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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 29 March – 26 April 2023**



26 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 26 April, four masked robbers armed with knives boarded an oil rig 0.7 NM northeast of Tanjung Langsat Harbor Jetty.

B. (U) **INDIA:** On 25 April, five robbers boarded an anchored tanker at Kandla Anchorage.

C. (U) **ANGOLA:** On 25 April, robbers boarded a high-speed craft at Luanda Anchorage.

D. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 22 April, robbers boarded a barge under tow by a tugboat in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme.

E. (U) **PANAMA:** On 21 April, unauthorized persons attempted to board a container ship at Panama East Anchorage.

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F. (U) RED SEA: On 19 April, communications with a motor yacht transiting from Saudi Arabia to Djibouti were lost.

G. (U) VIETNAM: On 17 April, robbers boarded a drifting container ship at Ho Chi Minh Anchorage.

H. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 15 April, robbers boarded an anchored container ship at Manila Quarantine Anchorage.

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) PANAMA: On 21 April at 2250 local time, unauthorized persons attempted to board the anchored Hong Kong-flagged container ship CSCL ZEEBRUGGE at Panama East Anchorage, near position 08:52N – 079:29W. A

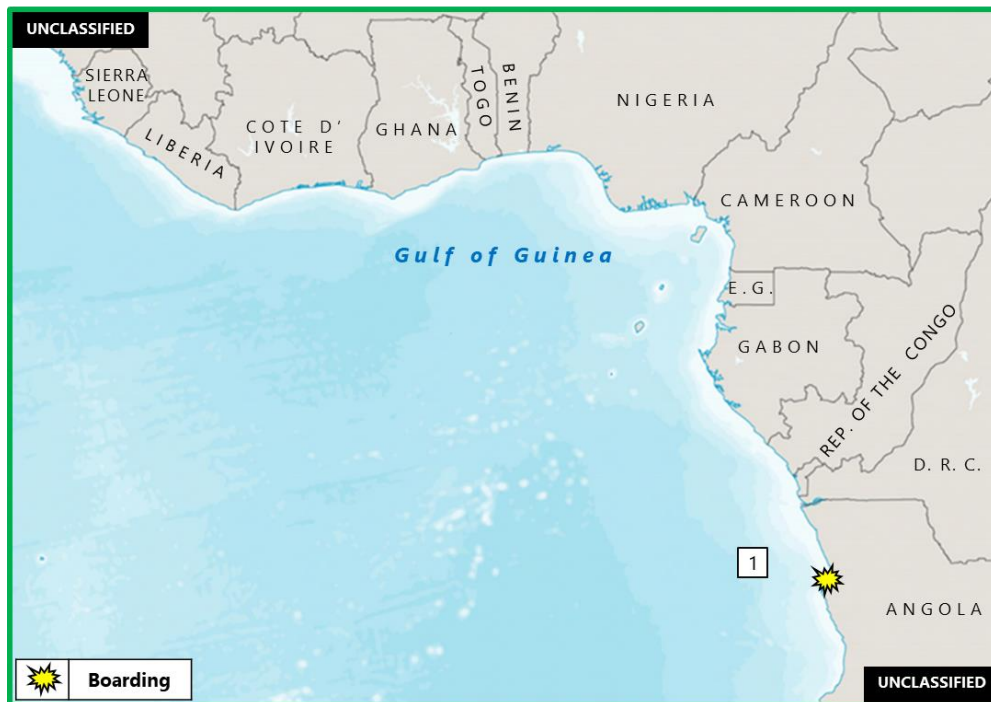
duty crewman on routine rounds noticed perpetrators climbing the anchor chain via the hawse pipe. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. Hearing the alerted crew, the perpetrators aborted the boarding attempt. The ship reported the incident to the Panama maritime authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; 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 2. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) ANGOLA: On 25 April at 0330 local time, robbers boarded a high-speed craft anchored in Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:47S – 013:14E. The robbers stole an outboard engine from one of the fast support intervention vessels. Duty crew members spotted the robbers escaping in a small boat. The crew were reported as safe. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) ANGOLA: On 19 April at 0230 local time, one perpetrator boarded an anchored refrigerated cargo ship at Luanda Anchorage near position 08:44S – 013:18E. The duty watchman noticed an unauthorized person climb up the anchor chain and through the hawse pipe while another individual waited below on a small boat. The watchman raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Upon seeing the alerted crew, the perpetrator jumped into the

water and escaped in the small boat. The master confirmed that all crew were safe and that nothing was reported stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (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. UPDATE: The SUCCESS 9, missing for 5 days, was located on 14 April approximately 65 NM southeast of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, and was escorted to Abidjan on the same day. All 20 crew members were safe, and no crew were kidnapped. The tanker had been loaded with unspecified petroleum product, part of which was offloaded by the pirates. (Clearwater Dynamics; MDAT-GoG; Maritime Executive; Neptune P2P; defenceWeb; vesseltracker.com; IMB)

4. (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)

5. (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)

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

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



(U) Figure 3. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) RED SEA: On 19 April, the Russian-owned motor yacht 30 MINUTES lost contact with its owner while likely off the coast of Yemen. The vessel reportedly departed Jazan, Saudi Arabia en route to Djibouti with three Russian nationals and two Egyptians onboard. The owner stated that the yacht's skipper managed to send a distress call that the yacht was under attack by armed pirates. EUNAVFOR, UKMTO, and U.S. Fifth Fleet have all told press that they are investigating the case. (Maritime Executive)

2. (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)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



(U) Figure 4. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 26 April at 2230 local time, four masked robbers armed with knives boarded an oil rig 0.7 NM northeast of Tanjung Langsat Harbor Jetty, near position 01:27N – 104:01E. Authorities were notified that the robbers were stealing belongings from the two crewmen manning the platform and other rig equipment. A Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency patrol boat responded and apprehended the four robbers under the platform. The two crew members were reported safe but suffered minor injuries. The stolen rig equipment and personal belongings were recovered and returned. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 22 April at 0930 local time, robbers boarded the barge ASIA PRIDE 2330 under tow by the Malaysia-flagged tugboat LION KIMTRANS TB 6 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:16N – 104:08E. The master reported to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System that a sampan was alongside the barge and later observed that the vessel had departed and that scrap metal was missing. All crew members were accounted for and no assistance was needed. Information on the incident was shared with Indonesian and Malaysian authorities. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) VIETNAM: On 17 April at 0030 local time, robbers boarded a container ship drifting at Ho Chi Minh Anchorage, near position 10:09N – 107:09E. Robbers boarded the vessel and escaped with ship's stores without being detected. Duty crew members discovered the theft during routine rounds when they found that the paint

locker padlock and ship's stores were missing. The ship reported the incident to port control; however, no response was received. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 15 April between 0455 and 0530 local time, robbers boarded an anchored container ship at Manila Quarantine Anchorage, near position 14:33N – 120:55E. The duty crew on routine rounds noticed that the forward storage locker had been broken into and ship's stores had been stolen. The ship informed port authorities who later boarded the vessel to investigate. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 April at 0445 local time, two robbers boarded the anchored Cayman Islands-flagged product tanker STOLT PERSEVERANCE at Belawan Anchorage near position 03:55N – 098:46E in the Malacca Strait. The duty watch observed the robbers near the paint locker and raised the alarm. After hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped by jumping overboard and departed the area in a small boat with stolen ship's stores. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 April at 2336 local time, four perpetrators boarded the underway Hong Kong-flagged oil tanker NEW HORIZON in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS near position 01:04N – 103:35E. The crew notified the bridge of unauthorized persons in the engine room. The master raised the alarm and mustered the crew. The crew conducted a security search of the vessel with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master reported that nothing was stolen, the crew was safe and no assistance was required. The tanker continued its voyage to China. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

7. (U) MALAYSIA: On 10 April at 1230 local time, robbers boarded a barge under tow by the Malaysia-flagged tugboat TARGET 10 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS 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; vesseltracker.com)

8. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 4 April, at 0202 local time, eight robbers armed with knives and iron bars boarded the anchored Panama-flagged container ship EVER BOOMY 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; vesseltracker.com; Maritime Executive)

9. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 April at 0300 local time, three perpetrators in a small boat approached the berthed Liberia-flagged product tanker STOLT BISMUTH 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; vesseltracker.com)

10. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 April, at 0155 local time, five robbers boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier GIBALTAR 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)

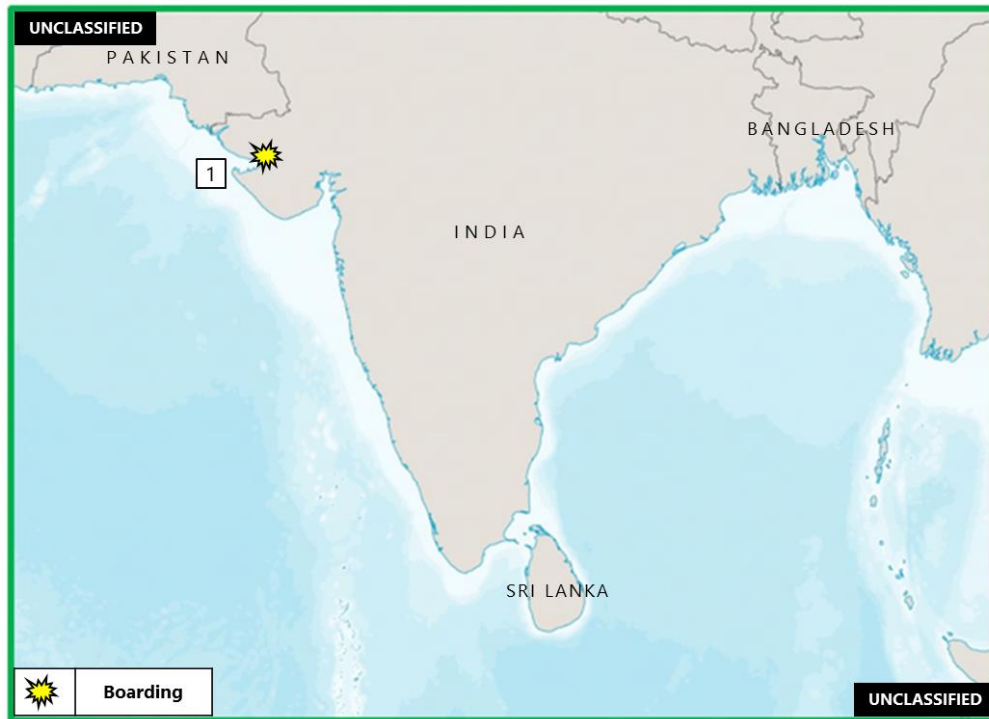
11. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 April, at 2345 local time, duty crew members saw one perpetrator board the underway Panama-flagged bulk carrier JIE SHUN DA in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS near position 01:16N – 104:12E. The crew and vessel were reported safe, and the bulk carrier continued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

12. (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)

13. (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)

14. (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)

15. (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)

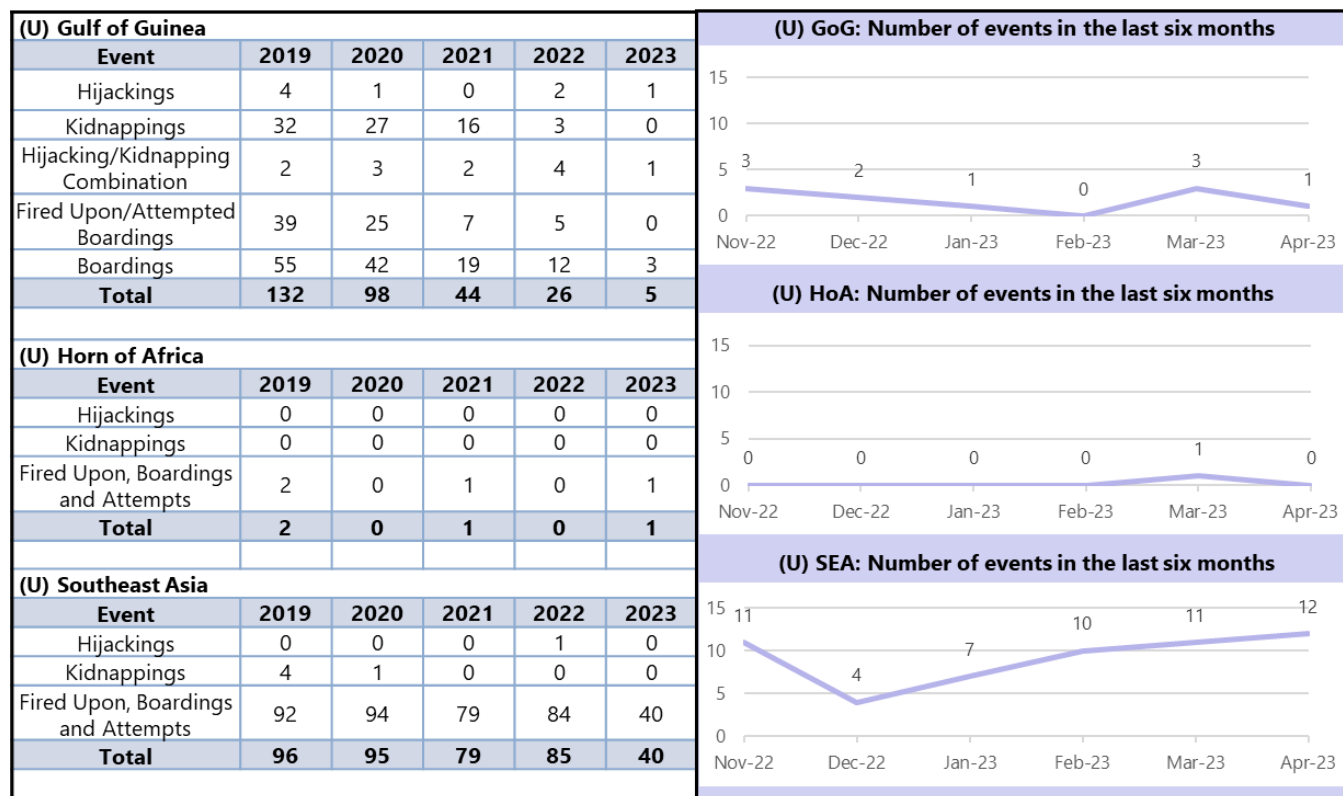
J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

(U) Figure 5. Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) INDIA: On 25 April at 0130 local time, robbers boarded an anchored tanker at Kandla Anchorage, near position 22:45N – 070:00E. The duty crew subsequently noticed that ship's cargo equipment was missing. A check of CCTV footage revealed that five robbers had boarded the vessel. The ship informed port control of the incident. (IMB; 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



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:** 26 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/>