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## (U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 12 June–17 July 2019



19 July 2019

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### 1. (U) Scope Note

(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:

1. (U) **MDAT-GoG Advisory 002/JUL/2019:** Category: Attack. Description: On Saturday, 13 July 2019 at approximately 2250 UTC, a merchant vessel was attacked at position 02:58N - 004:40E by two skiffs with 5 to 7 armed men onboard each skiff. Investigations are ongoing. Vessels are advised to exercise extreme caution in this area. Source: Reported to MDAT-GoG by email. 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](mailto:watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org) Emergency Tel: +33(0) 298 22 88 88.

### 3. (U) Summary

1. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 16 July, robbers boarded a barge under tow 0.6 NM west of North Nipa Beacon.
2. (U) **PANAMA:** On 13 July, a robber attempted to board a sailing yacht anchored in Linton Bay.
3. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 13 July, pirates boarded the Turkey-flagged general cargo ship PAKSOY 1 at a position 120 NM southwest of Port Harcourt and kidnapped 10 crewmen.

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4. (U) AZORES: On 12 July, Portugal's criminal investigation police seized half a ton of cocaine on a sailboat in the Azores archipelago and detained two men of foreign nationality.
5. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 9 July, a charter boat was boarded during the night and its dinghy and outboard motor stolen.
6. (U) DR CONGO: On 7 July, two unarmed robbers boarded an anchored vessel at 0430 hrs local time off Pointe-Noire.
7. (U) PANAMA: On 5 July, armed robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Linton Bay.
8. (U) PACIFIC OCEAN: On 11 June, U.S. Coast Guard forces stopped and boarded a semi-submersible vessel in the eastern Pacific. A subsequent search of the vessel revealed more than 17,000 pounds of cocaine onboard.

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

1. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for July and August 2019. 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: Email: [hqt-info-piracy@mlit.go.jp](mailto:hqt-info-piracy@mlit.go.jp) (MSCHOA)
2. (U) GULF OF ADEN: China Navy convoy schedule for July and August 2019. For further information, please email: [planavy@navy.mil.cn](mailto:planavy@navy.mil.cn) (MSCHOA)
3. (U) GULF OF ADEN: South Korea Navy convoy schedule for July 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 at the Escort Task Group CCC: Email: [cheonghae29@navy.mil.kr](mailto:cheonghae29@navy.mil.kr) or [cheonghae29@gmail.com](mailto:cheonghae29@gmail.com) (MSCHOA)

#### **5. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region**

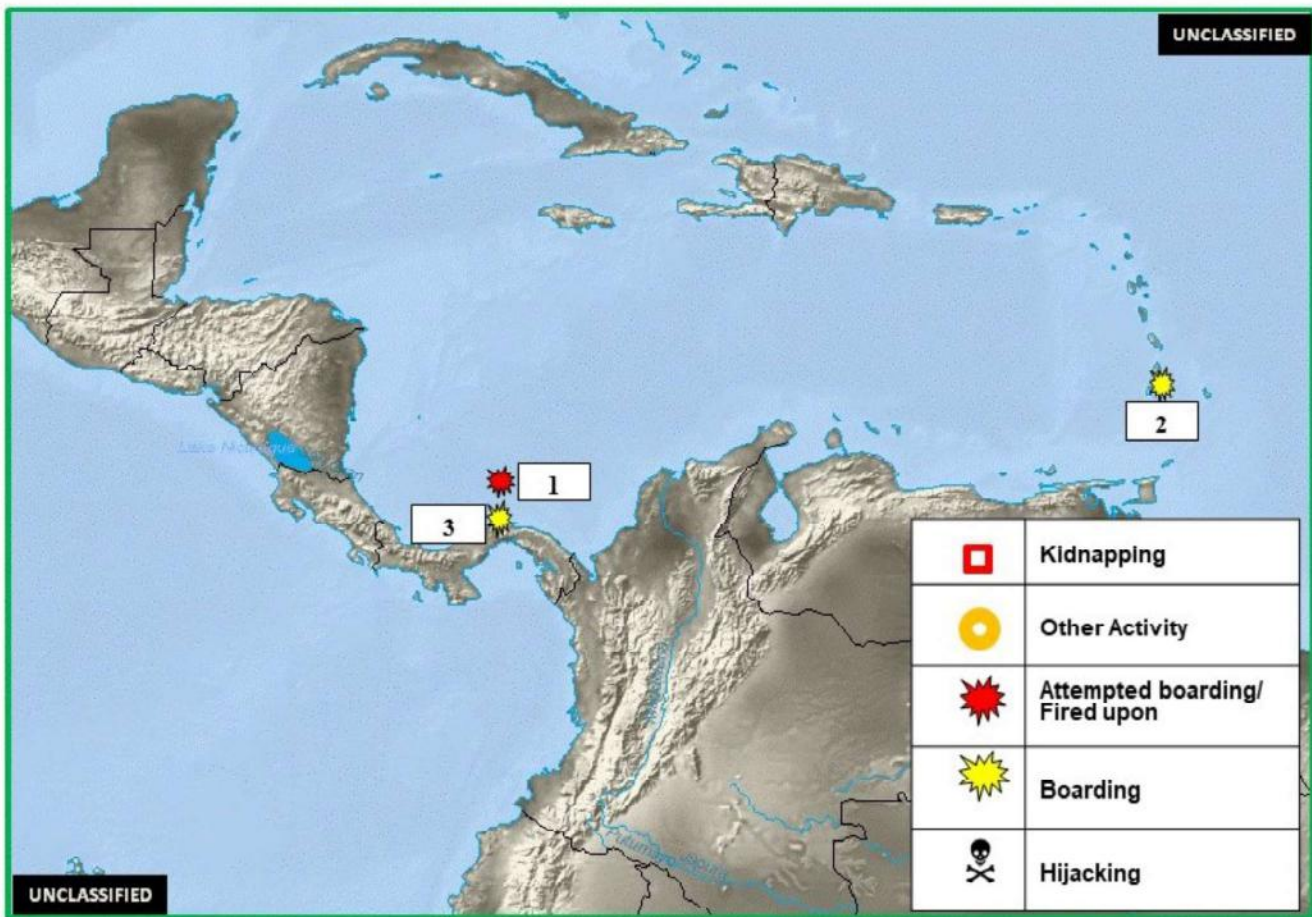
(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the past 30 days. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, 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 17 June, U.S. authorities seized 15,000 kilograms of cocaine hidden in shipping containers aboard the Liberia-flagged container ship MSC GAYANE, arriving from the Bahamas.

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





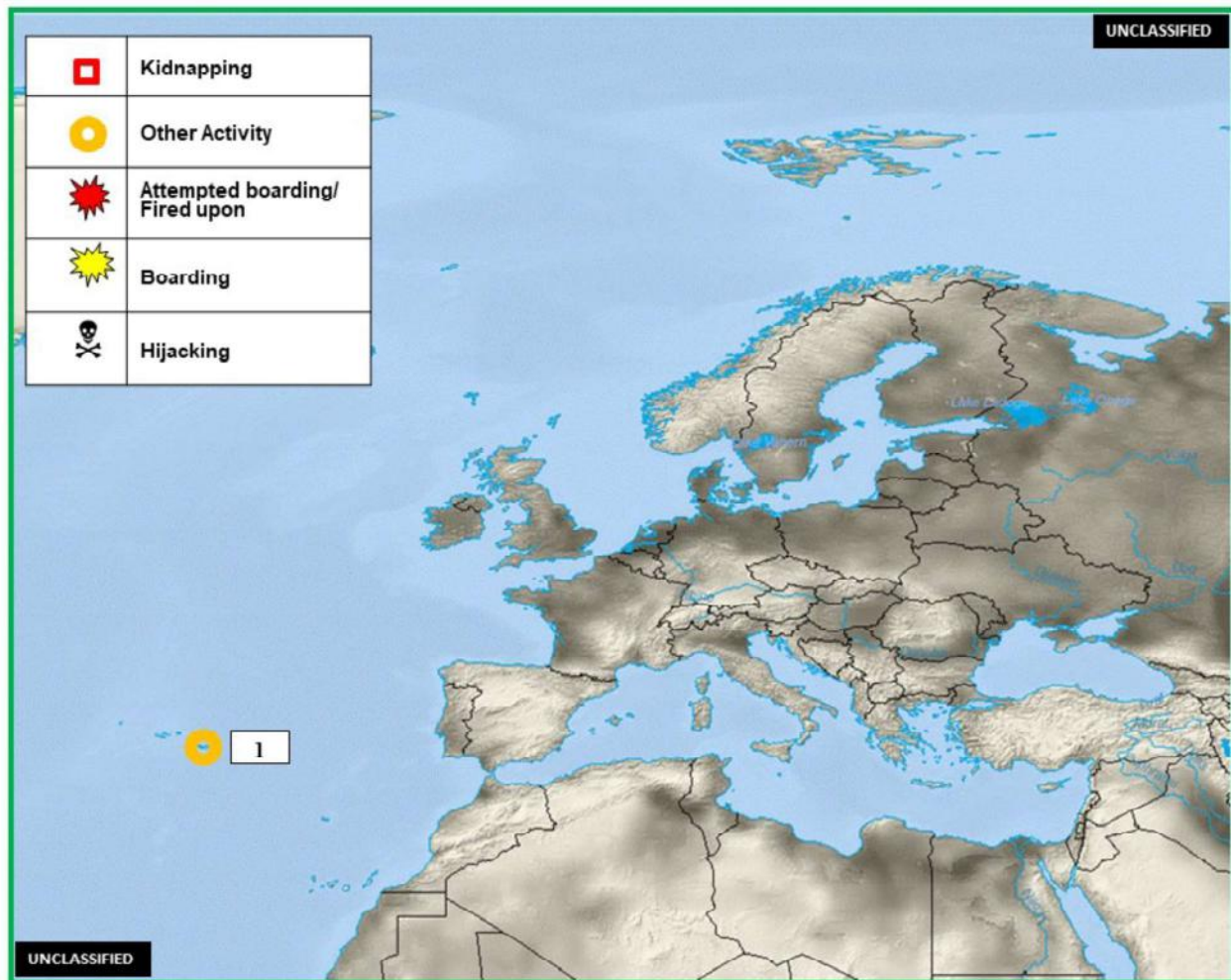
(U) Figure 1. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) PANAMA: On 13 July, a robber attempted to board a sailing yacht anchored in Linton Bay. The yacht owner was awakened by the noise and confronted the robber, who fled. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
2. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 9 July, a charter boat was boarded during the night and its dinghy and outboard motor stolen. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
3. (U) PANAMA: On 5 July, armed robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Linton Bay. The robbers stole everything they could carry and escaped. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
4. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 7 July, a robber boarded a sailing yacht anchored at L'Ance Guyac Point on Canouan. The robber was attempting to unlock the chained dinghy and outboard. The yacht owner awoke and scared the robber away. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
5. (U) SAINT MARTIN: On 3 July, robbers stole a dinghy and outboard from a sailing yacht anchored at Chicken Island. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
6. (U) HONDURAS: On 28 June, a sailing vessel en route from Providencia, Colombia, to the Bay Islands, Honduras, encountered a suspicious approach by 3 small boats near position 16:29N - 084:58W, northeast of Gorda Bank and 87 NM east of Guanaja. The three boats approached the yacht, matching course and speed changes. They approached to within 500 feet and then turned away. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
7. (U) HONDURAS: On 27 June, a sailing vessel en route from Providencia, Colombia, to the Bay Islands, Honduras, encountered a suspicious approach by one 45-foot fishing boat near position 16:20N - 082:57W, northeast of Gorda

Bank and 215 NM east of Guanaja. The fishing boat matched course and speed changes and closed to within 150 feet and attempted to come alongside the yacht. At this point, the yacht released sails and made a hard turn to port, passing behind the stern of the other vessel. They shut off all lights, changed course again and motorsailed at 8 knots away from the vessel. The suspect vessel initially turned to follow but then turned away. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

8. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 29 June, robbers boarded a sailing yacht berthed in Grand Anse D'Arlet twice in the same evening. Cash and cell phones were stolen. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
9. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 13 June, robbers boarded and entered a closed, but unlocked yacht anchored in Canouan Charlestown Bay. Cash and a phone were stolen from the chart table. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:



(U) Figure 2. Atlantic Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) AZORES: On 12 July, Portugal's criminal investigation police seized half a ton of cocaine on a sailboat in the Azores archipelago and detained two men of foreign nationality. They were detained under the ongoing Operation Tiphon to combat narcotic drugs trafficking by sea. ([www.macaubusiness.com](http://www.macaubusiness.com))



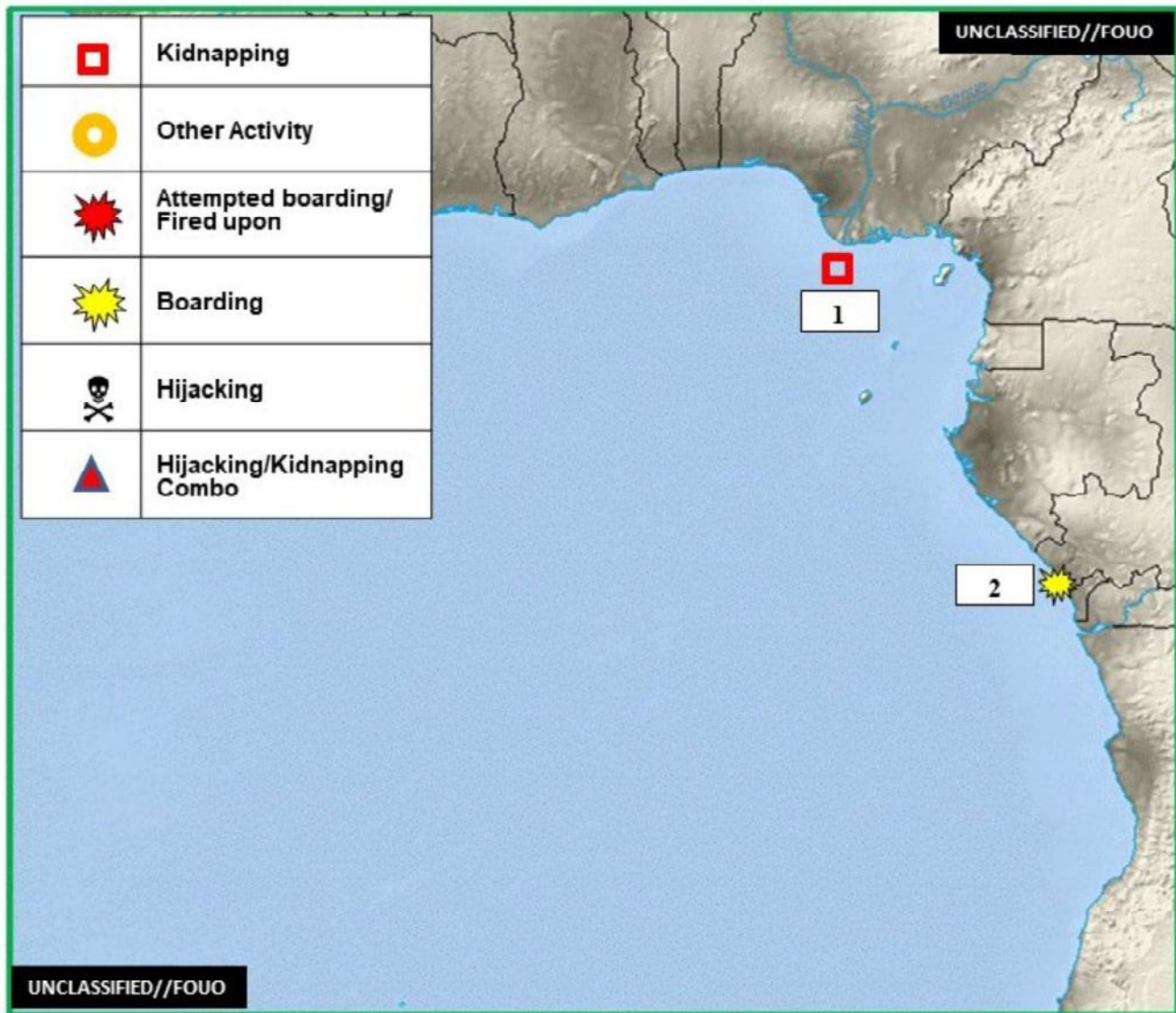
**D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:**

No current incidents to report.

**(U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:**

1. (U) GIBRALTAR: On 4 July, British Royal Marines detained the tanker GRACE 1 because officials said it was transporting oil to Syria, a violation of European Union sanctions. ([www.upi.com](http://www.upi.com))
2. (U) GREECE: On 26 June, customs authorities in the Port of Piraeus seized at least 1.4 million Captagon pills from three shipping containers that had arrived from Syria. ([www.eksthimerini.com](http://www.eksthimerini.com))
3. (U) GREECE: On 22 June, Greek coast guard forces in Piraeus removed nine stowaways that were found inside a shipping container. The stowaways reportedly snuck aboard the ship in Casablanca, Morocco. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))
4. (U) SPAIN: On 17 June, Spanish authorities boarded the Moldova-flagged general cargo ship ELG in waters northeast of Oran, Algeria. A search of the vessel revealed 10 tons of hashish in 350 bales. The vessel was taken to Cartagena, Spain, for further investigation. ELG had been under surveillance for several months after law enforcement agencies from several countries found her movements suspicious. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

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



(U) Figure 3. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 13 July, pirates boarded the Turkey-flagged general cargo ship PAKSOY 1 near position 02:58N - 004:40E, 120 NM southwest of Port Harcourt. The ship was en route from Douala, Cameroon, to Abijan, Ivory Coast. Ten Turkish crewmen were taken hostage. The remaining crew, according to Turkish sources citing a ship owner's statement, took the ship to Tema Anchorage in Ghana. ([www.maritimebulletin.net](http://www.maritimebulletin.net))
2. (U) DR CONGO: On 7 July, two unarmed robbers boarded an anchored vessel at 0430 hrs local time off Pointe-Noire. The two suspects stole ropes and fled in a white skiff. The vessel and crew were reported safe. ([www.pvilt.com](http://www.pvilt.com))
3. (U) NIGERIA: On 8 July, armed men attacked a passenger boat in the Bille waterways of Rivers State, killing one person. ([www.thenationonline.net](http://www.thenationonline.net))
4. (U) CAMEROON: On 3 July, at least 30 separatist gunmen attacked an army boat in the locality of Ekpambiri. A rescue mission was dispatched to the scene and three soldiers were found alive but in critical condition. Ten soldiers are reportedly missing. ([www.journalducameroun.com/en](http://www.journalducameroun.com/en))

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5. (U) SENEGAL: On 30 June, customs officials in the Port of Dakar seized 750 kilograms of cocaine hidden among a consignment of 15 new Renault automobiles. The vehicles were aboard the Italy-flagged vehicle carrier GRANDE NIGERIA that had arrived from Brazil. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))
6. (U) NIGERIA: On 30 June, two crew members onboard a tanker anchored in Lagos STS Anchorage observed a boat with three persons onboard alongside the tanker. All crew were alerted and a naval patrol boat came to assist the vessel. The criminals fled with two stolen moorings lines. (MDAT-GoG; [www.sguardian.com](http://www.sguardian.com))
7. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 June, five Indian seafarers kidnapped on 20 April were released from captivity. They were kidnapped from M/T APECUS near Bonny Island and held for 68 days. ([www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com](http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com))

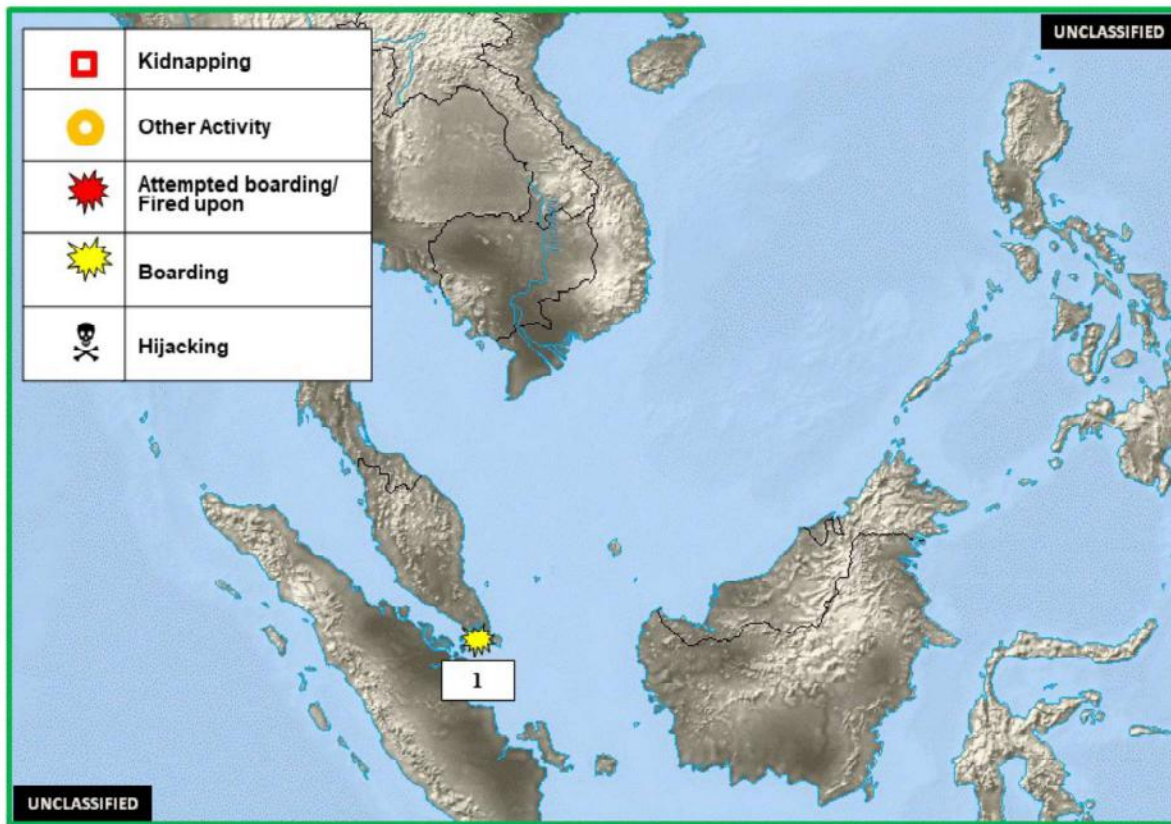
G. (U) **ARABIAN GULF**: No current incidents to report.

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

1. (U) RED SEA: On 8 July, naval forces from the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen foiled an attempted attack on an unidentified commercial ship in the southern Red Sea by the Iran-aligned Houthis, who denied the allegation. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com))
2. (U) RED SEA: On 1 July, a merchant vessel underway near position 12:51N - 043:14E, 11 NM northwest of Perim Island, was approached by three skiffs with five persons in each skiff. The skiffs approached to within 0.1 NM. When the embarked armed security team on the merchant vessel showed their weapons, the skiffs departed. The crew and vessel are safe. (UKMTO)
3. (U) GULF OF OMAN: On 13 June, two tankers reported being attacked in the Gulf of Oman in an area south of Jask, Iran. Marshall Islands-flagged FRONT ALTAIR and Panama-flagged KOKUKA COURAGEOUS suffered exterior explosions resulting in fires. Both ships were reportedly abandoned and the crews rescued by nearby ships. (UKMTO; [www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com); [www.marinelink.com](http://www.marinelink.com); [www.sguardian.com](http://www.sguardian.com))

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





(U) Figure 4. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 July, robbers boarded a barge under tow near position 01:10:23N - 103:39.09E, 0.6 NM west of North Nipa Beacon. The barge was carrying scrap metal bound for Penang, Malaysia. The master of tug boat SUNG FATT 31 reported to the Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that his crew spotted the perpetrators boarding the barge SUNG FATT 36 from an unknown number of sampans. The perpetrators stole scrap metal and escaped via the sampans. There was no confrontation between the perpetrators and the crew. Singapore Police Coast Guard and Republic of Singapore Navy notified. ([www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))
2. (U) INDONESIA: On 30 June, robbers boarded a berthed bulk carrier during cargo operations in Tanjung Priok Port, Jakarta. Duty bosun on routine rounds noticed a storeroom padlock broken and notified the duty officer. Alarm raised and crew mustered. It was reported that ship's properties were stolen. Incident reported to the port authorities. The Port Security Police and the Coast Guard boarded the ship for inspection. (IMB)
3. (U) BANGLADESH: On 24 June, the chieftain of notorious "Fakir Bahini" pirate gang was killed in a gunfight with the Special Forces' Rapid Action Battalion in the Subarnachar Upazila of Noakhali district. ([www.observerbd.com](http://www.observerbd.com))
4. (U) BANGLADESH: On 22 June, three soldiers were killed with another injured in a rocket attack on an anchored Myanmar Army tugboat in Sittway, Rakhine State. An insurgent group fired the rockets. (Xinhua)



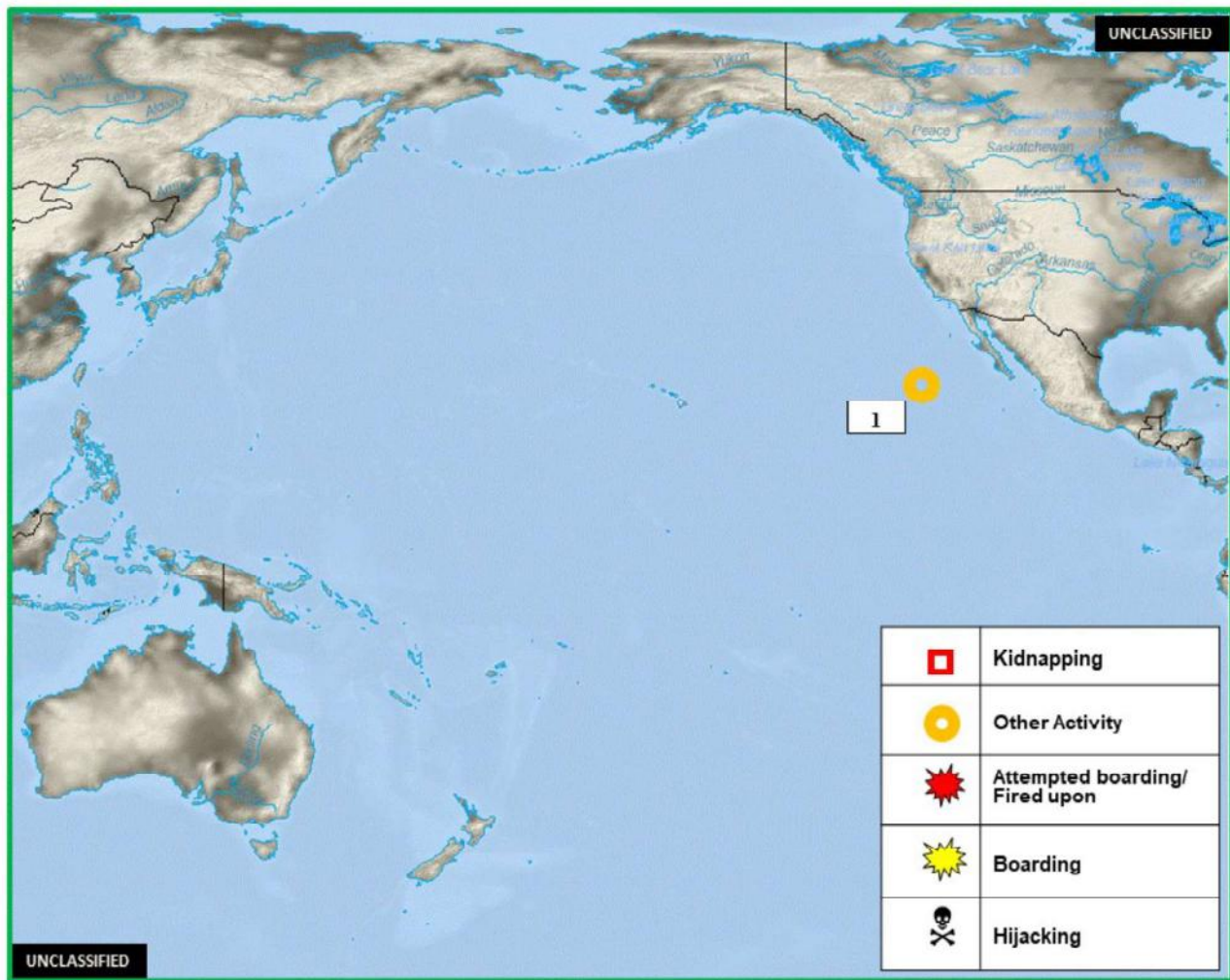
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5. (U) MALAYSIA: UPDATE - On 21 June, Abu Sayyaf gunmen released the kidnapped fishermen after finding that they were Bajau fishermen who had no money to pay for their ransom, Malaysian and Philippine officials said. They were kidnapped on 18 June. ([www.globalnation.inquirer.net](http://www.globalnation.inquirer.net))
6. (U) MALAYSIA: On 18 June, four fishermen were kidnapped from a Malaysian fishing vessel in Lahad Datu's Tambisan waters while en route to Semporna, Sabah. The hijackers are believed to be linked to Abu Sayyaf and may have fled with the hostages to Sitangkai Island. ([www.straitstimes.com](http://www.straitstimes.com); [www.globalnation.inquirer.net](http://www.globalnation.inquirer.net))
7. (U) MALAYSIA: On 18 June, six fishermen were kidnapped from a Malaysian fishing vessel in Lahad Datu's Tambisan waters while en route to Semporna, Sabah. The hijackers are believed to be linked to Abu Sayyaf and may have fled with the hostages to Sitangkai Island. ([www.straitstimes.com](http://www.straitstimes.com); [www.globalnation.inquirer.net](http://www.globalnation.inquirer.net))
8. (U) VIETNAM: On 12 June, customs authorities in the Port of Hai Phong found 3.5 tons of smuggled ivory and 4 tons of smuggled Pangolin scales hidden in barrels among a cargo of tar. ([www.ctvnews.ca](http://www.ctvnews.ca))

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

1. (U) EAST CHINA SEA: On 13 and 14 June, a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ship observed several likely instances of transfers of material between a North Korea-flagged tanker and two unidentified ships. Japan's Foreign Ministry said the vessels were connected with a hose and are suspected of conducting ship-to-ship transfers that are banned under UN Security Council resolutions. ([www.world.kbs.co.kr](http://www.world.kbs.co.kr))

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



(U) Figure 5. Australia - New Zealand - Pacific Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) PACIFIC OCEAN: On 11 June, U.S. Coast Guard forces stopped and boarded a semi-submersible vessel in the eastern Pacific. A subsequent search of the vessel revealed more than 17,000 pounds of cocaine onboard. (www.cnn.com)
2. (U) NEW CALEDONIA: On 24 June, robbers armed with rifles and machetes boarded a tourist boat near the island of Ouvea. The robbers beat the boat captain then looted the boat, stealing personal belongings and escaped. (www.csoalliance.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) The following terms have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis:

- (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 by an unknown vessel.

#### (U) Sourcing

- 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
- Norwegian Shipowners' Mutual War Risks Insurance Association
- 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) The WPU and WTS Reports are posted each week on the ONI Intel Portal and can be found at:

<http://www.oni.navy.mil/News/Weekly-Piracy-Reports/>

(U) ICOD: 17 July 2019