(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 6 January – 3 February 2021

4 February 2021

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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 new advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) GHANA: On 1 February, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Tema Anchorage.

B. (U) ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: On 31 January, robbers boarded a catamaran anchored in Falmouth Harbour.

C. (U) ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: On 31 January, a second event occurred where robbers boarded a sailing yacht also anchored in Falmouth Harbour.

D. (U) INDONESIA: On 31 January, two robbers boarded the Bahamas-flagged LNG tanker SURAYA AKI while anchored in Belawan Anchorage.

E. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 30 January, two robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged container ship KOTA NEBULA while anchored at General Santos City.

F. (U) GHANA: On 30 January, pirates boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier ROWAYTON EAGLE approximately 200 NM southeast of Accra.

G. (U) NIGERIA: On 30 January, kidnappers released six Ukrainian sailors, kidnapped from bulk carrier STEVIA on 16 December 2020.

H. (U) NIGERIA: On 29 January, kidnappers released five sailors, abducted from the general cargo ship CAP SAINT GEORGES on 10 December 2020.

I. (U) SAUDI ARABIA: On 29 January, customs authorities announced they had seized 14.4 million Captagon pills hidden in a shipment of wood panels in King Abdul Aziz Port.

J. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 January, three robbers armed with knives, boarded the Liberia-flagged general cargo ship VANTAGE WAVE approximately 5.8 NM northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island.

K. (U) INDIA: On 29 January, robbers boarded a tanker anchored off Kandla Anchorage.

L. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 January, ten robbers armed with knives, boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier ELVIA approximately 6 NM northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island.

M. (U) SAINT MARTIN: On 26 January, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Simpson Bay Lagoon.

N. (U) SAINT MARTIN: On 14 January, robbers boarded a sailing yacht moored near Explorer Island, Simpson Bay Lagoon.

O. (U) SAINT MARTIN: On 7 January, robbers boarded a sailing yacht moored near Explorer Island, Simpson Bay Lagoon.

4. (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 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:**

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

1. (U) ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: On 31 January, robbers boarded a catamaran anchored in Falmouth Harbour. The captain found the salon door of the catamaran half open. Upon walking into the aft cockpit a man was found boarding a kayak just under the hoisted tender. The captain confronted the man to ask his business. No reply was heard, when asked again the man said he was fishing as he paddled away. Wet footprints were found in the salon and at the top of the stairs leading to each hull where persons were sleeping. A review of the yachts contents was conducted and nothing was found missing. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

2. (U) ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: On 31 January, a second event occurred where robbers boarded a sailing yacht also anchored in Falmouth Harbour. The crew found the salon floor soaked in sea water and cash missing from the top of the chart table. No other items were taken. A police report was made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

3. (U) SAINT MARTIN: On 26 January, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Simpson Bay Lagoon. The handle from the bilge pump was used to force the padlock from the companionway hatch. The boat was methodically searched and laptops and other electronics, fishing gear, flare gun/shells, and large bolt/cable cutters were stolen. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

4. (U) SAINT MARTIN: On 14 January, robbers boarded a sailing yacht moored near Explorer Island, Simpson Bay Lagoon. Laptops and electronics were stolen. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

5. (U) SAINT MARTIN: On 7 January, robbers boarded a sailing yacht moored near Explorer Island, Simpson Bay Lagoon. Laptops and electronics were stolen. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

6. (U) GRENADA: On 17 January, robbers stole a locked 20-HP outboard motor from its dinghy at the sand spit near the head of Chemin Bay. Local police and the coast guard were notified. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

7. (U) BRAZIL: On 13 January, robbers boarded a bulk carrier berthed at Santana Port, near position 00:04S – 051:10W. The robbery was discovered by duty crew on routine rounds. The robbers were able to board the bulk carrier, steal ship's property, and escape undetected. The crew notified the local police, who subsequently boarded the bulk carrier to carry out an investigation. (Clearwater Dynamics)

8. (U) SAINT MARTIN: On 10 January, the owner of a catamaran anchored in Marigot Bay was onboard and heard noise on deck. He found a woman hiding near the mast; she then jumped overboard and swam ashore. A locker had been opened and rifled through, with several items removed but left behind. A police report was made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

9. (U) COLOMBIA: On 9 January, robbers boarded a vessel underway 33 NM west-southwest of Cartagena near position 10:16N – 076:12W. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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

1. (U) THE NETHERLANDS: On 16 January, customs officers in Rotterdam discovered two separate shipments of cocaine, totaling approximately 1,069 kilograms. The first shipment of 839 kilograms was found in a shipping container from Brazil with two old Volkswagen vans. The second shipment of 230 kilograms of cocaine was found in a shipping container full of beer. (www.nltimes.nl)

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

1. (U) EGYPT: On 6 January, authorities seized a shipment of drugs after discovering a container, with over eight million Captagon pills and almost nine tons of hashish inside, transiting through Port Said. The shipment was said to be headed for Libya. According to reports, the container originated from Lebanon and was loaded on 19 December in a warehouse belonging to a Lebanese exporting firm before being sent to the Port of Beirut. (www.english.alarabiya.net/; www.middleeastmonitor.com)

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

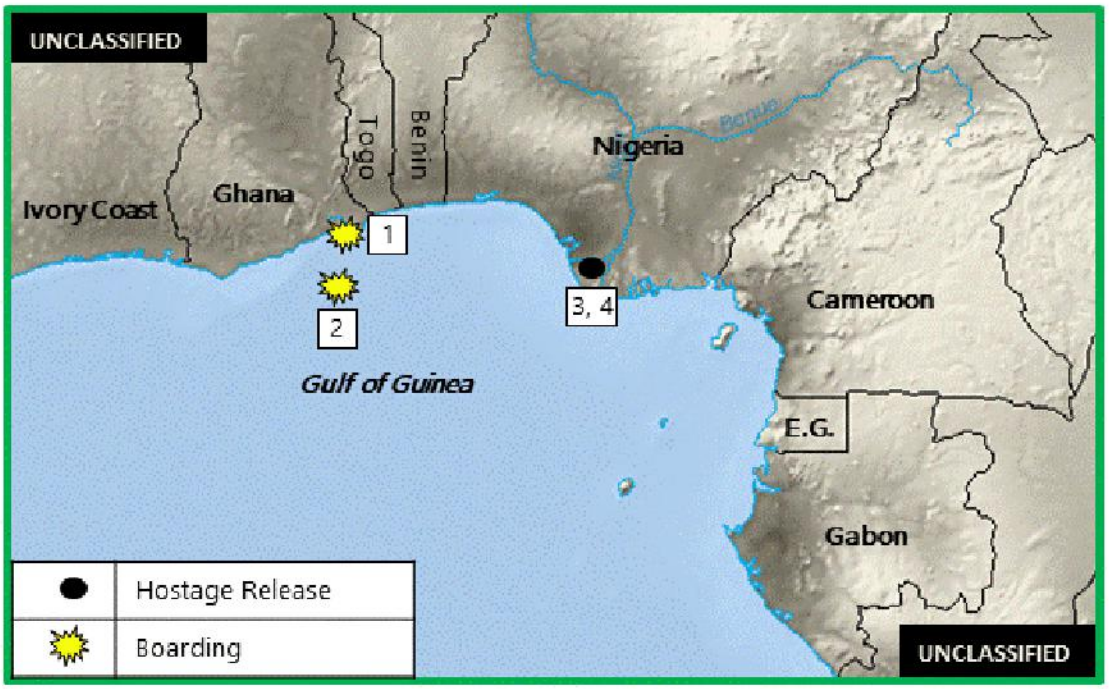


Figure 2. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GHANA: On 1 February, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Tema Anchorage. A duty crewman on routine rounds found that eight sounding pipe plugs had been stolen. The robbers boarded the vessel unnoticed. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) GHANA: On 30 January, pirates boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier ROWAYTON EAGLE approximately 200 NM southeast of Accra. The crew mustered in the citadel. After failing to breach the citadel, the pirates left. The vessel subsequently was joined by a Nigerian Security Escort Vessel and escorted into Nigerian waters. (Clearwater Dynamics; www.gcaptain.com; Dryad Global)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 30 January, kidnappers released six Ukrainian sailors, kidnapped from Cameroon-flagged bulk carrier STEVIA on 16 December 2020, after 50 days in captivity. (www.yenisafak.com/en; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 29 January, kidnappers released five sailors, abducted from Cameroon-flagged general cargo ship CAP SAINT GEORGES on 10 December 2020, after 45 days in captivity. (Clearwater Dynamics; Dryad Global)

5. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 26 January, a skiff approached the Hong Kong-flagged tanker SEAFRONTIER approximately 163 NM southwest of Agbami oil field near position 01:50N – 003:25E. The vessel was reportedly under a security escort when the approach occurred. (Dryad Global)

6. (U) SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE: On 23 January, pirates boarded the Liberia-flagged container ship MOZART approximately 98 NM northwest of Sao Tome near position 01:04N – 005:04E while transiting from Lagos, Nigeria, to Cape Town, South Africa. Pirates managed to breach the citadel and kidnap 15 Turkish crewmen. One Azerbaijani crew member was killed during the incident. Pirates left three crew members onboard the vessel when they departed. The vessel is now safely docked in Port Gentil, Gabon. (IMB; Dryad Global, Clearwater Dynamics; Xinhua; Dhaka Tribune Online; www.fleetmon.com; www.gcaptain.com; www.maritime-executive.com)

7. (U) NIGERIA: On 21 January, a small craft approached an underway container vessel approximately 64 NM southwest of Bonny near position 03:31N – 005:29E. A small craft came to within 0.3 NM of the container vessel before aborting the approach. (Clearwater Dynamics)

8. (U) CONGO: On 18 January, three robbers boarded a refrigerated cargo vessel anchored at Banana Anchorage, near position 06:02S – 012:21E. A duty crew member spotted the robbers in the forecastle store room and informed the officer of the watch. When the crew raised the alarm, the robbers fled. A subsequent search of the vessel by the crew identified broken locks on both the paint store room and CO_2 room. The robbers stole four cans of paint and twenty lead seals from CO2 cylinders, including the pilot cylinder. (Clearwater Dynamics)

9. (U) NIGERIA: On 13 January, elements of the Nigeria Navy seized six boats carrying an estimated 100,000 liters of stolen automotive diesel fuel in the Ondo-Lagos coastal area. Twenty-four suspected oil thieves were arrested in the operation. (www.allafrica.com)

10. (U) NIGERIA: On 13 January, the Singapore-flagged container ship MAERSK CARDIFF was reportedly approached and fired upon approximately 150 NM south-southwest of Bonny. MDAT-GoG has confirmed that the vessel and crew are safe. A security vessel that was dispatched by Nigerian authorities to assist the vessel had arrived at the scene and confirmed that no suspicious craft were in the area. (www.fleetmon.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

11. (U) NIGERIA: On 8 January, it was reported that four sailors kidnapped from the Marshall Islands-flagged product tanker AGISILAOS on 29 November had been released after 40 days in captivity. (www.urdupoint.com; www.offshore-energy.biz; Clearwater Dynamics)

12. (U) NIGERIA: On 8 January, a bulk carrier underway approximately 40 NM south of Brass was approached by one skiff with eight persons onboard. The skiff approached to within 0.3 NM of the vessel, resulting in the master carrying out evasive maneuvers and increasing speed, and the crew mustering in the citadel. As a result of the master's actions and the vessel's 11-meter freeboard, the skiff aborted the approach. The crew is reported as safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

G. (U) **ARABIAN GULF:**

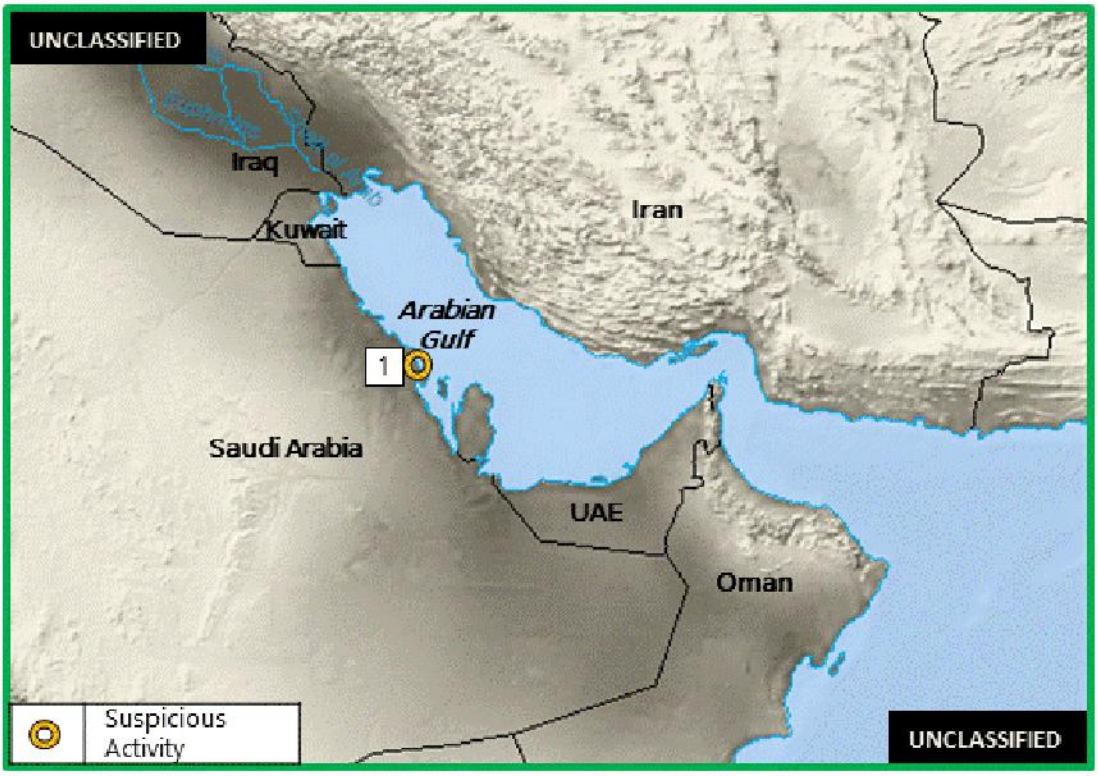


Figure 3. Arabian Gulf Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SAUDI ARABIA: On 29 January, customs authorities announced they had seized 14.4 million Captagon pills hidden in a shipment of wood panels in King Abdul Aziz Port. (www.arabnews.com)

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

1. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 14 January, a bulk carrier was approached by a skiff approximately 58 NM southwest of Aden, Yemen, near position 12:06N – 044:25E. During the incident, the crew sounded the alarm and mustered. At a distance of 0.2 NM, the onboard security team identified weapons and a ladder in the skiff and fired warning shots. The skiff subsequently ceased its approach and moved away. (IMB)

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

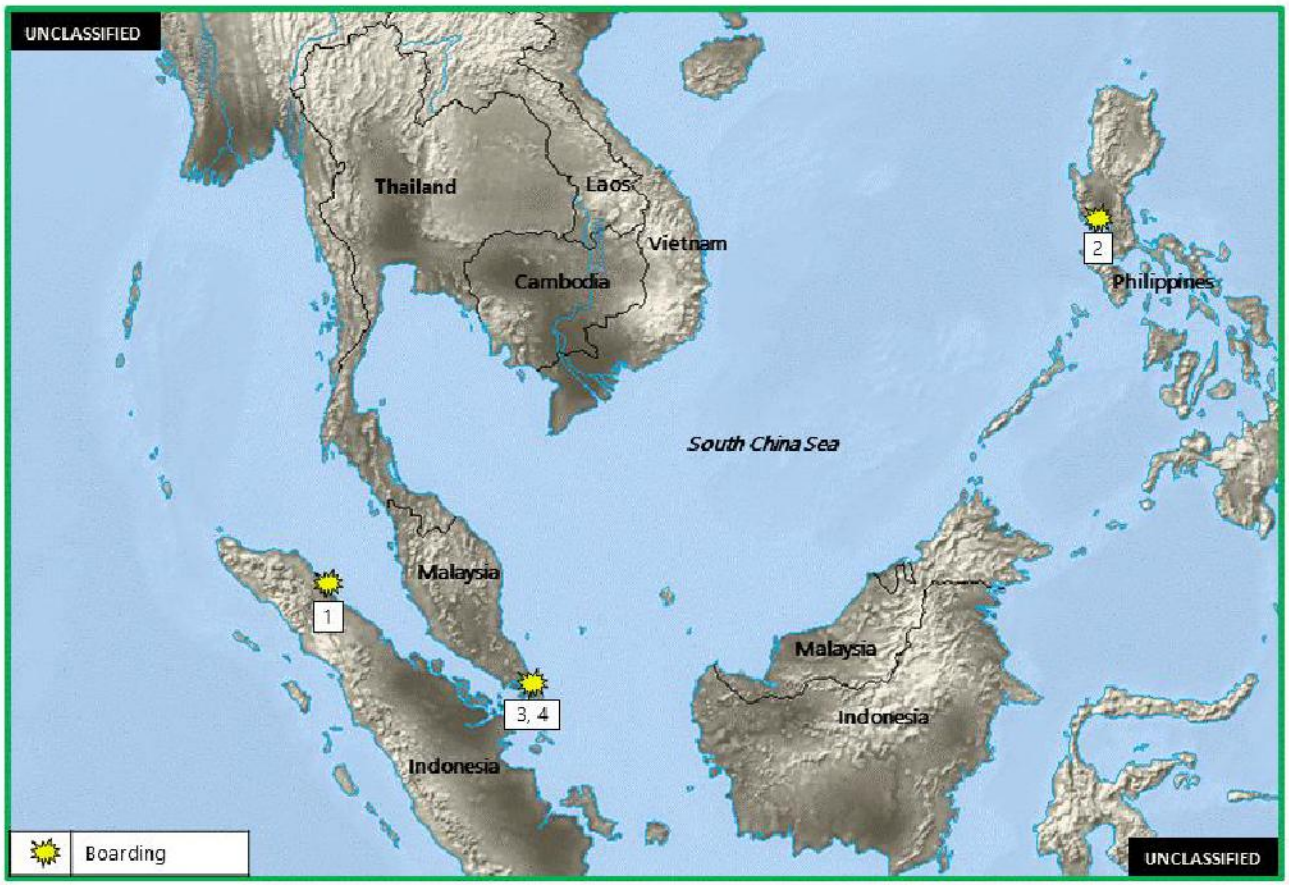


Figure 4. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 31 January, two robbers boarded the Bahamas-flagged LNG tanker SURAYA AKI while anchored in Belawan Anchorage, near position 03:56N – 098:45E. Both the shipping company and the Belawan Vessel Traffic Information System were informed and all crew retreated to the citadel. Indonesian marine police were dispatched to the tanker and conducted a full search, which confirmed the robbers had escaped with items of ship's stores. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 30 January, two robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged container ship KOTA NEBULA while anchored at General Santos City, near position 06:56N – 125:09E. The perpetrators were sighted on the starboard lifeboat deck. The general alarm was raised. All crew was notified of the perpetrators and their location via the PA system. The crew proceeded to the starboard lifeboat deck. The perpetrators jumped into the water and fled in a small motor boat. The crew was not injured. A search was conducted, and two nozzles and two fire hydrant caps were reported missing. (ReCAAP)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 January, three robbers armed with knives, boarded the Liberia-flagged general cargo ship VANTAGE WAVE approximately 5.8 NM northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait, near position 01:16N – 104:18E. A search of the ship was conducted. Nothing was stolen and the crew was safe. Singapore, Malaysian, and Indonesian authorities were notified. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 January, ten robbers armed with knives, boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier ELVIA approximately 6 NM northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait, near position 01:16N – 104:16E. A search of the ship was conducted. Nothing was stolen and the crew was safe. Singapore, Malaysian, and Indonesian authorities were notified. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) MALAYSIA: On 25 January, five robbers boarded the Barbados-flagged bulk carrier ARK ROYAL underway in the Singapore Strait near position 01:16N – 104:15E. A subsequent search of the vessel by the crew determined the robbers had fled empty-handed (Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 24 January, the Indonesian Maritime Security Agency announced that they had detained two vessels, Iran-flagged tanker HORSE and Panama-flagged tanker FREA in Pontianak waters, West Kalimantan. The ships were held on suspicion of illegally transferring oil in Indonesian waters. In a statement, a spokesperson stated: "The tankers, first detected at 5:30 a.m. local time on 23 January, concealed their identity by not showing their national flags, turning off the automatic identification systems, and did not respond to a radio call." Indonesian authorities escorted the vessels to Batam Island in Riau Island Province for further investigation. (www.mehrnews.com; www.fleetmon.com; Reuters)

J. (U) **INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:**

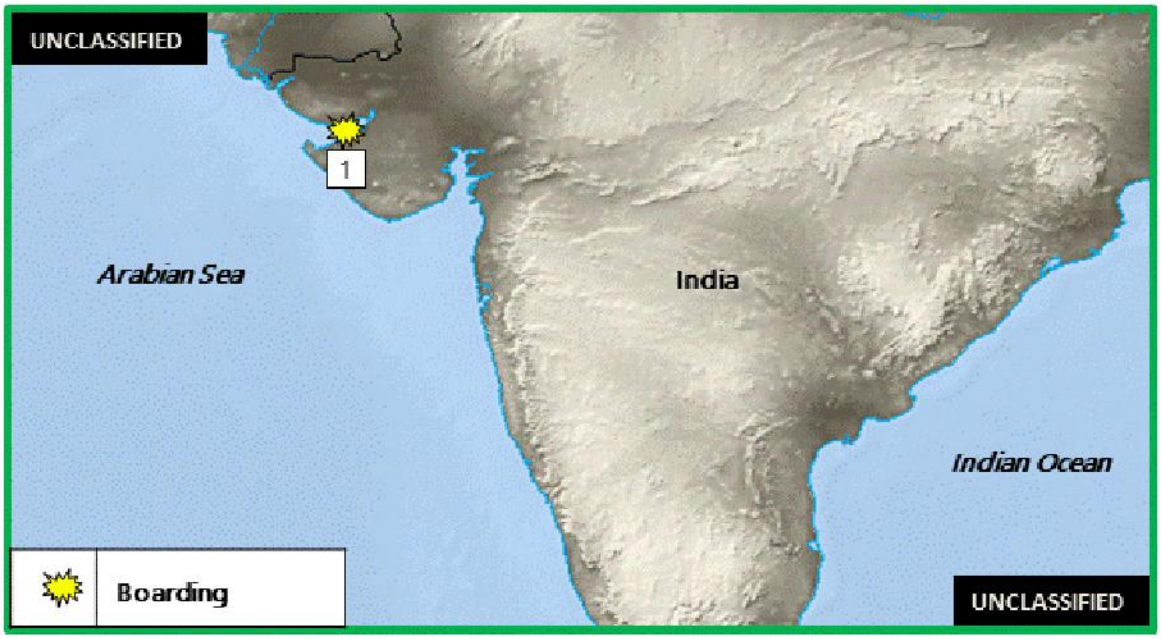


Figure 5. Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

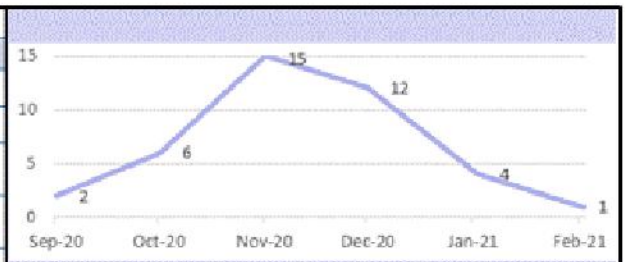
1. (U) INDIA: On 29 January, robbers boarded a tanker anchored off Kandla Anchorage, near position 22:55N – 070:10E. A duty crewman spotted three robbers boarding the vessel. The alarm was raised, which resulted in the perpetrators escaping empty-handed. (Clearwater Dynamics)

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**

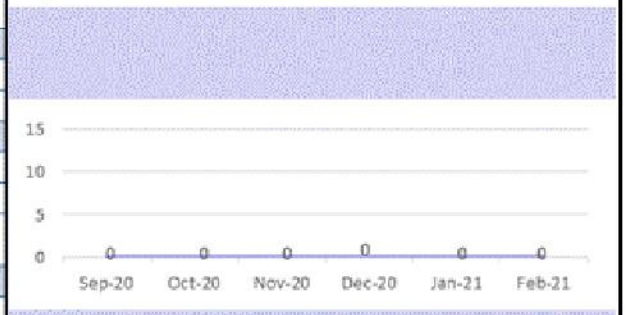
(U) Gulf of Guinea

Event	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Hijackings	2	6	4	1	0
Kidnappings	30	28	32	27	1
Hijacking/Kidnapping Combination	0	4	2	3	0
Attacks/Attempted Boardings	35	44	39	25	1
Boardings	53	64	55	42	3
Total	**120**	**146**	**132**	**98**	**5**



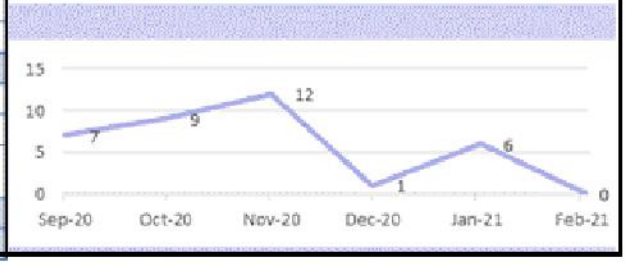
(U) Horn of Africa

Event	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Hijackings	2	0	0	0	0
Kidnappings	1	0	0	0	0
Attacks, Boardings and Attempts	3	2	2	2	0
Total	**6**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**0**



(U) Southeast Asia

Event	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Hijackings	3	1	0	0	0
Kidnappings	4	3	4	1	0
Attacks, Boardings and Attempts	95	82	92	95	6
Total	**102**	**86**	**96**	**96**	**6**



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.

(U) **ICOD:** 3 February 2021

(U) The Weekly Piracy Update (WPU) and Worldwide Threat to Shipping reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intelligence Portal: https://www.oni.navy.mil/News/Shipping-Threat-Reports/