(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report
27 February - 27 March 2019

28 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) No current incidents to report.

3. (U) Summary:

A. (U) BANGLADESH: On 27 March, two people, believed to be local pirates, were killed in a gunfight with Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) in Pekua Upazila.

B. (U) LIBYA: On 26 March, a group of 108 migrants hijacked the Palau-flagged tanker ELHIBLU 1 near Tripoli.

C. (U) SRI LANKA: On 25 March, authorities detained nine Iranians after they were caught with 107 kilograms of heroin onboard a trawler bound for the country.

D. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 March, two robbers boarded a product tanker anchored in the Lagos Secure Anchorage Area.

E. (U) DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: On 21 March, robbers boarded a tanker anchored in San Pedro de Macoris Anchorage, stole ship's properties and escaped unseen.

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F. (U) VENEZUELA: On 21 March, three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored crude oil tanker in Jose Terminal Anchorage.

G. (U) UKRAINE: On 21 March, Ukrainian authorities seized 257 kilograms of cocaine from a vessel at Yuzhny seaport in Odessa.

H. (U) PERU: On 19 March, four robbers wearing jackets and caps in a small boat approached an anchored vehicle carrier In Callao Anchorage.

I. (U) IRELAND: On 25 February, eight stowaways were found hiding in a shipping container at the Port of Cork ferry terminal after a ship arrived from Spain.

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: choiyoung981@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) UNITED STATES: On 28 February, authorities in the Port of New York/Newark seized a cargo container on a ship coming from South America. The container was found to be carrying 3,200 pounds of cocaine. (www.nbcnews.com)

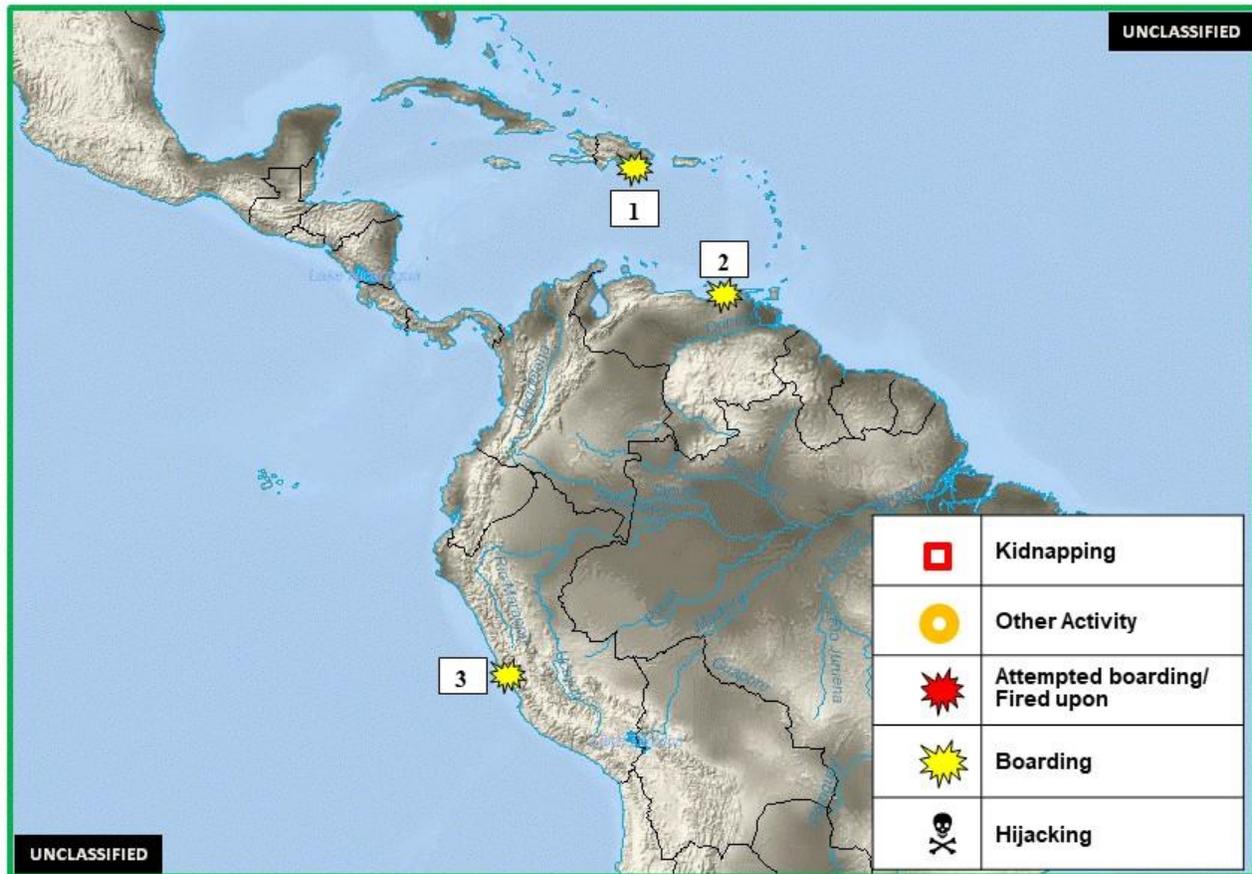**B.** (U) **CENTRAL AMERICA - CARIBBEAN - SOUTH AMERICA:**

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

1. (U) DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: On 21 March, robbers boarded a tanker anchored near position 18:24N - 069:19W, San Pedro de Macoris Anchorage, stole ship's properties and escaped unseen. Incident was noticed during routine rounds. (IMB)

2. (U) VENEZUELA: On 21 March, three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored crude oil tanker near position 10:11N - 064:47W, Jose Terminal Anchorage. Deck watch on routine rounds spotted the robbers and notified the duty officer just before the robbers threatened him with a knife and stole his radio. Alarm raised, and crew mustered resulting in the robbers escaping with their accomplices in a waiting boat. Incident reported to port authorities. (IMB)

3. (U) PERU: On 19 March, four robbers wearing jackets and caps in a small boat approached an anchored vehicle carrier near position 12:01S - 077:12W, Callao Anchorage. Duty crewman on routine rounds noticed the robbers attempting to board the ship via the anchor cable. Alarm raised, ship's horn sounded and crew directed flash lights towards the robbers. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers aborted the attempted boarding and escaped. Local agents informed. A patrol boat was dispatched to search the anchorage area. (IMB)

4. (U) BRAZIL: On 10 March, two robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier by using a rope with a hook near position 00:03N - 050:57W, Macapa Anchorage. Duty crewman on routine rounds spotted the robbers and immediately informed the duty officer, who raised the alarm. PA announcement made and all crew was mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped without stealing anything. Incident was reported to port authorities. (IMB)

5. (U) GRENADA: On 6 March, two sailing yachts anchored in Halifax Bay had their dinghy and outboards stolen. Both dinghies were found he next day, minus their outboards. Police reports for both incidents were made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

6. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 4 March, a cable locked dinghy/outboard was stolen from the dinghy dock at the La Dunette restaurant in St Anne. A police report was made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

7. (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. MANTILLA gave pursuit, and according to the PNA, HUA XIANG 801 attempted to ram the PNA vessel. Despite multiple orders in Spanish and English to stop for boarding, 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)

8. (U) COSTA RICA: Between 28 February and 2 March, authorities stopped two speedboats carrying a total of 5,800 pounds of cocaine. (www.kiiitv.com)

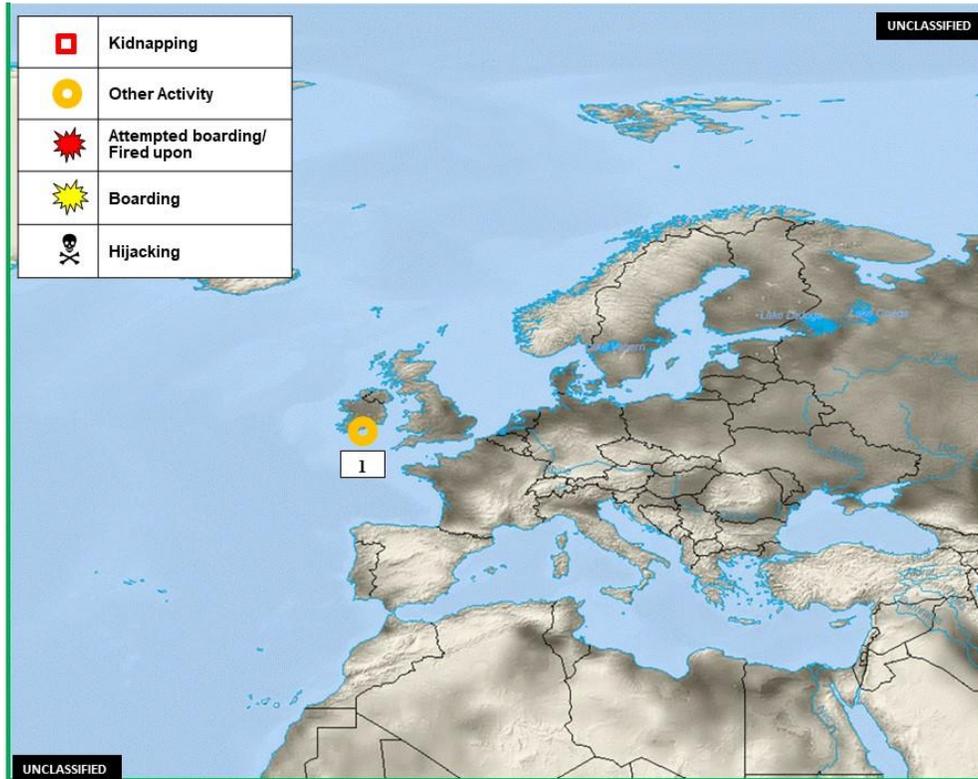C.   (U) **ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:**

Figure 2. Atlantic Ocean Area Piracy and
Maritime Crime

1. (U) IRELAND: On 25 February, eight stowaways were found hiding in a shipping container at the Port of Cork ferry terminal after a ship arrived from Spain. The eight, all Albanian nationals under the age of 24, were found hiding between pallets in a container on the back of a truck which had disembarked the ferry from Santander in northern Spain. While the crossing takes more than 26 hours, it is understood the men could have been in the container for up to four days. There were signs that they had access to food and water during the crossing. (www.irishexaminer.com)

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

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.pviltd.com)
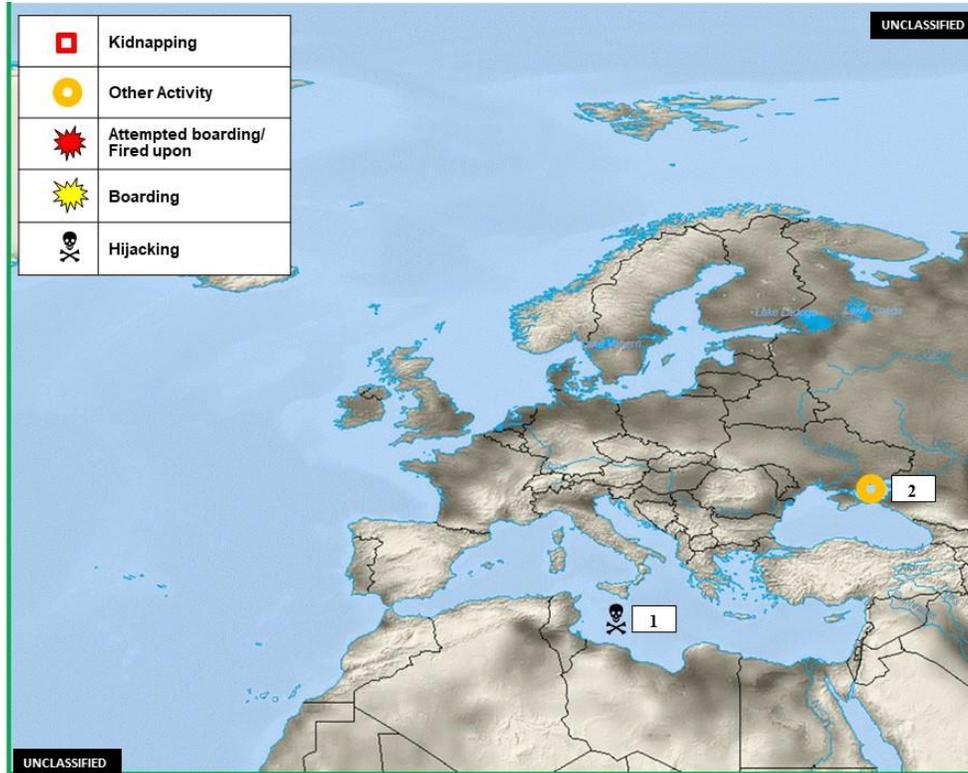
A. **E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:**

Figure 3. Mediterranean - Black Sea Piracy
and Maritime Crime

1. (U) LIBYA: On 26 March, a group of 108 migrants hijacked the Palau-flagged tanker M/T EL HIBLU 1 near Tripoli. The ship arrived in Malta's territorial waters on 28 March, where it was boarded by Armed Forces of Malta personnel who took control of the ship. (www.timesofmalta.com; www.fleetmon.com)

2. (U) UKRAINE: On 21 March, Ukrainian authorities seized 257 kilograms of cocaine from a vessel at Yuzhny seaport in Odessa. Officials stated that the shipment was bound for Europe, and was packed within a container of bananas. (www.pviltd.com)

3. (U) TURKEY: On 4 March, narcotics police seized 185 kilograms of cocaine in an anti-narcotics operation in Istanbul. Acting on a tipoff, Istanbul Security Directorate's narcotics units seized a huge load of cocaine hidden inside a shipping container carrying bananas from Ecuador. (Daily Sabah Online)

4. (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)
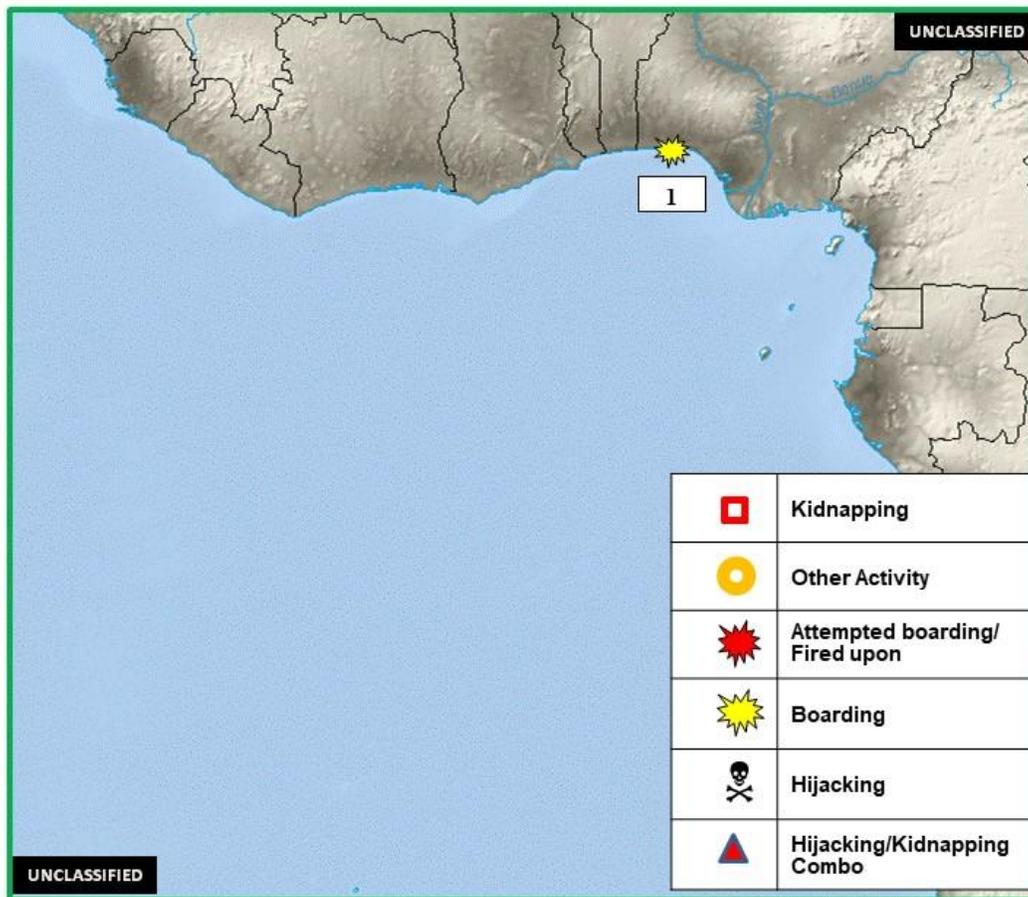
F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

Figure 4. West Africa Piracy and Maritime
Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 March, two robbers boarded a product tanker anchored near position 06:15N – 003:12E, Lagos Secure Anchorage Area, and started stealing the oil cargo using a hose. Duty watch stander noticed the hose and immediately informed the master. Incident reported to a Navy patrol boat in the vicinity. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped. All crew and vessel are safe. It was reported that the Navy patrol boat managed to intercept the boat and apprehend the robbers. (IMB)

2. (U) GHANA: On 11 March, authorities in Tema Port announced they had taken a young man from Morocco into custody after the crew from M/V LANIDIE found the man hiding in the ship. He was hoping to stowaway to Europe. (www.ghanaweb.com)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 9 March, pirates armed with machine guns in two speed boats approached an offshore support vessel underway near position 03:57N - 006:39E, 32 nm southeast of Brass. The Captain immediately notified the naval escort security boat which maneuvered to engage the attackers. One speed boat closed in from port side of the vessel and crossed the bow, while the other speed boat exchanged fire with the security boat. Alarm raised, crew proceeded to the engine room, and all power was shut down. The pirates boarded the vessel with the aid of an elongated ladder. They broke into the accommodation, vandalized the cabins and took crew belongings and vessel's properties. The pirates then proceeded to the engine room, kidnapped five men and escaped. The remaining crew sailed the vessel under escort to a

safe anchorage. One Nigerian Navy armed guard was reported killed in the exchange of fire between the naval security boat and the pirates. Investigations ongoing. (IMB)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 8 March, two skiffs with 4 persons on each skiff approached a merchant tanker near position 03:14N - 006:27E, approximately 80 nm southwest of Bonny Island. The skiffs closed to within 2 cables. Tanker commenced evasive maneuvering and the skiffs withdrew. (MDAT-GoG)

5. (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)

6. (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.pviltd.com)

G. (U) **ARABIAN GULF:** No current incidents to report.
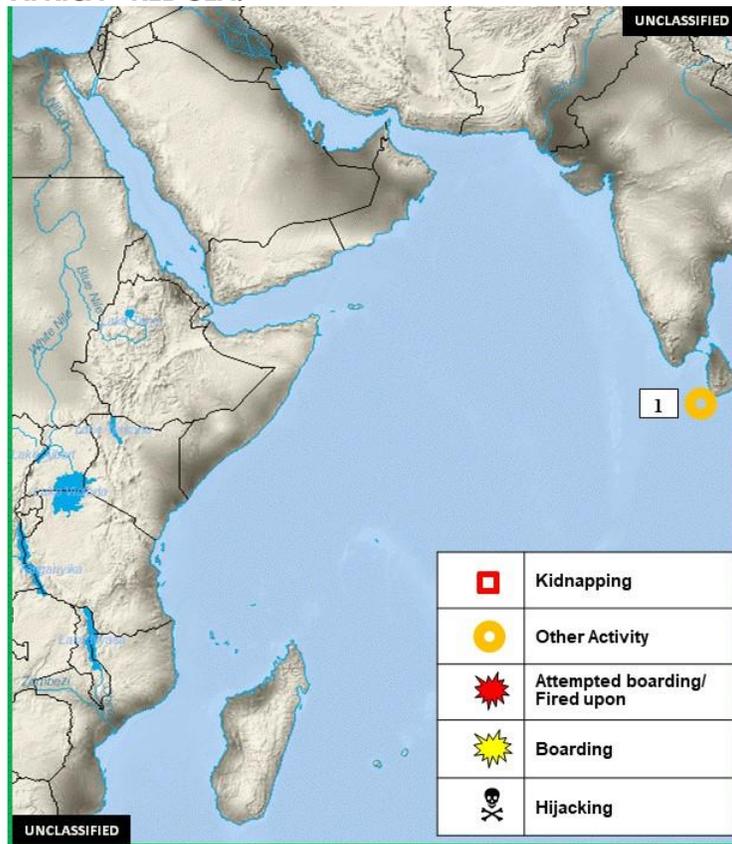
H. (U) **INDIAN OCEAN - EAST AFRICA - RED SEA:**

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

1. (U) SRI LANKA: On 25 March, authorities detained nine Iranians after they were caught with 107 kilograms of heroin onboard a trawler bound for the country. The vessel was tracked by a joint operations team comprised of a police special task force and the Sri Lankan Navy ship SURANIMALA off the southern coast of Galle. (www.arabnews.com)

2. (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)

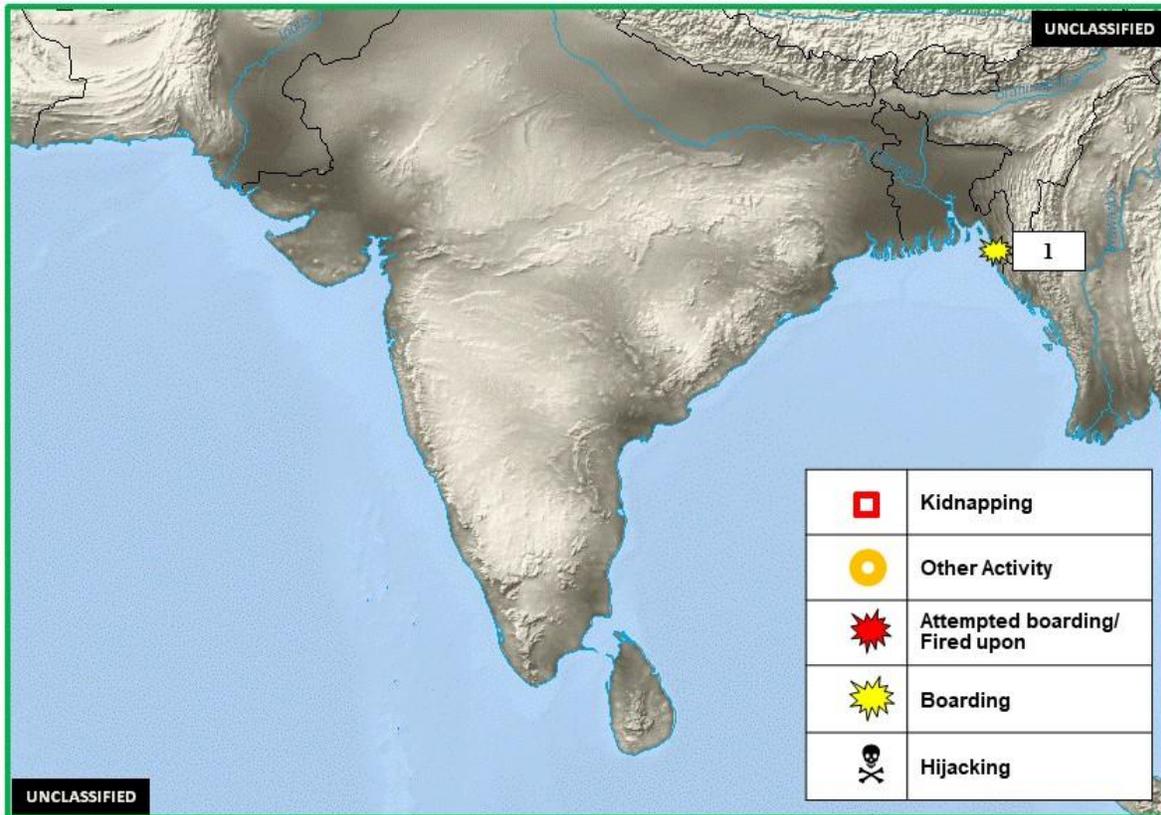## I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA - INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

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

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 27 March, two people, believed to be local pirates, were killed in a gunfight with Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) in Pekua Upazila. RAB-7 said its team raided the area after being tipped off that a pirate gang was preparing for operations. "The pirates opened fire as soon as the RAB team reached the spot, triggering a gunfight," said a spokesman. Bodies of two pirates were recovered after the skirmish. RAB also seized eight firearms and 26 bullets from the spot. (www.unb.com.bd)

2. (U) MYANMAR: On 16 March, Arakan Army insurgents are believed to have attacked a cargo ship in the Kalardan River near Paletwa Township with gun shots and ensuing fire onboard caused the ship to capsize. The cargo ship YADANARWIN 7 was carrying 286 tons of steel trusses for the remaining section of the Paletwa River-Crossing bridge. The ship's crew was briefly held by the insurgents and then released. (www.elevenmyanmar.com)

3. (U) BANGLADESH: On 15 March, pirates kidnapped 16 fishermen and four fishing boats from the Bay of Bengal near Barguna. The robbers also looted the fish, fuel, and fishing nets from the trawlers. (Dhaka Tribune Online)

4. (U) MYANMAR: On 10 March, members of the Arakan Army, an insurgent group, attacked a Myanmar police force boat in Kardi Creek near Yathedaung township in Rakhine state. The police boat capsized, spilling the 14 police officers. (www.menafm.com)

5. (U) VIETNAM: On 10 March, authorities detained the product tanker ARISTA LEO on suspicion of fuel smuggling in the Con Dao Island area. The ship was caught transferring 300 tons of gasoline to another ship. (www.fleetmon.com)

6. (U) VIETNAM: On 6 March, a Vietnamese fishing boat reported that they were rammed and sunk while operating near Discovery Reef in the Paracel Islands chain. The five Vietnamese men onboard the fishing boat clung on to the floating wreckage of their ship until they were rescued. (www.news.com.au)

7. (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)

8. (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)

J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) TAIWAN: On 13 March, a coast guard ship seized a Chinese fishing boat that had crossed into Taiwanese waters 23.7 nm northwest of Huayu Island, state-run media reported. The coast guard fired a warning shot towards the boat before taking it to Magong Harbour in Penghu. The Chinese vessel had 15 crew members onboard. (www.pviltd.com)

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

1. (U) PAPUA NEW GUINEA: On 10 March, pirates attacked a passenger boat in Astrolabe Bay. The robbers looted the boat, stole supplies, cash, and personal effects from the 13 passengers. The pirates also forced the male passengers to jump into the sea. (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)
- 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: 27 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