

UNCLASSIFIED

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

28 February 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) NIGERIA: On 28 February, an offshore supply vessel reported being attacked 29 nm south-southwest of Bonny.

B. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 February, armed pirates in two skiff fired upon a tanker underway 70 nm south of Brass.

C. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 February, a merchant vessel reported being attacked 58 nm south of Bayelsa.

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 26 February, a sailing yacht was approached by 1 skiff, approximately 62 nm south of Qana, Yemen.

E. (U) BANGLADESH: On 25 February, four people have been killed in a shootout with elite Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) forces in the Sundarbans.

- F. (U) ENGLAND: On 25 February, authorities in the port of Portsmouth detained a Somali immigrant found in a vintage vehicle being transported the English Channel from France.
- G. (U) CURACAO: On 24 February, supply ship MIDNIGHT STONE, loaded with nine cargo containers, entered Willemstad Harbor, 40 miles from Venezuela's coast. The ship is carrying aid for Venezuela.
- H. (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.
- I. (U) NIGERIA: On 21 February, four to six armed persons in a speed boat attacked a container vessel underway 81 nm southwest of Bayelsa.
- J. (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.
- K. (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.
- L. (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.
- M. (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.
- N. (U) GUATEMALA: On 15 February, a yacht anchored off Livingston had its lifted, but not locked, dinghy stolen overnight.
- O. (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.
- P. (U) DOMINICA: On 12 February, robbers boarded a yacht visiting Dominica to provide aid and had special permission to use a mooring off Soufriere.
- Q. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 11 February, a Singapore-flagged container ship en route Mombasa, Kenya, reported sighting a suspicious vessel approximately 145 nm northwest of Mahe, Seychelles.

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

- A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for February and 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 February and 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 February and 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:

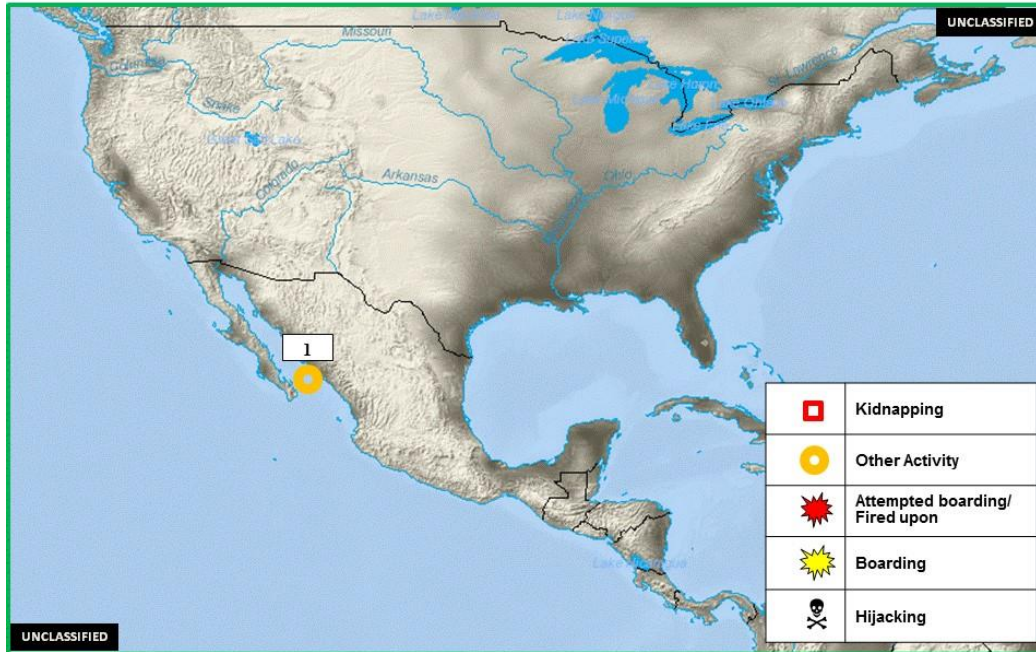


Figure 1. North America Piracy and Maritime Crime

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.pviltd.com)

2. (U) MEXICO: On 31 January, an environmental NGO vessel was attacked by 20 small boats while patrolling in the northern Gulf of California. Molotov cocktails and projectiles were thrown at the ship, in addition to lead weights and large stones, shattering windows and setting the side of the ship on fire. Ship's crew fended the attackers off using emergency fire hoses, while Mexican Navy soldiers and Federal Police stationed onboard opened fired into the air and sea to deter the attackers. No one was injured during the attack. So far, no arrests have been made. (www.maritime-executive.com)

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

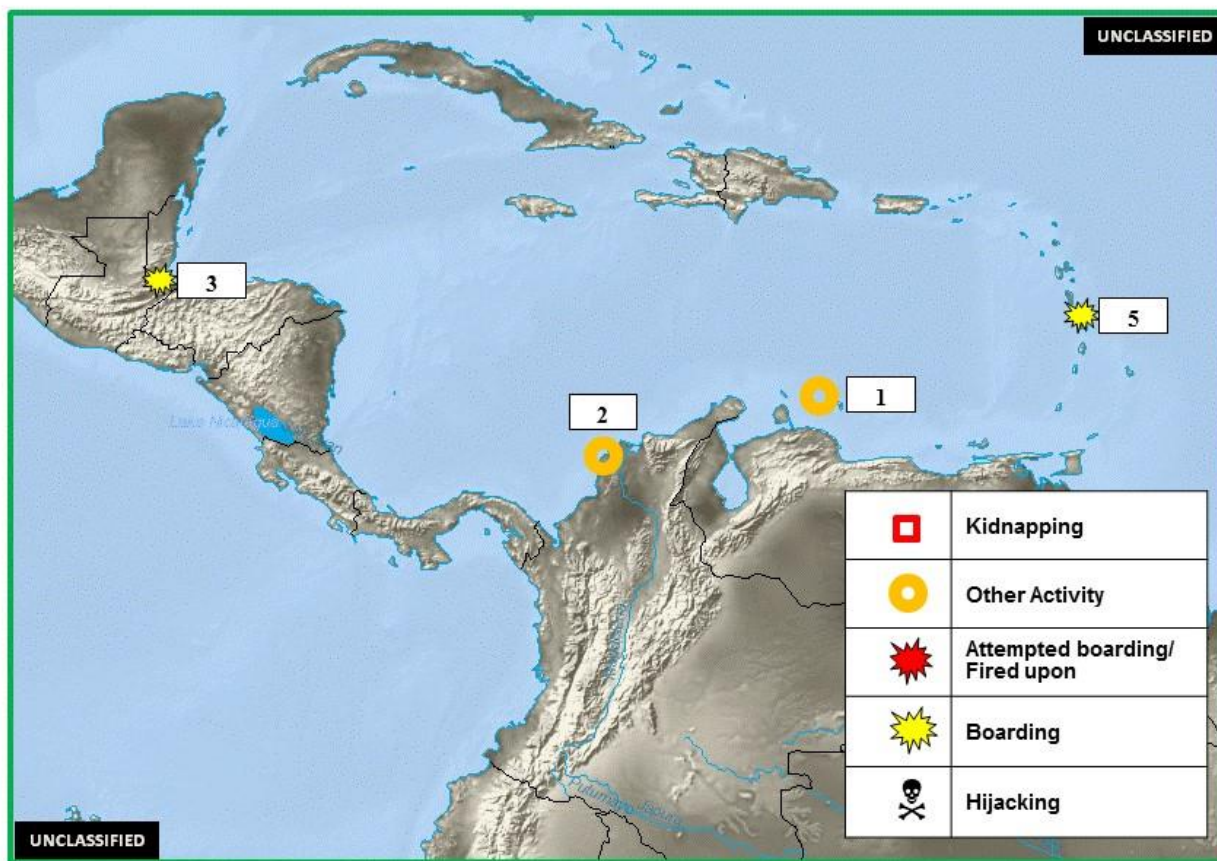


Figure 2. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

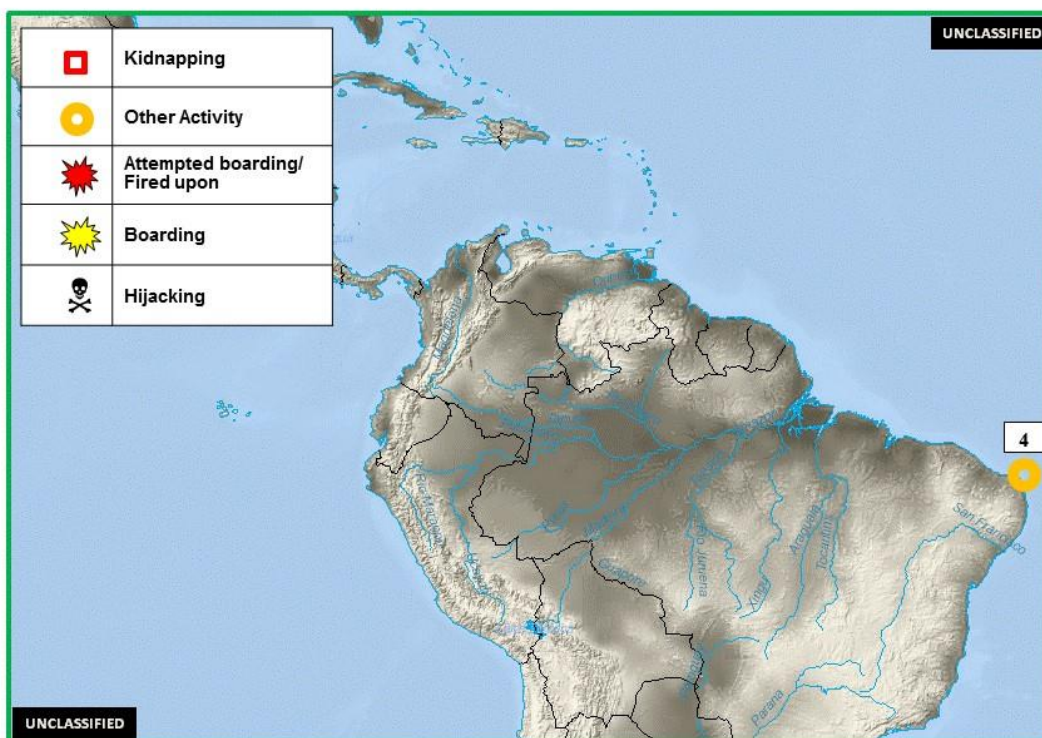


Figure 3. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (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)

2. (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)

3. (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)

4. (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)

5. (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)

6. (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)

- 7. (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)
- 8. (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)
- 9. (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)
- 10. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 1 February, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Cumberland Bay. Cash and other valuables were stolen. Police report was made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
- 11. (U) ST LUCIA: On 1 February, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Vieux Fort. A laptop computer and other valuables were stolen. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
- 12. (U) ST LUCIA: On 31 January, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Rodney Bay Gros Islet. A dinghy and outboard motor were stolen. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

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

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

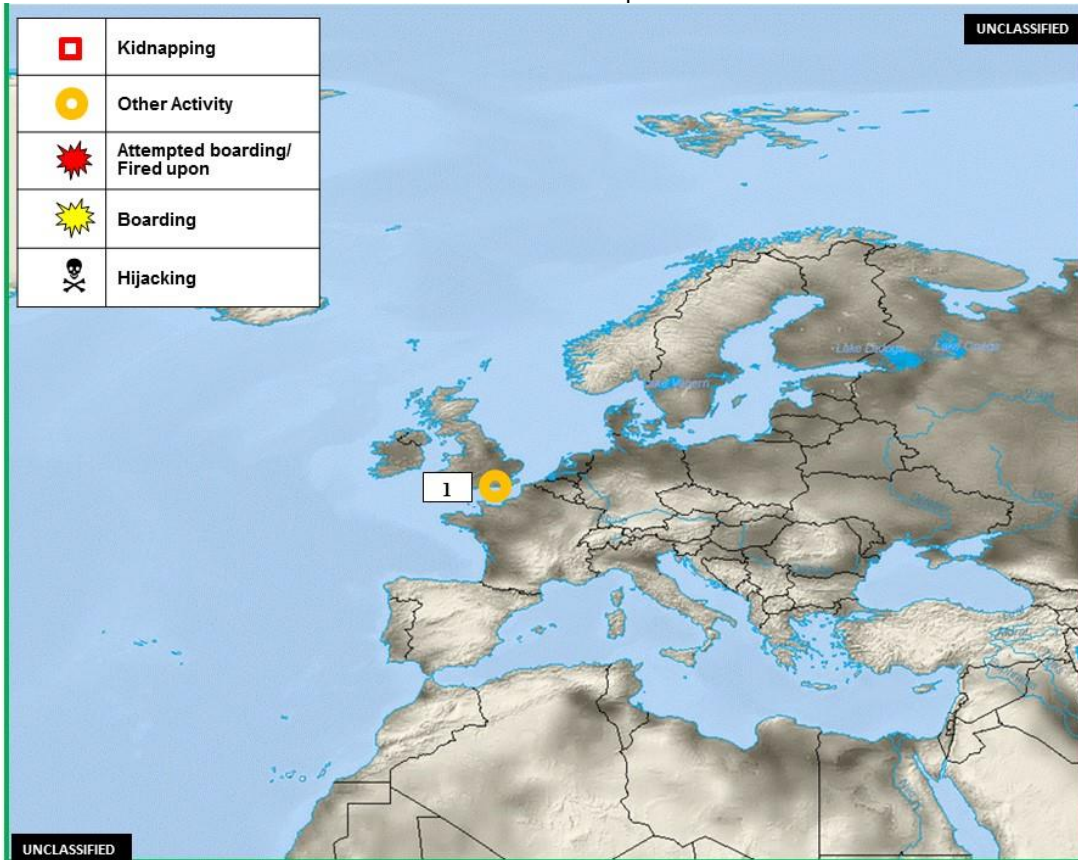


Figure 4. Northern Europe – Baltic Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (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 from the overnight ferry from Caen, France when the immigrant was found in the covered vehicle. (www.portsmouth.co.uk)

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

1. (U) TURKEY: On 5 February, authorities in the Port of Mersin seized 615 kilograms of cocaine in a shipping container manifested to contain bananas from Ecuador. (www.dailysabah.com)

2. (U) ITALY; On 31 January, customs authorities seized two tons of cocaine from a ship in the Port of Genoa. (www.ansa.it)

3. (U) LIBYA: On 29 January, a fisherman was killed by an explosive device when fishing off the northeastern city of Benghazi. Blast fishing is common in Libya and leftover devices periodically kill or injure fishermen. (www.pvilt.com)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

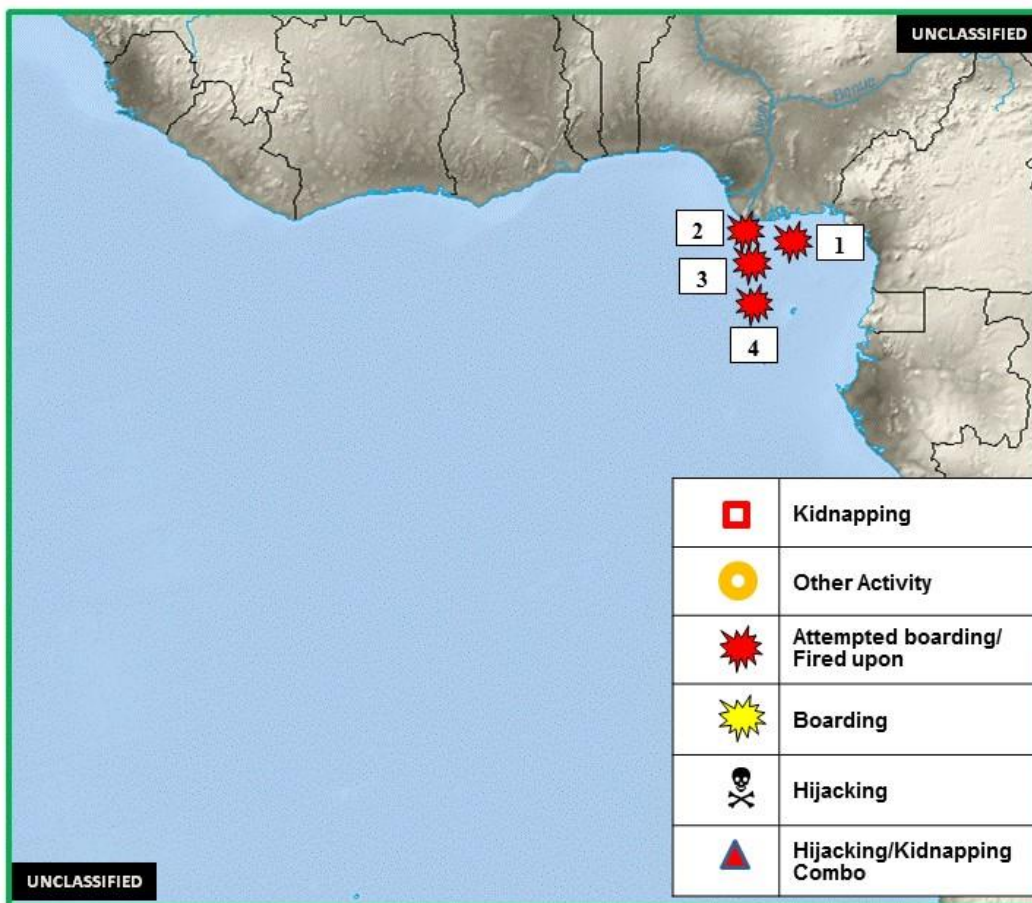


Figure 5. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (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 vessel responded. Vessel and crew reported safe. (IMB)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 February, armed pirates in two skiff 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)
3. (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 security patrol boat. Vessel and crew reported safe. (MDAT-GoG)
4. (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)
5. (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)
6. (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)
7. (U) GHANA: On 6 February, the Ghana Immigration Service, Tema Regional Command arrested two Ghanaians onboard M/V MARITIME VOYAGER attempting to stowaway to China. (www.ghananewsagency.org)
8. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 February, two robbers boarded a merchant tanker vessel at Lagos Anchorage. The robbers approached the Singapore-flagged vessel in a canoe and boarded the ship during a ship-to-ship operation with another tanker. Security personnel aboard the tanker spotted the robbers and sounded the alarm. The robbers reportedly jumped into the sea upon hearing the alarm. (www.pvilttd.com)
9. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 February, the Marshall Islands-flagged landing craft M/V LAETITIA V reported being attacked near position 02:33N - 004:44E, 137 nm southwest of Brass. Three crewmen were kidnapped. (MDAT-GoG; www.fleetmon.com)
10. (U) CAPE VERDE: On 31 January, the Panama-flagged general cargo ship ESER docked in the Port of Praia due to the death of a crewman onboard. During a search of the ship, 9.5 tons of cocaine was found. All crewmen onboard, 11 Russians, were reportedly arrested. (www.fleetmon.com; www.gcaptain.com)
11. (U) NIGERIA: On 28 January, six Russian crewmen from the container ship MSC MANDY, kidnapped in the Gulf of Guinea on 2 January, were released, according to Russian Embassy in Nigeria. (www.fleetmon.com)

G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:

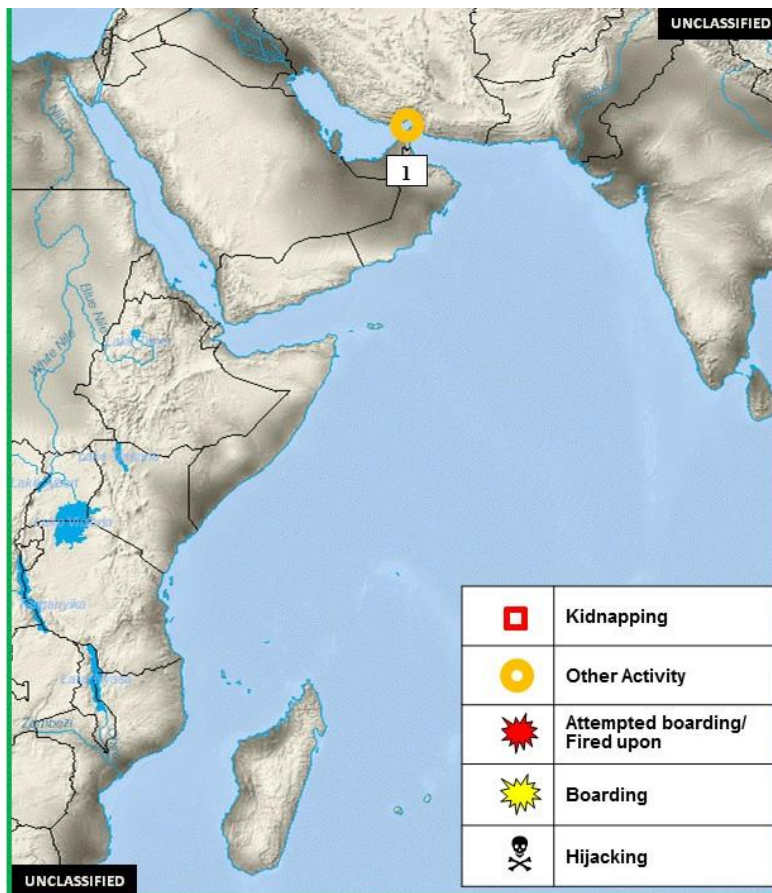


Figure 6. Arabian Gulf Piracy and Maritime Crime

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:

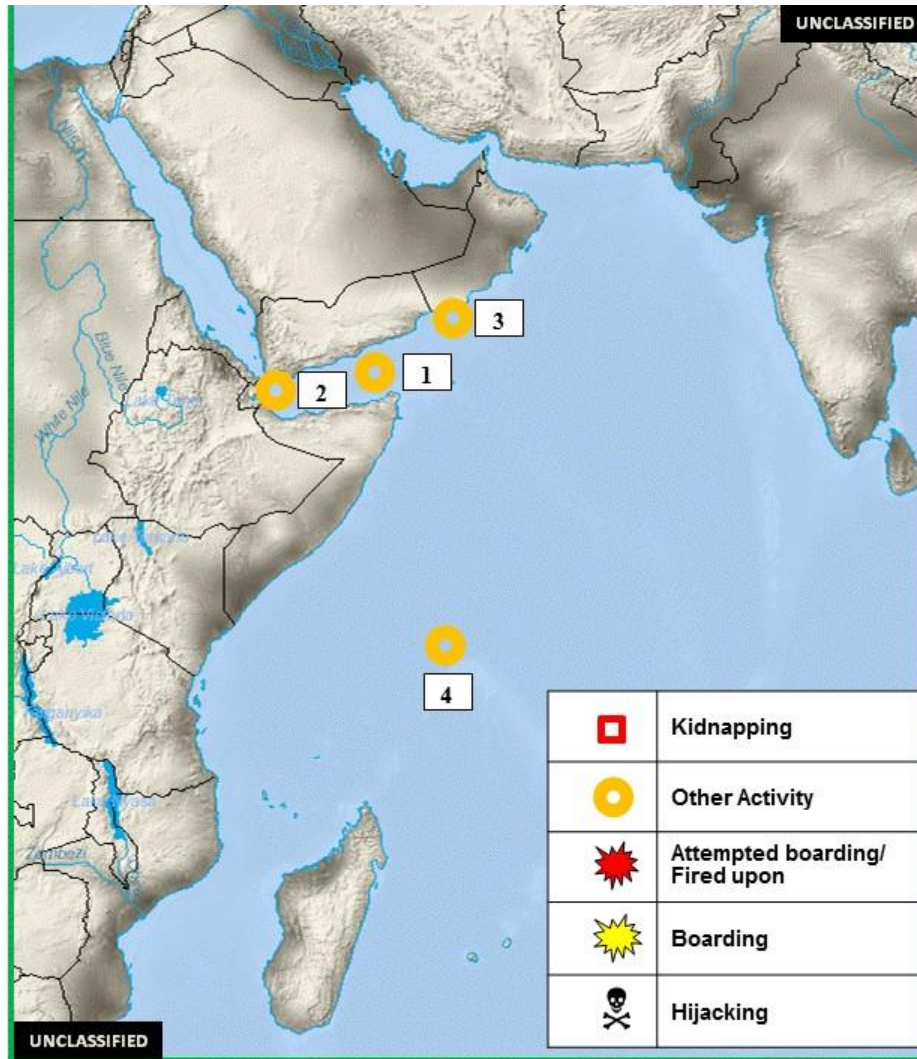


Figure 7. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red
Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (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)

2. (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)

3. (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.pvilttd.com)

4. (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)

5. (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:

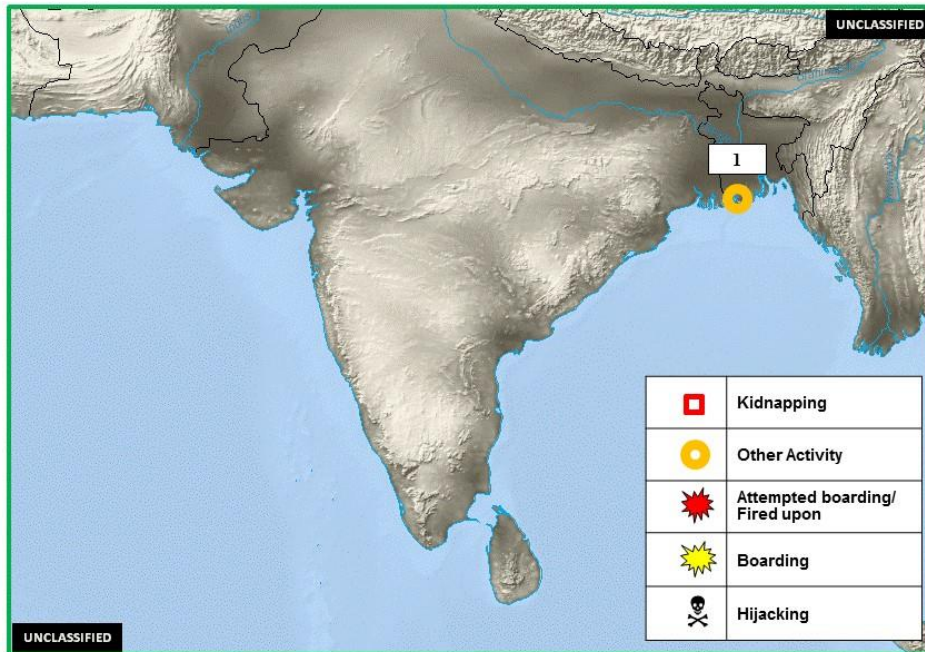


Figure 8. East Asia – Southeast Asia – Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (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)

2. (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)

3. (U) INDIA: On 3 February, robbers boarded a merchant vessel berthed near position 23:02N - 070:13E, Oil Jetty No. 4, Kandla Port. The chief officer on routine rounds noticed a boat under the forecastle and notified other deck crew. Seeing the alerted crew, the boat moved away. On inspection, it was noticed that a store room had been broken into, but nothing reported stolen. Port authorities notified. (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)

3. CHINA: On 30 January, a duty crewman onboard an anchored bulk carrier noticed an unlit barge alongside and raised the alarm. The ship was anchored near position 38:52N - 119:11E, Jingtang Anchorage. Two robbers wearing masks were seen lowering hoses and escaping from the quarter deck. On searching the ship, oil stains were noticed near a tank sounding pipe. All tanks were sounded. Nothing reported stolen. Local officials informed. (IMB)

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

1. (U) PACIFIC OCEAN: On 2 February, a Chinese fishing boat captain was arrested by the Japanese Coast Guard on suspicion of violating Japan's fishing rights and trying to avoid inspection in Japan's exclusive economic zone, about 300 kilometers southeast of Hahajima Island, Japan. The boat, containing the captain and ten crew members, reportedly turned and sped off when the Coast Guard vessel from Yokohama sounded a siren and issued instructions to stop. The Japanese boat went in pursuit and after a 30 kilometer chase, the Chinese vessel was forced to stop. (www.pvilt.com)

2. (U) AUSTRALIA: On 1 February, authorities in Coffs Harbour announced the seizure of 750 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a sailing yacht that had arrived from a South Pacific island. (www.coffscoastadvocate.com.au)

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: 28 February 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>