

UNCLASSIFIED



(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** **2 December – 30 December 2020**



30 December 2020

(U) **Table of Contents:**

1. (U) **Scope Note**
2. (U) **Warnings and Advisories**
3. (U) **Summary**
4. (U) **Details: Monthly Incidents by Region**
5. (U) **Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends**
6. (U) **Appendix B: Definitions and Sourcing**

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:** No current Advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

- A. (U) NIGERIA: On 29 December, the crew of a tanker reported a suspicious approach by a speedboat approximately 94 NM southwest of Brass, Nigeria.
- B. (U) GHANA: On 26 December, a robber boarded a cargo vessel in Takoradi Anchorage.
- C. (U) ANGOLA: On 24 December, robbers boarded a research vessel in Luanda Anchorage.
- D. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 December, pirates released five Ghanaians kidnapped from the Ghana-flagged general cargo vessel AM DELTA.
- E. (U) NIGERIA: On 22 December, the crew of the Singapore-flagged tanker BW PAVILION LEEARA reported a suspicious approach by one speedboat approximately 121 NM southwest of Brass, Nigeria.

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) 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-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:

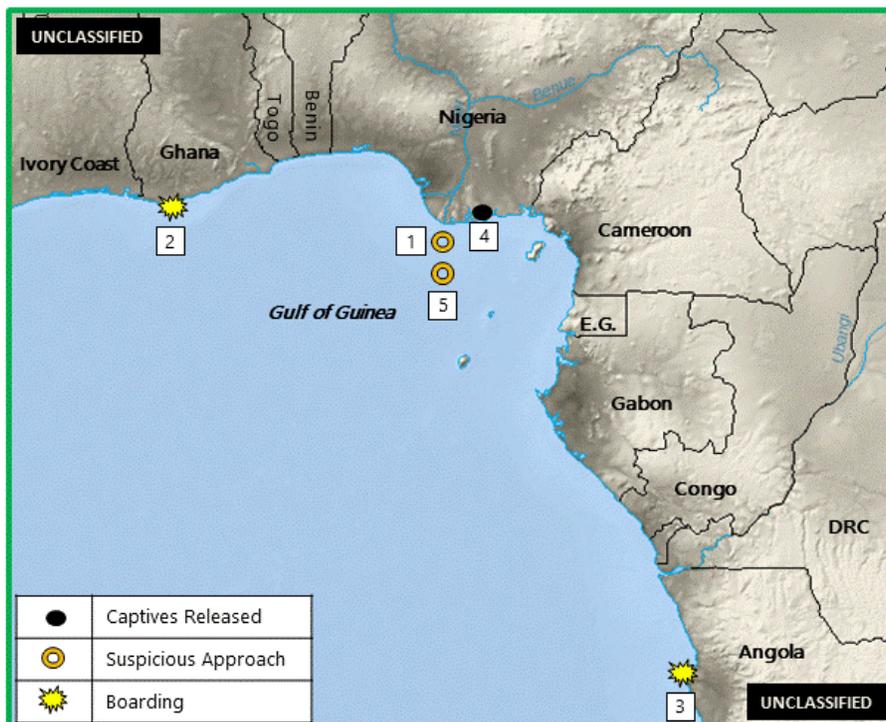


Figure 1. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 29 December, the crew on a tanker reported a suspicious approach by a speedboat approximately 94 NM southwest of Brass, Nigeria, near position 02:44N – 006:24E. The skiff, which had five armed men on board, approached to within 50 meters of the tanker's starboard side. When the Master carried out evasive maneuvers, the skiff departed the area. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
2. (U) GHANA: On 26 December, a robber boarded a cargo vessel in Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:53N – 001:41W. When the Duty Officer noticed the robber on the forecastle and raised the alarm, the robber fled with ship's property. (Clearwater Dynamics)
3. (U) ANGOLA: On 24 December, robbers boarded a research vessel in Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:44S – 013:17E. The robbers stole several mooring lines from the vessel forecastle without being spotted. (Clearwater Dynamics)
4. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 December, pirates released five Ghanaians kidnapped from the Ghana-flagged general cargo vessel AM DELTA. They were in good health and unharmed. (Clearwater Dynamics; www.splash247.com)
5. (U) NIGERIA: On 22 December, the crew of the Singapore-flagged tanker BW PAVILION LEEARA reported a suspicious approach by a speedboat approximately 121 NM southwest of Brass, Nigeria, near position 02:26 – 005:24E. When the speedboat approached the tanker on the port side, the Captain increased speed, altered course, and notified his company. The speedboat subsequently changed course and increased speed to continue its pursuit of the tanker. During the incident, the crew mustered in the citadel, apart from the Captain and two other crew members who remained on the bridge. The speed boat aborted the chase after 45 minutes. (Clearwater Dynamics)
6. (U) NIGERIA: On 21 December, Lebanon's Foreign Ministry announced that three of its citizens, along with two Egyptians, had been released after they were kidnapped on 26 November from the cargo ship MILANO I off the coast of Nigeria. (www.elnashra.com; www.middleeastmonitor.com)
7. (U) NIGERIA: On 21 December, pirates boarded the Malta-flagged container ship PORT GDYNIA approximately 100 NM south-southwest of Brass, near position 02:37N – 005:37E. The crew safely evacuated to the citadel, and also heard gunfire inside the ship during that time. The pirates eventually departed the ship and the crew was able to continue on its voyage to Bata, Equatorial Guinea. (Clearwater Dynamics)
8. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 December, pirates boarded the Singapore-flagged container ship MAERSK CADIZ approximately 85 NM south of Brass, near position 02:39N – 006:14E. Three security vessels responded to the incident and the pirates had departed the vessel. Crew is safe. (Clearwater Dynamics; Dryad Global; www.fleetmon.com)
9. (U) NIGERIA: On 18 December, pirates reportedly boarded the Bermuda-flagged LNG tanker LNG LAGOS II 170 NM southwest of Brass, near position 02:17N 003:54E. (Dryad Global; www.fleetmon.com)
5. (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)
10. (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)

11. (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)
12. (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)
13. (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)
14. (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)
15. (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)
16. (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)
17. (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)
18. (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)
19. (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)
20. (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).

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

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

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 reported. A survey for underwater damage is ongoing. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics was extinguished within the hour. No casualties were; 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)

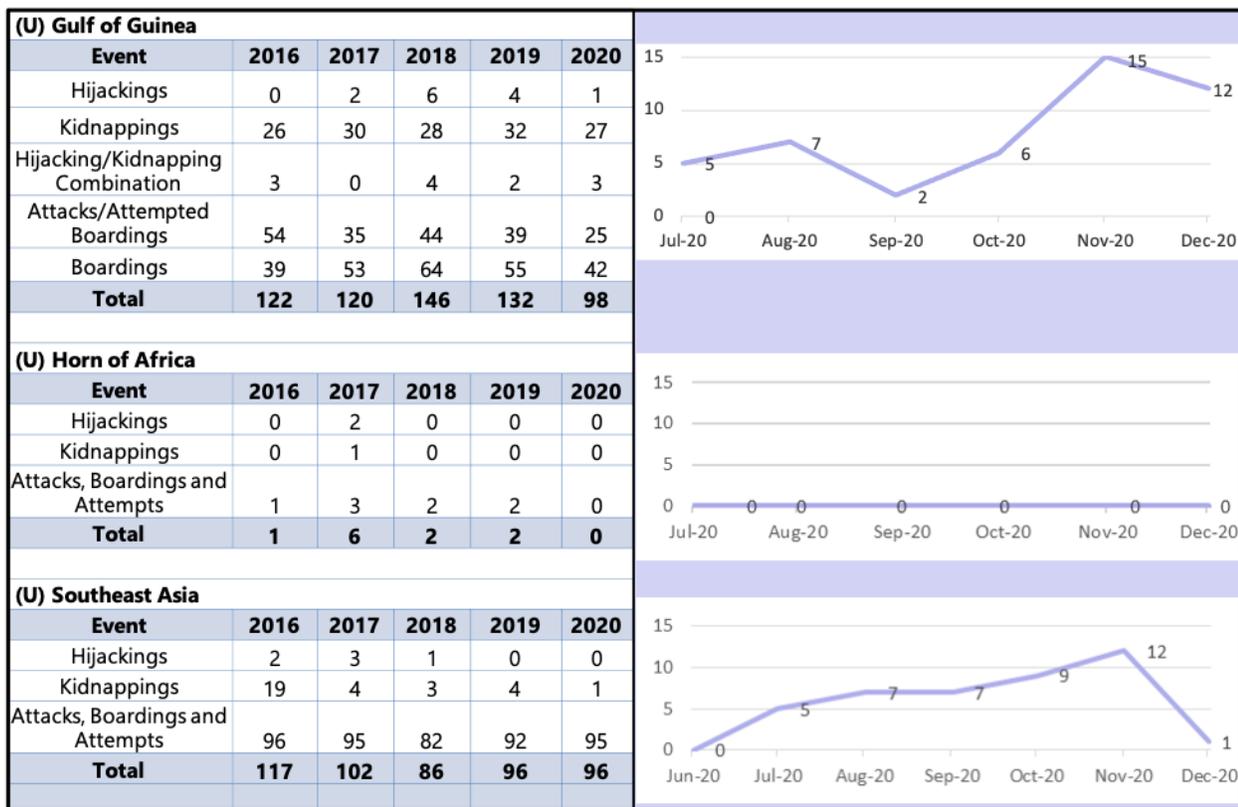
I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA:

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)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT: No current incidents to report.

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:** 30 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/>