier SILOSO, anchored in Jakarta Anchorage, near position 06:00S – 106:54E. The duty crew members sighted the three

perpetrators and raised the alarm. The crew mustered, conducted a search, and discovered that nothing was stolen. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 3 April, at 0030 local time, five robbers boarded the Japan-flagged vehicle carrier PROCYON LEADER, anchored in Batangas Anchorage, near position 13:45N – 121:01E. The perpetrators climbed the anchor chain and managed to board through the gap on the secured hawse pipe of the vessel. After spotting the robbers, the duty crew alerted the bridge. The master raised the alarm, and the crew mustered. The robbers escaped with stolen ship's properties upon hearing the alarm. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; ReCAAP)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 31 March, at 0600 local time, six to seven robbers armed with knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier PACIFIC WEST while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:15E. The perpetrators restrained one of the crew members in the engine room. The crew member managed to free himself, and reported the incident to the chief engineer. The alarm was raised and the robbers escaped with stolen engine spare parts. The ship and all crew were reported safe. The vessel did not require assistance and continued her voyage. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 March, at 0420 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded the Singapore-flagged bulk carrier LAMPARD, anchored in Belawan Anchorage, near position 03:55N – 098:46E. The duty crew member first discovered the three robbers and raised the alarm, after which the crew mustered. After hearing the alarm, the perpetrators escaped with stolen ship's property. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

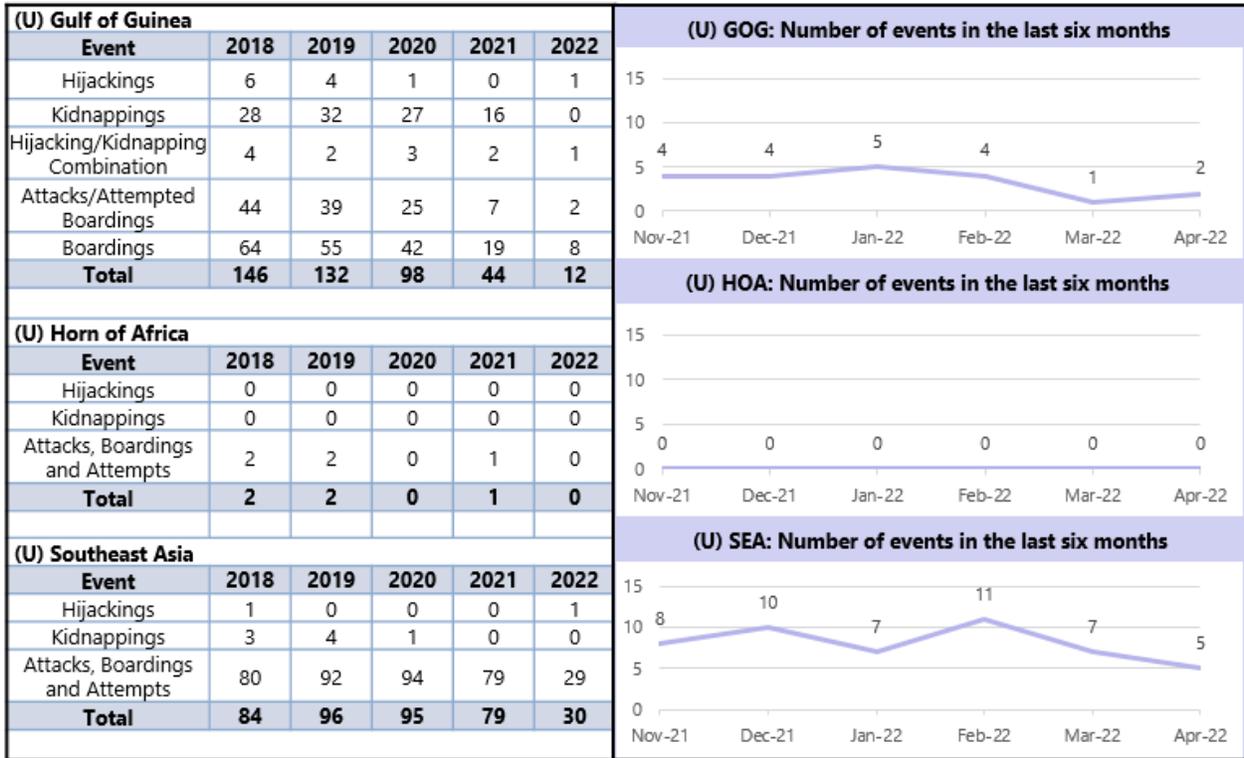
J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 9 April, at 1400 local time, an unknown number of robbers boarded the Malta-flagged bulk carrier TAIZHOU PIONEER anchored at Chittagong Anchorage, near position 22:13N – 091:44E. The robbers escaped unnoticed with an engine stolen from a fast rescue boat. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)

2. (U) INDIA: On 8 April, at 2300 local time, an unknown number of robbers attempted to board the Saint Kitts and Nevis-flagged semi-submersible platform VEGA under tow by the Singapore-flagged anchor handling tug POSH OSPREY in the Gulf of Khambhat, near position 21:28N – 072:22E. The authorities reported that the vessel and all crew were safe. The vessel did not require assistance and continued her voyage. (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.

7. (U) Appendix C: Active MARAD Advisories

Title	Effective Date	Expiration Date
2022-005-Various-GPS Interference & AIS Spoofing	14 MAR 22	10 SEP 22
2022-004-Black Sea and Sea of Azov-Military Combat Operations	8 MAR 22	4 SEP 22
2022-003-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Western Indian Ocean-Threats to Commercial Vessels	28 FEB 22	27 AUG 22
2022-001-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	4 JAN 22	3 JUL 22
2021-011-Global-Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System	17 DEC 21	15 JUN 22

(U) **ICOD:** 20 April 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/>