



UNCLASSIFIED

## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 15 March – 12 April 2023**



12 April 2023

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#### 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.

#### 3. (U) **Summary:**

**A.** (U) MALAYSIA: On 10 April, robbers boarded a barge under tow in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

**B.** (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 10 April, pirates boarded a product tanker approximately 300 NM south of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

#### 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:**

1. (U) PERU: On 28 March at 0230 local time, 10 robbers armed with knives boarded the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier TOMINI ENTITY at Callao Anchorage near position 12:00S – 077:13W. Onboard the vessel, the perpetrators restrained a duty crew member. Following the raising of the alarm, the robbers escaped with stolen personal belongings and ship stores. Fellow crew members found the duty crew member unharmed and removed his restraints. Port authorities were notified of the incident and the Peru Coast Guard boarded the vessel to investigate. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

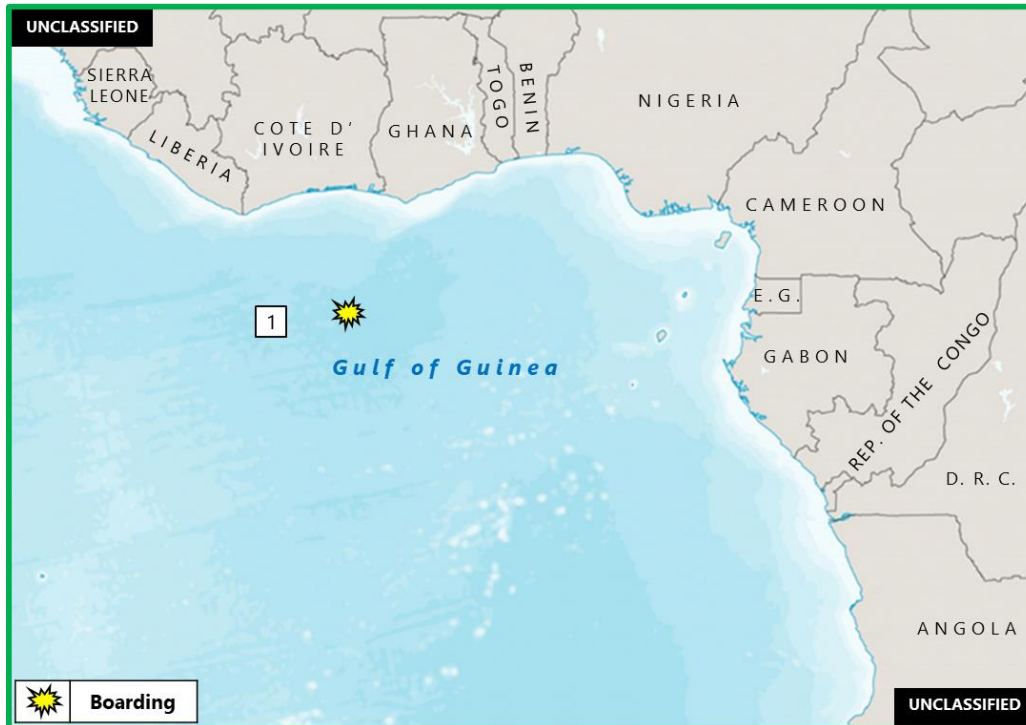
2. (U) PERU: On 26 March at 1859 local time, robbers boarded the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier SANKATY EAGLE at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:12W. The deck watch noticed the perpetrators onboard and informed the bridge. The alarm was sounded and all crew mustered on the bridge, at which point the perpetrators escaped without stealing anything. Port control were informed on VHF Ch. 16 and the Peru Coast Guard boarded the vessel to conduct an inspection. (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:** No current incidents to report.

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



(U) Figure 1. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 10 April at 1400 UTC, pirates boarded the Singapore-flagged product tanker **SUCCESS 9** in international waters approximately 300 NM south of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, near position 00:07N – 004:34W. As of 12 April, the tanker was not transmitting on AIS and remained unlocated. The vessel is believed to be red hulled with a white superstructure and blue funnel. (Clearwater Dynamics; MDAT-GoG; Maritime Executive; Neptune P2P; defenceWeb; vesseltracker.com; IMB)

2. (U) COTE D'IVOIRE: On 31 March, at 2150 local time, duty crew members spotted two perpetrators crawling under razor wire to get aboard the anchored Singapore-flagged container ship **MAERSK VIGO** at San Pedro Anchorage near position 04:43N – 006:35W. After the alarm was raised, the perpetrators made their escape in a canoe where a third person was waiting. Nothing was reported stolen and all crew were reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) ANGOLA: On 29 March, at 0318 local time, robbers boarded an underway container ship operating off Soyo Anchorage near position 06:08S – 012:15E. After threatening a duty crew member with a knife, the robbers made their escape with items from one of the containers. Local authorities were informed of the incident and the crew were reported as safe. (Clearwater Dynamics; MDAT-GoG)

4. (U) ANGOLA: On 26 March at 0330 local time, robbers boarded the anchored Malta-flagged tugboat **KOMODO** at Luanda Anchorage near position 08:44S – 013:17E. The perpetrators boarded the vessel from a canoe. Crew members noticed the robbers onboard and raised the alarm, after which the robbers escaped with stolen ship's

properties. The incident was reported to the port authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; MDAT-GoG; vesseltracker.com)

5. (U) GABON: On 25 March at 2239 UTC, five armed perpetrators in a single skiff approached and boarded the Liberia-flagged product tanker MONJASA REFORMER near position 05:29S – 009:34E. According to the ship's owner, all sixteen crew members managed to secure themselves in the tanker's citadel. There has been no AIS transmission from the vessel since 26 March at 0045 UTC, and the onboard communications channels are reportedly down. In its most recent update to the incident, MDAT-GoG reported the tanker as being in the vicinity of position 04:09S – 001:46E at 1825 UTC on 28 March, and asked masters within the vicinity to report any further sightings of the vessel. UPDATE: MONJASA REFORMER was located on 30 March, approximately 90 NM south of Bonny Island, Nigeria. The pirates had kidnapped six crew members and departed the vessel. A team from the French patrol boat PREMIER MAITRE L'HER boarded the vessel and treated three crew members for minor injuries. The tanker was then escorted to the port of Lome, Togo. (MDAT-GoG; IMB; Maritime Executive; EOS Risk; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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

1. (U) OMAN: On 29 March at 1810 UTC, the UKMTO reported that there was irregular AIS activity off the coast of Oman near position 20:45N – 059:56E, approximately 58 NM east of Masirah Island. Authorities are investigating the incident. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) YEMEN: On 17 March at 0150 UTC, the master of the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier ARIETTA reported that a craft approached and directed four or five bursts of automatic gunfire toward the vessel located approximately 36 NM southwest of Hodeida in the southern Red Sea, near position 14:13N – 042:44E. The armed security team onboard returned fire which resulted in the perpetrators departing the area. The vessel and crew were reported as safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

## I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



(U) Figure 2. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 10 April at 1230 local time, robbers boarded a barge under tow by a tugboat in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme near position 01:17N – 104:10E. The master reported that the robbers boarded from several boats that had pulled alongside the barge, stole scrap metal, and escaped. Patrol vessels from the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency responded, then intercepted and detained a wooden boat with six Indonesian perpetrators and scrap metal onboard. (Clearwater Dynamics)
2. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 4 April, at 0202 local time, eight robbers armed with knives and iron bars boarded an anchored container ship at Manila Anchorage near position 14:36N – 120:52E. The ship's alarm was sounded and the crew mustered, after which the robbers escaped with ship's properties. One duty crew member was injured during the incident. The vessel informed port authorities and the Philippine Coast Guard boarded the container ship to investigate. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
3. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 April at 0300 local time, three perpetrators in a small boat approached a berthed product tanker at Lubuk Guang in the Malacca Strait near position 01:45N – 101:22E. Once alongside, one of the robbers boarded the tanker. Duty crew members spotted the perpetrator and informed the bridge. Upon observing the alerted crew, the perpetrator escaped empty-handed into the waiting boat. The bridge informed the local agent of the incident. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
4. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 April, at 0155 local time, five robbers boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier GIBRALTAR EAGLE underway in the Phillip Channel of the Singapore Strait near position 01:08N – 103:28E. Duty

crew members sighted the robbers in the engine room, and the robbers later escaped with spare engine parts. The master reported that the crew and vessel were safe. The vessel did not require any assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 April, at 2345 local time, duty crew members saw one perpetrator board the underway Panama-flagged bulk carrier JIE SHUN DA in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) near position 01:16N – 104:12E. The crew and vessel were reported safe, and the bulk carrier continued its voyage to China. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 1 April, at 0235 local time, six robbers armed with knives boarded the underway Singapore-flagged bulk carrier PRABHU SHAKTI in the Phillip Channel of the Singapore Strait near position 01:04N – 103:35E. The ship's alarm was raised after which the robbers escaped with ship's stores. All crew were reported as safe. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 31 March, at 0150 local time, duty crew members observed three robbers armed with knives board the underway Marshall islands-flagged product tanker NIPPON PRINCESS in the Phillip Channel of the Singapore Strait near position 01:03N – 103:39E. The master requested assistance from the authorities upon arrival at Singapore. The police coast guard boarded the tanker and completed a search, which confirmed that the perpetrators had escaped. The vessel and crew were reported as safe. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 31 March, at 0328 local time, duty crew members spotted four perpetrators boarding an underway Singapore-flagged bulk carrier AMANI in the Phillip Channel of the Singapore Strait near position 01:05N – 103:34E. The master reported the crew as safe and nothing was reported stolen. The vessel did not require any assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

9. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 March at 2156 local time, four robbers armed with knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier VOLTA underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, along the Phillip Channel near position 01:04N – 103:41E. The robbers escaped with engine parts. The master reported that all crew members were safe. The vessel did not require assistance and continued its voyage. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

10. (U) INDONESIA: On 27 March at 0015 local time, four robbers armed with knives boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier BEAR MIZAR while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:16E. Crew sighted the perpetrators in the engine room, the master sounded the alarm, and mustered the crew. All crew were reported safe. In a search of the ship, crew discovered that spare parts for the fuel pumps had been stolen. The vessel did not require assistance and continued its voyage. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics; EOS Risk)

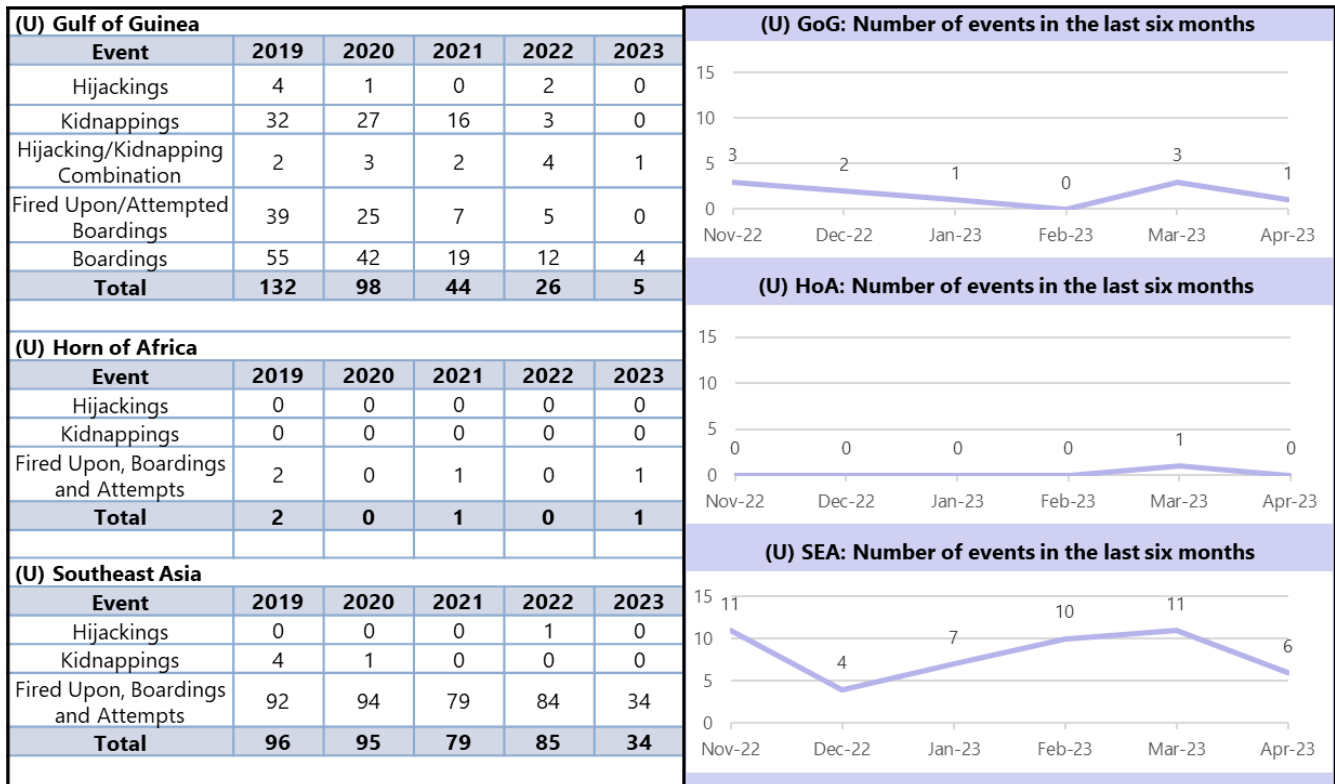
11. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 March at 0215 local time, two perpetrators boarded an anchored product tanker at Belawan Anchorage in the Malacca Strait, near position 03:55N – 098:44E. Duty crewmen spotted the perpetrators boarding the vessel via the anchor chain and breaking into the paint store. The alarm was raised which resulted in the two unauthorized individuals escaping empty-handed. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

12. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 19 March at 0430 local time, three robbers boarded the anchored Panama-flagged container ship CO NAGOYA at Manila Anchorage, near position 14:32N – 120:53E. Crew sighted the three perpetrators on the upper deck and observed two additional perpetrators in the vicinity of the vessel. The master notified Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) Manila of the incident, and the Philippine Coast Guard Station Manila dispatched two vessels to investigate. By the time the vessels arrived on the scene, the perpetrators had left the vessel. An inspection of the vessel revealed that the forecandle store had been broken into, and fire nozzles, brass nuts, bolts, wire, and a portable fan were found to be missing, presumed stolen by the perpetrators. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics; EOS Risk)

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
<a href="#">2022-005-Various – GPS Interference &amp; AIS Spoofing</a>	8 MAR 23	4 SEP 23
<a href="#">2023-004-Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations</a>	3 MAR 23	30 AUG 23
<a href="#">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</a>	23 FEB 23	22 AUG 23
<a href="#">2023-002-Worldwide-Maritime Port Vulnerabilities – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence</a>	17 FEB 23	16 AUG 23
<a href="#">2023-001-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom</a>	3 JAN 23	2 JUL 23
<a href="#">2022-011-Global-Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System</a>	12 DEC 22	10 JUN 23

(U) **ICOD:** 12 April 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/>