



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** 5 March – 1 April 2020



2 April 2020

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1. (U) **Scope Note**

1. (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 new advisories/warnings.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 27 March, pirates fired upon a cargo vessel approximately 98 NM south of Bonny Island.

B. (U) **ARABIAN GULF:** On 27 March, two skiffs made a suspicious approach on an eastbound tanker approximately 31 NM southeast of Kish, Iran.

C. (U) **BENIN:** On 26 March, a speedboat with up to five individuals onboard approached a tanker 21 south-southwest of Cotonou

D. (U) **INDIA:** On 25 March, robbers boarded a barge in-tow by a tug near Alang.

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 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) BRAZIL: On 17 March at approximately 0330 UTC, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier in Macapa Anchorage at 06:55N - 050:52W. A crewman on routine rounds noticed a small boat near the bow and notified the officer on watch (OOW). When the crewman went to investigate, robbers took him hostage. The OOW noticed movement near the forecastle, was unable to reach the crewman on his walkie-talkie, and raised the alarm. The crew mustered to respond. The robbers subsequently fled with the crewman's walkie-talkie and ship's stores. (IMB)

2. (U) HAITI: On 8 March at 2040LT, robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged container ship TRINIDAD TRADER anchored at 18:34N - 072:24W approximately 3 NM from Port-au-Prince. The general alarm was sounded and the crew mustered in the accommodation area. The crew subsequently searched the vessel, but the robbers had fled with four mooring ropes and one metal wire with hook. The Port-au-Prince port control and Haiti Coast Guard were informed. (ReCAAP)

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:

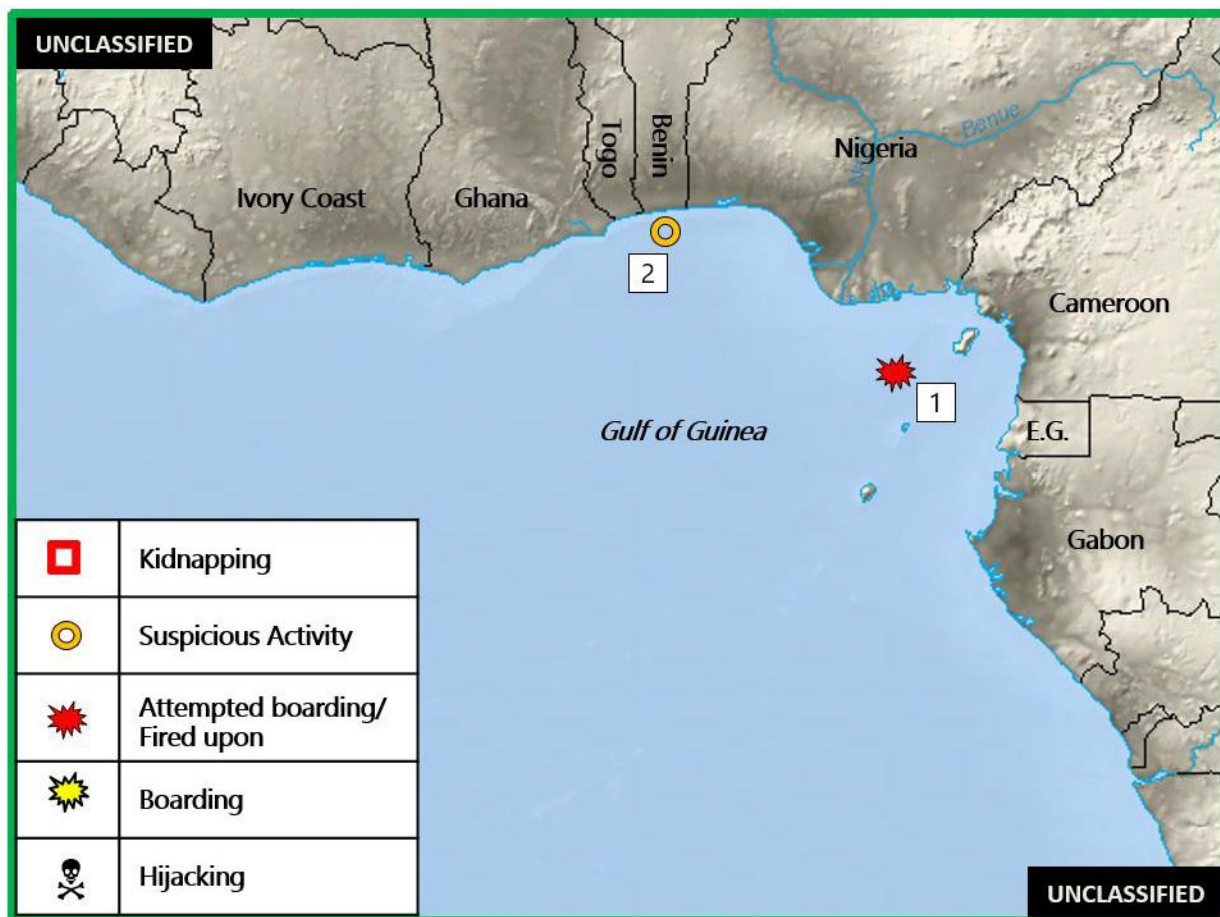


Figure 1. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 March at 0700 UTC, ten pirates armed with AK47s in a speedboat fired upon a cargo vessel approximately 98 NM south of Bonny Island at 02:45N - 006:55E. When the cargo vessel's armed guards responded, the pirates departed the area. (Clearwater Dynamics, MDAT-GOG)

2. (U) BENIN: On 26 March at 0820 UTC, a speedboat with up to five individuals onboard approach an underway tanker approximately 21 NM south-southwest of Cotonou at position 05:59N - 002:21E. The tanker crew observed no weapons on the speedboat, but did see some hooks. The tanker increased speed and undertook evasive maneuvers. After 30 minutes, the speedboat ceased its pursuit. (Clearwater Dynamics, MDAT-GOG)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 25 March at 1630LT, an unidentified craft suspiciously followed a merchant vessel approximately 180 NM southwest of Brass at 02:27N - 004:01E. (MDAT-GoG)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 25 March at 1005 UTC, seven pirates in a black speedboat attempted to board a bulk carrier in position 03:07N - 005:35E approximately 75 NM southwest of Brass Nigeria. Master activated SSAS alert, increased speed, and commenced evasive maneuvers which resulted in the pirates abandoning their attempt to board. (MDAT-GoG, IMB)

5. (U) GABON: On 22 March at 1115 UTC, pirates kidnapped seven Ukrainians from the Portugal-flagged container vessel MSC TALIA F approximately 62 NM west of Libreville at 00:33N - 008:25E. The remaining 10 crew members are believed to have taken refuge in the vessel's citadel. The vessel was transiting from Lomé, Togo, to Libreville at the time of boarding. (MDAT-GoG, Maritime Executive, Maritime Bulletin, IMB)

6. (U) GABON: On 21 March, pirates attacked and hijacked the Equatorial Guinea-flagged coastal RO-RO passenger vessel ELOBEY 6 approximately 22 NM from Port Gentil. Pirates forced the crew to sail to Nigerian waters and fled with three hostage crew members (2 Moroccans, 1 Equatorial Guinean) when approached by a Nigerian Navy vessel. The ELOBEY 6 was subsequently escorted to Equatorial Guinean waters. (Maritime Bulletin, Fleetmon)

7. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 March at 0045 UTC, a robber boarded a tanker 7 NM off Lagos at 06:18N - 003:21E. The robber fled with stolen cargo when a security team member fired warning shots and raised the alarm. A Nigerian Navy patrol boat was dispatched to investigate. (MDAT-GoG, IMB)

8. (U) CAMEROON: On 19 March at 2345 UTC, eight pirates in a boat attacked a merchant vessel approximately 22 NM from Douala at 03:40N - 009:25E. The pirates fled after exchanging fire with the security team. (MDAT-GoG)

9. (U) ANGOLA: On 15 March, two skiffs with four and six individuals onboard approached a supply vessel at anchorage 4 NM from Soyo at 06:04S - 009:25E. The alarm was raised and SSAS was activated. The skiffs subsequently changed their course and headed toward the Congo River. The port authorities were notified and a patrol boat was dispatched to the area. (MDAT-GoG)

10. (U) IVORY COAST: On 7 March at 0150 UTC, a robber in a canoe approached and boarded a tug boat while anchored at Abidjan Anchorage at 05:16N - 004:02W. The crew noticed the person onboard and raised the alarm. All crew was mustered and a security search was conducted. Port control was informed and a security boat was sent to the location. A mobile phone was reported as stolen from the vessel. (Maritime Security Review, IMB)

11. (U) BENIN: On 6 March, Greece's Shipping Ministry reported one Filipino crew was abducted on 5 March, when as many as six persons boarded tanker MINERVA VIRGO in position 05:36N - 002:20E, 45 NM south of Cotonou. The majority of the crew reached the citadel with one person unaccounted for. (Maritime Security Review)

12. (U) NIGERIA: On 6 March, six pirates boarded the Hong Kong-flagged general cargo vessel HUANGHAI GLORY approximately 85 NM south of Lagos. The pirates broke two glasses on the bridge and stole cash before disembarking. The crew sent an SSAS and hid in a cabin. (ReCAAP)

13. (U) TOGO: On 5 March at 0730 UTC, a skiff with as many as 10 persons approached product tanker STI BOSPHORUS at position 05:211N - 001:31E, 50 NM south of Lome. The tanker took evasive maneuvers, increased speed, and activated fire hoses. The skiff approached less than 1 NM from tanker before breaking off pursuit. (Maritime Security Review, IMB)

G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:



Figure 2. Arabian Gulf Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) On 27 March at 1226 UTC, two skiffs with 5-6 people on board made a suspicious approach on an eastbound tanker approximately 31 NM southeast of Kish, Iran at 26:11N - 054:31E. The tanker took evasive measures. The tanker crew observed a raised a ladder during the incident. (UKMTO, Clearwater Dynamics)

H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN - EAST AFRICA - RED SEA: No current incidents to report.

I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA:

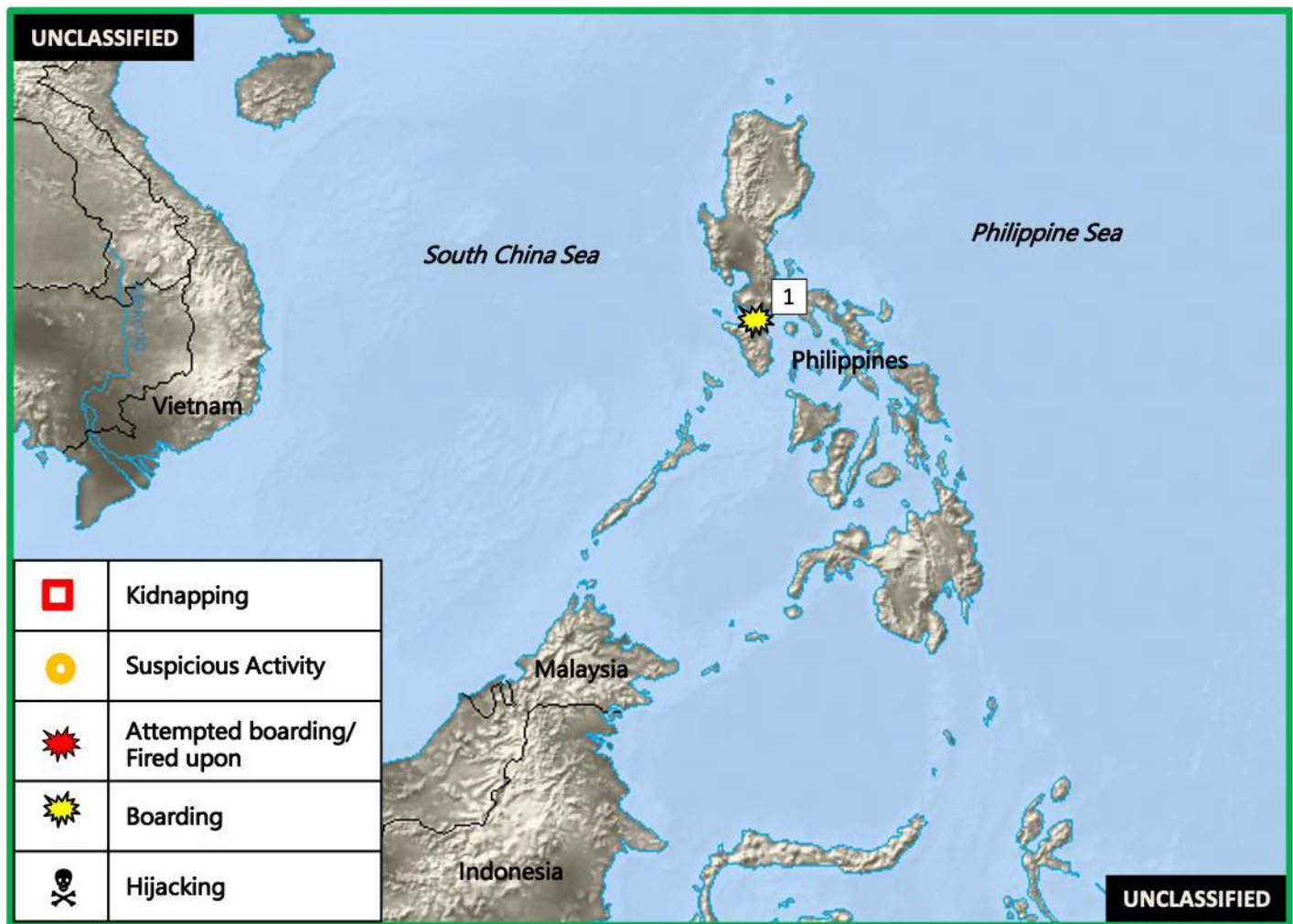


Figure 3. Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 22 March in Batangas Port at 13:41N - 121:00E, a robber with a long knife boarded a berthed product tanker at the forecandle. When the crew raised the alarm, the robber fled. (IMB) **UPDATE: The vessel identified as the Panama-flagged AU LIBRA (ReCAAP)**
2. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 March at 0510LT, three robbers were caught in the engine workshop of the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier SAM JAGUAR which was underway east of Pulau Karimun Kecil in vicinity of 01:08N - 103:31E. The crew turned over the three apprehended robbers to the Indonesian Navy for prosecution. No one was injured during the incident. The Singapore Navy and Police Coast Guard were also notified of the incident. (IFC MARSEC Weekly)
3. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 March at 2020LT, robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged container ship KOTA ANGGERIK while anchored at Belawan anchorage. The watchman on the forecandle detected one robber opening the bolts of the hawse pipe. Upon seeing the watchman and hearing the whistle, the robber reentered the hawse pipe and fled in a wooden boat. A second robber was observed jumping into the water from the anchor chain. A subsequent search of the vessel revealed nothing was stolen. The ship's master tried calling port control, but there was no response. (IFC MARSEC Weekly)
4. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 12 March at 0500LT, two crew members spotted robbers at the forecandle of the Singapore-flagged tanker ENDEAVOUR II anchored in General Santos Harbor at 06:05N - 125:12E. The robbers fled upon hearing the ship's

alarm. The crew searched the vessel and found a broken padlock to the bosun's stores, but nothing was stolen. Port control was notified. (ReCAAP, IFC MARSEC Weekly)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

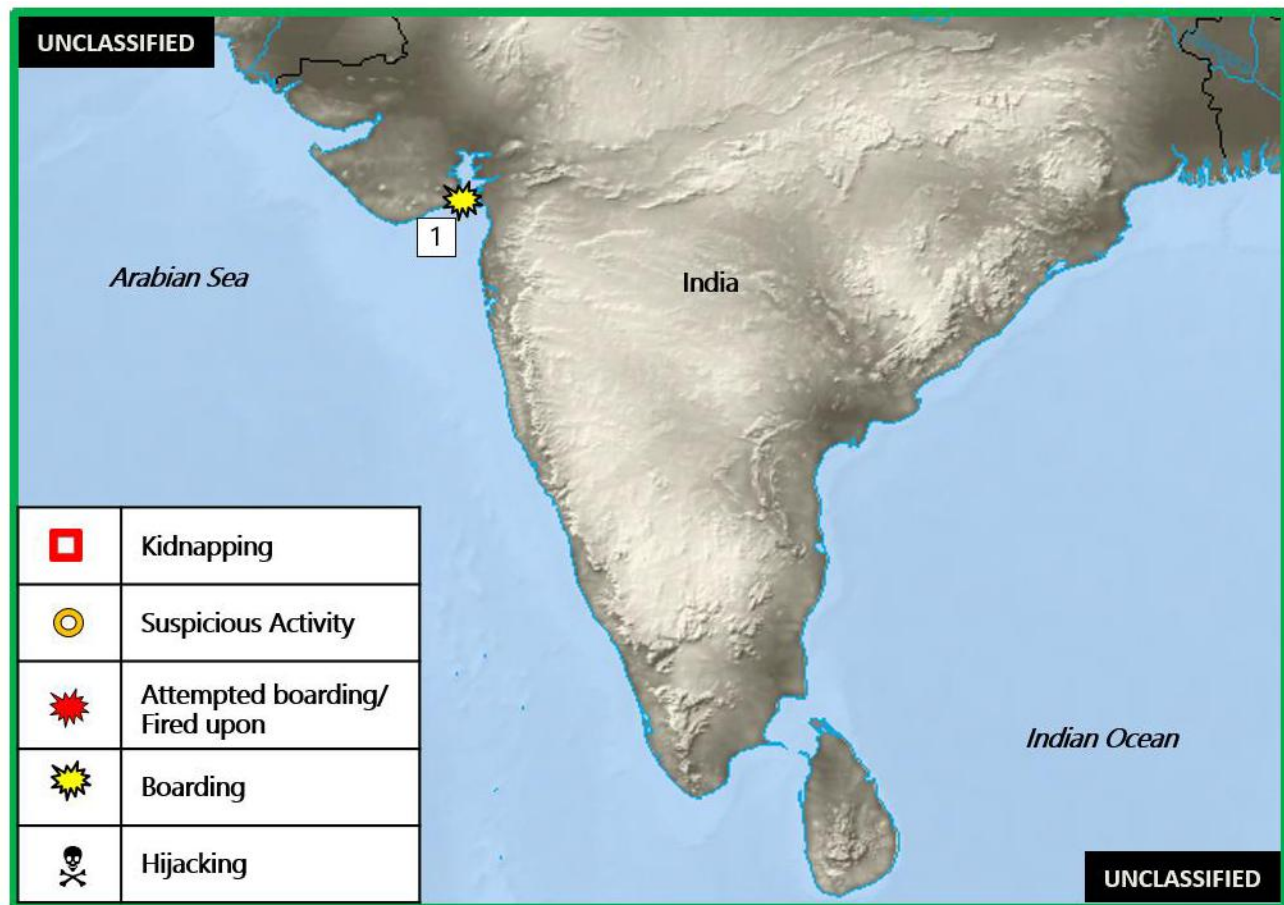


Figure 4. India Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDIA: On 25 March, four robbers boarded the Panama-flagged jack up barge NAASHI, in-tow by the tugboat BATELEUR for dismantling at Alang anchorage at 21:24N - 072:20E. When the master raised the alarm, the robbers fled. The crew informed the local Vessel Traffic Information Service, who in turn reported the incident to the Indian Coast Guard. The Coast Guard station at Pipavav requested local marine police send a vessel to the location. Police and local agents are continuing to investigate. (ReCAAP, Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) BANGLADESH: On 6 March at 1430LT, robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged barge ANTARA KOH 18 in tow by the Indonesia-flagged tug CAPITOL T2001. At the time of the boarding, the tug and barge were anchored off Chittagong at 22:03N - 091:24E while a crane was being installed on the barge. The robbers stole the datalogger display and cut the safety system wiring. Batteries, diesel fuel, and hydraulic fluid were also stolen. The tugboat crew contacted a passing Coast Guard vessel via VHF. The Coast Guard subsequently took action to apprehend the robbers. (IFC MARSEC Weekly)

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

5. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

(U) Contact

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4141.

(U) Other Resources

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: <https://www.oni.navy.mil/News/Shipping-Threat-Reports/>

6. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and Sourcing

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

(U) Terminology

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

(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) 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.

(U) Sourcing

(U) ONI derives information in this report from government agencies, piracy reporting centers, maritime security companies, and open press.

(U) ICOD: 1 April 2020

(U) The Weekly Threat to Shipping (WTS) reports are posted each week on the ONI Intel Portal and can be found at:
<https://www.oni.navy.mil/News/Shipping-Threat-Reports/>