

UNCLASSIFIED



(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** **5 November – 2 December 2020**



3 December 2020

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1. (U) **Scope Note**

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to merchant vessels, the shipping industry, and other maritime stakeholders worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) **Warnings and Advisories:** None

3. (U) **Summary:**

- A. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 2 December, two speedboats approached an underway tanker 85 NM southwest of Brass.
- B. (U) **SIERRA LEONE:** On 1 December, a robber boarded the Hong Kong-flagged container vessel MAERSK CABO VERDE while at berthed in Freetown.
- C. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 30 November, pirates attacked a passenger boat transiting from Port Harcourt to Bonny, near Okrika.
- D. (U) **GUINEA:** On 30 November, six robbers armed with guns and knives boarded the Vanuatu-flagged general cargo vessel TANGO REY in Conakry Anchorage.
- E. (U) **CAMEROON:** On 30 November, pirates attacked a fishing vessel underway 5 NM south of Cap Bimbia.
- F. (U) **MALAYSIA:** On 30 November, robbers managed to board a bulk carrier undetected underway in Singapore Strait.

- G. (U) GHANA: On 29 November, pirates boarded the underway Marshall Islands-flagged chemical tanker AGISILAOS approximately 72 NM southwest of Lomé, Togo.
- H. (U) ANGOLA: On 29 November, a robbery occurred on an anchored supply vessel in the Luanda Anchorage.
- I. (U) SINGAPORE: On 29 November, robbers boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier SEMIRIO undetected while underway in the Singapore Strait.
- J. (U) GHANA: On 27 November, robbers boarded the Italy-flagged bulk carrier RESILIENCE in the Takoradi Anchorage area.
- K. (U) NIGERIA: On 26 November, pirates attacked a passenger boat underway to Port Harcourt on the Andoni River, Rivers State.
- L. (U) NIGERIA: On 26 November, pirates boarded the St Kitts-flagged general cargo vessel MILAN underway from Koko, Nigeria to Doula, Cameroon.
- M. (U) SAUDI ARABIA: On 25 November, an explosion damaged the Malta-flagged tanker AGRARI while at berthed in Al Shuqaiq.
- N. (U) BANGLADESH: On 25 November, three robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged LPG Tanker EPIC BOLIVAR anchored at Pussur River, Mongla.
- O. (U) INDONESIA: On 24 November, robbers armed with knives boarded the Marshall Island-flagged Product Tanker FAIRCHEM SWORD anchored at Dumai Anchorage,
- P. (U) NIGERIA: On 22 November, an underway Panama-flagged product tanker ERRINA was boarded by six armed pirates 105 NM south of Lagos,
- Q. (U) VIETNAM: On 19 November, robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged bulk carrier ASIA EMERALD undetected while at anchor in Cam Pha Anchorage

4. (U) **Details: Monthly Incidents by Region**

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the 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:

1. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 12 November, two fishermen were robbed in waters off Mustique by ten Spanish-speaking robbers with AK-47 rifles. The fishermen had left in the early morning in their 24-foot wooden pirogue with a 75 horsepower Yamaha engine. When the fishermen were approximately 46 miles off the mainland of St. Vincent, robbers in a 30-foot-long blue pirogue with several outboard engines approached them and demanded money. The fishermen were detained for several hours before the robbers departed with the fishermen's GPS, cell phones, food, water, and money. (www.noonsite.com; www.searchlite.vc)

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

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:

1. (U) BELGIUM: On 5 November, authorities in the port of Antwerp seized 11.5 tons of cocaine hidden among a cargo of scrap metal that arrived in five shipping containers from South America. (www.euractiv.com)

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

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:



Figure 1. West Africa - Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 2 December, two speedboats approached an underway tanker approximately 85 NM southwest of Brass, near position 03:11N – 005:01E. The onboard-armed security team fired warning shots, which resulted in the speedboats aborting their approach. (Clearwater Dynamics).

2. (U) SIERRA LEONE: On 1 December, a robber boarded a container vessel berthed in Freetown, near position 08:30N – 013:12W. The Port facility watch personnel spotted one robber onboard and another attempting to board from a small boat using a rope. When detected, the robbers fled empty handed. (Clearwater Dynamics).

3. (U) GUINEA: On 30 November, six robbers armed with guns and knives boarded the anchored Vanuatu-flagged general cargo vessel TANGO REY in Conakry Anchorage, near position 09:21N – 013:42W. The robbers escaped with crew belongings, such as money, mobile phones, and computers. (Clearwater Dynamics; FleetMon)
4. (U) CAMEROON: On 30 November, criminals in a speedboat attacked a fishing vessel underway 5 NM south of Cap Bimbia, near position 03:51N – 009:14E. The onboard-armed security team returned fire, which resulted in several pirates sustaining injuries. The pirates subsequently departed the area without boarding the fishing vessel. (Clearwater Dynamics)
5. (U) NIGERIA: On 30 November, criminals attacked and boarded a passenger boat transiting from Port Harcourt to Bonny, near Okrika, at position 04:43N – 007:01E. The criminals robbed the passengers and kidnapped two of the passengers before departing. The criminals killed one passenger during the attack. (Clearwater Dynamics; www.today.ng).
6. (U) GHANA: On 29 November, pirates boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged chemical tanker AGISILAOS while underway 72 NM southwest of Lomé, Togo, near position 04:54N – 001:10E. AIS data shows that the vessel made a series of evasive maneuvers before slowing. The pirates kidnapped 4 of the 23 crew members, reportedly 2 Filipinos, 1 Romanian, and 1 Russian. The vessel subsequently proceeded safely to the anchorage at Lomé. (Clearwater Dynamics; Dryad Global; The Maritime Executive)
7. (U) ANGOLA: On 29 November, robbers boarded an anchored supply vessel at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:46S – 013:15E. A video surveillance recording detected two robbers boarding and stealing diving equipment before departing. (Clearwater Dynamics)
8. (U) GHANA: On 27 November, robbers boarded the Italy-flagged bulk carrier RESILIENCE anchored at Takoradi anchorage, near position 04:53N – 001:41W. When the duty officer spotted two intruders, he raised the alarm. The robbers subsequently fled empty handed. The crew reported the incident to the port authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics, the Maritime Executive).
9. (U) NIGERIA: On 26 November, criminals attacked a passenger boat underway to Port Harcourt on the Andoni River, Rivers State, near position 04:29N – 007:25E. During the attack, the attackers killed one passenger and wounded several others. Some passengers jumped overboard. One of the attackers fell into the water and was later arrested by police. The police identified the criminal as member of a gang that has been terrorizing the Bonny River. (Clearwater Dynamics, www.today.ng).
10. (U) NIGERIA: On 26 November, pirates boarded the St Kitts-flagged general cargo vessel MILAN underway southbound from Koko, Nigeria, to Doula, Cameroon, near position 04:28N – 005:31E, 10 NM west of Foropa, near the FPSO Pennington Terminal. Pirates reportedly kidnapped ten crewmembers. The Nigerian Navy has been notified (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; Dryad Global; The Maritime Executive; www.today.ng).
11. (U) NIGERIA: On 22 November, six pirates boarded the underway Panama-flagged product tanker ERRINA approximately 105 NM south of Lagos, near position 04:38N – 003:28E. The crew managed to retreat to the citadel and contact the owners, who then liaised with the regional authorities. The Nigerian navy dispatched a patrol boat together with the Italian navy frigate to the location. The pirates escaped with stolen ship's crew cash and valuables after damaging ship's properties and equipment. All crew were reported safe and the vessel proceeded safely to port as advised by the Nigerian Navy. (GISID-IMO)
12. (U) GHANA: On 17 November, a suspicious skiff approached an unidentified tanker within .5 NM approximately 47 NM south of Tegbi near position 05:04N – 001:07E. (Clearwater Dynamics)

13. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 16 November, pirates released a hostage taken from the Marshall Islands-flagged LNG tanker METHANE PRINCESS. (Clearwater Dynamics)
14. (U) TOGO: On 16 November, pirates hijacked the Togo-flagged tanker STELIOS K approximately 40 NM south of Lome at 05:28N – 001:25E while transiting to Lagos, Nigeria. (Dryad Global, Clearwater Dynamics)
15. (U) NIGERIA: On 16 November, pirates kidnapped five Ghanaian crewmembers from the underway Ghana-flagged general cargo vessel AM DELTA approximately 44 NM south of Brass, Nigeria near position 03:32N – 003:38E. The pirates also destroyed navigation and communication equipment before departing the vessel, leaving two crewmembers onboard. (Clearwater Dynamics; Dryad Global)
16. (U) SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE: On 13 November, pirates kidnapped 14 Chinese crewmembers from the Liberia-flagged heavy lift ship ZHEN HUA 7 approximately 80 NM northeast of Sao Tome near position 01:11N – 005:33E. The ship was drifting at the time of the boarding. The pirates left 13 crewmembers on the vessel when they disembarked. After the pirate attack, the Italian Navy ship MARTINENGO, which was patrolling in the region, was informed that a crew member of the Zhen Hua 7 had sustained leg injuries and responded to assist. Upon arriving on scene, a boarding team from the MARTINENGO boarded the heavy lift ship to ensure the safety of the remaining crew and provide medical assistance to the injured seafarer. The frigate's helicopter ended up airlifting the victim to a hospital in Sao Tome to receive additional medical treatment. (Clearwater Dynamics; www.gcaptain.com; Dryad Global; www.maritime-executive.com)
17. (U) GHANA: On 13 November, robbers boarded a container ship anchored near position 04:53N – 001:42W, Takoradi Port Anchorage. The robbers broke into the forecabin storeroom and stole ship's stores before departing undetected. The crew noticed the theft during routine rounds and reported the incident to port authorities. (IMB)
18. (U) BENIN: On 11 November, the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker JANE was attacked by a single skiff near position 05:12N – 002:23E, 70 NM southeast of Cotonou. (Dryad Global; Clearwater Dynamics)
19. (U) BENIN: On 9 November, the environmental NGO ship BOB BARKER was approached by a skiff with 7-8 armed persons on board near position 04:26N – 002:42E, 116 NM south of Cotonou. The skiff closed to within 0.7 nautical mile. The crew mustered in the citadel and the Beninese Navy guards on board fired warning shots. After 10 minutes, the skiff left the vicinity. (Dryad Global; www.oilprice.com)
20. (U) BENIN: On 9 November, the Marshall Island-flagged LA BOHEME was approached by two skiffs while underway near position 04:45N - 002:26E, 95 NM south of Cotonou. Alarm was raised and all non-essential crew mustered in the citadel. The Master increased speed, commenced evasive maneuvers, activated the fire pump and notified the regional authorities. The skiffs attempted to close and fired upon the vessel, resulting in damage to both the bridge and port side. The vessel hardening and evasive maneuvers resulted in the skiff aborting the attack and moving away. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; Dryad Global; www.oilprice.com)
21. (U) NIGERIA: On 7 November, seven armed pirates chased a product tanker underway near position 03:35N – 004:36E, 87 NM southwest of Bayelsa. The pirates approached the tanker and came to within 250 meters. The Master undertook all security measures and the crew retreated to the citadel. The armed guards onboard displayed their weapons and fired three shots at the speed boat which resulted in the pirates aborting their pursuit and heading away. Vessel and crew are safe. The crew reported the incident to the local agent. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
22. (U) BENIN: On 7 November, pirates armed with rifles boarded the Singapore-flagged tanker TORM ALEXANDRA underway near position 03:31N – 002:34E, 172 NM south of Cotonou, Benin. Alarm was raised, main engine was stopped, Ship Security Alert System (SSAS) was activated, Company informed and all crew mustered in

the citadel. Benin Navy dispatched a patrol boat. An Italian Navy frigate and its helicopter responded. A naval boarding team boarded the tanker and once clearance was given, the crew emerged from the citadel and regained control of the tanker. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; www.safety4sea.com; www.oilprice.com)

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

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



Figure 2. East Africa – Red Sea Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SAUDI ARABIA: On 25 November, the Malta-flagged tanker AGRARI was damaged by an explosion while berthed in Al Shuqaiq, near position 17:41N – 042:00E. The vessel was struck about 1 meter above the waterline and the hull was breached. The ship is stable and floating off the coast. Saudi officials boarded the vessel and confirmed there was no pollution or crew injuries as a result of the explosion. (Washington Post; Bloomberg; Dryad Global)

2. (U) MOZAMBIQUE: On 2 November, five robbers armed with long knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 14:22S - 040:42E, Nacala Anchorage. They boarded the ship using hooks attached with ropes and broke into the paint locker. Duty crewman on routine rounds saw the robbers and alerted the duty officer and retreated into the accommodation area. The alarm was raised and crew was mustered. The robbers stole ship's stores and escaped. Local agents informed. (IMB)

3. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 29 October, a skiff approached a commercial vessel approximately 33 NM northeast of Point Alpha, International Recommended Transit Corridor near position 12:00N - 045:32E. When the skiff approached to within 0.8 NM of the vessel, the onboard armed security team showed their weapons. The skiff altered course and continued on a parallel course 1 NM from the vessel for 50 minutes before changing course to the south and heading towards Somalia. (Clearwater Dynamics)

I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA:

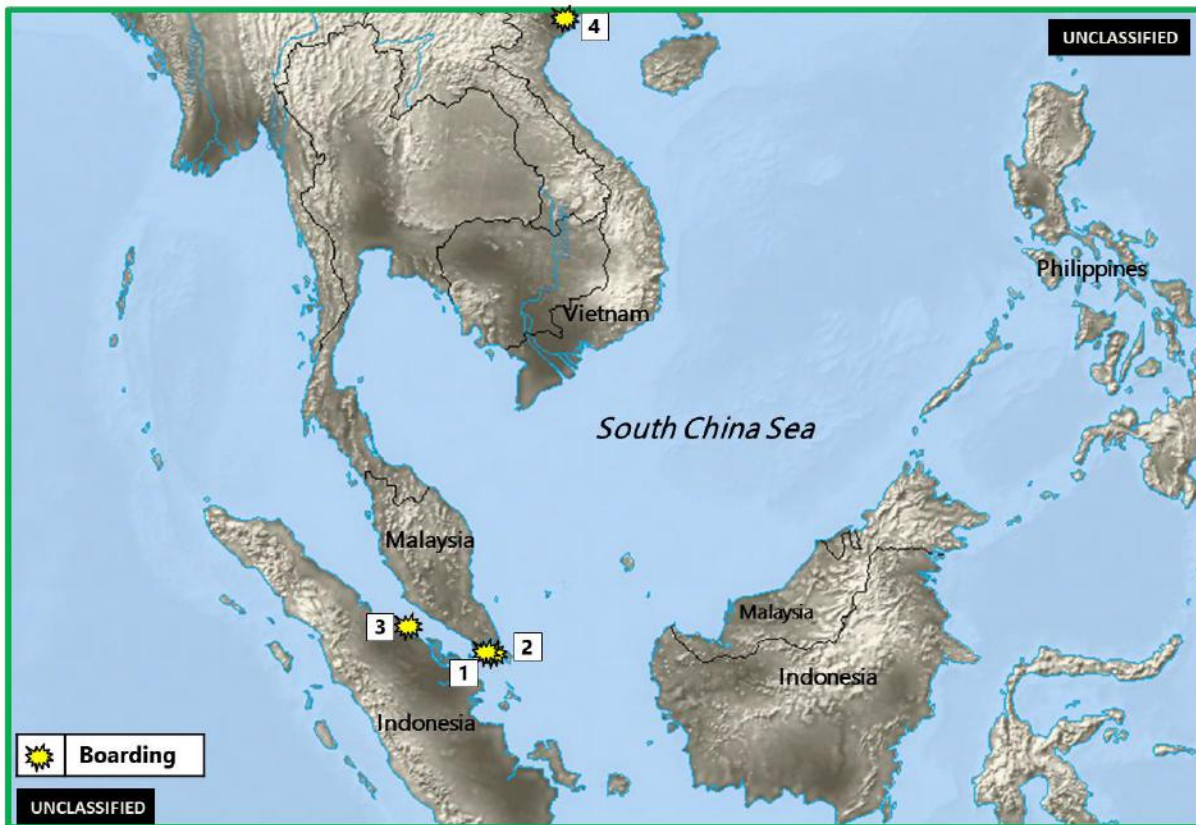


Figure 3. East Asia – Southeast Asia Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 30 November, robbers boarded an underway bulk carrier undetected in the Singapore Strait, near position 01:19N – 104:21E and stole some engine parts. The vessel is continuing to her next port in China. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 29 November, robbers boarded the underway Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier SEMIRIO undetected in the Singapore Strait near position 01:16N – 104:15E. The robbers stole ship's spare parts. The crew reported the incident to the Singapore VTIS. (IMO ReCAAP)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 24 November, robbers armed with knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged product tanker FAIRCHEM SWORD, anchored at Dumai Anchorage near position 01:43N – 101:29E. The robbers threatened the oiler on duty on routine rounds before fleeing with stolen engine spare parts. The crew reported the incident to the Dumai Port Authorities. (ReCAAP, IMO)

4. (U) VIETNAM: On 19 November, robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged bulk carrier ASIA EMERALD undetected while at anchor in Cam Pha Anchorage, near position 01:19N – 104:21E. The robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. The crew reported the incident to the Port Authorities. (IMO)

5. (U) MALAYSIA: On 19 November, three robbers boarded an underway tanker in the Singapore Strait near position 01:16N – 104:15E. Nothing was stolen during the boarding. (Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 November, three robbers boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier ASIA SPRING underway in the Singapore Strait near position 01:15N – 104:04E. A subsequent search by the crew revealed nothing was stolen. The master notified the Vessel Traffic Information Service of the incident. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) MALAYSIA: On 17 November, authorities announced they had set up a task force to combat robbery and robbery in the waters of the East Sabah Safe Zone (ESS Zone) following recent robberies in the area. (www.bernama.com)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 9 November, at least one robber boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier ATLANTIC DIANA while underway near position 01:67N – 014:18E, the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme. The Master reported to the Vessel Traffic Information Service that one robber, armed with a knife, was spotted in the engine room. A full search was conducted which confirmed the robber had escaped and nothing had been reported stolen. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

9. (U) INDONESIA: On 9 November, robbers boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier LEFKADA while underway near position 01:17N – 014:20E, the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme. It was reported to the Vessel Traffic Information Service that a number of robbers had been spotted in the engine room. A full search was conducted which confirmed the robbers had escaped and one life buoy was missing. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

10. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 November, robbers boarded the Liberia-flagged tanker ZENO while underway near position 01:16N – 014:12E, the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme. The Master reported to the Vessel Traffic Information Service that three robbers has been sighted in the engine room. A full search was conducted which confirmed that the robbers had escaped with items of ship's property. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

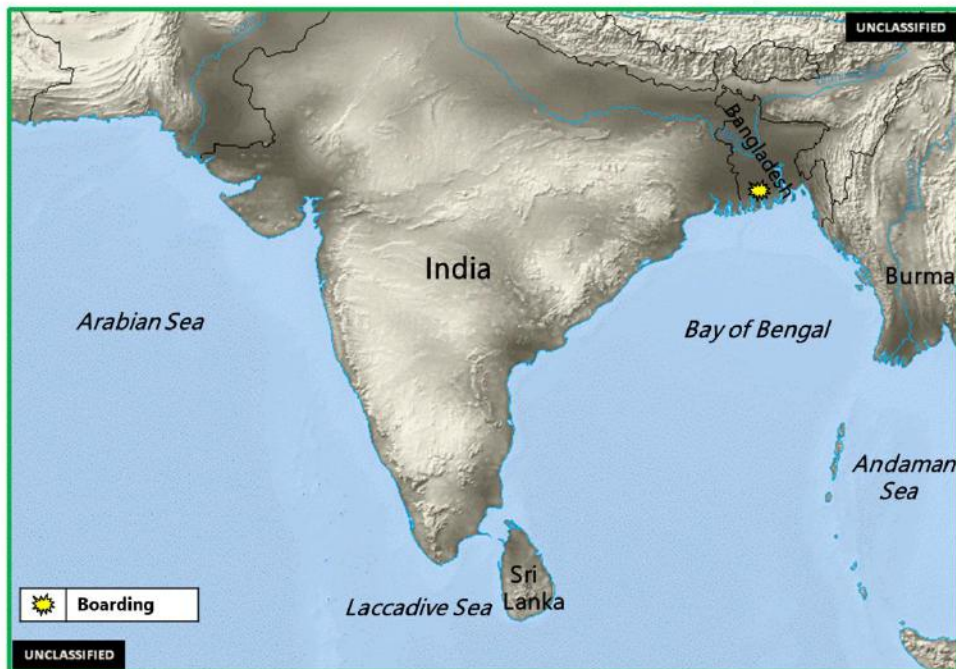
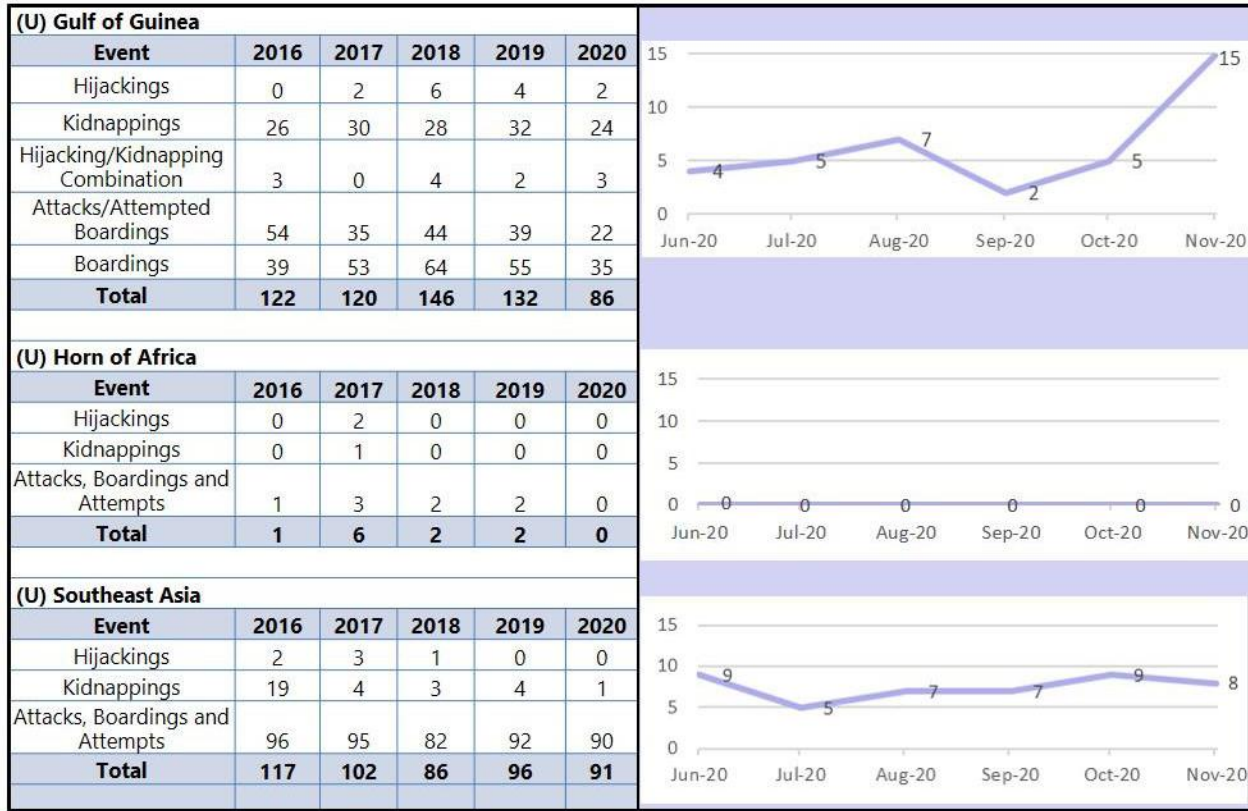


Figure 4. Indian Subcontinent Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 25 November, three robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged LPG Tanker EPIC BOLIVAR anchored at Pussur River, Mongla, near position 22:23N – 089:37W. When the duty watch raised the alarm, the robbers fled empty handed. The crew reported the incident to the Mongla Port Control. (IMO, ReCAAP)

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:**



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 anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis:

- (U) **Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- (U) **Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- (U) **Boarding** – Unauthorized embarkation of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- (U) **Fired Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- (U) **Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- (U) **Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- (U) **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.

(U) **ICOD:** 3 December 2020

(U) The Weekly Piracy Update (WPU) and Worldwide Threat to Shipping reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intelligence Portal: <https://www.oni.navy.mil/News/Shipping-Threat-Reports/>