



UNCLASSIFIED

## (U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 1 - 31 October 2018



1 November 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) **IMBKL WARNING 310800 UTC OCT 2018**: To all ships transiting in / off Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo / Gulf of Guinea. WARNING...WARNING...WARNING. The IMB PRC has received three reported incidents on the same day, 29 October 2018, off Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo/Gulf of Guinea. The center is extremely concerned about this new area of attack in the GOG. Local and regional authorities have been notified and the center will monitor the situation. the three incidents are:

1) On 29 October 2018 at 0330 UTC in position 04:57S - 010:43E, around 68 nm west of Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo. A small vessel was hijacked by armed pirates and thereafter was used to attack other vessels in the vicinity. Before releasing the vessel, they kidnapped four crew members. One crewman was reported injured. Remaining crew sailed the vessel to a safe port.

2) On 29 October 2018 at 1212 UTC in position 04:47S - 010:08E, around 102 nm west of Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo. a tanker was under attack and reported as hijacked. Currently missing. Further details are awaited.

3) On 29 October 2018 at 1250 UTC in position 04:46S - 010:08E, around 101 nm west of Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo. Pirates fired upon the vessel. Ship managed to escape. Crew safe.

Pirates armed with guns had used an inflatable speed boat with outboard motor to conduct the attack suggesting that they had come from another larger vessel. Currently, a tanker is reported missing and pirates may still be onboard. Pirates may attack other vessels using the hijacked/missing tanker.

Be vigilant of other suspicious vessel including fishing vessels in the vicinity. Do not drift or bunker at sea unprotected in these waters especially close to coast. Ships are advised to stay at least 200 nm from coast preferably 250 nm from coast. Early assessment / detection will allow ships to take evasive measures to prevent boarding and request for assistance. Vessels are advised to remain vigilant and maintain strict anti-piracy watch and measures and stay well clear of the above position. All attacks and suspicious sightings should be reported to local authorities and to the IMB PRC 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 / piracy@icc-ccs.org.

B. (U) **ReCAAP WARNING 01-10-2018 Date: 30 Oct 2018**: The ReCAAP ISC has received information from the Philippine Focal Point (Philippine Coast Guard) that a group of approximately 10 ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) members armed with pistol, rifles and grenade launcher is planning to conduct kidnapping activities at any opportune time in undisclosed areas in Sabah primarily targeting businessmen or ship's crew of foreign vessels passing through the area. They are using unmarked colored blue and white motorbanca locally known as jungkong. Ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance when transiting the waters off eastern Sabah and Sulu-Celebes Seas. Source: Philippine Coast Guard. ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) Email: info@recaap.org, tel: +65 6376 3084, fax: +65 6376 3066.

C. (U) **MDAT-GoG Warning 001/OCT/2018 - UPDATE 002**: Category: Hijack. Category: Summary of events for 29 October 2018. Description: On 29 October 2018 at 12:50Z, two vessels were under attack in position 04:47S - 010:07E, 270° / 102 nm of Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo. One MV has left the area and is safe. The second merchant vessel is reported as hijacked. Last position at 300524Z, 03:21S - 007:28E, course 294, speed 12. It is now reported that a third merchant vessel was hijacked at 290430Z and subsequently involved in the attacks on the above vessels. This vessel has been released and is now safe. Mariners are advised to exercise extreme caution in this area. Source: Phone call. Any queries regarding this Warning Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information. MDAT-GoG Watchkeeper email: watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org, emergency tel: +33(0) 298 22 88 88.

D. (U) **MDAT-GoG Advisory 004/OCT/2018**: Category: Attack. Description: On 27 October 2018 at 0400Z, a vessel was attacked in position 03:21N - 006:30E (225°/60 nm of Bonny, Nigeria). Mariners are advised to exercise extreme caution in this area. Source: Phone call. Any queries regarding this Advisory Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information. This advisory is not classified as a Maritime Security Event and has not been verified by MDAT-GoG. This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the region. MDAT-GoG is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting. MDAT-GoG Watchkeeper email: watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org, emergency tel: +33(0) 298 22 88 88.

E. (U) **MDAT-GOG Advisory 003/OCT/2018**: Category: Attack. Description: Time late report received that a merchant vessel was attacked by an unknown number of speed boats and pirates at approximately 2030 UTC, on 25 October 2018. The exact position of the attack is unknown; it can be estimated at the following point position 04:21.42N - 007:42.56E. Source: Reported to MDAT-GoG from industry. Any queries regarding this advisory notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information. This advisory is not classified as a Maritime Security Event and has not been verified by MDAT-GoG. This information is provided for situational awareness to mariners operating in the region. MDAT-GoG is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting. MDAT-GOG Watchkeeper email: watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org; emergency tel: +33(0) 298 22 88 88.

F. (U) **MARAD 2018-008A-GPS Interference-Jeddah Port**. GPS interference has been reported near Jeddah Port, Saudi Arabia, in the vicinity of position 21:29N - 039:09E on 15 and 18 October 2018. These incidents have not been confirmed. This interference is resulting in either inaccurate positions or no position. Exercise caution when transiting this area. Further updates will be provided when available. This alert will automatically expire on 29 October 2018. See U.S. Maritime Advisory 2018-007 and <https://go.usa.gov/xPQpe> for additional GPS info, including how to report GPS problems or

anomalies.

### **3. (U) Summary:**

A. SPAIN: On 30 October, authorities seized 3,250 kilograms of hashish and arrested eight people.

B. (U) REPUBLIC OF CONGO: On 29 October, offshore supply vessel ARK TZE was boarded by armed pirates 68 nm west of Pointe Noire. The pirates kidnapped four crewmen and escaped.

C. (U) REPUBLIC OF CONGO: On 29 October, pirates in a speed boat fired upon LPG tanker BW FRIGG 101 nm, west of Pointe Noire.

D. (U) REPUBLIC OF CONGO: On 29 October, M/T ANUKET AMBER was reportedly hijacked 102 nm west of Pointe Noire.

E. (U) SOMALIA: On 28 October, EU NAVFOR military personnel seized an active Pirate Action Group (PAG) whaler and destroyed it.

F. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 October, pirates attacked the container ship POMERANIA SKY, 60 nm southwest of Bonny. Eleven crewmen were kidnapped.

G. (U) INDIA: On 26 October, three robbers attempted to board an anchored Marshall Islands-flagged tanker in Kandla Anchorage.

H. (U) NIGERIA: On 26 October, 12 crewmen of Swiss-flagged bulk carrier M/V GLARUS were released. They were kidnapped on 22 September.

I. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 24 October, one robber boarded a berthed LPG tanker during cargo operations at JG Summit Terminal Jetty 1, Batangas.

J. (U) MALAYSIA: On 24 October, five persons were arrested on suspicion of sea robbery.

K. (U) REPUBLIC OF CONGO: On 20 October, robbers boarded a landing craft anchored in Pointe Noire Anchorage.

L. (U) AUSTRALIA: On 19 October, customs authorities seized two sea cargo containers at the Melbourne Examination Facility after they were found to contain 10 million contraband cigarettes.

M. (U) ENGLAND: On 19 October, Border Force officers at the Port of Tyne International Passenger Terminal seized approximately 115 kilograms of cocaine.

N. (U) VIETNAM: On 16 October, robbers, pretending to be stevedores, boarded an anchored bulk carrier in Campha Anchorage.

O. (U) BONAIRE: On 11 October, two young men boarded a catamaran anchored in the Kralendijk mooring field.

P. (U) CURACAO: On 1 October, robbers boarded an occupied yacht anchored in Cabrita Bay.

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

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for November 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 (MLIT), 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 November 2018. For further information, please email: [planavy@navy.mil.cn](mailto: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 November 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)

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Pakistan Navy convoy schedule for November 2018. The application deadline is at least 1 day prior to the convoy escort. To register with the Pakistan Navy Convoy, please send an email to: [fhq@paknavy.gov.pk](mailto:fhq@paknavy.gov.pk). (MSCHOA)

E. (U) GULF OF ADEN: South Korea Navy convoy schedule for November 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) +1 646 466 9528 or (001) +1 646 466 9521. Email: [adenbay27@gmail.com](mailto:adenbay27@gmail.com) or [aden27@navy.mil.kr](mailto:aden27@navy.mil.kr). (MSCHOA)

F. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Russian Navy convoy escort schedule for November and December 2018. For further information e-mail [smb@msecurity.ru](mailto:smb@msecurity.ru), [isps@msecurity.ru](mailto:isps@msecurity.ru) or fax +7 (499) 642-83-29. (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.

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

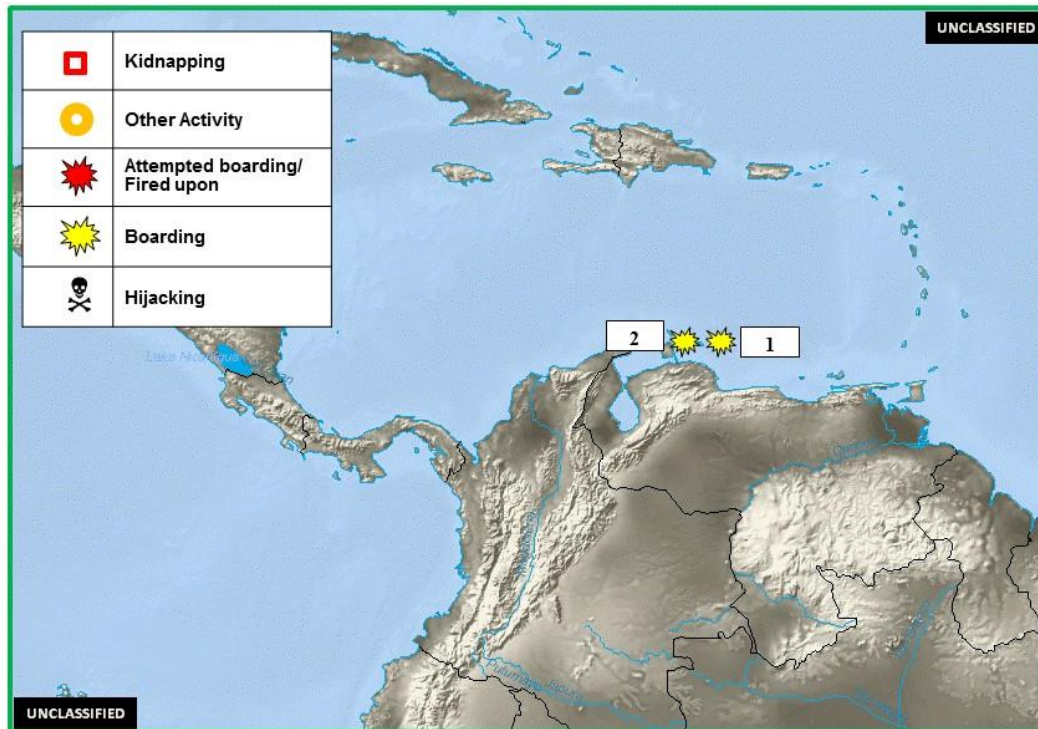


Figure 1. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) BONAIRE: On 11 October, two young men boarded a catamaran anchored in the Kralendijk mooring field. The yacht was locked and the security system detected their presence, at the same time a passing dinghy noticed the disturbance and the 2 men jumping into the water. A report was made on the VHF net. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

2. (U) CURACAO: On 1 October, an occupied yacht anchored in Cabrita Bay had the in-the-water and cable locked 11-foot dinghy and 18-HP Nissan outboard stolen overnight. The painter and cable had both been cleanly cut near the waterline. A report was made to the police, port captain and on VHF net. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

3. (U) COLOMBIA: On 15 October, the Colombian Navy seized one ton of cocaine in waters near Tumaco, Narino department. The drugs were found inside a hidden compartment of a small boat during a routine operation. ([www.pvilt.com](http://www.pvilt.com))

4. (U) VENEZUELA: On 14 October, two Guyanese citizens were kidnapped while operating a small passenger boat transporting people between Venezuelan and Guyana. The next day, one of the men was found in Venezuela's Orinoco River, he had been killed and dumped in the river. The reason for their abduction is said to be ransom. ([www.newsroom.gy](http://www.newsroom.gy))

5. (U) PUERTO RICO: On 13 October, authorities working with Caribbean Corridor Strike Force partners seized 2,325 pounds of cocaine from a go-fast vessel near Las Paulinas Beach in the municipality of Luquillo. ([www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov))

6. (U) VENEZUELA: On 10 October, five robbers with their faces covered and armed with large knives boarded a Hong Kong-flagged tanker via the anchor chain and hawse pipe near position 10:13N - 064:50W, Jose Anchorage. They held the duty deck patrol crew from behind, tied him up and threatened to kill him. They then escaped with some unsecured items. Master reported the incident to local port authorities, flag state, owners and other concerned parties. The master and crew



took extra measures by fabricating a metal plate to fit in the existing metal grill to the hawse pipe to prevent further unlawful access.

7. (U) VENEZUELA: On 8 October, Venezuela National Guard forces stated that they found 147.5 kilograms of cocaine attached to the hull, below the waterline, of chemical tanker JOSE PROGRESS, berthed at Jose Petrochemical Complex. The tanker loaded was with 40,000 tons of methanol bound for Belgium. Twenty crewmen are presently under investigation. (www.fleetmon.com)

8. (U) ECUADOR: On 4 October, Ecuador's counter-narcotics police seized a shipment of 296 kilograms of cocaine in a vessel that stopped at Puerto Bolivar, El Oro province, bordering Peru, the Interior Ministry said. They also said the drug was found in a container with boxes of bananas. (www.maritimeherald.com)

9. (U) ECUADOR: On 2 October, robbers boarded a Singapore-flagged container ship MAERSK NEWBURY while transiting under pilot at the Guayaquil River, near position 02:37S - 080:12W. The master alerted the local authorities when he sighted the presence of unauthorized persons onboard. One crewman was assaulted by the perpetrators and sustained a small cut on his forehead. The crewman escaped and hid in the forecastle store room. The perpetrators left the ship empty-handed when they realized that they had been discovered. A search was conducted by the Ecuador Coast Guard and no perpetrator was found. The injured crewman was given first-aid treatment and the ship resumed its voyage. (ReCAAP; www.pvilt.com)

### C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:

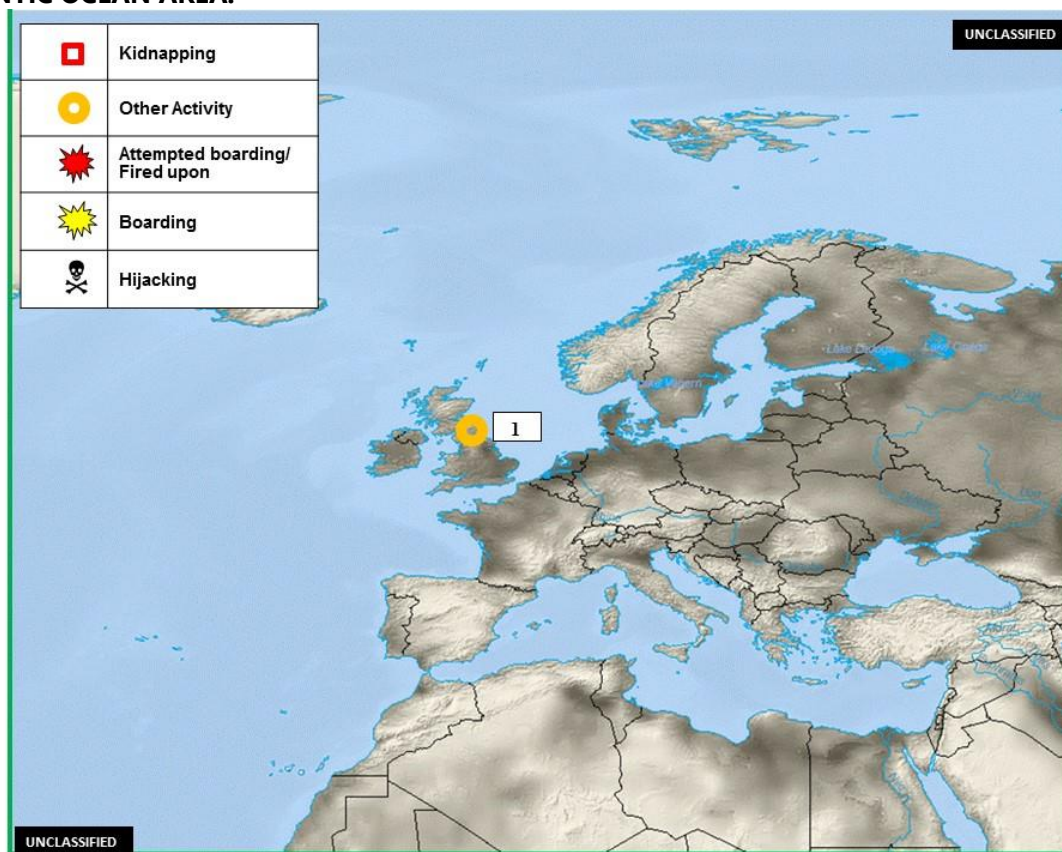


Figure 2. Atlantic Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) ENGLAND: On 19 October, Border Force officers at the Port of Tyne International Passenger Terminal seized approximately 115 kilograms of cocaine during a search of a Polish-registered truck that had arrived on a ferry from Amsterdam. (www.itv.com)

2. (U) CANARY ISLANDS: On 23 October, Spanish authorities announced the seizure of the Moldova-flagged tug boat M/V BREATH carrying 1,400 kilograms of cocaine. ([www.maritimeherald.com](http://www.maritimeherald.com); [www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

3. (U) ENGLAND: On 4 October, authorities at the Immingham docks announced they had seized 35 kilograms of heroin and the same amount of cocaine, along with 250 kilograms of cannabis hidden in a shipping container holding fruit juice. The container had arrived the night before on a ship from Rotterdam. ([www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk](http://www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk))

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

1. (U) LATVIA: On 3 October, police and Border Guard forces freed a man kidnapped on a yacht going from Sweden to Latvia. The massive operation was launched when the hostage tipped off his relatives that he'd been taken from Sweden to Latvia against his will. The Omega counter-terrorist force, as well as the armed forces and Border Guards were involved in resolving the situation. ([www.eng.lsm.lv](http://www.eng.lsm.lv), Latvian Public Broadcasting)

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

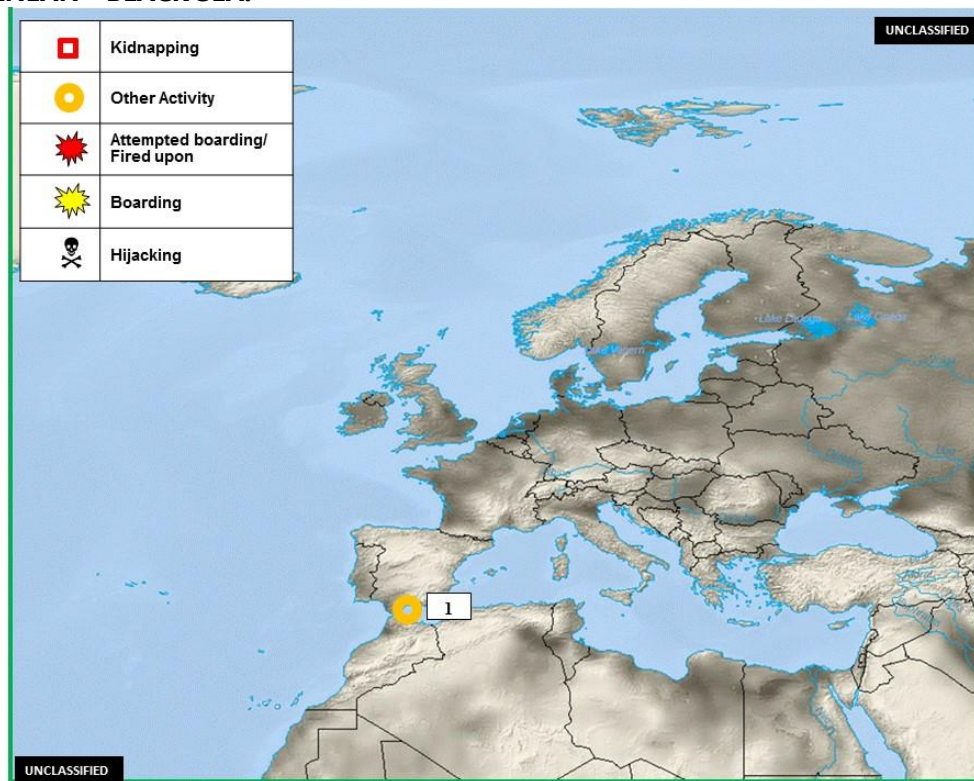


Figure 3. Mediterranean – Black Sea Piracy  
and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SPAIN: On 30 October, the Spanish Interior Ministry declared that a joint operation between Spanish National Police and customs officers had led to the capture of 3,250 kilograms of hashish and the detention of eight people. The Ministry confirmed that the raid, which occurred in an area called the "Campo de Gibraltar" on the southwest coast of Spain, also led to the seizure of a small boat and three stolen vehicles which were prepared to transport the hashish. ([www.menafn.com](http://www.menafn.com))

2. (U) GREECE: On 17 October, Greek Coast Guard personnel found a gas cylinder connected to the underwater section of the hull of container ship EVER CONQUEST, at Keratsini Piraeus Container Terminal. Fifty-one plastic packages were hidden in cylinder, containing 53 kilograms of marijuana. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

3. (U) TUNISIA: On 15 October, customs officials at Tunis's La Goulette Nord Port seized 11,000 ecstasy tablets aboard a private truck that had arrived from the Italian city of Genoa. The narcotics were hidden inside a washing machine. Security forces arrested the owner of the vehicle, who had previously been held on suspicion of trafficking electronic cigarettes through La Goulette. ([www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))

4. (U) LIBYA: On 10 October, the self-declared Libyan National Army (LNA) seized two Italian fishing boats with 13 crew Onboard, 46 kilometers from Derna Port, eastern Libya. None of the crew were injured. Both vessels and those onboard were taken to Ras Al-Hilal Port east of Benghazi, according to the LNA. The group said that the vessels were detained inside Libyan territorial waters but that the crew were not under arrest. ([www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))

#### F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

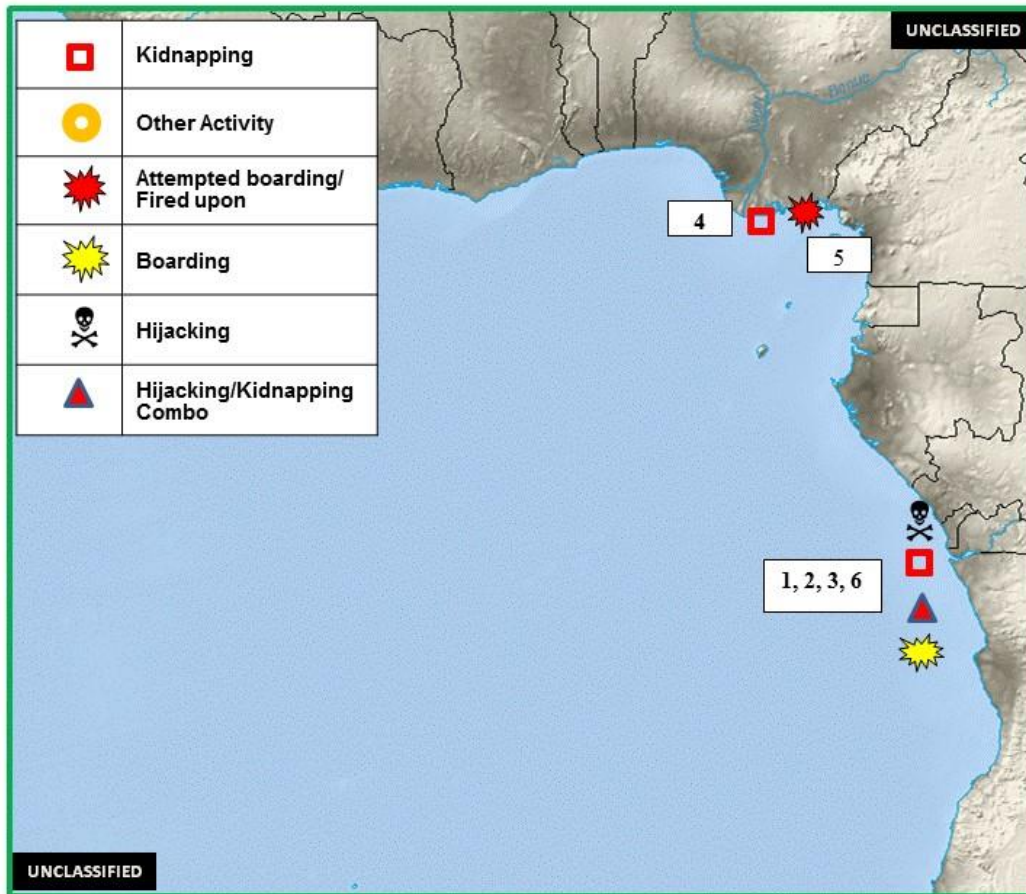


Figure 4. West Africa Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) REPUBLIC OF CONGO: On 29 October, offshore supply vessel ARK TZE was boarded and hijacked by armed pirates near position 04:57S - 010:43E, 68 nm west of Pointe Noire. All crew taken hostage and made to lie on deck while the pirates, ransacked and stole crew and ship's properties. The pirates kidnapped four crew and escaped. The remaining crew sailed the vessel to a safe port. One crewman reported injured. Bridge equipment damaged during the attack. (IMB; [www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

2. (U) REPUBLIC OF CONGO: On 29 October, pirates in a speed boat chased and fired upon LPG tanker BW FRIGG carrying out bunkering operations underway near position 04:46S - 010:08E, 101 nm, west of Pointe Noire. Emergency bunker stop and cast off initiated. Speed increased and the tanker made evasive maneuvers and escaped. All crew reported safe. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; [www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com); [www.sguardian.com](http://www.sguardian.com); [www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))



3. (U) REPUBLIC OF CONGO: On 29 October, vessel owners lost contact with their vessel M/T ANUKET AMBER. the last known position was 04:47S - 010:08E, 102 nm west of Pointe Noire. The ship was reportedly hijacked. (MDAT-GoG; [www.pviltld.com](http://www.pviltld.com); [www.sguardian.com](http://www.sguardian.com); [www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))
4. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 October, pirates attacked the container ship POMERANIA SKY, near position 03:21N - 006:30E, 60 nm southwest of Bonny. Eleven crewmen were kidnapped, 8 Poles, 2 Filipinos, and 1 Ukrainian. ([www.maritimebulletin.net](http://www.maritimebulletin.net); [www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com); [www.thenews.pl](http://www.thenews.pl); [www.sguardian.com](http://www.sguardian.com))
5. (U) NIGERIA: On 25 October, a merchant vessel reported being attacked near position 04:21N - 007:42E. (MDAT-GoG)
6. (U) REPUBLIC OF CONGO: On 20 October, a duty crewman onboard a landing craft anchored in Pointe Noire Anchorage saw two robbers armed with long knives lowering mooring ropes to their accomplice in a wooden boat. Alarm was raised and crew was alerted, resulting in the robbers escaping in their boat. Master contacted port control via VHF to request for assistance. Upon checking, several mooring ropes were found missing from the poop deck. (IMB)
7. (U) NIGERIA: On 26 October, 12 crewmen of Swiss-flagged bulk carrier GLARUS were released and are already in Switzerland, according to a press release from the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They were kidnapped on 22 September. All are reportedly in good health. No details were given on release and conditions of the release, to include whether or not a ransom was paid. ([www.maritimebulletin.net](http://www.maritimebulletin.net); [www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com); [www.swissinfo.ch](http://www.swissinfo.ch))
8. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 October, gunmen attacked a passenger boat in the Abonema waterways, kidnapping 10 persons, including a local community leader. The group was returning from a meeting with other community leaders when the event occurred. ([www.dailypost.ng](http://www.dailypost.ng))
9. (U) REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: On 22 October, armed robbers boarded a Hong Kong-flagged merchant tanker anchored near position 04:46N - 011:47E, Pointe Noire Anchorage. Robbers boarded via the anchor chain. Alarm was raised, robbers escaped with ship's property in a motor boat. Crew and vessel safe. (IMB; MDAT-GOG; [www.pviltld.com](http://www.pviltld.com))
10. (U) NIGERIA: On 17 October, a duty crewman on routine rounds onboard a product tanker anchored near position 06:15N - 003:13E, Lagos Secure Anchorage Area, saw a speed boat alongside the anchor chain. Five persons armed with guns and hooks were noticed attempting to board the tanker. The duty crewman shouted at the intruders and informed the bridge. Alarm was raised and fire pump was activated. Upon hearing the alarm, the persons aborted the attempted boarding and moved away. Incident reported to local authorities who dispatched a patrol vessel which searched the waters around the tanker. A search was made throughout the tanker. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB)
11. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 October, two robbers boarded a product tanker anchored near position 06:17N - 003:13E, Lagos Secure Anchorage Area. Duty watchman noticed the robbers, raised the alarm and sounded ship's horn resulting in the robbers jumping overboard and escaping. A search was made throughout the tanker. Incident reported to local authorities who dispatched a patrol vessel. Upon investigation, nothing reported stolen. (IMB; [www.pviltld.com](http://www.pviltld.com))
12. (U) GHANA: On 9 October, one robber boarded anchored vessel near position 04:53N - 001:45W, Takoradi Anchorage. A crewman on routine security rounds saw the robber and raised the alarm. The robber escaped without stealing anything. (MDAT-GoG; [www.pviltld.com](http://www.pviltld.com))

#### **G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:**

1. (U) STRAIT OF HORMUZ: On 23 October, a Royal Navy Type 45 Destroyer, HMS DRAGON, was confronted by three Iranian fast attack boats while escorting a trio of British vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, sparking a stand-off between the naval forces. Both groups of vessels soon separated and continued their journeys. ([www.pviltld.com](http://www.pviltld.com))

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

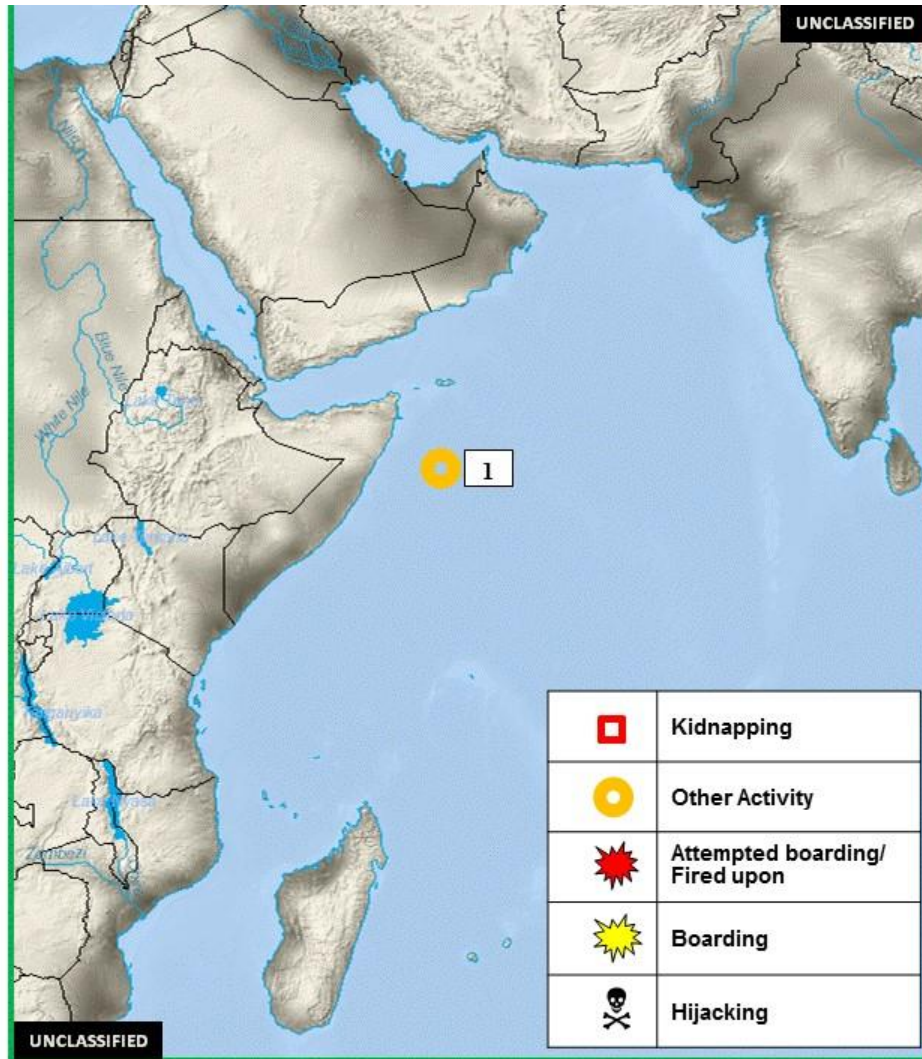


Figure 5. Indian Ocean – East Africa - Red Sea  
Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SOMALIA: On 28 October, EU NAVFOR military personnel seized an active Pirate Action Group (PAG) whaler and destroyed it. This followed a sustained period of surveillance after a piracy attack was conducted against the Hong Kong flagged bulk carrier KSL SYDNEY. The attack against the bulk carrier took place on 16 October, 340 nm off the coast of Somalia. ([www.eunavfor.eu](http://www.eunavfor.eu))

2. (U) SOMALIA: On 16 October, four armed pirates with AK-47s in a speed boat approached the Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier KSL SYDNEY underway near position 00:49N - 050:53E, 341 nm east-southeast of Mogadishu. Ship's master raised the alarm, contacted local authorities, activated the Ship Security Alert System (SSAS) and all crew mustered in citadel. Shots were fired at the merchant vessel. The armed guards onboard the vessel returned fire, resulting in the pirates aborting the attack and moving away. All crew safe. (IMB; UKMTO; [www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com); [www.gcaptain](http://www.gcaptain))

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

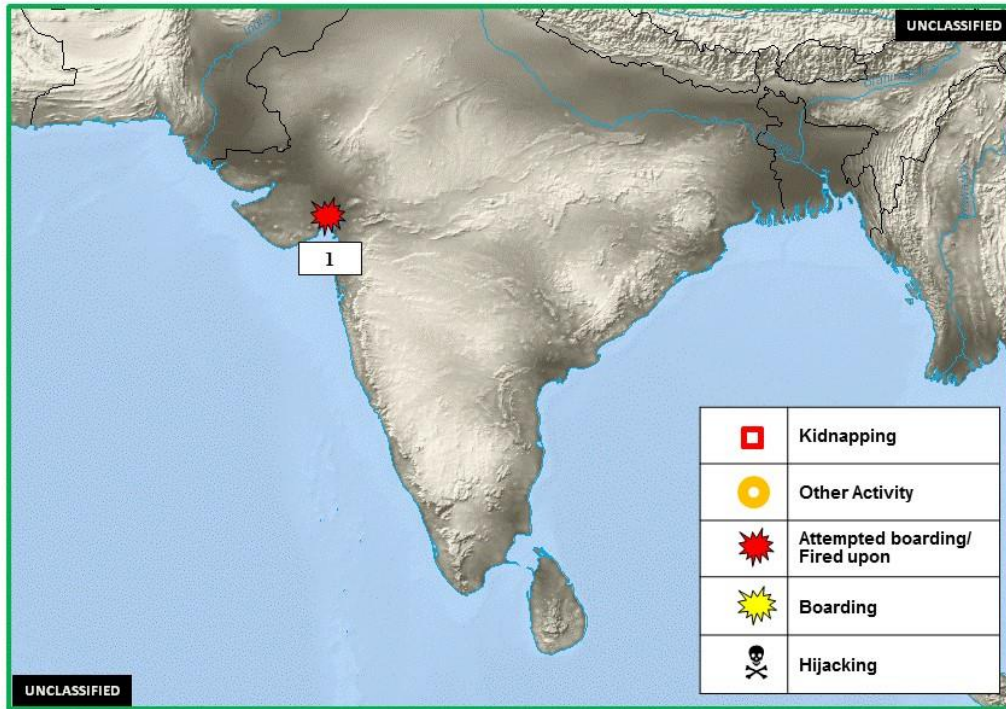


Figure 6. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

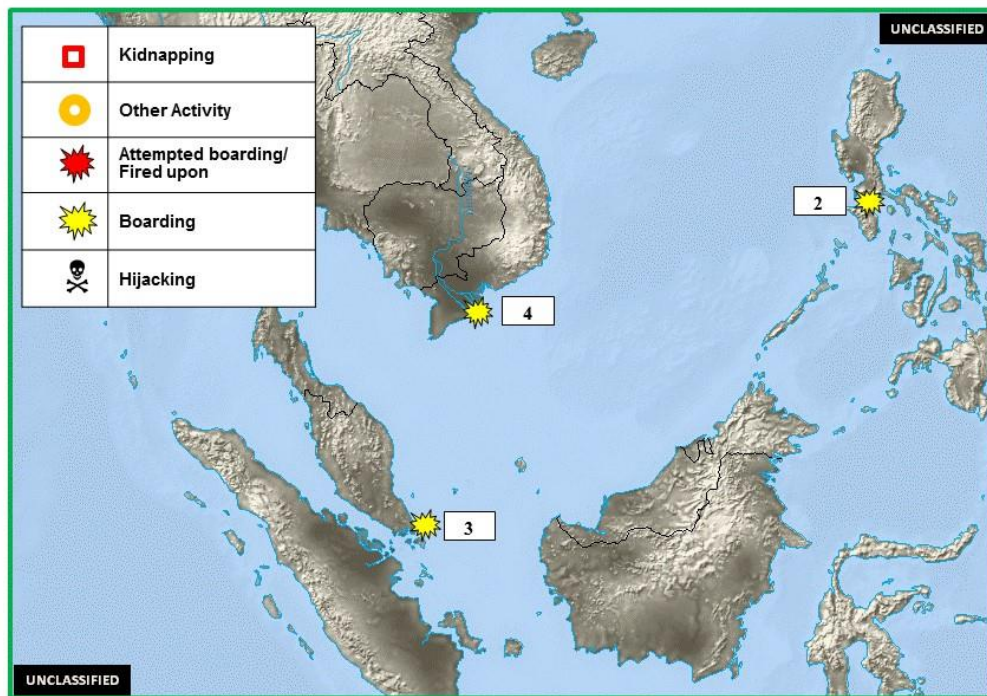


Figure 7. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime



1. (U) INDIA: On 26 October, three robbers attempted to board an anchored Marshall Islands-flagged tanker using hooks attached to ropes in Kandla Anchorage. Crew noticed the assailants and raised the alarm, prompting the assailants to escape. There were no reported injuries. (www.pvilttd.com)

2. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 24 October, robbers in a small bamboo boat approached a berthed LPG tanker during cargo operation near position 13:45N - 120:48E, JG Summit Terminal Jetty 1, Batangas. One robber managed to board the tanker. Duty crewman spotted the robber and raised the alarm resulting in the robber escaping. Crew directed flashlights towards the boat as it moved away. A search was carried out and ship's properties were reported stolen. (IMB)

3. (U) MALAYSIA: On 24 October, five persons were arrested on suspicion of sea robbery. The Rompin district police chief released a statement saying that the five suspects were armed when they boarded a Vietnamese fishing boat off the waters of Rompin, posing as law enforcement officers, and took a large amount of cash as well as their catch, which reportedly weighed one ton. The suspects are now in police custody. (www.menafn.com)

4. (U) VIETNAM: On 16 October, robbers, pretending to be stevedores, boarded an anchored bulk carrier during cargo operations near position 20:53N - 107:16E, Campha Anchorage. The robbers stole ship's stores and escaped. The theft was noticed during routine rounds after departure. Incident reported to local agent. (IMB)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 October, two robbers armed with a knife boarded a bulk carrier anchored near position 00:15S - 117:35E, Muara Berau Anchorage. Duty crewman saw the robbers on the forecastle deck and immediately informed the duty officer. Alarm was raised. Crew mustered and proceeded to the forward deck to investigate. On conducting a search, the crew discovered ship stores were stolen. The incident was reported to local authorities. (IMB)

6. (U) MALAYSIA: On 16 October, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) detained two cargo vessels in Miri waters on suspicion of illegal fishing. Thirty-nine Vietnamese crewmen were arrested and the fishing catch seized. A total of fifteen thousand kilograms of fish were onboard the two ships. (www.theborneopost.com)

7. (U) INDIA: On 11 October, robbers boarded the Liberia-flagged tanker GAS ODYSSEY. While anchored 11 nm off Tekra Light, Kandla. the watch crew found footprints on the main deck portside leading to forecastle and back to manifold area. Further investigation revealed that two scupper plugs and three cargo reducers were missing. (www.pvilttd.com)

8. (U) INDIA: On 10 October, robbers boarded the anchored LPG tanker BERLIAN EKUATOR near position 22:48N - 069:59E, Deendayal Anchorage, Kandla. The robbers stole ship's stores and escaped unnoticed. The theft was noticed by ship's crew during a routine stowaway search. Incident reported to port control. (IMB; www.pvilttd.com)

9. (U) VIETNAM: On 5 October, authorities seized more than 8 tons of pangolin scales and ivory concealed in a plastic waste container at Tien Sa Port in Danang, the government said in a statement. The container was reportedly sent from Nigeria, according to the statement. (www.pviltf.com)

10 (U) PHILIPPINES: On 5 October, a sea marshal was wounded after a man attacked him with a knife during a security inspection onboard the passenger vessel EVER QUEEN OF ASIA. The attacker was shot and killed by responding sea marshals deployed to guard the ship. The attack happened while the vessel was sailing to Zamboanga from the island town of Siasi in the Sulu Sea. (www.manilatimes.net)

11. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 3 October, three men wearing facial mask armed with two pistols and one M16 rifle boarded a fishing banca near position 10:19N - 122:51E, waters between Guimaras Island and Negros Occidental. The robbers were driving a blue motor banca with "Juvelin" marking on its freeboard. They took the fishermen's fish catch and other valuable material. (ReCAAP; www.pvilttd.com)



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

1. (U) CHINA: On 3 October, the master of a bulk carrier anchored near position 38:49N - 118:14E, Tianjin Anchorage, noticed a diesel oil tank manhole open and traces of oil leading towards the shipside. An investigation indicated that robbers had boarded the vessel, stolen oil from the tank and escaped unnoticed. (IMB)
2. (U) RUSSIA: On 4 October, customs authorities detained the captain of North Korea-flagged cargo ship TU RU BONG 2 when a search revealed \$180,000 of undeclared cash in several large black plastic bags. According to the Vladivostok Customs Service, the ship operates out of the North Korean port of Chongjin, the country's third-largest city. The Vladivostok Customs Service did not respond to questions about the authenticity of the confiscated bills; nor did they respond when asked whether the ship would be free to return to North Korea. (www.dailystar.co.uk)

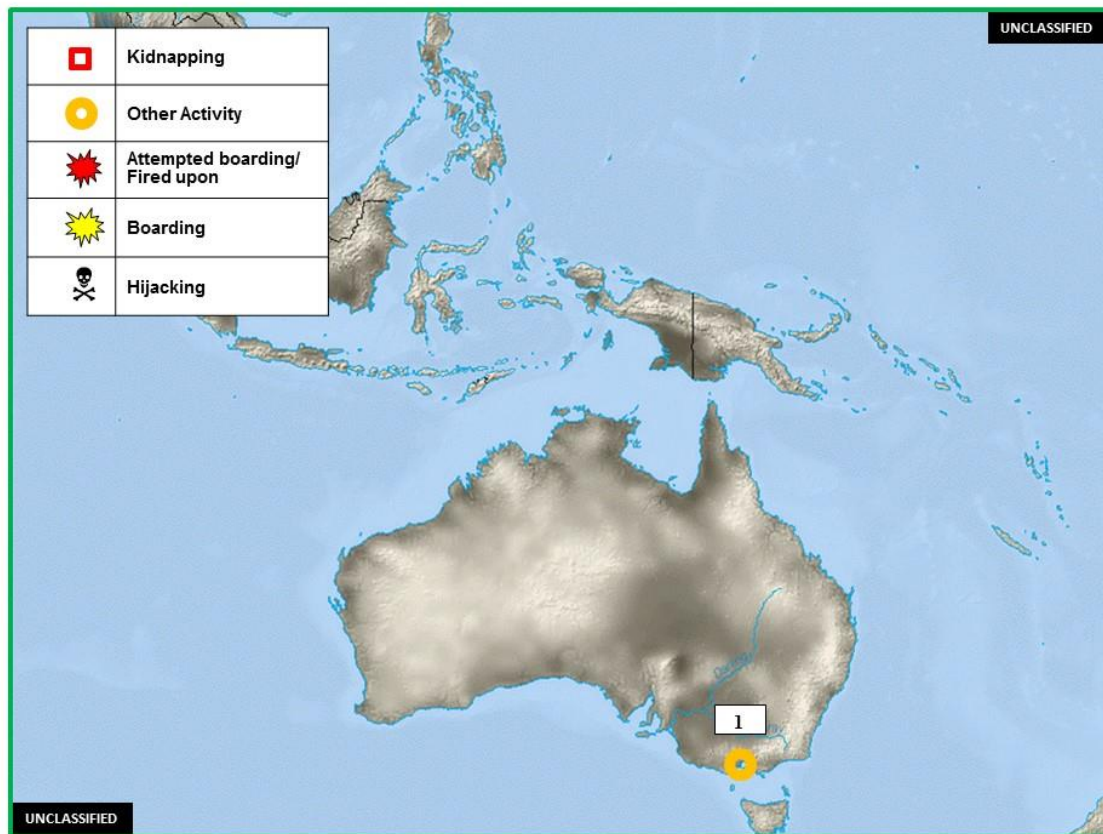
**K. (U) AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND - PACIFIC OCEAN AREA:**

Figure 8. Australia – New Zealand – Pacific  
Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) AUSTRALIA: On 19 October, customs authorities seized two sea cargo containers at the Melbourne Examination Facility after they were found to contain 10 million contraband cigarettes during a routine search. (www.ibtimes.com.au)

2. (U) FRENCH POLYNESIA: On 2 October, a sailing yacht anchored in Papeete Marina was boarded. The robber took cell phones and cash and escaped. A report was made to local police. (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 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:** 31 October 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>