(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 22 May–26 June 2019

27 June 2019

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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:

1. (U) No current incidents to report.

3. (U) Summary

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 24 June, the chieftain of notorious "Fakir Bahini" pirate gang was killed in a gunfight.
2. (U) GREECE: On 22 June, Greek Coast Guard forces in Piraeus removed nine stowaways that were found inside a shipping container.
3. (U) BANGLADESH: On 22 June, three soldiers were killed with another injured in a rocket attack on an anchored Myanmar Army tugboat in Sittway, Rakhine State.
4. (U) MALAYSIA: UPDATE - On 21 June, Abu Sayyaf gunmen released kidnapped fishermen.
5. (U) RUSSIA: On 10 June, customs officials in the Port of St. Petersburg seized 400 kilograms of cocaine.

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

1. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for June and July 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: Email: hqt-info-piracy@mlit.go.jp (MSCHOA)
2. (U) GULF OF ADEN: China Navy convoy schedule for June 2019. For further information, please email: planavy@navy.mil.cn (MSCHOA)
3. (U) GULF OF ADEN: South Korea Navy convoy schedule for June and July 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 at the Escort Task Group CCC: 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 past 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 17 June, U.S. authorities seized 15,000 kilograms of cocaine hidden in shipping containers aboard the Liberia-flagged container ship MSC GAYANE, arriving from the Bahamas.

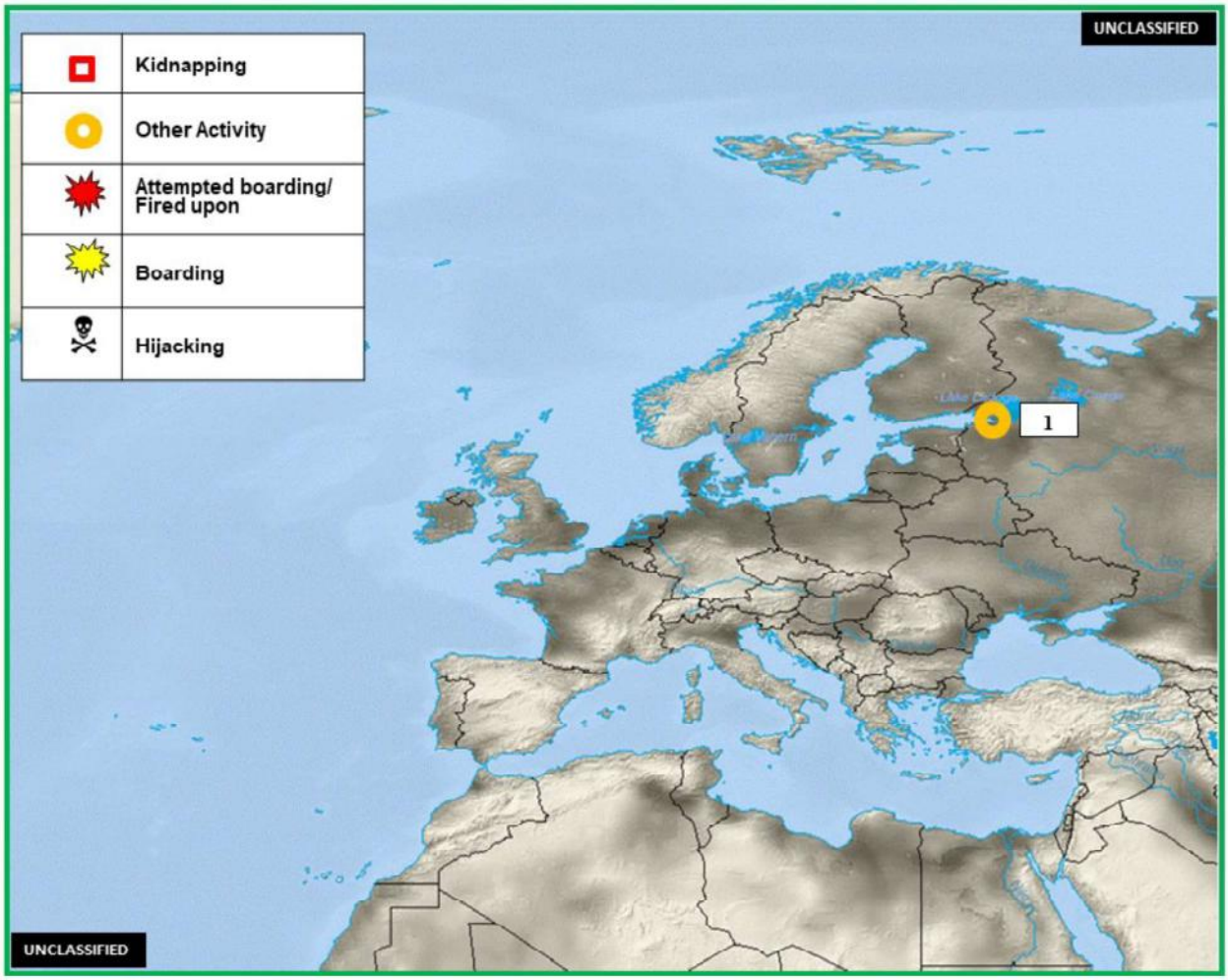
B. **(U) CENTRAL AMERICA - CARIBBEAN - SOUTH AMERICA**:

1. (U) PANAMA: On 3 June, a dinghy and outboard were stolen from a sailing yacht anchored in Linton Bay. A police report was made. The dinghy was found nearby, minus the outboard engine. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
2. (U) BRAZIL: On 31 May, six individuals armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier via the anchor chain near position 00:03N - 050:58W, Macapa Anchorage. A duty crew member on routine rounds spotted the persons and immediately informed the master, who raised the alarm. A PA announcement was made, whistle was blown, and all crew was mustered. A search of the ship was conducted. The ship's crew found the paint storeroom's lock broken and the ship's stores were stolen. (IMB)
3. (U) GRENADA: On 24 May, an unsecured dinghy next to a yacht was stolen in Mt. Hartman Bay. The owner was onboard and found the cut line. A report was made to the Grenada Coast Guard. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
4. (U) GRENADA: On 24 May, a secured catamaran was boarded at night in Mt. Hartman Bay. The owner was not onboard at the time. No further details are available. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

C. **(U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA**:

1. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN: On 4 June, authorities seized more than one ton of cocaine and arrested seven people aboard a Brazilian fishing boat in a drug bust on the high seas off Portugal backed up by international crime agencies. Portuguese police discovered 50 cloth sacks full of cocaine, apparently destined for the continental European market, inside a specially designed, hard-to-access compartment of the fishing vessel, a police statement said. (www.reuters.com)
2. (U) AZORES: On 1 June, Portuguese authorities seized 592 kilograms of cocaine from a sailing yacht in the Port of Horta. The police said that the search of the yacht was the result of an international investigation as part of fighting drug trafficking on the high seas. (www.theportugalnews.com)
3. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN: On 27 May, Spanish tax police boarded the Spain-flagged fishing vessel GURE LEIRE in an area approximately 1,000 NM west of Vigo, Spain. The authorities seized 2,500 kilograms of cocaine. The ship reportedly met another ship in the north Atlantic and transferred the drugs to GURE LEIRE. (www.fis.com)

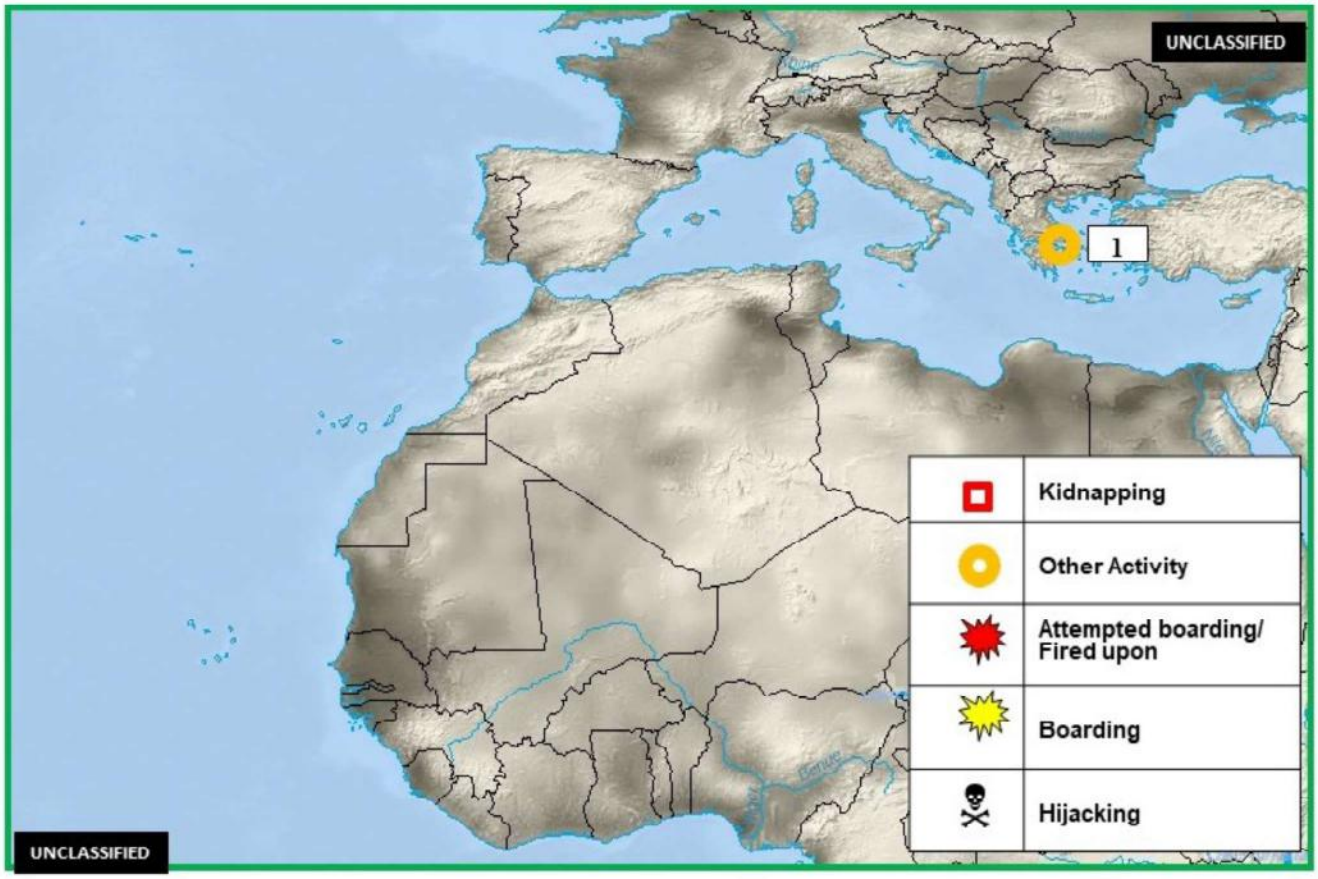
D. **(U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC**:



(U) Figure 1. Northern Europe - Baltic Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) RUSSIA: On 10 June, customs officials in the Port of St. Petersburg seized 400 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a shipment of canned fish coming from Ecuador. (www.seanews.ru)
2. (U) SCOTLAND: During the week of 10 June, activists from an environmental NGO prevented the departure of the Vanuatu-flagged drill rig PAUL B. LOYD JR from the Port of Cromarty Firth, north of Inverness. The activists reportedly climbed aboard the legs of the rig and stayed for a period of several days. Local police intervened and several arrests were made. (www.marinelink.com)
3. (U) RUSSIA: On 10 June, Federal Customs Service officers seized a shipment of 400 kilograms of cocaine hidden among a cargo of canned fish arriving from Ecuador. (www.seanews.ru.en)

E. **(U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA**:



(U) Figure 2. Mediterranean - Black Sea Piracy and Maritime Criime

1. (U) GREECE: On 22 June, Greek Coast Guard forces in Piraeus removed nine stowaways that were found inside a shipping container. The stowaways reportedly snuck aboard the ship in Casablanca, Morocco. (www.fleetmon.com)
2. (U) SPAIN: On 17 June, Spanish authorities boarded the Moldova-flagged general cargo ship ELG in waters northeast of Oran, Algeria. A search of the vessel revealed 10 tons of hashish in 350 bales. The vessel was taken to Cartagena, Spain, for further investigation. ELG had been under surveillance for several months after law enforcement agencies from several countries found her movements suspicious. (www.fleetmon.com)
3. (U) ISRAEL: On 9 June, Israeli naval forces arrested a Turkish man in the Port of Haifa after the man was found to be a stowaway. After his discovery, the man tried to set fire to areas of the ship. The ship, MSC CANBERRA, had arrived from Merin, Turkey. (www.maritime-executive.com; www.fleetmon.com)
4. (U) SPAIN: On 27 May, a joint Spanish and Italian police operation resulted in the seizure of five tons of cocaine at the Port of Barcelona. Police searched three containers from a shipment arriving from Colombia following a tip-off from Colombian authorities. Police arrested six port employees following the initial investigation, seizing cash and encrypted mobile phones during raids. (www.pviltd.com)
5. (U) MOROCCO: On 27 May, the Moroccan Navy patrolling the country's coast rescued 249 migrants from 11 makeshift vessels in a 24-hour period. The migrants were attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea and enter Spanish territory. (www.pviltd.com)
6. (U) MALTA: On 25 May, the Maltese Armed Forces announced that they had rescued 216 migrants from two dinghies in the Mediterranean. The nationality of the migrants was unknown. Good weather conditions have seen a surge

in departures of migrants from Libya, Tunisia, and Algeria, resulting in 12 migrant boats arriving in Sicily, Sardinia, and Lampedusa. (www.pviltd.com)

7. (U) LIBYA: On 24 May, the coast guard rescued 290 migrants during two operations near the capital Tripoli. A coast guard vessel rescued 87 migrants from an inflatable boat off Qarabuli, a town 50 km east of Tripoli. Another group of 203 migrants were rescued from two inflatable boats off Zlitin, a town 160 km east of the capital. (www.pviltd.com)

F. **(U) WEST AFRICA**:

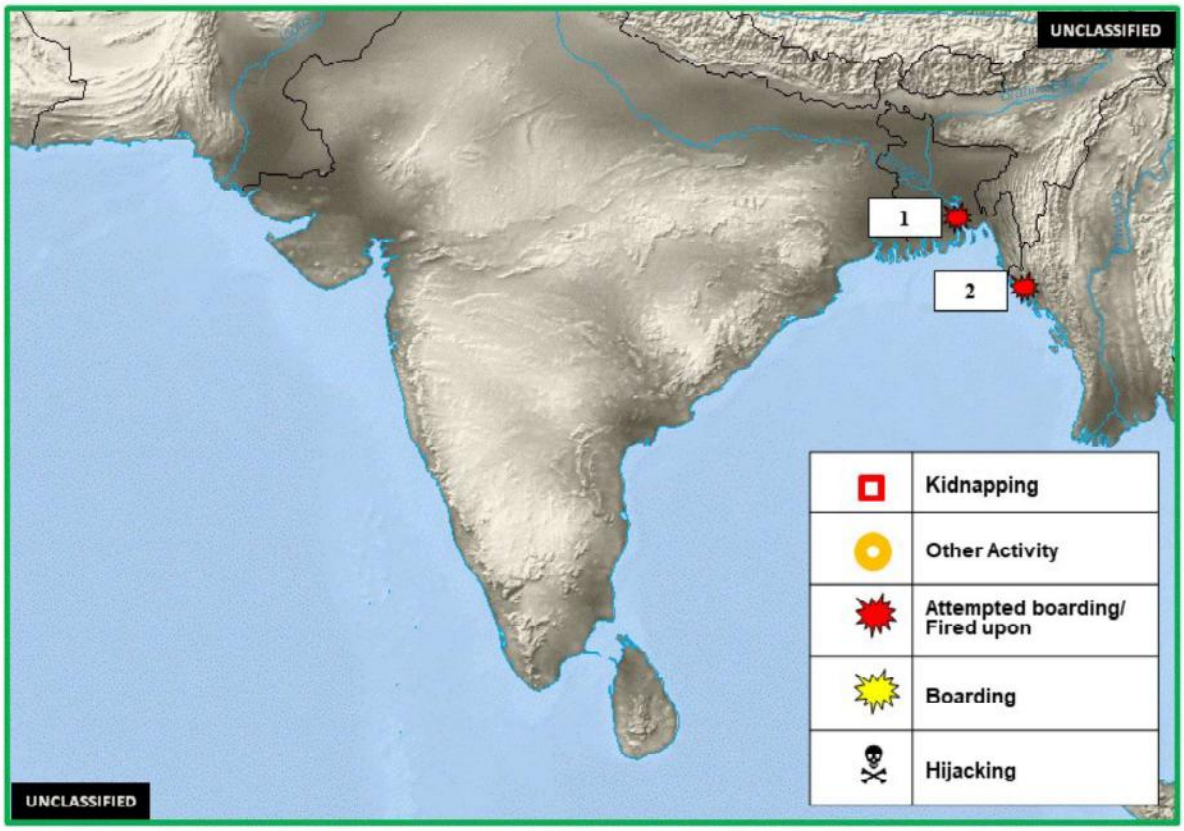
1. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 June, five Port Harcourt-bound passenger-carrying speedboats traveling in a convoy were attacked by heavily armed sea pirates in military camouflage clothing. The gunmen stole personal valuables and two boats, and escaped. (www.sunnewsonline.com)
2. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 June, heavily armed men attacked a Port Harcourt-bound passenger boat travelling in the Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State. They reportedly stole personal valuables and their boat. (www.sunnewsonline.com)

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

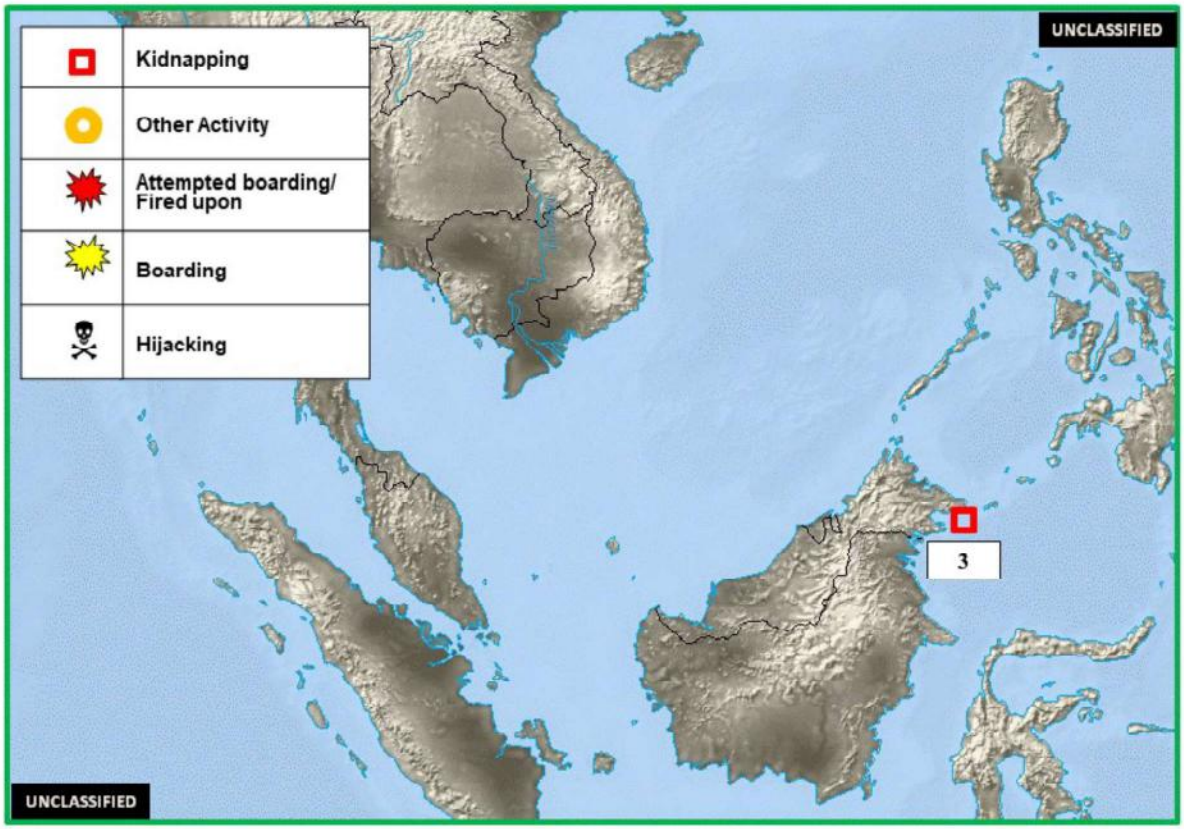
H. **(U) INDIAN OCEAN - EAST AFRICA - RED SEA**:

1. (U) GULF OF OMAN: On 13 June, two tankers reported being attacked in the Gulf of Oman in an area south of Jask, Iran. Marshall Islands-flagged FRONT ALTAIR and Panama-flagged KOKUKA COURAGEOUS suffered exterior explosions resulting in fires. Both ships were reportedly abandoned and the crews rescued by nearby ships. (UKMTO; www.fleetmon.com; www.marinelink.com; www.sguardian.com)
2. (U) MOZAMBIQUE: On 26 May, a duty crewman onboard a cargo ship anchored near position 14:32S - 040:39E, Nacala Inner Anchorage found a store room door with a broken lock. He reported the event to the duty officer who raised the alarm. A search was carried out resulting in foot prints being discovered on the forecastle deck. Ship's stores reported stolen. (IMB)

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



(U) Figure 3. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime



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

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 24 June, the chieftain of notorious "Fakir Bahini" pirate gang was killed in a gunfight with the Special Forces' Rapid Action Battalion in the Subarnachar Upazila of Noakhali district. (www. observerbd.com)
2. (U) BANGLADESH: On 22 June, three soldiers were killed with another injured in a rocket attack on an anchored Myanmar Army tugboat in Sittway, Rakhine State. An insurgent group fired the rockets. (Xinhua)
3. (U) MALAYSIA: UPDATE - On 21 June, Abu Sayyaf gunmen released the kidnapped fishermen after finding that they were Bajau fishermen who had no money to pay for their ransom, Malaysian and Philippine officials said. They were kidnapped on 18 June. (www.globalnation.inquirer.net)
4. (U) MALAYSIA: On 18 June, four fishermen were kidnapped from a Malaysian fishing vessel in Lahad Datu's Tambisan waters while en route to Semporna, Sabah. The hijackers are believed to be linked to Abu Sayyaf and may have fled with the hostages to Sitangkai Island. (www.straitstimes.com; www.globalnation.inquirer.net)
5. (U) MALAYSIA: On 18 June, six fishermen were kidnapped from a Malaysian fishing vessel in Lahad Datu's Tambisan waters while en route to Semporna, Sabah. The hijackers are believed to be linked to Abu Sayyaf and may have fled with the hostages to Sitangkai Island. (www.straitstimes.com; www.globalnation.inquirer.net)
6. (U) VIETNAM: On 12 June, customs authorities in the Port of Hai Phong found 3.5 tons of smuggled ivory and 4 tons of smuggled Pangolin scales hidden in barrels among a cargo of tar. (www.ctvnews.ca)

7. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 9 June, a Chinese fishing vessel collided with F/V GIMVER 1 with 22 Filipino fishermen onboard in the vicinity of Reed Bank, near position 11:34N - 116:49E. After the collision, the Chinese fishing vessel reportedly left the vicinity of the capsized Filipino vessel, according to a police report. "Fortunately, the Filipino crew were rescued by a Vietnamese fishing vessel and later transferred to another Filipino fishing vessel AJ THANKSGIVING and are now in good condition," the report further added. (www.news.mb.com.ph; www.devdiscourse.com)
8. (U) PARACEL ISLANDS: On 2 June, Chinese persons boarded an anchored Vietnamese fishing boat near Triton Island in the Paracel Island group. The Chinese crew then took away two tons of squid. (www.e.vnexpress.net)
9. (U) MALAYSIA: On 31 May, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 01:35N - 104:28E, 13 NM east-northeast of Bandar Penawar, Johor. Several crewmembers saw them and went to investigate. As they arrived, the person threatened them with a knife and escaped with his accomplice who was waiting in a boat. Incident reported to the local authorities. Coast guard boarded the vessel to investigate. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB)
10. (U) MALAYSIA: On 30 May, an unknown number of robbers boarded the barge SINAR JAYA 2912, being towed by Malaysia-flagged tugboat ASIA JAYA 28 near position 01:13N - 103:32E, 3.4 NM southeast of Tanjung Piai. The master of the tugboat reported to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) via VHF that an unknown number of perpetrators had boarded the barge on tow. The perpetrators escaped in a small craft, with some small tools stolen from the barge. (ReCAAP)
11. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 May, a duty watchman on routine rounds onboard an anchored bulk carrier anchored near position 05:59S - 105:57E, D6 Berth, Cigading Port, noticed two robbers in the steering gear room. He immediately informed the duty officer who sounded the ship's whistle and made a PA announcement. A subsequent search of the vessel revealed the steering gear room's lock was broken and ship's engine spares stolen. (IMB)
12. (U) VIETNAM: On 24 May, authorities seized 5.26 tons of pangolin scales at Cai Mep Port. The scales were hidden in two cashew nut containers coming from Nigeria. (www.pviltd.com)
13. (U) INDONESIA: On 23 May, seven individuals armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 03:43S - 114:26E, Taboneo Anchorage. When the duty watchman saw them, he raised the alarm and mustered the crew. The individuals threatened the crew with their knives, stole ship's property, and departed. The crew reported the incident to Taboneo port control. A patrol boat was dispatched to investigate. (IMB)
14. (U) INDONESIA: On 22 May, a person in a fishing boat approached an anchored sailing vessel near position 00:53S - 131:14E, approximately 0.18 NM southeast of Pulau Doom, Sorong, and attempted to steal the sailing vessel's dinghy. When the skipper noticed the individual, he directed his flashlight towards him and shouted. Upon seeing skipper, the person let go of the dinghy and departed the area. The incident reported to the local authorities. (IMB)

J. **(U) NORTHEAST ASIA**:

1. (U) EAST CHINA SEA: On 13 and 14 June, a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ship observed several likely instances of transfers of material between a North Korea-flagged tanker and two unidentified ships. Japan's Foreign Ministry said the vessels were connected with a hose and are suspected of conducting ship-to-ship transfers that are banned under UN Security Council resolutions. (www.world.kbs.co.kr)
2. (U) JAPAN: On 5 June, local press announced the seizure of 2,450 pounds of amphetamines and the arrest of seven Chinese men because of a police stake out operation on the Izu coast, west of Tokyo. Police arrested the men while they were unloading bags of drugs from their boat onto the beach. (AP)

K. **(U) AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND - PACIFIC OCEAN AREA**:

1. (U) FRENCH POLYNESIA: On 1 June, local press announced the seizure of 340 kilograms of cocaine from a sailing boat after it docked on the atoll of Apataki, east of Rangiroa, reportedly because of engine troubles. (www.rnz.co.nz)

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) The following terms have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping 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) **Robbery** - Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- (U) **Suspicious Approach** - All other unexplained activity in close proximity by an unknown vessel.

(U) **Sourcing**

- 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
- Norwegian Shipowners' Mutual War Risks Insurance Association
- 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) The WPU 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

(U) ICOD: 19 June 2019