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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 20 April – 18 May 2022**



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

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) **YEMEN:** On 19 May, at 1100 local time, there were three unsuccessful boarding attempts against an underway sailing vessel approximately 32 NM southwest of Al Hudaydah.

B. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 17 May, an unknown number of robbers boarded a container vessel anchored in Jakarta Anchorage.

C. (U) **GULF OF ADEN:** On 17 May, an underway tanker reported a suspicious approach by two skiffs approximately 65 NM south of Aden, Yemen.

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

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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:

1. (U) BRAZIL: On 26 April, at 0400 local time, three robbers boarded The Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier AZZURA anchored at Macapa Anchorage, near position 00:04S – 051:06W. The duty crew member spotted the robbers. The alarm was raised, and the crew mustered, after which the perpetrators escaped empty-handed. (Clearwater Dynamics)

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

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC:

1. (U) NORWAY: On the morning of 25 April, a group of protesters onboard small boats and kayaks came alongside the Hong Kong-flagged tanker UST LUGA while anchored at Skagerrak, near position 59:19N – 010:30E. According to press reports, the group was protesting against oil imports from Russia. Activists onboard one of the small boats chained themselves to the ship's anchor chain to prevent the ship from raising its anchor, while others in kayaks unfurled banners reading "oil fuels war". The vessel was loaded with 95,000 tons of crude oil from the port of Ust-Luga, Russia. The local police and coast guard came to monitor the situation. Reports indicate that the vessel later berthed at the port of Slagen at 1800 local time the same day. (vesseltracker.com; Agence France-Press; Times Malta)

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA:

1. (U) UKRAINE: On 3 May, the Singapore-flagged tanker MTM RIO GRANDE was struck by a shell while berthed at the port of Nika-Tera, Mykolayiv. According to press reports, the vessel was indirectly hit during Russian shelling of the port. The vessel has been in the port, where it was scheduled to load sunflower oil, since 24 February; the ship has been unable to load cargo or leave as a result of the war in Ukraine. According to earlier press reports, the vessel's crew were evacuated prior to 12 March. (vesseltracker.com; Ukrainian Shipping Magazine)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:

1. (U) DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: On 6 May, at 2030 local time, three robbers boarded a general cargo ship berthed in the port of Matadi, near position 05:50S – 013:25E. The robbers escaped with stolen ship's properties. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: On 2 May, at 0233 local time, a small boat with two people onboard approached a hydrographic vessel anchored at Pointe Noire Anchorage, near position 04:45S – 011:49E. The suspicious individuals were casting their flashlights on the vessel, and came within 100 meters when they were noticed by the security team onboard. After being spotted, the two people left the area. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) BENIN: On 3 May, 1730 local time, the underway Panama-flagged tanker KAMOME VICTORIA was reported boarded 55 NM south of Cotonou near position 05:26N – 002:15E. It was later confirmed that the ship had not been boarded by pirates. Press reporting suggests that the incident may have been linked to a Nigerian Navy operation. The vessel continued her voyage after the incident. (vesseltracker.com; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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



Figure 1. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) YEMEN: On 19 May, at 1100 local time, there were three unsuccessful boarding attempts against an underway sailing vessel approximately 32 NM southwest of Al Hudaydah, near position 14:19N – 042:42E. Three small boats were in close proximity during the incident. The vessel and crew were reported safe and sailed away from the area. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Dryad Global; Maritime Executive; vesseltracker.com).

2. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 17 May, at 1950 local time, an underway tanker reported a suspicious approach by two skiffs approximately 65 NM south of Aden, Yemen, near position 11:51N – 045:03E. The tanker executed evasive maneuvers and eventually the two skiffs left the area. The two skiffs reportedly approached to within 100 meters. The vessel and crew were reported safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Dryad Global)

3. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 5 May, 0630 local time, an underway tanker reported a suspicious approach by two small boats each with four persons onboard, approximately 335 NM east of Socotra, Yemen, near position 13:19N – 060:14E. The two small boats approached to within a half NM of the tanker while a larger vessel and small crafts

were also seen nearby. The tanker increased her speed and the small boats eventually left the area. The crew were reported safe and the tanker continued her voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Dryad Global).

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



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

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 May, at 2215 local time, an unknown number of robbers boarded a container vessel anchored in Jakarta Anchorage, near position 06:01S – 106:55E. The duty officer sighted an unlit small boat at the ship's astern, and at the same time, the steering room door alarm went off. The general alarm was raised, the crew mustered, and the vessel was searched. According to reports, the perpetrators escaped empty-handed. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. INDONESIA: On 12 May, at 0118 local time, three robbers boarded the Cameroon-flagged tanker PELICAN underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:10N – 103:25E. The robbers escaped after being discovered in the ship's engine room. It was reported that nothing was stolen, all crew were safe, and the vessel continued her voyage. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

3. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 28 April, at 0345 local time, three robbers boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker SEXTANS anchored in Batangas Anchorage, near position 13:43N – 121:02E. The duty crew sighted the robbers in the forecandle deck. The alarm was raised, and the crew mustered. The perpetrators escaped with stolen buckets of grease, a bundle of rope, and hatch butterfly nuts. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

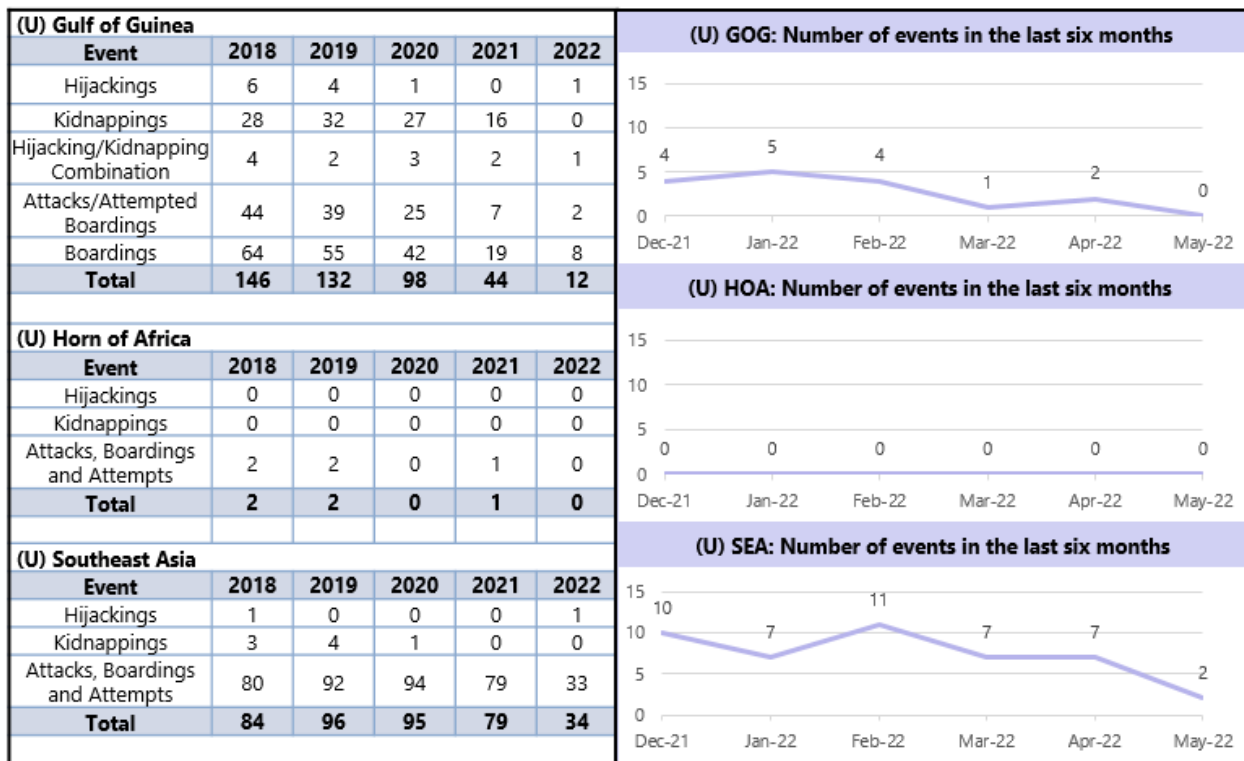
4. (U) INDONESIA: On 27 April, at 0226 local time, a robber was spotted in the engine room of the Panama-flagged-bulk carrier LADY FLORA underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:17E. It was reported that the ship and all crew members were safe and nothing was stolen. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 26 April, at 0001 local time, a group of robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged tanker STI MAGISTER anchored in the outer Chittagong Anchorage near position 22:13N – 091:43E. The duty officer sighted four robbers on the forecastle deck through the vessel’s closed circuit television system. The duty officer raised the alarm and the crew mustered. After the alarm was sounded, three more robbers were seen exiting the forecastle store. Subsequently, crew members saw about eight robbers escaping into a small boat. The vessel was searched, and the forecastle store door lock was found breached and a set of accommodation ladder wire rope was missing. The incident was reported to the local authorities and the coast guard boarded the vessel to conduct an investigation. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; 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:** 18 May 2022

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