



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 28 May - 27 June 2018

28 June 2018



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1. (U) Scope Note

1. (U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to merchant vessels, the shipping industry, and other maritime stakeholders worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) Warnings and Advisories:

1. (U) **UKMTO ADVISORY NOTICE 002/JUN/2018**: Category: Suspicious Approach. Description: At 0708 UTC on 26 June 2018, an MV in position 13:30N - 042:43E was approached by 2 speedboats with 8-10 persons in each boat. Armed security team showed weapons and speedboats departed. Speedboats had previously approached 2 other MVs in the vicinity. Vessel is safe. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution. Source: Reported to UKMTO via email. Any queries regarding this Advisory Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 only for further information. This advisory is not classified as a Maritime Security Event and has not been verified by UKMTO. This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the region. UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting. UKMTO Watchkeeper email: watchkeepers@ukmto.org, emergency Tel: +971 5055 23215. Tel: +442392222060, fax: +971(0)43094254, www.ukmto.org.

3. (U) Summary:

A. (U) RED SEA: On 26 June, a merchant vessel in transit reported a suspicious approach by 2 speedboats 10 nm south of Jazirat al Hanish al Jabir Island, Yemen.

B. (U) LIBYA: On 24 June, the Libyan Navy intercepted 948 African migrants in three separate operations off the northwest town of Garabulli.

C. (U) CANARY ISLANDS: On 24 June, Spanish authorities announced they had seized 1,850 kilograms of cocaine from a 12-meter, UK-flagged yacht.

D. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 June, Nigerian Navy arrested eight men on suspicion of smuggling when the officials found 3,434 bags of contraband rice in their wooden boat in Calabar.

E. (U) ITALY: On 22 June, the container ship ALEXANDER MAERSK picked up 113 migrants from a boat off southern Italy.

F. (U) EAST CHINA SEA: On 21 and 22 June, Japan reported suspected ship-to-ship goods transfers involving a North Korean tanker on the high seas in violation of UN sanctions.

G. (U) LIBYA: On 21 June, Coast Guard authorities picked up 301 African migrants from two inflatable boats after their engines failed near its western coast.

H. (U) MEXICO: On 21 June, the master of container ship MSC PERLE reported to Manzanillo Port Authorities that the crew found suspicious packages in a seawater inlet in the engine room. A thorough search was carried out by authorities and 58 kilograms of marijuana were seized.

I. (U) GULF OF MEXICO: On 17 June, two crewmen aboard Malta-flagged ship M/V SOLITAIRE, got into an altercation. One of the crewmen, from the Philippines, hit the other with a length of pipe, causing severe injuries.

J. (U) ECUADOR: On 17 June, authorities in the port of Guayaquil found 1,289 kilograms of cocaine in a shipping container listed to carry a consignment of frozen shrimp.

K. (U) NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN: On 16 June, U.S. and Chinese authorities announced that they had boarded and then detained the China-flagged fishing vessel F/V RUN DA suspected of illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing activity.

L. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 8 June, the naval task force Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150) reported that the French frigate, NIVÔSE, had seized 251 kilograms of heroin from a dhow off the Somali coast.

M. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 May, five robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored Panama-flagged bulk carrier using a rope in Tarahan Anchorage, Indonesia.

N. (U) VIETNAM: On 3 May, authorities in the port of Saigon found 3.3 tons of pangolin scales smuggled from Africa. The container was declared to be carrying dried cashew nuts.

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

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for June 2018. To apply for JMSDF escort, visit 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: China Navy convoy schedule for June 2018. For further information, please e-mail: planavy@navy.mil.cn or etg546cn@163.com, or call Tel 00870 773 120 772. (MSCHOA)

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

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korea Navy convoy schedule for June and July 2018. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at 001-646-466-9522. Email: chunghae26@navy.mil. (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: No current incidents to report.

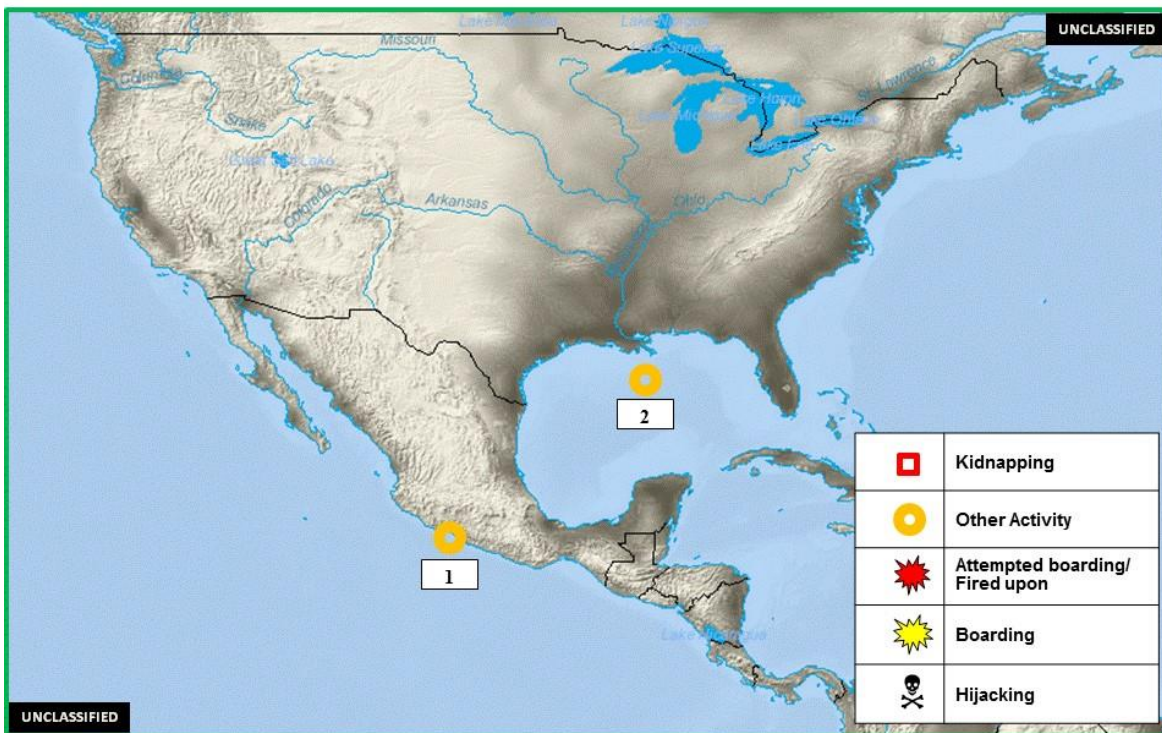


Figure 1. North America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MEXICO: On 21 June, the master of container ship MSC PERLE reported to Manzanillo Port Authorities that the crew found suspicious packages in a seawater inlet in the engine room. A thorough search was carried out by authorities and 58 kilograms of marijuana were seized. The ship arrived at Manzanillo on Jun 21 from Callao, Peru with Tokyo her next port of call. (www.fleetmon.com)

2. (U) GULF OF MEXICO: On 17 June, two crewmen aboard Malta-flagged ship M/V SOLITAIRE, operating in the Gulf of Mexico, got into an altercation. One of the crewmen, from the Philippines, hit the other with a length of pipe, causing severe injuries. The attacker was extradited to Malta for trial. A magistrate sentenced him to two years' imprisonment, suspended for four years, and ordered his immediate deportation back to the Philippines. (www.tvn.com.mt)

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

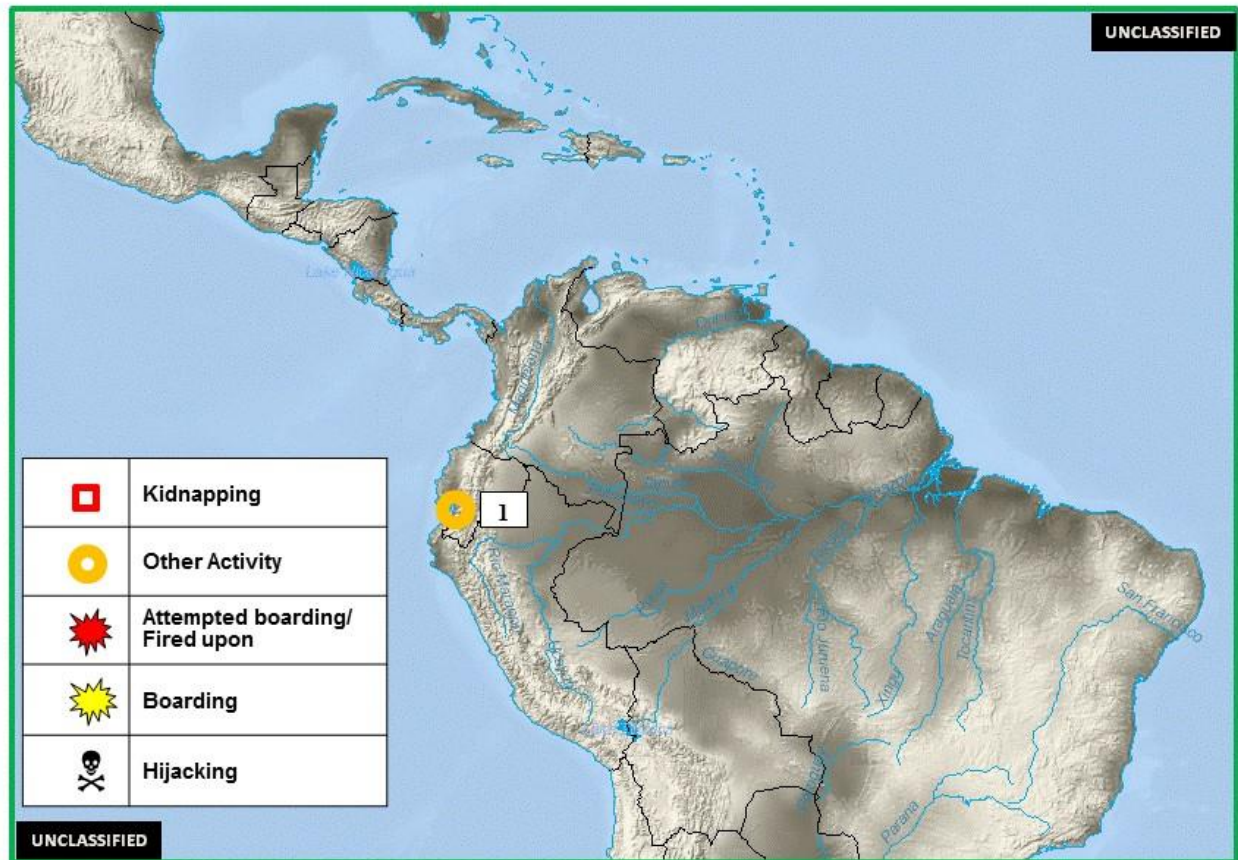


Figure 2. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) ECUADOR: On 17 June, authorities in the port of Guayaquil found 1,289 kilograms of cocaine in a shipping container listed to carry a consignment of frozen shrimp. The container was supposed to be shipped to the port of Antwerp. (www.maritimeherald.com)

2. (U) BONAIRE: On 14 June, a dinghy locked to the Fisherman's Pier was searched and the fuel line disconnected. The tank had been moved but remained, it was locked to the dinghy, preventing the theft. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

3. (U) BONAIRE: On 14 June, after sunset, the not locked fuel tank was stolen from a dinghy at the Dive Friends Pier. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

4. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 12 June, an unlocked dinghy and outboard motor was stolen from the jetty in Mayreau Saline Bay while owners were ashore for the evening. A police report was made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

5 (U) ST LUCIA: On 6 June, a robber stole an in-the-water dinghy from a sailing yacht anchored in Rodney Bay. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

6. (U) COSTA RICA: On 6 June, authorities announced that 300 kilograms of cocaine had been found hidden in the ventilation shaft of a shipping container aboard Italy-flagged ship MN CALA PALMA in the port of Moin. (www.maritimeherald.com)

7. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 17 May, a robber boarded an unlocked but closed up monohull anchored in Canouan Charlestown Bay while owners were ashore. They returned to find that only cash had been stolen, other valuable items were left behind. No police report was made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
8. (U) SINT MAARTEN: On 8 June, a robber boarded an unlocked catamaran berthed at Blue Pearl Marina. The robber stole the dinghy and outboard, cellphones and laptop. The dinghy/outboard was found the next day, hidden nearby. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
9. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 3 June, one robber boarded a catamaran anchored in South Glossy Bay. The owners were awoken when the robber tried to pry open a locked deck hatch. The thief, once discovered, ran forward and jumped overboard and swam away. Minor damage, but nothing taken. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
10. (U) PERU: On 1 June, a Peruvian fishing vessel flying a Belize flag, F/V DAMANZAIHAO, described as the world's largest fish factory vessel, was seized by the Ministry of Environment for reported acts of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. The vessel, which is capable of processing approximately 547,000 tons of fish per year, faced multi-million dollar penalties in 2016 for proven IUU violations. The ship is being held in Chimbote. The ship requested permission to leave port from Peru twice, however, a non-profit marine conservation group had written to the Peruvian government imploring it to take measures against the vessel which is accused of marine pollution in addition to IUU violations. (www.breakingbelizenews.com; www.amandala.com.bz)
11. (U) PERU: On 30 May, police seized 1,150 kilograms of cocaine at Paita port. The narcotics, which were hidden in a shipment of frozen fish, were destined for Spain. Eight Peruvians and four Colombians were arrested in connection with the seizure. (www.pviltld.com)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA: No current incidents to report.

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:

1. (U) ENGLAND: On 30 May, a man from Romania was arrested for human smuggling after authorities in the Port of Dover found a 16-year-old Vietnamese boy inside a suitcase in the trunk of the man's car. The suitcase was discovered when the car was searched at the inbound search area of the port, for vehicles arriving in the UK from France on a ferry. (www.kentlive.news)

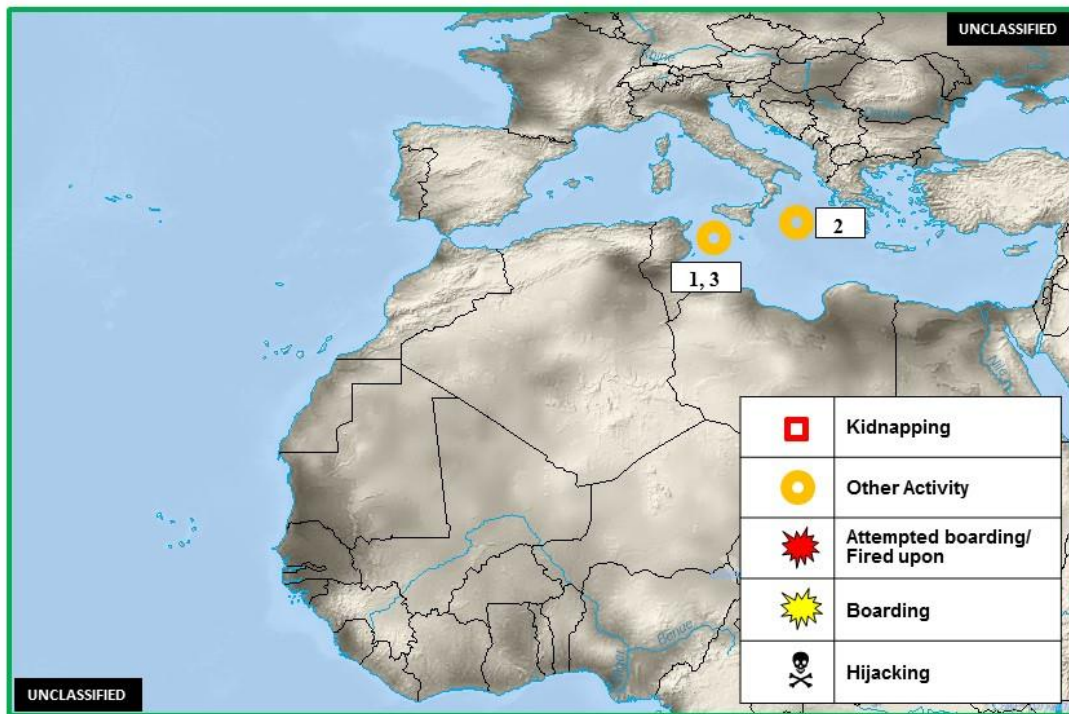
E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

Figure 3. Mediterranean – Black Sea Piracy
and Maritime Crime

1. (U) LIBYA: On 24 June, the Libyan Navy intercepted 948 African migrants in three separate operations off the northwest town of Garabulli, a navy spokesman said. (www.pvilttd.com)

2. (U) ITALY: On 22 June, the container ship ALEXANDER MAERSK picked up 113 migrants from a boat off southern Italy, a Maersk company spokesman said. The ship had received a request from the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre to change its course late and pick up the migrants, the spokesman further said. (www.gcaptain.com)

3. (U) LIBYA: On 21 June, Coast Guard authorities picked up 301 African migrants from two inflatable boats after their engines failed near its western coast, a spokesman said. (www.marinelink.com)

4. (U) LIBYA: On 10 June, Libyan Coast Guard units intercepted 152 African and Arab migrants off the northwestern towns of Zuwara and Garabulli, local media reported. The coast guard said that the migrants were aboard two sinking rubber dinghies when they were rescued. The migrants were taken to Tripoli. (www.pvilttd.com)

5. (U) LIBYA: Between 9 and 10 June, the migrant rescue ship AQUARIUS rescued 629 migrants during six different operations. The ship is en route Valencia, Spain. (www.fleetmon.com)

6. (U) BULGARIA: On 7 June, authorities in the Port of Varna intercepted 16.2 tons of precursor chemicals used in the production of synthetic drugs. Two Dutch nationals were arrested. (www.focus-fen.net)

7. (U) ITALY: On 7 June, Italy's Guardia di Finanza (GDF) finance police intercepted a Dutch fishing boat 130 nm southeast of Sicily after tracking the vessel from the air for two days, a statement said, arresting all nine members of the vessel's crew. A search of the vessel turned up 10 tons of hashish. Two of the detained, including the first officer, have been identified as members of a "dangerous" Maltese criminal organization, the authorities said. They had been arrested in

Spain last summer in a joint operation between the GDF and Spanish police for trafficking 6,000 cases of contraband cigarettes. (www.thelocal.it)

8. (U) ITALY: On 4 June, authorities in Portofino arrested a 50-year old woman from England for the hijacking of a yacht owned by a local boat rental company. Reportedly, the woman found the keys to start the yacht and was on the way out of the harbor when a harbor worker managed to jump aboard in time, grabbing the keys from the ignition and steering the vessel back to its mooring. He then called the port authority and the local Carabinieri paramilitary police, who arrested her. A local newspaper dubbed her "the Portofino pirate". (www.telegraph.co.uk)

9. (U) ALGERIA: On 29 May, authorities intercepted the container ship VEGA MERCURY using an Algerian Navy ship and helicopter, off Oran. Algerian authorities were alerted by Spanish authorities about a probable drug shipment onboard. More than 700 kilograms of cocaine were found in boxes marked as "halal meat." Fourteen people were arrested, including 3 from the ship's crew. (www.fleetmon.com)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

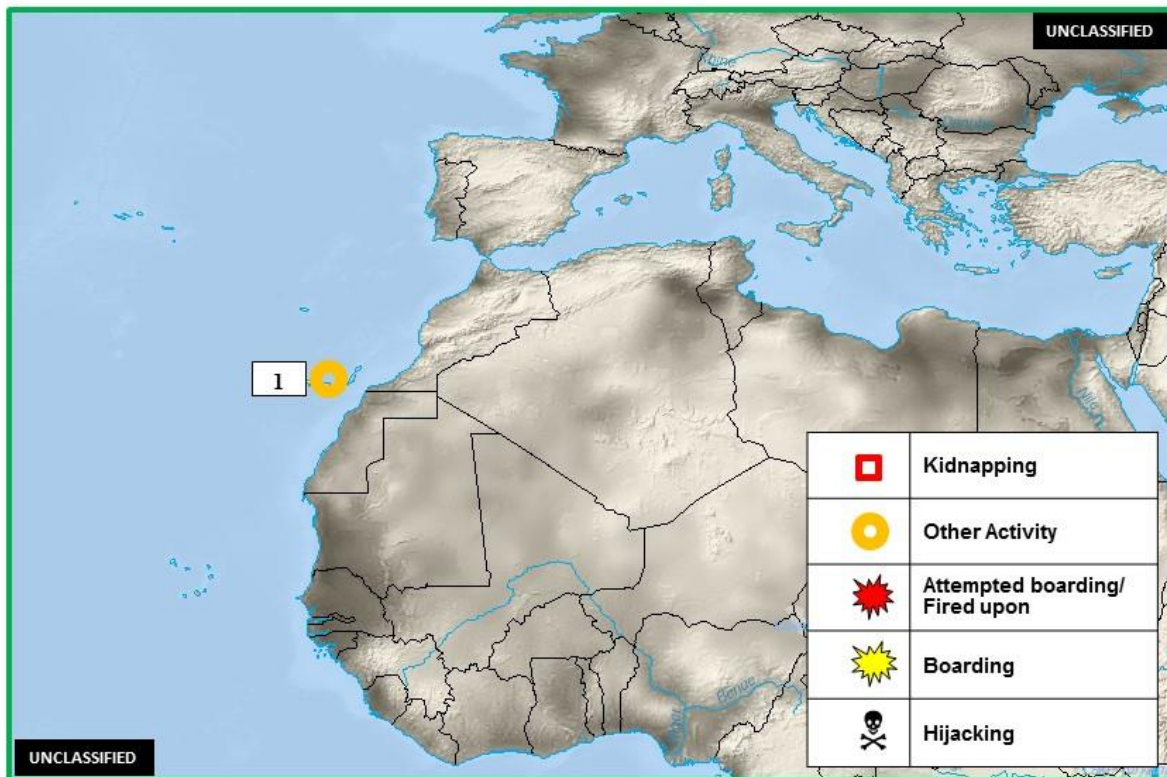


Figure 4. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

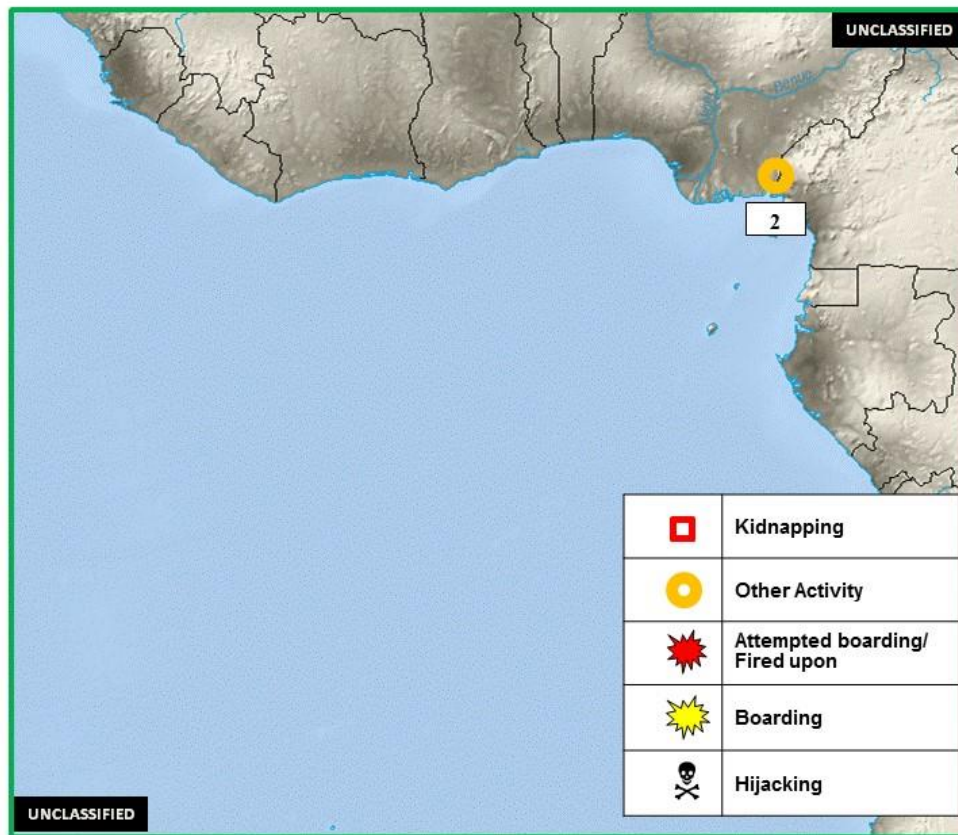


Figure 5. West Africa Piracy and Maritime
Crime

1. (U) CANARY ISLANDS: On 24 June, Spanish authorities announced they had seized 1,850 kilograms of cocaine from a 12-meter, UK-flagged yacht named PEPPER SAUCE and arrested three persons, one from England and two from France. The vessel and arrested crew were taken to Las Palmas for further processing. (www.euroweeklynews.com)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 June, Nigerian Navy officials from the ship NNS VICTORY arrested eight men on suspicion of smuggling when the officials found 3,434 bags of contraband rice in their wooden boat in Calabar. It is believed that the men were smuggling the rice from Cameroon. (www.punchng.com)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 18 June, Nigeria Navy authorities announced the arrest of eight suspects in connection with the smuggling of over 100, 000 liters of illegally refined automotive gas oil. The suspects, who were arrested along the Calabar waterways on a barge, were said to have smuggled the products from Port Harcourt in Rivers State. (www.punchng.com)

4. (U) GHANA: On 13 June, duty crewmen on routine rounds aboard a Singapore-flagged offshore supply vessel anchored near position 04:53N - 001:42W, Takoradi Anchorage, saw a small boat approaching the vessel. As the watchmen made their way aft, the robbers boarded the vessel. Alarm was raised. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped. (IMB; www.pviltld.com)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 9 June, one robber boarded a tanker anchored near position 06:27N - 003:22E, Apapa, Lagos. The robber had inserted a hose into a cargo tank. When spotted, the robber jumped into water and escaped in a speed boat with 7 others. (www.pviltld.com)

6. (U) MOROCCO: On 10 June, the navy rescued 472 migrants in the vicinity of Gibraltar, the army said in a statement.

The migrants were rescued after their vessel broke down, the statement added. (www.pviltld.com)

7. (U) LIBERIA: On 6 June, the China-flagged fishing ship FU HAI YU 6666 was caught secretly offloading 132 tons of fish products at the China Union BMC Pier at the Freeport of Monrovia without the proper import permits. The ship's parent company, Africa Zhong Sheng Hai, was issued a large fine by the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority. (www.frontpageafricaonline.com; www.africanindy.com)

8. (U) MAURITANIA: On 5 June, Mauritanian military officers arrested 50 Senegalese nationals aboard a boat near the port city of Nouadhibou. The group were reportedly heading to the Spanish archipelago of the Canary Islands. The migrants were questioned by the military before being handed over to the police and returned to Senegal, according to the Customs force in Mauritania. (www.pviltld.com)

9. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 June, two robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 06:17N - 003:21E, Lagos Anchorage, using a hook attached to a rope. The duty officer and the armed security guard noticed the robbers on the forecastle deck. The armed guard fired a warning shot resulting in the robbers escaping. a search of the ship was conducted, with ship's stores reported missing. Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre Nigeria informed. (IMB)

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

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

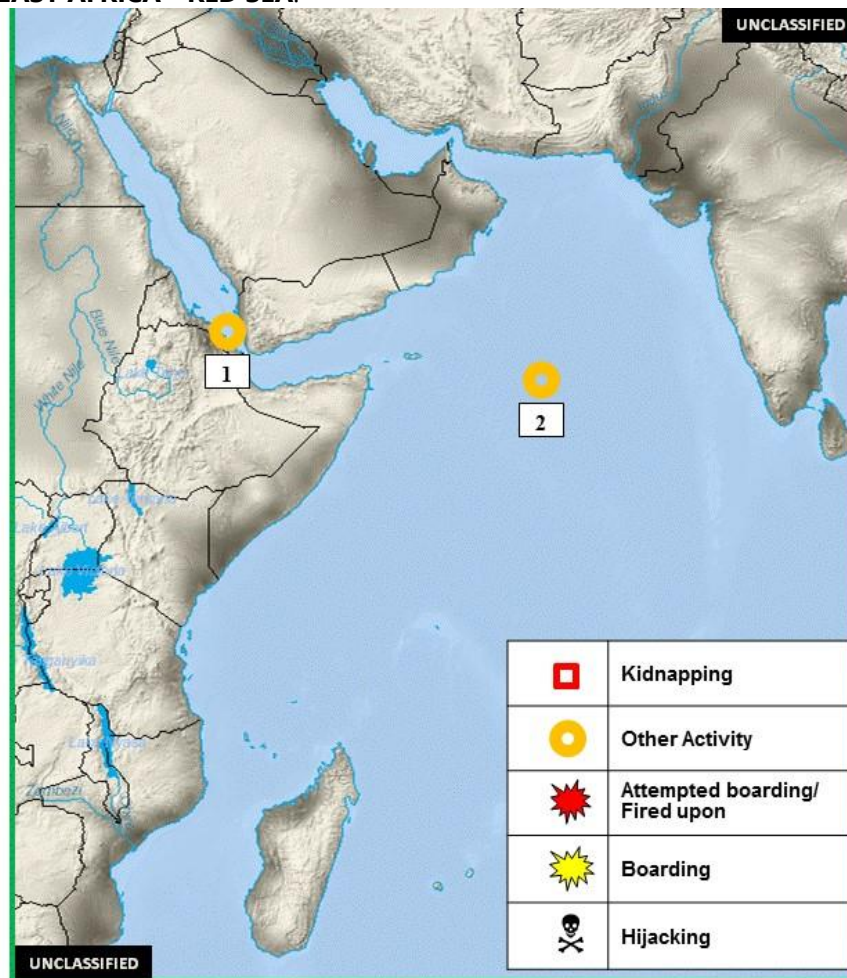


Figure 6. Indian Ocean - East Africa - Red Sea
Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) RED SEA: On 26 June a merchant vessel in transit reported a suspicious approach by 2 speedboats near position 13:30N - 042:43E, 10 nm south of Jazirat al Hanish al Jabir Island, approximately 31 nm west of Yemen Coast. Vessel reported speedboats with 8-10 persons in each boat. Embarked security team showed weapons and speedboats departed. Speedboats had previously approached 2 other MVs in the vicinity. Vessel is Safe. (UKMTO; www.pviltld.com; www.sguardian.com)

2. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 8 June, the naval task force Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150) reported that the French frigate, NIVÔSE, had seized 251 kilograms of heroin from a dhow off the Somali coast. Further details of the location of the seizure were not disclosed. French forces have seized almost 1.2 tons of heroin as part of CTF 150 in the past three months. (www.pviltld.com)

3. (U) SEYCHELLES: On 7 June, the Seychelles Coast Guard patrol ship ANDROMACHE intercepted a Sri Lanka-flagged fishing vessel north-west of the main island of Mahe during a routine patrol. A Coast Guard team boarded the vessel to conduct an inspection, during which evidence relating to illegal fishing was found. Six Sri Lankan nationals were arrested on suspicion of illegal fishing. (www.sguardian.com)

4. (U) ARABIAN SEA: Between 3 and 5 June, the Australian warship HMAS WARRAMUNGA seized three large-scale drug shipments totaling more than 5.9 tons from vessels in the Arabian Sea. The ship halted vessels and seized shipments of cannabis weighing 3.3 tons, 2.6 tons and 40 kilograms respectively. HMAS WARRAMUNGA is deployed to the region as part of Operation Manitou and the vessel has seized 31.8 tons of cannabis resin and 2 tons of heroin since it started operations in November 2017. (www.pviltld.com)

5. (U) RED SEA: On 3 June, supply vessel VOS THEIA was attacked by a skiff with 6 persons onboard near position: 14:57N - 042:05E, approximately 5 nm west of Jazair Az Zubayr Island, Yemen. The skiff fired upon the vessel and the ship's embarked security team returned fire and the skiff retreated. (UKMTO: www.pviltld.com; www.gcaptain.com; www.fleetmon.com)

6. (U) KENYA: On 2 June, 109 Tanzanian fishermen were arrested by Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) officers attached to the Kenya Navy for engaging in illegal fishing within Kenya's territorial waters in Shimoni area. They were later arraigned in court before being held in jail after they were unable to raise a cash bail of Sh20,000 each. (www.pulselive.co.ke)

7. (U) SOMALIA: On 30 May, a merchant vessel reported an approach by up to 6 skiffs near position 01:38N - 044:41E, 46 nm southwest of Mogadishu. Vessel and crew are safe. (UKMTO)

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

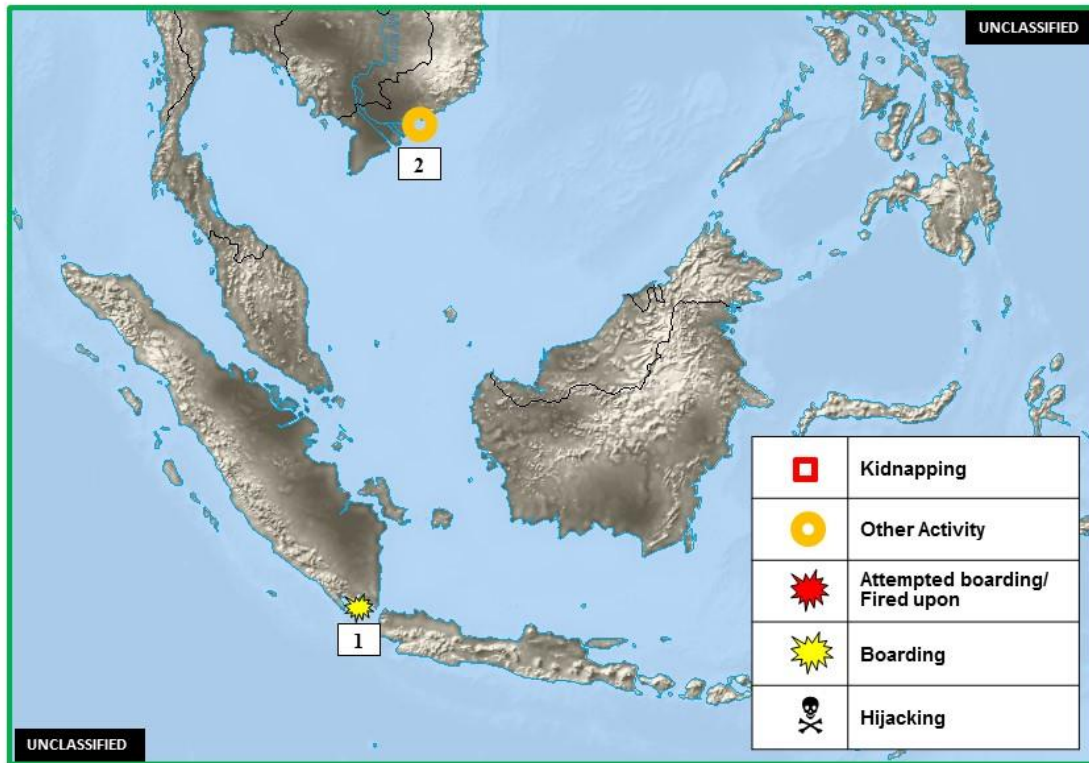


Figure 7. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 May, five robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored Panama-flagged bulk carrier using a rope near position 05:32S - 105:18E, Tarahan Anchorage, Indonesia. They took hostage a duty crewman tied him up and threatened him with knives. The robbers stole ship's property and engine spares and escaped. The crewman managed to free himself and raised the alarm. Duty officer sounded the ship's horn and crew was mustered. (IMB; www.pvilttd.com)

2. (U) VIETNAM: On 3 May, authorities in the port of Saigon found 3.3 tons of pangolin scales smuggled from Africa. The container was declared to be carrying contain dried cashew nuts. It was in transit to Cambodia from Nigeria. (www.talkvietnam.org)

3. (U) SINGAPORE: On 18 June, police arrested nine men for their suspected involvement in an illegal sale of marine gas oil. The Police Coast Guard acted on a tip-off that a foreign-registered tugboat and a Singapore-registered vessel were involved in the illegal transaction at sea off Selat Puah Anchorage. The Singapore-registered vessel is suspected of misappropriating 400 liters of marine gas oil. (www.pvilttd.com)

4. (U) BANGLADESH: On 2 June, the Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG) rescued 18 fishermen abducted from the Nalian area in the Sundarbans. Four teams of the BCG launched a drive in the area after receiving information that the fishermen were abducted, said BCG Operation Officer Lt Abdullah Al Mahmud. Alerted to the presence of the BCG teams, the bandits fled the spot, leaving behind the victims, he said, adding that they rescued them along with 11 trawlers. The gang abducted the fishermen earlier that day while they were fishing in the area, Mahmud said. (www.dhakatribune.com)

5. (U) MALAYSIA: On 1 June, 14 robbers boarded tanker LEE BO, near Baharu, north of Singapore. The robbers, armed with machetes, robbed the crew of cash and valuables, slightly injuring 2 of the 12 crew. They then moved to another tanker

nearby, M/T Bright, where they were apprehended by the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) team, which boarded the tanker via helicopter. Two others were arrested later, reportedly the gang's leaders. (www.fleetmon.com)

6. (U) MALAYSIA: On 31 May, fourteen intruders boarded and attempted to rob a Mongolia-flagged oil tanker while anchored in position 34 nm east of Mersing, Malaysia. After discovering that the vessel was not loaded, the pirates took the personal belongings of the crew and fled via another stolen vessel. Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency Special Forces were able to track and successfully apprehend all the pirates who were armed with knives and machetes; two crew members were injured during the attack. (www.pvilttd.com)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 30 May, an unknown number of robbers boarded a Netherlands-flagged heavy load carrier anchored near position 01:06N - 104:11E, 16 nm northeast of Tanjung Berakit, Pulau Bintan. The ship's boatswain discovered the padlock of the paint store was broken and the door left open. Further investigation revealed that the padlocks of the garbage room, oxygen locker, acetylene locker and the bunker station were also broken and the doors were left open. Nothing was missing. (www.pvilttd.com)

J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:

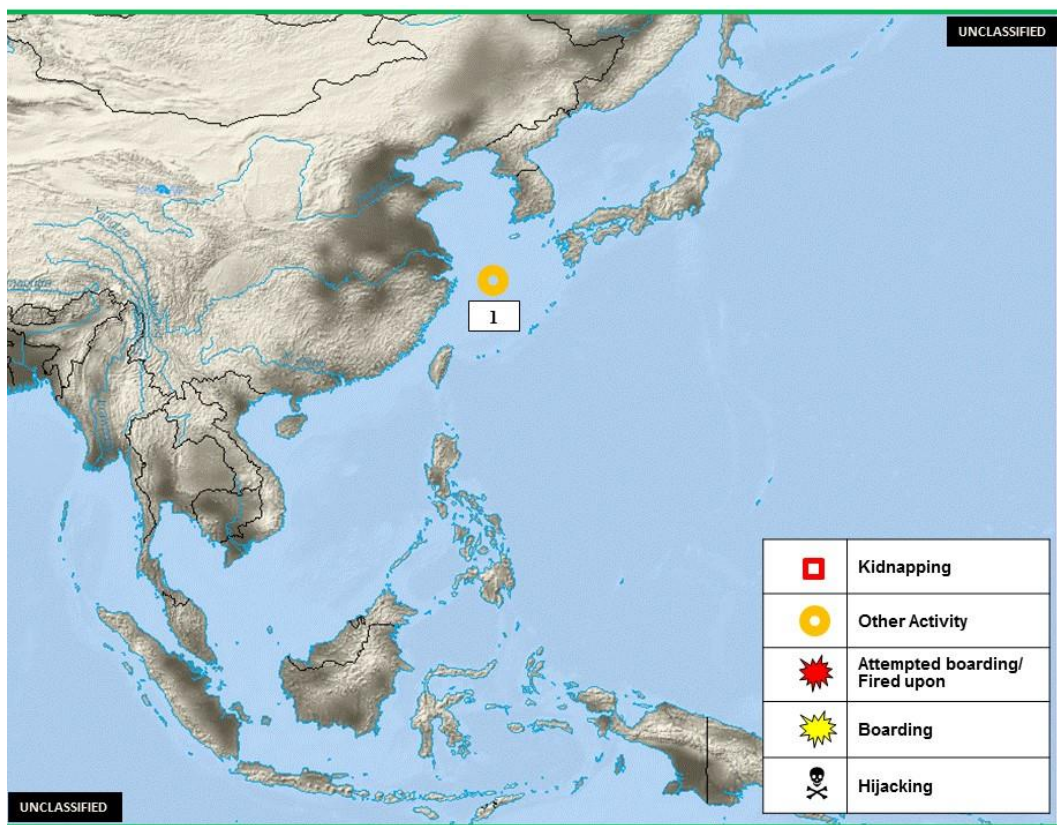


Figure 8. Northeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) EAST CHINA SEA: Japan has reported to the United Nations suspected ship-to-ship goods transfers involving a North Korean tanker on the high seas in violation of UN sanctions, the Defence Ministry said on 27 June. The North Korean-flagged tanker YU PHYONG 5 was first spotted beside a small vessel of unknown nationality on June 21 in waters around 400 kilometers off Shanghai in the East China Sea. On the next day, the North Korean tanker was seen beside a similar vessel around 450 kilometers off Shanghai. The vessel, carrying a flag similar to that of China, may have been the same as the one seen the previous day, according to the ministry. In each case a hose was connected between the North Korean tanker and the other vessel, leading the government to "strongly suspect" that they were engaged in ship-to-ship transfers banned by the United Nations. The YU PHYONG 5 has been designated as a vessel subject to an asset freeze and prohibited from entering any foreign port under a UN resolution. (www3.nhk.or.jp; Kyodo)

2. (U) HONG KONG: On 4 June, customs officials seized about 140 kilograms of suspected scheduled dried seahorses and 220 kilograms of dried shark fins from a shipping container at the Kwai Chung Customs House Cargo Examination Compound. Through risk assessment, customs officers inspected the 20-foot container declared to contain fish maw arriving in Hong Kong from Indonesia, finding the contraband. (www.7thspace.com)

3. (U) HONG KONG: On 4 June, authorities seized 7,000 kilograms of suspected smuggled mercury from a shipping container at the Kwai Chung Cargo Examination Compound. Through risk assessment, customs officers inspected a 40-foot container declared to contain plastic material arriving from Indonesia. Upon inspection, customs officers found the suspected smuggled mercury in the container. (www.7thspace.com)

4. (U) TAIWAN: On 1 June, officials from Taiwan and Australia announced that more than 20 million illicit cigarettes were seized after a joint operation between the Australian Border Force (ABF) and the Taiwan Customs Administration. In early May, the ABF Tobacco Strike Team (TST) identified two cargo containers of interest being shipped from Vietnam to Taiwan that were bound for Australia. Investigations by the TST and Taiwan Customs revealed the containers contained 20,100,000 illicit cigarettes. The containers were unloaded and the cigarettes were seized by Taiwan Customs. ABF Assistant Commissioner Enforcement Command, Sharon Huey, said the operation would have significant disruption effects for the illicit tobacco market in Australia. (www.thecre.com)

5. (U) HONG KONG: On 30 May, customs officers discovered nearly six tons of endangered rosewood in a shipment of gypsum boards from Malaysia. The manifest for the shipping container, which arrived from Port Klang, west of Kuala Lumpur, on May 30, said it held 16 piles of gypsum boards, according to the Customs and Excise Department. "The container was selected for inspection because it contained gypsum boards which are rarely shipped from Malaysia," Assistant Superintendent Joy Wong Sek-yan of Customs' Ports Control Group said. (www.sg.news.yahoo.com)

6. (U) TAIWAN: On 28 May, the Coast Guard Administration (CGA) busted a tobacco smuggling operation in Pingtung County and seized a large consignment of smuggled cigarettes. In a statement, the CGA said officers from its southern office seized 160,000 packs of untaxed cigarettes from a Donggang-registered fishing boat CHANG SHENG and arrested five crew members, including the captain. (www.focustaiwan.tw)

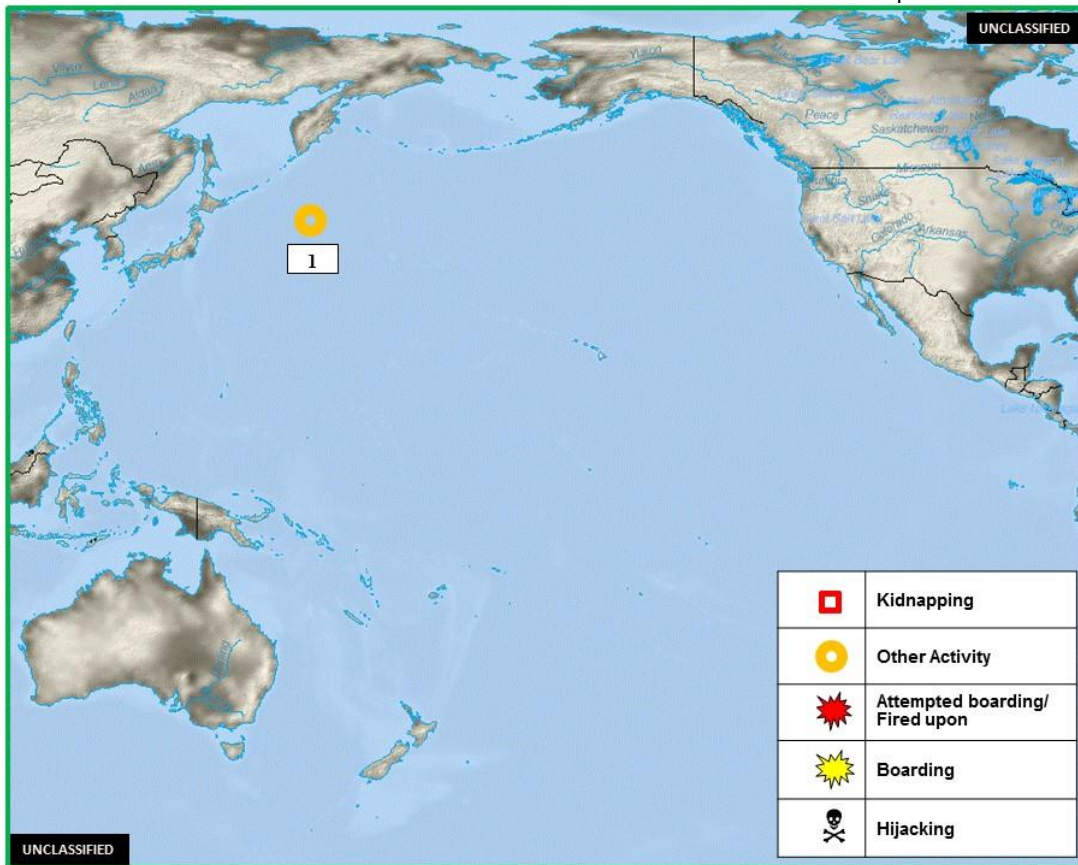
K. (U) AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND – PACIFIC OCEAN AREA: No current incidents to report.

Figure 9. Australia - New Zealand – Pacific
Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN: On 16 June, U.S. and Chinese authorities announced that they had boarded and then detained the China-flagged fishing vessel RUN DA suspected of illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing activity in international waters 860 miles east of Hokkaido, Japan. The fishing vessel is suspected of violating the worldwide driftnet moratorium called for by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/215. The captain of the RUN DA admitted to fishing with driftnets up to 5.6 miles in length. The joint boarding team discovered one ton of squid and 80 tons of chum salmon on board. A China Coast Guard vessel is escorting the RUN DA back to China for prosecution. The PRC has jurisdiction for any enforcement actions taken upon the vessel, master and owner. (www.kinyradio.com; www.fis.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.

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
- DNK Intelligence & Operations Centre (DNK IOC)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur

- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- 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: 28 June 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>