



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** 18 June - 18 July 2018



19 July 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:**

A. (U) **190900 UTC JULY IMB WARNING:** To: All ships transiting Tawi Tawi/northeast Sabah waters /Celebes Sea / Sulu Sea / southern Philippines. WARNING. Planned kidnapping of ASG in /off Gulisan island, Sabah. Philippines intel received information that Sulu based ASG planning to conduct kidnapping activities in / off Gulisan Island, Sabah targeting foreigners or vessels at sea on any opportune time. As planned, ASG spotters in the area will guide the group in going to the said island during the execution of the kidnapping plan. Extreme caution is advised. This warning will be re-evaluated again on 02.08.2018. All ships are advised to maintain strict anti-piracy watch and take additional measures. Report all suspicious sightings and attacks to local authorities and to the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre as per IMO cir 1334. IMB Piracy Reporting Centre 24-hour anti-piracy helpline+603 2031 0014, fax: +603 2078 5769, email: imbkl@icc-ccs.org.

B. (U) On 28 June, BMP4 was superseded by BMP5 (Best Management Practices 5). Please download it, if needed, via this link: <http://eunavfor.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/BMP5-PP.pdf> (MSCHOA)

3. (U) Summary:

A. (U) SPAIN: On 18 July, a group of possible migrants attacked the Great Britain-flagged general cargo ship CELTIC VENTURE as the ship bunkered in Cueta.

B. (U) GABON: On 17 July, the government of Gabon announced that it had arrested two China-flagged fishing trawlers on charges of illegal fishing.

C. (U) GUATEMALA: On 16 July, authorities from the National Police apprehended a small submarine, arresting 3 persons and confiscating 823 kilograms of cocaine.

D. (U) ITALY: On 12 July, the tug VOS THALASSA rescued 67 migrants off the coast of Libya. During the voyage, several of the migrants allegedly tried to hijack the tug so it wouldn't return them to Libya.

E. (U) FRANCE: On 1 July, a young man was arrested by authorities in the port of St Malo. He swam across the harbor and boarded the ferry CONDOR RAPIDE in an attempt to stowaway to the island of Jersey.

F. (U) PORTUGAL: On 21 June, authorities intercepted the British Virgin Island-flagged sailing yacht OGGI south of Faial in the Azores while transiting from the Caribbean. A search of the vessel revealed 1,400 kilograms of cocaine.

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

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for July 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 July and August 2018. For further information, please email: 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 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 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:

1. (U) MEXICO: On 9 July, Navy personnel seized 250 kilograms of cocaine and apprehended two men aboard a small boat traveling off the coast of Guerrero. Routine aerial surveillance spotted the vessel 370 kilometers south of Acapulco. A joint aerial and maritime operation resulted in the arrest of the two men found onboard a "go-fast" boat, popular for

smuggling drugs. The boat was carrying 71 plastic canisters, 10 of which contained small packets of cocaine amounting to a total of 250 kilograms. The other 61 containers held 3,000 liters of fuel. (www.mexiconewsdaily.com)

2. (U) UNITED STATES: On 6 July, a US Coast Guard and a Jamaica Defence Force joint operation interdicted a boat attempting to smuggle 2,116 pounds of marijuana into Key West, Florida. (www.jamaice-gleaner.com)

3. (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 21 June from Callao, Peru, with Tokyo, Japan, as her next port of call. (www.fleetmon.com)

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

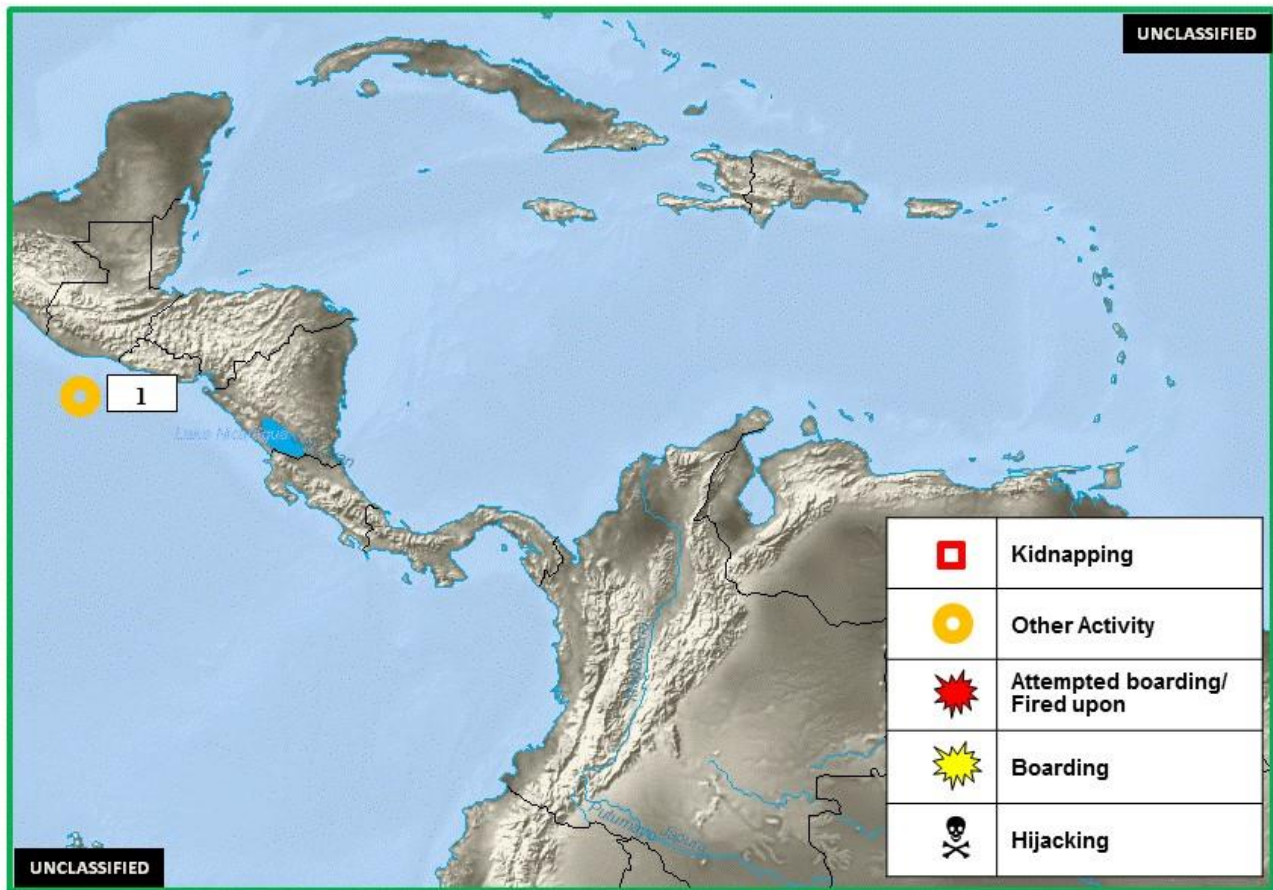


Figure 1. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GUATEMALA: On 16 July, authorities from the National Police apprehended a small submarine, arresting 3 persons and confiscating 823 kilograms of cocaine. (www.101greatgoals.com)

2. (U) GUYANA: On 1 July, an anchored reefer was boarded by robbers, unnoticed, near position 06:59N - 058:02W, Georgetown Outer Anchorage. Upon completion of a search, some forward ship's store items were found missing. Vessel and crew are safe. Incident reported to local agent. (IMB)

3. (U) PERU: On 29 June, Peruvian Drug Enforcement agency officers searched the very large container ship CAP SAN SOUNIO at the Callao container terminal on arrival from Buenaventura, Colombia. They seized a 24-kilogram shipment of cocaine, hidden in a compartment under the cargo deck. One crewman was reportedly detained. (www.fleetmon.com)
4. (U) ST LUCIA: On 22 June, a robber boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Rodney Bay Gros Islet. The dinghy fuel tank and fuel line, dinghy anchor and chain were stolen during the night. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:



Figure 2. Atlantic Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) FRANCE: On 1 July, a young man was arrested by authorities in the port of St Malo. He swam across the harbor and boarded the ferry CONDOR RAPIDE in an attempt to stowaway to the island of Jersey. He was found in the stern section of the ship, hiding among mooring lines, by ship's crew conducting a routine security search of the ship. (www.jerseyeveningpost.com)

2. (U) PORTUGAL: On 21 June, Portuguese Judicial Police, along with their Navy and Air Force intercepted the British Virgin Island-flagged sailing yacht OGGI south of Faial in the Azores while transiting from the Caribbean. There were four people onboard, a British citizen, one from the Netherlands and two Croatians. A search of the vessel located 1,400 kilograms of cocaine hidden in the structure of the vessel. (www.thedubrovniktimes.com)

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC: No current incidents to report.

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

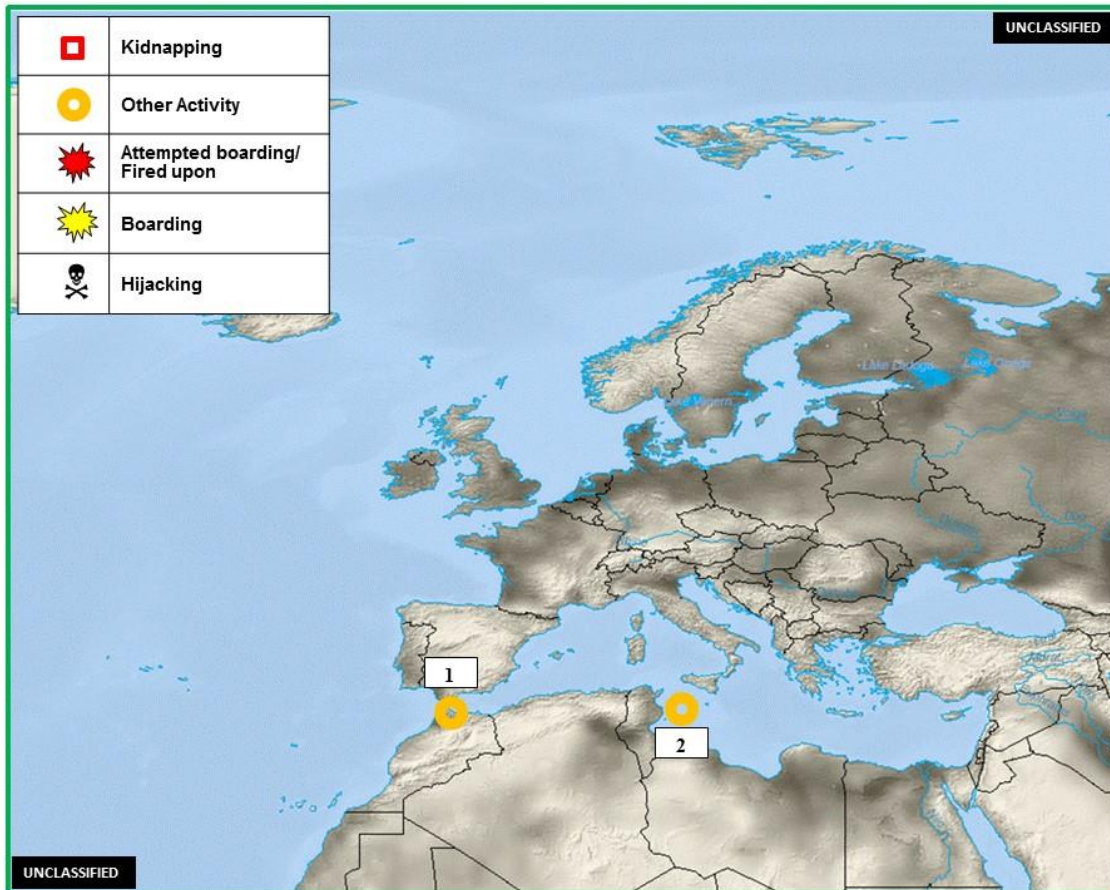


Figure 3. Mediterranean - Black Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SPAIN: On 18 July, a group of possible migrants attacked the Great Britain-flagged general cargo ship CELTIC VENTURE as the ship bunkered in Cueta. The migrants threw a large number of stones at the ship and at personnel fueling the ship. Civil Guard forces intervened. (www.fleetmon.com)

2. (U) ITALY: On 12 July, the tug VOS THALASSA rescued 67 migrants off the coast of Libya. During the voyage, according to Italy's Interior Minister, a Sudanese man and a Ghanaian man allegedly tried to hijack the tug so it wouldn't return them to Libya. An Italian Coast Guard vessel brought the migrants back to Trapani, in western Sicily for further investigation. (www.abcnews.go.com; BBC)

3. (U) TURKEY: On 9 July, authorities in the port of Mersin confiscated 14.9-tons of acetic anhydride hidden in a truck traveling in a Turkey-flagged ro-ro ship from Italy, according to a statement from Turkey's Customs and Trade Ministry. The chemical is used in the production of heroin. (www.aa.com.tr)

4. (U) LEBANON: On 4 July, authorities in the Port of Beirut seized a consignment of 2 million Captagon pills hidden in wood cutting equipment. The machines were destined for Oman and Saudi Arabia. (www.dailystar.com.lb)

5. (U) ITALY: On 3 July, authorities in the port of Crotona found a Ukraine-flagged sailing yacht carrying 71 migrants. The yacht had picked up the migrants in Turkey. (www.ukrinform.net)

6. (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.pvilt.com)

7. (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)

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

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

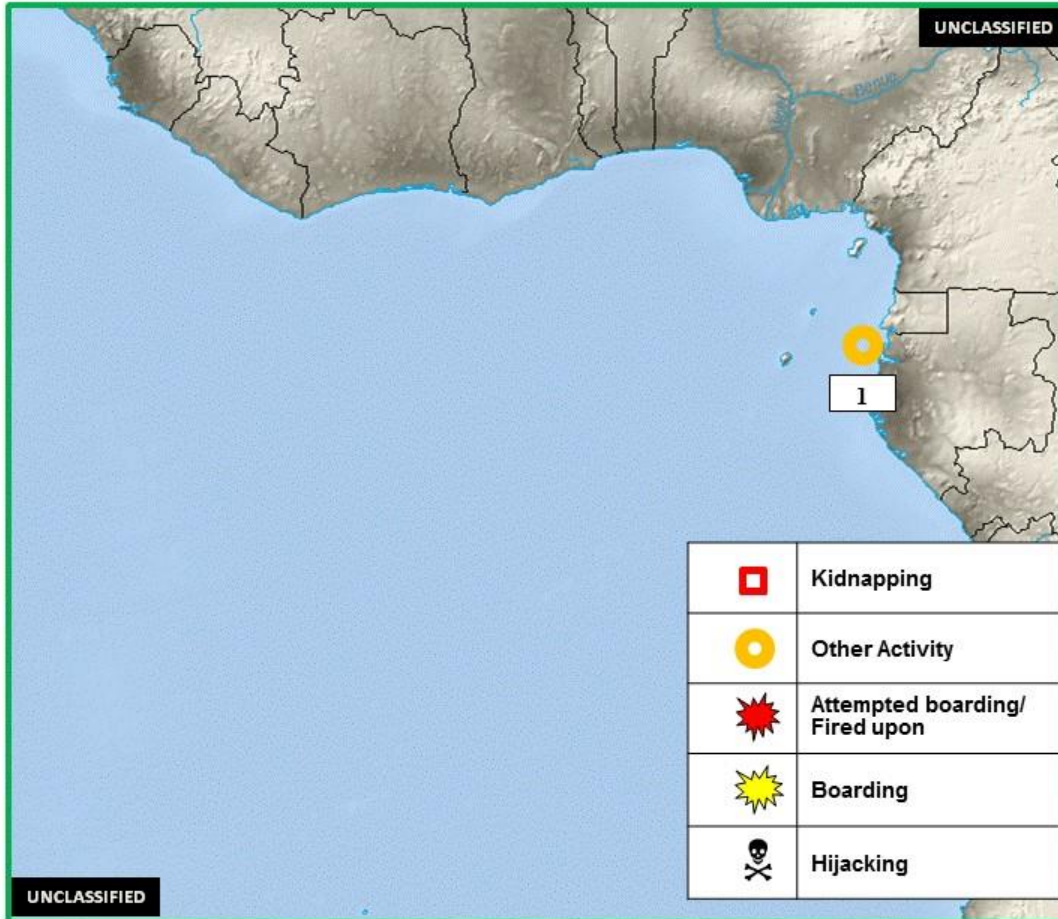


Figure 4. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GABON: On 17 July, the government of Gabon announced that one week after the announcement of Operation Albacore II, a joint operation between an environmental NGO and the Gabonese government to tackle illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing in central West Africa, the crew of the NGO's ship assisted Gabonese authorities in the arrest of two illegal fishing trawlers. The two vessels, the China-flagged trawlers HAIXIN 23 and HAIXIN 28, were intercepted after five fishing vessels were observed on radar crossing the border between the Republic of Gabon and the Republic of Congo under the cover of darkness. Armed Gabonese marines boarded and secured the two trawlers without injury or incident as Fisheries Enforcement officers inspected the vessels. The other three trawlers escaped across the border into Congolese waters. Upon inspection, it was discovered that neither vessel was licensed to fish in Gabonese waters, and one of the trawlers did not even have a license to fish in Congolese waters. (www.maritime-executive.com)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 July, the duty officer onboard a tug near position 01:49N - 003:12E, 220 nm southwest of Bayelsa State, noticed a fishing boat lowering a long skiff into the water. The skiff with four to five persons onboard started

approaching the tug and closed to a distance of 0.5 nm. Master raised the alarm, increased speed and headed into the swell. Several attempts were made by the skiff to get closer to the tug, but failed due to the rough weather. After following the tug for over five hours, the skiff moved away. (IMB; www.pvilttd.com)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 July, duty crewman on routine rounds onboard a product tanker anchored near position 06:16N - 003:11E, Lagos Secure Anchorage saw a boat tied up to the anchor chain and alerted the bridge. The crewman sighted a robber approaching him and retreated into the accommodation and secured the doors. Master raised the alarm, SSAS activated, distress message sent, patrol boats informed via VHF, crew mustered and ship's whistle sounded. Upon hearing the alarm, the robber escaped. Two patrol boats responded to the calls and searched the area. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; www.sguardian.com; www.pvilttd.com)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 July, vessel reported being attacked near position 04:08N - 006:57E, 20 nm southwest of Bonny. (MDAT-GoG)

5. (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)

6. (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)

7. (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)

G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:

1. (U) DUBAI: On 8 July, Dubai police announced the arrest of four gangs planning to steal and smuggle 46 luxury cars out of the country in shipping containers. Police forces from across the country, including from Dubai, Sharjah and Ajman formed a joint task force, which nabbed the gang members. They seized the thieves at a sea port as the cars were about to be smuggled out on a cargo ship. While 17 vehicles were found at the port, 13 were located at a warehouse in the area, 12 vehicles were seized in various emirates, and four cars were being used by the thieves to travel in the country. The vehicles included Bentley, Mercedes, Lexus and Rolls Royce cars, among others. (www.gulfbusiness.com)

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

1. (U) RED SEA: On 11 July, a merchant vessel transiting near position 13:22N - 042:45E, 15 nm south of the Hanish Islands, reported that a group of skiffs approached the vessel. One skiff approached the vessel to within 0.2 nm. The embarked security team showed their weapons and the skiff departed. A ladder was reportedly sighted. (UKMTO)

2. (U) RED SEA: On 4 July, a merchant vessel in position: 13:33N - 042:40E, approximately 5 nm south of Hanish Islands, Yemen, reported being approached at speed by three white and blue hulled skiffs. Each skiff had 7 - 8 persons onboard. The skiffs fired at the vessel, embarked security team returned fire. The crew and vessel are safe. (UKMTO; www.sguardian.com; www.pvilttd.com)

3. (U) GULF OF OMAN: On 4 July, a merchant vessel in position: 24:02N - 059:55E, 77 nm northeast of Muscat, reported being approached at speed by two white hulled small craft with four persons onboard each skiff. The closest point of approach on the merchant vessel was 500 meters. (UKMTO, www.sguardian.com; www.pvilttd.com)

4. (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 Yemeni 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.pvilttd.com; www.sguardian.com)

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

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 10 July, robbers boarded a tanker berthed near position 05:48N - 118:03E, Sandakan Port, Sabah, stole ships properties and escaped unseen. The theft was noticed by the duty crew on routine rounds. Incident reported to the local agent who informed the port police. Local police boarded the tanker for investigation. (IMB; www.pvilttd.com)

2. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 5 July, a duty crew during routine rounds onboard an Isle of Man-flagged LNG tanker anchored near position 13:45N - 121:00E, Batangas Anchorage, saw an unauthorized person on the forecandle deck. He immediately informed the duty officer. Alarm was raised, crew was mustered and a search was carried out. Upon checking, ship's stores were reported as missing. No unauthorized person found onboard. Incident reported to local Authorities. (IMB; www.pvilttd.com)

3. (U) BANGLADESH: On 3 July, eight robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier using ropes attached to hooks near position 22:19N - 091:43E, Chittagong Anchorage. The robbers took desk watchman hostage and tied him up, stole the aft mooring ropes, and escaped. Incident reported to local agent. (IMB)

4. (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 Puh Anchorage. The Singapore-registered vessel is suspected of misappropriating 400 liters of marine gas oil. (www.pvilttd.com)

J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) HONG KONG: On 8 July, authorities seized about 8,700-kilograms of suspected Thailand rosewood from a container at the Kwai Chung Customhouse Cargo Examination Compound. Through risk assessment, Customs officers inspected a container arriving in Hong Kong from Cambodia. (www.7thspace.com)

2. (U) EAST CHINA SEA: On 29 June, a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force vessel spotted the North Korea-flagged tanker AN SAN 1 alongside a ship of unknown nationality in waters 350 kilometers south-southeast of Shanghai, China. Since the two vessels were seen connected with hoses, the Japanese government suspects they conducted ship-to-ship product transfers banned by the United Nations. AN SAN 1 has been designated as a vessel subject to an asset freeze and banned from entering any foreign port under a U.N. Security Council resolution. (www.english.kyodonews.net)

3. (U) HONG KONG: On 27 June, Hong Kong Customs seized about 29,000-kilograms of suspected Guatemalan rosewood from a container at the Tsing Yi Customs Cargo Examination Compound. Through risk assessment, customs officers inspected a container arriving in Hong Kong from Honduras and found the suspected Guatemalan rosewood. (www.hspace.com)

4. (U) EAST CHINA SEA: On 27 June, Japan's Defence Ministry reported to the United Nations of the suspected ship-to-ship goods transfers involving a North Korean tanker on the high seas in violation of UN sanctions. The North Korea-flagged tanker YU PHYONG 5 was first spotted beside a small vessel of unknown nationality on 21 June 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)

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

1. (U) PAPUA NEW GUINEA: On 28 June, five men armed with knives boarded a small boat with a crew of 3 men near Lae. The robbers attacked the men, cutting one man's left hand off. The robbers then stole a 75-hp outboard motor and fled. By 2 July, all five suspects had been arrested. (www.thenational.com.pg)

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 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) 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: 18 July 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>