



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 15 February – 15 March 2023**



15 March 2023

(U) **Table of Contents:**

1. (U) **Scope Note**
2. (U) **Warnings and Advisories**
3. (U) **Summary**
4. (U) **Details: Monthly Incidents by Region**
5. (U) **Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends**
6. (U) **Appendix B: Definitions and Sourcing**
7. (U) **Appendix C: Active U.S. Maritime Advisories**

1. (U) **Scope Note**

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) report 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, Advisories and Alerts:** See Appendix C for active advisories.

A. (U) U.S. Maritime Advisory 2023-005 – Various – GPS Interference & AIS Spoofing

Issued on: 8 March 2023. This advisory cancels and updates U.S. Maritime Advisory 2022-010. 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 (including satellite communications equipment). Over the last six months, an area in which multiple instances were reported was the Strait of Hormuz. 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. AIS devices do not inherently have virus or malware protection, so cyber security best practices against hacking should be adhered to if you connect your AIS to a network or update it using removable electronic devices (e.g., USB drives). AIS, while an invaluable situational tool, should never be solely relied upon for collision avoidance or navigational decision-making. For more information about U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories, including subscription details, please visit <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/msci>. This advisory will automatically expire on 4 September 2023.

3. (U) Summary:

A. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 13 March, robbers boarded an anchored container ship at Manila International Container Terminal Anchorage.

B. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 March, three perpetrators boarded a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

C. (U) MALAYSIA: On 10 March, robbers boarded a barge under tow by a tugboat south of Tanjung Piai in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.

D. (U) PERU: On 9 March, as many as 15 robbers boarded a bulk carrier at Callao Anchorage.

E. (U) UKRAINE: On 9 March, the Joint Coordination Center in Turkey suspended transits within the southern part of the Maritime Humanitarian Corridor due to a loss of the GPS signal.

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: No current incidents to report.

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

(U) Figure 1. Central America – Caribbean – South America Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) PERU: On 9 March at 0145 local time, up to 15 robbers armed with knives boarded the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier GILLINGHAM at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:13W. The robbers detained a crewman and stole his cell phone. Following the raising of the alarm and mustering of the crew, the robbers escaped with stolen ship property. The incident was reported to the port authorities and a patrol boat searched the area around the ship. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) BRAZIL: On 27 February at 2345 local time, five robbers armed with long knives boarded the anchored Cyprus-flagged bulk carrier BRIGITTE at Macapa Anchorage, near position 00:05N – 050:58W. The duty crew discovered the robbers close to the forecandle and notified the duty officer. The alarm was raised, the ship's horn sounded, and the crew mustered. Upon realizing they had been spotted, the robbers escaped with ship's properties. The master reported the incident to port control. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) PERU: On 21 February at 0048 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded the anchored Bahamas-flagged tanker LOS ANGELES SPIRIT at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:13W. The alarm was raised, the ship's horn sounded, and the crew mustered, after which the robbers escaped with ship's stores. The master reported the incident to port authorities and a patrol boat was dispatched to search the area around the vessel. (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:**



(U) Figure 2. Mediterranean – Black Sea Suspicious Activity

1. (U) UKRAINE: On 9 March at 1430 UTC, the Joint Coordination Center in Turkey suspended transits within the Maritime Humanitarian Corridor in the Black Sea. The suspension was due to the loss of GPS signal in the southern part of the corridor (the exact coordinates were not specified). As of 10 March, the loss of GPS signal has been resolved and vessels have recommenced voyages within the Maritime Humanitarian Corridor. (Clearwater Dynamics)

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

1. (U) GHANA: On 2 March at 0236 local time, a robber boarded the anchored Denmark-flagged product tanker NORD STINGRAY near position 04:53N – 001:41W at Takoradi Anchorage. The duty crew noticed the robber near the forecandle and raised the alarm. After hearing the alarm, the robber fled the vessel and escaped with stolen ship's stores. The incident was reported to Takoradi port control, and the Ghanaian Navy sent a patrol boat to search the area. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) ANGOLA: On 1 March at 0315 local time, robbers from a small craft boarded a container ship anchored in the vicinity of Soyo, near position 06:05S – 012:14E. After boarding, the robbers threatened a crew member with a knife before stealing items from inside a container. The local authorities were alerted and the crew was reported as safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) CAMEROON: On 17 February at 0400 local time, suspected militants reportedly fired upon and boarded an oil vessel anchored off the Idabato subdivision of the Bakassi Peninsula. Armed men boarded the vessel after shooting and killing two escorts. The perpetrators then attempted to set the vessel ablaze, escaping before Cameroonian forces arrived. (Clearwater Dynamics; Daily Post Nigeria)

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

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

1. (U) YEMEN: On 2 March at 1200 UTC, the master of a vessel informed the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) that up to eight speedboats had been sighted maneuvering within the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) near Point Bravo, approximately 95 NM southeast of Nishtun, near position 14:22N – 052:54E. The speedboats were heading south-southeast at 10 knots. The reporting vessel and crew are safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 2 March at 0310 UTC, the UKMTO received reports that an underway vessel was approached by two small craft approximately 345 NM east of Socotra Island near position 12:24N – 060:19E. The two craft with white hulls approached to within 0.1 NM of the vessel. One craft had five persons onboard and the other craft had six persons onboard. Reporting also indicated that these craft were being supported by a larger blue-hulled vessel. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) OMAN: On 1 March at 1500 UTC, the master of a vessel informed the UKMTO that a rotary Unmanned Aerial Vehicle was sighted approaching to within 10 meters of the vessel approximately 126 NM east-southeast of Salalah, near position 16:35N – 056:17E. The UAV loitered in the vicinity of the vessel for two minutes before departing. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 24 February at 1300 UTC, a master of a vessel reported to the UKMTO that up to 12 small craft were sighted in the vicinity of Point Bravo of the IRTC, near position 14:20N – 053:10E. Up to six persons were observed onboard each of the small craft. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



(U) Figure 3. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 13 March at 0450 local time, robbers boarded the anchored Liberia-flagged container ship MERKUR HORIZON in the Manila International Container Terminal Anchorage, near position 14:35N – 120:52E. Duty crewmen noticed that the forecandle store was open during their rounds. The alarm was raised, the crew mustered, and a search was carried out. Ship's properties were reported stolen. The incident was reported to the local Vessel Traffic Management System. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 March at 0518 local time, three perpetrators boarded the underway Greece-flagged bulk carrier CHIOS TRINITY in the eastbound lane in the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:05N – 103:34E. When crew sighted the perpetrators inside the vessel, the alarm was raised, and the local authorities were informed. Nothing was reported stolen, and the vessel continued its voyage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) MALAYSIA: On 10 March at 0300 local time, ten robbers boarded the barge POE 2502 under tow by the Malaysia-flagged tugboat BON SPEED 10, south of Tanjung Piai in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:12N – 103:32E. After the perpetrators left the barge, the master reported that all crew were safe and that scrap metal had been stolen. The tug and barge did not require assistance and continued their passage to Malaysia. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 March at 2330 local time, four armed perpetrators boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier PACIFIC TAMARITA while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N

– 103:37E. The master reported to the port operations control center that nothing was stolen, and the crew was safe. The vessel did not require assistance and continued its passage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 24 February at 0354 local time, the duty crew sighted three robbers onboard the anchored Singapore-flagged product tanker METIS at Panjang Anchorage near position 05:29S – 105:18E. The duty crew also sighted two other perpetrators in a small boat nearby. The duty crew immediately notified the bridge, and the robbers subsequently fled via the small boat. The bridge reported to the Panjang Vessel Traffic Scheme that there was no damage to the ship and that the crew was safe. Engine spares were reported missing. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 23 February at 0130 local time, six robbers armed with knives boarded the underway Panama-flagged bulk carrier LOWLANDS AMSTEL in the Singapore Strait, near position 01:08N – 103:29E, east of Little Karimun Island. Duty crew discovered the robbers near the engine room, where a standoff occurred with the engine crew. The robbers threw tools at the crew resulting in two crew members sustaining injuries. The master reported that the robbers had left the vessel and scrap metal had been stolen. The vessel did not require any assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 February at 0420 local time, six perpetrators boarded the underway Japan-flagged bulk carrier OCEAN CREATION in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:13E, northwest of Bintan Island. Duty crew members spotted the perpetrators in the vessel's engine room. The master later reported all crew safe and that nothing had been stolen. The vessel did not require any assistance and continued its voyage to the Philippines. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 February at 0430 local time, robbers boarded an underway Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier OTAGO BAY in the Singapore Strait, near position 01:04N – 103:13E, northwest of Batam Island. Robbers stole engine spare parts and escaped without being observed. Duty crew discovered the theft after determining that unauthorized entry had been made into the engine room. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

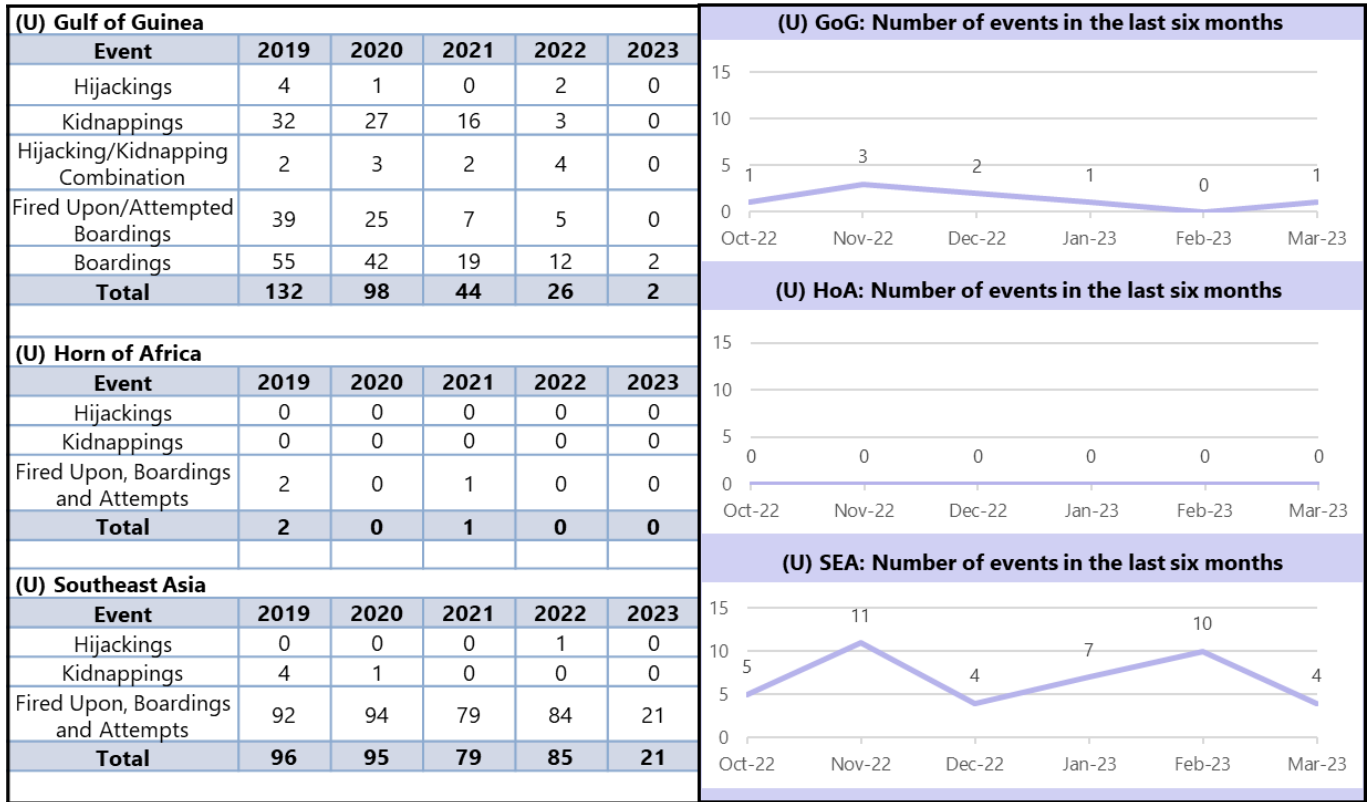
9. (U) INDONESIA: On 15 February at 0510 local time, two robbers armed with knives boarded the underway Liberia-flagged bulk carrier in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:15N – 104:12E, northeast of Batam Island. The duty crew spotted the robbers in the engine room. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. A search of the vessel found that engine stores had been stolen. The master reported all crew members safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

10. (U) INDONESIA: On 15 February at 0415 local time, five perpetrators armed with knives boarded the underway Pakistan-flagged bulk carrier MALAKAND in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:10E, northeast of Batam Island. The ship's master reported that all crew were safe, and that nothing was reported stolen. The vessel did not require any assistance, and continued its transit to China. (Clearwater Dynamics; 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 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.

7. (U) Appendix C: Active U.S. Maritime Advisories

Title	Effective Date	Expiration Date
2022-005-Various – GPS Interference & AIS Spoofing	8 MAR 23	4 SEP 23
2023-004-Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations	3 MAR 23	30 AUG 23
2023-003-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab el Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Somali Basin – Threat to Commercial Vessels	23 FEB 23	22 AUG 23
2023-002-Worldwide-Maritime Port Vulnerabilities – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence	17 FEB 23	16 AUG 23
2023-001-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	3 JAN 23	2 JUL 23
2022-011-Global-Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System	12 DEC 22	10 JUN 23

(U) **ICOD:** 15 March 2023

(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/>