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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 8 December 2021 – 5 January 2022**



5 January 2022

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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:** No active Warnings or Advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) **YEMEN:** On 5 January, an underway vessel reported a suspicious approach by a single craft, approximately 30 NM west of Port Saleef.

B. (U) **YEMEN:** On 3 January, a United Arab Emirates-flagged landing craft was attacked, seized, and held allegedly by Yemeni Houthi militia, approximately 23 NM west of Ras Isa

C. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 1 January, an underway passenger boat was boarded and robbed while in transit between Yenegoa and Brass Island, Bayelsa State waterways.

D. (U) **MALAYSIA:** On 31 December, robbers boarded a barge towed by a tugboat underway in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

E. (U) **EQUATORIAL GUINEA:** On 30 December, pirates boarded a fishing vessel and reportedly kidnapped six crewmembers and killed one crewmember about 12 NM southwest of Mbini.

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F. (U) INDONESIA: On 9 December, robbers boarded a barge towed by a tugboat underway in between Sumatra and the Bangka Islands.

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: No current incidents to report.

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

1. (U) PERU: On 23 December, at 1955 local time, a robbery occurred on a bulk carrier anchored at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:02S – 077:13W. Seven robbers approached the anchored ship in a wooden boat. Three of the robbers subsequently boarded the vessel. Armed with knives, the robbers broke into the forecandle store, stole the ship's properties, and threatened the crew conducting routine rounds. The threatened duty crew raised the alarm, and the robbers escaped. The incident was reported to TRAMAR, and the coast guard boarded the ship for inspection. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) ECUADOR: On 23 December, at 0555 local time, armed individuals in a speedboat approached and fired upon a container ship underway about 1.6 NM southeast of Puerto Pizarro, near position 02:36S – 080:09W. Armed guards onboard the container ship returned fire, and the speedboat, as a result, ended its approach and moved away. All crew were reported safe. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) HAITI: On 10 December, at 2008 local time, three armed robbers were able to board a bulk carrier using a hook attached to a bamboo pole while berthed in Port Au Prince, near position 18:34N – 072:20W. The robbers lowered mooring rope to a small boat alongside the ship with one robber onboard. When the robbers saw a crew member, they pointed a gun at him; the crew member reported the boarding over his radio and another crew member came to assist, but was also threatened with a gun. The captain sounded the alarm and contacted port authorities. Three armed port security guards arrived on the scene, and the robbers jumped overboard while under fire. No crew member was reported injured during this incident. (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: No current incidents to report.

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

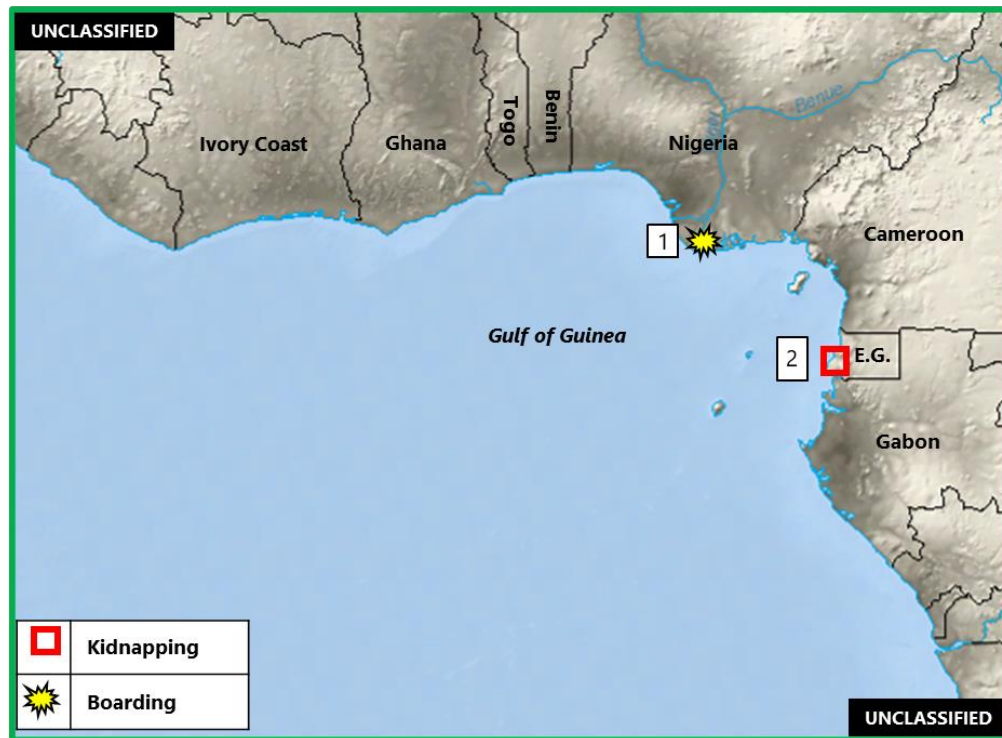


Figure 1. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 January, an underway passenger boat was boarded and robbed while on transit between Yenegoa and Brass Island, Bayelsa State waterways, near position 04:24N – 006:15E. The armed robbers stole passengers' valuables and the 115 horsepower Yamaha engine. The passengers were left stranded in the creeks and a rescue team was dispatched to assist. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 30 December, at 0430 local time, unknown number of armed pirates in a black speedboat attacked and boarded a fishing vessel approximately 12 NM southwest of Mbini, near position 01:30N – 009:25E. Six crew members were reported kidnapped including the captain, and one crew member was killed during the attack. The nationalities of the kidnapped crew are Ghanaian and Malian. Nine crew members were left onboard. The incident was reported to the Equatoguinean Navy which dispatched a vessel to assist. (The Maritime Executive; Dryad Global; MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) LIBERIA: On 25 December, at 0052 local time, an unknown number of perpetrators committed a robbery onboard a vessel anchored at Monrovia Anchorage. The robbers boarded the vessel and carried out the robbery without being spotted. The incident was reported to local authorities. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 15 December, at 2130 local time, an underway cargo ship was attacked and fired upon approximately 10 NM northwest of Bata, near position 01:59N – 009:40E. Equatoguinean navy personnel

onboard the ship returned fire and the pirates ended their approach. One navy personnel reportedly sustained an injury during the shootout. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 13 December, at 1527 local time, the Liberia-flagged container ship TONSBORG was attacked and boarded while underway approximately 48 NM southwest of Luba, Bioko Island, near position 03:11N – 007:49E. Six crew members were reported kidnapped, and one crew member was injured during the attack. According to the Danish Navy, two additional crew members are missing. The nationalities of the kidnapped crew are Polish, Ukrainian, and Filipino. The Danish frigate ESBERN SNARE was requested to provide assistance and dispatched a helicopter to the location. As the helicopter approached the TONSBORG, a small skiff was seen alongside the container vessel with pirates and hostages onboard. The skiff then fled the scene and the Danish helicopter tracked it from a safe distance until it entered Nigerian territorial waters. Following the pirates' departure, the Danish sent a boarding team to the container ship to provide support. The injured crew member, who had been shot in the lower leg, received medical assistance onboard the Danish frigate and is reported to be in stable condition. There was no further information regarding the kidnapped crew members. A search for the two missing crew members is ongoing. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; Lloyds List; Fleetmon; Dryad Global; Maritime Executive)

6. (U) GABON: On 13 December, at 0235 local time, an anchored tanker was approached by a small boat with 12 persons onboard in Owendo Anchorage, near position 00:17N – 009:25E. The crew members shouted and directed their flashlights to the approaching boat. The boat came within about 15 meters before the perpetrators aborted their approach. The Gabonese authorities were informed and dispatched a patrol vessel to secure the area. (Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) GABON: On 13 December, at 0200 local time, five robbers armed with automatic rifles boarded an anchored supply vessel in Owendo Anchorage, near position 00:17N – 009:30E. The alarm was raised, and the crew mustered and retreated to the citadel. The incident was reported to the port authorities and the local Gabonese authorities were tasked to secure the area. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

8. (U) LIBERIA: On 8 December, at 0500 local time, while anchored at Monrovia Anchorage near position 06:20N – 010:53W, the duty watchman onboard the Singapore-flagged bulk carrier DALARNA discovered bare footprints near the rescue boat station. A general alarm was raised and the crew conducted a search of the ship. The crew did not find robbers onboard, but a compass and 25 pieces of emergency food rations were reported missing from the freefall lifeboat. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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



Figure 2. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) YEMEN: On 5 January, at 1644 local time, an underway vessel reported a suspicious approach by a single unidentified craft, approximately 30 NM west of Port Saleef, near position 15:36N – 041:55E. The vessel and crew were reported safe and have continued their voyage. (Dryad Global; UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics).

2. (U) YEMEN: On 3 January, at 0050 local time, it was reported that the United Arab Emirates-flagged landing craft RWABEE was attacked, seized, and held allegedly by Yemeni Houthi militia, approximately 23 NM west of Ras Isa, near position 15:13N – 042:12E. A Saudi-led coalition is negotiating for the release of the vessel. (Fleetmon; Dryad Global; S&P PLATTS; UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics).

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

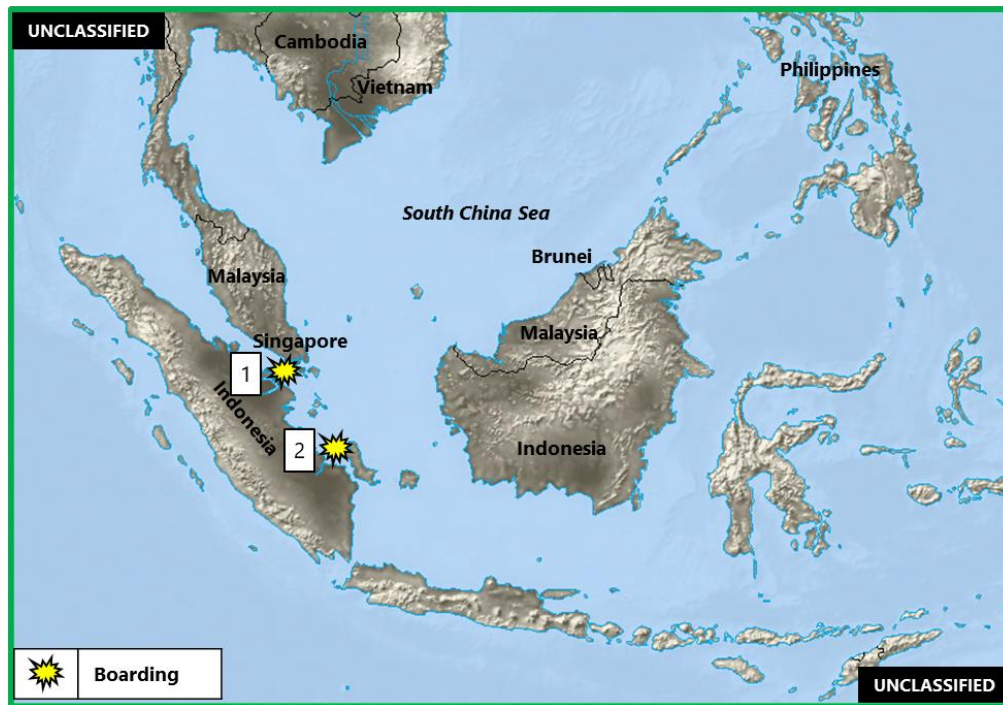


Figure 3. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 31 December, at 1000 local time, a robber boarded an underway barge SAMWOH GALLANT towed by the Singapore-flagged tug SAMWOH COURAGE in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:11N – 103:33E. The master spotted a boat moving closer to the towed barge, the horn was sounded, and the tug maneuvered closer to the barge. The crew sighted a perpetrator on the barge who immediately escaped. The barge cargos were checked, and the master reported that nothing was stolen and that all crew were safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 09 December, at 0230 local time, an unknown number of robbers boarded an underway barge BS 2102 towed by the Singapore-flagged tug BARLIAN 1299 approximately 60 NM from Baung Bangka Strait, near position 01:42S – 104:51E. Four unmanned wooden boats were seen tied alongside the barge. The robbers left the barge, and the Master continued his voyage to a safe area where a search of the barge revealed that seven cargo crates containing machinery parts had been opened. Items inside the crates were reported missing. All crew were reported safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 26 December, at 2125 local time, four unauthorized personnel boarded the Panama-flagged general cargo ship HAI XING underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:15N – 104:05E. The four perpetrators escaped after the crew raised the alarm. Nothing was stolen and all crew were reported safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 23 December, at 0530 local time, six unauthorized personnel boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier MEDI PORTLAND underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N –

104:13E. The perpetrators later escaped in a sampan. Following the incident, nothing was reported stolen and all crew were reported safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 19 December, at approximately 1200 local time, a suspected robbery took place on board the tanker MAERSK BELFAST while berthed at Kabil Terminal on Batam Island, near position 01:04N – 104:08E. Crew discovered the theft while carrying out routine safety rounds prior to berthing at Lubak Gaung, Indonesia. Four fire nozzles and four fire hoses were reported stolen. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 19 December, at 0020 local time, four robbers boarded the Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier SEACON 8 underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:14N – 104:03E. The alarm was raised, and the crew mustered. A subsequent search of the ship did not find any of the perpetrators still onboard. The master reported that nothing was stolen and that all crew were safe. The ship resumed her voyage following the search. (ReCAAP; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

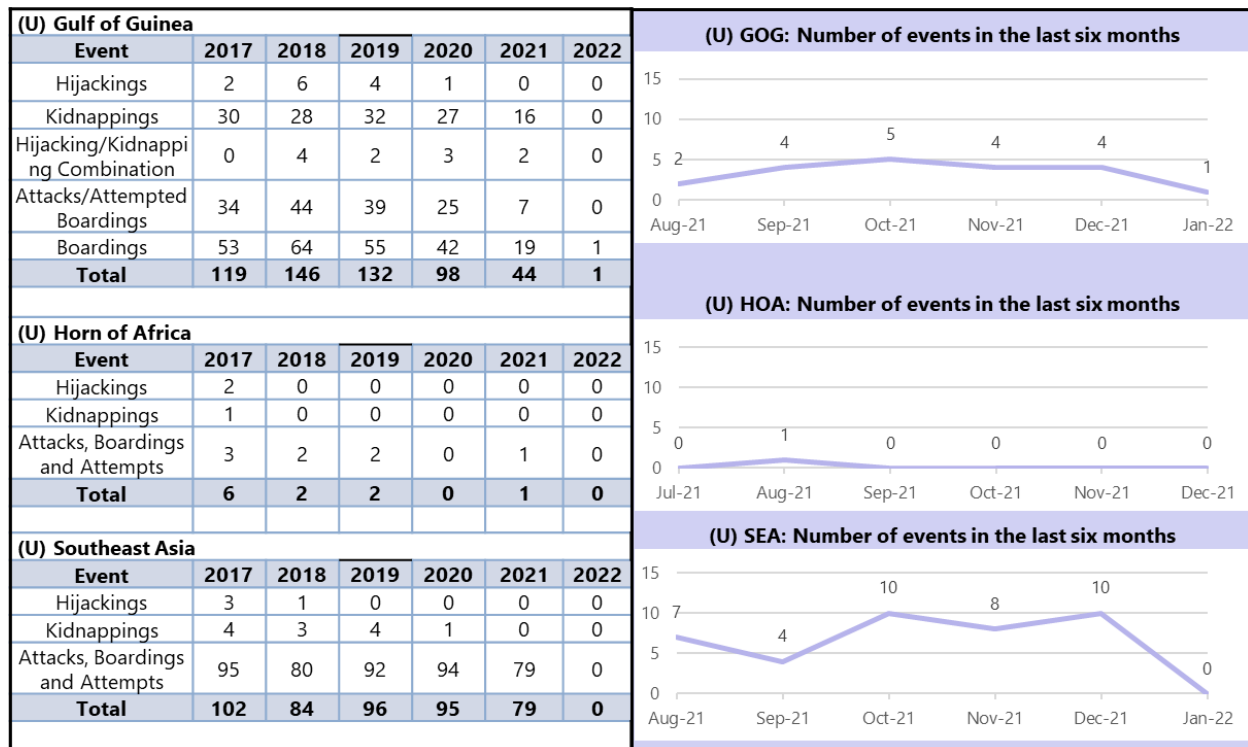
7. (U) MALAYSIA: On 15 December, at 2332 local time, robbers boarded an underway barge MERIDIAN PRIDE 2401 towed by the Malaysia-flagged tug KWANSOO 11 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:12N – 103:33E. The crew sighted 11 robbers onboard the barge, who came from about ten sampans that went alongside and managed to steal scrap metal. The crew were reported safe and the tug boat continued towing the barge to its destination. The incident was reported to the port operations control center. (Clearwater Dynamics, ReCAAP)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 15 December, at 0010 local time, the Bangladesh Coast Guard received a call from a local agent regarding an attempted robbery on an underway Indonesia-flagged Chemical Tanker LADINDA, approximately 37 NM from Cox's Bazar. According to press reports, the Bangladesh Coast Guard responded and foiled the attempted robbery. Two boats were seized and 43 robbers were arrested by the coast guard during the operation. (Dhaka Tribune; TBS News; Bangi News)

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 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:** 5 January 2022

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