



UNCLASSIFIED

## (U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 12 November - 12 December 2018



13 December 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:

A. (U) **UKMTO ADVISORY NOTICE 001/DEC/2018**: Category: Suspicious Approach. Description: On 13 December 2018 at approximately 0845Z a merchant vessel in position: 11:57N - 045:00E, 48 nm south-southeast of Aden, Yemen, was approached by a large number of fast moving skiffs with 4 to 5 persons onboard each skiff. Embarked security team fired warning shots. Crew and vessel are safe. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution. Source: Reported to UKMTO. Any queries regarding this advisory notice ring 0044 2392 222060 only for further information. This advisory is not classified as a maritime security event and has not been verified by UKMTO. This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the region. UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting. UKMTO watchkeeper email: watchkeepers@ukmto.org, emergency tel: +971 5055 23215.

#### 3. (U) Summary:

A. RED SEA: On 13 December, a merchant vessel reported a suspicious approach by a large number of skiffs, 48 nm south-southeast of Aden, Yemen.

B. (U) NETHERLANDS: On 12 December, authorities in Rotterdam announced the seizure of 1,188 kilograms of cocaine.

- C. (U) ENGLAND: On 11 November, coastguard and lifeboat crew rescued six Iranian migrants from a small vessel in the Strait of Dover.
- D. (U) PORTUGAL: On 10 December, authorities in Lisbon announced the arrest of two senior citizens on suspicion of cocaine smuggling.
- E. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 7 December, Indian Navy ship INS SUNAYNA boarded and searched a suspicious fishing vessel, approximately 25 nm off the coast of Somalia, in the vicinity of Socotra Island.
- F. (U) GUATEMALA: On 7 December, robbers stole dinghy fuel tank, fuel line, spotlight and other gear from a sailing yacht anchored in Rio Dulce.
- G. (U) GREECE: On 6 December, Coast Guard officials intercepted a Syria-flagged vessel on suspicion of carrying illegal cargo.
- H. (U) MALAYSIA: On 5 December, three fishermen were kidnapped from their boat in the vicinity of Tambisan, Lahad Datu, Sabah.
- I. (U) U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS: On 5 December, robbers stole an in-the-water 10' flex boat with 18-HP outboard engine from a yacht anchored in Elephant Bay.
- J. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 2 November, a merchant ship reported suspicious activity in an area 81 nm southeast of Mukalla.
- K. (U) PANAMA: On 2 December, robbers stole a locked 23 foot panga with 40-HP Yamaha outboard engine from Bocas del Toro.
- L. (U) HONDURAS: On 2 December, robbers boarded 2 yachts anchored in West Bay.
- M. (U) COLOMBIA: On 1 December, an outboard motor was stolen from a dinghy at the Club Nautico Marina dinghy dock.
- N. (U) CURACAO: On 28 November, a robber attempted to steal a dinghy from a sailing yacht anchored at Spanish Water.
- O. (U) ST MARTIN: On 28 November, an unlocked dinghy and outboard was stolen from the Time Out Boat Yard.

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

- A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for December 2018. 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 (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 December 2018. For further information, please email: [planavy@navy.mil.cn](mailto:planavy@navy.mil.cn), or call Tel: 441 221 061 or 00870 773 120 215. (MSCHOA)
- C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Pakistan Navy convoy schedule for December 2018. The application deadline is at least 1-day prior to the convoy escort. To register with the Pakistan Navy Convoy, please send an email to: [fhq@paknavy.gov.pk](mailto:fhq@paknavy.gov.pk) (MSCHOA)
- D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: South Korea Navy convoy schedule for December 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) +1 646 466 9528 or (001) +1 646 466 9521. Email: [adenbay27@gmail.com](mailto:adenbay27@gmail.com)

or aden27@navy.mil.kr (MSCHOA)

E. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Russian Navy convoy escort schedule for December 2018. For further information, e-mail smb@msecurity.ru, isps@msecurity.ru or fax +7 (499) 642-83-29. (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:** No current incidents to report.

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

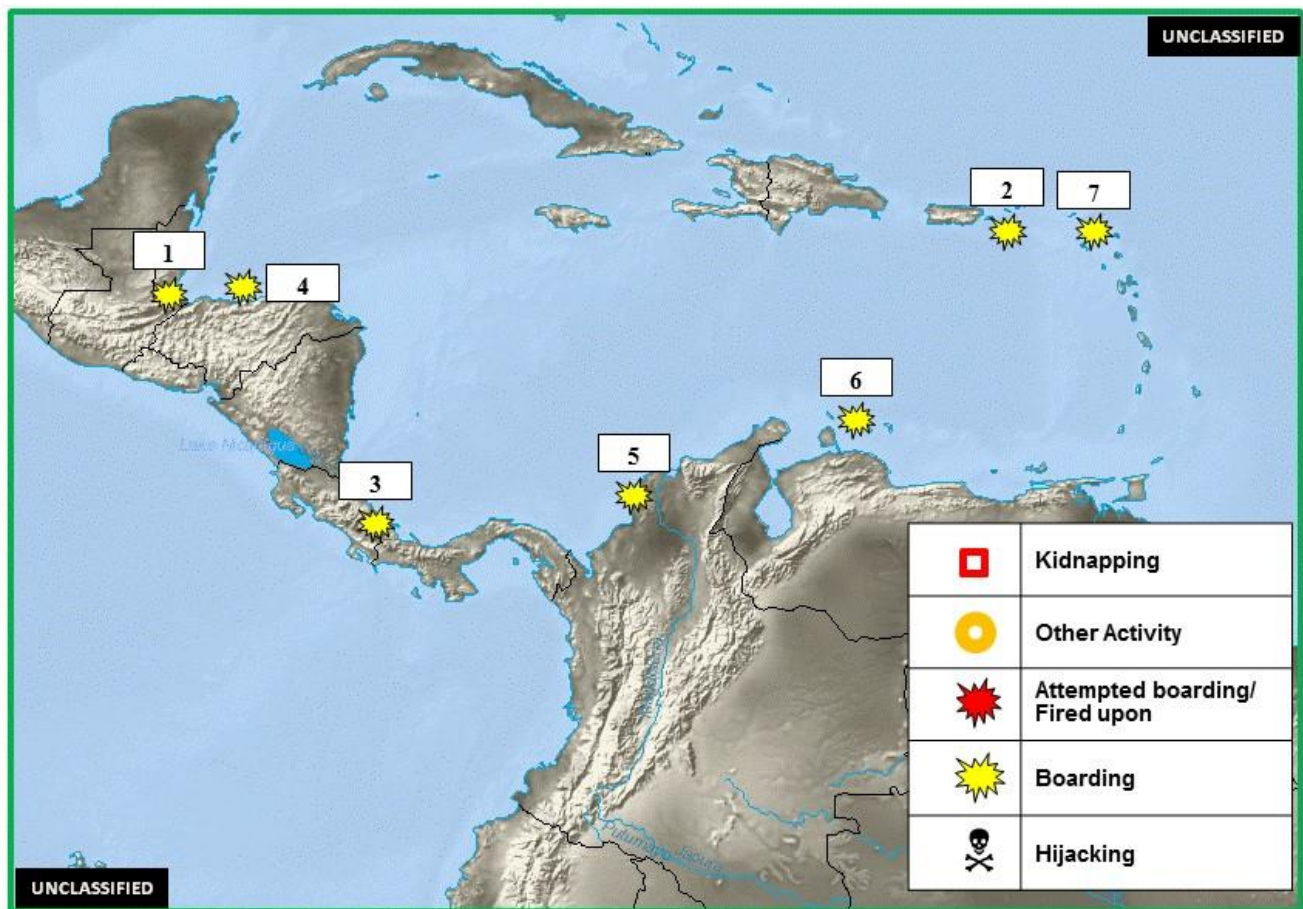


Figure 1. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GUATEMALA: On 7 December, robbers stole dinghy fuel tank, fuel line, spotlight and other gear from a sailing yacht anchored in Rio Dulce. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
2. (U) U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS: On 5 December, robbers stole an in-the-water 10' flex boat with 18-HP outboard from a yacht anchored in Elephant Bay. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
3. (U) PANAMA: On 2 December, robbers stole a locked 23 foot panga with 40-HP Yamaha outboard from Bocas del Toro. A police report was made. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
4. (U) HONDURAS: On 2 December, robbers boarded 2 yachts anchored in West Bay. They managed to steal one 80 cubic foot dive tank from each boat. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
5. (U) COLOMBIA: On 1 December, an outboard motor was stolen from a dinghy at the Club Nautico Marina dinghy dock, reported to the marina and to the police. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
6. (U) CURACAO: On 28 November, a robber attempted to steal a dinghy from a sailing yacht anchored at Spanish Water. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
7. (U) ST MARTIN: On 28 November, an unlocked dinghy and outboard was stolen from the Time Out Boat Yard. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
8. (U) BRAZIL: On 2 December, five armed men boarded the container ship CAP SAN MARCO in Santos outer anchorage. The ship was waiting for berth at Santos when the boarding occurred. A deckhand on watch was taken by surprise and tied up. Criminals stayed onboard for 45 minutes, and then fled. Police suspected the boarding was another attempt to load cocaine in containers. After the ship was berthed, she was thoroughly checked, one broken container was found, with no drugs in it. Another container was found inside a hold stacked among many others, which couldn't be accessed by the criminals without moving other containers. Four hundred and two kilos of cocaine were found hidden in this container. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))
9. (U) VENEZUELA: On 1 December, two robbers boarded a product tanker anchored near position 10:32N - 067:21W, Puerto La Cruz Anchorage. The robbers attempted to open the forward store room door. Duty watch keeper spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. Hearing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped without stealing anything. Incident reported to local authorities. (IMB)
10. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 7 November, a dinghy and outboard motor were stolen from a charter catamaran moored in La Marin marina. Report made to local police. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
11. (U) PERU: On 24 November, during routine rounds, duty crew onboard a vehicle carrier anchored near position 12:01S - 077:11W, Callao Anchorage, saw a masked robber on the forecastle deck and immediately informed the bridge. Alarm was raised, ship's whistle sounded and crew was mustered. Port control informed via VHF. Upon investigation, ship's stores were reported stolen. (IMB)
12. (U) EL SALVADOR: On 19 November, authorities announced the seizure of a semi-submersible craft carrying 6.3 tons of cocaine. Four Colombians and a Guatemalan were detained aboard the vessel. ([www.thecourierexpress.com](http://www.thecourierexpress.com))
13. (U) ARUBA: On 16 November, a woman died after being strangled and thrown from the railing of a luxury cruise ship by her partner, with whom she was arguing in the ship's casino, according to witnesses. The man believed to be her partner was ordered off the ship in Aruba and taken into custody by local authorities. ([www.yenisafak.com](http://www.yenisafak.com))
14. (U) BRAZIL: On 14 November, authorities seized 1.3 tons of cocaine hidden inside two shipping containers at Santos Port. Authorities found the narcotics during a cargo inspection operation. The containers, containing 690 kg and 605 kg of

cocaine respectively, were bound for Hamburg, Germany, and Antwerp, Belgium. ([www.pviltld.com](http://www.pviltld.com))

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

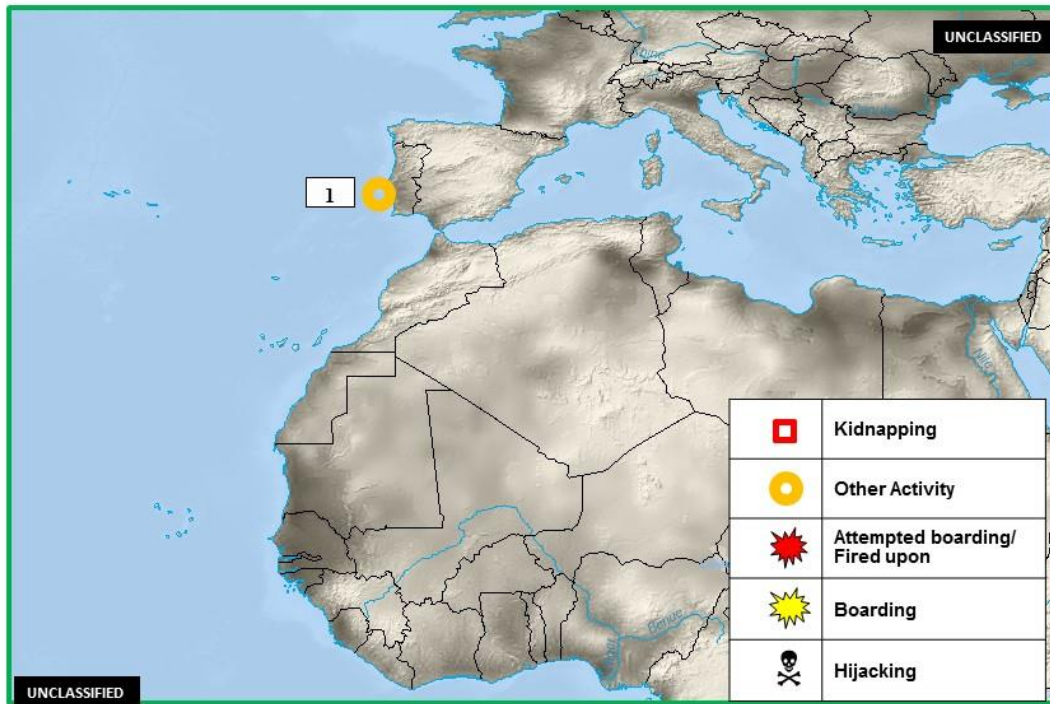


Figure 2. Atlantic Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) PORTUGAL: On 10 December, authorities in Lisbon announced the arrest of two senior citizens on suspicion of cocaine smuggling. The drugs were found during a search of the couple's cabin on a cruise ship returning from the Caribbean. ([www.dailystar.com.uk](http://www.dailystar.com.uk))

2. (U) SOUTH ATLANTIC: On 22 November, tuna fishing vessel F/V OCEANO PESCA 1 was rammed by Chinese tuna vessel F/V CHANG RONG 4 in an area approximately 430 nm east of Natal, Rio Grande do Norte State, Brazil, in an apparent dispute over fishing grounds. F/V OCEANO PESCA 1 survived the attack and reached home port on 25 November under her own power, though damaged. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

3. (U) SPAIN: On 17 November, six activists from an environmental NGO boarded the tanker STOLT TENACITY as the ship sailed in the Gulf of Cadiz. The ship diverted to the port of Algeciras, where arrangements were made for the authorities to escort the activists from the vessel the next day. ([www.worldmaritimenews.com](http://www.worldmaritimenews.com))



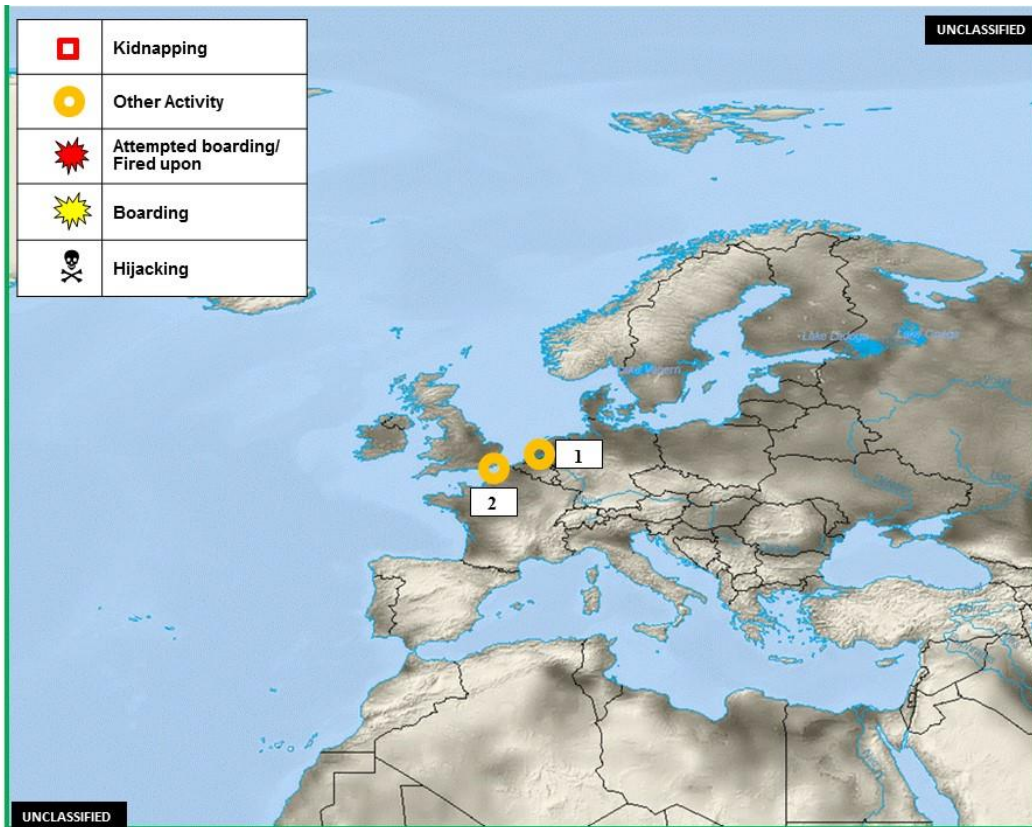
**D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:**

Figure 3. Northern Europe - Baltic Piracy and  
Maritime Crime

1. (U) NETHERLANDS: On 12 December, authorities in Rotterdam announced the seizure of 1,188 kilograms of cocaine in a shipping container carrying 35 tons of avocados from Colombia. ([www.freshfruitportal.com](http://www.freshfruitportal.com))

2. (U) ENGLAND: On 11 November, coastguard and lifeboat crew rescued six Iranian migrants from a small vessel in the Strait of Dover, bringing them ashore at Dover. The Home Office has not released further details about the incident. More than 100 migrants, most of them Iranian, reportedly crossed the Channel from France in November. ([www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))

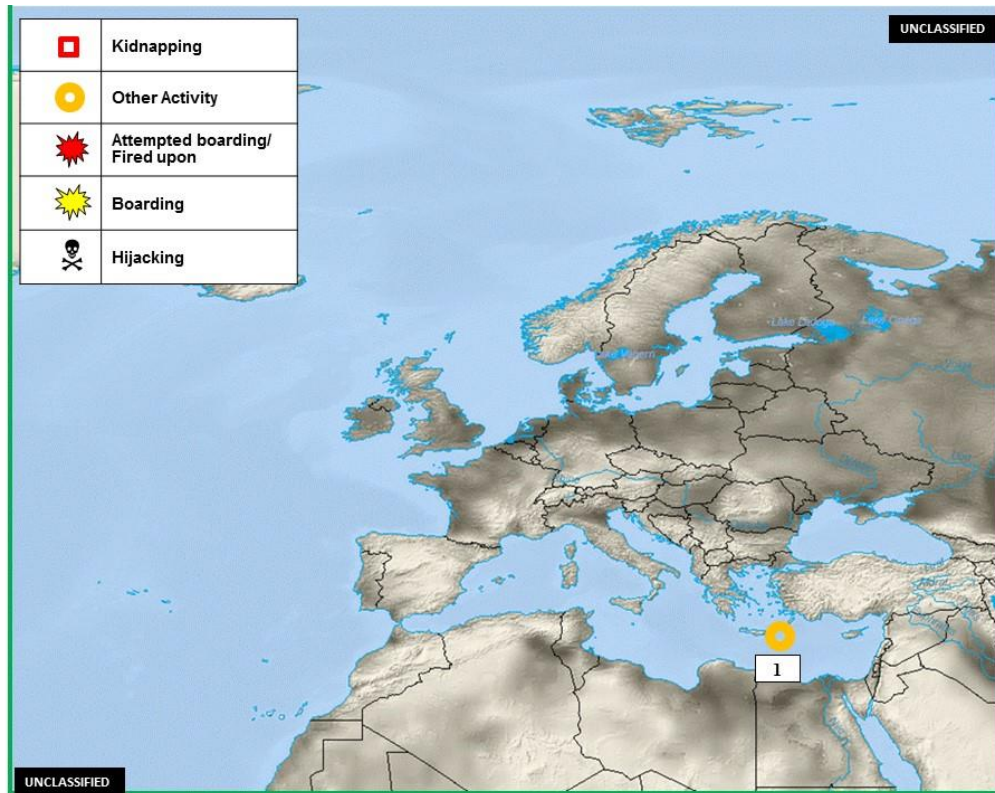
**E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:**

Figure 4. Mediterranean - Black Sea Piracy  
and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GREECE: On 6 December, Coast Guard officials intercepted a Syria-flagged ship and took it to Ierapetra, southeast of Crete, on suspicion of carrying illegal cargo. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

2. (U) ITALY: On 29 November, National Police, in coordination with the anti-drug directorate, seized 11 tons of hashish from a sailboat off the coast of Sicily. Officers arrested two crew members suspected of being part of a criminal network of Moroccan origin that provided cannabis to international criminal organizations for later distribution in eastern Europe. The boat had reportedly been under surveillance since it docked in the Port of Melilla, Spain, before it collected a large amount of drugs in Algeria. ([www.pvilt.com](http://www.pvilt.com))

3. (U) UKRAINE: On 25 November, Russian forces seized three Ukrainian naval vessels in the Kerch Strait, preventing their access to the Sea of Azov, marking a significant escalation in tensions between the two countries. During the incident, two Ukrainian gunboats and a tug were reportedly captured, along with 23 Ukrainian crew, several of whom were reportedly injured. ([www.gcaptain.com](http://www.gcaptain.com); [www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com); AP; [www.newschannel20.com](http://www.newschannel20.com))

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

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 December, the offshore supply vessel SAAVEDRA TIDE was attacked near position 03:08N - 006:20E, 22.5 nm west-northwest of the EGINA Floating Production and Offloading Vessel (FPSO). SAAVEDRA TIDE was on its way from the Abo oil field to the EGINA FPSO. The vessel and crew are now safe. (MDAT-GoG; [www.offshoreenergytoday.com](http://www.offshoreenergytoday.com))

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 December, a duty crewman on anti-piracy watch onboard a product tanker anchored in Lagos Anchorage reported that he could hear the outboard motor of an unlit boat approaching. Duty officer raised the alarm, made PA announcement and blew the ship's horn. Hearing the alarm, the boat moved away. (IMB)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 22 November, a merchant vessel was boarded by armed pirates near position 04:13N - 008:03E, 19 nm south of the Kwa Ibo coast. Pirates escaped onboard a blue-hulled boat following intervention from a security vessel. Vessel and crew are safe. (MDAT-GoG; [www.pviltld.com](http://www.pviltld.com))

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 21 November, a duty crewman onboard a tanker anchored near position 06:21N - 003:19E, Lagos Anchorage, noticed two robbers boarding the vessel using a rope. Alarm was raised and non-essential crew retreated to the citadel. Hearing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped empty-handed. (IMB)

5. (U) GUINEA: On 21 November, eight robbers armed with guns and knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 09:19N - 013:44W, Conakry Anchorage. They took hostage a duty crewman and forced him, with a knife on his throat, to take them to the bridge. The armed robbers then took the 2nd officer and the duty crewman to the master's cabin, where they hit the master and threatened to shoot the 2nd officer before stealing cash from the ship's safe and other personal belongings. The robbers kept the three-crew hostage until they disembarked in waiting boats. Port control informed. (IMB)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 November, one robber boarded a merchant vessel anchored near position 06:16N - 003:17E, Lagos Anchorage. A duty crewman saw the robber found on the main deck. Alarm was raised and the robber jumped overboard. Nothing reported stolen. ([www.pviltld.com](http://www.pviltld.com))

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

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

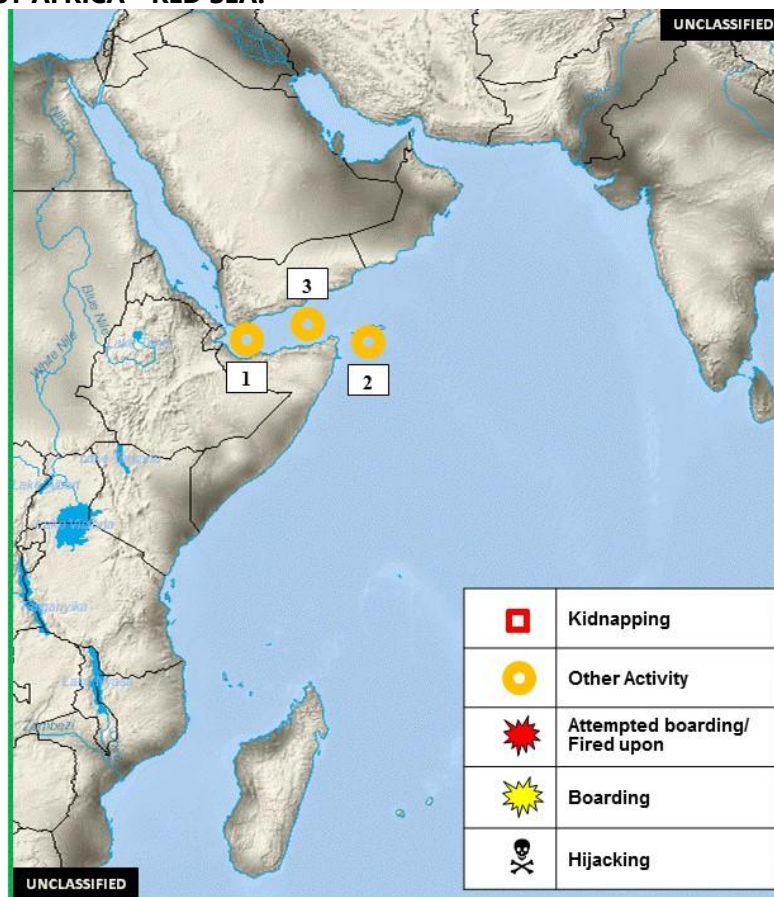


Figure 5. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime



1. (U) RED SEA: On 13 December, a merchant vessel reported a suspicious approach by a large number of skiffs near position 11:57N - 045:00E, 48 nm south-southeast of Aden, Yemen. The embarked security team fired warning shots. (UKMTO)

2. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 7 December, Indian Navy ship INS SUNAYNA boarded and searched a suspicious fishing vessel, approximately 25 nm off the coast of Somalia, in the vicinity of Socotra Island. According to an Indian navy spokesperson, during the search of the ship, it was found that the vessel was engaged in illegal fishing in the area and was also in possession of four AK-47s and one light machine gun, along with ammunition for these weapons. The vessel was thoroughly searched and allowed to proceed, after confiscation of the arms and ammunition, to prevent their illegal use later by the crew for piracy-related activities. (www.sguardian.com)

3. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 2 November, a duty officer onboard a merchant vessel underway near position 13:46N - 050:20E, 81 nm southeast of Mukalla, saw a suspicious mothership with unknown number of people onboard and two skiffs with two men onboard each skiff. The duty officer informed the master who activated the deck water spray, broadcast the security situation through VHF Ch 16 and stationed three armed guards on the bridge. He commenced the lock down procedure and informed company's CSO, operator and UKMTO of the situation. Possibly due to the tanker's maneuvers and increase in speed, the mothership and its two skiffs stopped their approach. (ReCAAP; www.pvilttd.com)

4. (U) PAKISTAN: On 26 November, authorities announced that during a joint maritime operation in Ormara town in Gwadar District in Balochistan, the Pakistan Navy and the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) captured approximately 1500 kilograms of hashish. (www.dunyanews.tv)

5. (U) YEMEN: On 18 November, two Yemeni fishermen were killed by a sea mine planted by the pro-Iranian Houthi militias off the coast of Hodeidah port city, in the west of the country. (www.english.alarabiya.net)

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

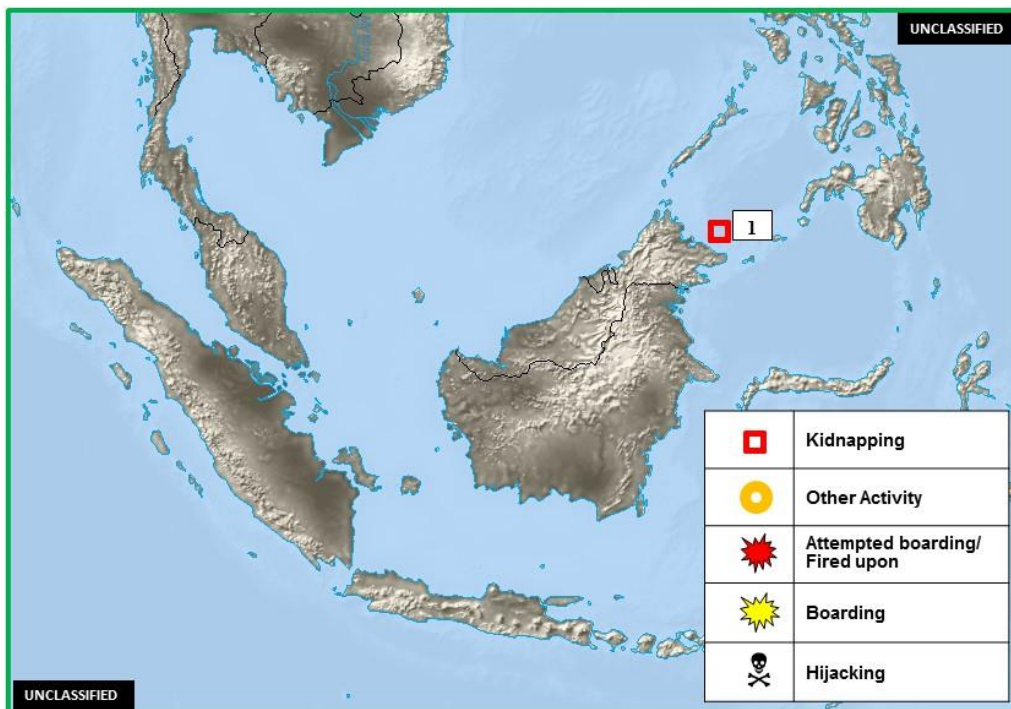


Figure 6. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 5 December, police forces discovered a fishing boat drifting without any occupants, left with its engine running near position 05:38N - 118:57E, in the vicinity of Tambisan, Lahad Datu, Sabah. A police spokesman later stated that the boat skipper called his wife and said he and two others had been kidnapped and taken to a location in the Philippines which he could not reveal. When the boat was found, police were in the area investigating an earlier incident where another fishing boat was attacked and the crew managed to fight their attackers using a flare gun. (ReCAAP; IMB; [www.hellenicshippingnews.com](http://www.hellenicshippingnews.com); [www.maritime-executive.com](http://www.maritime-executive.com))

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 5 December, four armed men boarded a tugboat at Pegasus Reef near Pulau Tambisan in Lahad Datu. The men fled in a four-engine speedboat after the shooting. The police were also investigating claims that the same men had attacked another boat with several crew members onboard, not far from the first incident, after boarding the tugboat. Police are also trying to ascertain if anyone was harmed or taken hostage from the second boat. ([www.freemalaysiatoday.com](http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com))

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 December, three robbers armed with guns and knives boarded an LPG tanker anchored near position 05:52S - 106:04E, Merak Anchorage. The robbers took hostage two crew members and tied them up. They then entered the engine room, stole engine spare parts and escaped. (IMB)

4. (U) INDIA: On 17 November, robbers boarded an anchored product tanker, near position 017:02N - 082:26E, Kakinada Anchorage. They stole ship's stores and escaped. The theft was noticed during routine rounds. Port control and agents informed. (IMB)

5. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 15 November, it was announced that officials of a local fishing company have sought the help of Philippine authorities to locate their fishing vessel with at least nine fishing crewmen aboard which went missing while on a fishing expedition off Celebes Sea. The owner of ZAVFI Inc., a fishing firm, said the crew of F/V SAVFI S2, contacted their base on 29 October when they informed their office that they were sailing back to the city's fish port after completing the fishing expedition with a catch of 20 tons. ([www.news.mb.com.ph](http://www.news.mb.com.ph))

6. (U) MALAYSIA: On 13 November, the Royal Customs Department seized 6.4 million smuggled cigarettes after searching, then impounding, a shipping container at Port Klang. ([www.pressreader.com](http://www.pressreader.com))

**J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:** No current incidents to report.

**K. (U) AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND - PACIFIC OCEAN AREA:** No current incidents to report.

## **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) 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)
- 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:** 12 December 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>