



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 5 April – 3 May 2023**



3 May 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.

A. (U) U.S. Maritime Alert 2023-002A-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman – Threats to Commercial Vessels.

Issued on 3 May 2023. A maritime threat has been reported involving two incidents of commercial vessels being seized by Iran, contrary to international law. The first was a Marshall Islands-flagged vessel on 27 April in the Gulf of Oman and the second a Panama-flagged vessel on 3 May in the Strait of Hormuz. These reports have been confirmed. Exercise increased caution when transiting the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and the Gulf of Oman. U.S. commercial vessels operating in these areas should review U.S. Maritime Advisory 2023-003 (Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Somali Basin – Threats to Commercial Vessels) for amplifying information and points of contact. Any maritime industry questions regarding this alert should be directed to gmcc@uscg.mil. For more information about U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories, including subscription details, please visit <https://www.marad.dot.gov/MSCI>. This alert will automatically expire on 10 May 2023.

3. (U) Summary:

A. (U) GABON: On 2 May, perpetrators boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Owendo Inner Anchorage and kidnapped three crew members.

B. (U) INDONESIA: On 1 May, four perpetrators boarded an underway product tanker in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme.

C. (U) NIGERIA: On 28 April, eight perpetrators boarded a cargo ship at Tin Can Island, Lagos.

D. (U) PERU: On 27 April, robbers boarded a container ship in Callao Anchorage.

E. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 27 April, two robbers boarded an anchored product tanker at Sangley Point Anchorage in Manila Bay.

F. (U) INDIA: On 17 April, robbers boarded a berthed bulk carrier at Haldia Port.

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 27 April at 0200 local time, robbers boarded an anchored container ship at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:00S – 077:13W. They tied up two duty crewmembers and stole their personal belongings, and ship's stores. The alarm sounded, the crew mustered, and a search of the vessel was carried out. The ship informed port control of the incident and a patrol boat was dispatched to search the area. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

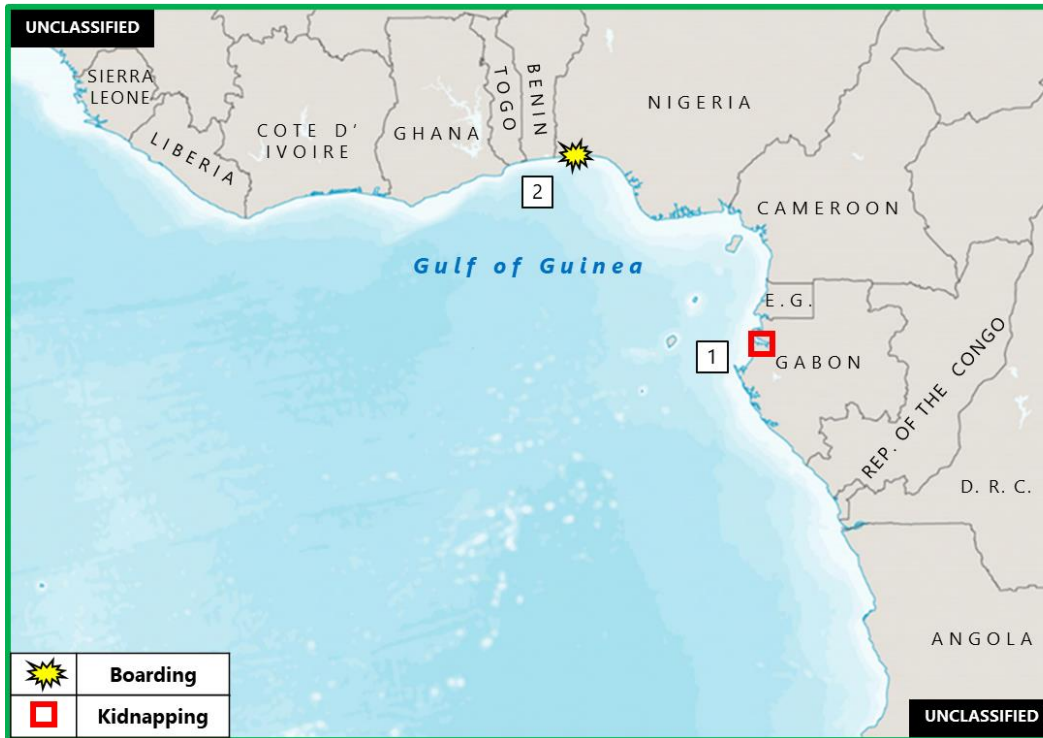
2. (U) PANAMA: On 21 April at 2250 local time, unauthorized persons attempted to board the anchored Hong Kong-flagged container ship CSCL ZEEBRUGGE at Panama East Anchorage, near position 08:52N – 079:29W. A duty crewman on routine rounds noticed perpetrators climbing the anchor chain via the hawse pipe. 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) GABON: On 2 May at 0200 local time, perpetrators boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier GREBE BULKER anchored at Owendo Inner Anchorage, near position 00:16N – 009:29E. The chief officer confirmed that three crew members had been kidnapped. The remaining crew members and vessel are reported safe. The tanker notified the local authorities of the kidnapping. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 28 April at 0500 local time, eight perpetrators armed with knives boarded the berthed Liberia-flagged cargo ship MSC WAVE F at Tin Can Island, Lagos, near position 06:25N – 003:20E. After being spotted by crew members, the perpetrators escaped overboard to a waiting boat. Nothing was reported stolen and the crew was reported safe. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) ANGOLA: On 25 April at 0330 local time, robbers boarded the anchored Panama-flagged high-speed craft BOURBON SHAMAL 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; vesseltracker.com)

4. (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)

5. (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)

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

H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN – EAST AFRICA – RED 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. UPDATE: Yacht 30 MINUTES and its five crew members safely reached Djibouti on 27 April after going missing for days following an attack off the Yemeni coast, the owner said. He stated the vessel reached Djibouti after being detained for several days by Eritrean authorities. (Maritime Executive; Associated Press; Reuters)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



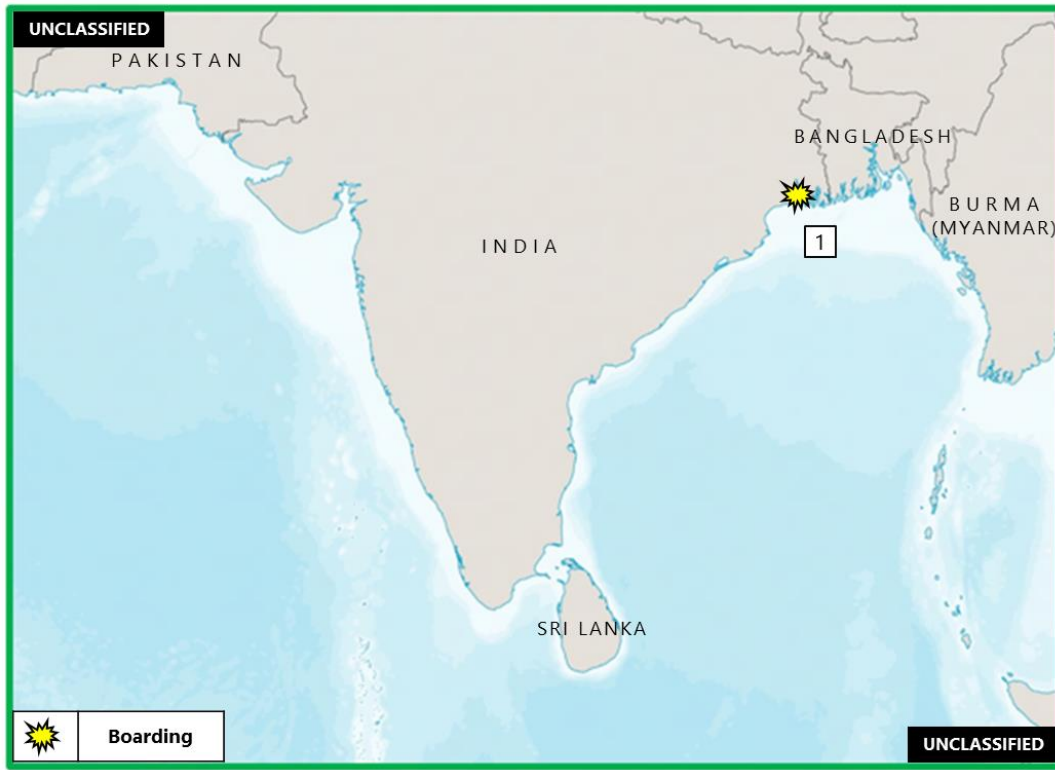
(U) Figure 3. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 1 May, four perpetrators boarded the underway Hong Kong-flagged product tanker RAINBOW STAR in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:15N – 104:13E. The ship sounded the alarm, which resulted in the perpetrators escaping empty-handed. All crew members were reported safe. The tanker did not require any assistance and continued its transit to the Philippines. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

2. PHILIPPINES: On 27 April at 0345 local time, two robbers boarded the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged product tanker RIDGEBURY KATHERINE Z at Sangley Point Anchorage, Manila Bay, near position 14:33N – 120:52E. The robbers stole ship's stores before escaping. The ship reported all crew safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

2. (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)

3. (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 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)
4. (U) VIETNAM: On 19 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)
5. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 15 April between 0455 and 0530 local time, robbers boarded the anchored Hong Kong-flagged container ship MAERSK NINGBO 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; vesseltracker.com)
6. (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)
7. (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)
8. (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)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

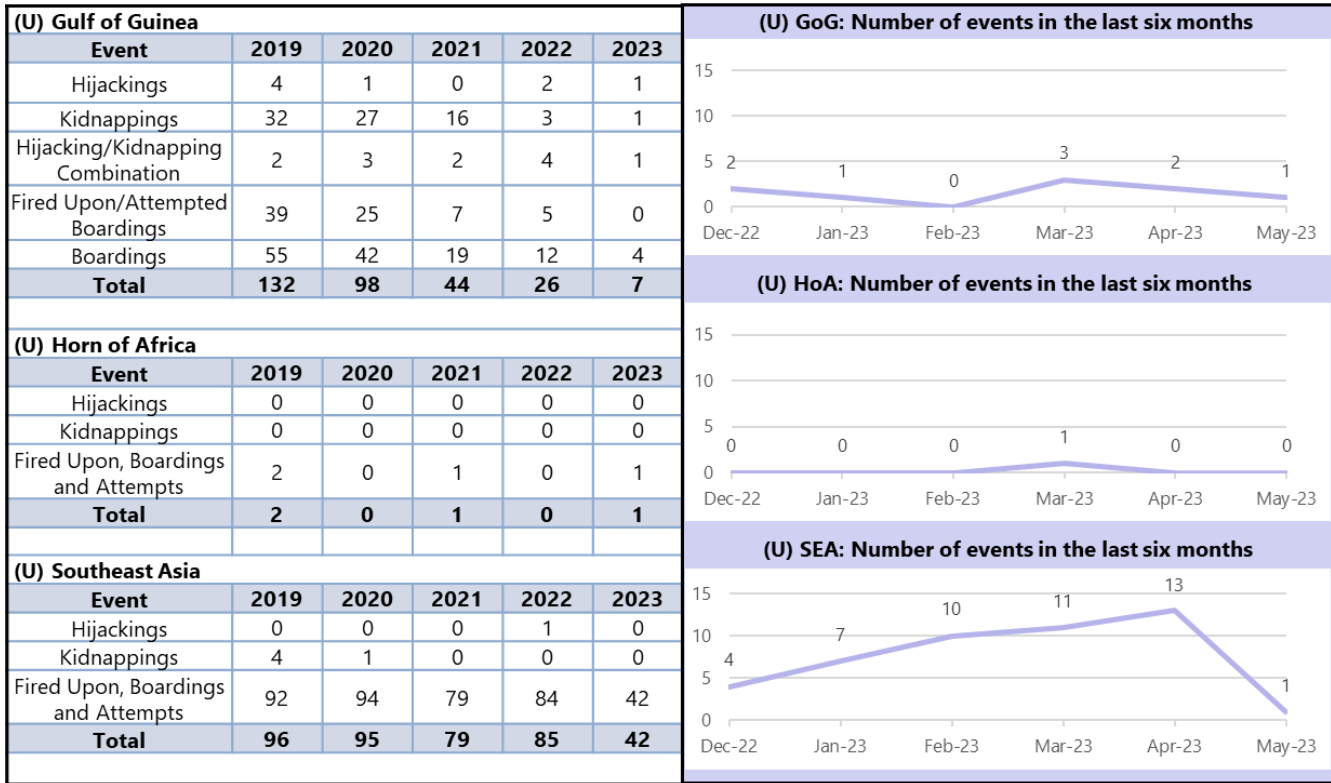
(U) Figure 5. Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) INDIA: (Late Reporting) On 17 April at 0830 local time, robbers boarded the berthed Singapore-flagged bulk carrier PPS LUCK at Haldia Port, near position 22:02N – 088:05E. They escaped with engine spares. The ship reported the crew safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) INDIA: On 25 April at 0130 local time, robbers boarded the anchored Liberia-flagged product tanker SOLAR ROMA 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; vesseltracker.com)

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:** 3 May 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/>