



UNCLASSIFIED

## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** **14 May – 10 June 2020**



11 June 2020

### (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: Further Contact Information and Resources**
6. (U) **Appendix B: Terminology and Sourcing**

### 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:**

- A. (U) **IMB/PRC/Alert – 078-2020: TO ALL SHIPS TRANSITING IN AND OFF EASTERN SABAH /CELEBES SEA/SULU SEA/TAWI TAWI.** This warning is an active warning broadcast transmitted since 151100 UTC May 2020. The IMB PRC received information on 15 May 2020 from Philippine Intel that the Sulu based Abu Sayyef Group (ASG) group is planning kidnapping operations in/off Sabah targeting foreigners/seafarers in the month of May. Information indicates ASG will depart from Sulu to Tawi-Tawi and thereafter head to Sabah onboard a high-powered boat. **UPDATE: After reevaluation by Philippines Intel on 8 June 2020, this warning is still valid for another week. On 23 May 2020, ASG members tried to enter Malaysian waters, but were repelled. Some of the ASG members are still at sea.** Vessels are advised to remain vigilant and maintain strict anti-piracy watch and measures. Early assessment/detection will allow ships to take evasive actions and prevent boarding and request for assistance. Citadel/safe room is important in certain areas. All attacks and suspicious sightings should be reported to local authorities and to the IMB PRC as per IMO Cir 1334. This warning will be re-evaluated on 25 May 2020. The IMB Piracy Reporting Centre 24-hour anti-piracy helpline can be reached at +603 2031 0014 fax: +603 2078 5769 or email: [imbkl@icc-ccs.org](mailto:imbkl@icc-ccs.org) / [piracy@icc-ccs.org](mailto:piracy@icc-ccs.org).

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

- A. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 9 June, suspected pirates approached Liberia-flagged container ship RIO CHARLESTON approximately 110 NM southwest of Brass, Nigeria.

- B. (U) GUINEA: On 9 June, robbers armed with knives and guns boarded a tanker at the Conakry Anchorage at 09:21N - 013:47W.
- C. (U) GABON/EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 6 June, six fishermen kidnapped from two fishing trawlers last month were reportedly released and are in good health.
- D. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 June, armed men hijacked a passenger boat transiting from Port Harcourt to Ke Clan, Degema.
- E. (U) HAITI: On 3 June, robbers boarded a tanker anchored in Port au Prince.

#### 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:**



Figure 1. Caribbean Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) HAITI: On 3 June, five robbers armed with a machete and knives boarded an anchored tanker in the Port au Prince Anchorage area near position 18:35N - 072:33W. When a crew member detected the robbers, he raised the alarm. The robbers subsequently fled with ship's properties. This incident was reported to the port control. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) HAITI: On 17 May, up to 12 robbers armed with machetes boarded the anchored Liberia-flagged tanker TOSNA STAR off Port-au-Prince at 18:34N - 072:24W. During a 30-minute period, the robbers threatened the Argentine crew members before departing with stolen mobile phones and ropes. (Clearwater Dynamics, Maritime Executive)

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:**

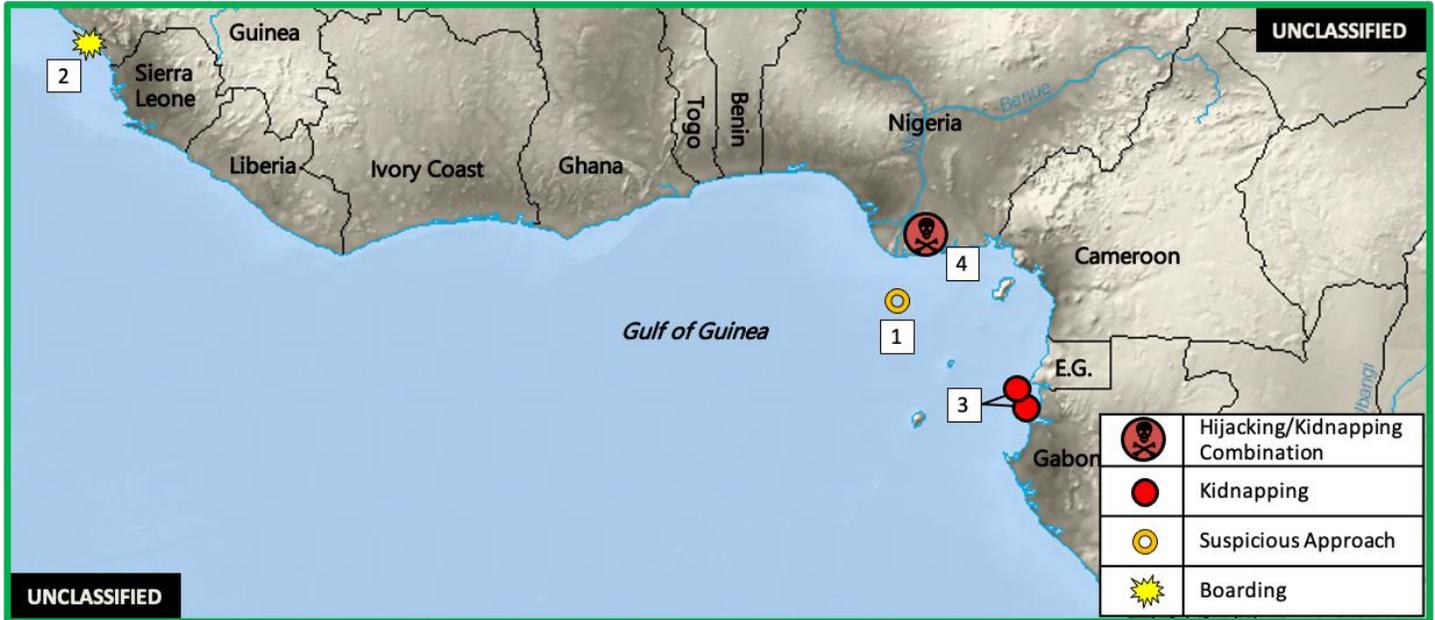


Figure 2. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 9 June at 2000LT, individuals in a speedboat approached the Liberia-flagged container ship RIO CHARLESTON approximately 110 NM southwest of Brass, Nigeria at 03:14N - 004:43E. As the speedboat approached from the port quarter, the crew carried out evasive maneuvers, increased speed, and activated fire hoses. The crew's actions along with a heavy sea state likely caused the speedboat to depart the area. (Clearwater Dynamics; www.fleetmon.com, MDAT-GoG)

2. (U) GUINEA: On 9 June at 0015LT, robbers armed with knives and guns boarded a tanker at the Conakry Anchorage at 09:21N - 013:47W. The robbers assaulted five crew members and stole belongings from the crew before departing. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) GABON/EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 3 May, 13 pirates in a three-engine skiff boarded the Senegal-flagged fishing trawlers AMERGER II and AMERGER VII northwest of Libreville, Gabon at 00:30N - 009:06E and 00:55N - 009:08E. The pirates kidnapped six fishermen, three from each trawler. Three of the hostages are reportedly Indonesian, two are Senegalese, and one is South Korean. (Dryad Global, Clearwater Dynamics) UPDATE: On 6 June, pirates released the six hostages after receiving a ransom. The hostages are reportedly in good health. (Clearwater Dynamics; AFP, MAST Intelligence)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 June at 1600LT, armed men in a speedboat hijacked a passenger boat transiting from Port Harcourt to Ke Clan, Degema near the Namasibi axis of the New Calabar River at 04:28N - 006:57E. During the hijacking, the pirates ordered the passengers to jump into the river. The 13 passengers who could swim jumped into the river. The pirates subsequently hijacked the passenger boat with the two remaining female passengers and an infant still onboard. As of 8

June, media reported the whereabouts of the women and infant remained unknown. (Clearwater Dynamics; [www.thenationonline.net](http://www.thenationonline.net), MAST Intelligence, Daily Post)

5. (U) REPUBLIC OF CONGO: On 29 May at 2250LT, a speedboat with 10 armed and masked men approached an offshore platform approximately 50 NM northwest of Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo at 04:25S - 011:02E. The crew informed management and retreated to the engine room. A rescue team responded and determined the speedboat had departed the area prior to its arrival. (Clearwater Dynamics)
6. (U) DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: On 25 May at 0545LT, a robber boarded the anchored Hong Kong-flagged container ship MAERSK REGENSBURG at Banana Anchorage at 06:01S - 012:20E. The duty crewmen raised the alarm when the robber was spotted removing a lashing from the deck. After being detected, the robber fled in a small boat, powered by an outboard motor. The crew subsequently searched the vessel and found nothing missing. (Clearwater Dynamics, Dryad Global)
7. (U) NIGERIA: On 23 May, 12 armed men in two speedboats ambushed a passenger vessel transiting from Bakana to Degema, River State in the Niger Delta at 04:44N - 006:54E. Four of the passengers were police officers. When the armed men opened fire on the vessel, the policemen initially returned fire. In the end, the boat driver and three of the policemen jumped into the water and swam to safety. The armed men subsequently attacked the remaining policeman and threw him into the water before departing the area with two civilian hostages. (Clearwater Dynamics)
8. (U) NIGERIA: On 20 May at 1730UTC, seven heavily-armed pirates attacked and boarded an underway general cargo vessel approximately 142 NM southwest of Brass, Nigeria near position 02:14N - 005:05E. The crew retreated into the citadel and contacted the owners and the International Maritime Bureau - Piracy Reporting Center. The IMB PRC immediately started liaising with the Nigerian authorities and requested assistance. Two Nigerian naval vessels responded. By the time the naval vessels arrived on the scene, the pirates had departed the area. The crew emerged from the citadel, and the naval vessels remained alongside the ship until daylight to ensure safety and security. The pirates stole ship's equipment before disembarking. (IMB, Clearwater Dynamics, MDAT-GoG, Dryad Global)
9. (U) IVORY COAST: On 16 May at 0700LT, ten pirates hijacked the Ivory Coast-flagged fishing vessel HAI LU FENG 11 near position 04:09N - 003:56W, approximately 65 NM south of Abidjan. The Nigerian authorities subsequently deployed the Nigerian Navy Ship NGURU and Special Boat Service to intercept and rescue the hijacked fishing vessel. The vessel crew consisted of 8 Chinese, 7 Ivorians, and 3 Ghanaians. (Clearwater Dynamics; [www.fcwc-fish.org](http://www.fcwc-fish.org), Maritime Executive)
10. (U) BENIN: On 14 May, individuals in two skiffs approached an underway Italy-flagged ro-ro vessel approximately 106 NM south of Cotonou near position 04:34N - 002:29E. The master increased speed and altered course, which resulted in the two vessels moving away. One skiff came to within 2.5 NM of the vessel. (Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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

1. (U) ERITREA: On 20 May at 0430LT, the captain of a tanker transiting north in the Red Sea spotted two high-speed skiffs approximately 48 NM southwest of Hodeidah Port, Yemen near position 14:24N - 042:11E. When the skiffs changed course to intercept the tanker, the captain changed course and increased speed. The skiffs approached to within 0.5 NM during the incident. There were seven individuals onboard each skiff carrying objects, possibly weapons. The skiffs also had black flags with white Arabic letters. The skiffs passed the tanker's starboard side and continued clear of the vessel's stern. The individuals in the skiffs made no attempt to board or chase the tanker. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) YEMEN: On 17 May, armed individuals in two skiffs approached and fired upon the United Kingdom-flagged chemical tanker STOLT APAL 75 NM southeast of Mukalla near position 13:43N - 050:37E. "After multiple warning shots were fired by the armed guard team aboard STOLT APAL, the skiffs opened fire on the ship. The armed guard team returned fire, disabling one skiff and ending the pursuit," according to a company spokesman. (Maritime Executive, Clearwater Dynamics; gCaptain, Dryad Global)

**I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA:**

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 June at 1900LT, two robbers in a small boat approached and boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Muara Berau Anchorage at 00:15S - 117:36E. The robbers used ropes with hooks to board the vessel. Once onboard, they managed to gain access to the forecastle store before being detected by the crew. The robbers fled empty-handed. (Clearwater Dynamics, IMB)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 May at 0420LT, a duty crew member on routine rounds noticed the forecastle skylight open and anchor pipe cover and padlock missing on his bulk carrier anchored at Muara Berau Anchorage at 00:16S - 117:36E. The crew subsequently conducted a search and discovered a robber had managed to steal ship's stores. The crew reported the incident to the Coast Guard who responded and conducted an investigation. (IMB, Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 May, robbers boarded a yacht off Sumatra at 03:58S - 105:53E. The robbers stole navigation equipment, radios, cell phones, cooking utensils, passport, and ship's equipment. The South Sumatra Regional Police responded and succeeded in locating the stolen items on 27 May. The suspects are still at large. (IFC MARSEC Weekly Report)

4. (U) VIETNAM: On 22 May at 0130LT, a crew member, following a cargo operation, discovered a theft had occurred on the anchored Liberia-flagged bulk carrier BALTIC COVE in the Campha Anchorage at 20:57N - 107:18E. The crew member discovered some hose nozzles in a drum near the paint store. A subsequent inspection revealed a hoisting wire was also missing from the bosun store. The incident was reported to the local agent. (ReCAAP, Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 May at 0225LT, three robbers in a small boat approached and boarded a tanker anchored in the Merak Anchorage near position 05:54S - 105:59E. The robbers were armed with long knives and climbed onboard using a ladder. Once onboard, they broke into the steering gear room. When the crew spotted the robbers, they raised the alarm and mustered. The robbers subsequently fled with stolen engine spares. The crew informed port authority of the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics, IMB)

6. (U) MALAYSIA: On 18 May at 0400LT, robbers in a wooden fishing boat approached and boarded an accommodation work barge under tow approximately 6 NM South of Batu Pahat Coast, Johor, Malaysia near position 01:38N - 102:57E. When the duty officer on the tug noticed the small boat approaching the barge, he raised the alarm and notified the Coastal Vessel Traffic Service. When three robbers from the boat boarded the barge, the crew directed a searchlight at the small boat resulting in the boat departing with the robbers still onboard the barge. The small boat subsequently returned to collect the robbers before departing again. The crew has not determined if any items were stolen from the barge. The crew informed the Malaysian Coast Guard of the incident. (IMB, Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 May at 2247LT, three robbers boarded the supply boat WINPOSH RESOLVE while under tow by the Indonesia-flagged tugboat SMS SANGATTA approximately 2.1 nm northeast of Pulau Nongsa, Indonesia, south of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Singapore Strait near position 01:13N - 104:06E. The master raised the alarm and reported the incident to the Singapore VTIS. At 2358LT the master updated authorities that the perpetrators had escaped empty-handed. The tugboat and supply vessel subsequently resumed their voyage. (ReCAAP, IMB)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 May at 0130LT, robbers boarded a tanker anchored in the Anyer Anchorage near position 06:01S - 105:55E. When an on-duty crew member spotted one of the robbers armed with a knife, he raised the alarm. While retreating to the accommodation block, the crew member spotted another robber exiting the emergency steering room. The robbers subsequently escaped in their boat. The robbers managed to steal engine spares during the boarding. (Clearwater Dynamics, IMB)

9. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 May at 0400LT, robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged tanker OCEAN LEADER anchored in the Tanjung Uban Anchorage near position 01:05N - 104:10E. When the duty crew spotted three robbers with knives, they raised the alarm and the crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped empty-handed leaving behind a small knife. The local agent informed the port authorities and the Indonesian Navy. (ReCAAP, Clearwater Dynamics, IMB)

10. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 May, robbers boarded a tanker berthed at the Belawan Port, near position 03:47N - 098:42E. The crew did not realize there had been a robbery until after cargo operations were completed. The crew reported the incident to the port authority at Belawan. (Clearwater Dynamics, IMB)

11. (U) MALAYSIA: On 15 May at 1850LT, two robbers boarded the underway Comoros-flagged tugboat DOLPHIN 1 while towing the Singapore-flagged barge KIM HENG 191 in vicinity of Tanjung Piai near position 01:13N - 103:30E. When the tug master spotted two robbers, the robbers fled on a sampan with stolen berthing ropes. (Clearwater Dynamics, ReCAAP)

#### **J. INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:**

1. (U) INDIA: On 29 May at 0800LT, 15 robbers in a fishing trawler came alongside and boarded another fishing trawler approximately 65 NM off Goa and Malvan (Maharashtra) at 15:30N - 072:50E. The robbers held the crew hostage and escaped with stolen fish, navigational equipment, and a wireless communication system. The incident was reported to the local police who succeeded in arresting the robbers and recovering all of the stolen goods. (Goa News Hub)

2. (U) BANGLADESH: On 24 May at 2100LT, crew members on a berthed tanker noticed some of the mooring rope from the winch missing at Chittagong Port at 22:16N - 091:49E. A subsequent search by the crew revealed that robbers had managed to board the tanker undetected and steal ship stores. (Clearwater Dynamics)

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

#### **(U) Sourcing**

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

(U) **ICOD:** 10 June 2020