



*Worldwide*

# (U) Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 20 November–18 December 2024

19 DECEMBER 2024

## (U) Executive Summary

### **(U) Scope**

(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.

**(U) Warnings, Advisories and Alerts:** See Appendix C for active advisories.

### **(U) Summary:**

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 December, four or five robbers boarded a Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).
2. (U) INDONESIA: On 14 December, four perpetrators armed with knives boarded a Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier while anchored at Tarahan Anchorage.
3. (U) INDONESIA: On 14 December, six robbers armed with knives boarded a Panama-flagged bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.
4. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 December, two or three robbers boarded a barge being towed by a Singapore-flagged tug approximately 8.4 NM northeast of Horsburgh Lighthouse.
5. (U) GHANA: On 7 December, three robbers armed with knives boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Takoradi Anchorage.

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## (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.

### (U) NORTH AMERICA

(U) No current incidents to report.

### (U) CENTRAL AMERICA – CARIBBEAN – SOUTH AMERICA

(U) No current incidents to report.

### (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA

(U) No current incidents to report.

### (U) NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC

(U) No current incidents to report.

### (U) MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA

(U) No current incidents to report.

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## (U) WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA

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(U) Figure 1. Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea in West Africa – Gulf of Guinea



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1. (U) **GHANA:** On 7 December at 2250 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:53N – 001:39W. After duty crew observed the perpetrators near the forecastle, the alarm was raised and the local authorities were notified. One of the robbers threatened the duty watchman while the two other robbers searched for items to steal. When a patrol boat approached the vessel, the robbers escaped with items of ship's property. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
2. (U) **BENIN:** On 5 December at 2255 UTC, five perpetrators armed with AK-47 rifles boarded a fishing vessel operating approximately 9 NM southeast of Cotonou, near position 06:13N – 002:32E. The perpetrators boarded the fishing vessel from a wooden boat. Once onboard, the perpetrators took the crew hostage, stole two cell phones, and kidnapped the ship's master before escaping. Following the incident, the Benin Navy dispatched a patrol boat to escort the fishing vessel to an anchorage to conduct an investigation. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
3. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 28 November at 0440 local time, as many as 20 robbers armed with knives boarded a container ship while berthed at Tin Can Port, Lagos, near position 06:25N – 003:21E. After restraining a duty crew person, a stevedore, and the bosun, the perpetrators stole items of cargo from containers onboard. The perpetrators escaped after being spotted

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by a duty watchman. The incident was reported to the port authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) GUINEA: On 25 November at 1615 UTC, a small boat approached and followed a Palau-flagged cargo vessel while underway approximately 100 NM southwest of Port Kamsar, near position 10:05N – 016:12W. The master reported that the small boat was green in color and had as many as eight people onboard. The boat, which came to within 1.5 NM of the cargo vessel, followed the vessel for approximately one and a half hours before changing course. Following the incident, the crew were reported safe and the vessel proceeded to its next port of call. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

## (U) ARABIAN GULF

(U) No current incidents to report.

## (U) INDIAN OCEAN – EAST AFRICA – RED SEA

1. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 1 December at 0932 UTC, an unidentified aerial object struck the water near a U.S.-flagged container ship while underway 80 NM south of Aden, Yemen, near position 11:32N – 044:38E. Between 30 November and 1 December, two U.S. Navy destroyers shot down six Huthi-launched munitions while escorting three U.S.-flagged vessels (the tanker *Stena Impeccable*, the container ship *Maersk Saratoga*, and the bulk carrier *Liberty Grace*) through the Gulf of Aden. As of 2 December, all three vessels were in port at Djibouti. (Clearwater Dynamics; Joint Maritime Information Center; Maritime Executive)
2. (U) SOMALIA: On 27 November, an unknown number of perpetrators boarded a Chinese fishing vessel while operating within territorial waters off Garmaal (exact position and time not specified). On 4 December (exact time not specified), an EUNAVFOR Spanish warship located the fishing vessel in the waters off Eyl and confirmed that the vessel was hijacked. The Spanish warship continues to monitor the situation. This incident may be fishing related. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
3. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 24 November at 0445 local time, a merchant vessel was approached by a dhow while underway approximately 204 NM northeast of Socotra, Yemen, near position 13:31N – 057:52E. The dhow approached to within 0.5 NM of the vessel at a speed of 6 knots. After the dhow did not respond to calls on VHF, the security team onboard the vessel fired signal flares, at which point the dhow changed course and passed within 1 NM of the vessel's stern. The vessel and crew were reported safe following the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics)



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4. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 21 November at 0330 UTC, 12 small boats repeatedly approached the Cayman Islands-flagged yacht *Triple Seven* while underway in the Gulf of Aden approximately 74 NM southwest of Aden, Yemen (exact position not specified). The approaches took place over the course of approximately 5 hours. One of the small boats came to within 1 NM of the yacht. In response to the approaches, the yacht increased speed and conducted evasive maneuvers. Following the incident, the vessel and crew were reported safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Joint Maritime Information Center)

## (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA

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(U) Figure 2. Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea in Southeast Asia



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1. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 17 December at 2250 local time, four or five robbers boarded the Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier *Cape Star* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:41E. Duty crew observed the perpetrators in the engine room. Three were armed with long knives, while another carried a gun-like object. The master raised the alarm and mustered the crew to conduct a search. No perpetrators were found during the search, and engine spare parts were reported stolen. All crew members were reported safe, and the vessel proceeded to its next port of call. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
2. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 14 December at 0435 local time, four perpetrators armed with knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier *Am Ocean Pride* while anchored at

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Tarahan Anchorage, near position 05:31S – 105:18E. After duty crew on routine rounds discovered the perpetrators on the poop deck, the alarm was raised and the robbers escaped to a waiting boat. The incident was reported to local authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 14 December at 0001 local time, six robbers armed with knives boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier *Honor Star* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:34E. After crew spotted the perpetrators in the engine room, the master raised the alarm and mustered the crew to conduct a search. No perpetrators were found during the search, and engine spare parts were reported stolen. All crew members were reported safe, and the vessel proceeded to its next port of call. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
4. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 11 December at 0940 local time, two or three robbers boarded a barge being towed by the Singapore-flagged tug *HK Tug 9* approximately 8.4 NM northeast of Horsburgh Lighthouse, near position 01:25N – 104:32E. While underway, the master observed four small boats carrying three to five persons each approaching the barge. The perpetrators boarded the barge and transferred scrap metal from the barge to their boats. After the master sounded the ship's horn and altered course, the perpetrators escaped. All crew members were reported safe, and the vessel proceeded to its next port of call. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
5. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 11 December at 0210 local time, two perpetrators armed with knives boarded the Singapore-flagged tanker *Proteus Harvonne* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:41E. After the crew discovered them on the poop deck, the alarm was raised, and the perpetrators escaped the vessel. The master reported that one crew member was injured and that nothing was stolen. The vessel did not require assistance and proceeded to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics)
6. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 9 December at 0317 local time, an unspecified number of robbers boarded the Liberia-flagged tanker *Dalma* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:39E. While onboard, the perpetrators gained access to the emergency generator room and stole a breathing apparatus compressor. A duty crew member discovered the theft after finding the padlock to the emergency generator room was broken. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
7. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 7 December at 2350 local time, eight unarmed robbers boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier *Kyzikos* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:39E. After the crew spotted the perpetrators in the steering gear room, the master raised the alarm and mustered all crew to conduct a search.



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No perpetrators were found onboard. The master reported that engine spares were stolen and that all crew members were safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 December at 0345 local time, six perpetrators armed with knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier *Genco Augustus* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:40E. After the duty crew spotted the perpetrators in the steering gear room, the master raised the alarm and mustered all crew. No perpetrators were found onboard. The master reported that nothing was stolen and that all crew members were safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
9. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 December at 0920 local time, one perpetrator attempted to board the Singapore-flagged general cargo ship *Pac Alnath* while berthed in Belawan Port, near position 03:47N – 098:42E. During cargo operations, the chief officer discovered the perpetrator trying to use a rope to board the vessel from a wooden boat. An additional four people were also in the wooden boat. After the alarm was raised, the perpetrators aborted the boarding attempt. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
10. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 December at 0343 local time, eight robbers boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier *Sakizaya Miracle* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:08N – 103:45E. After the crew spotted the perpetrators in the engine control room, the master raised the alarm and mustered all crew to conduct a search of the vessel. None of the perpetrators were found onboard the vessel and engine spare parts were reported missing. The perpetrators tied up one of the crew members while onboard. Following the incident, all crew members were accounted for and no injuries were reported. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
11. (U) INDONESIA: On 26 November at 0001 local time, two perpetrators boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier *Express* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:05N – 103:43E. The perpetrators left the vessel empty-handed after duty crew spotted them onboard. The vessel did not require assistance and proceeded to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
12. (U) INDONESIA: On 24 November at 1000 local time, six perpetrators boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier *HKT Confidence* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:41E. The perpetrators, one of whom was armed with knife, left the vessel empty-handed after being spotted by crew in the engine room. Following the incident, the master reported that all crew were safe and the vessel continued to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
13. (U) INDONESIA: On 23 November at 0150 local time, two perpetrators armed with knives boarded the Vietnam-flagged bulk carrier *Theodore Jr* while underway in the eastbound lane

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of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:42E. The perpetrators left the vessel after being spotted by crew in the engine room. The master was unable to determine if anything had been stolen. All crew were reported safe and the vessel continued to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

14. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 November at 0510 local time, four unarmed perpetrators boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier *Genco Lion* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:41E. The duty crew spotted the perpetrators in the engine room, and the perpetrators subsequently escaped empty-handed. Following the incident, the master confirmed that the crew were safe. The vessel did not require assistance and proceeded to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
15. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 November at 0510 local time, four unarmed perpetrators boarded the Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier *Ammos* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:41E. The duty crew spotted the perpetrators in the engine room, and the perpetrators subsequently escaped empty-handed. Following the incident, the master confirmed that the crew were safe. The vessel did not require assistance and proceeded to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

**(U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT**

(U) No current incidents to report.

**(U) AUSTRALIA – NEW ZEALAND – PACIFIC OCEAN AREA**

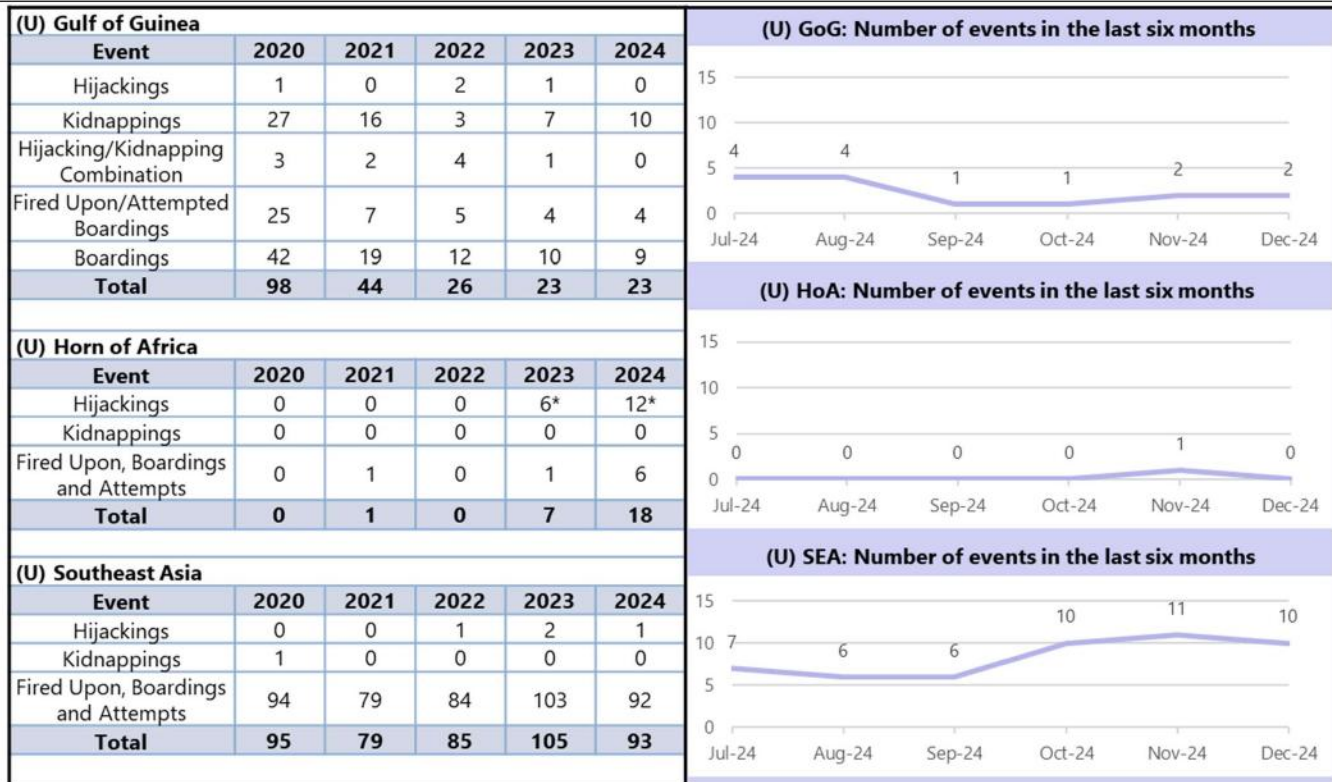
(U) No current incidents to report.

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# (U) Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends

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(U) \* HORN OF AFRICA HIJACKING NUMBERS INCLUDE DHOWS AND FISHING VESSELS

## (U) Appendix B: Definitions

(U) 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.



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## (U) Appendix C: Active U.S. Maritime Advisories

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### (U) Active U.S. Maritime Advisories

Title	Effective Date	Expiration Date
<a href="#">2024-013: Global – U.S. Maritime Advisory Updates, Resources, and Contacts</a>	11 Oct 2024	11 Apr 2025
<a href="#">2024-011: Worldwide – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence</a>	9 Oct 2024	7 Apr 2025
<a href="#">2024-012: Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations</a>	6 Sep 2024	21 Feb 2025
<a href="#">2024-010: Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom</a>	16 Aug 2024	12 Feb 2025
<a href="#">2024-009: Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman – Iranian Illegal Boarding/Detention/Seizure</a>	16 Aug 2024	12 Feb 2025
<a href="#">2024-008: Southern Red Sea, Bab el Mandeb Strait, and Gulf of Aden – Houthi Attacks on Commercial Vessels</a>	16 Aug 2024	12 Feb 2025
<a href="#">2024-007: Gulf of Guinea – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom</a>	24 Jun 2024	21 Dec 2024

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