



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 3–31 January 2024**



31 January 2024

(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: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends**
6. (U) **Appendix B: Definitions and Sourcing**
7. (U) **Appendix C: Active U.S. Maritime Advisories**

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) GULF OF ADEN: On 31 January, USS CARNEY shot down an anti-ship ballistic missile fired from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen and intercepted three unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) operating in its vicinity.

B. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 31 January, two suspected motherships and a skiff approached a merchant vessel 470 NM east of Socotra Island, Yemen.

C. (U) RED SEA: On 30 January, USS GRAVELY shot down an anti-ship cruise missile fired from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen.

D. (U) RED SEA: On 29 January, three small boats approached a merchant vessel 44 NM west of Mokha, Yemen.

E. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On or before 29 January, suspected Somali pirates hijacked an Iran-flagged fishing vessel off the east coast of Somalia.

F. (U) ARABIAN GULF: On 28 January, the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps seized a tanker 60 NM off the coast of Bandar Bushehr, Iran.

G. (U) RED SEA: On 28 January, Houthis launched a UAV toward the British Navy's HMS DIAMOND 144 NM northwest of Hodeida, Yemen.

H. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 28 January, pirates hijacked an Iran-flagged fishing vessel off the coast of Abo, Somalia.

I. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 January, one perpetrator attempted to board a tanker anchored at Lubuk Gaung Anchorage.

J. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 28 January, a small craft with five armed persons onboard approached a merchant vessel 70 NM northwest of Bossaso, Somalia.

K. (U) INDIA: On 27 January, one robber boarded an anchored tanker at Kakinada Anchorage.

L. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 27 January, pirates hijacked a Sri Lankan fishing trawler 965 NM east of Mogadishu, Somalia.

M. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 27 January, a small boat with four persons armed with automatic rifles and a rocket propelled grenade launcher approached and fired upon a merchant vessel 780 NM east of Hafun, Somalia.

N. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 26 January, a Houthi missile struck a product tanker 60NM southeast of Aden, Yemen.

O. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 26 January, two missiles exploded in the water off the port quarter of a vessel 60 NM southwest of Aden, Yemen.

P. (U) ANGOLA: On 25 January, robbers boarded an offshore supply vessel at Luanda Anchorage.

Q. (U) TOGO: On 23 January, one perpetrator attempted to board a vessel anchored at Lome 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: No current incidents to report.

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) ANGOLA: On 25 January at 0130 local time, robbers boarded an anchored offshore supply vessel at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:44S – 013:17E. After seeing a small canoe moving away from the vessel, the security watchman reported to the duty officer, resulting in a search of the vessel. During the search, two 50-meter mooring lines were reported missing. The incident was reported to port authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics; MDAT-GoG; IMB)

2. (U) TOGO: On 23 January at 2340 local time, a duty crew member observed a small canoe approaching the vessel's anchor chain at Lome Anchorage, near position 06:07N – 001:19E. One perpetrator began climbing the chain, leading the crew member to raise the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the perpetrator abandoned the attempted boarding, jumped into the canoe, and escaped. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) ANGOLA: Overnight between 14-15 January, unknown and undetected perpetrators boarded the Bahamas-flagged offshore supply vessel BOURBON TOPAZ while anchored at Soyo Anchorage, near position 06:05S – 012:15E. During routine rounds in the morning, the crew discovered that mooring lines had been stolen. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

4. (U) ANGOLA: On 9 January at 0335 local time, as many as four robbers boarded a vessel anchored at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:42S – 013:17E. After discovering the perpetrators on deck, the alarm was raised, and

the robbers escaped in a small boat. A subsequent search revealed that six lifejackets and five immersion suits were missing. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) ANGOLA: On 8 January at 0030 local time, five robbers boarded the Nigeria-flagged product tanker RATHBONE from a small boat at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:42S – 013:16E. Once onboard, the perpetrators overpowered a duty crew member and started to unfasten mooring lines. The duty crew member was able to escape and raise the alarm. The crew then mustered inside the accommodation section, while the robbers escaped in the small boat after retrieving the stolen mooring ropes from the water. The crew and vessel were reported safe. The vessel reported the incident to the port authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

6. (U) ANGOLA: On 3 January at 0100 local time, three robbers boarded the France-flagged fire fighting vessel BOURBON EXPLORER 519 at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:44S – 013:18E. After boarding undetected, the perpetrators broke into the bosun's store, stole firefighting equipment consisting of two sets of breathing apparatuses and four chemical suits, and escaped. The theft was noticed during routine rounds later that morning. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; vesseltracker.com)

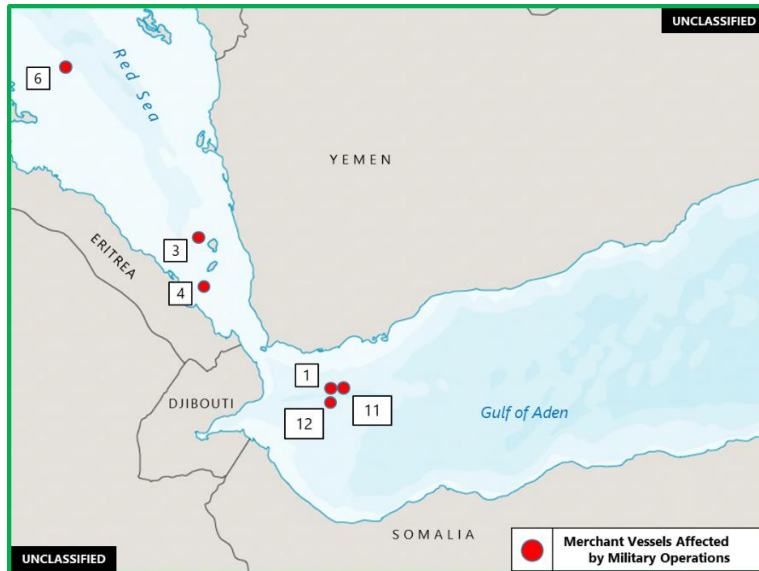
G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:



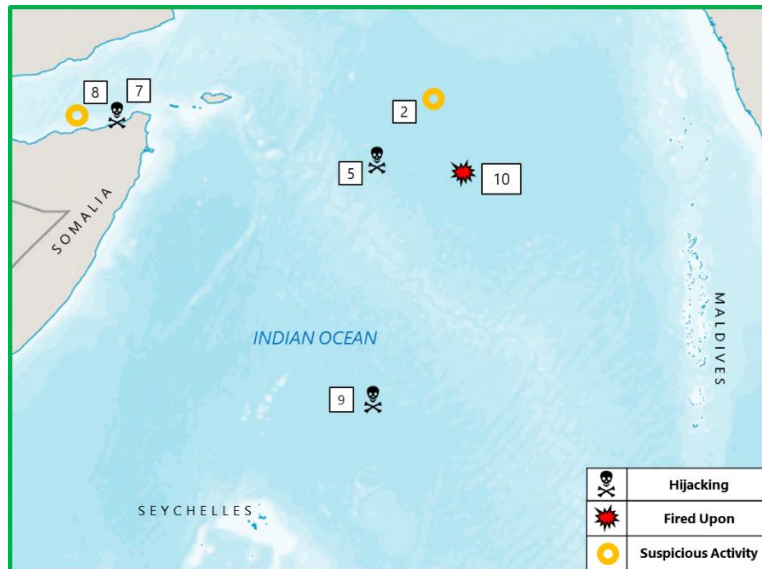
(U) Figure 2. Arabian Gulf Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) ARABIAN GULF: On 28 January at an unspecified time, the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) seized a tanker 60 NM off the coast of Bandar Bushehr, Iran (exact location not specified). An IRGC Commander stated during a press briefing that the tanker is from "a country in Oceania" and was detained with 14 crewmembers from "two Asian countries". After searching the ship, the IRGC determined that the apprehended tanker was loaded with two million liters of diesel fuel, which they asserted was being smuggled illegally out of Iran. (Maritime Executive; Clearwater Dynamics)

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



(U) Figure 3. Red Sea – Gulf of Aden Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea



(U) Figure 4. Indian Ocean – East Africa Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) GULF OF ADEN: on 31 January at 1730 UTC, USS CARNEY shot down an anti-ship ballistic missile fired from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen (exact position not specified). Subsequently, at 1810 UTC, USS CARNEY intercepted three unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) operating in its vicinity. No injuries or damage were reported. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 31 January at 1120 UTC, two suspected motherships altered course toward a merchant vessel and a skiff approached the vessel while it was underway 470 NM east of Socotra Island, Yemen, near position 12:44N – 062:29E. Threats were reported to have been heard over channel 16. The perpetrators abandoned their approach as the vessel increased speed and changed course. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) RED SEA: On 30 January at an unspecified time, USS GRAVELY shot down an anti-ship cruise missile fired from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen (exact position not specified). No injuries or damage from the missile were reported. (Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) RED SEA: On 29 January at 1535 UTC, three small boats approached a merchant vessel on its starboard bow 44 NM west of Mokha, Yemen (exact position not specified). The three boats regrouped astern with the closest approaching to within 1 NM of the vessel. The master described one of the boats as grey in color with a front-mounted weapon. The embarked armed security team fired warning shots and the small boats departed the area. The crew and vessel were reported safe and the vessel continued on its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On or before 29 January at an unspecified time, 11 Somali pirates hijacked the Iran-flagged fishing vessel AL NAEEMI off the east coast of Somalia (exact position not specified). After boarding the vessel, the perpetrators took the 19 Pakistani crew members hostage. The Indian Navy responded to the incident, intercepted the fishing vessel on the evening of 29 January, and compelled the perpetrators to release the fishing vessel and its crew. (Associated Press; Indian Navy)

6. (U) RED SEA: On 28 January at an unspecified time, Houthis launched a UAV toward the British Navy's HMS DIAMOND 144 NM northwest of Hodeida, Yemen (exact position not specified). (Clearwater Dynamics; Maritime Executive)

7. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 28 January at an unspecified time, pirates hijacked the Iran-flagged fishing vessel IMAN off the coast of Abo, Somalia (exact position not specified). Once onboard, the perpetrators restrained the vessel's 17 Iranian crew members. The Indian Navy's INS SUMITRA responded to the dhow's distress call on 28 January and successfully negotiated the safe release of both the crew and vessel on 29 January. (Clearwater Dynamics; Indian Navy)

8. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 28 January, a small craft with five armed persons onboard approached a merchant vessel 70 NM northwest of Bossaso, Somalia, near position 11:32N – 048:01E. None of the perpetrators wore a uniform. The armed security team fired two warning shots and the small boat broke away from its approach. The master reported that the vessel and all crew were safe, and the vessel continued its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)

9. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 27 January at 1600 UTC, pirates hijacked the Sri Lanka-flagged fishing trawler LORENZO PUTHA 4 approximately 965 NM east of Mogadishu, Somalia, near position 00:35N – 061:19E. On 29 January, the Seychelles People's Defense Force and coast guard, in coordination with forces from India and Sri Lanka, rescued the six Sri Lankan crew members and apprehended three hijackers. The crew and fishing trawler were escorted to Port Victoria in the Seychelles. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; gCaptain; Maritime Executive; Associated Press; ReCAAP)

10. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 27 January at 0810 UTC, a small boat, with four persons armed with automatic rifles and a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, approached a merchant vessel 780 NM east of Hafun, Somalia, near position 10:31N – 064:28E. After the boat came to within 300 meters of the vessel, the armed security team aboard the merchant vessel fired warning shots and exchanged gunfire with the perpetrators. The small boat then retreated to a mothership. The crew and vessel were reported safe and the vessel continued its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)

11. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 26 January at 1642 UTC, a Houthi anti-ship ballistic missile struck the Marshall Islands-flagged product tanker MARLIN LUANDA while it was underway 60 NM southeast of Aden, Yemen, near position 12:04N – 045:44E. Following the missile strike, a fire ensued in one of the cargo holds. USS CARNEY, the French Navy's FS ALSACE and the Indian Navy's INS VISAKHAPATNAM responded, providing critical firefighting material and assistance to the civilian crew, who had depleted onboard firefighting capability. The fire was extinguished with no casualties. The ship remained seaworthy and continued its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; U.S. Central Command)

12. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 26 January at 1025 UTC, two anti-ship ballistic missiles exploded in the water off the port side of a merchant vessel underway 60 NM southwest of Aden, Yemen, near position 11:57N – 044: 25E. The master reported that the vessel and crew were safe and that there was no ship damage. The vessel continued its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

13. (U) RED SEA: On 24 January at 1955 UTC, a UAV attacked a Liberia-flagged bulk carrier approximately 144 NM northwest of Hodeidah, Yemen, near position 16:21N – 040:46E. The UAV flew over the vessel before hitting the water nearby. No damage was sustained by the vessel and no injuries to the crew were reported. (Clearwater Dynamics)

14. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 24 January at 1100 UTC, Houthis fired three anti-ship ballistic missiles at the U.S.-flagged and -owned container ship MAERSK DETROIT while it was underway approximately 50 NM south of Mokha, Yemen (exact position not specified). The container ship was transiting with another U.S.-flagged container ship under a scheduled escort from a U.S. Navy ship. One missile impacted in the sea, 100 meters off MAERSK DETROIT's starboard side. The two other missiles were successfully engaged and shot down by USS GRAVELY. There were no reported injuries or damage to the ship or crew. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; U.S. Central Command; vesseltracker.com)

15. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 24 January at 0630 UTC, a skiff, with an unknown number of persons and a ladder onboard, approached a merchant vessel approximately 960 NM east-southeast of Eyl, Somalia, near position 05:30N – 065:48E. An armed security team onboard the vessel fired warning shots which resulted in the skiff aborting the approach. It was reported that the skiff then headed toward what appeared to be a mothership. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

16. (U) BAB EL MANDEB STRAIT: On 23 January at 0938 UTC, UAV activity was observed 46 NM south of Mokha, Yemen (exact position not specified). (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

17. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 21 January at 0830 UTC, a small boat approached a merchant vessel 121 NM southeast of Muscat, Oman, near position 23:08N – 060:45E. The boat came to within 1,000 meters of the vessel and

stopped. No ladders or weapons were visible. The boat then began to approach another vessel. Up to three other small boats were also seen in the area. (Clearwater Dynamics)

18. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 18 January at 1900 UTC, a UAV was observed in close proximity to the Marshall Islands-flagged, U.S.-owned product tanker CHEM RANGER 110 NM southeast of Aden, Yemen, near position 12:27N – 046:53E. According to U.S. Central Command, Houthis launched two anti-ship ballistic missiles at the tanker. The crew observed a missile explode in the water near the ship. There were no reported injuries or damage to the ship. CHEM RANGER later resumed its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; U.S. Central Command)

19. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 18 January at 1833 UTC, four UAVs were observed flying near a merchant vessel 85 NM southeast of Ash Shihr, Yemen, near position 13:06N – 050:00E. One of the UAVs hit the water approximately 800 meters from the vessel. The master reported that the crew and vessel were safe following the incident and the vessel proceeded to its next port. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

20. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 17 January at an unspecified time, a UAV struck the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier GENCO PICARDY while underway approximately 60 NM SE of Aden, Yemen, near position 11:58N – 045:31E. The UAV hit the vessel on its port side. The master reported that there was a fire onboard, which was subsequently extinguished. Vessel and crew were reported safe following the incident. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; gCaptain)

21. (U) RED SEA: On 17 January at 0330 UTC, eight small boats approached a vessel underway approximately 15 NM SW of Mokha, Yemen, near position 13:17N – 042:59E. The eight boats followed the vessel before departing the area. The vessel and crew were reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

22. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 16 January at 1945 UTC, a vessel spotted a possible UAV while underway approximately 138 NM SE of Mukallah, Yemen, near position 13:35N – 051:20E. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

23. (U) RED SEA: On 16 January at 1100 UTC, an unknown object struck a Malta-flagged bulk carrier underway approximately 100 NM northwest of Saleef, Yemen (exact location not specified). The object hit the vessel's cargo hold. The vessel sustained some damage above the water line, but reported no fires or casualties resulting from the impact. Following the incident, the vessel and its crew were reported safe and the vessel was continuing to its next port of call. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

24. (U) RED SEA: On 16 January at 1100 UTC, four boats approached a merchant vessel approximately 13 NM east of Mokha, Yemen, near position 13:17N – 043:01E. When the boats came to within 400 meters of the vessel, the armed security onboard fired four warning shots into the water, which resulted in the boats aborting their approach. The ship continued its voyage with no reported damage and the crew safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

25. (U) RED SEA: On 15 January at 2200 UTC, a small boat circled a vessel approximately 57 NM north-northwest of Assab, Eritrea, near position 13:41N – 042:35E. The armed security team onboard displayed their weapons and fired warning shots, after which the small boat departed. The crew and vessel were reported safe and the vessel proceeded to its next port. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

26. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 15 January at 1305 UTC, an anti-ship ballistic missile, fired from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen, struck the Marshall Islands-flagged container ship GIBRALTAR EAGLE, approximately 95 NM southeast of Aden, Yemen, near position 12:30N – 046:49E. The ship reported no injuries or significant damage, and continued its voyage. (U.S. Central Command; UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)
27. (U) RED SEA: On 14 January at 1110 UTC, two small boats approached a Panama-flagged cargo vessel 23 NM northwest of Assab, Eritrea, near position 13:18N – 042:29E. The two small craft had as many as six armed persons onboard dressed in civilian clothes with a heavy machine gun fitted onboard. After approaching, the boats hailed the vessel and attempted to get it to alter course. The vessel maintained its course. The two small boats then left the vicinity. The crew and vessel are reported safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)
28. (U) RED SEA: On 14 January at 0445 UTC, the Houthis fired an anti-ship cruise missile toward the USS LABOON. A U.S. fighter aircraft intercepted the missile off the coast of Hodeida, Yemen. No injuries or damage were reported. (U.S. Central Command; Clearwater Dynamics)
29. (U) SOMALIA: On the night of 12 January, two Yemeni fishing boats were hijacked near Maraya on Somalia's east coast, near position 08:19N – 050:10E. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)
30. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 12 January at 1500 UTC, there were multiple reports of small boats approaching merchant shipping approximately 80 NM southeast of Aden, Yemen. According to one report, two small boats followed a merchant vessel for over an hour. The vessel reported that no weapons were sighted. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)
31. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 12 January at approximately 1500 UTC, a missile landed in the water 400 to 500 meters away from a merchant vessel, followed by three small boats, near position 12:15N – 046:20E. No injuries or damage were reported and the vessel proceeded to its next port. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)
32. (U) GULF OF OMAN: On 11 January at 0330 UTC, as many as five members of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), dressed in black, military style uniforms and black masks, boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker ST NIKOLAS as it sailed 50 NM east of Sohar, Oman, near position 24:35N – 057:35E. The IRGC forced the tanker to change course toward Iranian territorial waters. The tanker was last reported to be located in the anchorage of the Larak/Qeshm Islands, near position 27:00N – 056:17E. There are 19 crew onboard, consisting of 18 Philippine nationals and one Greek national. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Reuters; vesseltracker.com)
33. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 10 January at 2300 UTC, the Houthis fired an anti-ship ballistic missile into international shipping lanes. A merchant vessel reported observing a missile impact the water. No damage or injuries were reported. (Clearwater Dynamics)
34. (U) RED SEA: On 9 January at 2000 UTC, a vessel was fired upon by three small boats while underway approximately 13 NM southwest of Dhubab, Yemen, near position 12:50N – 043:13E. The boats reportedly fired two projectiles at the vessel from 1 NM away; the projectiles missed the vessel. A UAV also passed over the vessel. At 2245 UTC, the vessel reported that the three small craft fired twice on another vessel before heading back toward Yemen. Neither vessel was hit by any of the projectiles fired from the small boats. (Clearwater Dynamics)

35. (U) RED SEA: On 9 January at 1930 UTC, approximately 50 NM west of Hodeida, Yemen, a complex attack directed toward international shipping lanes and involving one-way attack unmanned aerial vehicles (OWA UAVs) as well as anti-ship ballistic and cruise missiles was launched from Houthi-controlled territory. Eighteen UAVs, two cruise missiles, and one ballistic missile were shot down by a combination of fighter aircraft from USS EISENHOWER, USS GRAVELY, USS LABOON, USS MASON, and the United Kingdom's HMS DIAMOND. There were no injuries or damage reported. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; US Central Command)
36. (U) BAB EL MANDEB STRAIT: On 8 January at 0800 UTC, two green-hulled small craft approached within 0.5 NM of a vessel approximately 50 NM southeast of Mokha, Yemen, near position 12:30N – 043:25E. No weapons were sighted, and the crew and vessel were reported safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)
37. (U) BAB EL MANDEB STRAIT: On 6 January at 1324 UTC, six small craft approached within 1 NM of a merchant vessel approximately 50 NM southeast of Mokha, Yemen, near position 12:30N – 043:28E. No weapons were sighted and coalition forces were sent to investigate the incident. Authorities reported that the small craft exited the area, and that the crew and vessel were safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)
38. (U) RED SEA: On 6 January at 0630 UTC, USS LABOON was patrolling in the southern Red Sea (exact position not known) and shot down a UAV in the vicinity of multiple commercial vessels. The UAV had been launched from Houthi-controlled area in Yemen. No casualties or damage to any vessels were reported. (Clearwater Dynamics)
39. (U) RED SEA: On 5 January at 1934 UTC, a UAV was seen circling a vessel near position 17:50N – 039:29E. The crew and security team manned their stations and monitored the activity. The UAV made no aggressive advances toward the vessel and departed the area. The security team was then stood down. Thirty minutes later another UAV approached the same vessel, circled and then departed. (Clearwater Dynamics)
40. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 4 January at 1419 UTC, as many as six persons armed with machine guns and rocket launchers onboard a skiff launched from a mothership, boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier LILA NORFOLK while underway 460 NM east of Eyl, Somalia, near position 06:05N – 057:18E. During the boarding, all but one of the ship's crew, composed of 15 Indian and 6 Philippine nationals, sheltered in the citadel; the remaining crew member hid elsewhere. The Indian Navy destroyer INS CHENNAI responded to UKMTO's report of the attack on LILA NORFOLK. The Indian Navy also deployed a P-8 maritime patrol aircraft and a Predator drone to assist in the interception of the vessel. After arriving at LILA NORFOLK's location on 5 January, Marine commandos from CHENNAI subsequently boarded and found no unauthorized persons. All crew were accounted for and unharmed. (UKMTO; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com; U.S. Naval Institute; India Today)
40. (U) RED SEA: On 4 January, an unmanned surface vessel packed with explosives and launched from Houthi-controlled territory detonated in shipping lanes approximately 50 NM from Yemen (exact time and location not specified). The detonation occurred within a few nautical miles of ships operating in the area—merchant ships and U.S. Navy ships—but no damage or casualties were reported. VADM Cooper of the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command stated that the intended target of the attack was unclear. (The Hill.com; Reuters; Clearwater Dynamics)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



(U) Figure 5. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 January at 0450 local time, the duty watchkeeper spotted a perpetrator attempting to board a tanker at Lubuk Gaung Anchorage, near position 01:43N – 101:24E. The watchkeeper then raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the perpetrator escaped. The ship informed port authorities of the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 January at 0130 local time, five perpetrators attempted to board the Liberia-flagged product tanker SOLAR ROMA while anchored at Dumai Anchorage, near position 01:43N – 101:25E. The security patrol onboard the tanker noticed the unauthorized persons and notified the officer of the watch. The alarm was raised, causing the perpetrators to abort their boarding attempt and depart the area. Nothing was stolen and the port authorities were notified. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 10 January at 0240 local time, five perpetrators, including one armed with a knife, boarded the underway Panama-flagged bulk carrier CMB CHIKAKO in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:03N – 103:41E. The crew spotted the robbers in the engine room. The master raised the alarm, mustered the crew, and reported the boarding to local authorities. The crew thoroughly searched the vessel and found engine spare parts missing. The master reported all crew were safe and there were no injuries. The vessel did not require any assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

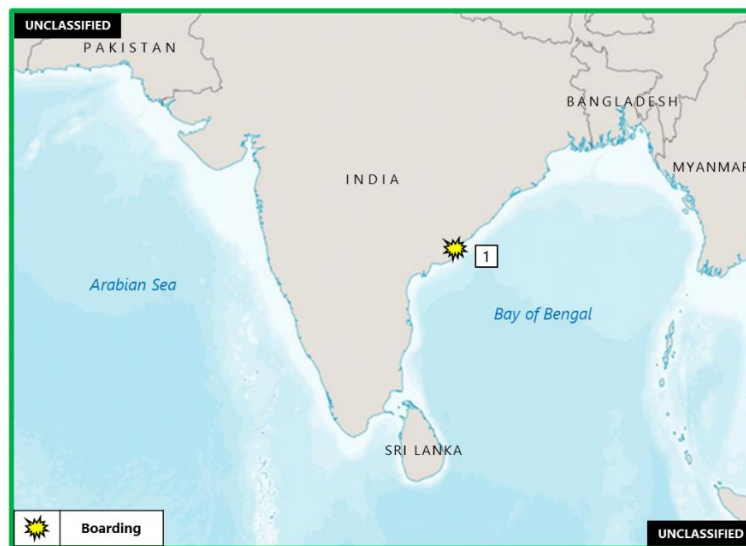
4. (U) INDONESIA: On 4 January at 0315 local time, six robbers armed with knives boarded the underway Iran-flagged bulk carrier ARTIN in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:40E. The crew sighted the perpetrators at the stern. The master raised the alarm, mustered the crew, and notified local authorities. All crew were reported safe. Some engine spare parts were stolen. The vessel did not require assistance and continued its voyage to China. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 4 January at 0300 local time, three robbers armed with knives and guns boarded an anchored general cargo ship at Lubuk Gaung Anchorage near Dumai on the Malacca Strait, near position 01:45N – 101:22E. The perpetrators restrained a duty crew member after boarding. The crew member was able to alert the officer of the watch who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. After searching the vessel, the crew confirmed that the robbers had escaped with engine spare parts. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 4 January at 0240 local time, five robbers boarded the underway Singapore-flagged bulk carrier CRIMSON QUEEN in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:40E. The crew spotted the perpetrators in the engine room. Following the incident, the master reported that all crew were safe and that generator spare parts were stolen. The ship did not require assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 4 January at 0050 local time, the duty crew on security rounds spotted one perpetrator attempting to board the anchored Portugal-flagged bulk carrier HELGA OLDENDORFF at Balikpapan Anchorage in the Makassar Strait, near position 01:21S – 116:59E. A crew member saw a white-hulled skiff near the vessel's anchor chain and one person climbing the anchor chain. The crew member informed the officer of the watch, who then raised the alarm and sounded the ship's horn. Seeing the alert crew, the perpetrator aborted the attempted boarding and fled in the skiff. The vessel and crew were reported safe following the incident. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:



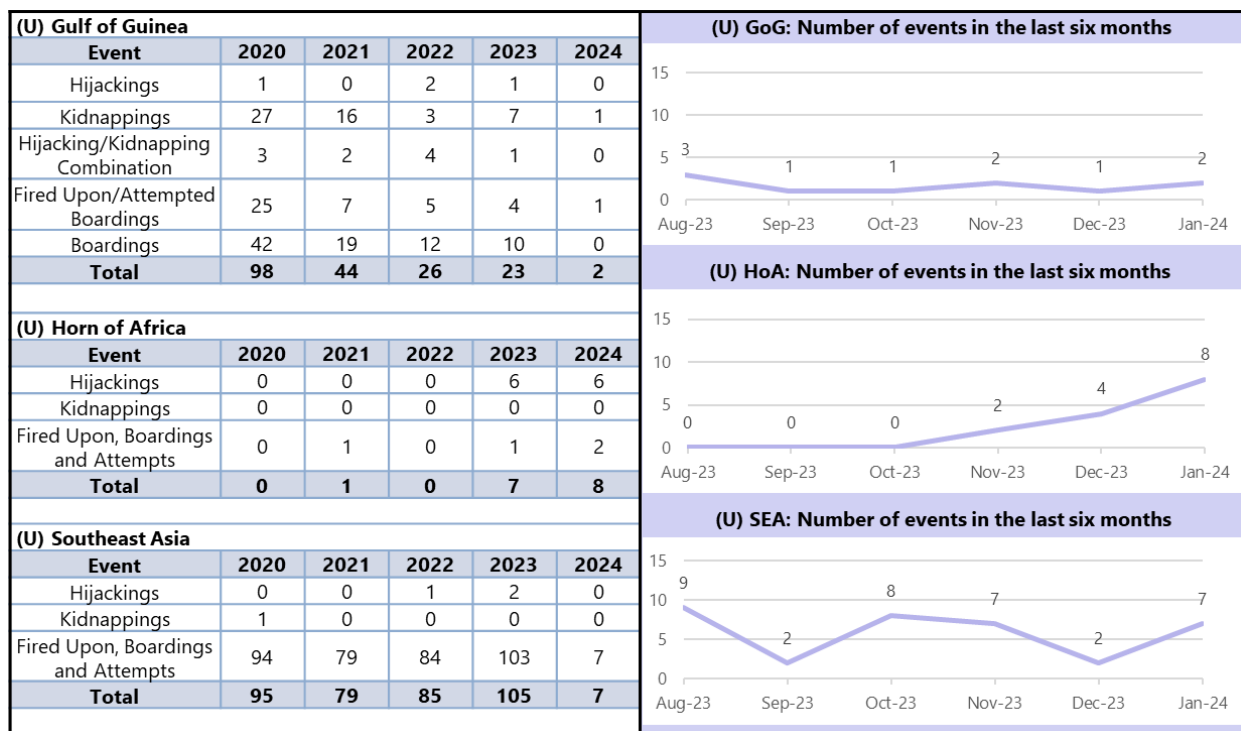
(U) Figure 6. Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) INDIA: On 27 January at 0130 local time, a robber boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged product tanker WHITE PEACH anchored at Kakinada Anchorage, near position 17:01N – 082:21E. A duty crewman noticed the robber transferring ship's stores into a small boat alongside the tanker. The crew member raised the alarm and upon hearing the alarm, the robber escaped with stolen items. Port authorities were informed. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

2. (U) **BANGLADESH:** (Late Reporting) On 14 January at 2215 local time, a deck officer onboard a tanker anchored at Chattogram Anchorage, near position 21:50S – 091:41E, identified a small radar target close to the vessel. Watch standers were then deployed to check for any boats near the vessel and saw two persons on a small boat preparing to throw a grappling hook and rope toward the ship. The alarm was raised, the crew mustered, and fire hoses were activated. This activity caused the perpetrators to abandon their attempted boarding and move away from the tanker. (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
2023-016-Gulf of Guinea – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	27 DEC 2023	24 JUN 24
2023-015-Global – Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System	22 DEC 23	19 JUN 24
2023-014-Eastern Mediterranean Sea – Regional Conflict	26 OCT 23	23 APR 24
2023-013-Various – GPS Interference & AIS Spoofing	2 OCT 23	30 MAR 24
2023-012-Global – New U.S. Maritime Alert and Advisory Subscription Process	22 SEP 23	24 MAR 24
2023-011-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb, Red Sea, and Somali Basin – Threats to Commercial Vessels	6 SEP 23	4 MAR 24
2023-010-Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations	1 SEP 23	28 FEB 24
2023-009-Worldwide – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, And Cyber Influence	23 AUG 23	19 FEB 24

(U) **ICOD:** 31 January 2024

(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/>