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(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 20 March–17 April 2024



17 April 2024

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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 Advisory 2024-005: Global – U.S. Maritime Advisory Updates, Resources, and Contacts

Issued on 16 April 2024. This advisory cancels U.S. Maritime Advisory 2023-015, replaces Advisories 2023-012 and 2023-013, and provides updates to maritime security resources, websites, and information. The U.S. Maritime Advisory System website <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/msci> which contains all current and expired U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories, is maintained by the Maritime Administration (MARAD). U.S. commercial maritime stakeholders' feedback should be forwarded to MARADSecurity@dot.gov. This advisory will automatically expire on 12 October 2024.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) MALAYSIA: On 14 April, three or four robbers boarded a barge under tow by a tug in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

B. (U) INDONESIA: On 14 April, five perpetrators boarded a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.

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C. (U) GULF OF OMAN: On 13 April, members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps seized a container ship 50 NM northwest of Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, and diverted the vessel into Iranian territorial waters.

D. (U) HAITI: On 13 April, armed individuals hijacked a ship with its cargo of rice near Arcahaie, on the eastern side of the Gulf of Gonâve and approximately 16 NM northwest of Port-au-Prince Port.

E. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 April, four robbers boarded a chemical tanker at Balikpapan Anchorage.

F. (U) ANGOLA: On 12 April, robbers boarded a fire fighting vessel anchored at Luanda 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) HAITI: During the evening of 13 April, heavily armed individuals hijacked the ship JEVI VLE and kidnapped its six crew members near Arcahaie, on the eastern side of the Gulf of Gonâve and approximately 16 NM northwest

of Port-au-Prince Port. The ship was heading toward the island of La Gonâve with a cargo of 1,500 bags of rice. The information was confirmed by the Maritime and Navigation Service of Haiti. (HaitiLibre)

2. (U) HAITI: On 4 April at an unspecified time, members of two gangs seized the cargo ship MAGALIE as it departed the Varreux terminal at the Port-au-Prince Port destined for the northern coastal port of Cap Haitien. The gangs reportedly kidnapped everyone aboard the ship and stole 10,000 bags of rice from the ship's cargo of 60,000 bags. On 6 April, the Coast Guard and Haitian National Police (PNH), with logistical support from the National Port Authority, regained control of the cargo ship after more than 5 hours of intense fighting. During the shootout, an undetermined number of gang members were killed and two police officers were injured, according to the PNH. (HaitiLibre; Associated Press; 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 – GULF OF GUINEA:

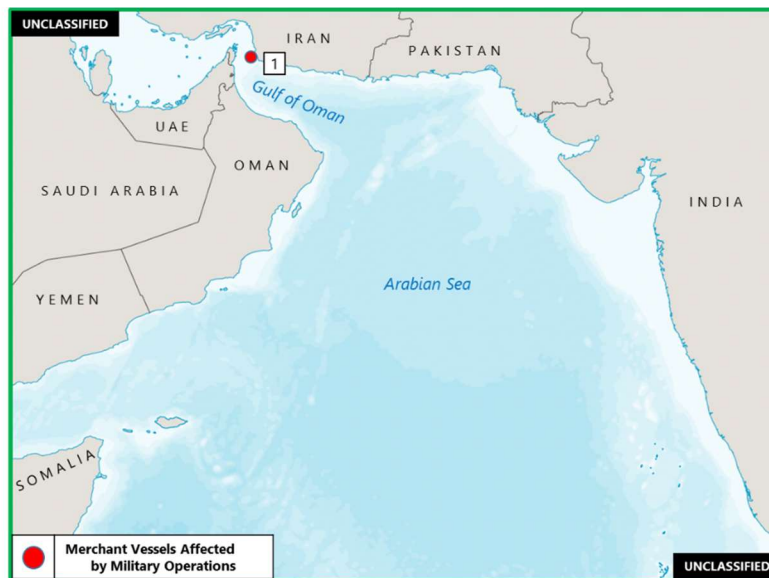


(U) Figure 2. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) ANGOLA: On 12 April at 0045 local time, two wooden boats approached and lingered on the port side of a fire fighting vessel anchored at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:44S – 013:18E. The officer of the watch raised the alarm after observing the boats' approach and subsequent landing on the port side of the vessel. Upon hearing the alarm, the boats moved away from the anchored vessel. (Clearwater Dynamics)

G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:

1. (U) ARABIAN GULF: Overnight between 2 April 2300 UTC and 3 April 0100 UTC, a vessel experienced a disruption to maritime electronic navigation systems (GPS/AIS) approximately 95 NM east of Ras Al Zour, Saudi Arabia (exact position not specified). (UKMTO)

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

(U) Figure 3. Indian Ocean Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) GULF OF OMAN: On 13 April at 0443 UTC, members of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) used a helicopter to board the Madeira-flagged container ship MSC ARIES while underway approximately 50 NM northeast of Fujairah, United Arab Emirates (exact position not specified). Iran's state news agency IRNA said the IRGC had seized the vessel that is "linked to Israel" and that it was being brought to Iran's territorial waters. There are 25 crew members of five nationalities onboard, consisting of 17 Indians, four Filipinos, two Pakistanis, one Russian, and one Estonian. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Reuters)

2. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 9 April at 0000 UTC, an anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM) launched from Houthi-controlled territory likely targeted the U.S.-flagged container ship MAERSK YORKTOWN approximately 36 NM southeast of Aden, Yemen (exact position not specified). The container ship was under escort by guided missile destroyers USS LABOON and USS MASON. U.S. forces successfully engaged and destroyed the ASBM. No injuries or damage were reported by U.S., coalition, or commercial ships. (U.S. Central Command; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 9 April at 0630 UTC, four skiffs launched from a green-colored fishing vessel approached a merchant vessel approximately 467 NM east of Socotra Island, Yemen, near position 12:39N – 062:37E. The crew and vessel were reported safe following the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 7 April at 0505 UTC, a missile impacted the water in close proximity to the Marshall Islands-flagged container ship HOPE ISLAND's port quarter approximately 59 NM southwest of Aden, Yemen (exact position not specified). The vessel reported no damage and the crew was safe. The vessel continued to its next port of call. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Maritime Executive)

5. (U) RED SEA: On 6 April at 1452 UTC, two missiles targeted the Marshall Islands-flagged container ship HOPE ISLAND approximately 60 NM southwest of Hodeida, Yemen (exact position not specified). The first missile was intercepted by coalition forces, the second impacted the water at a distance from the vessel. The vessel reported no damage and the crew was safe. The vessel proceeded on its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Maritime Executive)

6. (U) RED SEA: On 1 April at 1956 UTC, an entity claiming to be the Yemeni Navy hailed a vessel and requested that the vessel turn on its AIS approximately 150 NM northwest of Hodeida, Yemen, near position 17:19N – 040:32E. After the hailing, a crew member reported hearing suspected gunshots. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 28 March at an unspecified time, nine armed pirates hijacked the Iran-flagged fishing dhow AL KAMAR 786 (also reported as AL KAMBAR 786) approximately 90 NM southwest of Socotra Island, Yemen, near position 11:02N – 052:53E. On 29 March, two Indian warships, INS SUMEDHA and INS TRISHUL, mission-deployed to the Arabian Sea for maritime security operations, intercepted the dhow. After 12 hours of negotiations, the pirates surrendered. The Indian Navy safely rescued the dhow's 23 Pakistani crew members. (Clearwater Dynamics; daily-sun.com; news.abplive.com; vesseltracker.com)

8. (U) RED SEA: On 23 March, ASBMs launched from Houthi-controlled territory targeted the Panama-flagged, Chinese-owned, Chinese-operated crude oil tanker HUANG PU while underway. Within a 12-hour period, four ASBMs landed in the vicinity of the tanker. At 1435 UTC, a fifth missile hit the vessel approximately 23 NM west of Mokha, Yemen, near position 13:17N – 042:53E. The resulting onboard fire was extinguished within 30 minutes by the crew. The crew and vessel were reported safe and the tanker continued its voyage. The U.S. military noted that the Houthis attacked the tanker HUANG PU despite previously stating they would not attack Chinese vessels. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com; U.S. Central Command)

9. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 21 March at 0811 UTC, a skiff with four armed persons onboard opened fire on the underway Liberia-flagged crude oil tanker YAMILAH III approximately 102 NM southeast of Nishtun, Yemen, near position 14:28N – 053:29E. The vessel's embarked armed security team exchanged gunfire with the persons in the skiff. After the tanker increased its speed, the skiff departed the area. The crew and vessel were reported safe, and the vessel proceeded to its next port of call. (UKMTO; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

10. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 20 March at 0200 UTC, one small craft approached from astern and came within 0.3 NM of the underway Liberia-flagged bulk carrier NEW LEONIDAS approximately 104 NM north-northeast of Socotra Island. There were seven persons onboard the craft and a ladder was sighted. The craft followed the bulk carrier for about 20 minutes, until the armed security team onboard the vessel fired a warning shot, causing the small craft to depart the area. The master reported the incident was over, and the crew and vessel were safe. (UKMTO; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



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

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 14 April at 1020 local time, three or four robbers boarded the barge HEXAGRO 9 under tow by the Malaysia-flagged tug BONGAWAN 9 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:18N – 104:15E. Approximately 20 minutes later, the master reported that the robbers had left the barge. The master reported to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that the crew was safe, scrap metal had been stolen, and that no assistance was required. (ReCAAP)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 14 April at 0319 local time, five perpetrators boarded the Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier CASANOVA in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:40E. The 3rd engineer discovered the perpetrators, several of whom were reportedly armed with pistols, in the engine room and notified the bridge. The master raised the alarm, mustered the crew, and had them search the vessel. During the search, the crew were unable to ascertain any loss of property. The master reported to Singapore VTIS that all crew were safe. The vessel did not require assistance, and continued its voyage. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 April at 0525 local time, four robbers boarded a chemical tanker at Balikpapan Anchorage, near position 01:17S – 116:47E. The robbers boarded the tanker using the anchor chain, broke into the forecabin store, and escaped with ship's stores and properties. (IMB)

4. (U) MALAYSIA: On 6 April at 1645 local time, three unarmed perpetrators boarded the barge LINAU 135 under tow by Malaysia-flagged tug DANUM 53 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:18N – 104:15E. The master reported nothing was stolen and the crew was safe. The tug did not require any assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 4 April at 0110 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded a bulk carrier berthed at Kuala Tanjung Port, near position 03:22N – 099:28E. After the robbers entered the engine room, they took

hostage and tied up the duty crew. The robbers stole engine spare parts and made their escape. Prior to leaving the vessel, the robbers released the duty crew. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 31 March, four robbers boarded a barge under tow by a tug near Tanjung Balai Karimun in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS (exact position and time not specified). An Indonesian Navy First Fleet quick response team responded to the incident, apprehended the robbers, and recovered ship's stores from the barge. The robbers and evidence were brought to Tanjung Balai Karimun Naval Base for further investigation. (Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 March at 2358 local time, three perpetrators boarded the underway Liberia-flagged bulk carrier GEORGE ISLAND in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS near position 01:03N – 103:39E. The crew sighted the perpetrators in the engine room and notified the bridge. The master raised the alarm and mustered the crew. After a search of the vessel, the master reported that no perpetrators were found and nothing was stolen. All crew members were reported safe. The vessel continued its voyage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

8. (U) MALAYSIA: On 26 March at 0854 UTC, four perpetrators in a fishing boat came alongside and boarded the drill ship AMBUR under tow by the Palau-flagged offshore tug DARK KNIGHT in the Malacca Strait near position 01:26N – 103:11E. The master of the tug requested assistance from the IMB Piracy Reporting Center who contacted the Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA). MMEA dispatched a patrol boat to the vessel's position. A search by the patrol boat did not reveal any perpetrators and the offshore tug and drill ship continued their transit. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

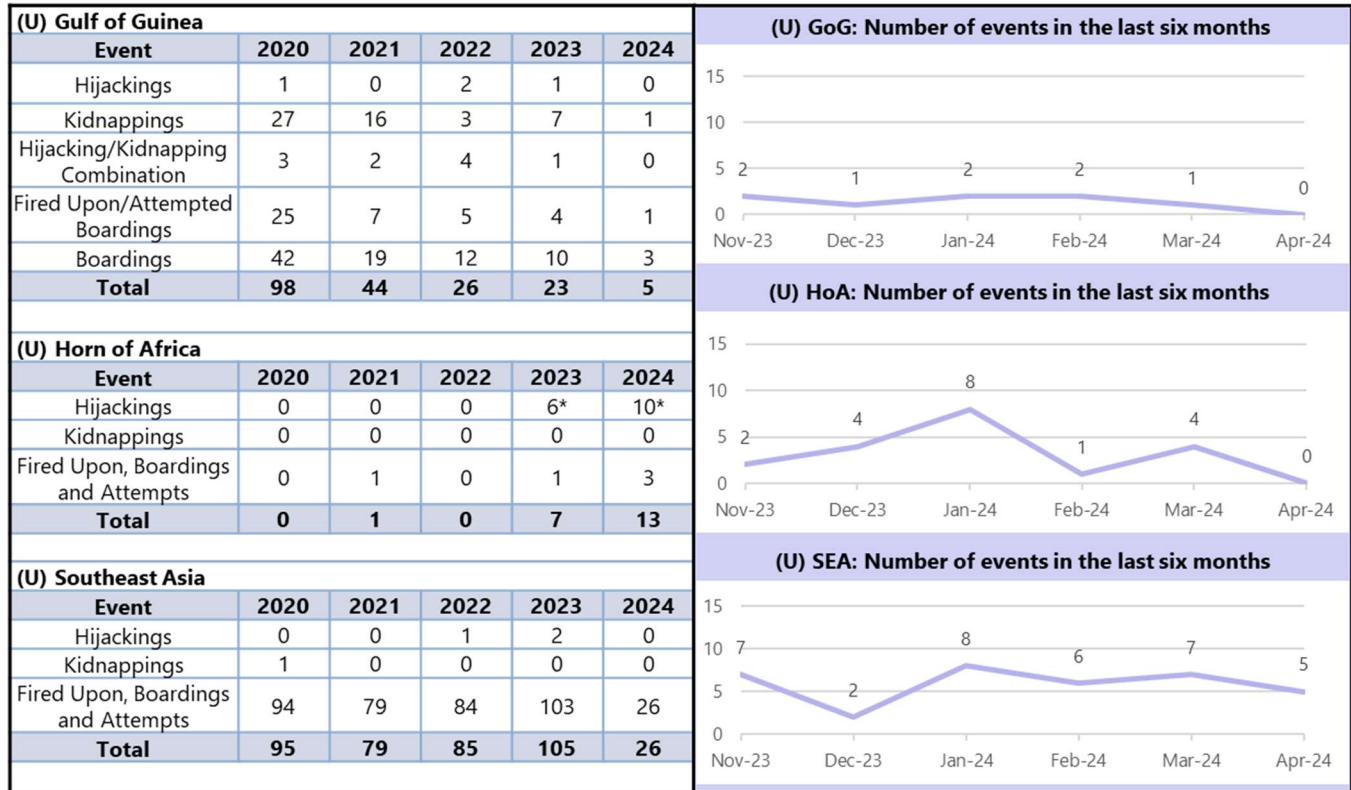
1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 8 April at 0158 local time, two robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged container ship MAERSK CHATTOGRAM anchored off Chittagong Port, near position 22:10N – 091:43E. A duty watchman saw the robbers on the main deck. When the perpetrators realized they had been spotted, they chased the crew member into the accommodation block. The bridge was notified of the unauthorized persons onboard and the alarm was raised. The master mustered the crew and alerted the local coast guard. The robbers were able to escape before the coast guard arrived. When the crew conducted a search, they discovered that ship's stores and paint had been stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

2. (U) BANGLADESH: On 29 March at 2145 local time, three perpetrators in a small boat attempted to board the Marshall Islands-flagged general cargo ship ASL LEBAN anchored at Chattogram Anchorage, near position 22:14N – 091:42E. The perpetrators used a rope and hook in their attempt. The ship's alarm was raised and the crew mustered, causing the perpetrators to abandon their attempt and depart the area. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

3. (U) BANGLADESH: On 28 March at 0325 local time, eight robbers armed with knives boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Kutubdia Anchorage, near position 21:48N – 091:47E. The ship's alarm was raised, the crew mustered, and a search was conducted. Following the alarm, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. The master reported that all crew were safe. (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**



*Horn of Africa hijacking numbers include Dhows and Fishing Vessels

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
2024-005: Global – U.S. Maritime Advisory Updates, Resources, and Contacts	16 APR 24	12 OCT 24
2024-004: Southern Red Sea , Bab el Mandeb Strait, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean, Somali Basin, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Strait of Hormuz, and Persian Gulf – Threats to Commercial Vessels	18 MAR 24	14 SEP 24
2024-003: Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations	26 FEB 24	25 AUG 24
2024-002: Worldwide – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence	21 FEB 24	19 AUG 24
2023-016: Gulf of Guinea – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	27 DEC 23	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

(U) **ICOD:** 17 April 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/>