



Worldwide

(U) Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 17 December 2025 –14 January 2026

16 JANUARY 2026

(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) GULF OF GUINEA:** On 11 January at 0235 UTC a kidnapping occurred onboard a Chinese fishing vessel nine crew members were abducted.

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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

1. (U) **PERU:** On 29 December at 0608 local time a robbery occurred on board a bulk carrier while anchored at Callao Anchorage. The duty crew reported theft of the ship's forward mooring ropes. All crew were reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics/IMB)

(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



1. **(U) GABON:** On 11 January at 0235UTC, a kidnapping occurred onboard a Chinese fishing vessel whilst underway between Port Gentil and Libreville. Nine crew members were abducted comprising of five Chinese and four Indonesian nationals. The vessel and its three remaining crew members were escorted into Libreville by the Gabonese Military vessel Mendene. (Clearwater Dynamics/CLOSED)
2. **(U) NIGERIA:** On 30 December a kidnapping occurred onboard a civilian passenger boat whilst underway from Oron, on Ikang waterways. Eight passengers including two children were abducted. All of the abducted individuals were freed and recovered safely by Nigerian Army. (Clearwater Dynamics/CLOSED)

(U) PERSIAN GULF

(U) No current incidents to report.

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(U) INDIAN OCEAN – EAST AFRICA – RED SEA

1. **(U) SOMALIA:** On 01 January at 0830 local time, a hijacking of a Chinese-flagged fishing vessel occurred 5NM off the coast of Kulue, Somalia. The hijacked vessel is assessed to be enroute to the Somalian coast to request a ransom. (Clearwater Dynamics/MSCIO/EUNAVFOR)

(U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA

1. **(U) SINGAPORE STRAIT:** On 05 January at 1341 local time, a robbery occurred onboard a barge whilst being towed by a Singapore-flagged tug in the Eastbound Lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme. The crew is safe and scrap metal was reported stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics/Closed)
2. **(U) SINGAPORE STRAIT:** On 25 December at 1330 local time, a robbery occurred onboard a Singapore-flagged vessel whilst underway in the Eastbound Lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme. The captain of ship reported nine preparators onboard the vessel. The crew is reported safe and scrap metal was reported stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics/IFC)
3. **(U) INDONESIA:** On 21 December at 2108 local time, a robbery occurred on a vessel while anchored at Tangkil Island anchorage. Duty crew noticed ropes with hooks attached to the stern deck rails. The duty crew notified the bridge and mustered all crew members. Four robbers with knives were seen escaping with spare engine parts. (Clearwater Dynamics)
4. **(U) SINGAPORE STRAIT:** On 21 December at 1775 local time, a robbery occurred on a Malaysia-flagged tug boat while towing a barge in the westbound lane. The crew noted two sampans and four robbers alongside and onboard. The crew is safe and scrap metal was reported stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics/IFC)
5. **(U) SINGAPORE STRAIT:** On 17 December at 0110 local time, an attempted robbery occurred on a Liberia-flagged bulk carrier while underway in the Phillip Channel. The crew sighted three preparators in the engine room with batons. The crew is safe and nothing was reported stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics/IFC)

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

(U) Gulf of Guinea					
Event	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Hijackings	2	1	0	0	0
Kidnappings	3	7	10	9	1
Hijacking/Kidnapping Combination	4	1	0	0	0
Fired Upon/Attempted Boardings	5	4	5	5	0
Boardings	12	10	10	15	0
Total	26	23	25	29	1

(U) Horn of Africa					
Event	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Hijackings	0	6*	12*	4*	1
Kidnappings	0	0	0	0	0
Fired Upon, Boardings and Attempts	0	1	6	9	0
Total	0	7	18	13	1

(U) Southeast Asia					
Event	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Hijackings	1	2	2	0	0
Kidnappings	0	0	0	0	0
Fired Upon, Boardings and Attempts	84	103	96	134	1
Total	85	105	98	134	1

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

Month	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Events	2	2	3	2	2	1

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

Month	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Events	1	1	1	3	0	1

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

Month	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Events	2	6	2	3	6	1

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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

2025-015-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	15 Dec 2025	13 Jun 2026
2025-014-Global U.S. Maritime Advisory Updates, Resources, and Contacts	06 Oct 2025	04 Apr 2026
2025-013-Worldwide-Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence	06 Oct 2025	04 Apr 2026
2025-012-Red Sea, Bab el Mandeb Strait, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf, and Somali Basin-Houthi Attacks on Commercial Vessels	24 Sep 2025	26 Mar 2026
2025-11: Black Sea and Sea of Azov-Military Combat Operations	29 Aug 2025	28 Feb 2026
2025-010: Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean –Piracy / Armed Robbery / Kidnapping for Ransom	13 Aug 2025	09 Feb 2026
2025-009: Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman – Iranian Illegal Boarding / Detention / Seizure	13 Aug 2025	09 Feb 2026

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