



UNCLASSIFIED

## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** 9 April - 9 May 2018



10 May 2018

### (U) **Table of Contents**

1. (U) **Scope Note**
2. (U) **Warnings and Advisories**
3. (U) **Summary**
4. (U) **Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories**
5. (U) **Details: Monthly Incidents by Region**
6. (U) **Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources**
7. (U) **Appendix B: Terminology and References**

#### 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:**

1. (U) **Maritime Advisory 2018-007-GPS Interference-Eastern Mediterranean Sea**: Reference: U.S. Maritime Alerts 2018-004A and 2018-004B. Issue: Multiple instances of significant GPS interference have been reported by vessels and aircraft operating in the eastern Mediterranean Sea since 18 March 2018. These reports have been concentrated in the vicinity of Port Said, Egypt, the Suez Canal, and south of the Republic of Cyprus. This interference is resulting in lost or otherwise altered GPS signals affecting bridge navigation, GPS-based timing and communications equipment. Guidance: Exercise caution when transiting this area. The U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center (NAVCEN) recently posted information regarding effective navigation practices for vessels experiencing GPS interference. The information reaffirms safe navigation practices when experiencing possible GPS disruption, provides useful details on reporting possible GPS disruption, and is intended to generate further discussions within the maritime community about other disruption mitigation practices and procedures. This guidance also recommends taking note of critical information such as the location (latitude/longitude), date/time, and duration of the outage/disruption, and providing photographs or screen shots of equipment failures during a disruption to facilitate analysis. The NAVCEN information is available at: <https://go.usa.gov/xQBau>. Contact Information: GPS disruptions or anomalies should be immediately reported to the NAVCEN at <https://go.usa.gov/xQBaw> or via phone at 703-313-5900, 24 hours a day. Cancellation: This message will automatically expire on 2 November 2018.

2. (U) **Maritime Advisory 2018-006-Cyber Exploitation-Worldwide**: Reference: U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness

UNCLASSIFIED

Team (US-CERT) Alert TA18-106A - Russian state-sponsored cyber actors targeting network infrastructure devices (see [www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/TA18-106A](http://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/TA18-106A)). Issue: US-CERT, the FBI, and the UK National Cyber Security Centre have issued a joint Technical Alert that provides information on the worldwide cyber exploitation of network infrastructure devices by Russian state-sponsored cyber actors. Guidance: U.S. maritime industry stakeholders are advised to thoroughly review and take appropriate action on US-CERT Alert TA18-106A at [www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/TA18106A](http://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/TA18106A). Additional cybersecurity resources are available at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov) and [www.fbi.gov/investigate/cyber](http://www.fbi.gov/investigate/cyber). Contact Information: Recipients who identify the use of tools or techniques discussed in USCERT Alert TA18-106A should report to the Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) at [NCCICcustomerservice@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:NCCICcustomerservice@hq.dhs.gov) or 888-282-0870 and to the FBI through a local field office or the FBI's Cyber Division at [CyWatch@fbi.gov](mailto:CyWatch@fbi.gov) or 855-292-3937. Cancellation: This advisory will automatically expire on 2 November 2018.

### 3. (U) Summary

- A. (U) MALAYSIA: On 8 May, authorities searched a small boat near Lahad Datu and found 89 containers carrying 10,000 explosives detonators.
- B. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 8 May, four members of a suspected Filipino kidnap-for-ransom group were shot and killed in the waters off Lahad Datu.
- C. (U) IRELAND: On 8 May, a teen stowaway was discovered in a truck at a stadium in Dublin after traveling from Calais, France, across the English Channel, through England and across the Irish Sea.
- D. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 7 May, Bureau of Customs (BOC) operatives have seized smuggled goods at the Port of Manila.
- E. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 May, robbers attempted to board a bulk carrier in Muara Berau Anchorage.
- F. (U) BANGLADESH: On 6 May, seven robbers attempted to board an anchored bulk carrier in Chittagong Alpha Anchorage.
- G. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 May, six pirates in a speedboat came alongside and attacked a bulk carrier underway 41 nm south of Brass.
- H. (U) PERU: On 5 May, three robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier in Callao Anchorage.
- I. (U) GUATEMALA: On 4 May, authorities intercepted M/V TIAMAT and escorted it to the port of Puerto Quetzal for a thorough search of the ship. During the search, 2.8 tons of cocaine were found.
- J. (U) AEGEAN SEA: On 4 May, a Greek Navy gunboat was nudged by a Turkish cargo vessel while on patrol for unauthorized migrant crossings in the Aegean Sea.
- K. (U) PERU: On 3 May, Peruvian authorities in Callao seized 400 kilograms of marijuana aboard the Portugal-flagged cargo ship EVER CONQUEST.
- L. (U) JAMAICA: On 3 May, the Jamaica Defense Force (JDF) Coast Guard seized approximately 765 pounds of compressed marijuana when it intercepted a vessel off the coast of Westmoreland and detained three men: two locals and a Haitian.
- M. (U) GHANA: On 3 May, two robbers boarded an offshore supply vessel anchored in Takoradi Anchorage.
- N. (U) VIETNAM: On 3 May, the customs office at Port of Ho Chi Minh City seized 3.3 tons of pangolin scales illegally imported from Africa.

O. (U) SURINAME: On 2 May, pirates attacked another fishing boat, killing at least one fisherman.

P. (U) ITALY: On 2 May, authorities intercepted a small ship carrying 2.5 tons of marijuana near Brindisi. Four Albanian smugglers were arrested.

Q. (U) TURKEY: On 1 May, a total of 89 kilograms of cocaine was seized at Istanbul's Ambarli Port.

R. (U) MALAYSIA: On 1 May, Malaysian police intercepted a tanker with 131 Sri Lankans onboard believed bound for Australia and New Zealand.

S. (U) HONDURAS: On 29 April, authorities seized 319 kilograms of cocaine on a Panama-flagged ship in Caribbean waters.

T. (U) GHANA: On 29 April, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Takoradi anchorage.

U. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 April, 3 robbers boarded a cargo vessel while at anchor near in Panjang Anchorage.

V. (U) VENEZUELA: On 28 April, robbers attempted to board a bulk carrier anchored in Puerto Jose Anchorage.

W. (U) VIETNAM: On 27 April, 3.8 tons of pangolin scales were seized in Cat Lai Port.

X. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 24 April, two high speed craft approached an ore carrier underway 6 nm west-southwest of Bongao Island.

Y. (U) COSTA RICA: On 24 April, Costa Rica's National Coast Guard Service intercepted a vessel carrying 809 kilograms of cocaine near Punta Burica.

Z. (U) INDIA: On 21 April, local authorities in the port of Colaba intercepted a boat carrying 8,300 liters of stolen fuel and arrested three men onboard.

AA. (U) HONG KONG: On 19 April, customs officers seized nearly 24 tons of high-value Honduras rosewood.

BB. (U) MEXICO: On 10 April, naval forces near Acapulco intercepted a vessel towing 67 packages containing a total of one ton of cocaine.

CC. (U) FRENCH POLYNESIA: On 1 April, a catamaran was boarded while anchored in the atoll of Kauehi in the Tuamotu.

#### **4. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements**

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for May and June 2018. To apply for JMSDF escort, visit [http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime\\_fr2\\_000000.html](http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html), please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MILT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932; Fax: +81-3-5253-1643. Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp. (MSCHOA)

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese Navy convoy schedule for May and June 2018. For further information, please e-mail: [planavy@navy.mil.cn](mailto:planavy@navy.mil.cn) or [etg546cn@163.com](mailto:etg546cn@163.com), or call Tel 00870 773 120 772. (MSCHOA)

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for May and June 2018. To register, email: [gcommcentre-dgs@nic.in](mailto:gcommcentre-dgs@nic.in); or visit [ww.dgshipping.com](http://ww.dgshipping.com). Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22-22613636. (MSCHOA)

## 5. (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:

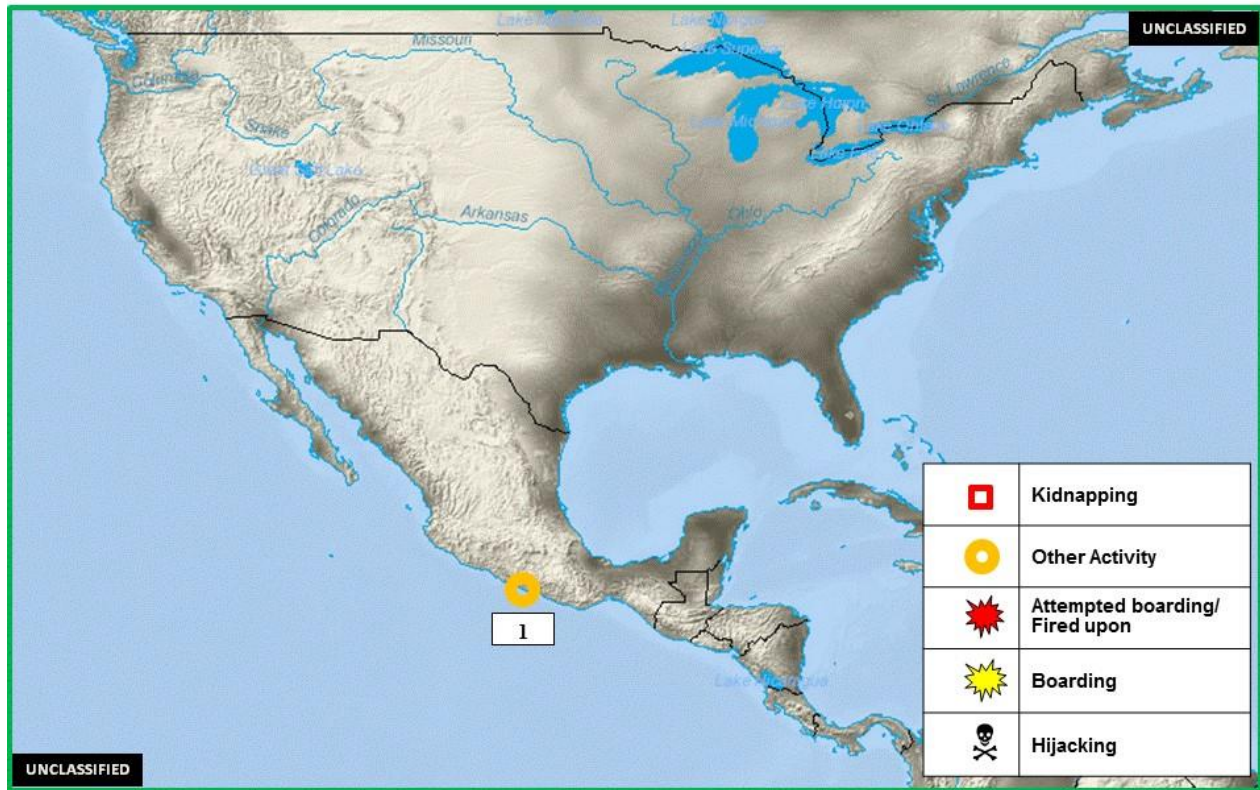


Figure 1. North America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MEXICO: On 10 April, naval forces near Acapulco intercepted a vessel towing 67 packages containing a total of one on of cocaine. ([www.maritimeherald.com](http://www.maritimeherald.com))

2. (U) CANADA: On 25 April, U.S. and Canadian authorities broke up a drug smuggling ring that moved drugs from the U.S. and handed them over to Canadian smugglers. Local media reports that the alleged transactions took place south of San Juan Island between Vancouver Island and Washington state. Law enforcement seized more than 55 kilograms of cocaine, 47 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine and more than 1 kilogram of heroin. Fifteen guns, more than \$150,000 in cash and two high-speed boats were seized. ([www.komonews.com](http://www.komonews.com))

### B. (U) CENTRAL AMERICA - CARIBBEAN - SOUTH AMERICA:



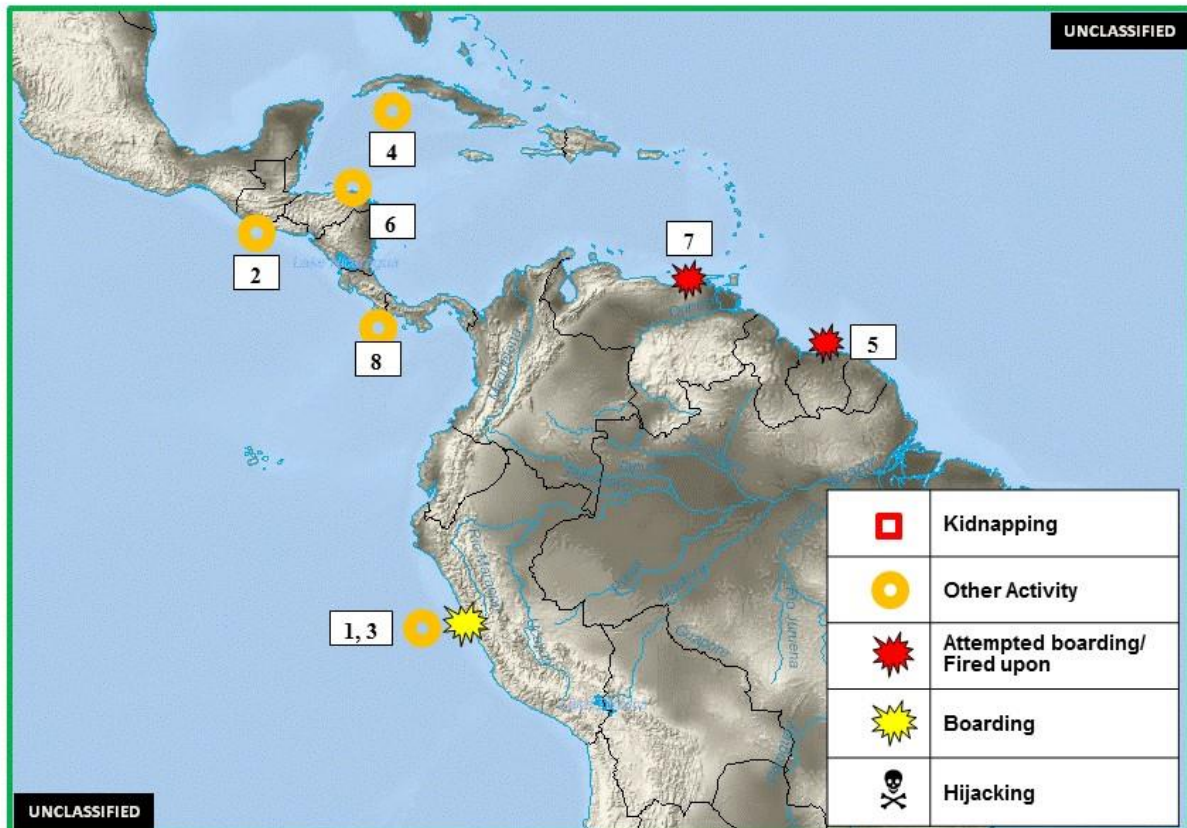


Figure 2. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) PERU: On 5 May, three robbers in a wooden boat with an outboard engine boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 12:01S - 077:10W, Callao Anchorage. They boarded using a hook attached to a rope. Duty lookout saw the robbers, raised the alarm and crew mustered. Duty officer sounded the ship's whistle and notified the port authorities. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores.

2. (U) GUATEMALA: On 4 May, authorities intercepted M/V TIAMAT and escorted it to the port of Puerto Quetzal for a thorough search of the ship. During the search, 2.8 tons of cocaine was found. The ship was en route from Ecuador to Ensenada, Mexico. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

3. (U) PERU: On 3 May, Peruvian authorities in Callao seized 400 kilograms of marijuana aboard the Portugal-flagged cargo ship EVER CONQUEST, which came from the Colombian port of Buenaventura, according to the Peruvian Prosecutor's Office. The contraband was found in rectangular packages inside five black sports bags in the crew compartments. ([www.maritimeherald.com](http://www.maritimeherald.com))

4. (U) JAMAICA: On 3 May, the Jamaica Defense Force (JDF) Coast Guard seized approximately 765 pounds of compressed marijuana when it intercepted a vessel off the coast of Westmoreland and detained three men, two locals and a Haitian. A JDF Coast Guard patrol team on board HMJS Cornwall was conducting routine patrols off the coast of Westmoreland when they spotted a blue motor-vessel acting suspiciously. "The Coast Guard team approached the vessel in order to carry out a board and search, when the three men were spotted throwing a number of packages over board. The Coast Guard team recovered five packages that were thrown overboard and another 11 that were still on board. ([www.caribbean360.com](http://www.caribbean360.com))

5. (U) SURINAME: On 2 May, pirates attacked another fishing boat, killing at least one fisherman. According to Mark Lall, secretary of Visserscollectief, a local fishermen's association, the captain of the boat was killed. The whereabouts of his crew members is unknown. ([www.demerarawaves.com](http://www.demerarawaves.com))
  6. (U) HONDURAS: On 29 April, authorities seized 319 kilograms of cocaine on a Panama-flagged ship in Caribbean waters, in an operation that also arrested two Colombians and one Honduran, an official source said. The vessel was intercepted by a patrol of the Honduran naval force off the coast of the eastern department of Gracias a Dios, in the Caribbean of the Central American country, armed forces spokesman Jose Domingo Meza told reporters. ([www.maritimeherald.com](http://www.maritimeherald.com))
  7. (U) VENEZUELA: On 28 April, a duty crewman onboard a bulk carrier anchored near position 10:09N - 064:48W, Puerto Jose Anchorage saw several robbers trying to access the vessel via the hawse pipe. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped in empty handed. (IMB)
  8. (U) COSTA RICA: On 24 April, Costa Rica's National Coast Guard Service intercepted a vessel carrying 809 kilograms of cocaine near Punta Burica. The four men onboard were arrested on charges of drug trafficking. ([www.news.co.cr](http://www.news.co.cr))
  9. (U) SURINAME: On 27 April, pirates attacked a group of 20 fishermen in 4 boats and forced them to jump overboard. Four men managed to swim to shore and three of them remain hospitalized. Sixteen fishermen are missing. The survivors told police and the Suriname Coast Guard that the assailants, suspected of being from Guyana because of their accents, beat them with machetes and forced them to jump into the sea. They said some of the victims had batteries tied to their legs to weigh them down. The Coast Guard and police vessels, along with members of the fisheries collective association, have searched for the missing men and the pirates since the attack. ([www.stabroeknews.com](http://www.stabroeknews.com); [www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))
  10. (U) GUATEMALA: On 26 April, authorities intercepted submarine-type vessel with about one ton of cocaine in the eastern Pacific. The operation resulted in the capture of three Colombian drug traffickers. ([www.maritimeherald.com](http://www.maritimeherald.com))
  11. (U) HONDURAS: On 18 April, a small fishing boat with 10 men onboard made a suspicious approach on a France-flagged sailing yacht 100 nm east of the Honduras/Nicaragua boarder. The suspicious boat closed to within 50 meters before the sailing yacht was able to use full sail and increasing seas to move away from the boat. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
  12. (U) GUYANA: On 20 April, a ship named JUBILEE was seized by Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) authorities on suspicion of fuel smuggling. According to reports in the media, the vessel purchased fuel from neighboring Trinidad with Suriname as its destination port. After the deal fell through, however, the vessel reportedly docked in port Georgetown. Reports indicate that GEA agents boarded the vessel, which was carrying over 500,000 liters of gas and sealed the tanks and pumps after the crew was unable to provide the requisite documentation. (iNewsGuyana; [www.stlucianewsonline.com](http://www.stlucianewsonline.com))
  13. (U) UNITED STATES: On 14 April, authorities conducting a joint operation intercepted a go-fast type boat carrying 491.5 kilograms of cocaine and 9 kilograms of heroin. Two men were arrested. The seizure took place 80 nm south of Puerto Rico. ([www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov))
  14. (U) ECUADOR: On 10 April, Navy personnel intercepted the ship SOUTH KING and detained 23 crew members and 1,500 kilograms of cocaine. The ship was taken to Galapagos for further investigation. ([www.themaritimeherald.com](http://www.themaritimeherald.com))
- C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:** No current incidents to report.

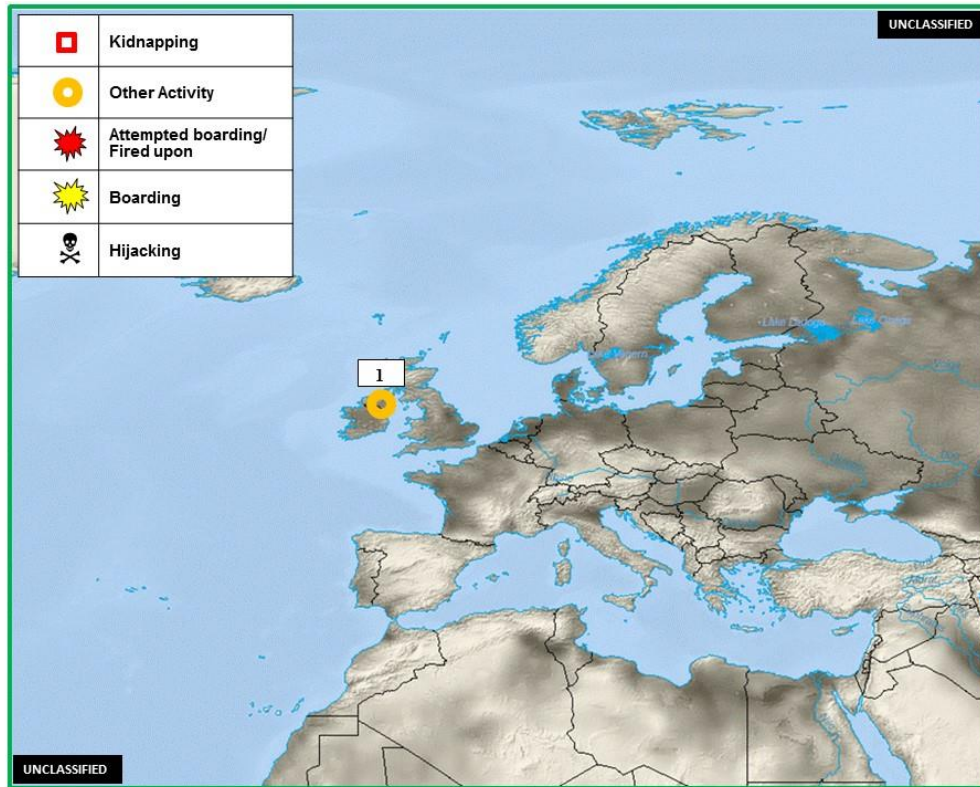
**D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:**

Figure 3. Northern Europe – Baltic Piracy and  
Maritime Crime

1. (U) IRELAND: On 8 May, a teen stowaway was discovered in a truck at a stadium in Dublin after traveling from Calais, France, across the English Channel, through England and across the Irish Sea. The truck is part of a convoy hauling equipment for an upcoming music concert. ([www.irishmirror.ie](http://www.irishmirror.ie))

**E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:**

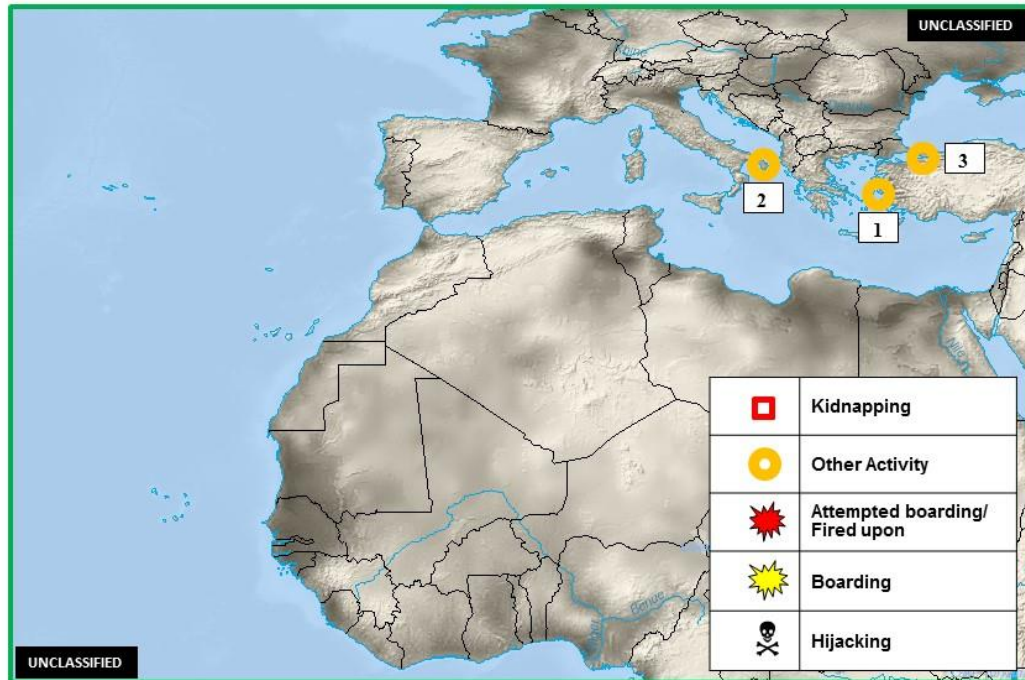


Figure 4. Mediterranean – Black Sea Piracy  
and Maritime Crime

1. (U) AEGEAN SEA: On 4 May, a Greek navy gunboat was nudged by a Turkish cargo vessel while on patrol for unauthorized migrant crossings in the Aegean Sea, the Greek Navy said. The gunboat ARMATOLOS was on patrol off the island of Lesbos as part of a NATO operation when the incident occurred. A Turkey-flagged vessel "approached and touched" the Greek gunboat, the navy said in a statement. It then accelerated toward Turkish shores and did not respond to subsequent radio calls from the Greek gunboat, according to the statement. The Greek Navy said NATO authorities had been informed, adding that there were no injuries or any serious damage to the ship. Turkey's transport ministry later confirmed that there were no casualties on either side following the collision. (Reuters)

2. (U) ITALY: On 2 May, authorities intercepted a small ship carrying 2.5 tons of marijuana near Brindisi. Four Albanian smugglers were arrested. (www.ansa.it)

3. (U) TURKEY: On 1 May, a total of 89 kilograms of cocaine was seized at Istanbul's Ambarli Port. According to Turkey's Customs and Trade Ministry. The cocaine was hidden inside a container from South America loaded with bananas. (www.aa.com.tr)

4. (U) SPAIN: On 22 April, Customs Department in the port of Algeciras seized 8,740 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a container of bananas from Colombia on the containership LUCIE SCHULTE. The seizure is the largest single seizure of cocaine ever made in Spain as well as the largest in Europe where the drugs were smuggled in a shipping container, Spain's Customs Department said. Working on a tip, agents with Spain's Customs and Tax Agency and National Police carried out a raid of the ship after it had docked. The drugs were found inside a container among 1,080 boxes of bananas loaded at the Port of Turbo in Colombia. (www.gcaptain)

5. (U) SPAIN: On 20 April, agents of the Spanish Civil Guard and the Tax Agency intercepted 325 kilograms of cocaine in two shipping containers of fruit that arrived at the Port of Valencia on a ship from San Antonio, Chile. (www.themaritimeherald.com)



## F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

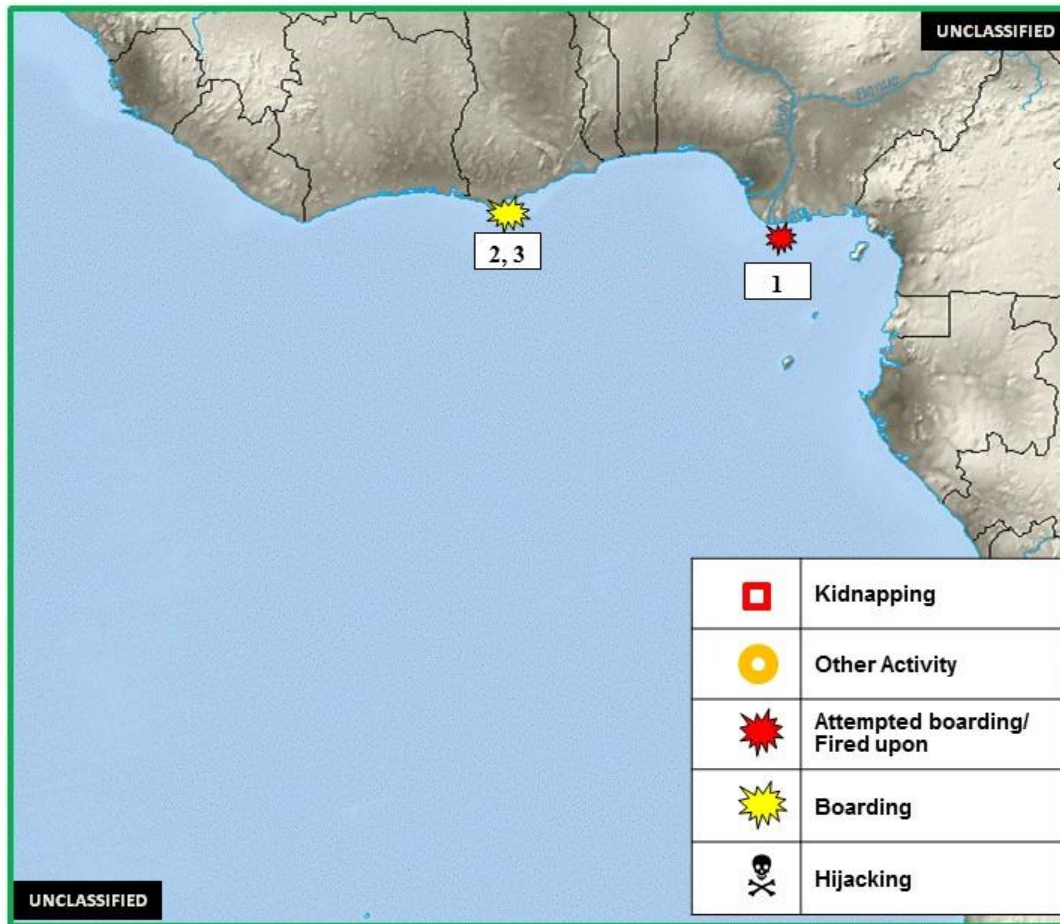


Figure 5. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 May, six pirates in a speedboat came alongside and attacked a bulk carrier underway near position 03:37N - 006:16E, 41 nm south of Brass. They hooked a ladder on the ship's railing and attempted to board. Master raised the alarm, activated SSAS, took evasive maneuvers and non-essential crew members mustered in the citadel. Due to the hardening measures taken by the master, the pirates aborted the attempted attack and moved away leaving their ladder hanging on the ship's side. (IMB)

2. (U) GHANA: On 3 May, two robbers boarded an offshore supply vessel anchored near position 04:54N - 001:42W, Takoradi Anchorage. Duty watchman saw the robbers and raised the alarm resulting in the robbers escaping. The crew noticed the padlock for the paint locker broken but no items stolen. Port control informed. (IMB)

3. (U) GHANA: On 29 April, crew onboard a bulk carrier anchored near position 04:54N - 001:41W, Takoradi Anchorage, noticed a robber on the poop deck and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robber escaped without stealing anything. (IMB)

4. (U) GHANA: On 30 April, security officials in the port of Tema and the nation's immigration service announced the arrest of 6 stowaways from Tunisia. The foreigners reportedly hid in a cargo container in a vessel which sailed from the Port of La Goulette in Tunisia to the Tema Port. ([www.modernghana.com](http://www.modernghana.com))

5. (U) GHANA: On 29 April, a merchant vessel anchored near position 04:53N - 001:41.32W, Takoradi Anchorage, was boarded by one person. Alarm raised resulting in the perpetrator jumping overboard. Nothing reported stolen. (www.pviltld.com)
6. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 April, three South Korean sailors kidnapped in the waters off Ghana in March were released unharmed, Prime Minister Lee Nakyon said Saturday. "All the three sailors were freed safe and sound," Lee said on Facebook. Seoul had deployed an anti-piracy warship to the area after unidentified pirates boarded the MARINE 711 with about 40 Ghanaian and three South Korean sailors on 26 March. The pirates seized the South Koreans -- the captain, engineer and mate, and a Greek sailor, and escaped on a separate speedboat. (AFP World Service; www.pmnewsnigeria.com)
7. (U) NIGERIA: On 21 April, the Netherlands-flagged cargo ship FWN RAPIDE was hijacked near position 03:48N - 006:50E, 38 nm south-southwest of Bonny Island. Eleven crewmen are believed to have been kidnapped. (IMB; www.fleetmon.com)
8. (U) CAMEROON: On 21 April, two robbers attempted to board a berthed utility vessel via the scaffolding installed at the stern near position 04:00.8N - 009:40.3E, Douala Port. The duty watchman noticed the robbers and informed the security guard onboard who fired a warning shot, resulting in the robbers aborting the attempted boarding and escaped. Port authority informed. (IMB)
9. (U) NIGERIA: On 11 April, the Government of India announced that three Indian citizens kidnapped by Nigerian pirates in March had been released. (www.independent.ng; www.tribuneindia.com)
10. (U) GHANA: On 9 April, the National Petroleum Authority in collaboration with national security arrested five persons suspected to be part of a cartel dealing in illegal smuggling of petroleum products. The operation took place at Kpone landing beach near Tema. The ringleader Isaac Allotey, 34, with four others including the owner of one of the lifeboats used in the operation, were arrested. Two trucks of fuel containing an estimated 9,000 liters and two outboard motors were confiscated by the team. Officials who conducted the operation announced the identification of a route to the open sea where supertankers anchor and then sell low-quality gasoline and diesel to the cartel of 'goro men.' (www.ghanaweb.com)

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

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

1. (U) GULF OF OMAN: On 24 April, a group of Emirati fishing vessels was fired upon by unidentified individuals while sailing in the Gulf of Oman. One of the boat captains said the fleet was about 90 kilometers off the coast of Fujairah in international waters. "We tried to escape but they managed to shoot our engines and damaged them. We laid down on the floor to avoid the gunshots and then another boat came to rescue us," he said. He said he was not sure what nationality the men were. His group was searching for tuna fish at the time. (www.thenational.ae)
2. (U) SAUDI ARABIA: On 22 April, authorities seized 2,851,500 amphetamine tablets and 1.5 kilograms of opium on a boat being used to cross to the maritime borders of Tabuk. Two Egyptians were arrested. (www.arabnews.com)
3. (U) INDIA: On 13 April, suspected Sri Lankan pirates attacked an Indian fishing trawler, leaving four fishermen injured south-east of the Kodiyakkarai coast. Fisheries officials said the fishermen, from Seruthur village, put to sea in a fishing boat and when they were fishing near the International Maritime Boundary Line, a group of pirates, who came in a high-speed fiberglass boat attacked them with iron rods. They also looted fish catch, GPS units and mobile phones from the fishermen. The fishermen on returning to the coast were treated at the government hospital. (www.uniindia.com)
4. (U) SRI LANKA: On 12 April, the Sri Lanka Navy caught three people attempting to smuggle 24.2 kg of gold from the

country via the sea. The three Sri Lankans were detained in the sea north of Mannar in the island's north. (www.business-standard.com)

# I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA - INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

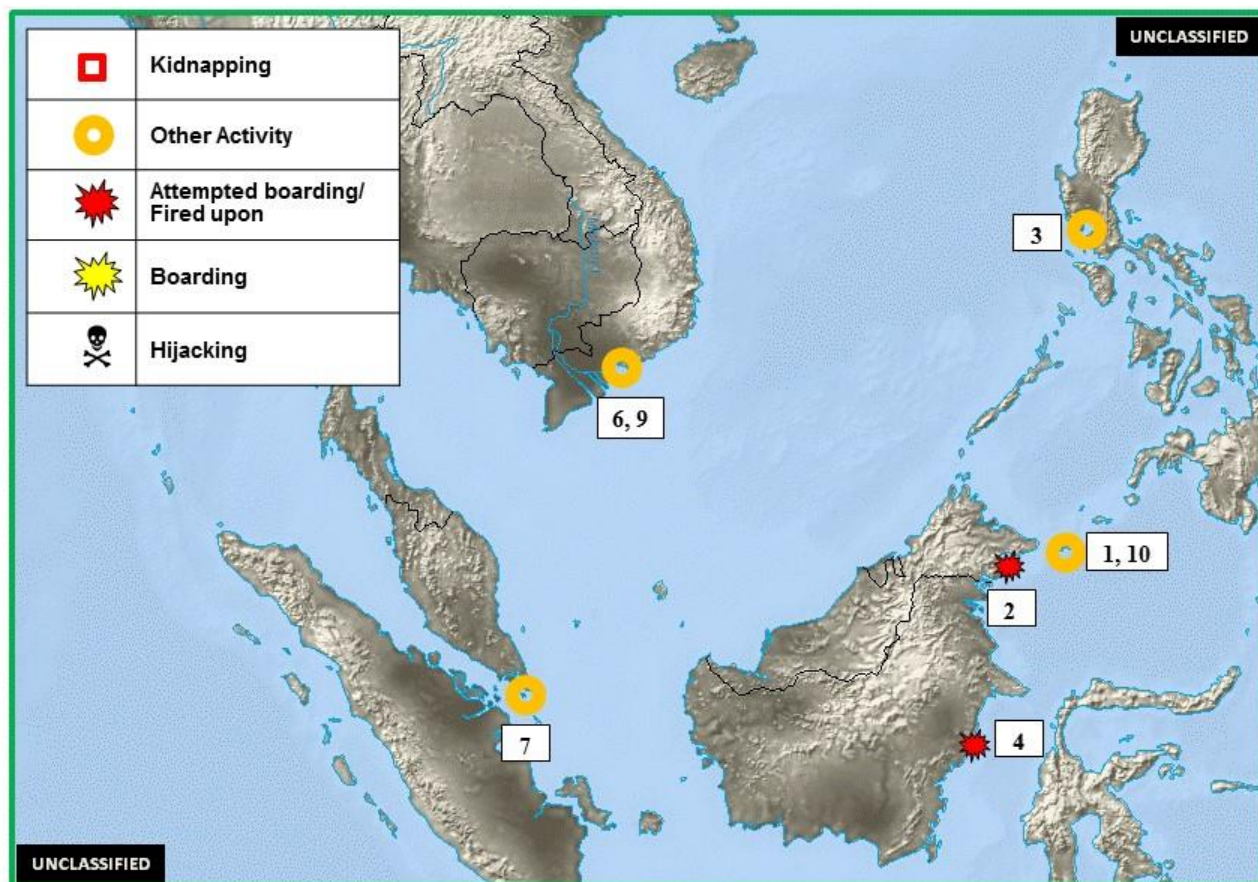


Figure 6. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime



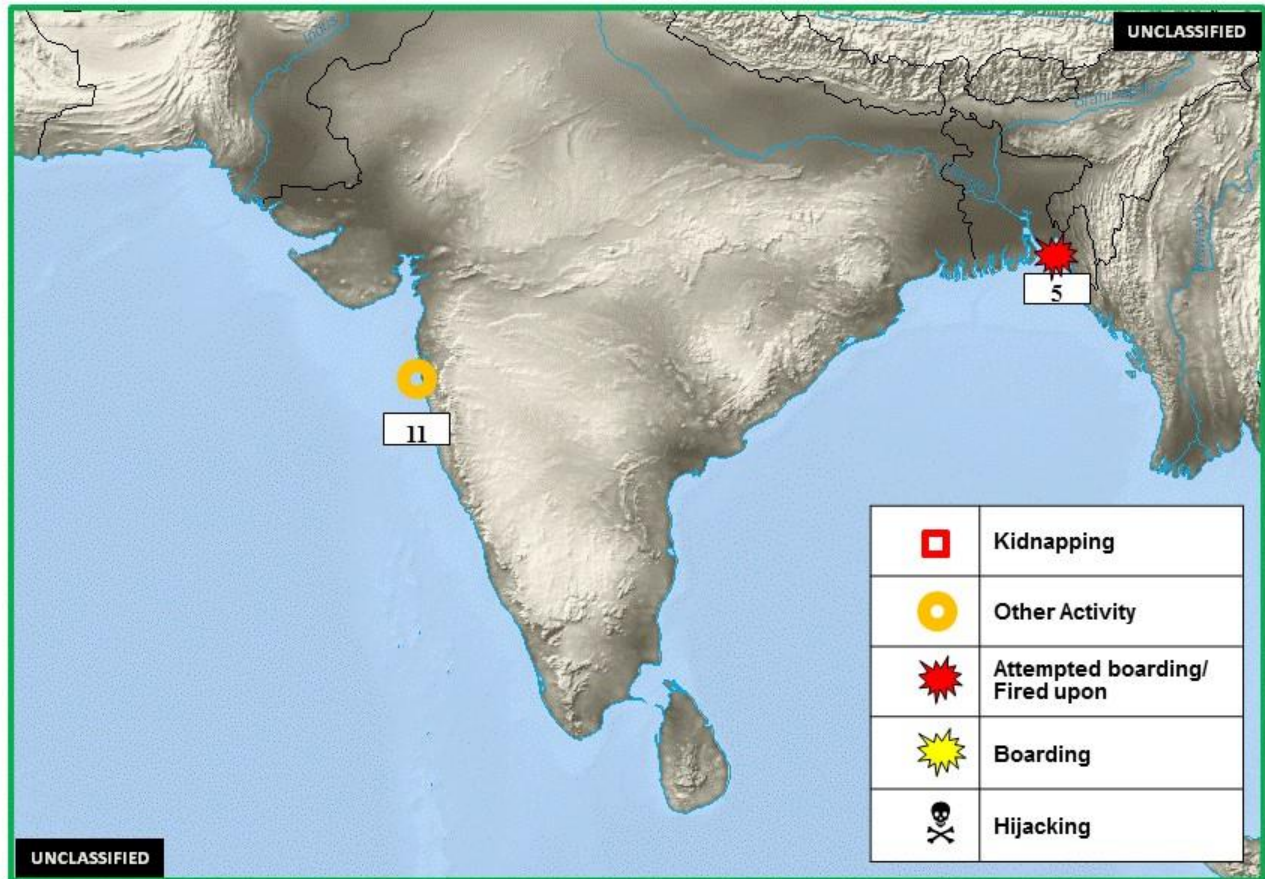


Figure 7. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime



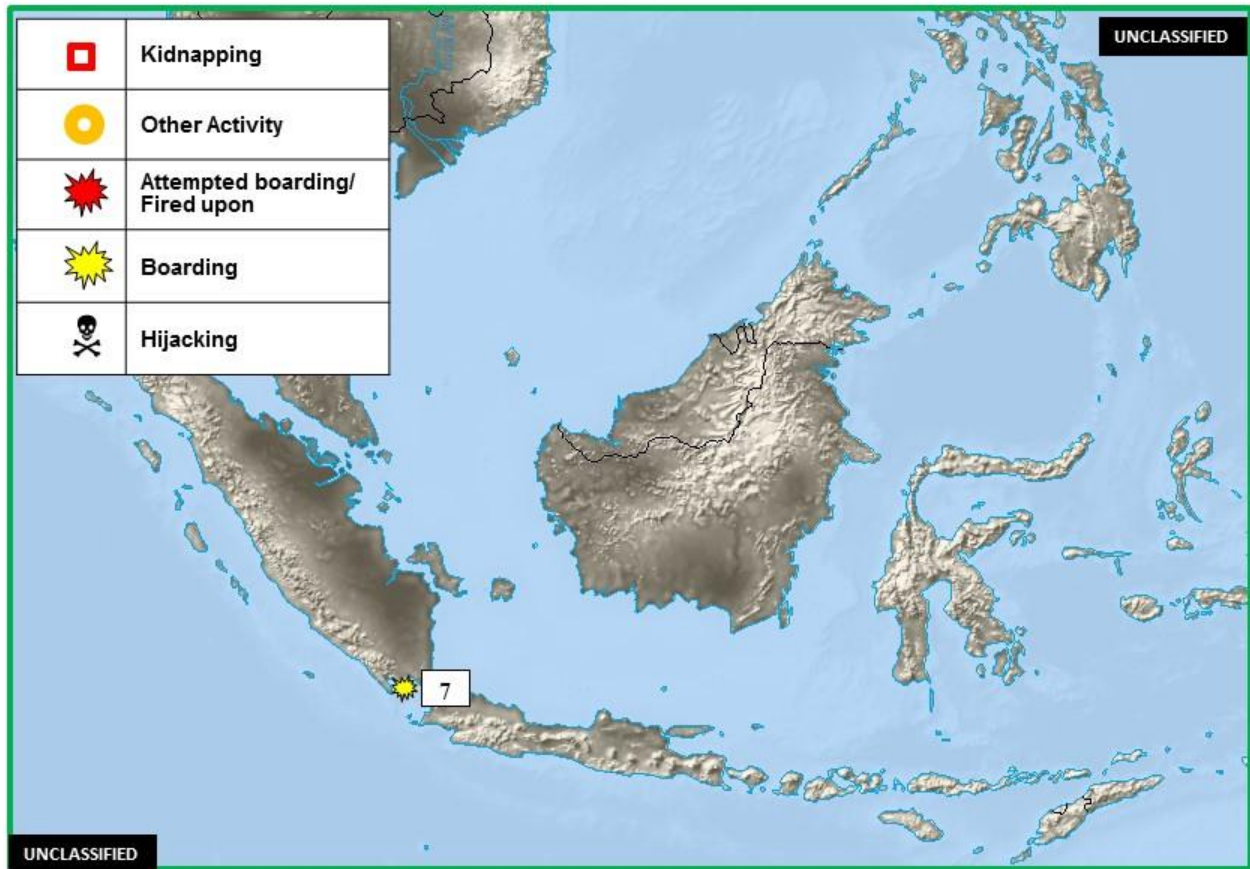


Figure 8. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 8 May, authorities intercepted a small boat piloted by an unidentified teen. The boat was searched and 89 containers carrying 10,000 explosives detonators were found. The boat was leaving Lahad Datu and headed for a small island in the southern Philippines. The teen was detained. ([www.pressreader.com](http://www.pressreader.com))

2. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 7 May, four members of a suspected Filipino kidnap-for-ransom group were shot and killed in the waters off Lahad Datu. The authorities are investigating whether they belonged to a pro-Islamic State militant group in the southern Philippines. Sabah Police Commissioner Ramli Din said a team, consisting of members of the Eastern Sabah Security Command (Esscom), VAT 69 special forces units as well as marine police, detected a boat carrying five to six men behaving suspiciously. "The speedboat was heading towards a group of fishing boats. Our boat intercepted them and flashed our blue strobe lights," said Ramli during a press conference in Lahad Datu. "The suspects fired on the team, forcing them to return fire in self-defense." Ramli said the team was unharmed but a bullet had hit the left side of their boat's bow. ([www.freemalaysiatoday.com](http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com))

3. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 7 May, Bureau of Customs (BOC) operatives have seized smuggled goods at the Port of Manila (POM) and Manila International Container Port (MICP). Several forty-foot shipping containers contained rice, houseware products, electronic cigarettes, cosmetics, counterfeit shoes, office chairs, and wheel rims. A Customs spokesman said the shipments from China arrived on separate dates and were consigned to different companies. ([www.gmanetwork.com](http://www.gmanetwork.com))

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 May, a duty crewman on routine rounds onboard a bulk carrier anchored near position 00:13S - 117:33E, Muara Berau Anchorage, heard noise coming from the hawse pipe and saw somebody trying to remove the

hawse pipe protection cover. Duty officer immediately informed, alarm raised and ship's whistle sounded. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers aborted their attempted boarding and escaped. Crew mustered and a search was carried out. Nothing reported stolen. Duty officer tried to call the port control on VHF but received no response. (IMB)

5. (U) BANGLADESH: On 6 May, seven robbers in a wooden boat with an outboard engine approached and attempted to board an anchored bulk carrier near position 22:15.0N - 091:44.9E, Chittagong Alpha Anchorage, using a hook attached to a rope. The crew noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers aborted the boarding attempt. Local Authorities informed. (IMB)

6. (U) VIETNAM: On 3 May, the customs office at Port of Ho Chi Minh City seized 3.3 tons of pangolin scales illegally imported from Africa. The container was declared to contain dried cashew nuts and was in transit to Cambodia from Nigeria. ([www.maritime-executive.com](http://www.maritime-executive.com))

7. (U) MALAYSIA: On 1 May, Malaysian police intercepted a tanker with 131 Sri Lankans onboard believed bound for Australia and New Zealand, smashing a large human smuggling ring that has been operating for a year. Authorities halted the modified tanker off the coast of southern Johor state, a national police spokesman said in a statement. ([www.sacbee.com](http://www.sacbee.com))

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 April, while at anchor near position 05:30.13S - 105:18.13E, Panjang Anchorage, a duty officer aboard a cargo vessel saw a fishing boat approaching the vessel. Duty crewman sent to check the fishing boat's activity. The duty crewman saw three robbers onboard the vessel and notified the duty officer who raised the alarm and alerted all crew via the PA system. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped in their boat. (IMB)

9. (U) VIETNAM: On 27 April, 3.8 tons of pangolin scales were seized in Cat Lai Port. They were hidden in bags in the middle of two containers surrounded by timber blocks. ([www.maritime-executive.com](http://www.maritime-executive.com))

10. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 24 April, two high speed craft approached an ore carrier underway near position 04:58N - 119:37E, 6 nm west-southwest of Bongao Island. As the boats closed to the ship, the crew could see a blue colored boat with two persons wearing face masks and a white colored boat with one person wearing a face mask. Two Philippine naval patrol vessels contacted the ore carrier via VHF channel 16. The high-speed boats closed to three cables from the ship, noticed the hardening, crossed the ship's stern and moved away. The ship had received cautionary information from the Philippine Navy and Coast Guard Coast Watch as they were transiting the Sibutu passage. (IMB)

11. (U) INDIA: On 21 April, local authorities in the port of Colaba intercepted a boat carrying 8,300 liters of stolen fuel and arrested three men onboard. It is believed they had stolen the fuel from boats in the port and were selling it to other boats in the area. ([www.mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com](http://www.mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com))

12. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 April, robbers boarded an anchored heavy lift vessel near position 01:24N - 104:46E, 16 nm northeast of Tanjung Berakit, Pulau Bintan. While carrying out routine deck work the next day, the bosun noticed that the paint store room padlock was broken and the door left opened. Further investigation showed that the padlocks to the garbage room, oxygen locker, acetylene locker and the bunker station were also broken into and the doors left open. On investigating, nothing reported stolen. (IMB)

13. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 April, a duty crewman on routine rounds onboard a general cargo vessel anchored near position 00:14S - 117:32E, Muara Berau, Samarinda, was threatened by four robbers armed with knives. The crewman managed to escape and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped in two boats. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB)

14. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 April, five armed Indonesian men were arrested for attempting to kidnap three Malaysian fishermen and demanding a ransom after a rescue operation by Malaysian and Indonesian authorities. The day before, the Southern Region Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) received a distress call from a local fishing boat about

15 nautical miles southwest off Tanjung Laboh, Batu Pahat, Johor. The hijacked vessel was released after the five suspects were arrested by Indonesian authorities, and the fishermen were able to return safely. (www.atimes.com)

15. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 23 April, Bureau of Customs officials seized over 500 tons of smuggled onions from China inside shipping containers at the Manila International Container Port. The consignee misdeclared the onions as apples. The smuggled onions were placed inside boxes of apples to hide the contents. (www.untvweb.com)

16. (U) INDIA: On 22 April, India's Directorate of Revenue Intelligence busted a diesel smuggling racket and seized 14 shipping containers with more than 300,000 liters of diesel. Four people allegedly involved in the racket. Diesel was being brought from Dubai in containers at Chennai port for illegal sale in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. (www.timesofindia.com)

17. (U) INDONESIA: On 21 April, robbers in a boat approached an anchored bulk carrier and attempted to board via the anchor chain near position 00:14S - 117:35E, Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda. Duty crew directed lights towards the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers aborted their attempt and escaped in their boat. (IMB)

18. (U) INDONESIA: On 21 April, duty crewman onboard a bulk carrier underway near position 01:15N - 104:08E, 4.7 nm northeast of Nongsa, Pulau Batam noticed unauthorized persons in the engine room and raised the alarm. Hearing the alarm, the persons escaped. On searching the vessel nothing reported stolen. (IMB)

19. (U) VIETNAM: On 20 April, six Vietnamese fishermen were rescued after their boat was allegedly sunk by two Chinese vessels in disputed waters, a Vietnamese official said. The incident occurred near Lincoln Island in the Paracel Archipelago, according to Nguyen Viet Thang, chairman of the state-run Vietnam Fisheries Society. Thang said the two Chinese boats chased and rammed the Vietnamese boat before armed assailants boarded the vessel and seized equipment and fishing catch from the fishermen. According to Vietnam's Tuoi Tre newspaper, since March, over 10 Vietnamese fishing boats have allegedly been hit and robbed while fishing in the South China Sea. (www.pmnnewsnigeria.com)

20. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 April, robbers in a wooden boat tried to board an anchored bulk carrier via the anchor chain near position 00:14S - 117:35E, Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda. The crew noticed the boats and raised the alarm. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers quit the attempted boarding and escaped. (IMB)

21. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 April, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 00:15S - 117:36 E, Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda. They stole ship store's and escaped unseen. The theft was noticed during routine rounds. (IMB)

22. (U) BANGLADESH: On 17 April, six robbers in a black boat tried to board an anchored general cargo vessel from astern near position 22:11.3N - 091:42.1E, Chittagong Anchorage. The crew noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. One robber managed to board the vessel and threatened the crew by showing a knife. Hearing the alarm and seeing the alerted crew, the robber escaped without stealing anything. All crew reported safe. (IMB)

23. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 14 April, general cargo ship DIAMOND 8 was seized by Philippine Navy in Zamboanga waters, southwest Mindanao Island. The ship reportedly was smuggling more than 20,000 bags of rice from Vietnam into the country. (www.fleetmon.com)

24. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 April, a shipment of luxury motorbikes and cars was seized in Jakarta onboard the Ro-Ro ship BAJAR FAHARI V, which arrived to Jakarta from Pontianak, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. In total, 27 motorbikes and cars, with Malaysian plates, were seized, including 18 Harley Davidson, BMW and Honda motorbikes, and 9 Toyota, BMW, Nissan Terrano and Porsche cars. (www.fleetmon.com)

25. (U) BANGLADESH: On 12 April, three robbers in small boat boarded an anchored product tanker near position 22:12N - 091:44E, Chittagong Anchorage. alarm raised and crew mustered. the robbers armed with an iron rod, hit the local watchman, stole ship's properties and escaped. Incident reported to Bangladesh Coast Guard who dispatched a patrol

boat to search the area. (IMB)

#### J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:

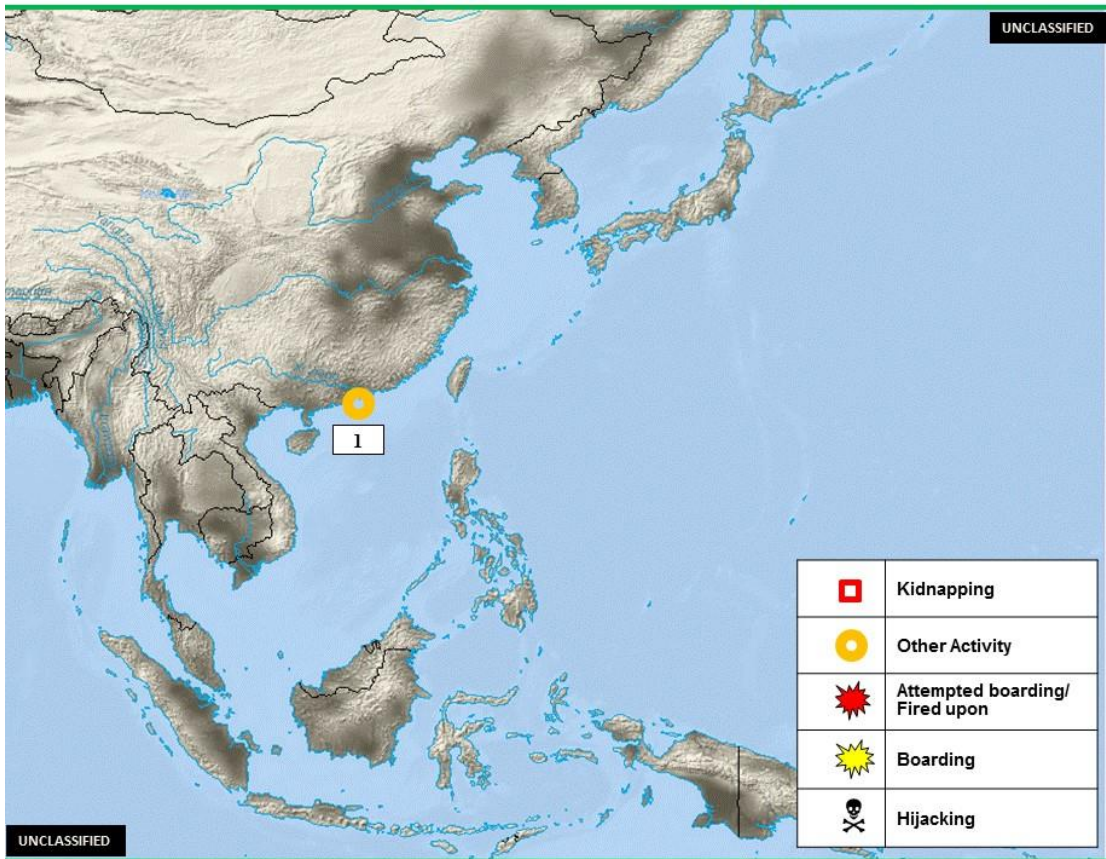


Figure 9. Northeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) HONG KONG: On 19 April, customs officers seized nearly 24 tons of high-value Honduras rosewood hidden in a shipping container that arrived in the city from Central America. This incident is the third wood-smuggling case reported in the city this year. ([www.scmp.com](http://www.scmp.com))

2. (U) SOUTH KOREA: On 13 April, coast guard forces seized a Chinese fishing boat for illegally operating in South Korean waters off the west coast, officials said. The 35-ton dragnet boat was caught fishing in waters about 26 km northwest of South Korea's northernmost island of Baengyeong after crossing the inter-Korean maritime border, known as the Northern Limit Line, 5 km into the South. The Coast Guard chased the boat for two and a half hours before seizing it, officials said. In the course of chasing it, the Coast Guard also chased eight other Chinese fishing boats out of South Korean waters, officials said. About 150 kilograms of blue crabs and some 2,700 kg of skate fish were found aboard the seized boat. ([www.english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news](http://www.english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news))

3. (U) TAIWAN: Between 10 and 11 April, Taiwan Coast Guard vessels seized 2 Chinese fishing boats for illegal fishing activity; and a third unidentified fishing boat that had been converted into an oil transport vessel was also seized. The seizures took place in the Penghu Island chain. ([www.taiwannews.com.tw](http://www.taiwannews.com.tw))



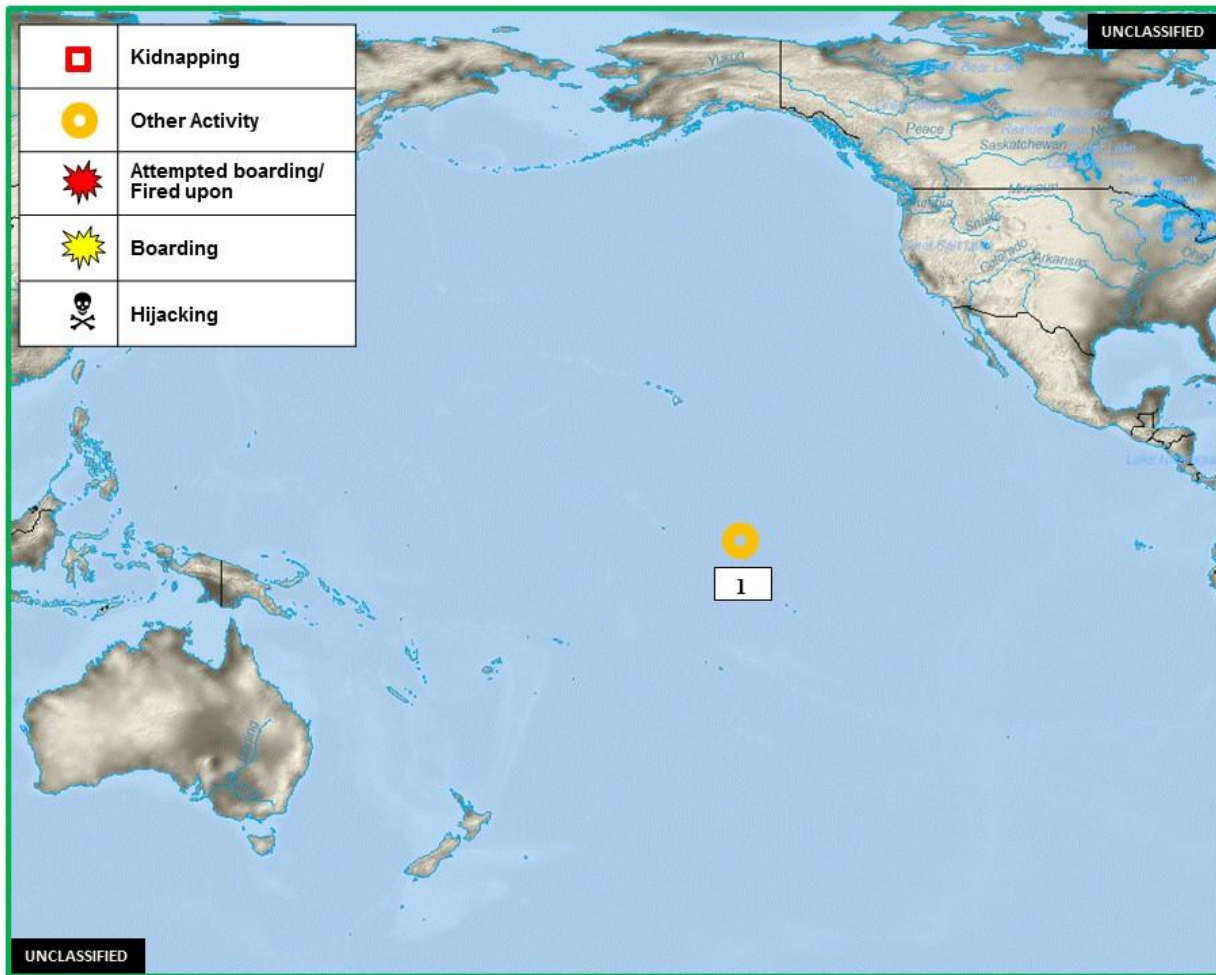
**K. (U) AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND – PACIFIC OCEAN AREA:**

Figure 10. Australia - New Zealand – Pacific  
Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) FRENCH POLYNESIA: On 1 April, a catamaran was boarded while anchored in the atoll of Kauehi in the Tuamotu. Jewelry and other personal items were stolen. Local authorities notified. ([www.noonsite.com](http://www.noonsite.com))

**6. (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) 669-4053.

**(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: [http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence\\_Community/piracy.htm](http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm).

## 7. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References

(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 boarding 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 direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- LSS-SAPU.com (LSS)
- Lloyd's

- Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S.
- Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)
- Marine Domain Awareness for Trade - Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG)
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia,
- Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- The Maritime Executive (website)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

**(U) ICOD:** 9 May 2018

(U) The PAWW and WTS reports are posted each week on the ONI Intel Portal and can be found at:  
<http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence-Community/Piracy>