(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 17 July–14 August 2024

14 August 2024

(U) **Table of Contents:**

1. (U) **Scope Note**

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) report 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, Advisories and Alerts:** See Appendix C for active advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) COTE D'IVOIRE: On 13 August, two robbers boarded an anchored offshore supply vessel at Abidjan Inner Anchorage.

B. (U) RED SEA: On 13 August, an explosion occurred in the vicinity of a Panama-flagged oil tanker while underway approximately 97 NM northwest of Hodeida, Yemen.

C. (U) RED SEA: On 12 August, several attacks targeted a Liberia-flagged oil tanker while underway approximately 63 NM southwest of Hodeida, Yemen.

D. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 August, two unarmed robbers boarded a bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

E. (U) BAB EL MANDEB/RED SEA: On 8 August, four attacks targeted a Liberia-flagged oil tanker while underway approximately 45 NM south of Mokha, Yemen.

F. (U) INDONESIA: (Late Reporting) On 5 August, an unspecified number of robbers in several small boats boarded a barge under tow by a Singapore-flagged tug in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.

4. (U) **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 that 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:** No current incidents to report.

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

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

E. (U) **MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA:** No current incidents to report.

F. (U) **WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:**

(U) Figure 1. Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) COTE D'IVOIRE: On 13 August at 0115, two robbers boarded an anchored offshore supply vessel at Abidjan Inner Anchorage, near position 05:16N – 04:00W. The duty crew spotted the robbers on the starboard side of the main deck. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered to search the vessel. The search found no perpetrators onboard, the paint store lock broken, and that paint supplies had been stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 29 July (time unspecified), a passenger boat was attacked while underway in the Bonny River between Port Harcourt and Bonny Island, near position 04:33N – 007:11E. The perpetrators kidnapped two of the passengers and stole passenger belongings. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 17 July at 1430 local time, armed perpetrators fired on a barge under tow by a tug while underway on the Bonny River near Port Harcourt transiting towards Bonny Island. An armed security team escorting the tug and barge repelled the attack, causing the perpetrators to abort their attack and escape. (Clearwater Dynamics)

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

H. (U) **INDIAN OCEAN – EAST AFRICA – RED SEA:**
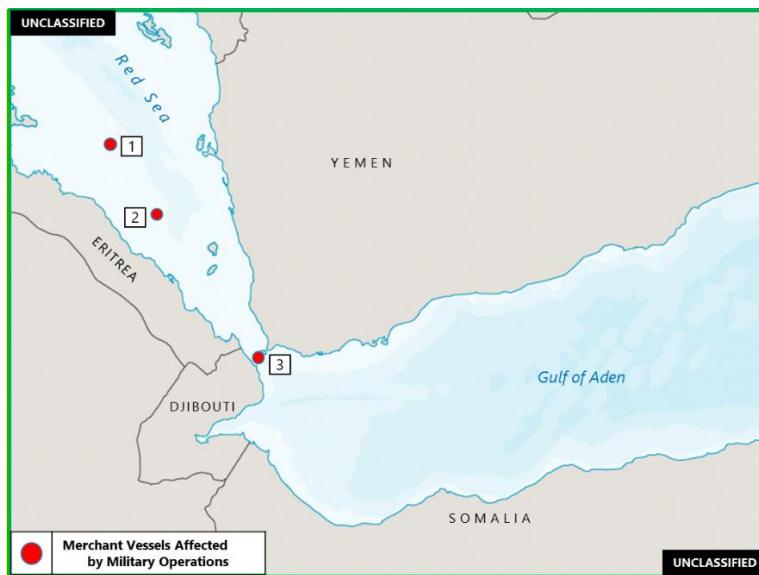
(U) Figure 2. Red Sea – Bab El Mandeb Military Operations against Merchant Vessels

1. (U) RED SEA: On 13 August at 0103 UTC, an explosion occurred in the vicinity of the Panama-flagged crude oil tanker ON PHOENIX approximately 97 NM northwest of Hodeida, Yemen (exact position not specified). The master reported an explosion approximately 0.1 NM off the port quarter of the tanker. The vessel was not hit, and there was no reported damage. All crew members were safe and the vessel continued its voyage to the next port of call. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Joint Maritime information Center)

2. (U) RED SEA: On 12 August at 2244 UTC, the first of several attacks targeted the Liberia-flagged crude oil tanker DELTA ATLANTICA while underway approximately 63 NM west-southwest of Hodeida, Yemen (exact position not

specified). A skiff made a suspicious approach and flashed its lights toward the tanker, followed by two simultaneous explosions 0.3 NM off the tanker's port beam. The vessel was not hit and reported no damage. Subsequently, on 13 August at 0147 UTC, a skiff made another suspicious approach toward the tanker approximately 74 NM west-northwest of Hodeida, Yemen. At 0313 UTC, an explosion occurred in close proximity to the vessel's bow approximately 89 NM west-northwest of Hodeida, Yemen. At 0405 UTC, an unmanned surface vessel (USV) approached the tanker approximately 99 NM northwest of Hodeida, Yemen. The USV collided with the tanker but did not detonate. The embarked armed security team subsequently disabled the USV with small arms fire. After these attacks, all crew members were safe and the tanker proceeded to its next port of call. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Joint Maritime information Center)

3. (U) BAB EL MANDEB/RED SEA: On 8 August at 1403 UTC, the first of four attacks targeted the Liberia-flagged crude oil tanker DELTA BLUE while underway approximately 45 NM south of Mokha, Yemen (exact position not specified). Two small craft fired an RPG which exploded 100 meters astern of the vessel. The vessel was not hit and reported no damage. At 2245 UTC, a missile hit the water about 50 meters astern of the vessel approximately 60 NM northwest of Mokha, Yemen, causing minor damage. On 9 August at 0340 UTC, a USV targeted the tanker approximately 60 NM west-northwest of Hodeida, Yemen. The armed embarked security team fired upon the USV, which exploded at a distance from the vessel. At 0557 UTC, a missile hit the water about 40 meters from the starboard side amidships of the vessel approximately 80 NM northwest of Hodeida, Yemen. Following the incident, all crew members were safe and the tanker resumed its course. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Joint Maritime Information Center)

4. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 3 August at 1330 UTC, the first of two missile attacks targeted the Liberia-flagged container ship GROTON while underway approximately 170 NM east of Aden, Yemen, near position 12:56N – 048:11E. The embarked armed security team observed an explosion 0.1 NM astern of the vessel. The vessel was not hit, and reported no ship damage and no injuries to the crew. At 1757 UTC, a second attack struck GROTON above the waterline causing minor damage, approximately 125 NM southeast of Aden, Yemen, near position 12:24N – 046:58E. After the strike, no water ingress, oil leaks or fires were observed. All crew were safe with no injuries reported and the vessel diverted to a nearby port. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Joint Maritime Information Center; gCaptain; Maritime Executive)

5. (U) RED SEA: On 20 July at 0350 UTC, a UAV struck the Liberia-flagged container ship PUMBA while transiting the southern Red Sea approximately 64 NM northwest of Mokha, Yemen (exact position not specified). The UAV caused minor damage to containers on deck and started a small fire that the crew brought under control. Subsequently, at 0436 UTC, PUMBA was approached by three skiffs, two of which were manned and one of which was an USV. The embarked armed security team opened fire on the USV causing it to explode off the port side quarter. At approximately the same time, one missile exploded off the starboard side. Neither the USV attack nor the missile explosion resulted in any damage. At 0508 UTC, a second missile exploded near PUMBA. At 0805 UTC, the company security officer reported that a third missile impacted the water on the starboard side. The crew also discovered a hole in the stern of the vessel, resulting from one of that day's multiple attacks. The ship reported there were no issues with either stability or pollution, all crew members were safe, and that the vessel was proceeding to its next port of call. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Joint Maritime Information Center; vesseltracker.com)

6. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 19 July at 0150 UTC, two Huthi-launched missiles struck the underway Singapore-flagged container ship LOBIVIA within a 1-hour period approximately 83 NM southeast of Aden, Yemen (exact position not specified). The first missile hit amidships and the second struck toward the port aft near the accommodation section. A resulting fire was extinguished by the crew. The ship sustained damage but remained seaworthy. Following the incident, the master reported that all crew were safe and that the vessel would return to its last port of call under coalition assistance. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Maritime Executive; gCaptain; Joint Maritime Information Center; vesseltracker.com)

I. (U) **EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:**

(U) Figure 3. Southeast Asia Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 August at 0445 local time, two unarmed robbers boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier APHRODITE L while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:04N – 103:42E. After being spotted by the crew, the perpetrators jumped overboard. The master raised the general alarm and the crew mustered to conduct a search. The crew did not find any perpetrators onboard. All crew members were safe and no ship's property was missing. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

2. (U) INDONESIA: (Late Reporting) On 5 August at 1705 local time, an unspecified number of robbers in several small boats boarded the barge LKH 3883 under tow by the Singapore-flagged tug HK TUG 3 while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:15N – 104:11E. The robbers spent about 30 minutes onboard. After the incident, the tug reported that robbers had stolen scrap metal, and that all crew members were safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 August at 0120 local time, as many as 6 robbers armed with knives boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier ULTRA COLONSAY while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:38E. The duty crew spotted the robbers in the engine room. After the alarm was raised, the crew mustered to conduct a search. No perpetrators were found onboard. Engine spare parts and a crew

member's cellphone were stolen. All crew members were reported safe following the incident. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 4 August at 0300 local time, two robbers boarded an offshore supply vessel anchored at Batam Anchorage in the Singapore Strait, near position 01:09N – 103:57E. They stole ship's property and escaped. The theft was discovered in the morning by the crew. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 July at 0512 local time, five perpetrators armed with knives boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier THISSEAS while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:40E. The crew observed the perpetrators at the stern of the vessel. After the perpetrators were spotted, the ship's general alarm was activated. The crew conducted a search with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The ship reported that nothing was missing and all crew were safe. The vessel required no assistance and proceeded to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 July at 0215 local time, three unarmed perpetrators boarded the Isle of Man-flagged bulk carrier BERGE MAUNA LOA while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:40E. The duty crew spotted the perpetrators in the steering gear room. The perpetrators escaped after activation of the ship's alarm. The crew conducted a search with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The ship reported that nothing was stolen and all crew members were safe. The vessel required no assistance and continued to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
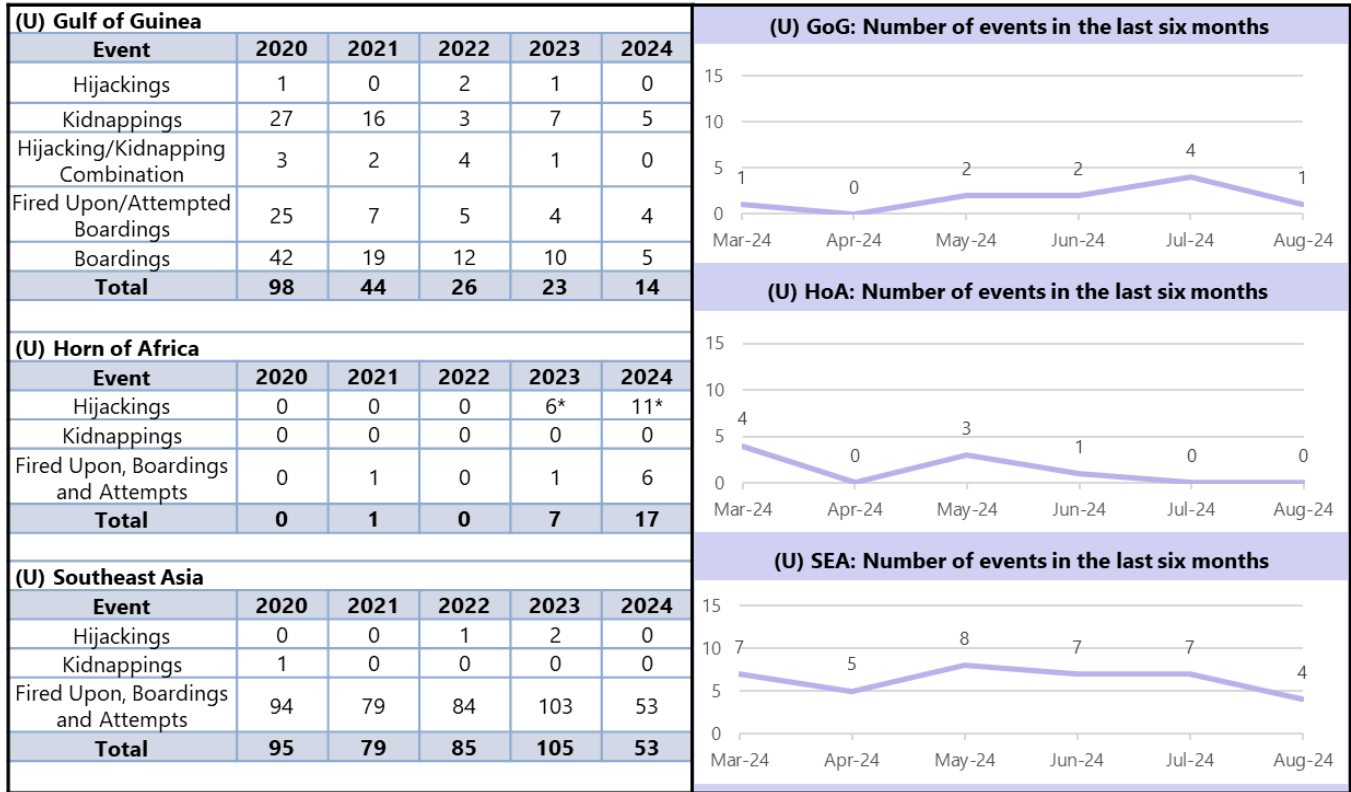
7. (U) INDONESIA: On 23 July at 0105 local time, as many as five perpetrators armed with knives boarded the Greece-flagged bulk carrier CORINNA while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:05N – 103:43E. The duty crew spotted the perpetrators boarding the vessel. All crew were reported safe, nothing was stolen, and the ship did not require assistance as it proceeded to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 21 July at 0340 local time, three robbers armed with long knives boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier EARTH HARMONY anchored at Kuala Tanjung Anchorage in the Malacca Strait, near position 03:26 N – 099:27E. The robbers entered the engine room and tied up one crew member. The robbers stole ship's engine spare parts before they released the duty crew member and escaped. The master raised the alarm and the crew mustered. The incident was reported to the port facility. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

J. (U) **INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:** No current incidents to report.

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

5. (U) **Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends**

(U) Gulf of Guinea					
Event	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Hijackings	1	0	2	1	0
Kidnappings	27	16	3	7	5
Hijacking/Kidnapping Combination	3	2	4	1	0
Fired Upon/Attempted Boardings	25	7	5	4	4
Boardings	42	19	12	10	5
Total	**98**	**44**	**26**	**23**	**14**

(U) Horn of Africa					
Event	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Hijackings	0	0	0	6*	11*
Kidnappings	0	0	0	0	0
Fired Upon, Boardings and Attempts	0	1	0	1	6
Total	**0**	**1**	**0**	**7**	**17**

(U) Southeast Asia					
Event	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Hijackings	0	0	1	2	0
Kidnappings	1	0	0	0	0
Fired Upon, Boardings and Attempts	94	79	84	103	53
Total	**95**	**79**	**85**	**105**	**53**

(U) GoG: Number of events in the last six months

Mar-24: 1, Apr-24: 0, May-24: 2, Jun-24: 2, Jul-24: 4, Aug-24: 1

(U) HoA: Number of events in the last six months

Mar-24: 4, Apr-24: 0, May-24: 3, Jun-24: 1, Jul-24: 0, Aug-24: 0

(U) SEA: Number of events in the last six months

Mar-24: 7, Apr-24: 5, May-24: 8, Jun-24: 7, Jul-24: 7, Aug-24: 4

*Horn of Africa hijacking numbers include Dhows and Fishing Vessels

6. (U) **Appendix B: Definitions and Sourcing**

A. (U) **Definitions:** In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, we use the following definitions to describe a range of criminal antishipping 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) **Hijacking/Kidnapping Combination** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement who forcefully remove crew members from vessel when disembarking.

- (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.

B. (U) **Sourcing:** ONI derives information in this report primarily from government agencies, piracy reporting centers, maritime security companies, and open press.

7. (U) **Appendix C: Active U.S. Maritime Advisories**

Title	Effective Date	Expiration Date
2024-007: Gulf of Guinea – Piracy/Armed Robbery/ Kidnapping for Ransom	24 JUN 24	21 DEC 24
2024-006: Southern Red Sea, Bab el Mandeb Strait, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean, Somali Basin, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Strait of Hormuz, and Persian Gulf – Threats to Commercial Vessels	18 APR 24	15 OCT 24
2024-005: Global – U.S. Maritime Advisory Updates, Resources, and Contacts	16 APR 24	12 OCT 24
2024-003: Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations	26 FEB 24	25 AUG 24
2024-002: Worldwide – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence	21 FEB 24	19 AUG 24

(U) **ICOD:** 14 August 2024

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intelligence Portal: https://www.oni.navy.mil/ONI-Reports/Shipping-Threat-Reports/Worldwide-Threat-to-Shipping/