

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** 6 February - 6 March 2019

7 March 2019

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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) **MDAT-GOG Warning 002/ MAR/2019 UPDATE 001**. Category: Attack. Description: A vessel was attacked in position: 05:37N - 001:11E, 30 nm south of Lome, Togo, on 3 March 2019 at 2030 UTC. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution. Status: Attack complete, vessel safe and en route to Lome anchorage under escort. Source: Email. 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.

B. (U) **MDAT-GOG Warning 001/ MAR/2019 UPDATE 001**: Category: Attack. Description: On 2 March 2019 at 1230Z, a vessel was attacked in position 04:37N - 003:16E, 104 nm southwest from Lagos, Nigeria. Mariners are advised to exercise extreme caution in this area. Attack complete, vessel and crew are safe. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution. 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.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) MALACCA STRAIT: On 5 March, 11 robbers boarded a barge under tow in the Strait of Malacca.

B. (U) ARGENTINA: On 3 March, the Argentine Naval Prefecture (PNA) vessel MANTILLA spotted the China-flagged fishing vessel HUA XIANG 801 one nautical mile inside the exclusive economic zone boundary while engaged in illegal fishing.

C. (U) TOGO: On 3 March, pirates attacked the Malta-flagged tanker HISTRIA IVORY, with 21 Romanian sailors onboard, 30 nm south of Lome. Three sailors were kidnapped.

D. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 2 March, the Royal Navy destroyer HMS DRAGON boarded a dhow on suspicion of drug smuggling. A search of the vessel revealed 2,000 kilograms of hashish.

E. (U) FRANCE: On 2 March, at least 100 migrants stormed the Port of Calais and a group of 50 of them managed to board a ferry originating from the UK.

F. (U) NIGERIA: On 2 March, the merchant tanker CAP THEODORA reported being boarded 104 nm southwest of Lagos.

G. (U) MALAYSIA: On 27 February, Malaysian authorities seized 3,300 rare turtles from a boat in a suspected trafficking case.

H. (U) ROMANIA: On 27 February, press reports stated that coast guard forces opened fire on a Turkish boat that was fishing illegally in the Black Sea, according to the Romanian Border Police.

I. (U) NETHERLANDS: On 26 February, Dutch customs officials in the Port of Rotterdam seized 90,000 bottles of Russian vodka in a shipping container that was believed to be en route to North Korea's top leadership circles.

J. (U) GHANA: On 23 February, robbers boarded an anchored cargo vessel near position 04:54N – 001:40W, Takoradi Anchorage.

K. (U) BRAZIL: On 19 February, authorities seized 680 kilograms of cocaine hidden inside several bags in a cargo container of mineral ore at Santos Port.

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

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for March 2019. 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 March 2019. For further information, please email: planavy@navy.mil.cn, or call Tel: 441 221 061 or 00870 773120140. (MSCHOA)

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: South Korea Navy convoy schedule for March 2019. 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)-870-776-444-280 or (001)-870-773-110-438. Email: choiyoun981@navy.mil.kr or kes0539@hanmail.net (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 18 February, a navy spokesman announced that they had seized more than 630 kilograms of cocaine from a speedboat off the coast of Sinaloa state. The navy said in a statement that soldiers roped down from a hovering helicopter to the boat and detained 15 crew members. Eight of those detained were from Ecuador, four were Colombian and three were Mexican. (www.pvilttd.com)

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

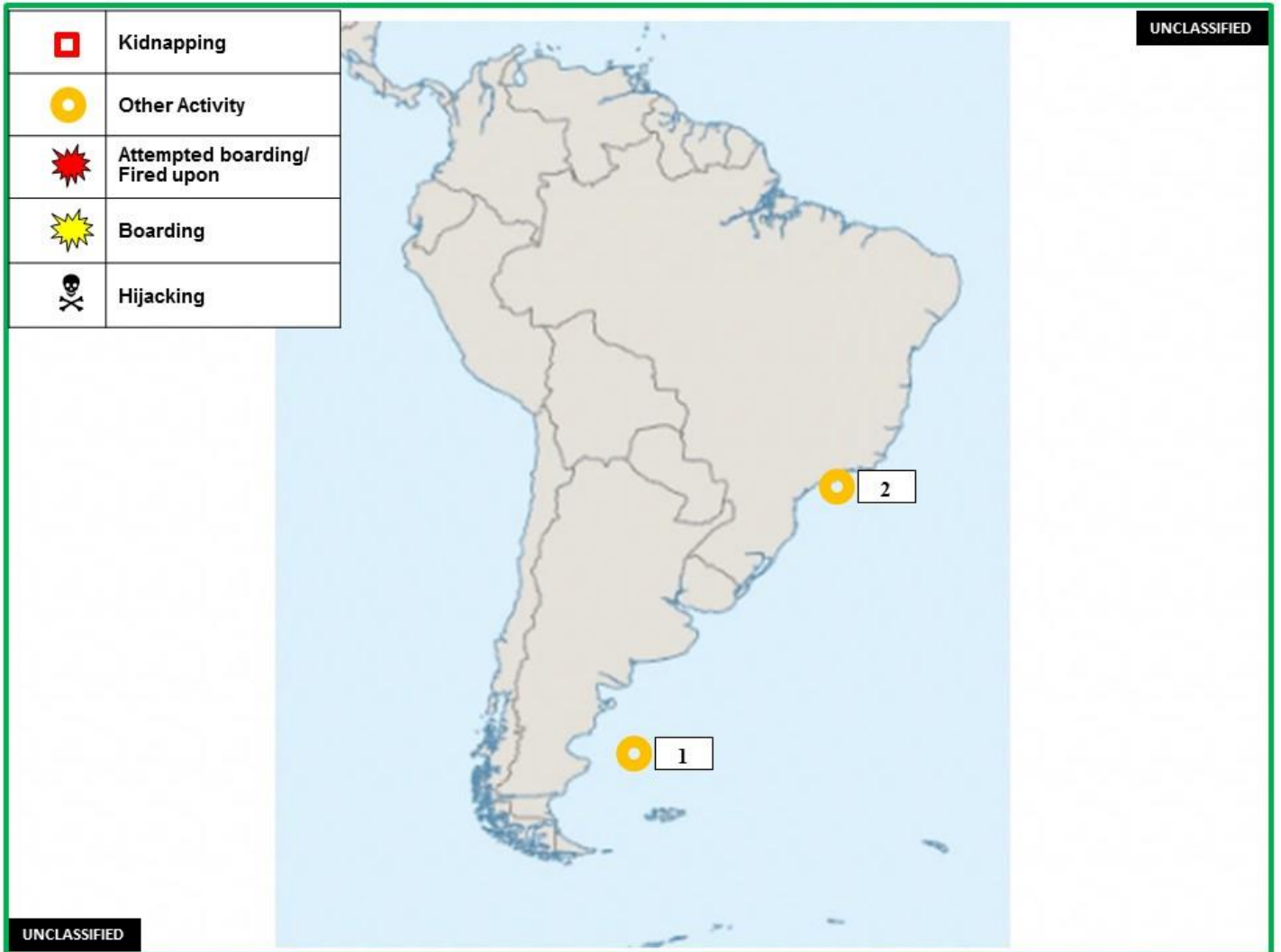


Figure 1. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) ARGENTINA: On 3 March, the Argentine Naval Prefecture (PNA) vessel MANTILLA spotted the China-flagged fishing vessel HUA XIANG 801 at a position about one nautical mile inside the exclusive economic zone boundary. She had her fishing gear deployed, and when MANTILLA approached, she fled the scene. The MANTILLA gave pursuit, and according to the PNA, the HUA XIANG 801 attempted to ram the PNA vessel. Despite multiple orders in Spanish and English to stop for boarding, the HUA XIANG 801 did not halt, even after MANTILLA fired warning shots. The fugitive vessel ultimately escaped into international waters, and Argentine authorities have asked other nations to help pursue her. (www.fis.com; www.maritime-executive.com)

2. (U) BRAZIL: On 19 February, authorities seized 680 kilograms of cocaine hidden inside several bags in a cargo container of mineral ore at Santos Port. Authorities found the narcotics during a routine cargo inspection at an unspecified terminal at the port. The drugs were bound for Antwerp, Belgium. (www.pvilt.com)

3. (U) CURACAO: On 24 February, supply ship MIDNIGHT STONE, loaded with nine cargo containers, entered Willemstad Harbor, 40 miles from Venezuela's coast. One of the opposition supporters who disembarked from the ship said a Venezuelan Navy frigate had sped towards them as it approached Venezuelan waters the previous day. He said he had spoken by telephone from the boat with a Venezuelan naval commander. "It was a respectful conversation but at one point he said: 'If you enter (Venezuelan waters), you will be attacked,'" he said during an interview. (www.news.yahoo.com)

4. (U) COLOMBIA: On 16 February, anti-narcotics elements of the national police seized 1.2 tons of cocaine from a 40-foot container at Cartagena Port. Authorities discovered the contraband following an anonymous tip-off. The container was due to be shipped to the U.S. via El Salvador. (www.pvilt.com)

5. (U) GUATEMALA: On 15 February, a yacht anchored off Livingston had its lifted, but not locked, dinghy stolen overnight, the hoisting lines had been cut. A police report was made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

6. (U) BRAZIL: Between 12 and 13 February, police seized 3.2 tons of cocaine in two separate seizures at Natal Port in Rio Grande do Norte state. On 12 February, police seized 1.2 tons of cocaine in a mango container, while authorities discovered 2 tons of the drug hidden in a container of melons on 13 February. Both containers were due to be loaded onto a cargo ship bound for the Netherlands, authorities said. (www.pvilt.com)

7. (U) DOMINICA: On 12 February, a yacht visiting Dominica to provide aid had special permission to use a mooring off Soufriere. When the owners returned to their yacht at about 9:30 PM they found a deck hatch on their well locked monohull had been damaged and pried open using a piece of rebar that the thieves left behind. The thieves stole a cellphone and other personal electronics. A police report was made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

8. (U) SAINT LUCIA: On 16 February, robbers stole a dinghy and outboard motor from a sailing yacht anchored in Rodney Bay Gros Islet. Police report made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

9. (U) HONDURAS: On 8 February, a thief stole the unlocked outboard motor from the rail mount of a yacht anchored in Roatan West End. A nearby yacht had its dinghy fuel tank stolen the same night. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

10. (U) TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: On 7 February, five fishermen kidnapped by Venezuelan pirates were released after a week in captivity. It is unknown if a ransom was paid, though the pirates initially demanded \$200,000. (www.stlucianewsonline.com)

11. (U) ARGENTINA: On 7 February, the South Korea-flagged vessel O YANG 77 was arrested by the Argentine Naval Prefecture Coast Guard for alleged illegal fishing in Argentine waters. (www.fis.com)

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

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

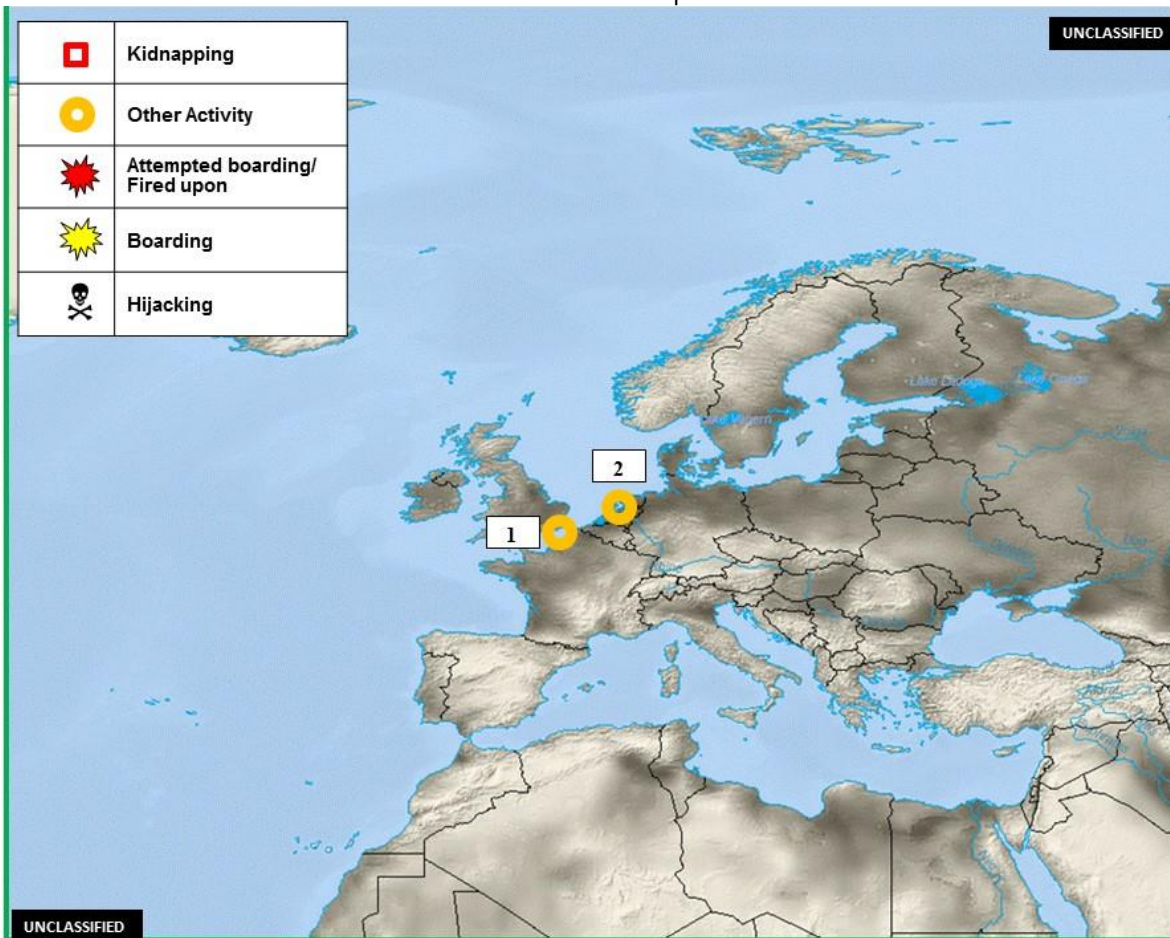


Figure 2. Northern Europe – Baltic Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) FRANCE: On 2 March, at least 100 migrants stormed the Port of Calais and a group of 50 of them managed to board a ferry originating from the UK. Security forces evacuated and searched the ferry before arresting 44 migrants. Search operations continued over the night of 2-3 March and it was unclear if all the migrants, who were attempting to reach the UK, were apprehended. (www.pvilttd.com)

2. (U) NETHERLANDS: On 26 February, Dutch customs officials in the Port of Rotterdam seized 90,000 bottles of Russian vodka in a shipping container that was believed to be en route to North Korea's top leadership circles. The vodka, contained in 3,000 boxes, had been recorded as being due for unloading in China, via the ports of Hamburg and Rotterdam. When officers sought to retrieve the container from the ship's hold, it was found to be concealed and hemmed in by the fuselage of an aircraft also due to be exported to China. Despite concerns about damaging the aircraft, Dutch authorities ordered the container's removal. Initial investigations heightened suspicions that the haul was to be taken to Pyongyang, North Korea, Dutch authorities said. (www.theguardian.com)

3. (U) ENGLAND: On 25 February, authorities in the Port of Portsmouth detained a Somali immigrant found in a vintage vehicle being transported across the English Channel from France. The owner of the vehicle was returning from a car show in France with his car, a 1926 Vauxhall 14/40 open tourer, being moved aboard a transport trailer. They had just disembarked off the overnight ferry from Caen, France, when the immigrant was found in the covered vehicle. (www.portsmouth.co.uk)

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

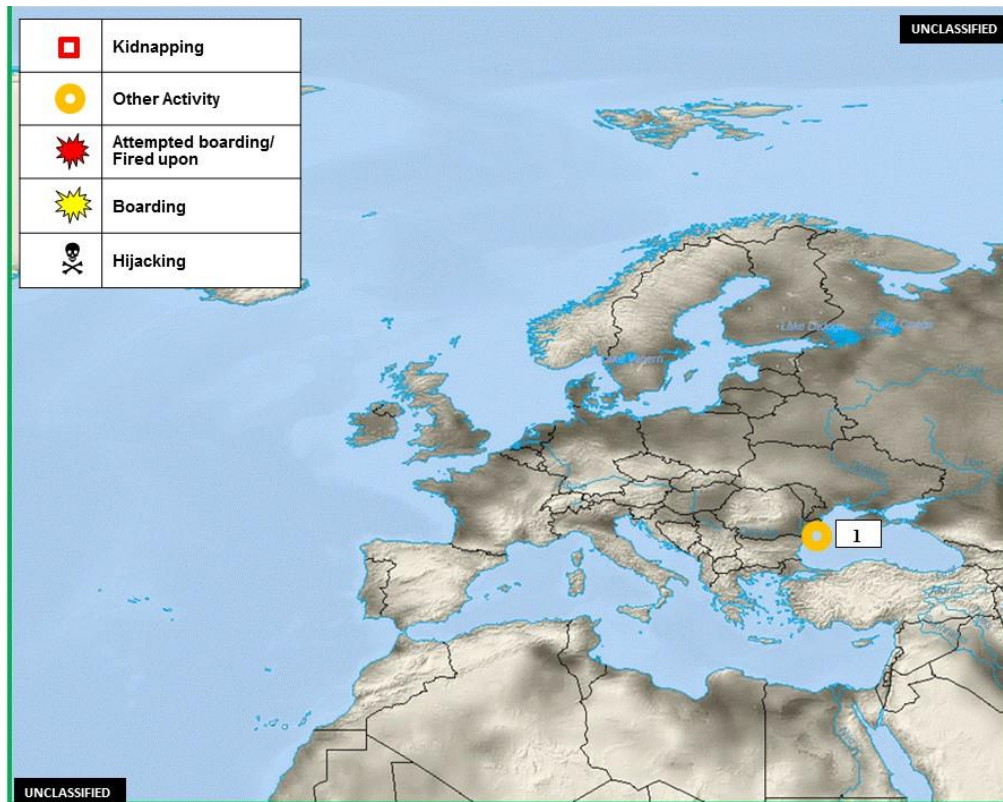


Figure 3. Mediterranean – Black Sea Piracy
and Maritime Crime

1. (U) ROMANIA: On 27 February, press reports stated that coast guard forces opened fire on a Turkish boat that was fishing illegally in the Black Sea, according to the Romanian Border Police. The incident occurred about 65 miles east of Constanta. The Turkish boat, named F/V OSTIK SENOL, didn't stop when the Romanian coast guard asked them and thus the Romanian sailors started firing warning shots. The Romanian Border Police said the Turkish authorities identified the boat in the Istanbul Port the following day and administratively sanctioned its crew for the illegal crossing of the border. (www.romania-insider.com)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

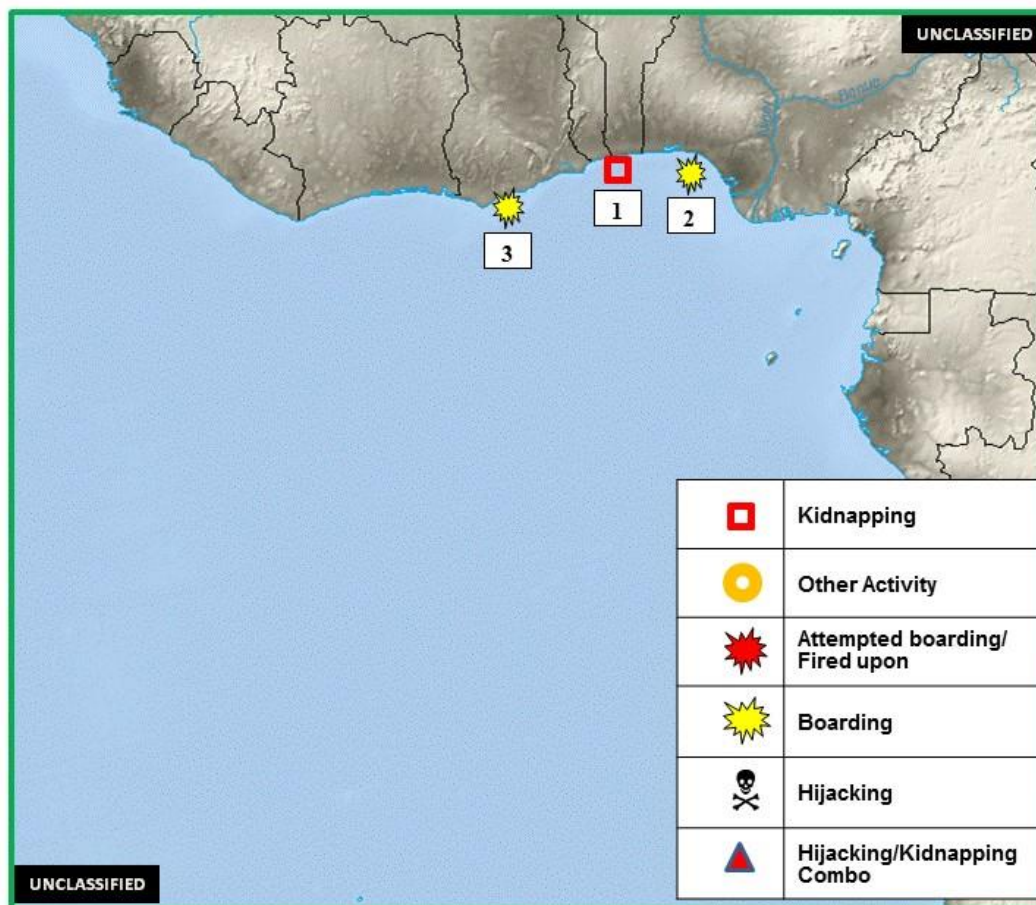


Figure 4. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) TOGO: On 3 March, pirates attacked the Malta-flagged tanker HISTRIA IVORY, with 21 Romanian sailors onboard, near position 05:37N - 001:11E, 30 nm south of Lome. Three sailors were kidnapped, information confirmed by the Romanian Foreign Affairs Ministry, which has set up a crisis cell. (IMB; www.romaniajournal.ro)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 2 March, the merchant tanker CAP THEODORA reported being boarded near position 04:37N - 003:16E, 104 nm southwest of Lagos. Alarm was raised and all crew mustered in the citadel. Upon receiving information on the incident, the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC) immediately informed the Nigerian authorities. Nigerian naval patrol boat was dispatched to assist the tanker. The IMB PRC continued to liaise with the authorities and the owners until the naval team boarded the tanker and confirmed all crew safe. The tanker later resumed her intended passage to the next port. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; www.pvilttd.com)

3. (U) GHANA: On 23 February, robbers boarded an anchored cargo vessel near position 04:54N - 001:40W, Takoradi Anchorage. They stole ship's stores and escaped. Incident reported to local authorities. (IMB)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 28 February, an offshore supply vessel reported being attacked near position 03:54N - 007:04E, 29 nm south-southwest of Bonny. A Nigerian Navy patrol boat responded. Vessel and crew reported safe. (IMB)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 February, armed pirates in two skiffs fired upon a tanker underway near position 03:08N - 006:03E,

70 nm south of Brass. Alarm raised and crew mustered in citadel. Due to the presence of armed guards and ship hardening measures, the pirates aborted the attack. Vessel and crew reported safe. (IMB)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 February, a merchant vessel reported being attacked near position 03:18N - 006:13E, 58 nm south of Bayelsa. All crew took shelter in the citadel. Nigerian authorities and navy notified. The attack was aborted by approach of security patrol boat. Vessel and crew reported safe. (MDAT-GoG)

7. (U) NIGERIA: On 21 February, four to six armed persons in a speed boat approached a container vessel underway near position 02:59N - 005:56E, 81 nm southwest of Bayelsa. Due to evasive maneuvers, the boarding was unsuccessful. They made a second attempt and fired upon at the vessel. They failed and left the area. Nigerian Navy notified. Vessel and crew reported safe. (IMB)

8. (U) NIGERIA: On 21 February, an offshore vessel reported being boarded near position 03:54N - 007:26E, 34 nm south-southeast of the Bonny River. All crew retreated to the citadel. After about two hours, the crew emerged and found that the pirates had left the vessel. Nigerian authorities and Navy notified. Vessel and crew reported safe. (MDAT-GoG; www.pvilttd.com)

9. (U) LIBERIA: On 9 February, robbers boarded product tanker berthed near position 06:21N - 010:47W, Port of Monrovia. A duty crewman on routine rounds noticed a robber armed with a knife. Alarm was sounded, resulting in the robber escaping. On searching the vessel, ship's stores were reported stolen. Incident reported to local agent and port control. (IMB)

G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:

1. (U) OMAN: On 20 February, local media reported that coast guard personnel arrested four foreign individuals of an unconfirmed nationality and seized two vessels being used to smuggle diesel near Khasab Port. There was no confirmation of the volume of diesel seized. Due to large subsidies on fuel, smuggling is common, though authorities have repeatedly cut subsidies and introduced registration systems to curb smuggling. (www.pvilttd.com)

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

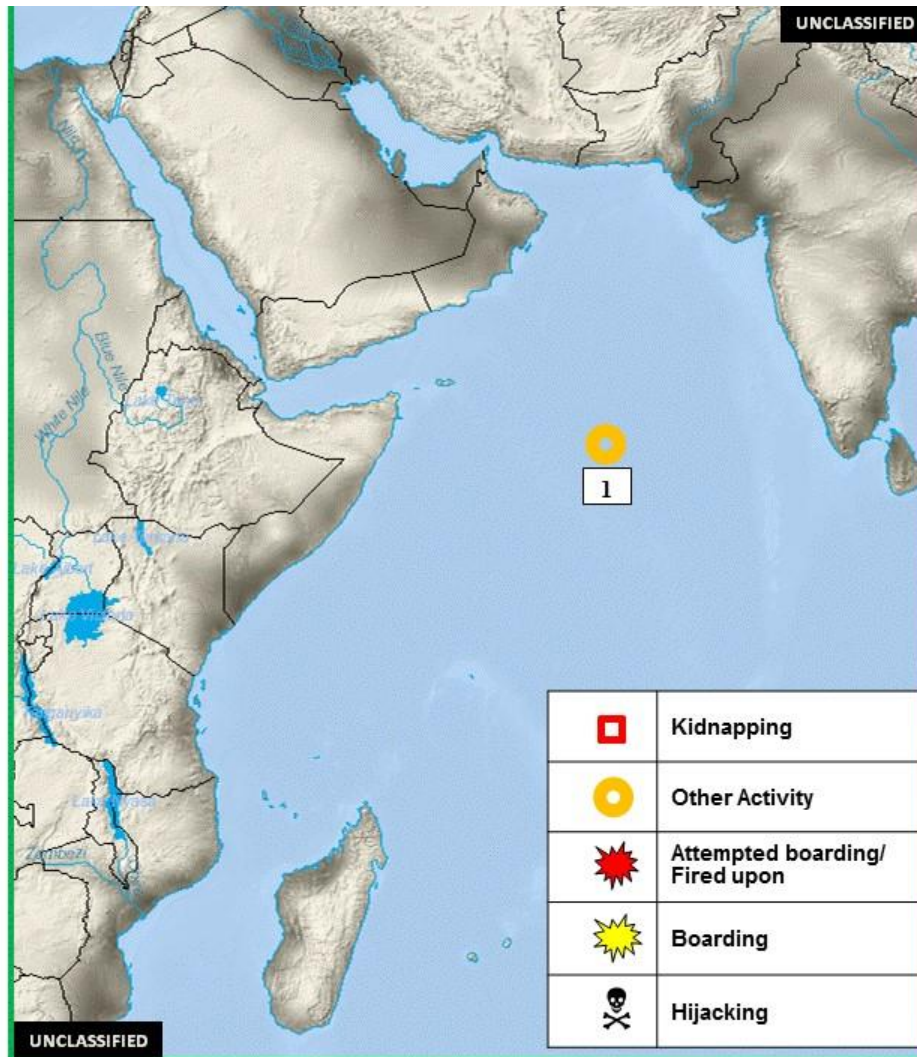


Figure 5. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red
Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 2 March, the Royal Navy destroyer HMS DRAGON boarded a dhow on suspicion of drug smuggling. A search of the vessel revealed 2,000 kilograms of hashish in 101 large bags. (www.portsmouth.co.uk)

2. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 26 February, a sailing yacht was approached in position 12:56N - 048:17E by 1 skiff, approximately 62 nm south of Qana, Yemen. The skiff closed to 1 nm before departing. (www.ukmto.org)

3. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 24 February, a merchant vessel was approached in position 12:16N - 044:03E by 2 skiffs, approximately 22 nm south of Al Khayman, Yemen. The skiff closed to 1 cable before departing. (www.ukmto.org; www.sguardian.com)

4. (U) OMAN: On 20 February, coast guard patrols arrested 10 people in a fishing vessel near Salalah as they attempted to smuggle an unconfirmed quantity of khat into the country. Officials said that police seized more than 2,200 packets of khat of an unknown weight. Trafficking attempts are common in Oman, particularly drugs and contraband fuel. (www.pvilt.com)

5. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 11 February, a Singapore-flagged container ship en route Mombasa, Kenya, reported sighting a suspicious vessel near position 02:29S - 054:09E, approximately 145 nm northwest of Mahe, Seychelles. The suspicious

vessel had AIS turned off and made several course changes that put it in position to follow the container ship. A small boat was sighted nearby. General alarm was sounded and all crew were notified. Crew closed all access to the accommodation area, started the fire pump and activated anti-piracy watch. Suspicious vessel subsequently stopped its pursuit. (www.pvilttd.com)

6. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 20 February, a crewman aboard the Taiwan-flagged fishing ship WEN PENG attacked other crewmen with a knife while the ship was working near position 09:30N - 082:00E, approximately 74 nm northeast of Sampur, Sri Lanka. One crewman was reportedly killed and up to 20 more were reported to have jumped overboard. The Captain locked himself in the bridge and Chief Engineer locked himself in the engine room. Taiwan authorities were notified and nearby ships began assisting those in the water. (www.fleetmon.com)

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

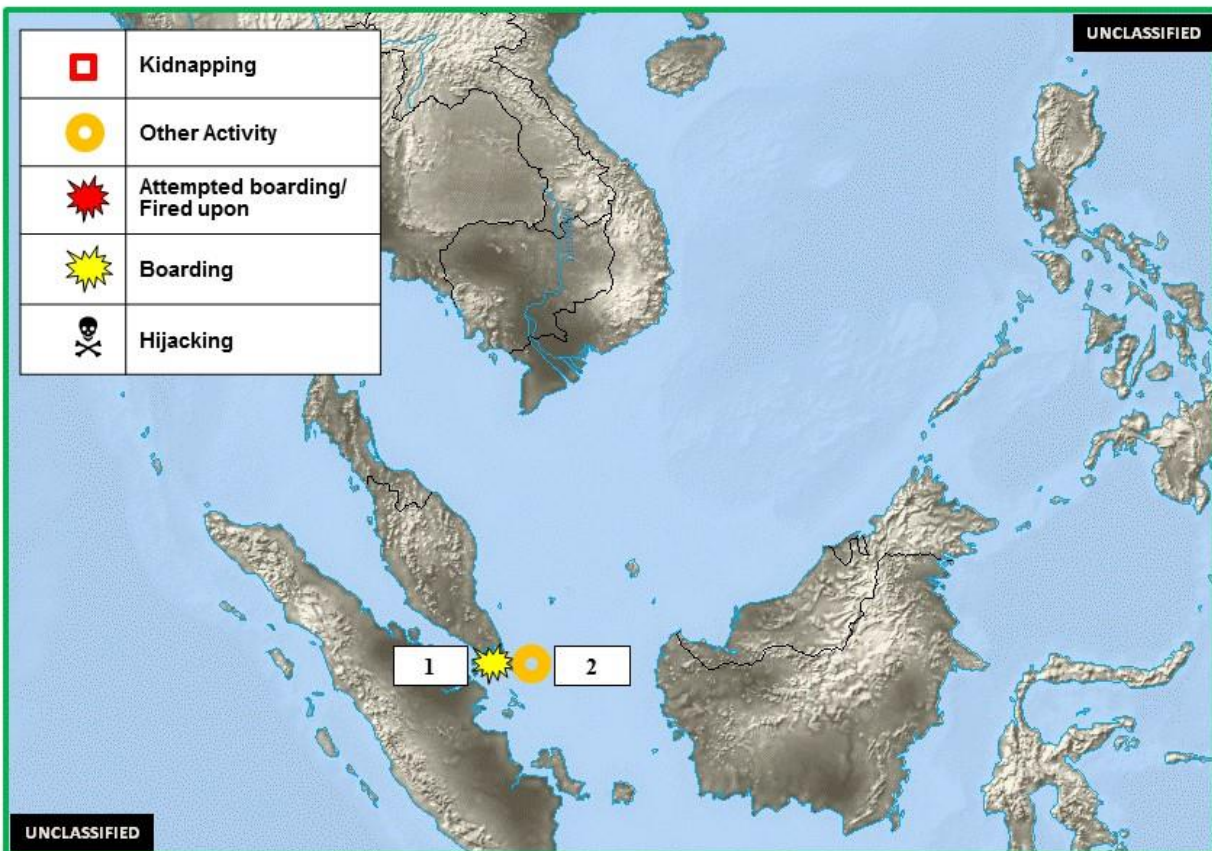


Figure 6. East Asia – Southeast Asia – Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MALACCA STRAIT: On 5 March, 11 robbers boarded a barge under tow near position 01:128N - 103:34E, Strait of Malacca. Master reported that 11 robbers escaped in small boats with stolen scrap iron. No confrontation with the crew. All crew are safe. (ReCAAP)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 27 February, Malaysian authorities seized 3,300 rare turtles from a boat in a suspected trafficking case. The turtles, found in Australia and on the Indonesian island of Papua, are endangered due to high demand from exotic pet traders, wildlife experts said. Seven packages of turtles were discovered during a boat inspection near Johor on Malaysia's southern coast, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) said in a statement, adding that two people were arrested. (www.marinelink.com)

3. (U) BANGLADESH: On 25 February, four people were killed in a shootout with elite Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) forces in the Sundarbans. As a result of a tip-off, a team of RAB personnel conducted a raid as members of 'Arif Bahini' pirate group gathered in Jongra Channel area. As the pirates opened fire, RAB retaliated with gunshots triggering a shootout that lasted for an hour leaving four people including the ringleader dead on the spot. (www.en.banglatribune.com)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 February, robbers boarded a merchant ship anchored near position 03:55N - 098:40E, Belawan Anchorage. A duty crewman on routine rounds noticed a robber escaping via the hawse pipe and raised the alarm. Crew mustered and upon searching the vessel ship's properties reported missing. (IMB)

J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) CHINA: On 19 February, authorities from the Port of Yangtze boarded and detained M/V HAI XING SHUN after the ship entered the port without using the required automatic identification system (AIS) and ignoring radio calls. (www.fleetmon.com)

2. (U) CHINA: On 10 February, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored near position 38:52N - 118:42E, Caofeidian Anchorage. The duty officer saw a hose connecting an open tank manhole to a small unlit barge alongside the ship. Alarm raised and duty crewman was instructed to investigate. Hearing the alarm, the duty officer noticed a robber lowering the hose and escaping in the barge. On sounding the tank, it was reported that fuel had been stolen. Incident reported to local authorities. (IMB)

A. 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)
- Maritime Asset Security and Training (MAST) Ltd
- 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: 6 March 2019

(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>