



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 14 July – 11 August 2021**

11 August 2021

(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 active advisories or warnings.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 10 August, a passenger boat was attacked and five passengers reported kidnapped while underway on the Bonny River, close to Onne Port.

B. (U) **ECUADOR:** On 5 August, robbers attempted to board a container ship underway approximately 17 NM south-southwest of Guayaquil.

C. (U) **BONAIRE:** On 2 August, robbers stole a 9.9-HP outboard motor from a dinghy tied to a sailing yacht anchored in Kralendijk mooring field.

UNCLASSIFIED

4. (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 last 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.

A. (U) NORTH AMERICA:

1. (U) MEXICO: On 19 July, at least five armed men using two speedboats boarded the Sandunga oil platform, located in the Bay of Campeche. The robbers stole tools, supplies, self-contained breathing apparatuses, camera-equipped diving helmets, diving suits, flippers, boots, and workers' personal belongings. (www.mexiconewsdaily.com)

B. (U) CENTRAL AMERICA – CARIBBEAN – SOUTH AMERICA:

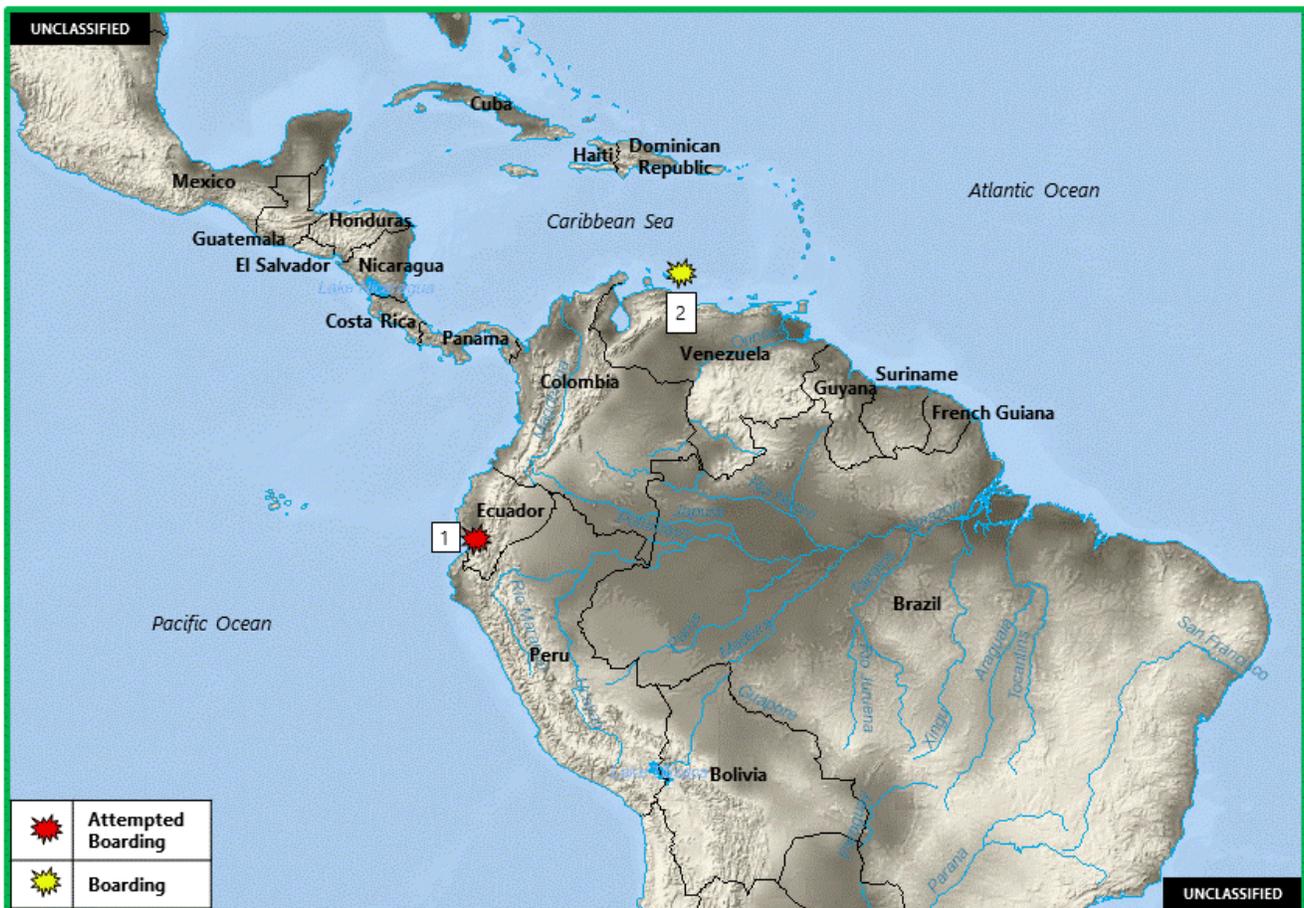


Figure 1. Central America – Caribbean – South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) ECUADOR: On 5 August, robbers attempted to board a container ship underway approximately 17 NM south-southwest of Guayaquil, near position 02:29S – 080:04W. The alarm was raised and local authorities were notified. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers pulled away. Coast guard officers boarded the ship and escorted it to a safe port. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) BONAIRE: On 2 August, robbers stole a 9.9-HP outboard motor from a dinghy tied to a sailing yacht anchored in Kralendijk mooring field. A report was made to the police and the marina. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

3. (U) BRAZIL: On 30 July, robbers boarded a general cargo ship anchored in Fazendinha Anchorage, near position 00:03S – 056:06W. They were able to board the vessel, steal items of ship's stores, and escape unnoticed. The robbery was discovered by a duty crewman conducting routine rounds. The incident was reported to the local agent who also informed the harbor master. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) COLOMBIA: On 29 July, two robbers boarded the Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier OTAGO HARBOUR anchored in Cartagena Anchorage, near position 10:19N – 075:31W. A duty crewman on routine rounds saw the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with stolen ship property. The incident was reported to local authorities. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS: On 18 July, robbers stole a dinghy and outboard motor from a sailing yacht anchored in Salt Pond Bay. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

6. (U) HAITI: On 15 July, at 21:30 local time, five robbers armed with firearms and knives boarded an anchored Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier MAESTRO DIAMOND, using long ladders, at Port Au Prince Anchorage near position 18:34N – 072:24W. The crew raised the alarm and mustered in the accommodation. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers made their escape empty-handed. The incident was reported to the port authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMO-GISIS)

7. (U) GRENADA: On 15 July, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Mt. Hartman Bay and stole a dinghy and a 15-HP engine. A report was made to the coast guard. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

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: No current incidents to report.

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

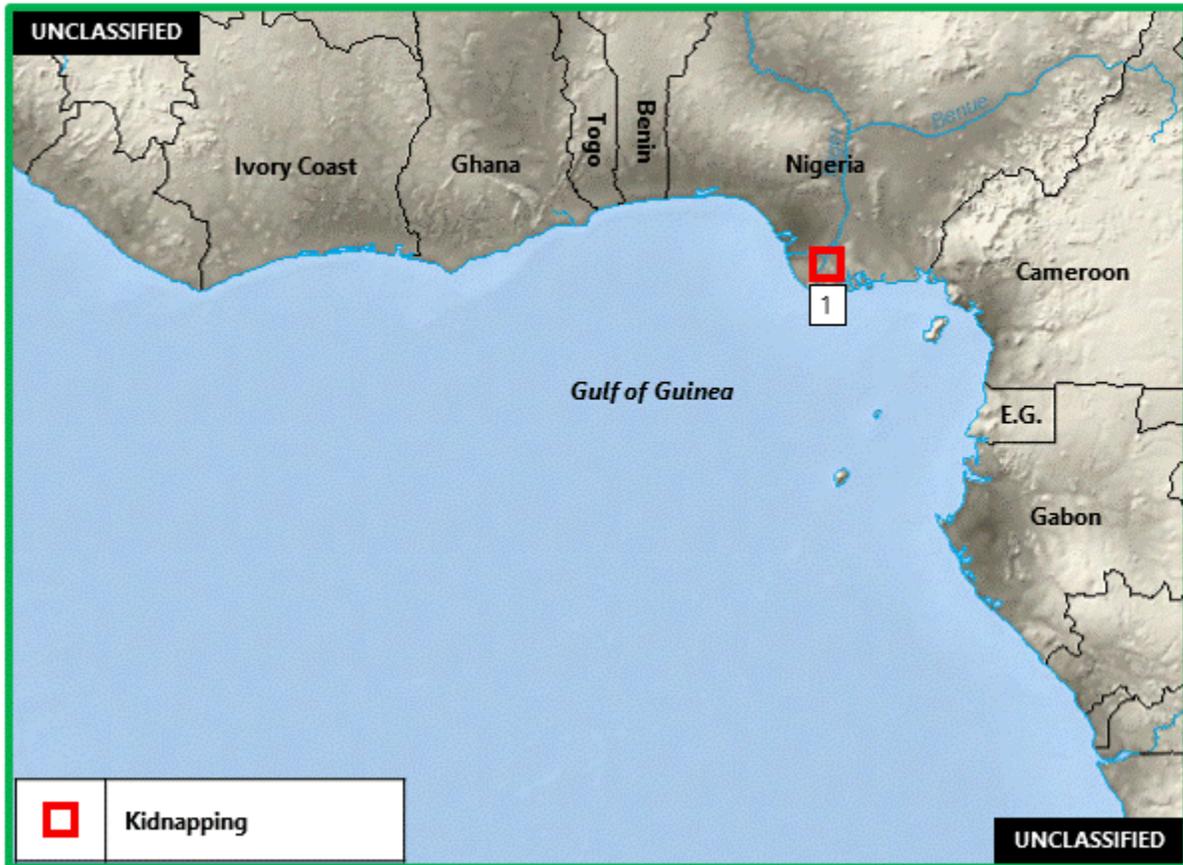


Figure 2. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 10 August, possible pirates attacked a passenger boat while underway on the Bonny River, close to Onne Port, near position 04:38N – 006:09E. Five passengers were reported kidnapped while the remaining passengers, including the passenger boat captain, were allowed to continue on their journey to Port Harcourt. (www.dailypostng.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) GUINEA: On 1 August, four robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Conakry Anchorage, near position 09:16N – 013:48W. The alarm was raised as the intruders forced their way into the accommodation area, resulting in non-duty crewmen locking themselves in their cabins. The intruders broke into the master's cabin, and forced the master to open the ship's safe and hand over cash. Then the intruders tried to kidnap the duty crew and master, but failed. The intruders escaped, taking cash and technical equipment from the master's cabin. The master returned to the bridge to inform the port authorities and activated the ship's SSAS. Further investigations are ongoing. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 August, pirates kidnapped five crewmen from the Ghana-flagged fishing vessel IRIS S on 31 May; of whom four South Koreans and one Filipino have been released. (Clearwater Dynamics; www.koreaherald.com)

4. (U) GHANA: On 31 July, robbers approached a container ship anchored in Tema Anchorage, near position 05:35N – 000:03E. The robbers were spotted by duty crew members, the alarm was raised, and the fire hoses were activated. These actions resulted in the robbers departing. Within an hour, the same robbers approached the containership for a second time, however, this attempt was also unsuccessful. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE: On 27 July, a merchant vessel underway approximately 93 NM west of Port Gentil, Gabon, reported a suspicious approach by one fishing vessel and two small skiffs. The incident occurred near position 00:53S – 007:07E at approximately 0400 UTC. (MDAT-GoG)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 July, suspected pirates kidnapped eight passengers from a passenger boat transiting along the Kula-Abonrma waterway in Rivers State. Five of the victims were working for the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria in Kula, in the Akuku-Toru Local Government Area of the state at the time of the incident. The eight persons were reported in local media as being released on 26 July. (www.punchng.com; www.allafrica.com)

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

H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN – EAST AFRICA – RED SEA: No current incidents to report.

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 17 July, eight robbers boarded the Panama-flagged container ship MAERSK NUSSFJORD while anchored in Manila Port South, near position 14:33N – 120:56E. One of the intruders pointed an improvised gun at a duty watchman's head, tied him to the ships railings, and stole his radio. Seven other intruders appeared and broke the padlock to the boatswain's locker, stealing a coil of new mooring rope. All eight intruders escaped from the vessel in an unmarked motorboat. The watchman untied himself and informed the duty officer, who raised the alarm. The incident was reported to the Port Authorities who tasked a patrol boat to search the area. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) (U) INDONESIA: On 17 July, at 00:40 local time, five robbers armed with knives boarded the Liberian-flagged bulk carrier ADVENTURER underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) near position 01:16N – 104:15E. The robbers were spotted in the engine room before making their escape. Nothing was reported stolen, and all crew were reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMO-GISIS)

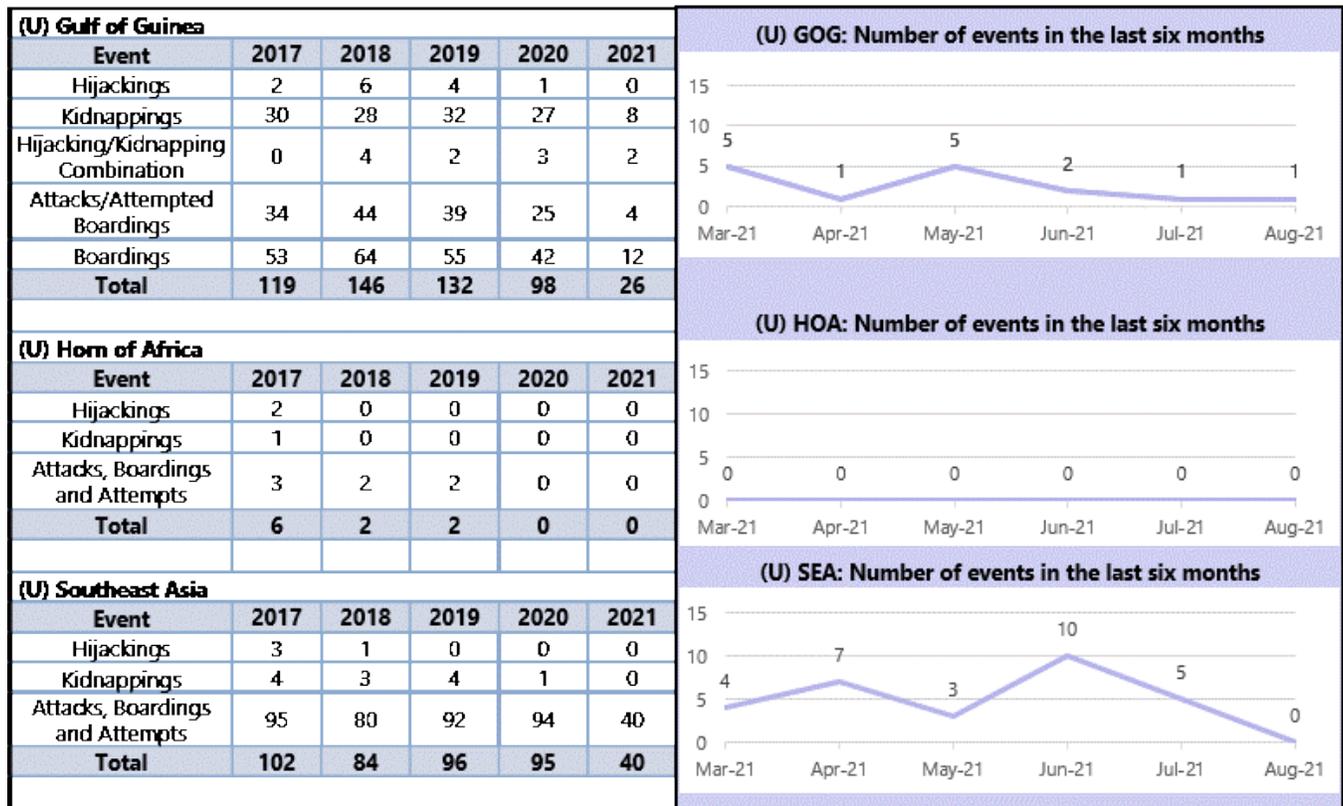
3. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 July, at 00:16 local time, robbers armed with a knife boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier STAR NIKE underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS near position 01:16N – 104:13E. The robbers were spotted in the steering room. Upon being discovered, the robbers made their escape. All crew were reported safe and an assessment is being conducted to identify which items were stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMO-GISIS)

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

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

1. (U) PAPUA NEW GUINEA: On 29 July, two robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged tanker PUFFIN PACIFIC anchored in Rabaul Anchorage, near position 04:15S – 152:11E. The robbers were able to board the tanker and enter the accommodation area through a door on the starboard side upper deck. The robbers were spotted by duty crew members and the alarm was raised. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers made their escape with a laptop they had been able to steal from the ship's office. They used the port anchor chain to escape into a small, unlit rowing boat, in which a third perpetrator was waiting. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

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 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.

B. (U) Sourcing: ONI derives information in this report primarily from government agencies, piracy reporting centers, maritime security companies, and open press.

(U) **ICOD:** 11 August 2021

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