



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** 12 November – 10 December 2020



10 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) PACIFIC OCEAN: On 30 November, the Japan-flagged container vessel ONE APUS lost 1,816 containers when it encountered severe weather 1,600 NM northwest of Hawaii.
- B. (U) PERU: On 6 December, two robbers attempted to board an anchored general cargo ship via the anchor chain in Callao Anchorage.
- C. (U) NIGERIA: On 6 December, four pirates boarded the Malta-flagged tanker NEW RANGER underway 98 NM south-southwest of Brass.
- D. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 December, pirates boarded the Malta-flagged tanker NEW RANGER approximately 200 NM south-southwest of Lagos.
- E. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 December, a speedboat conducted a suspicious approach of the France-flagged tanker VERRAZANE approximately 210 NM south of Lagos, Nigeria.
- F. (U) ANGOLA: On 5 December, two robbers boarded an offshore supply vessel anchored in Luanda Outer Anchorage.

- G. (U) LIBYA: On 5 December, local authorities detained the Jamaica-flagged cargo vessel MABROOKA while en route to Misrata after it reportedly entered the restricted zone offshore of Derna and failed to respond to calls.
- H. (U) YEMEN: On 4 December, individuals in a skiff fired upon the Sierra Leone-flagged cargo ship HASAN approximately 35 NM south-southwest of Nishtun.
- I. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 December, pirates in a skiff fired upon the Greece-flagged tanker MINERVA EVOPRI approximately 230 NM south of Lagos.
- J. (U) PACIFIC OCEAN: On 30 November, the crew of the Vietnam-flagged bulk carrier INLACO EXPRESS discovered a dead crewman prior to arriving at Vostochniy Port anchorage, Russia.

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:**



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

1. (U) PERU: On 6 December, two robbers attempted to board an anchored general cargo ship via the anchor chain in the Callao Anchorage near position 12:01S – 077:11W. An alert duty watchmen raised the alarm after spotting the two men attempting to board. Upon being detected, the robbers fled in their boat. The crew reported

the incident to the local authorities. A coast guard boat arrived at the location and conducted an investigation. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (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:** No current incidents to report.

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

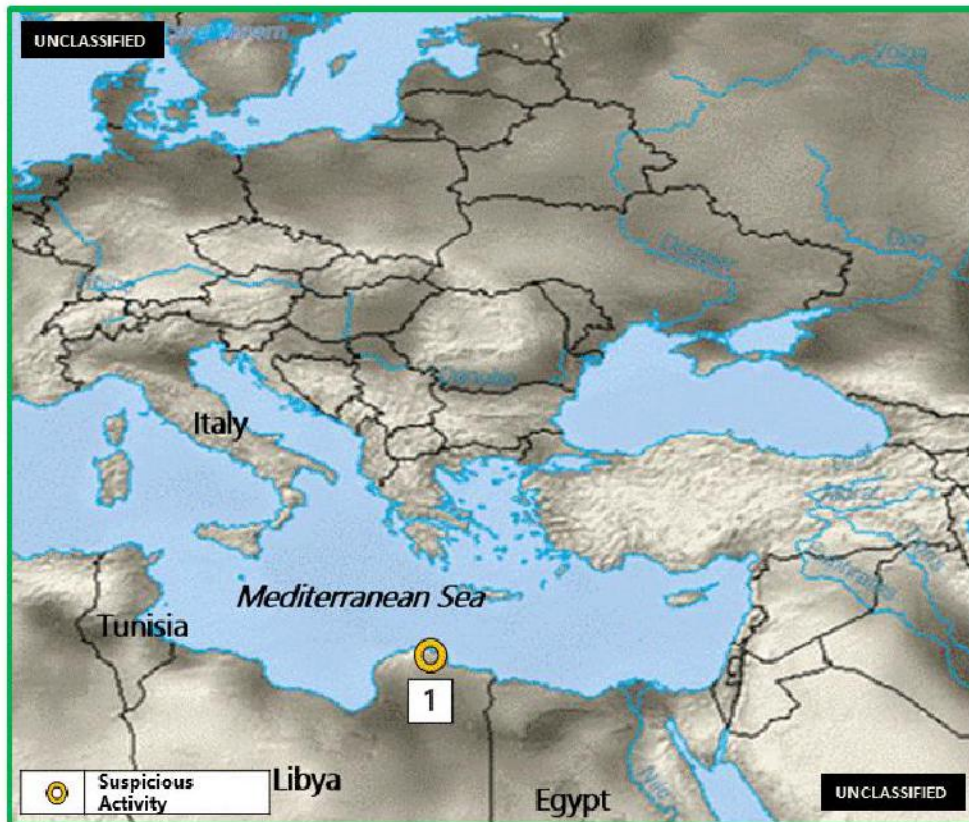


Figure 2. Mediterranean – Black Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) LIBYA: On 5 December, local authorities detained the Jamaica-flagged cargo vessel MABROOKA en route to Misrata after it reportedly entered the restricted zone offshore of Derna and failed to respond to calls. A Libyan National Army spokesman issued a statement that the vessel was intercepted and then towed to Ras Al-Halil port. The MABROOKA crew (9 Turks, 7 Indians, and 1 Azerbaijani) are being detained for violating maritime regulations and laws. (Dryad Global)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

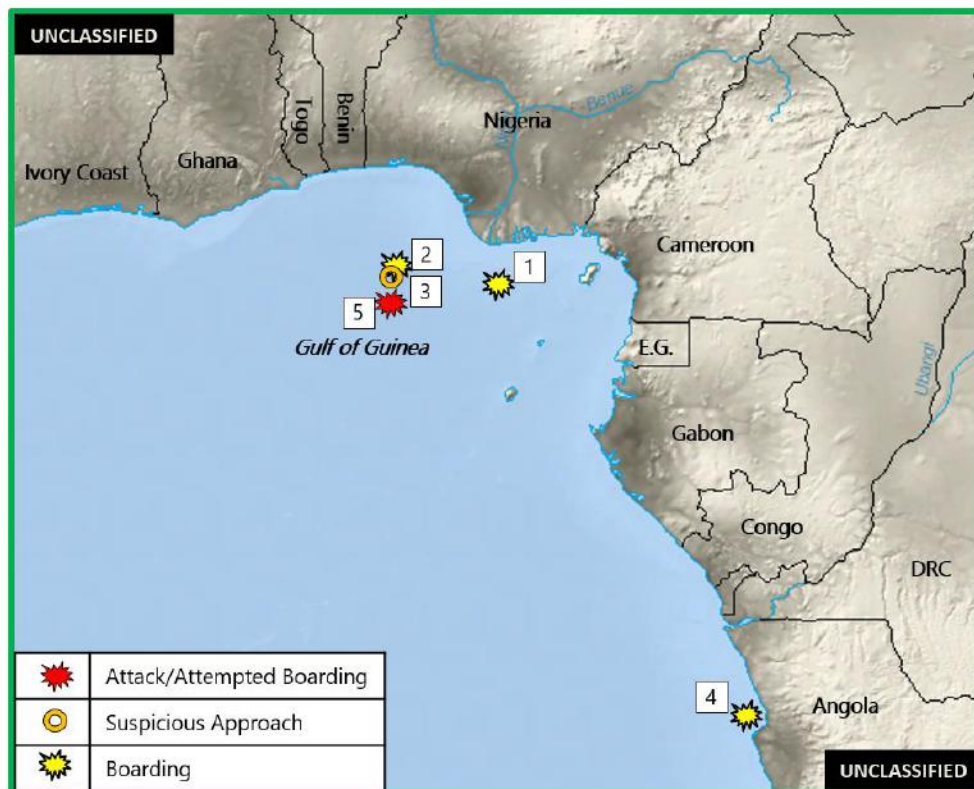


Figure 3. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 6 December, four pirates boarded the Malta-flagged tanker NEW RANGER underway 98 NM south-southwest of Brass near position 02:42N – 005:57E while the crew sheltered in the citadel. When the pirates discovered they were unable to reach the crew, they departed without stealing anything. (IMB)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 December, pirates boarded the Malta-flagged tanker NEW RANGER approximately 200 NM south-southwest of Lagos near position 03:02N – 003:00E. The crew sheltered in the citadel and are safe. (Clearwater Dynamics; Dryad Global; www.fleetmon.com)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 December, unidentified individuals in a skiff conducted a suspicious approach on the France-flagged LPG tanker VERRAZANE approximately 210 NM south of Lagos, Nigeria near position 02:59N – 002:56E. When the crew raised the alarm, the accompanying security escort vessel vectored towards the approaching speedboat. The skiff subsequently turned away and departed the area. (Clearwater Dynamics, SAFETY4SEA)

4. (U) ANGOLA: On 5 December, robbers boarded an offshore supply vessel anchored Luanda Outer Anchorage near position 08:44S – 008:13E. The robbers fled in a small boat with a stolen hose after the duty officer shouted at them. (Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 December, pirates in a skiff fired upon the Greece-flagged tanker MINERVA EVOPRI approximately 230 NM south of Lagos near position 02:34N – 002:53E. The crew sounded the general alarm, activated fire pumps, increased speed, and conducted evasive maneuvers. They also activated the ship security alert system (SSAS) and retreated into a safe area of the ship. The pirates subsequently broke off the pursuit. (IMB; Dryad Global)

6. (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).

7. (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)

8. (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)

9. (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)

10. (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)

11. (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)

12. (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)

13. (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)

14. (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).

15. (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; Dryab Global; The Maritime Executive; www.today.ng).

16. (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)

17. (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)
18. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 16 November, pirates released a hostage taken from the Marshall Islands-flagged LNG tanker METHANE PRINCESS. (Clearwater Dynamics)
19. (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)
20. (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)
21. (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)
22. (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 forecastle 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)

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

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



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

1. (U) YEMEN: On 4 December, unidentified individuals in a skiff fired upon the Sierra Leone-flagged cargo ship HASAN approximately 35 NM south-southwest of Nishtun near position 15:16N – 052:00W. (IMB; UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Dryad Global; www.apnews.com)

2. (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)

I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA:

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)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

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)

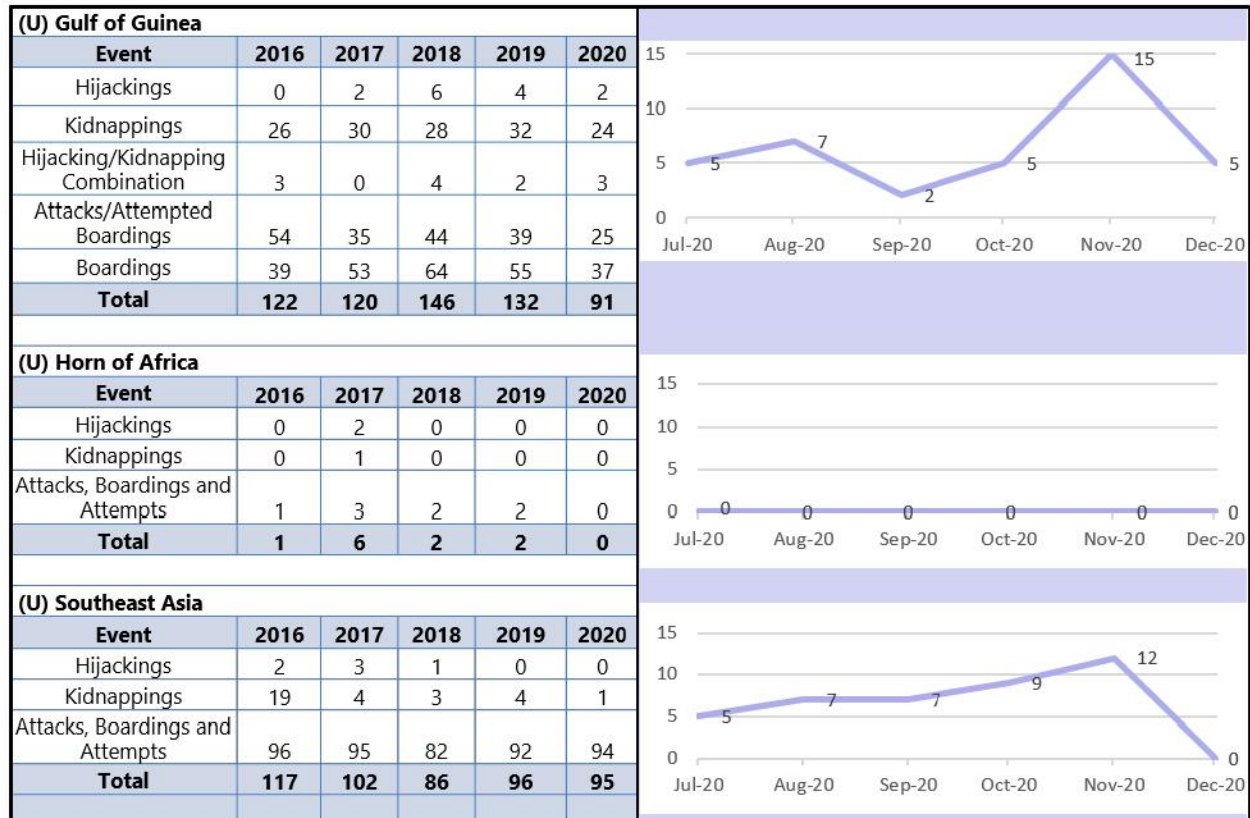
K. (U) AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND - PACIFIC OCEAN AREA:

1. (U) PACIFIC OCEAN: On 30 November, the Japan-flagged container vessel ONE APUS lost 1,816 containers when it encountered severe weather 1,600 nautical miles northwest of Hawaii. The vessel arrived at the Port of

Kobe, Japan on 8 December. Officials are inspecting the vessel to determine the full extent of the damage. The cargo loss is believed to be the biggest weather-related cargo loss in history. (www.gcaptain.com)

2. (U) PACIFIC OCEAN: On 30 November, crewmembers on the Vietnam-flagged bulk carrier INLACO EXPRESS discovered a dead crewman prior to arriving at Vostochniy Port anchorage in Russia. Reports state the body showed signs of a violent death and that five crewmembers were involved in a fight. Local law enforcement agencies are investigating. (www.fleetmon.com)

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:** 10 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/>