



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 13 August - 12 September 2018



13 September 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) No current incidents to report.

3. (U) Summary:

A. (U) MALAYSIA: On 11 September, two armed, masked men boarded the fishing trawler DWIJAYA and kidnapped two Indonesian fishermen off Sabah State.

B. (U) MALAYSIA: On 10 September, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) detained a tanker that was being used to smuggle diesel in Miri waters.

C. (U) INDIA: On 6 September, authorities seized 9,040 kilograms of smuggled Red Sandalwood logs in the Port of Nhava Sheva.

D. (U) TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: On 4 September, two robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored at Chaguaramas. The robbers attempted to steal the dinghy and outboard motor.

E. (U) LIBYA: On 4 September, officials from the customs office at the Port of Khums seized a shipment of 17 tons of hashish coming from Syria.

F. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 September, authorities announced the seizure of numerous wooden transport boats and 50,000 jerry cans of fuel that were being prepared to be smuggled into Benin.

G. (U) SOUTH AFRICA: On 3 September, two stowaways were discovered aboard the freighter UAL LOBITO as the ship was leaving Table Bay.

H. (U) MEXICO: On 30 August, authorities seized a boat off the coast of Oaxaca carrying approximately 2.2 tons of cocaine and arrested 8 men.

I. (U) NETHERLANDS: On 28 August, authorities seized a shipment of 260 kilograms of cocaine during an inspection in the Port of Rotterdam.

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

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for September 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 September 2018. For further information, please email: planavy@navy.mil.cn, or call Tel: 441 221 061 or 00870 773 120 215. (MSCHOA)

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: India Navy convoy escort schedule for September 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 September 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 Naval Escort Task Group can be reached directly at (001) +1 646 466 9528 or (001) +1 646 466 9521. Email: adenbay27@gmail.com or aden27@navy.mil.kr. (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.

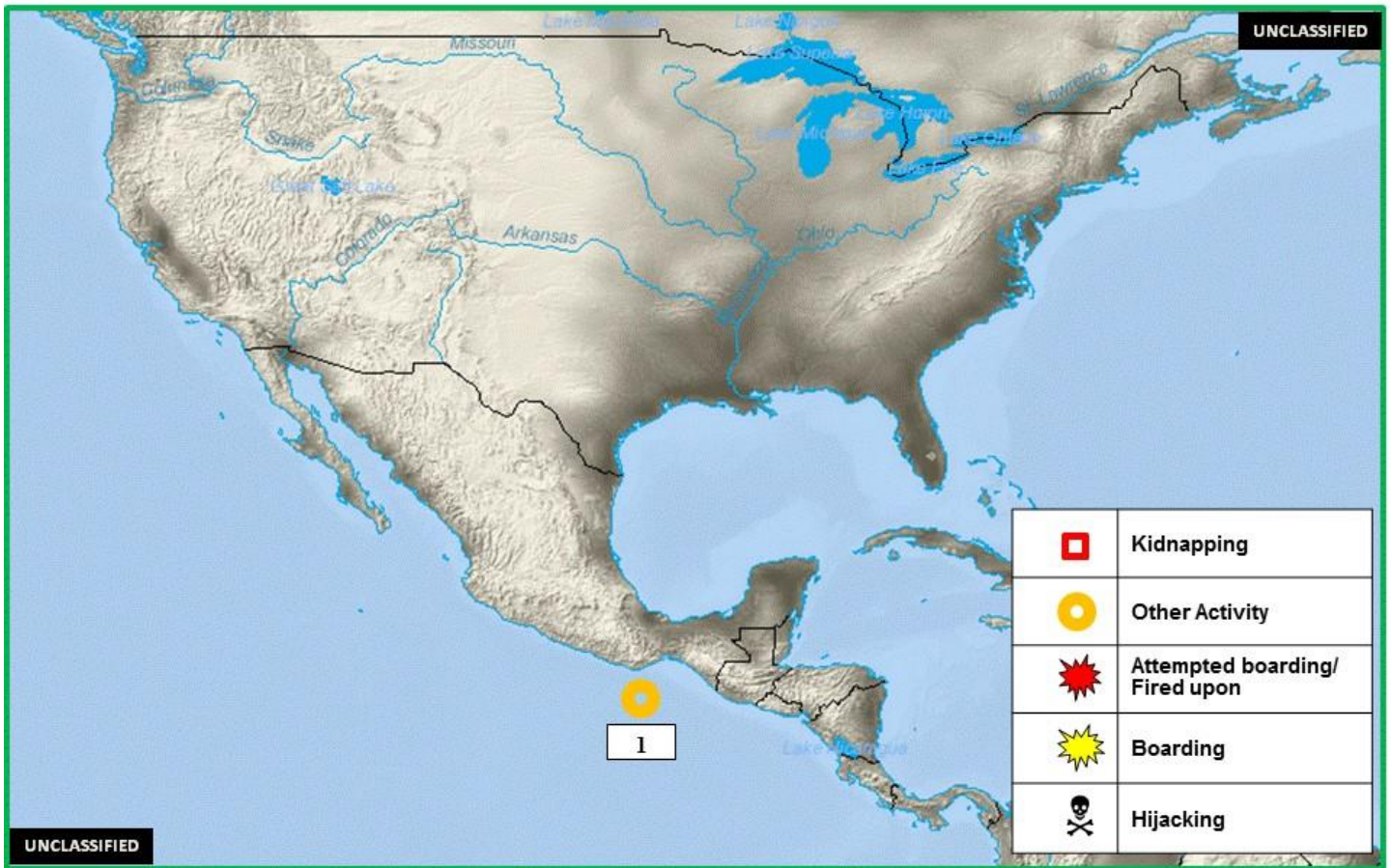


Figure 1. North America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MEXICO: On 30 August, authorities seized a boat off the coast of Oaxaca carrying approximately 2.2 tons of cocaine and arrested 8 men. (www.torontosun.com)

2. (U) UNITED STATES: On 27 August, authorities intercepted a small fishing boat approximately 15 miles west of Point Loma, California. A total of 19 persons were onboard, two were suspected smugglers. There were also 2 migrants from India and 15 from Mexico onboard. (www.timesofsandiego.com)

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

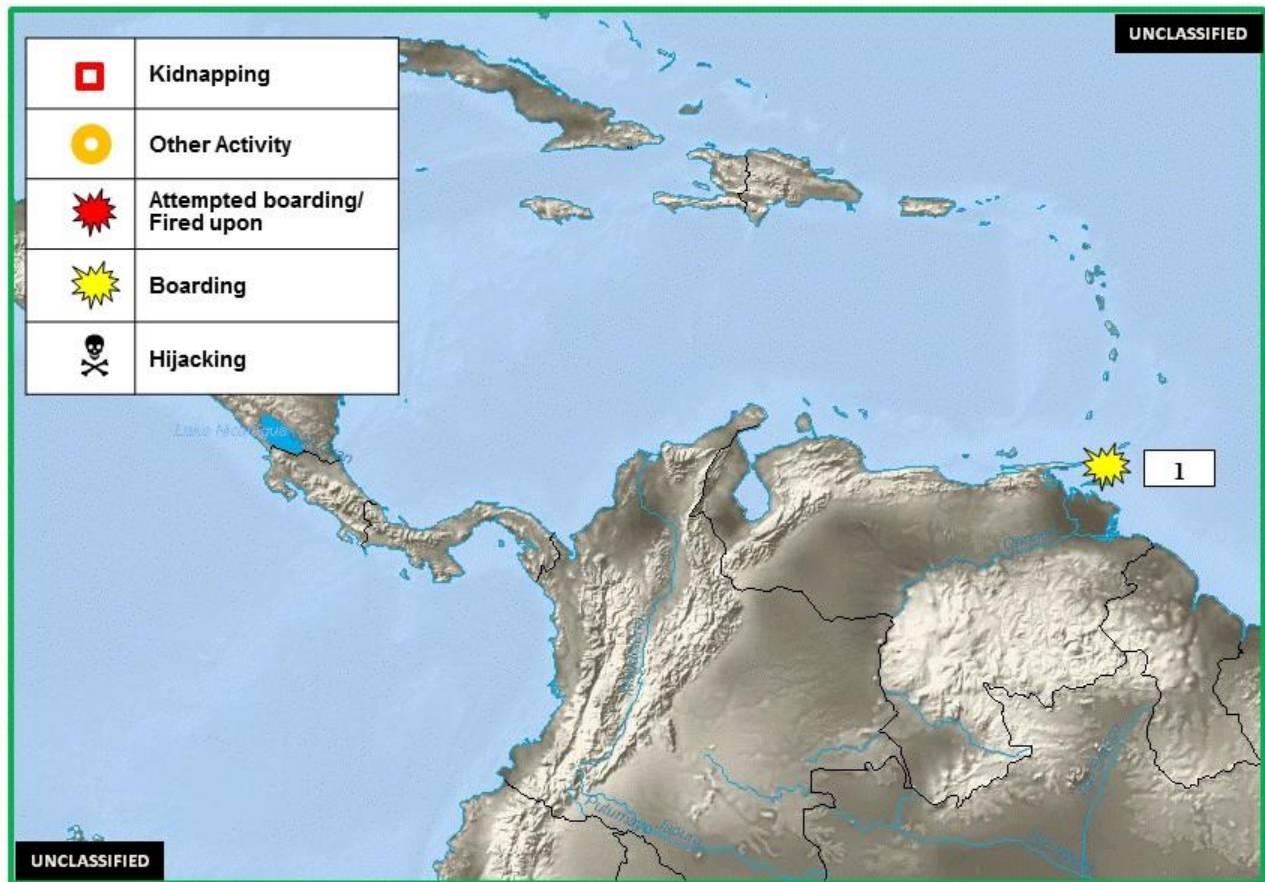


Figure 2. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: On 4 September, two robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored at Chaguaramas. The robbers attempted to steal the dinghy and outboard motor. Quick action by the yacht owner convinced the thieves to stop the attempt and move away. Incident reported to local authorities. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

2. (U) COSTA RICA: On 29 August, an operation developed by members of the National Coast Guard Service and the Drug Control Police in Guanacaste seized 407 kilograms of cocaine and arrested three suspects. Authorities onboard Patrol 3818 intercepted the suspects 90 nautical miles from Flamingo, in waters of the North Pacific. (www.laprensa libre.cr)

3. (U) ECUADOR: On 28 August, three persons in a small skiff came alongside a container vessel underway near position 02:30S - 080:05W, Guayaquil. The skiff was detected on ship's radar on the starboard side. One person attempted to board while another two persons showed a handgun. The crew spotted the attempted boarding and sounded the ship's horn continuously. Upon hearing the alarm, the persons aborted the attempted boarding and moved away. Incident reported to Guayaquil Port Control and Ecuador Coast Guard. (IMB)

4. (U) HAITI: On 22 August, two robbers boarded a chemical tanker anchored near position 18:34N - 072:32W, Port Au Prince Anchorage. A cadet on routine rounds found the robbers on the forecstle. One of the robbers attacked the cadet who suffered cuts on his left palm. The robbers then jumped overboard and escaped. (www.pvilt.com)

5. (U) ECUADOR: On 20 August, two persons in a small skiff came alongside a container vessel underway near position 02:22S - 080:00W, Estero Salada Passage, Guayaquil. The onboard security guards spotted the persons, raised the alarm and switched on all deck lighting. Seeing the crew's alertness, the persons aborted the attempted boarding and moved away. Incident reported to Guayaquil Port Control. (IMB)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:

1. (U) UNITED KINGDOM: On 4 September, authorities announced the arrest of 5 persons by the UK Border Force. Three of the persons were aboard a 38-meter boat, NOMAD, intercepted in the western approaches of the southern Irish coast as part of a National Crime Agency-led operation. Two other persons ashore were also arrested. A search of the vessel revealed approximately a ton of cocaine. (www.baltictimes.com; www.pviltd.com)

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:



Figure 3. Northern Europe - Baltic Area Piracy
and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NETHERLANDS: On 28 August, authorities seized a shipment of 260 kilograms of cocaine during an inspection in the Port of Rotterdam. The narcotics were hidden in a container with cardboard boxes and a batch of plastic waste. The container originated in Curacao. (www.curacaochronicle.com)

2. (U) BELGIUM: On 25 August, authorities announced they had seized approximately two tons of cocaine in the Port of Ghent. The drugs were hidden in three shipping containers that had arrived from Brazil. The consignment consisted of 1,900 bricks and were stamped with the logo of Russia's largest political party. (www.micetimes.asia)

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

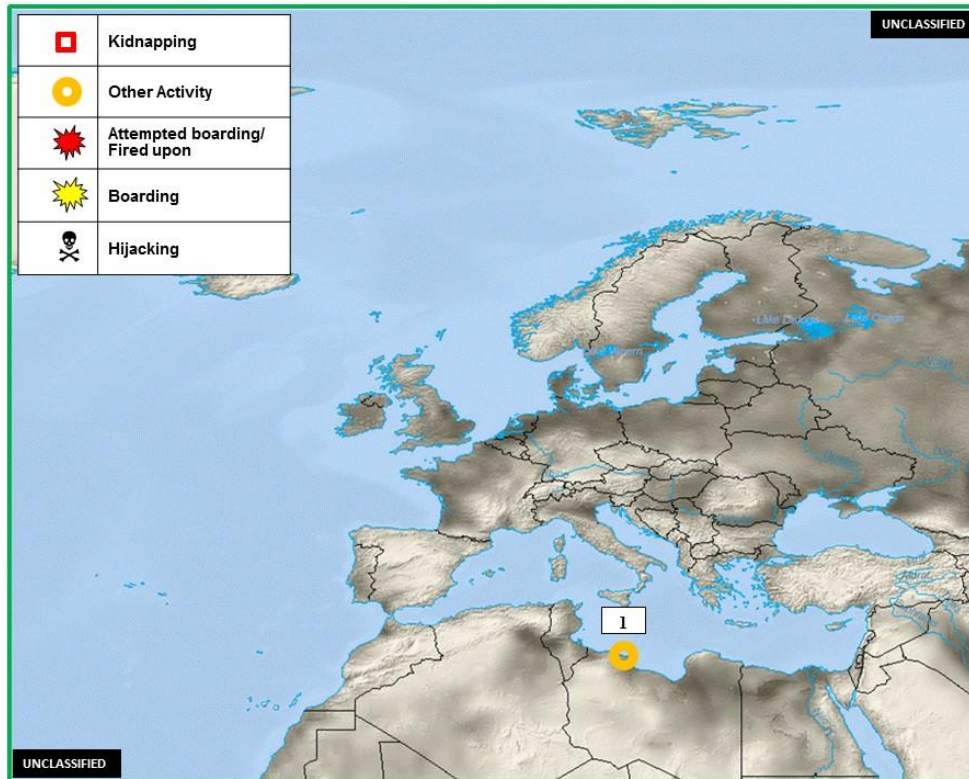


Figure 4. Mediterranean - Black Sea Piracy
and Maritime Crime

1. (U) LIBYA: On 4 September, officials from the customs office at the Port of Khums, 120 km east of Tripoli, seized a shipment of 17 tons of hashish coming from Syria, which was registered in the customs declaration as construction materials. (www.libyaobserver.ly)

2. (U) SPAIN: On 19 August, the yacht HCH-X was intercepted by Spanish Customs patrol boat 15 nm west of Ibiza, Balearic Islands, on a suspicion of drug trafficking. During a search of the vessel, 300 kilograms of cocaine hidden inside yacht's interior and captain's cabin. The crew of 5 was arrested. (www.fleetmon.com)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

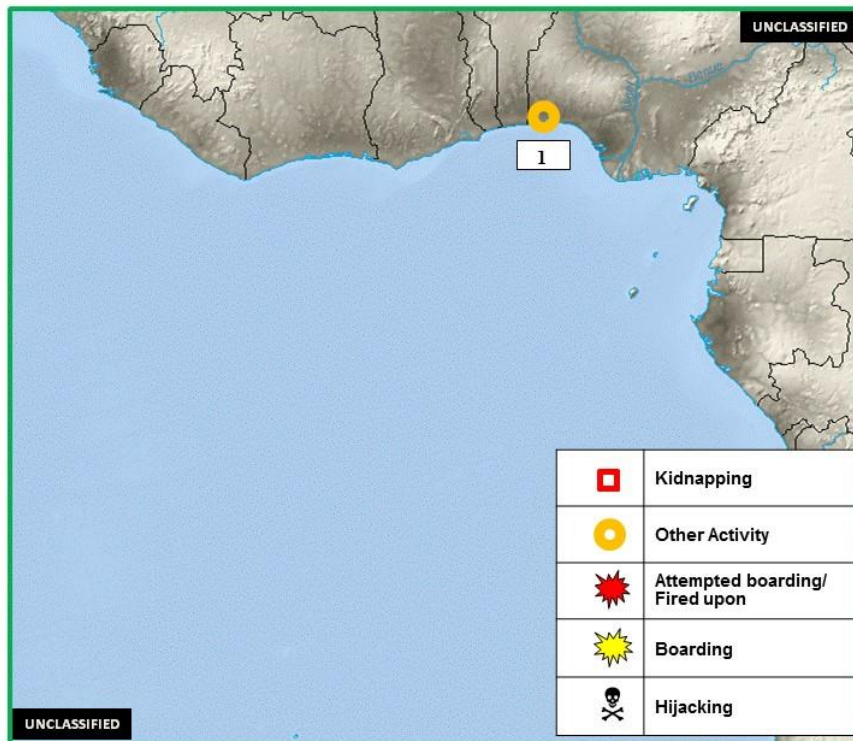


Figure 5. West Africa Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime



Figure 6. West Africa Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 September, authorities announced the seizure of numerous wooden transport boats and 50,000 jerry cans of fuel that were being prepared to be smuggled into Benin. The seizure took place in Ijofin Creek in the Ipokia Local Government Area of Ogun State. (www.guardian.ng)

2. (U) SOUTH AFRICA: On 3 September, two stowaways were discovered aboard the freighter UAL LOBITO as the ship was leaving Table Bay. One of the stowaways was injured when he fell into a hard-to-access void space. The vessel returned to anchor in Table Bay and called for assistance. A rescue team deployed to the scene and found the victim amongst the freighter's cargo of containers. The team used high-angle rescue equipment and a Stokes litter to pull him to safety. Both men were taken onboard the rescue boat and brought into port, where the injured man was taken to a hospital by ambulance and the second man was transferred to the custody of South Africa's Sea Borderline Police. (www.maritime-executive.com)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 August, gunmen attacked a market boat at the Igbematoru-Koluama creek, and opened fire on the villagers in the course of the attack, leaving three critically injured with gunshots and others also receiving treatment. (www.naijiloaded.com.ng)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 August, the Nigerian Navy in Bonny, Rivers State, seized 1.22 million liters of smuggled diesel from six crewmen. The suspects, who were arrested along the state waterways, were alleged to have smuggled the petroleum products from Lagos. Cdr. Ibrahim Gwaska, the acting Commanding Officer, Forward Operating Base, Bonny, presented the eight suspected smugglers, vessel and diesel to journalists. "The arrest followed routine patrols of one of our capital ships, NNS OKPABANA, deployed on the sea to stem crude oil, illegal bunkering and other illicit activities within the maritime environment. "In the course of such patrols, NNS OKPABANA intercepted, MV PRINCEHOOD, over the vessel's suspicious movements." (www.todayng.com)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 21 August, a vessel was boarded at Onne Port Anchorage, near position 04:40N - 007:09E. Four intruders boarded the vessel with weapons. Cans of oil were stolen and the intruders left without entering the ship. Vessel and crew are safe. (MDAT-GoG)

6. (U) GABON: On 13 August, Panama-flagged tanker PANTELENA was reported missing. PANTELENA has a crew of 17 Georgian citizens and two Russians. The tanker's last known position was 00:32N - 008:48E, approximately 40 nm west of Libreville on 13 August at 2100 UTC. (www.fleetmon.com) UPDATE: On 23 August, reports indicate that the vessel was located. Unconfirmed reports report that all crew and vessel are safe. (MDAT-GoG)

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

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

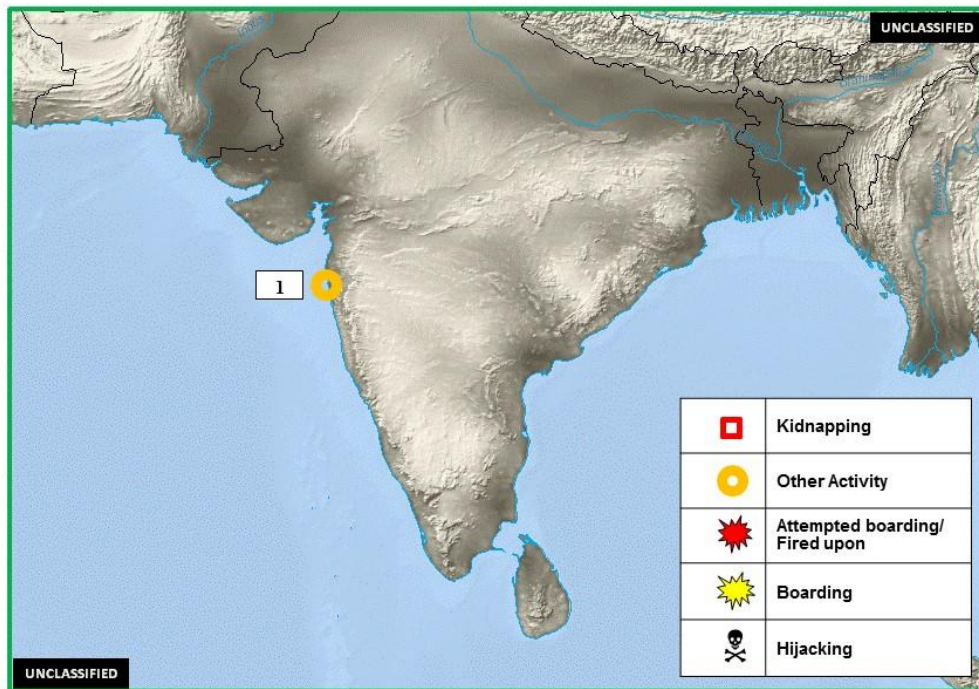


Figure 7. Indian Ocean - East Africa - Red Sea
Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDIA: On 6 September, authorities seized 9,040 kilograms of smuggled Red Sandalwood logs in the Port of Nhava Sheva. (www.business-standard.com)

2. (U) SAUDI ARABIA: On 1 September, the Iran-aligned armed Houthi movement targeted a Saudi Arabian warship off the coast of Saudi Arabia's province of Jizan, according to the group's media outlet. Jizan lies in the southwest corner of Saudi Arabia and directly north of the border with Yemen. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties. (www.uk.reuters.com; www.pvilttd.com)

3. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 28 August, a US Navy destroyer, USS JASON DUNAM, seized hundreds of small arms, including Kalashnikovs and AK-47s, from onboard a small boat in the Gulf of Aden, a Pentagon official said. The official added that the boat was seized in an area where weapons were previously smuggled by the Houthi militias. He stated that the seized weapons were now being held onboard the ship. (Reuters; www.english.alarabiya.net)

4. (U) YEMEN: On 23 August, it was reported that Houthi rebel forces had launched an attack by an explosive-laden boat against a ship in the southern Red Sea. Saudi-led coalition forces thwarted the attack, said to have been near al-Hudaydah. (BBC; www.english.alarabiya.net)

5. (U) SOUTH AFRICA: On 19 August, authorities from Port Elizabeth impounded 20 shipping containers from the Russia-flagged ship LADA. Illegal weapons and explosives were found after an anonymous tip reporting possible arms trafficking. The ship was bound for Lagos, Nigeria. (www.fleetmon.com)

6. (U) YEMEN: On 19 August, port officials in Aden announced that they had seized a shipment of antiquities they suspect to be part of what the Yemeni government says is looting of the country's heritage by Houthis to fund their insurgency.

The consignment of eight objects seized arrived by truck from Sanaa, the rebel-held capital, on its way to an address in Djibouti, according to a statement released by the head of the harbor security force. Port officials asked an official at Yemen's antiquities authority, to examine the objects. "We found that they were artifacts from early Islamic history: jars, jugs, jambiyas, necklaces, rings; some made of silver mixed with gold, housewares made of silver and gems, in addition to boxes made of decorative wood," the statement said. (www.thenational.ae)

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

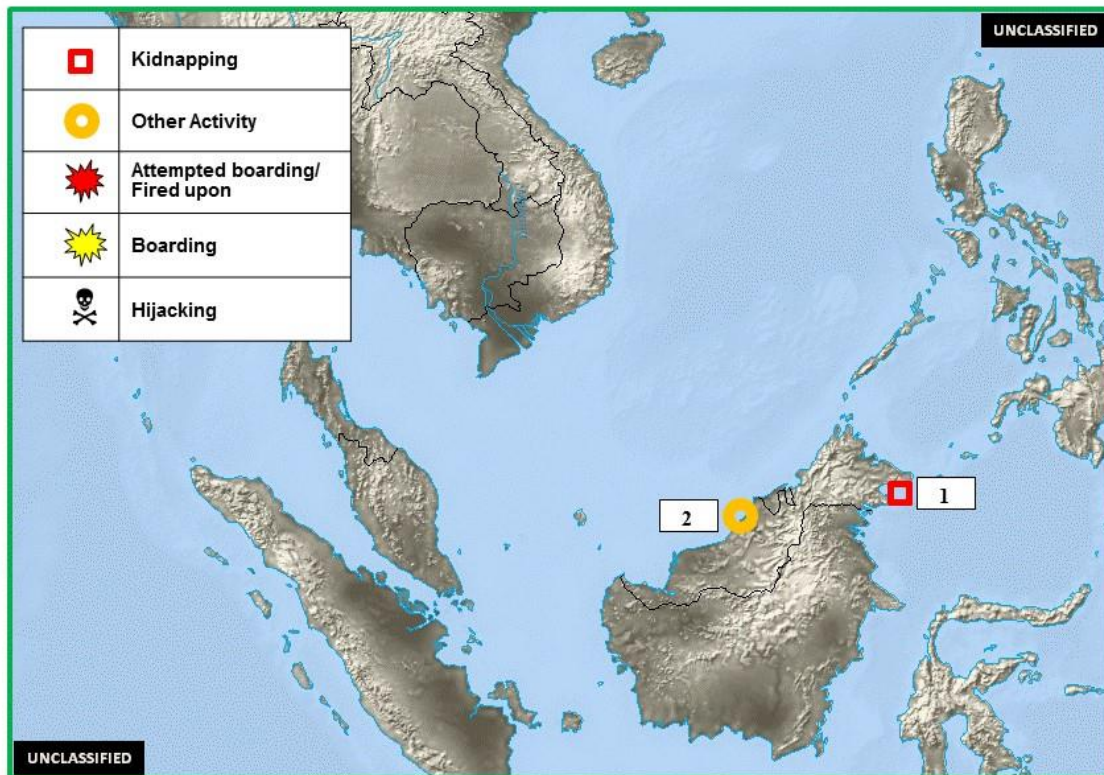


Figure 8. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 11 September, two masked men clad in dark clothing armed with M16 rifles boarded the fishing trawler DWIJAYA and kidnapped two Indonesian fishermen near position 04:40N - 118:43E, vicinity of Sabah State. Two other fishermen managed to escape the abduction by hiding. Once the perpetrators left, the two crewmen made their way to Semporna to lodge a police report. The perpetrators fled with the victims in a boat towards Tawi Tawi province, the Philippines. (ReCAAP; Xinhua)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 10 September, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) detained a tanker that was being used to smuggle diesel in Miri waters. A senior MMEA spokesman said the tanker was stopped about three nautical miles from Tanjung Lobang and had 250,000 liters of smuggled diesel onboard. (www.malaymail.com)

3. (U) MYANMAR: On 3 September, police shot and killed two armed robbers who tried to attack a ship docked in Twantay canal, according to Yangon region police force. (www.elevenmyanmar.com)

4. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 3 September, two rescue speedboats of the Philippine Army and Philippine Coast Guard were damaged when an improvised explosive device, set up by unidentified suspects near the Coast Guard office, exploded

at the Masbate City Port. Police discovered that the Army's 25-foot rescue speedboat made of fiber glass and Coast Guard's 25-foot rescue aluminum speedboat and their engines were damaged by the explosion. (www.pna.gov.ph)

5. (U) MALAYSIA: On 4 August, a small fast boat approached a Malaysia-flagged oil tanker underway near position 03:240N - 112:54E, vicinity of Tanjung Kidurong, Bintulu. Five armed men boarded the ship. No crew were injured but robbers stole cash and personal belongings. Incident lasted about 20 minutes before all perpetrators left the vessel. Master diverted the ship to Bintulu Port and lodged a report to the local police. Perpetrators boat spotted in nearby village. On 17 August, the perpetrators were detained by local police. (www.pviltd.com)

6. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 1 August, a motorized banca sank shortly after an explosion at the Masbate City port in Barangay Bapor. The boat, docked at the pier, was destroyed by the explosion at about 11:15 p.m. according to a senior police spokesman of the Police Regional Office 5. (www.pna.gov.ph)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 27 August, two robbers attempted to board an anchored bulk carrier during cargo operations near position 00:15S - 117:41E, Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda. Alert duty crewman stationed on the forecastle deck spotted the robbers and immediately notified the master and duty officer. Alarm was sounded and crew made their way to the forward deck. Hearing the alerted crew approach, the robbers aborted the attempt and escaped in their boat. Incident reported to the agent. (IMB)

8. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 27 August, four robbers in a boat attempted to board a berthed product tanker near position 07:06N - 125:39E, Insular Oil Terminal, Davao. Duty crewman noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers aborted the boarding attempt and escaped. Coast Guard informed. (IMB)

9. (U) BANGLADESH: On 17 August, robbers boarded an anchored container vessel unseen and escaped with stolen ship's stores near position 22:06N - 091:44E, Chittagong Outer Anchorage. The theft was noticed during routine rounds. Incident reported to Chittagong Port Control. (IMB)

J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA: No current incidents to report.

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

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: 12 September 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>