(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 3 – 31 March 2021

31 March 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:

3. (U) Summary:

A. (U) INDONESIA: On 30 March, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Zone F, Jakarta Anchorage.

B. (U) MALAYSIA: On 30 March, robbers boarded a barge under tow by a tug boat in the Singapore Strait.

C. (U) ANGOLA: On 28 March, robbers boarded a container vessel at Luanda Anchorage.

D. (U) LIBERIA: On 28 March, two robbers attempted to board a bulk carrier in Monrovia Anchorage.

E. (U) MOZAMBIQUE: On 26 March, insurgents reportedly briefly boarded two vessels in the harbor at Palma.

F. (U) GRENADA: On 26 March, robbers stole a small outboard motor from a dinghy alongside an occupied yacht anchored near Hog Island.

G. (U) GRENADA: On 25 March, robbers stole a small outboard motor from a dinghy alongside an occupied yacht anchored in Mt. Hartman Bay

H. (U) INDONESIA: On 24 March, five robbers armed with knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier AFRICAN QUEEN underway 6.1 NM northwest of Tanjung Pergram, Bintan Island.

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:**

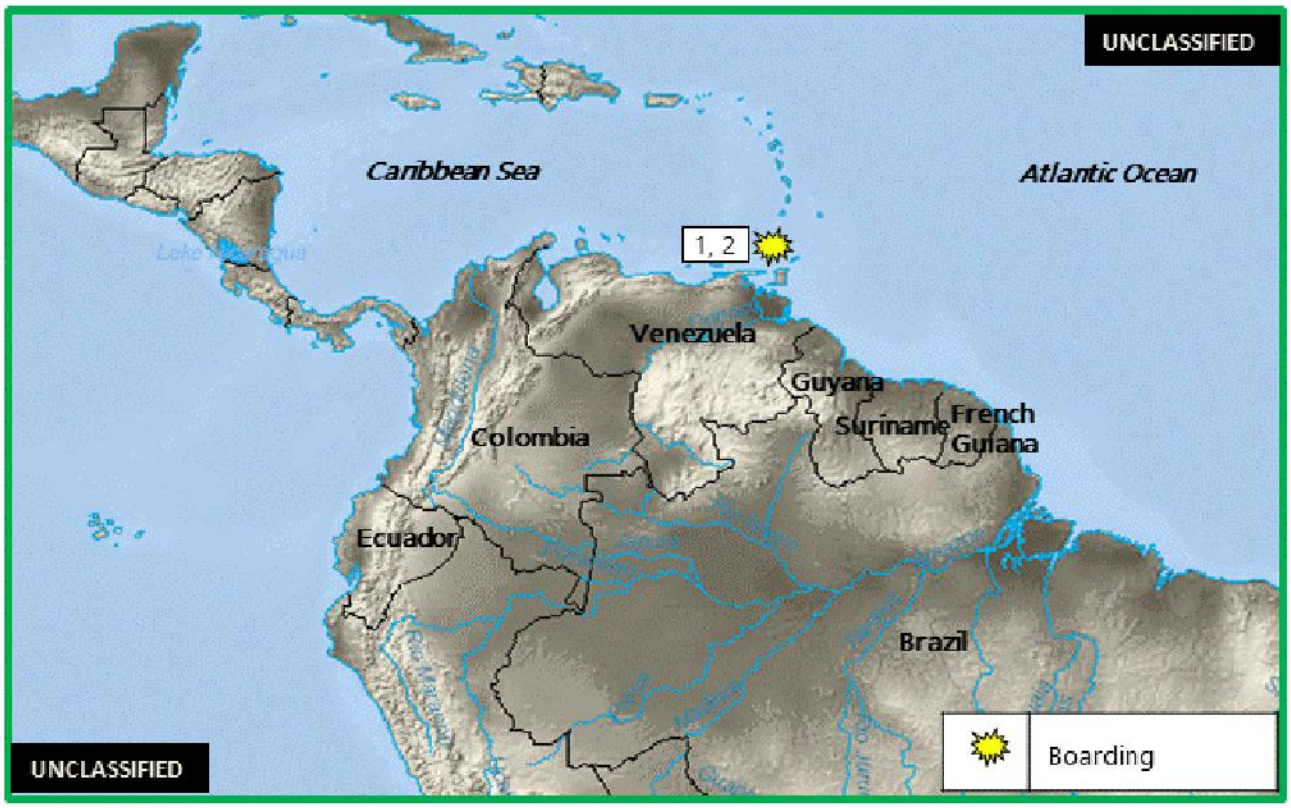


Figure 1. Central America – Caribbean – South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GRENADA: On 26 March, robbers stole a small outboard motor from a dinghy alongside an occupied yacht anchored near Hog Island. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

2. (U) GRENADA: On 25 March, robbers stole a small outboard motor from a dinghy alongside an occupied yacht anchored in Mt. Hartman Bay. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

3. (U) PERU: On 16 March, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:10W. The robbers managed to board the vessel, break into the forecastle store room and steal ship's properties without being spotted. The duty crew noticed the robbery had taken place whilst on routine rounds. (Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) PERU: On 16 March, eight robbers, armed with knives, boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:00S – 077:11W. A duty crew member was threatened and restrained by the robbers. The perpetrators were able to steal items of ship's property and then released the crew member before making their escape. The incident was reported to the local Port Authorities, which resulted in a Coast Guard patrol vessel being dispatched to the scene to assist. (Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) PERU: On 10 March, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Callao Anchorage, near position 11:59S – 077:14W. The robbers, armed with knives, were spotted by a duty crewmember on the forward mooring station. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered, which resulted in the perpetrators escaping with stolen ship's property. The incident was reported to the local Vessel Traffic Service, and a coast guard patrol vessel was tasked to search the waters surrounding the bulk carrier. (Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: On 9 March, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in English Harbor. The robbers stole a dinghy. It was recovered the next morning from a nearby mangrove area, minus the 15-HP Yamaha outboard engine, fuel tank, fuel line and oars. A report was made to the marina and the police. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

7. (U) ECUADOR: On 6 March, robbers boarded the Jamaica-flagged container ship PACORA near Guayaquil. The robbers broke into nine specific containers before leaving the ship. (Dryad Global)

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

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

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

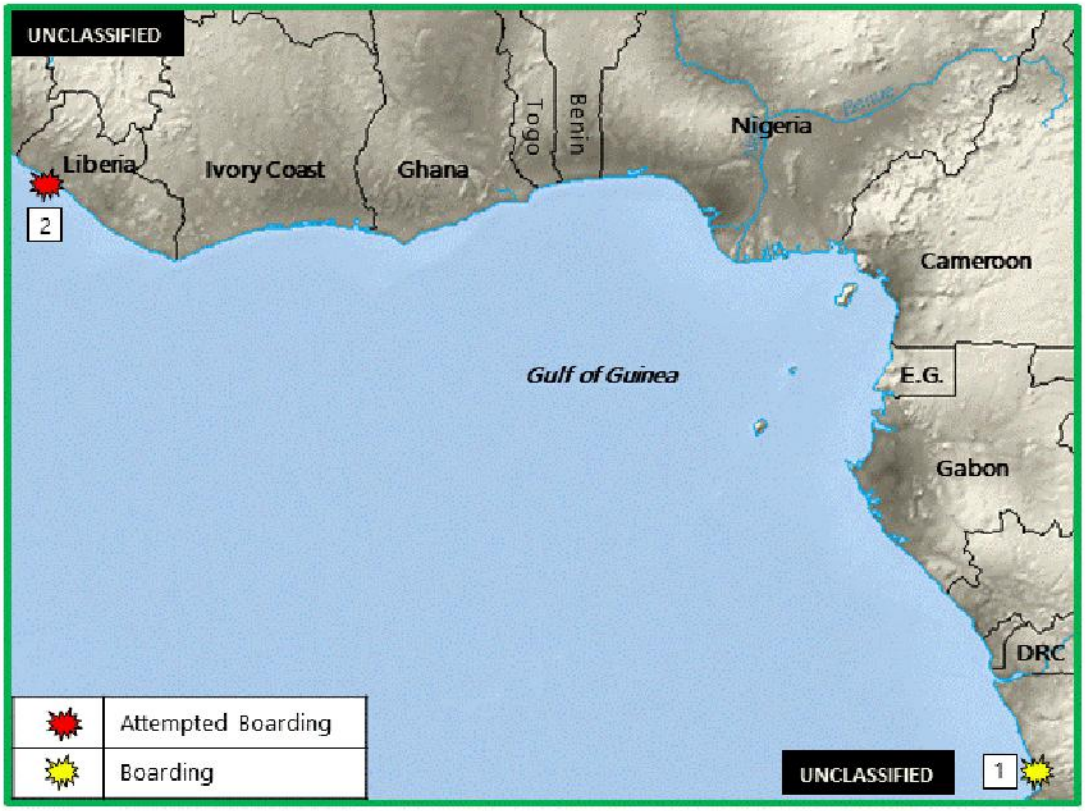


Figure 2. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) ANGOLA: On 28 March, robbers boarded a container vessel at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:45S 013:16E. The robbers managed to board the vessel and steal several items of ship's properties before being spotted by the duty crew. The crew raised the alarm and notified port authorities. The robbers fled in two wooden boats. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) LIBERIA: On 28 March, two robbers attempted to board a bulk carrier in Monrovia Anchorage, near position 06:20N - 010:52W. When port security spotted robbers trying to board the vessel, they raised the alarm. The robbers subsequently jumped into the water. No items were reported stolen in the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 15 March, robbers attacked a barge under tow near the entry channel to the Bonny River, near position 04:20N – 007:00E. Reports state that a number of perpetrators attacked the barge and tug boat while workers were being transported from Warri to the Bonga oil field, via Bonny Island. Six persons are reported as being kidnapped. The Captain of the tug boat is reported to have also been attacked, however it has not been clarified if he was kidnapped. (Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 March, pirates boarded the Luxembourg-flagged offshore supply vessel BOURBON EVOLUTION 802 approximately 208 NM south of Lagos near position 02:58N – 002:53E. The crew is safe and stayed in the citadel during the boarding. (IMB; www.maritimebulletin.net; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 11 March, pirates boarded the Malta-flagged tanker DAVIDE B approximately 227 NM southwest of Lagos near position 02:47N – 002:35E. The pirates escaped with 15 kidnapped crewmembers. (IMB; Dryad Global; www.gcaptain.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) GHANA: On 11 March, four robbers boarded a drill ship anchored at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:44N – 001:35W. The incident was reported to the local authorities and a security vessel was dispatched. No items were reported stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) ANGOLA: On 10 March, robbers boarded an anchored container ship at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:45S – 013:17E. The robbers managed to board the vessel and steal two mooring lines without being spotted. The duty crew discovered the robbery had taken place during routine rounds.

8. (U) NIGERIA: On 6 March, 10 crewmen, previously kidnapped from the Gabon-flagged fishing vessel LIAN PENG YU 809 on 10 February, were released after 24 days in captivity. (Clearwater Dynamics)

9. (U) CAMEROON: On 6 March, robbers boarded an offshore supply ship anchored in Douala Anchorage, near position 04:00N – 009:37E. The theft was noticed by the bosun during routine rounds. The crew searched the ship and ship's property was noted stolen. The incident was reported to local port authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

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

1. (U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: On 22 March, a vessel transiting the Strait of Hormuz reported a suspicious approach by one small grey boat with 3 persons on board wearing masks. The approach occurred approximately 21 NM north of Mina Saqr, UAE, near position 26:20N 056:01E. (Dryad Global, IMB)

2. (U) IRAN: On 21 March, authorities in Iraq called for the release of an Iraq-flagged tug, T-4, after the tug ran aground on the Iranian coast, about seven miles north of Bushehr Port. The crew of a ship called SOHAN stole its fuel and plundered its contents. (Dryad Global)

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

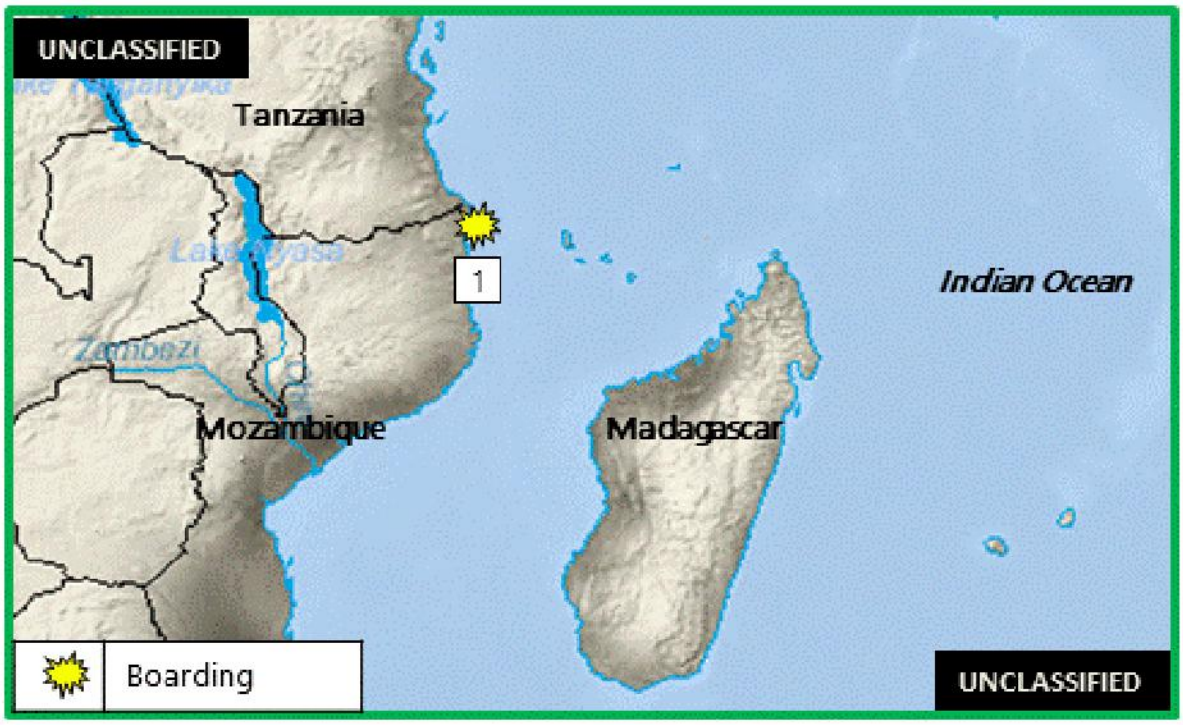


Figure 3. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MOZAMBIQUE: On 26 March, insurgents reportedly briefly boarded two vessels in the harbor at Palma, during an insurgent-led siege of the city. More than 1,300 people have been evacuated form the city, most by ship. (www.dailymaverick.co.za, Dryad Global)

2. (U) SUEZ CANAL: On 23 March, the Panama-flagged container vessel EVER GIVEN ran aground and became lodged sideways while making a northbound transit of the canal, blocking the path of dozens of other vessels. Reports indicate that as many as 100 ships were trapped in lines in both directions. (www.maritime-executive.com)

3. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 8 March, a vessel reported a suspicious approach approximately 105 NM southeast of Nishtun, Yemen, near position 14:43N – 053:31E. Four small crafts with two people onboard each craft approached the vessel. (Dryad Global; Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 30 March, robbers boarded a container vessel anchored at Zone F, Jakarta Anchorage, near position 06:02S - 106:48E. Crew members on routine rounds spotted the two robbers carrying sacks. When the crew shouted and pointed their flashlights at the robbers, the robbers fled from the port side, poop deck area. The crew conducted a search which revealed that the robbers had stolen items from the engine room. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 30 March, robbers boarded a barge under tow by a tug boat in the Singapore Strait near position 01:12N - 103:31E. Robbers in two boats came alongside the barge, stole an attached buoy, and headed towards Tanjung Pelepas. The Master reported the incident via Vessel Traffic Service CH 73. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 March, five robbers boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier AFRICAN QUEEN underway northwest of Tanjung Pergram, Bintan Island, near position 01:17N - 104:18E, 6.1 NM. Master raised the alarm, crew mustered, and a search was carried out. Engine spare parts reported stolen. Incident reported to local authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics, ReCAAP, IMB)

4. (U) VIETNAM: On 15 March, robbers boarded a moored bulk carrier at Campha Port. The robbers break into two crew cabins, stealing cash before making their escape. The local authorities were informed and an investigation was carried out. (Clearwater Dynamics, IMB)

5. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 3 March, the Bangladesh-flagged bulk carrier AKIJ PEARL reported a suspicious approach by a skiff carrying three persons 11 NM southeast of Sibutu Island, Tawi Tawi, near position 04:29N – 119:36E. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

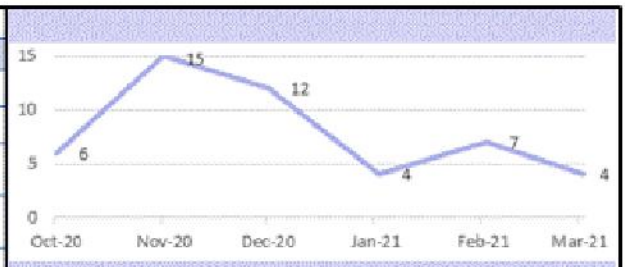
J. (U) **INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:** No current incidents to report.

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**

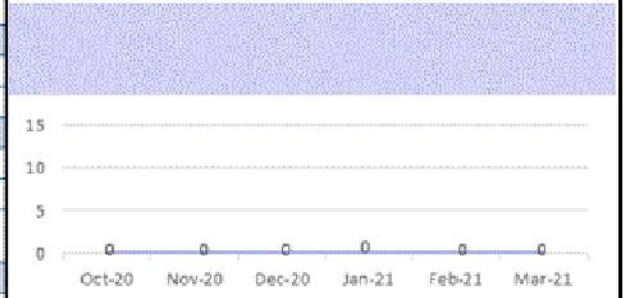
(U) Gulf of Guinea

Event	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Hijackings	2	6	4	1	0
Kidnappings	30	28	32	27	3
Hijacking/Kidnapping Combination	0	4	2	3	1
Attacks/Attempted Boardings	35	44	39	25	3
Boardings	53	64	55	42	8
Total	**120**	**146**	**132**	**98**	**15**



(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	80	92	94	15
Total	**102**	**84**	**96**	**95**	**15**

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:** 31 March 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/