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## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 17 August – 14 September 2022**

14 September 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:**

#### **A. (U) U.S. Maritime Advisory 2022-010-Various-GPS Interference & AIS Spoofing.**

Issued on: 9 September 2022. This advisory cancels and updates U.S. Maritime Advisory 2022-005. Issue: Instances of significant GPS interference have been reported worldwide in the maritime domain. This interference can result in lost or inaccurate GPS signals affecting bridge navigation, GPS-based timing, and communications equipment (include satellite communications equipment). Over the last six months, areas from which multiple instances have been reported include the eastern and central Mediterranean Sea, Persian Gulf, and the Red Sea. The U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center (NAVCEN) web page, <https://navcen.uscg.gov/gps-problem-report-status>, contains a chronological list of recently reported GPS problems. Additionally, Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) are open, unencrypted, and unprotected radio systems intended to operate on non-secure VHF-FM channels. As such, AIS signals can be spoofed, resulting in incorrect or missing AIS data. For more information about U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories, including subscription details, please visit <https://maritime.dot.gov/msci/maritime-security-communications-industry-msci-web-portal>. The NAVCEN and NATO Shipping Center websites contain information regarding effective navigation practices for vessels experiencing GPS interference. The NAVCEN

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information is available at <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2017/09/21/9212017-good-navigation-practices-how-one-vessel-master-managed-safe-navigation-during-a-gps-outage/>. NATO Shipping Center information is available at <https://shipping.nato.int/nsc/page10303037>. This advisory will automatically expire on 8 March 2023.

### **3. (U) Summary:**

**A. (U) GUINEA:** On 14 September, five armed robbers boarded an anchored general cargo ship at Conakry Anchorage. The robbers stole ship's equipment and damaged external doors and navigation equipment.

**B. (U) EGYPT:** On 7 September, two perpetrators attempted to board an anchored United States-flagged container ship via the anchor chain at the Southern Anchorage of the Suez Canal. After illumination by a searchlight, the perpetrators escaped empty-handed.

**C. (U) MEXICO:** On 7 September, robbers boarded an oil platform in the southern Gulf of Mexico, approximately 14 NM north off the coast of Campeche State.

### **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 past 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:**



(U) Figure 1. North America Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) MEXICO: On 7 September at 1930 local time, robbers boarded an oil platform in the southern Gulf of Mexico's Bay of Campeche, approximately 14 NM northwest of Campeche port, near position 19:58N – 090:44W. After maintenance personnel had departed the platform, the marine control center for the oil company was made aware of robbers, on two small boats, gaining access onto the platform and stealing equipment. Mexico's Marine Secretariat (Secretary of the Navy) was alerted and a security vessel was dispatched to the location. The security vessel interdicted and detained a boat with six persons onboard, however, there was no evidence that the boat or persons onboard had been involved in the robbery. The security vessel then released the boat and six persons. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) MEXICO: On 10 August, at 2040 local time, the crew of an underway offshore supply vessel (OSV), while approximately 7 NM north of Puerto Dos Boscas in the Bay of Campeche, observed perpetrators approaching on a speedboat from behind an oil platform. The ship raised the alarm and made a distress call on VHF Ch 16. Three other vessels operating nearby intervened by approaching and using their searchlights, which caused the speedboat to depart without a successful boarding having occurred. (Clearwater Dynamics)

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

1. (U) BRAZIL: On 30 August at 0100 local time, masked robbers armed with knives and a gun boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Macapa Anchorage near position 00:30N – 050:59W. While onboard, the robbers beat and restrained six local security guards and duty crewmembers. The alarm was raised and the master informed port control via VHF. The perpetrators escaped with ship's stores. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

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

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

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

F. (U) **WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:**



(U) Figure 2. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) GUINEA: On 14 September at 0005 UTC, five robbers armed with knives and guns boarded the anchored Antigua and Barbuda-flagged general cargo ship MARTINA at Conakry Anchorage, near position 09:12N – 013:46W. The perpetrators attempted to force their way into interior spaces which resulted in the crew retreating to the citadel. Port control was informed and a security vessel was dispatched. As the security vessel approached the cargo ship, the robbers were observed escaping on a motor-powered boat with stolen items of ship's equipment. The ship reported damage to external doors and navigation equipment. The vessel and crew are safe. (MDAT-GoG; splash247.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 2 September, pirates approached and fired upon a passenger boat while underway from Bille to Port Harcourt in Degema Local Government Area, Rivers State. A spokesperson for the Rivers State police command confirmed one passenger killed and another wounded. (Clearwater Dynamics; Sahara Reporters; The Punch)

3. (U) ANGOLA: On 24 August, at 0420 local time, a robbery occurred on a container ship anchored approximately 7.7 NM west of Soyo, near position 06:07S – 012:12E. Two robbers boarded the ship and escaped with stolen boxes of refrigerated chicken. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics; MDAT-GoG)

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

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



(U) Figure 3. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) EGYPT: On 7 September at 0415 local time, the duty crew of the anchored United States of America-flagged container ship MAERSK COLUMBUS noticed two perpetrators attempting to board via the anchor chain in position 29:49N – 032:34E at the Southern Anchorage of the Suez Canal. The duty crew directed a searchlight towards them, which resulted in the perpetrators escaping empty-handed. (IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

**I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:**

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 7 September at 2325 local time, ten wooden boats were sighted alongside the barge SUNG FATT 36 towed by Malaysia-flagged tugboat SUNG FATT 31 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:12N – 103:32E. Due to length of towline and hour of darkness, the master and crew aboard the tugboat were not able to determine the number of perpetrators onboard the barge. The master reported robbers stole scrap metal from barge, the crew was not injured, and that no assistance was requested. The tug continued its voyage towing the barge to Penang, Malaysia. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 September at 0045 local time, three robbers boarded an underway Singapore-flagged bulk carrier in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS. The perpetrators stole generator parts before their

escape. The master informed port operations control center that the crew was safe and no assistance was necessary. The vessel continued its voyage to China. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 31 August, robbers boarded the berthed Singapore-flagged vehicle carrier NORD ADRIATIC at Batangas Port between 0730 and 2130 local time. The duty crew discovered the robbery while carrying out routine rounds and confirmed that ship's properties had been stolen. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 August, at 0402 local time, the duty crew sighted three robbers, armed with hammer, knife, and metal rod close to the engine room on the underway Bangladesh-flagged bulk carrier MEGHNA LIBERTY, approximately 5.4 NM east of Little Karimun Island, near position 01:07N – 103:30E. Upon hearing the ship's alarm, the perpetrators made their escape. Nothing was reported stolen and the crew are safe. The vessel did not require assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

5. (U) MALAYSIA: On 26 August, at 1928 local time, fifteen perpetrators in eight sampans approached and boarded a barge towed by the underway Singapore-flagged tugboat HK TUG 9, while in transit along the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:17N – 104:20E. The captain reported the boarding to local authorities and a Singapore police coast guard craft deployed to the incident. The crew are reported as safe. (vesselfinder.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

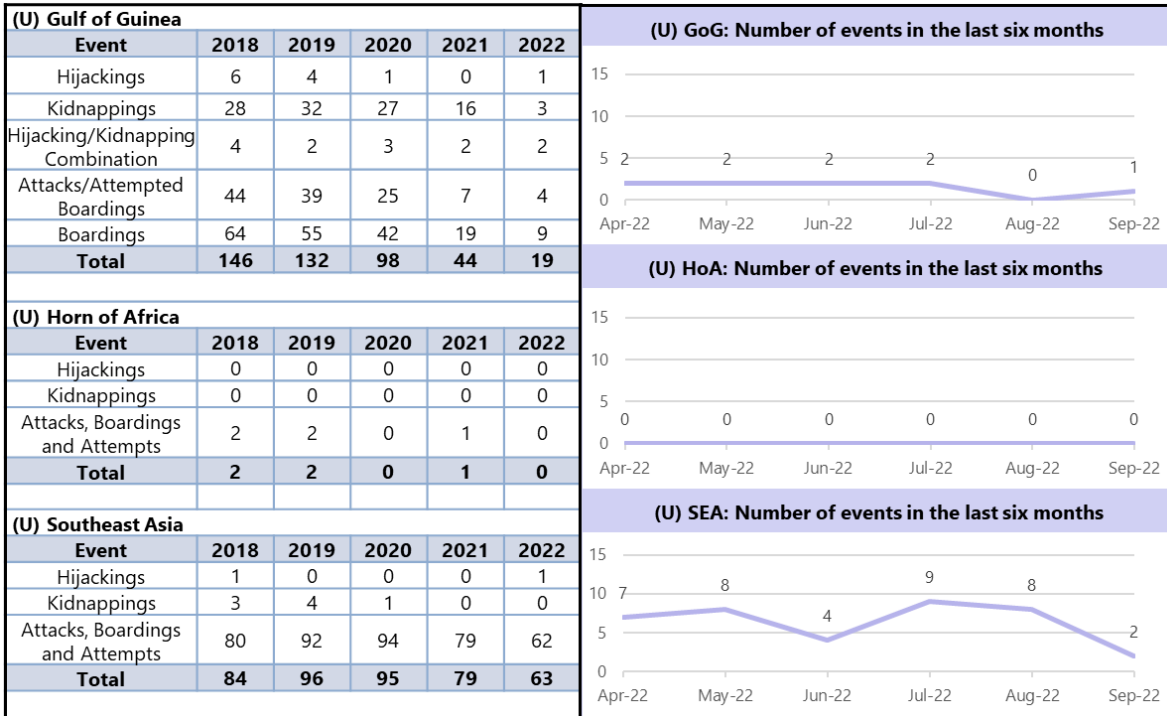
6. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 August, armed assailants boarded a fishing vessel likely within territorial waters in the Berhala Strait off the east coast of central Sumatra near Lambur Luar (01:36S – 103:56E) in Jambi Province . The perpetrators stole crew's valuables, their catch, as well as the fishing vessel's battery and gearbox, leaving it adrift. Another fishing boat passed by and was able to pull the victim's vessel to a safe port. (Indonesia Maritime Information Centre)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 August, at 0445 local time, two robbers armed with knives boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier NORD AQUARIUS anchored at Belawan Anchorage, near position 03:56N – 098.47E. The duty crew noticed the perpetrators near the forecastle store and immediately notified the duty officer. The alarm was raised, a PA announcement was made, and the crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's properties. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; vesseltracker.com)

J. (U) **INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:** No current incidents to report.

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 crewmembers 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 U.S. Maritime Advisories**

Title	Effective Date	Expiration Date
<a href="#">2022-005-Various-GPS Interference &amp; AIS Spoofing</a>	9 SEP 22	8 MAR 23
<a href="#">2022-009-Black Sea and Sea of Azov-Military Combat Operations</a>	4 SEP 22	3 MAR 23
<a href="#">2022-008-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Western Indian Ocean-Threat to Commercial Vessels</a>	30 AUG 22	26 FEB 23
<a href="#">2022-007-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom</a>	6 JUL 22	2 JAN 23
<a href="#">2022-006-Global-Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System</a>	15 JUN 22	12 DEC 22

(U) **ICOD:** 14 September 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/>