



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** **19 November – 16 December 2020**



16 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:**

(U) **MARAD 2020-017-Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, and Indian Ocean-Violence Due to Regional Conflict and Piracy—Issued on 14 December 2020.** Regional conflict and piracy threats continue to pose risks to commercial vessels operating in the above listed geographic areas. Conflict in Yemen continues to pose potential risk to U.S.-flagged commercial vessels transiting the southern Red Sea, Bab al Mandeb Strait, and Gulf of Aden. Threats may come from a variety of different sources including, but not limited to, missiles, rockets, projectiles, mines, small arms, unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned surface vessels, or waterborne improvised explosive devices. These threat vectors continue to pose a direct or collateral risk to U.S.-flagged commercial vessels operating in the region. Additionally, piracy poses a threat in the Gulf of Aden, Western Arabian Sea, and Western Indian Ocean. Specific case details are available at the Office of Naval Intelligence's "Worldwide Threat to Shipping" website at <https://go.usa.gov/x7J7R>. For more information about this advisory see: <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/msci/2020-017-red-sea-gulf-aden-arabian-sea-and-indian-ocean-violence-due-regional-conflict-and-piracy>

3. (U) **Summary:**

- A. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 16 December, pirates kidnapped eight crewmembers from the Cameroon-flagged cargo vessel STEVIA while underway from Port Harcourt, Nigeria to Abidjan, Ivory Coast.
- B. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 15 December, pirates boarded the Malta-flagged tanker NEW RANGER underway approximately 160 NM south-southwest of Brass, Nigeria.

- C. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 December, pirates released three crewmembers kidnapped on 16 November from the tanker STELIOS K.
- D. (U) SAUDI ARABIA: On 14 December, an explosion occurred near the Singapore-flagged tanker BW RHINE as the ship was conducting cargo operations near Jeddah Port.
- E. (U) INDONESIA: On 14 December, four robbers armed with knives boarded bulk carrier berthed in Lubuk Guang Port, Dumai. They took the duty officer hostage and tied him up.
- F. (U) NIGERIA: On 10 December, pirates kidnapped five crewmembers from the Cameroon-flagged cargo vessel CAP SAINT GEORGES while underway 48 NM west of Bayelsa.
- G. (U) BRAZIL: On 8 December, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Macapa anchorage.
- H. (U) IVORY COAST: On 8 December, a number of robbers boarded an offshore supply vessel from the port side while it was berthed at Lagune Ebrie, Abidjan Port.
- I. (U) LIBERIA: On 25 November, a robber boarded a bulk carrier berthed at Monrovia.

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:**

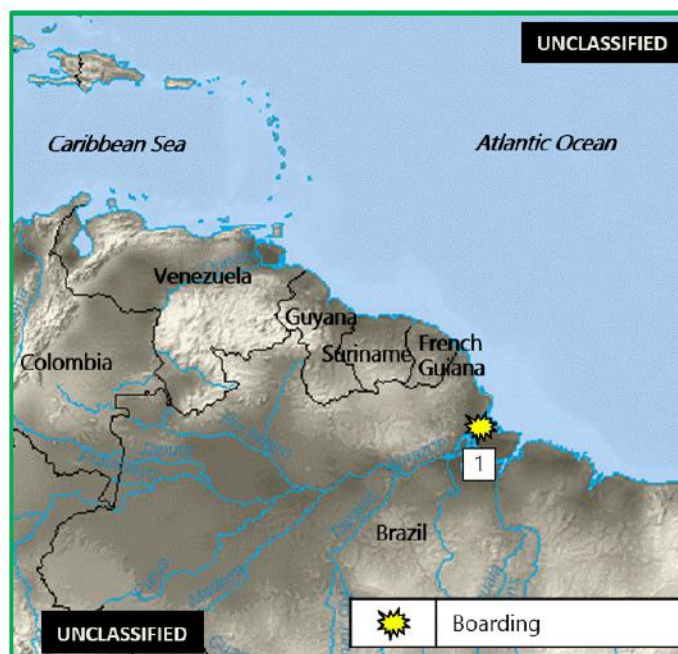


Figure 1. Central America – Caribbean – South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) BRAZIL: On 8 December, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Macapa Anchorage near position 00:01N - 051:01W. The robbers were able to board the vessel between 0245 LT to 0330 LT, steal items of ship's property and escape unnoticed. The incident was reported the local authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (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)

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:**

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-Hail 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:**

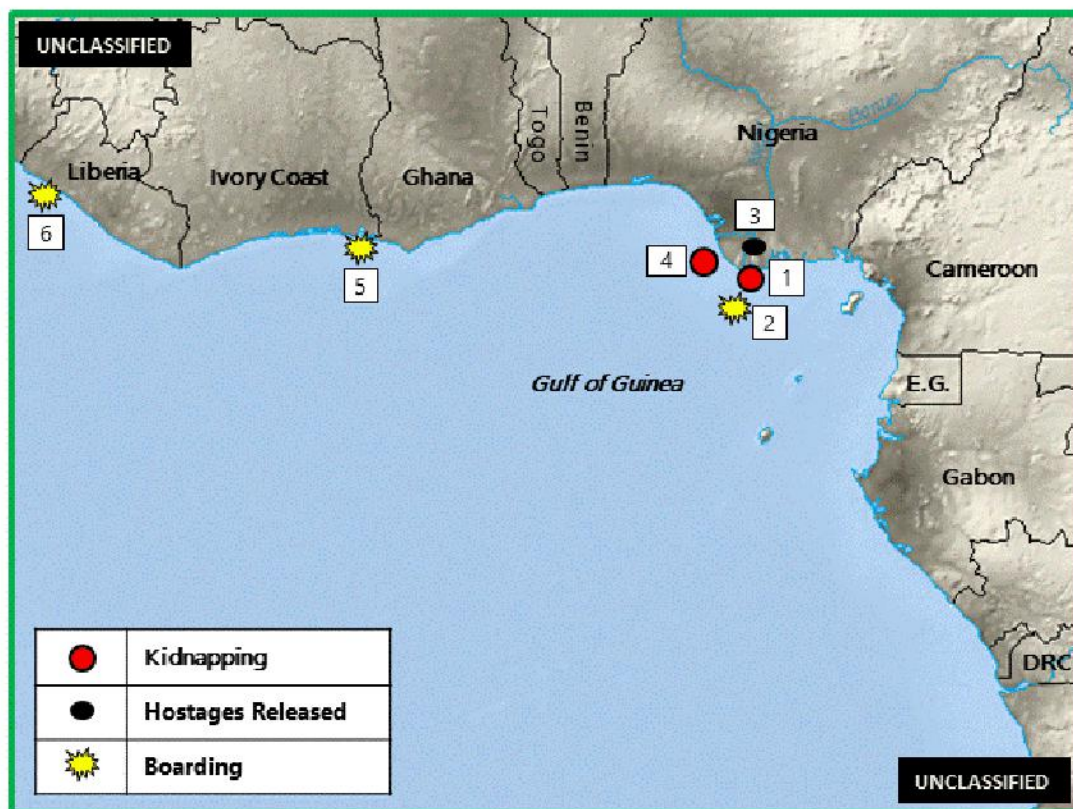


Figure 2. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 16 December, pirates boarded the Cameroon-flagged cargo vessel STEVIA while underway from Port Harcourt, Nigeria to Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The boarding took place near position 03:50N - 006:09E, approximately 28 NM southwest of Brass, Nigeria. Eight crewmembers were kidnapped. (Dryad Global)
2. (U) NIGERIA: On 15 December, pirates boarded the Malta-flagged tanker NEW RANGER underway near position 02:00N - 004:45E, approximately 160 NM south-southwest of Brass, Nigeria. When the duty officer saw the perpetrators, he raised the alarm. All crew retreated into the citadel. Eventually, the pirates left the vessel and the crew emerged from the citadel. The crew and vessel are safe. (IMB; Dryad Global)
3. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 December, pirates released three crewmembers kidnapped from the tanker STELIOS K on 16 November 2020 after 28 days in captivity. (Clearwater Dynamics)
4. (U) NIGERIA: On 10 December, pirates boarded the Cameroon-flagged cargo vessel CAP SAINT GEORGES while underway 48 NM west of Bayelsa, near position 04:37N - 004:38E. Pirates kidnapped five crewmembers (3 Cameroonians, 1 Ghanaian, and 1 from Sierra Leone). The remaining crew sailed the ship to a safe port. (IMB; Dryad Global)
5. (U) IVORY COAST: On 8 December, a number of robbers boarded an offshore supply vessel from the port side while it was berthed at Lagune Ebrie, Abidjan Port, near position 05:19N - 004:01W. The robbers stole a mooring rope and a pump before escaping in a small canoe. (Clearwater Dynamics)
6. (U) LIBERIA: On 25 November, a robber boarded a bulk carrier berthed at Monrovia, near position 06:20N - 006:27W. Duty crew members spotted one robber onboard and began to approach, which resulted in the perpetrator escaping empty-handed. The incident was reported to the port authority. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
7. (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)
8. (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)
9. (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)
10. (U) ANGOLA: On 5 December, robbers boarded an offshore supply vessel anchored in 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)
11. (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)
12. (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).

13. (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)
14. (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)
15. (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)
16. (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)
17. (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 four of the 23 crew members, reportedly 2 Filipinos, 1 Romanian, and 1 Russian. The vessel subsequently proceeded to safe anchorage at Lomé. (Clearwater Dynamics; Dryad Global; The Maritime Executive)
18. (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)
19. (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)
20. (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).
21. (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).
22. (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)

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

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

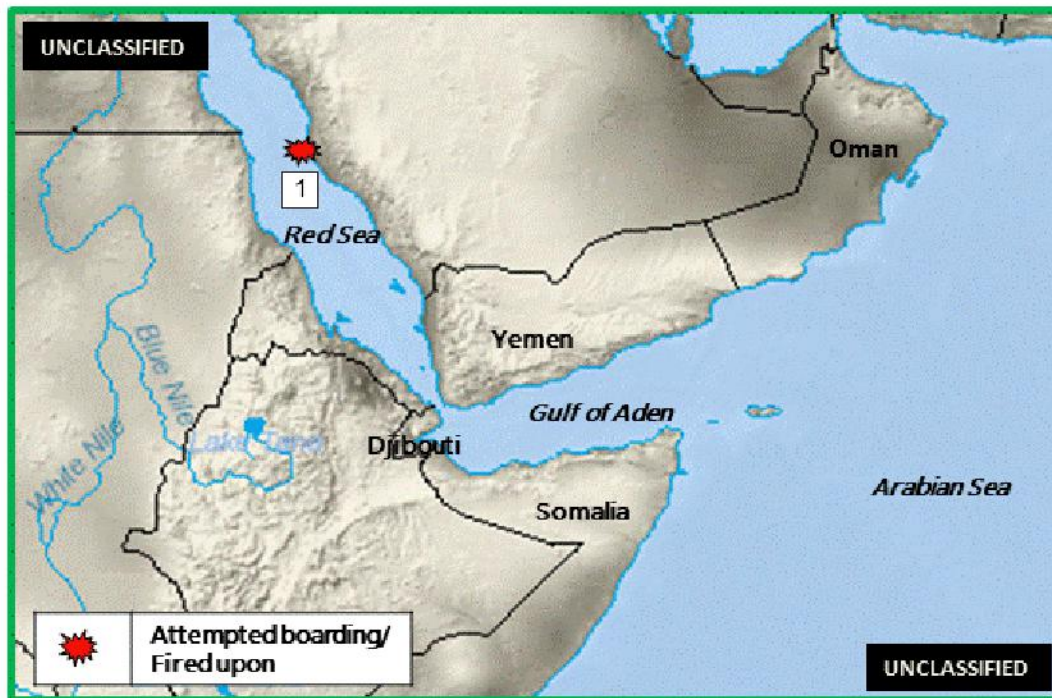


Figure 3. East Africa – Red Sea Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SAUDI ARABIA: On 14 December, an explosion occurred near the Singapore-flagged tanker BW RHINE as the ship was conducting cargo operations near Jeddah Port. The explosion was external, causing an internal fire, which was extinguished within the hour. No casualties were reported. A survey for underwater damage is ongoing. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; www.gcaptain.com)

2. (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)

3. (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:

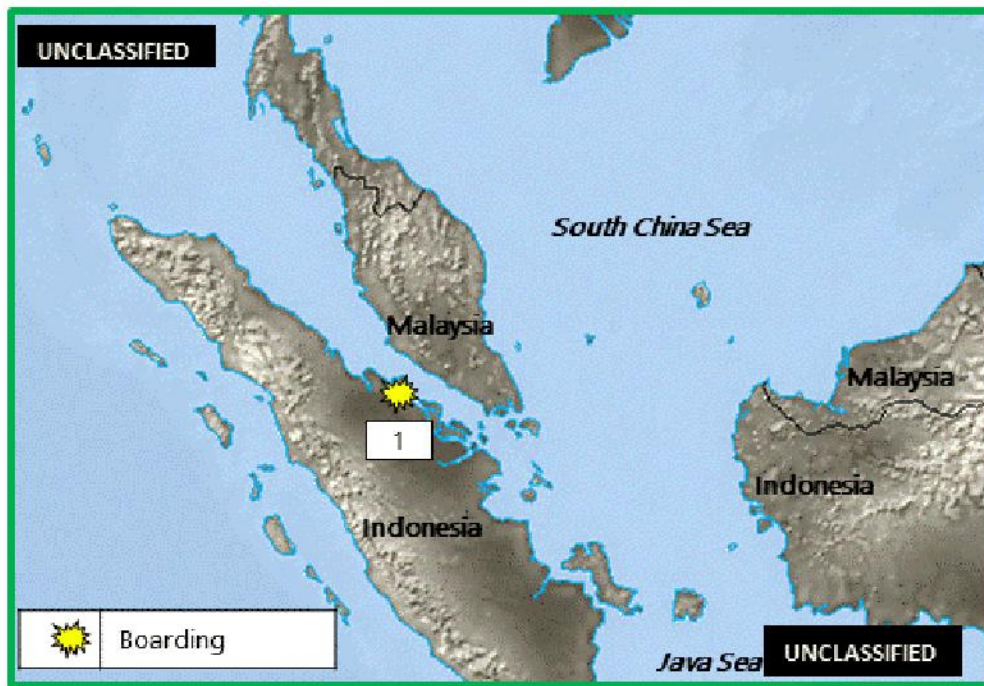


Figure 4. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 14 December, four robbers armed with knives boarded a bulk carrier berthed in Lubuk Guang Port, Dumai. They took the duty officer hostage and tied him up. The robbers stole ship's stores and spare parts, and released the duty officer before escaping. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
2. (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)
3. (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)
4. (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)
5. (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)
6. (U) MALAYSIA: On 19 November, three robbers boarded an underway tanker in the Singapore Strait near position 01:16N - 0104:15E. Nothing was stolen during the boarding. (Clearwater Dynamics)

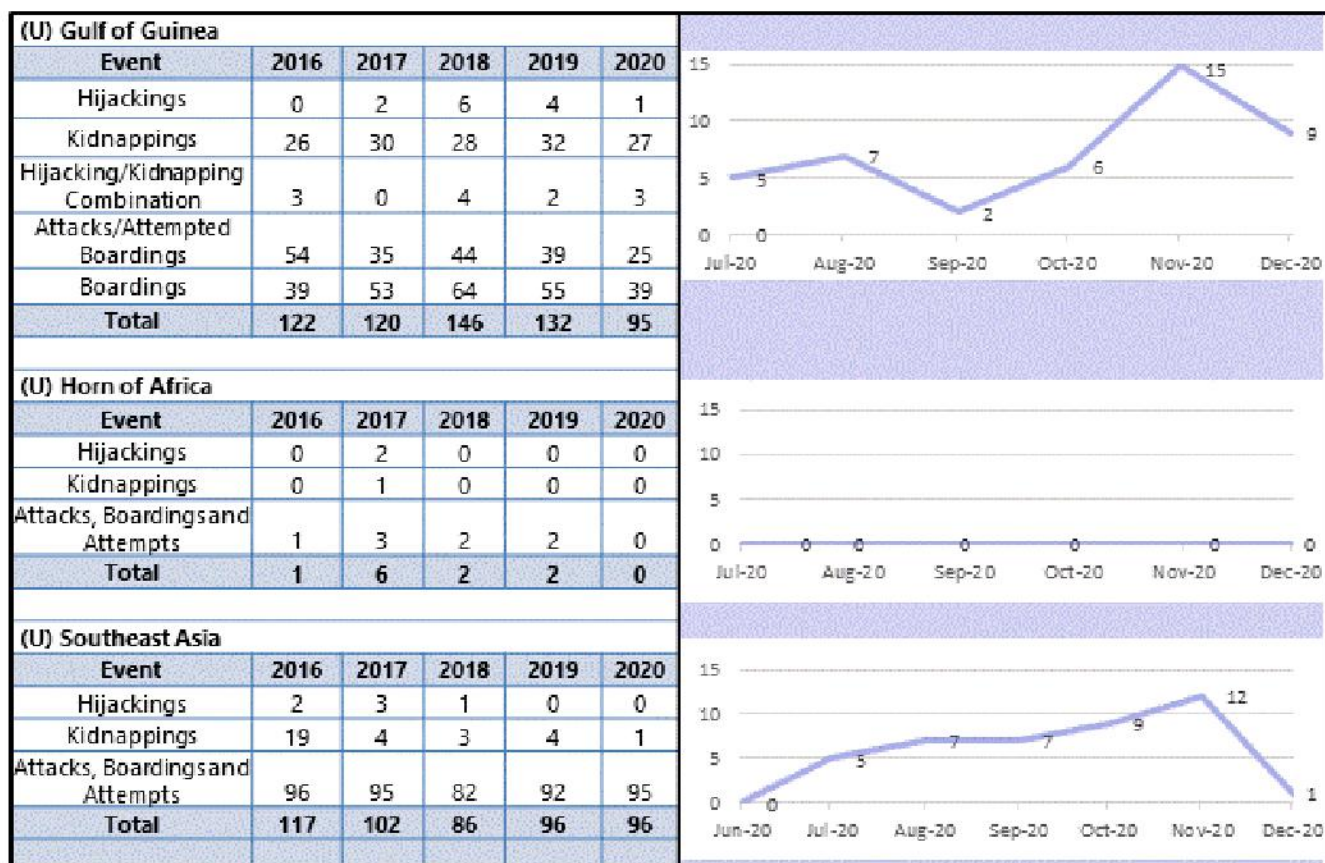
J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

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:** 16 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/>