(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 17 March – 14 April 2021

14 April 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 active warnings or advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: On 13 April, the Israeli-owned, Bahamas-flagged vehicle carrier HYPERION RAY reportedly was attacked 18 NM east of Fujairah, UAE.

B. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 April, four robbers armed with knives boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier PANTAZIS L approximately 5.3 NM southeast of Kampong Sungai Buntu, Malaysia, in the eastern section of the Singapore Strait.

C. (U) MALAYSIA: On 8 April, two robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged tanker HARRISBURG approximately 5.3 NM southeast of Kampong Sungai Buntu, Malaysia, in the eastern section of the Singapore Strait.

D. (U) MALAYSIA: On 8 April, four robbers armed with knives boarded the Portugal-flagged bulk carrier TRINA OLDENDORFF approximately 5.3 NM southeast of Kampong Sungai Buntu, Malaysia, in the eastern section of the Singapore Strait.

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:**

1. (U) GUADELOUPE: On 27 March, a dinghy and outboard motor were stolen from a sailing yacht anchored near Pigeon Island. A police report was made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

2. (U) COLOMBIA: On 24 March, robbers boarded a tanker at Cartagena Alpha Anchorage, near position 10:19N – 075:31W. While on routine rounds, a duty crewman spotted three robbers armed with knives. The alarm was raised, and an emergency broadcast was made to the harbormaster. The robbers then made their escape by lowering the mooring ropes and using a blue hulled motorboat. Three members of the coast guard carried out an investigation and found that several items of ship's properties were stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (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)

4. (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)

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:**

1. (U) GUINEA: On 2 April, four robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Conakry Anchorage, near position 09:14N – 013:49W. The robbers stole money and the crew's personal effects before escaping. The crew are reported as safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 April, an unknown vessel made a suspicious approach against an offshore supply vessel approximately 45 NM southwest of Bayelsa State, near position 051:10N – 004:30E. The suspicious vessel was transiting showing no AIS and altering course in unison with the supply vessel at three miles. After possibly detecting the escort vessel, the suspicious vessel changed course and moved away. The suspicious vessel managed to approach to a distance of 0.5 NM. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (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)

4. (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)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 21 March, six persons, kidnapped from a barge and tugboat in transit from Warri en route the Bonga oil field, were released after 22 days in captivity. (Clearwater Dynamics)

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

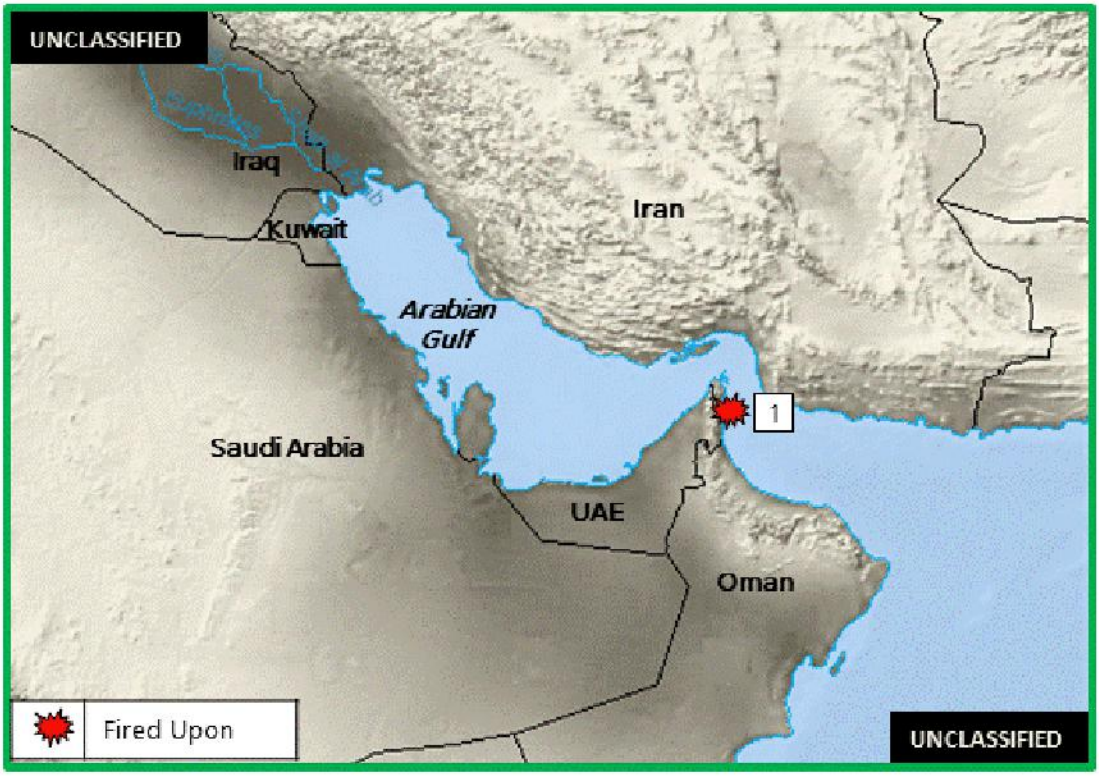


Figure 1. Arabian Gulf Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: On 13 April, the Israeli-owned, Bahamas-flagged vehicle carrier HYPERION RAY reportedly was attacked 18 NM east of Fujairah, UAE, near position 25:11N – 056:41E. (www.jpost.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) GULF OF OMAN: On 22 March, duty officer onboard a bulk carrier underway 11 NM northwest of Harf Ghabi, Oman, observed a skiff approaching at a high speed, near position 26:20N – 056:01E. The alarm was raised, the ship's horn was sounded, and speed was increased. At a distance of 40 meters, three armed and masked persons were observed in the skiff. The ship's VHF calls were acknowledged by a nearby European mission warship which proceeded to render assistance. After 20 minutes, the skiff moved away. The communication with the warship continued until the ship was safe. (IMB)

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

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

1. (U) RED SEA: On 6 April, Iran-flagged commercial vessel SAVIZ reported an onboard explosion as the ship operated in the vicinity of Djibouti near position 15:09N – 041:01E. On 6 April around 0600 local time. The SAVIZ had been anchored off Yemen for what Iran describes as a mission to "provide maritime security along the

shipping lines and to fight pirates." An Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson confirmed "The freighter was slightly damaged in an explosion." (www.france24.com; www.maritime-executive.com)

2. (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 from the city, mostly by ship. (www.dailymaverick.co.za; Dryad Global)

3. (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. On 29 March, the EVER GIVEN was dislodged and the canal reopened to merchant vessel traffic. (www.maritime-executive.com; www.msn.com)

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

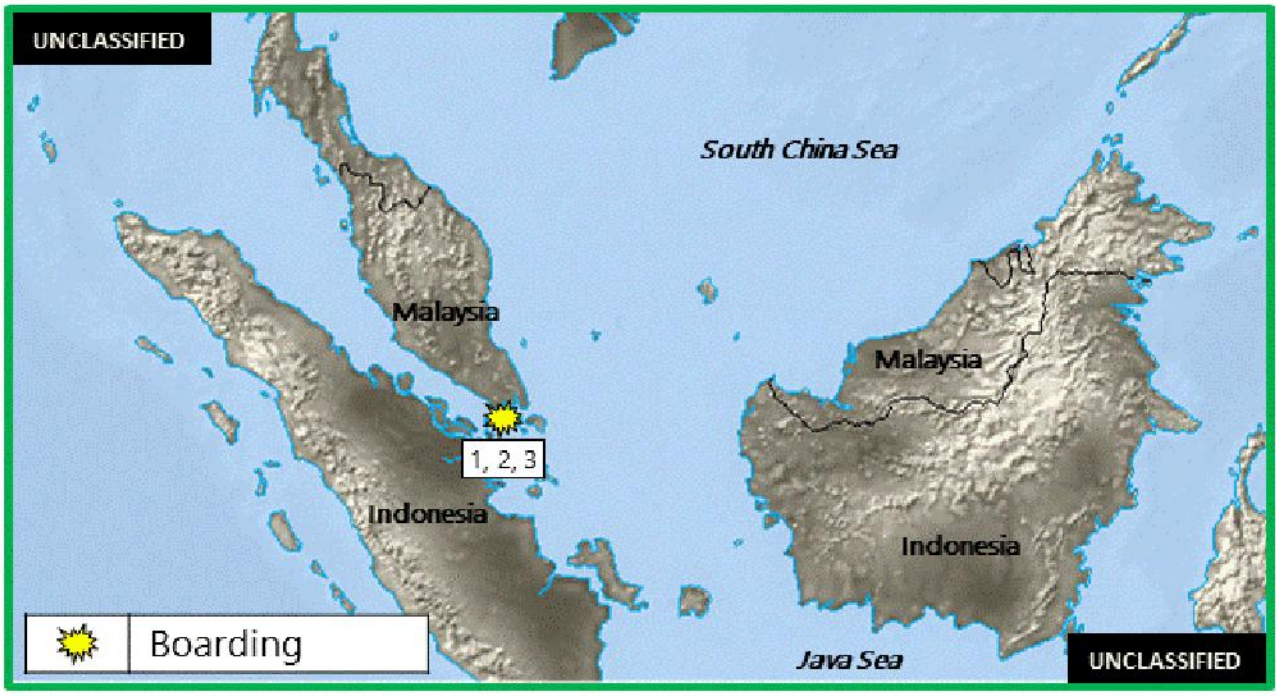


Figure 2. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 April, four robbers armed with knives boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier PANTAZIS L approximately 5.3 NM southeast of Kampong Sungai Buntu, Malaysia, in the eastern section of the Singapore Strait, near position 01:16N – 104:14E at 01:15 local time. The robbers were discovered in the engine room and, upon being sighted, escaped by jumping overboard. A full search was completed which confirmed some engine parts had been stolen. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 8 April, two robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged tanker HARRISBURG approximately 5.3 NM southeast of Kampong Sungai Buntu, Malaysia, in the eastern section of the Singapore Strait, near position 01:16N – 104:15E at 05:50 local time. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search onboard the ship was conducted with no further sighting of the perpetrators. Nothing was stolen. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) MALAYSIA: On 8 April, four robbers armed with knives boarded the Portugal-flagged bulk carrier TRINA OLDENDORFF approximately 5.3 NM southeast of Kampong Sungai Buntu, Malaysia, in the eastern section of the Singapore Strait, near position 01:16N – 104:15E at 01:47 local time. The duty motorman saw the robbers, who pushed and hit the motorman on the head before escaping. Alarm was raised, crew was mustered, and a search was carried out. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (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)

5. (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)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 March, five robbers boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier AFRICAN QUEEN underway 6.1 NM northwest of Tanjung Pergram, Bintan Island, near position 01:17N - 104:18E. 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)

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

K. (U) **AUSTRALIA – NEW ZEALAND – PACIFIC OCEAN AREA:** No current incidents to report.

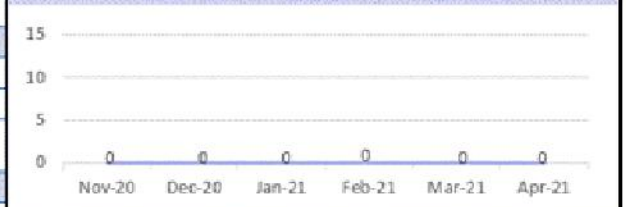
5. (U) **Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends**

(U) Gulf of Guinea

Event	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Hijackings	2	6	4	1	0
Kidnappings	30	28	32	27	4
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**	**16**

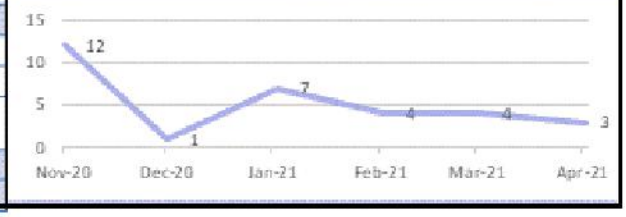
(U) Horn of Africa

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	18
Total	**102**	**84**	**96**	**95**	**18**



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:** 14 April 2021

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