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## (U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 24 September–30 October 2019

31 October 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) **IMB/PRC/Alert - 166-2019:** 300600 UTC OCT 2019. TO: ALL SHIPS TRANSITING IN AND OFF EASTERN SABAH, MALAYSIA/CELEBES SEA/SULU SEA. This warning is a follow up warning broadcast transmitted since 280430 UTC SEP 2019 on alternate days. After re-evaluation by the Philippine and Malaysian Intel on 28 October 2019, this warning is still valid for another week and will be broadcast on alternate days until next re-evaluation on 4 November 2019. Currently threat is still high as Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) is looking to kidnap potential victims. The IMB PRC has received information from Philippines and Malaysian intelligence that on 260300 LT SEP 2019, about 9 ASG members moved from the Tawi Tawi Islands and headed to Semporna waters area intending to carry out abduction. The target is foreign tourists at Matakang Island and Pom-Pom Island, Semporna. Seafarers and vessels are also at risk. The group is said to use two speed boats and armed with M-16, M-4 and M-40 weapons. The seriousness of this group is one of the factors of the abduction incident of fishermen at Tambisan Island recently. This warning will be re-evaluated again on 4 November 2019. Vessels are advised to remain vigilant and maintain strict anti-piracy watch and measures. Early assessment/detection will allow ships to take evasive actions and other anti-piracy measures to prevent boarding and request for assistance. Citadel/safe room is important. All attacks and suspicious sightings should

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be reported to local authorities and to the IMB PRC as per IMO Cir 1334. IMB Piracy Reporting Centre 24 hour anti-piracy helpline +603 2031 0014, fax: +603 2078 5769, email: imbkl@icc-ccs.org / piracy@icc-ccs.org.

2. (U) **MARAD Advisory 2019-012-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Red Sea-Threats to Commercial Vessels by Iran.** Description: This revised advisory cancels U.S. Maritime Advisories 2019-004 and 2019-008. References: U.S. Maritime Alerts 2019-004A, 2019-003A, 2019-002A, and 2019-001A. Issue: Heightened military activity and increased political tensions in this region continue to pose serious threats to commercial vessels. Associated with these threats is a potential for miscalculation or misidentification that could lead to aggressive actions. Vessels operating in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman may also encounter GPS interference, bridge-to-bridge communications spoofing, and/or other communications jamming with little to no warning. For more information about U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories, including subscription details, please visit <http://www.marad.dot.gov/MSCI.21>

### 3. (U) Summary

1. (U) LIBYA: On 27 October, two speedboats flying the flag of Libya fired shots at a German NGO rescue ship ALAN KURDI in international waters just outside Libya's territorial waters.
2. (U) SOUTH KOREA: On 19 October, the Korea Coast Guard (KCG) seized two 40-ton Chinese fishing boats that illegally caught a total of 400 kilograms of cod, squid, and Korean cero.

### 4. (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) CANADA: On 1 October, authorities announced the seizure of 148 kilograms of cocaine from the Malta-flagged bulk carrier NAVIOS LUZ in the Port of Quebec. (www.cbc.ca)

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

1. (U) ARUBA: On 13 October, authorities intercepted a small tug boat and during a search of the vessel, 2.2 tons of cocaine were found. The vessel was seized and the five Venezuelans onboard were arrested. (www.insightcrime.org)
2. (U) PERU: On 12 October, three robbers boarded a tanker anchored near position 11:59S - 077:11W, Callao Anchorage. Alarm was raised and crew was mustered. Seeing the alerted crew the robbers escaped in their boat. Further investigations indicated that the perpetrators opened the Bosun storeroom skylight but were unable to steal anything. (IMB)
3. (U) GUATEMALA: On 11 October, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Río Dulce Shell Bay. The robbers stole a dinghy and outboard motor from the yacht. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
4. (U) BRAZIL: On 13 October, authorities seized 1.3 tons of cocaine concealed among a cargo of sugar in a container at Paranagua Port. Authorities found the narcotics during a routine cargo inspection. The narcotics were bound for Rotterdam Port in the Netherlands. (www.pviltld.com)
5. (U) HAITI: On 12 October, robbers armed with guns and long knives boarded an anchored vessel near position 18:33N - 072:23W, Port Au Prince Anchorage. The robbers tied up a duty crewman. During the robbery, the ship's alarm was raised. The robbers escaped with stolen ship's properties. Incident reported to pilot station. (IMB)

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6. (U) PERU: On 4 October, Peruvian officials detained a ship carrying 12.3 million dried seahorses worth approximately \$6 million, about 200 miles off the Pacific Coast. The seahorses were illegally purchased for use in Chinese medicine. (Associated Press)
7. (U) PERU: On 30 September, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Callao Port. They took a duty crewman hostage and tied his hands. When the duty officer did not receive a response from that duty crewman, he ordered others to investigate. Upon arriving at the forecastle, they found the duty crewman and raised the alarm. Hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped. The duty crewman was unharmed. Two mooring ropes were reported missing. Incident reported to the port authority and local agent. (IMB)
8. (U) COLOMBIA: On 30 September, Colombian authorities received a report of a sinking boat off Tumaco, Narino department. Authorities arrived on scene locating three drug smugglers clinging to packages of cocaine to remain afloat. Authorities arrested the three men and seized 1.5 tons of cocaine. The cocaine was destined for Central America. ([www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))
9. (U) GRENADA: Between 23 and 26 September, robbers stole a 15-hp Yamaha outboard engine from a dinghy at Prickly Bay Marina Dock in position 12:00N - 061:45W. ([www.caribbeansafetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.caribbeansafetyandsecuritynet.org))
10. (U) ST CROIX: On 25 September, robbers stole a dinghy and outboard motor from a sailing yacht. A second search of an area known to be used by thieves located the undamaged dinghy, hidden behind some fishing boats. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

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

(U) No current incidents to report.

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

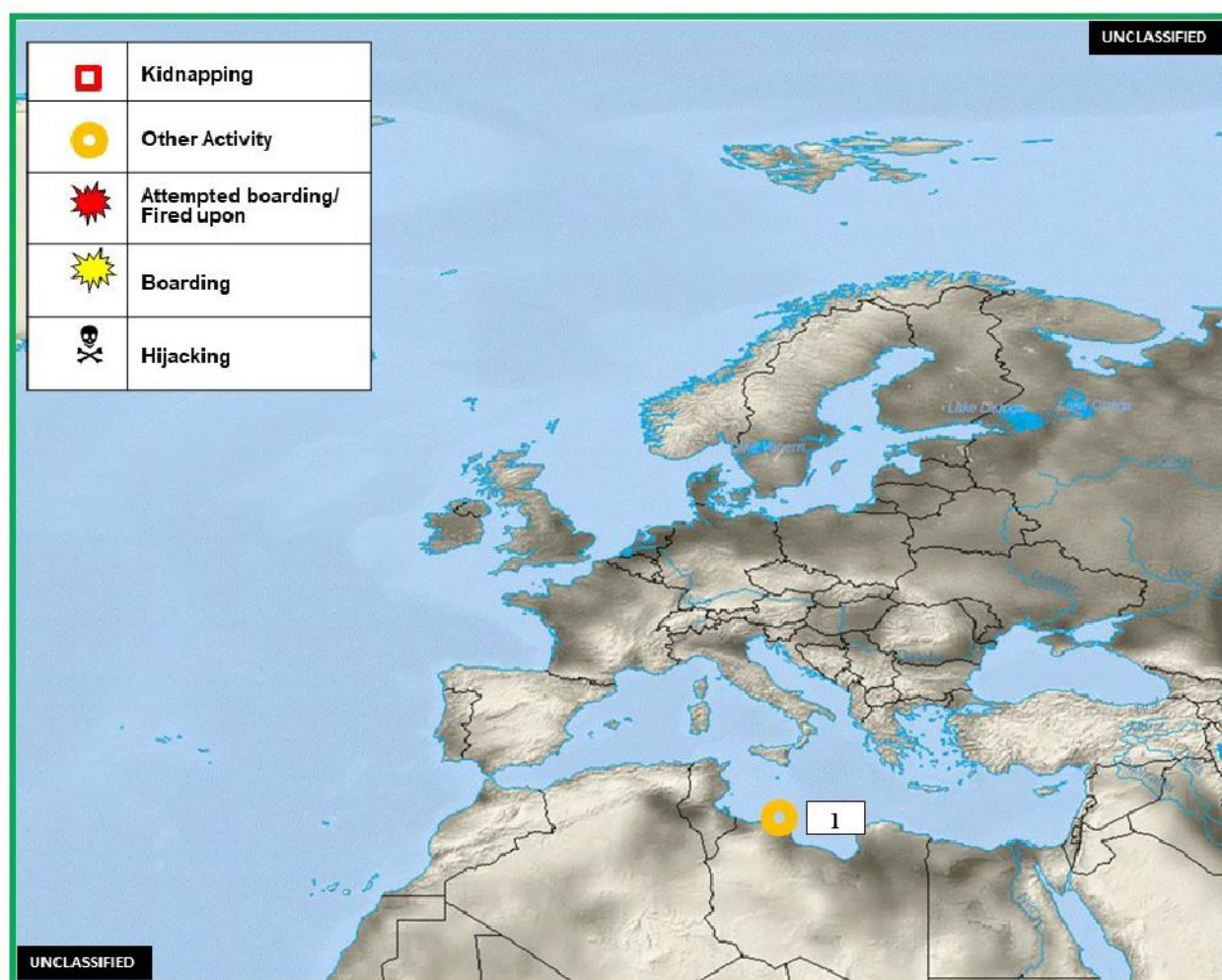
1. (U) FRANCE: On 28 September, eight Albanian migrants were found in the engine room onboard the Dutch freighter EEMS DART while in transit from Rouen, France, to Doheda, Ireland. The ship returned the migrants to Cherbourg, France, the same day. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

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

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(U) Figure 1. Mediterranean - Black Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) LIBYA: On 27 October, two speedboats flying the flag of Libya fired shots at a German NGO rescue ship ALAN KURDI in international waters just outside Libya's territorial waters. The rescue ship received a report of migrants in distress. The NGO ship arrived on scene and found a large overloaded raft. ALAN KURDI's responders distributed lifejackets to the passengers and had begun to transfer them onboard when two white speedboats arrived. A crewman in one of the speedboats then fired a bow-mounted machine gun at the rescue ship. One Libyan boat took several of the migrants onboard, but these rescuees soon jumped off again, likely a reflection of their reluctance to return to Libya. Despite the interference, ALAN KURDI's crew was able to rescue more than 90 people, and is heading toward Lampedusa, Italy. ([www.maritime-executive.com](http://www.maritime-executive.com))
2. (U) LIBYA: On 21 October, Libya's Coast Guard intercepted 126 migrants off the coastal town of Garabulli. The migrants were all nationals of unspecified African countries. Libya remains a key departure point for migrants trying to reach Europe, although attempted crossings have decreased since 2017. ([www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))

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

1. (U) CONGO: On 8 October, one robber boarded a research vessel anchored near position 04:45S - 011:49E, Pointe Noire Anchorage. The master heard noises coming from the bow area and saw the robber. The alarm was raised and the crew was mustered. The robber escaped in a waiting boat. (IMB)

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2. (U) NIGERIA: On 7 October, eight robbers armed with guns boarded a tanker berthed in Apapa BOP Terminal, Lagos. An alert crewman saw the robbers and raised the alarm. Before escaping, the robbers fired towards the crew. No injuries reported. Cargo from the terminal's manifolds was reported stolen. (IMB)
3. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 October, robbers boarded a drifting fishing vessel experiencing machinery problems near position 04:21N - 006:52E, the mouth of the Sambreiro River. The robbers vandalized the vessel and escaped. The vessel's owners notified the Nigerian Navy, who were able to locate and inspect the vessel. (IMB)
4. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 October, three robbers boarded a tanker anchored near position 06:17N - 003:13E, Lagos Secure Anchorage Area. They were spotted by a duty crewman who informed the duty officer. Alarm was raised. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped without stealing anything. Incident reported to Nigerian Navy after which a patrol boat arrived for investigation. (IMB)
5. (U) GAMBIA: On 30 September, the Gambian Navy in conjunction with an environmental NGO intercepted and suspended the operations of a Chinese fishing vessel operating near Mandinari. This is part of an illegal fishing enforcement action in West Africa. ([www.allafrica.com](http://www.allafrica.com))
6. (U) NIGERIA: On 26 September, two boats with 24 passengers were hijacked on the Port Harcourt-Bonny waterway. ([www.thenewsnigeria.com](http://www.thenewsnigeria.com))

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

(U) No current incidents to report.

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

(U) No current incidents to report.

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

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 21 October, robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged cargo ship CSK ENTERPRISE near position 06:01N - 105:53E, Cigading Anchorage. The robbers were sighted near the engine room entrance. The alarm was raised and crew was mustered. The robbers escaped without stealing anything. ([www.arxmaritime.com](http://www.arxmaritime.com))
2. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 October, a duty oiler on routine rounds onboard an underway bulk carrier was taken hostage by five robbers armed with a gun and knives near position 01:03N - 103:38E. The robbers threatened the oiler and tied his hands. They then stole ship's spares and escaped. The oiler reported the incident to the OOW who raised the alarm and notified Singapore authorities. (IMB)
3. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 October, five robbers boarded the Greece-flagged tanker HIRADO near position 01:04N - 103:41E, 4.1 NM northeast of Pulau Cula. They were spotted in the engine room. Alarm was raised and the robbers escaped. The ship was searched and nothing was stolen. ([www.arxmaritime.com](http://www.arxmaritime.com))
4. (U) MALAYSIA: On 6 October, robbers boarded a tanker anchored near position 01:18N - 104:07E, Johor Anchorage. The robbers stole ship's properties and escaped unnoticed. Duty crewman on routine rounds noticed the theft and notified the duty officer. (IMB)
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 30 September, four robbers boarded the Panama-flagged chemical tanker BRIGHT DAWN while the ship was berthed near position 01:45N - 101:22E, Lubuk Guang SDS Terminal ST 01. They proceeded to enter the engine room, near the workshop and stole engine spares. The duty oiler saw the robbers and informed the duty officer, who raised the alarm. The crew was mustered and searched the ship. The robbers managed to escape the vessel along with the engine spares. The master of the vessel then proceeded to report the incident to the local port authority and flag state. ([www.arxmaritime.com](http://www.arxmaritime.com))
6. (U) PHILLIPINES: On 6 October, a British man and his Filipino wife were abducted from a resort they owned in Tukuran town in Zamboanga del Sur Province. The gunmen fled with the couple in two motorized boats that departed in opposite directions. It is unknown if the couple is together or separated. The Philippine military has created a taskforce to attempt to rescue the couple. ([www.stratstimes.com](http://www.stratstimes.com))

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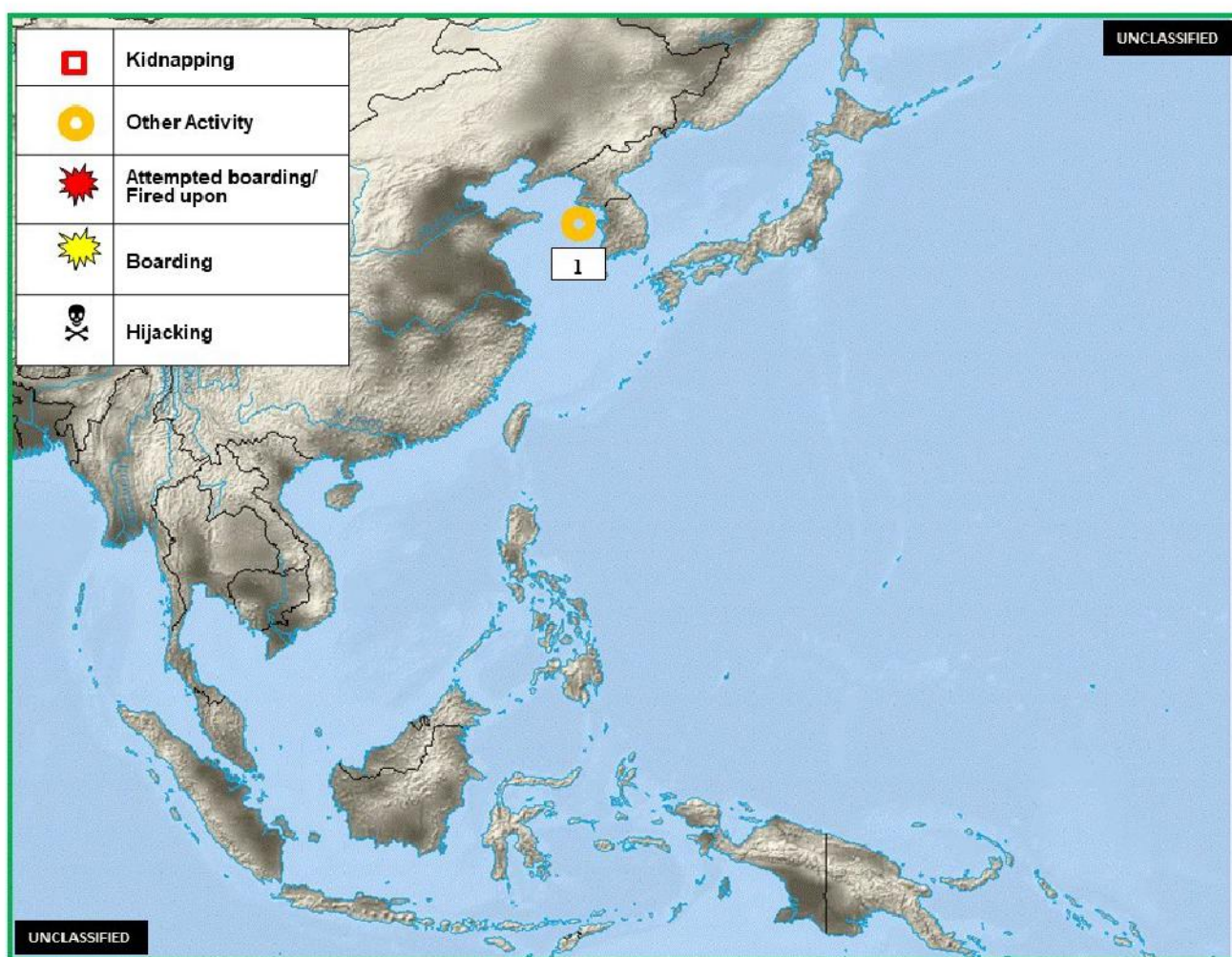


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7. (U) SINGAPORE: On 30 September, deck crew spotted five armed robbers on the aft deck of a bulk carrier underway in the Singapore Strait near position 01:02N - 103:39E. The crew raised an alarm, activated SSAS and made a PA announcement. The robbers escaped without stealing anything. The incident was reported to VTIS. Singapore Coast Guard escorted the ship to Singapore where they boarded and searched the ship to ensure all robbers had departed. (IMB)
  8. (U) INDONESIA: On 30 September, deck crewman on routine rounds onboard a bulk carrier underway near position 01:02N - 103:39E, 3.7 NM west of Pulau Cula, saw five armed robbers on the aft deck. Alarm was raised, SSAS was activated, and a PA announcement was made resulting in the robbers escaping without stealing anything. The crew reported the incident to local authorities. A coast guard boat came and escorted the ship to Singapore, where they boarded and searched the ship to ensure that no robbers were still onboard. (IMB)
  9. (U) BANGLADESH: On 28 September, members of Bangladesh Coast Guard rescued three fisherman who were abducted by a pirate gang near Syamnagar upazila. The coast guard also detained two pirates and recovered two foreign firearms, a rifle, and 21 bullets during the rescue. Additional pirates managed to escape prior to being detained. (Dhaka The Daily Observer Online)
  10. (U) MALAYSIA: On 25 September, at 0606 LT, a bosun on a vessel anchored near position 01:34N - 104:31E, 16 NM east of Bandar Penawar, Johor, noticed three robbers on the forecastle. The bosun immediately informed the duty officer, who raised the alarm. The robbers who boarded via anchor chain and stole ship's equipment from the forward store managed to escape. Incident reported to regional authorities. (IMB)
  11. (U) MALAYSIA: On 25 September at 0415 LT, robbers boarded an anchored tanker via anchor chain and stole ship's equipment from the forward store and escaped unseen. The ship was anchored near position 01:34N - 104:31E, 16 NM east of Bandar Penawar, Johor. Incident reported to regional authorities. (IMB)
- J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:

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(U) Figure 2. Northeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SOUTH KOREA: On 19 October, the Korea Coast Guard (KCG) announced that they had seized two 40-ton Chinese fishing boats in the West Sea with 400 kilograms of illegally caught cod, squid, and Korean cerco. The crew members violently resisted the Coast Guard's attempt to seize the vessels, throwing hand axes and shackles at the Korean officers. They face charges of obstruction of justice as well as violation of the Economic Zone Fishery Sovereignty of South Korea Act. ([www.koreaherald.com](http://www.koreaherald.com))
2. (U) JAPAN: On 7 October, a North Korean fishing vessel fishing in Japan's EEZ collided with a Japanese Fisheries Agency patrol vessel that had warned it to leave the area. At least 60 crewmembers were rescued after they went overboard as the vessel sank. The incident took place about 350 kilometers northwest of the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture. (The Asahi Shimbun, AFP, Kyodo News)
3. (U) RUSSIA: Between 28 and 30 September, Russia's Maritime Territory Border Department of the Federal Security Service stopped the illegal activities of 11 North Korean fishing vessels operating in Russia's exclusive economic zone in the Sea of Japan. Eighty-seven North Korean fishermen were arrested and their fishing gear confiscated, along with more than four thousand squid that were caught illegally. The alleged poachers are being taken to the Russian port of Posyet for further investigation. (BBC)

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



(U) No current incidents to report.

## 5. (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 (WTS) 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 Weekly Piracy Update 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).

## 6. (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
- 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 Weekly Piracy Update (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: 30 October 2019