



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** **14 May - 13 June 2018**



14 June 2018

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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:** No current incidents to report.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) LIBYA: On 10 June, Libyan Coast Guard units intercepted 152 African and Arab migrants off the northwestern towns of Zuwara and Garabulli.

B. (U) MOROCCO: On 10 June, the navy rescued 472 migrants in the vicinity of Gibraltar.

C. (U) LIBYA: Between 9 and 10 June, the migrant rescue ship AQUARIUS rescued 629 migrants during six different operations.

D. (U) SINT MAARTEN: On 8 June, a robber boarded an unlocked catamaran berthed at Blue Pearl Marina.

E. (U) SEYCHELLES: On 7 June, the Seychelles Coast Guard patrol ship intercepted a Sri Lanka-flagged fishing vessel on suspicion of illegal fishing.

F. (U) BULGARIA: On 7 June, authorities in the Port of Varna intercepted 16.2 tons of precursor chemicals used in the production of synthetic drugs.

- G. (U) ITALY: On 7 June, authorities intercepted a Dutch fishing boat 130 nm southeast of Sicily. A search of the ship revealed 10 tons of hashish.
- H. (U) MAURITANIA: On 5 June, Mauritanian military officers arrested 50 Senegalese nationals aboard a boat near the port city of Nouadhibou.
- I. (U) ARABIAN SEA: Between 3 and 5 June, the Australian warship HMAS WARRAMUNGA seized three large-scale drug shipments totaling more than 5.9 tons from vessels in the Arabian Sea.
- J. (U) ITALY: On 4 June, authorities in Portofino arrested a 50-year old woman from England for the hijacking of a yacht owned by a local boat rental company.
- K. (U) HONG KONG: On 4 June, authorities seized 7,000 kilograms of suspected smuggled mercury.
- L. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 3 June, one robber boarded a catamaran anchored in South Glossy Bay.
- M. (U) KENYA: On 2 June, 109 Tanzanian fishermen were arrested by Kenya Defense Forces officers for engaging in illegal fishing within Kenya's territorial waters.
- N. (U) MALAYSIA: On 31 May, fourteen intruders boarded and attempted to rob a Mongolia-flagged oil tanker while anchored 34 nm east of Mersing.
- O. (U) HONG KONG: On 30 May, Customs officers discovered nearly six tons of endangered rosewood in a shipment of gypsum boards from Malaysia.

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

- A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for June 2018. 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 June 2018. For further information, please e-mail: planavy@navy.mil.cn or etg546cn@163.com, or call Tel 00870 773 120 772. (MSCHOA)
- C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: India Navy convoy escort schedule for June and July 2018. To register, email: gcommcentre-dgs@nic.in; or visit ww.dgshipping.com. Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22-22613636. (MSCHOA)
- D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korea Navy convoy schedule for June and July 2018. 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 001-646-466-9522. Email: chunghae26@navy.mil. (MSCHOA)

5. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later found to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) NORTH AMERICA:

1. (U) MEXICO: On 16 May, the Mexican Navy seized a boat carrying a shipment of 1.3 tons of cocaine off the Pacific coast in the state of Michoacan. The Ministry of the Navy and Army indicated that soldiers arrested six Mexican nationals and two Ecuadorians during the operation, 166 kilometers southwest of the port of Lazaro Cardenas. (www.xinhuanet.com)

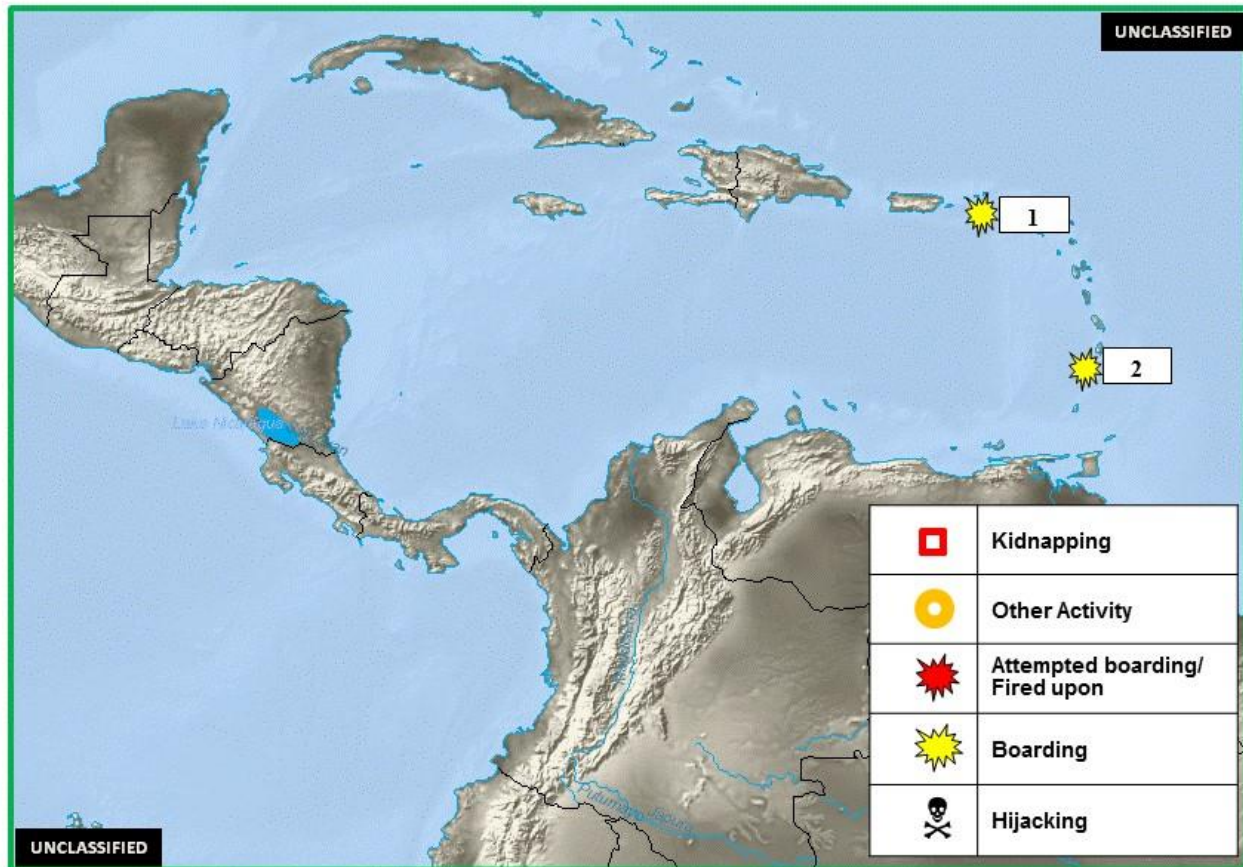
B. (U) CENTRAL AMERICA - CARIBBEAN - SOUTH AMERICA:

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

1. (U) SINT MAARTEN: On 8 June, a robber boarded an unlocked catamaran berthed at Blue Pearl Marina. The robber stole the dinghy and outboard, cellphones and laptop. The dinghy/outboard was found the next day, hidden nearby. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

2. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 3 June, one robber boarded a catamaran anchored in South Glossy Bay. The owners were awoken when the robber tried to pry open a locked deck hatch. The thief, once discovered, ran forward and jumped overboard and swam away. Minor damage, but nothing taken. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

3. (U) PERU: On 1 June, a Peruvian fishing vessel flying a Belize flag, F/V DAMANZAIHAO, described as the world's largest fish factory vessel, was seized by the Ministry of Environment for reported acts of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. The vessel, which is capable of processing approximately 547,000 tons of fish per year, faced multi-million dollar penalties in 2016 for proven IUU violations. The ship is being held in Chimbote. The ship requested permission to leave port from Peru twice, however, a non-profit marine conservation group had written to the Peruvian government

imploing it to take measures against the vessel which is accused of marine pollution in addition to IUU violations. (www.breakingbelizenews.com; www.amandala.com.bz)

4. (U) PERU: On 30 May, police seized 1,150 kilograms of cocaine at Paita port. The narcotics, which were hidden in a shipment of frozen fish, were destined for Spain. Eight Peruvians and four Colombians were arrested in connection with the seizure. (www.pvilt.com)

5. (U) VENEZUELA: On 23 May, a white skiff with three robbers onboard came alongside an anchored product tanker near position 10:11N - 064:47W, Puerto Jose Anchorage. They tried to board the tanker via the poop deck. Duty crewman spotted the robbers and raised the alarm resulting in the robbers aborting the attempted boarding and moving away. (IMB)

6. (U) BRAZIL: On 20 May, officials from the state of Maranhão said a local fishing boat found a drifting vessel with 27 people aboard, including migrants from Senegal, Nigeria, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Cape Verde, along with two Brazilians, the government said in a statement. Some were suffering from dehydration. A Brazilian newspaper, citing a Federal Police officer, said that both rescued Brazilians were arrested for human trafficking. The official also said the migrants paid to be illegally transported to Brazil. The boat had reportedly been at sea for five weeks. (www.yahoo.com)

7. (U) DOMINICA: On 19 May, one robber boarded a sailing yacht anchored in the Price Rupert Bay mooring area. When the owners returned to their boat hours later they discovered a man inside their boat. He had broken the lock to gain access and rummaged the saloon and cabins in an apparent search for cash, there was none. He jumped overboard as they approached and claimed that he had not taken anything. A search of the vessel revealed that no property or valuables had been stolen. Report made to local authorities. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org; www.noonsite.com)

8. (U) CUBA: On 14 May, two men boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Cienfuegos Harbor and attempted to steal articles of value and an unsecured dinghy. The owner was awakened and chased the would-be thieves off. There was no damage and nothing was taken. A report was made to the port captain and on the VHF net. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

9. (U) PUERTO RICO: On 14 May, authorities intercepted a 28-foot boat near Cabo Rojo. An inspection of the boat found 601 kilograms of cocaine. Two men on the boat were arrested. (www.viconsortium.com)

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

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:

1. (U) ENGLAND: On 30 May, a man from Romania was arrested for human smuggling after authorities in the Port of Dover found a 16-year-old Vietnamese boy inside a suitcase in the trunk of the man's car. The suitcase was discovered when the car was searched at the inbound search area of the port, for vehicles arriving in the UK from France on a ferry. (www.kentlive.news)

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

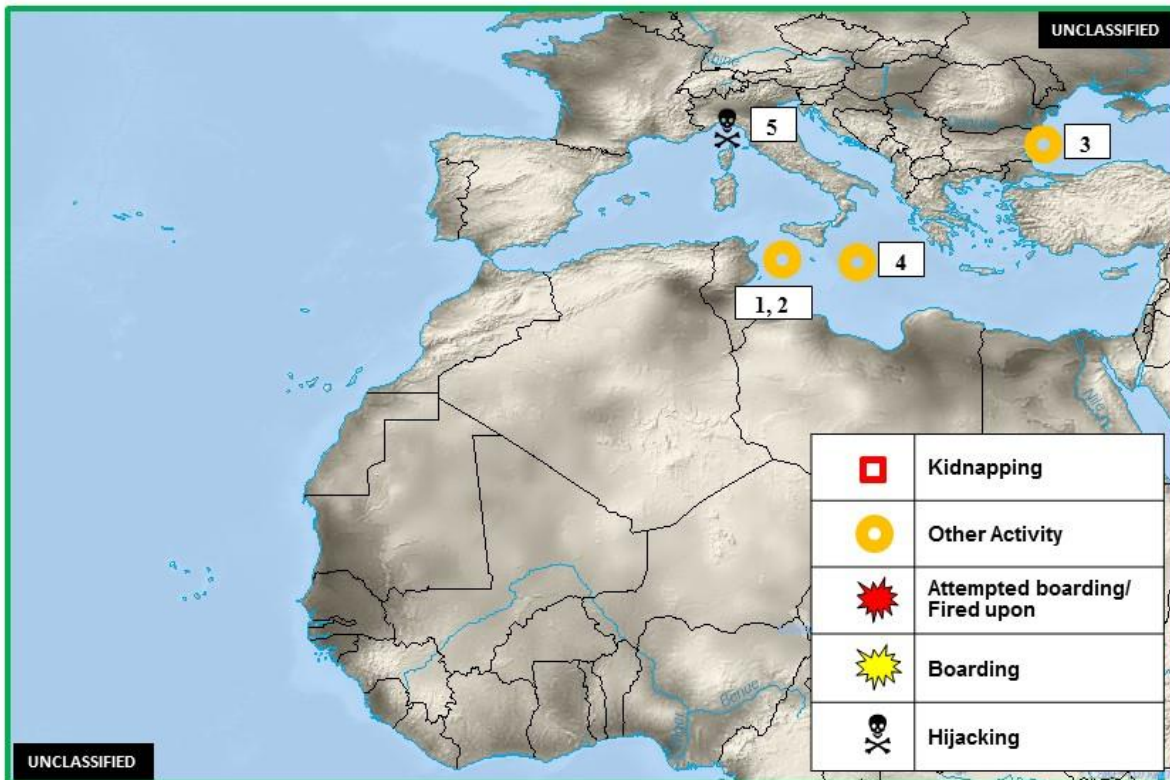


Figure 2. Mediterranean - Black Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) LIBYA: On 10 June, Libyan Coast Guard units intercepted 152 African and Arab migrants off the northwestern towns of Zuwara and Garabulli, local media reported. The coast guard said that the migrants were aboard two sinking rubber dinghies when they were rescued. The migrants were taken to Tripoli. (www.pvilttd.com)

2. (U) LIBYA: Between 9 and 10 June, the migrant rescue ship AQUARIUS rescued 629 migrants during six different operations. The ship is en route Valencia, Spain. (www.fleetmon.com)

3. (U) BULGARIA: On 7 June, authorities in the Port of Varna intercepted 16.2 tons of precursor chemicals used in the production of synthetic drugs. Two Dutch nationals were arrested. (www.focus-fen.net)

4. (U) ITALY: On 7 June, Italy's Guardia di Finanza (GDF) finance police intercepted a Dutch fishing boat 130 nm southeast of Sicily after tracking the vessel from the air for two days, a statement said, arresting all nine members of the vessel's crew. A search of the vessel turned up 10 tons of hashish. Two of the detained, including the first officer, have been identified as members of a "dangerous" Maltese criminal organization, the authorities said. They had been arrested in Spain last summer in a joint operation between the GDF and Spanish police for trafficking 6,000 cases of contraband cigarettes. (www.thelocal.it)

5. (U) ITALY: On 4 June, authorities in Portofino arrested a 50-year old woman from England for the hijacking of a yacht owned by a local boat rental company. Reportedly, the woman found the keys to start the yacht and was on the way out of the harbor when a harbor worker managed to jump aboard in time, grabbing the keys from the ignition and steering the vessel back to its mooring. He then called the port authority and the local Carabinieri paramilitary police, who arrested

her. A local newspaper dubbed her “the Portofino pirate”. (www.telegraph.co.uk)

6. (U) ALGERIA: On 29 May, authorities intercepted the container ship VEGA MERCURY using an Algerian Navy ship and helicopter, off Oran. Algerian authorities were alerted by Spanish authorities about a probable drug shipment onboard. More than 700 kilograms of cocaine were found in boxes marked as “halal meat.” Fourteen people were arrested, including 3 from the ship’s crew. (www.fleetmon.com)

7. (U) SPAIN: On 21 May, the Spanish Civil Guards confirmed the seizure of over 900 kilos of cocaine and 10 arrests in an operation centered on the port city of Algeciras in the southwest of the country. A Civil Guard statement explained the cocaine had come from South-America hidden in a cargo of fruit. (www.menafn.com)

8. (U) SPAIN: On 19 May, the Spanish National Police intercepted a fishing boat 110 nm off the eastern Spanish coast, carrying 15 tons of hashish. The fishing boat was illegally sailing under a Maltese flag when it was spotted. All four of the ship’s crew, consisting of a Bulgarian national and three Dutch citizens, were arrested. (www.pvilt.com)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

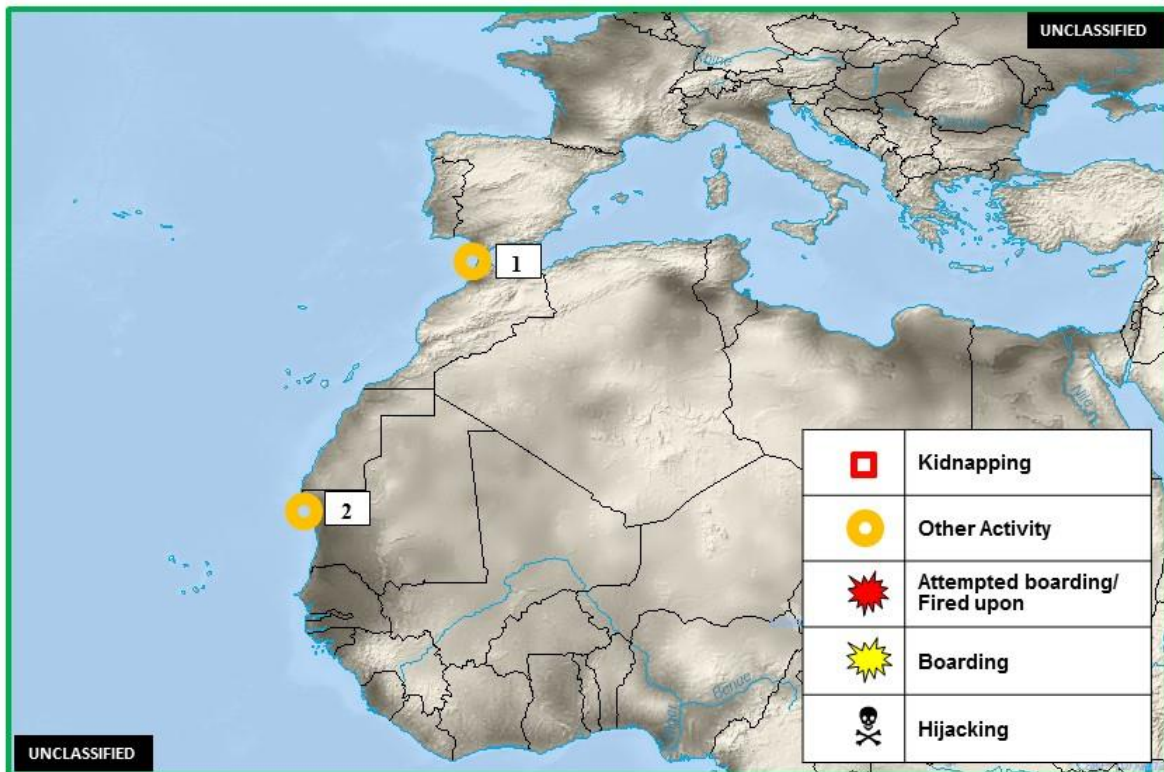


Figure 3. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MOROCCO: On 10 June, the navy rescued 472 migrants in the vicinity of Gibraltar, the army said in a statement. The migrants were rescued after their vessel broke down, the statement added. (www.pvilt.com)

2. (U) MAURITANIA: On 5 June, Mauritanian military officers arrested 50 Senegalese nationals aboard a boat near the port city of Nouadhibou. The group were reportedly heading to the Spanish archipelago of the Canary Islands. The migrants were questioned by the military before being handed over to the police and returned to Senegal, according to the Customs force in Mauritania. (www.pvilt.com)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 June, two robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 06:17N - 003:21E, Lagos Anchorage, using a hook attached to a rope. The duty officer and the armed security guard noticed the robbers on the forecastle deck. The armed guard fired a warning shot resulting in the robbers escaping. A search of the ship was conducted, with ship's stores reported missing. Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre Nigeria informed. (IMB)
 4. (U) GHANA: On 26 May, authorities arrested three persons in connection with illegal oil transfer at the canoes basin at the Tema port. The culprits were said to have been caught while transferring oil from a specially designed canoe into three oil tanker trucks ashore using a pump. Checks revealed that the canoes, which have been crafted like fishing vessels, were being used to convey oil illegally into the port from ships at sea. (www.modernghana.com; www.ghanaweb.com)
 5. (U) NIGERIA: On 26 May, seven robbers boarded a berthed ro-ro ship near position 06:52N - 003:57E, Lagos Port. They took hostage the duty crew, tied him up, took his UHF radio and asked for the location of the paint store and then stole ship's stores. The duty crew managed to free himself and raised the alarm resulting in the robbers escaping. A search was carried out. PFSO and local agents informed. (IMB)
 6. (U) NIGERIA: On 25 May, two robbers attempted to board a merchant vessel near position 06:18N - 003:20E, 7 nm south of Lagos. Alarm was sounded. The robbers jumped off the vessel into a skiff and escaped. (www.sguardian.com)
 7. (U) NIGERIA: On 23 May, a merchant vessel reported a boarding near position 06:15N - 003:12E, Lagos Anchorage. The intruder was sighted on deck, crew raised alarm and intruder jumped overboard and escaped in a skiff. (www.sguardian.com; MDAT-GoG)
 8. (U) NIGERIA: On 23 May, Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement saying that 11 kidnapped crew of Dutch freighter FWN RAPIDE were released by pirates. No details were released. General cargo ship FWN RAPIDE was attacked by pirates in the Port Harcourt approaches, Nigeria, on the morning 21 April. (www.fleetmon.com)
 9. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 21 May, one pirate attempted to board a drifting product tanker near position 03:46N - 001:30E, approximately 140 nm south of Lome, Togo. The attempt was thwarted by a crewmember and the perpetrator fled in a skiff with a further 6 accomplices. Master reported a suspicious vessel in the vicinity from which the pirates could have approached his vessel. (IMB; MDAT-GoG)
 10. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 May, seven robbers attempted to board an anchored bulk carrier using a rope attached to a hook near position 06:26N - 003:23E, Lagos Anchorage. Duty crewman noticed the robbers, raised the alarm and alerted the security watchmen who notified the local authorities. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers aborted the attempted boarding and moved away. (IMB)
 11. (U) NIGERIA: On 17 May, pirates attacked a merchant ship near position 03:530N - 006:42E, near Okwori Oil Field and kidnapped 4 crewmen. (MDAT-GoG)
- G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:** No current incidents to report.

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

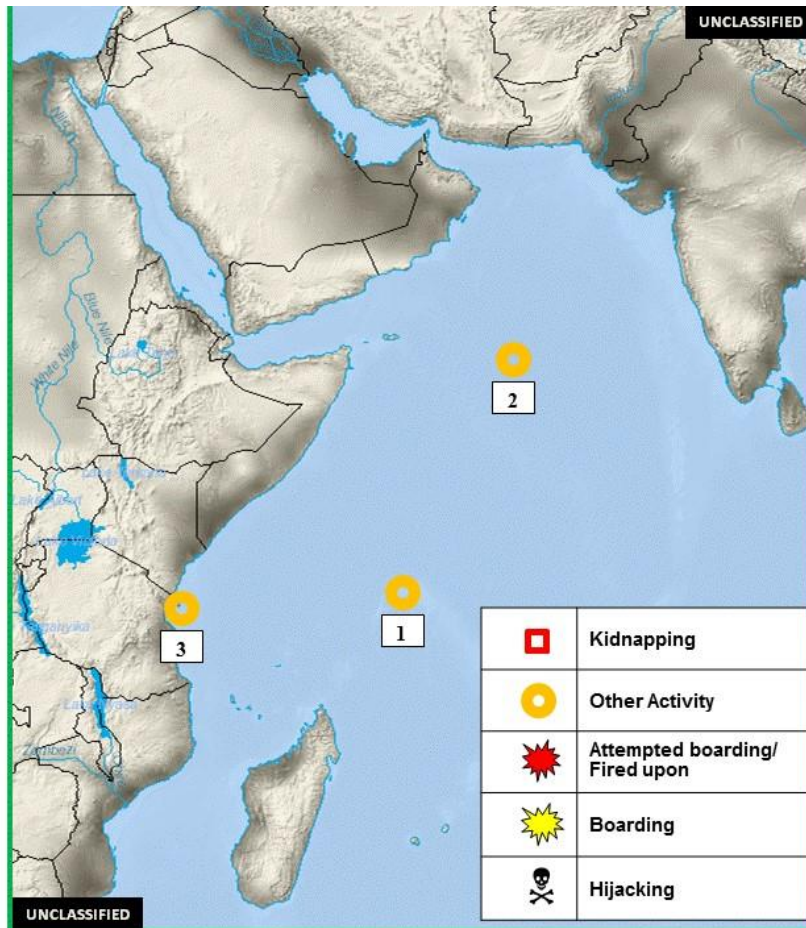


Figure 4. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SEYCHELLES: On 7 June, the Seychelles Coast Guard patrol ship ANDROMACHE intercepted a Sri Lanka-flagged fishing vessel north-west of the main island of Mahe during a routine patrol. A Coast Guard team boarded the vessel to conduct an inspection, during which evidence relating to illegal fishing was found. Six Sri Lankan nationals were arrested on suspicion of illegal fishing. (www.sguardian.com)

2. (U) ARABIAN SEA: Between 3 and 5 June, the Australian warship HMAS WARRAMUNGA seized three large-scale drug shipments totaling more than 5.9 tons from vessels in the Arabian Sea. The ship halted vessels and seized shipments of cannabis weighing 3.3 tons, 2.6 tons and 40 kilograms respectively. HMAS WARRAMUNGA is deployed to the region as part of Operation Manitou and the vessel has seized 31.8 tons of cannabis resin and 2 tons of heroin since it started operations in November 2017. (www.pvilttd.com)

3. (U) KENYA: On 2 June, 109 Tanzanian fishermen were arrested by Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) officers attached to the Kenya Navy for engaging in illegal fishing within Kenya's territorial waters in Shimoni area. They were later arraigned in court before being held in jail after they were unable to raise a cash bail of Sh20,000 each. (www.pulselive.co.ke)

4. (U) RED SEA: On 3 June, supply vessel VOS THEIA was attacked by a skiff with 6 persons onboard near position: 14:57N - 042:05E, approximately 5 nm west of Jazair Az Zubayr Island, Yemen. The skiff fired upon the vessel and the ship's embarked security team returned fire and the skiff retreated. (UKMTO: www.pvilttd.com; www.gcaptain.com; www.fleetmon.com)

5. (U) SOMALIA: On 30 May, a merchant vessel reported an approach by up to 6 skiffs near position 01:38N - 044:41E, 46

nm southwest of Mogadishu. Vessel and crew are safe. (UKMTO)

6. (U) RED SEA: On 23 May, United Arab Emirates (UAE) state news agency WAM reported that UAE coalition forces had destroyed two boats “which were threatening a commercial oil tanker” in the Red Sea. Two other Houthi boats escaped. Later Saudi state news channel al-Ekhbariya said that remote-controlled speedboats rigged with explosives had tried to attack three commercial vessels being escorted by two coalition warships, but that coalition forces had foiled the attack and destroyed three speedboats. (www.reuters.com)

7. (U) SOMALIA: On 17 May, local media announced that Al-Shabab extremists had resumed exports of charcoal from the port of Burgabo, a small coastal town situated south of Kismayo city in the Lower Jubba region. Reportedly, a boat named AL SAFA 381980 carrying 1,500 bags of charcoal had recently sailed from that port to Iran and the United Arab Emirates. In February 2012, the UN Security Council banned charcoal exports from war-torn Somalia to stop funds for Al-Shabab which is fighting to topple the Western-backed Somali government. (www.radioshabelle.com)

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

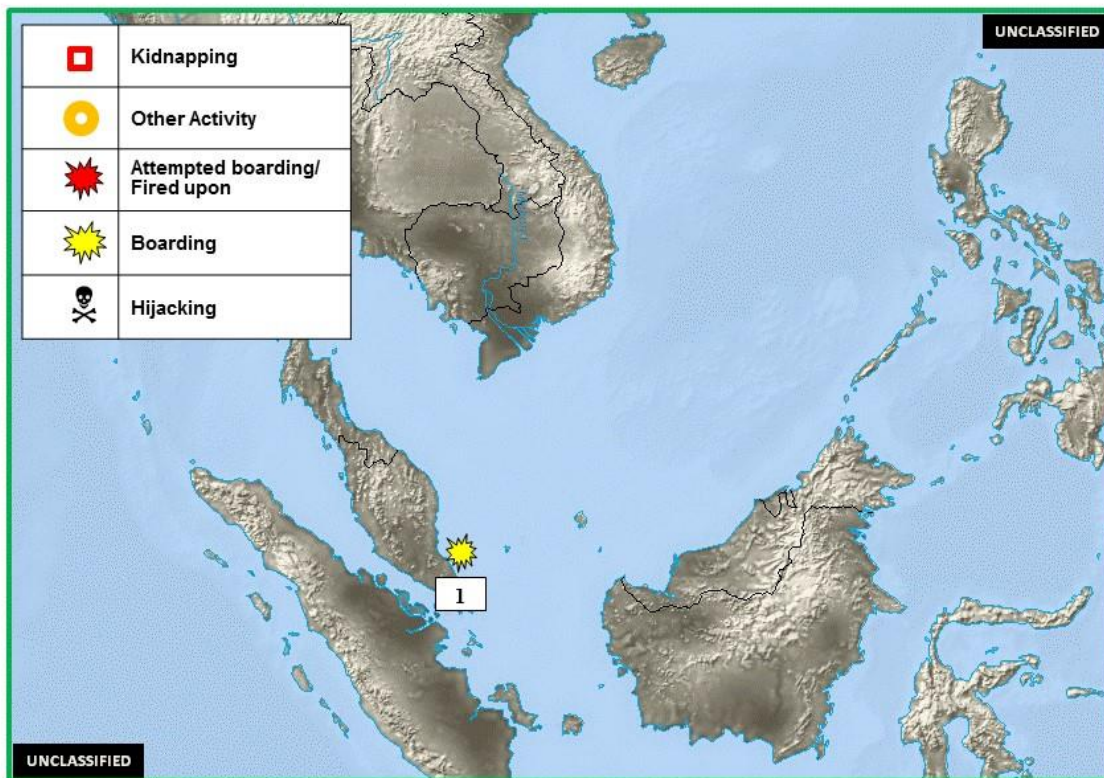


Figure 5. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 31 May, fourteen intruders boarded and attempted to rob a Mongolia-flagged oil tanker while anchored in position 34 nm east of Mersing, Malaysia. After discovering that the vessel was not loaded, the pirates took the personal belongings of the crew and fled via another stolen vessel. Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency Special Forces were able to track and successfully apprehend all the pirates who were armed with knives and machetes; two crew members were injured during the attack. (www.pvilttd.com)

2. (U) BANGLADESH: On 2 June, the Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG) rescued 18 fishermen abducted from the Nalian area

in the Sundarbans. Four teams of the BCG launched a drive in the area after receiving information that the fishermen were abducted, said BCG Operation Officer Lt Abdullah Al Mahmud. Alerted to the presence of the BCG teams, the bandits fled the spot, leaving behind the victims, he said, adding that they rescued them along with 11 trawlers. The gang abducted the fishermen earlier that day while they were fishing in the area, Mahmud said. (www.dhakatribune.com)

3. (U) MALAYSIA: On 1 June, 14 robbers boarded tanker LEE BO, near Baharu, north of Singapore. The robbers, armed with machetes, robbed the crew of cash and valuables, slightly injuring 2 of the 12 crew. They then moved to another tanker nearby, M/T Bright, where they were apprehended by the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) team, which boarded the tanker via helicopter. Two others were arrested later, reportedly the gang's leaders. (www.fleetmon.com)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 30 May, an unknown number of robbers boarded a Netherlands-flagged heavy load carrier anchored near position 01:06N - 104:11E, 16 nm northeast of Tanjung Berakit, Pulau Bintan. The ship's boatswain discovered the padlock of the paint store was broken and the door left open. Further investigation revealed that the padlocks of the garbage room, oxygen locker, acetylene locker and the bunker station were also broken and the doors were left open. Nothing was missing. (www.pvilttd.com)

5. (U) MALAYSIA: On 23 May, officers with the Kedah-Perlis Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency office seized eight bags containing 410 kilograms of methamphetamines from the country's territorial waters near the Malaysia-Thailand border. (www.malaymail.com)

6. (U) MALAYSIA: On 22 May, authorities made the country's largest ever seizure of methamphetamines, officials said, finding nearly 1.2 tons of the drug disguised as tea in a shipment from Myanmar. Six suspects were arrested. The bust comes as Southeast Asia reports a flood of the stimulant throughout the region. Indonesia and Thailand have also made record seizures of the drug this year. A total of 1,187 kg of the drug was shipped in a container from Yangon, Myanmar, to Port Klang. (www.businessinsider.com)

7. (U) INDIA: On 19 May, officials announced they had broken a fuel smuggling ring in the port of Kandla. The officials boarded M/T AL HEERA upon its arrival from the UAE and took test samples of the fuel, manifested as 5,521 metric tons of Base Oil SN 50. Tests from a government lab revealed that the fuel was actually high-speed diesel; a restricted item which is permitted to be imported only by state trading enterprises. (www.dnaindia.com)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 19 May, three robbers armed with knives, boarded a bulk carrier anchored near position 05:52S - 106:04E, Merak Anchorage, and threatened the duty AB on routine rounds. The robbers entered the engine room, stole ship's spares, and escaped. (IMB)

9. (U) INDONESIA: On 19 May, six robbers boarded a tanker underway near position 01:10N - 103:27E, 2.5 nm east-northeast of Pulau Karimun Kecil. Duty engineer noticed the robbers, informed the master who raised the alarm. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped empty-handed. (IMB)

10. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 May, five robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 05:32S - 105:18E, Tarahan Anchorage. They took hostage a duty crewman, tied him up and threatened him with knives. The robbers stole ship's properties and engine spares and escaped. The crewman managed to free himself and raised the alarm. Duty officer sounded the ship's horn and crew was mustered. A search was carried out throughout the ship. (IMB)

J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:

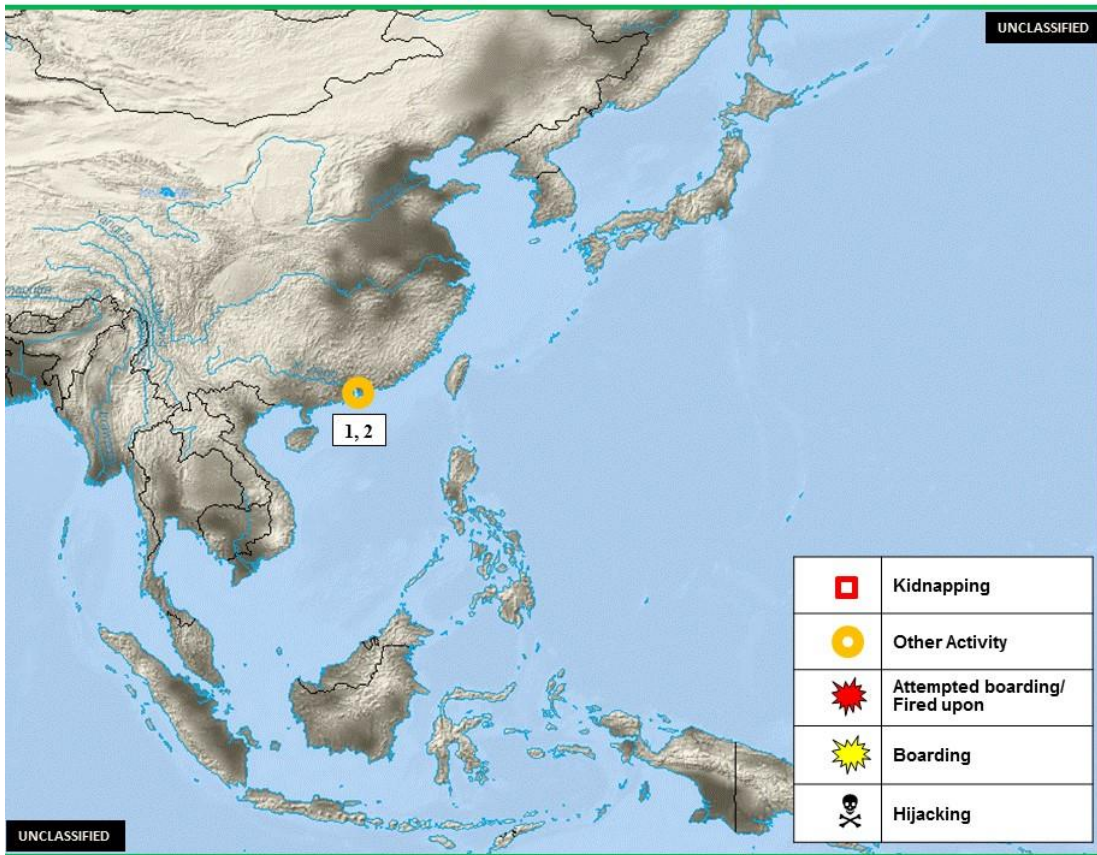


Figure 6. Northeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) HONG KONG: On 4 June, authorities seized 7,000 kilograms of suspected smuggled mercury from a shipping container at the Kwai Chung Cargo Examination Compound. Through risk assessment, Customs officers inspected a 40-foot container declared to contain plastic material arriving from Indonesia. Upon inspection, Customs officers found the suspected smuggled mercury in the container. (www.7thspace.com)

2. (U) HONG KONG: On 30 May, Customs officers discovered nearly six tons of endangered rosewood in a shipment of gypsum boards from Malaysia. The manifest for the shipping container, which arrived from Port Klang, west of Kuala Lumpur, on May 30, said it held 16 piles of gypsum boards, according to the Customs and Excise Department. "The container was selected for inspection because it contained gypsum boards which are rarely shipped from Malaysia," Assistant Superintendent Joy Wong Sek-yan of Customs' Ports Control Group said. (www.sg.news.yahoo.com)

3. (U) TAIWAN: On 1 June, officials from Taiwan and Australia announced that more than 20 million illicit cigarettes were seized after a joint operation between the Australian Border Force (ABF) and the Taiwan Customs Administration. In early May, the ABF Tobacco Strike Team (TST) identified two cargo containers of interest being shipped from Vietnam to Taiwan that were bound for Australia. Investigations by the TST and Taiwan Customs revealed the containers contained 20,100,000 illicit cigarettes. The containers were unloaded and the cigarettes were seized by Taiwan Customs. ABF Assistant Commissioner Enforcement Command, Sharon Huey, said the operation would have significant disruption effects for the illicit tobacco market in Australia. (www.thecre.com)

4. (U) TAIWAN: On 28 May, the Coast Guard Administration (CGA) busted a tobacco smuggling operation in Pingtung County and seized and seized a large consignment of smuggled cigarettes. In a statement, the CGA said officers from its southern office seized 160,000 packs of untaxed cigarettes from a Donggang-registered fishing boat, F/V CHANG SHENG and arrested five crew members, including the captain. (www.focustaiwan.tw)

5. (U) EAST CHINA SEA: On 24 May, Japan's Foreign Ministry announced that a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ship spotted a North Korean tanker and another tanker with a Korean name apparently transferring fuel on the open seas in violation of U.N. sanctions. The ministry said in a statement that the two vessels are suspected of conducting offshore ship-to-ship transfers banned under U.N. Security Council resolutions. It said Japan has informed the Security Council of the sighting of North Korean tanker SAM JONG 2 alongside a ship of unknown nationality with a Korean name. The two ships were spotted east of Shanghai. The U.N. has blacklisted SAM JONG 2. U.N. sanctions on North Korea limit energy trade and ban offshore transfers of goods to North Korean ships. (Associated Press; www.foxnews.com)

6. (U) EAST CHINA SEA: On 19 May, a Japanese P-3 maritime patrol plane detected what appeared to be a Chinese-flagged vessel 218 miles off Shanghai, conducting illegal transfers to a North Korean ship, identified as M/T JI SONG 6. The vessels, which lay alongside each other connected by hoses, with one of the ships flying what appeared to be a Chinese flag. In April 2018, the U.N. Security Council blacklisted dozens of ships and shipping companies over oil and coal smuggling by North Korea, including five based in China. The vessels are subject to a global port ban and must be deregistered. (www.reuters.com; www.gcaptain.com)

7. (U) HONG KONG: On 15 May, Customs officials at the Tsing Yi Customs Cargo Examination Compound impounded a shipping container found to be carrying 630 kilograms of smuggled pangolin scales and 2,660 kilograms of smuggled mercury. (www.7thspace.com)

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

1. (U) PACIFIC OCEAN: On 17 May, an Indonesian fisherman aboard F/V MING MAN HSIANG No. 38 was reported missing approximately 530 nautical miles northeast of Guam, while another crewman was seen with fresh knife cuts on his arms. The Taiwanese captain learned that the pair had been in a dispute, and that one of them had stabbed the other and pushed the victim into the water. Another fishing vessel in the area started a search for the crewman while F/V MING MAN HSIANG No. 38 returned to port. (www.menafn.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.

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 boarding 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)
- 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: 13 June 2018

(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>