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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 2 February – 2 March 2022**

2 March 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:**

A. (U) MARAD ADVISORY 2022-003: Threats to Commercial Vessels - Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Western Indian Ocean.

Effective Dates: 28 February – 27 August 2022. This advisory cancels MARAD Advisory 2021-009.

Issues and Specific Guidance: Regional conflict, heightened military activity, and increased political tensions pose threats to merchant vessels operating in the above listed geographic areas. While some recent incidents may have targeted specific merchant vessels due to their association with certain countries, individuals, or companies, not all did, and the potential remains for miscalculation or misidentification that could lead to aggressive actions against non-associated merchant vessels. The following are deemed to be the most pressing threats to U.S. flagged merchant vessels in these areas, in no particular order:

- a) **UAVs:** Explosive unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) attacks on merchant vessels in the listed areas, other than the western Indian Ocean, remains a threat.
- b) **Iranian Boarding/Detention/Seizure:** Multiple commercial vessels transiting through the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman have been boarded and detained or seized by Iranian forces over the past several years.

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- c) **Limpet Mines:** Limpet mines have been used to damage merchant vessels on multiple occasions over the past several years, and are primarily a threat to merchant vessels in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and the Gulf of Oman.
- d) **Explosive Boats:** Explosive boat attacks are a known threat to merchant vessels operating in the Red Sea, Bab al Mandeb Strait, and the Gulf of Aden. Vessels in these areas have reported explosions believed to have been caused by explosive boats, both in port and underway.
- e) **Yemen Conflict:** The conflict in Yemen continues to pose a risk to U.S. flagged merchant vessels in the Red Sea, Bab al Mandeb Strait, and Gulf of Aden. Additional threats include, but are not limited to, missiles, rockets, projectiles, mines, and small arms.
- f) **Navigation or Communication Disruptions:** Vessels operating in these areas may encounter GPS interference, AIS spoofing, bridge-to-bridge communications spoofing, and/or other communications jamming. Vessels have also reported bridge-to-bridge communications from unknown entities falsely claiming to be U.S. or coalition warships.
- g) **Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea:** Piracy and armed robbery continue to pose a threat to commercial vessels operating in the Gulf of Aden, Western Arabian Sea, and Western Indian Ocean.

For maritime industry questions about this advisory, contact GMCC@uscg.mil. Supplemental information may also be found on the MARAD Office of Maritime Security website at: <https://go.usa.gov/xUKsb>.

3. (U) Summary:

- A. (U) UKRAINE: On 2 March, a bulk carrier was struck by a missile while anchored at Olvia Anchorage, Mykolaiv port area.
- B. (U) UKRAINE: On 2 March, the Russian Navy intercepted a cargo vessel entering Ukrainian territorial waters.
- C. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 March, six unauthorized personnel boarded an underway tanker in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).
- D. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 March, four robbers armed with an axe and an iron bar were spotted in the engine room of a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.
- E. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 March, three unauthorized personnel armed with an axe and iron bar were sighted in the emergency generator room of an underway bulk carrier in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.
- F. (U) (U) INDONESIA: On 28 February, three robbers armed with knives boarded a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.
- G. (U) UKRAINE: On 27 February, the Russian Navy intercepted and detained a search and rescue (SAR) tug in the vicinity of Snake Island.
- H. (U) INDONESIA: On 26 February, five unauthorized personnel were sighted in the stern deck of a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.

- I. (U) UKRAINE:** On 26 February, the Russian Navy intercepted and detained an underway bulk carrier 22 NM off Snake Island.
- J. (U) UKRAINE:** On 26 February, the Russian Navy intercepted and detained an underway bulk carrier southwest of Snake Island.
- K. (U) INDONESIA:** On 25 February, two unauthorized personnel were sighted in the engine room of an underway tanker in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.
- L. (U) UKRAINE:** On 25 February, a tanker was hit by a rocket while underway approximately 12 NM south of Yuzhniy port.
- M. (U) UKRAINE:** On 25 February, a bulk carrier was hit by a rocket while in the anchorage area of Yuzhniy port.
- N. UKRAINE:** On 24 February, a bulk carrier was struck by a rocket while underway approximately 50NM off the coast of Odessa.
- O. (U) PERU:** On 28 January, seven robbers armed with guns and knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Callao Anchorage.

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:

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

1. (U) PERU: On 28 January, at 0210 local time, seven robbers armed with guns and knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier STH OSLO anchored at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:11W. One of the duty crew was doing his rounds when the robbers subdued and restrained him. The duty officer, after receiving no response from the roving crew on the radio, sent another duty crew to check. The duty crew raised the alarm upon discovering the robbers, after which the crew mustered and searched the ship. The robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. The incident was reported to the local authorities, who subsequently conducted an investigation. (IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) HAITI: On 17 February, at 1840 local time, three robbers armed with guns and machetes boarded the Singapore-flagged container ship TAMPA TRADER anchored at Port Lafito pilot boarding station, near position 18:40N – 072:23W. The roving duty crew discovered that two crew members had been restrained by the robbers. The duty officer was immediately contacted and raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the perpetrators released the crew members and escaped. The crew mustered and searched the vessel. The robbers stole mooring lines, mobile phones, and a handheld radio. The incident was reported to the local authorities. All crew were reported safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) PERU: On 4 February, at 0200 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded the Malta-flagged bulk carrier ATLANTIC ELM anchored at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:13W. Robbers restrained the roving crew on-duty. The on-duty officer noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. The perpetrators escaped on a

waiting boat with stolen ship's property. The incident was reported to the agent and port authorities. (ReCAAP; IMB; vesseltracker.com; 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:

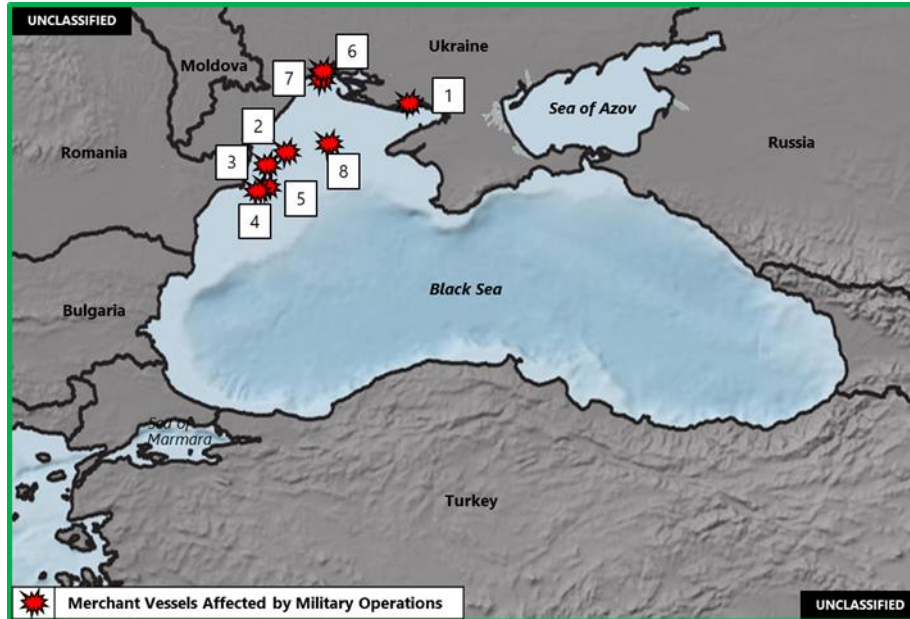


Figure 2. Mediterranean – Black Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) UKRAINE: On 2 March, at 1725 local time, the Bangladesh-flagged bulk carrier BANGLAR SAMRIDDHI was struck by a missile while anchored at Olvia Anchorage, Mykolaiv port area. The ship's superstructure caught fire as a result of the missile strike. Two rescue tugs responded and assisted the vessel. One of the 29 crew members reportedly died during the attack. The local authorities were helping to move the vessel to a safer location. (Maritime Executive; marinetraffic.com; Maritime News; vesseltracker.com; Fleetmon; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) UKRAINE: On 2 March, the Panama-flagged general cargo ship HELT according to press reports, was intercepted and used as a shield by the Russian Navy while underway to the port of Chornomorsk, Ukraine. The vessel is reported to have sank off Odessa on 3 March. (Fleetmon; vesseltracker.com; vesselfinder.com; gcaptain.com; Maritime Executive)

3. (U) UKRAINE: On 27 February, at 0200 local time, the Ukraine-flagged seagoing tug SAPFIR was intercepted and detained by the Russian Navy in the vicinity of Snake Island. The condition of the vessel and crew after the detention were unknown. (Fleetmon; Maritime News; vesseltracker.com)

4. (U) UKRAINE: On 26 February, the Russian Navy intercepted and stopped the Ukraine-flagged bulk carrier AFINA while underway from port of Nikolayev, Ukraine to the port of Constanta, Romania 22 NM off Snake Island. The vessel was later escorted to Crimean waters and was detained 56 NM northwest of Sevastopol. (Dryad Global; Fleetmon; vesseltracker.com; Splash 24/7)

5. (U) UKRAINE: On 26 February, the Russian Navy intercepted and stopped the Ukraine-flagged bulk carrier PRINCESS NICOLE while underway from Ukraine to the port of Constanta, Romania southwest of Snake Island. The vessel was later escorted to Crimean waters and was detained 56 NM northwest of Sevastopol. (Dryad Global; Fleetmon; vesseltracker.com; Splash 24/7)

6. (U) UKRAINE: On 25 February, the Moldova-flagged tanker MILLENNIAL SPIRIT was hit by a rocket while underway approximately 12 NM south of Yuzhniy port, near position 46:22N – 031:07E. According to press reports, the Ukrainian authorities carried out rescue operations and were able to retrieve all crew members. Two of the rescued crew were reported to be in critical condition. The vessel was reported disabled, adrift and sinking. (Maritime Executive; Reuters; vesseltracker.com; Fleetmon)

7. (U) UKRAINE: On 25 February, the Panama-flagged bulk carrier NAMURA QUEEN was hit by a rocket while in the anchorage area of Yuzhniy port. According to press reports, the vessel was on its way to the port when its superstructure was hit inflicting serious damages and causing a fire onboard. The crew members immediately extinguished the fire. At least two crew members suffered minor injuries but all were reported safe. (Maritime Executive; vesseltracker.com; Fleetmon)

8. (U) UKRAINE: On 24 February, the Marshall-Islands-flagged bulk carrier YASA JUPITER was struck by a rocket while underway approximately 50 NM off the coast of Odessa, near position 45:39N – 030:55E. The blast damaged one of the ship's hatch covers and broke the bridge portholes. All of the crew were reported safe and the ship's hull sustained no significant damage. The vessel did not require assistance and continued her voyage to Constanta, Romania. (Maritime Executive; Reuters; vesseltracker.com; Fleetmon; Clearwater Dynamics)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:

1. (U) ANGOLA: On 23 February, at 0300 local time, robbers boarded an offshore supply vessel at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:46S – 013:15E. The robbers escaped with stolen mooring ropes and fire hoses. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) GHANA: On 18 February, at 0050 local time, four robbers armed with knives were sighted by the duty crew member onboard the anchored Liberia-flagged bulk carrier AG NEKTARIOS at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:54N – 001:41W. The alarm was raised, the crew were mustered, and the vessel was searched. The robbers managed to escape with stolen ship's stores. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) GHANA: On 9 February, at 0040 local time, two robbers were sighted on the main deck onboard the Bahamas-flagged general cargo BALTIC SPRINGS anchored at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:54N – 001:42W. The alarm was raised, the crew were mustered, and the vessel was searched. It was later confirmed that

the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (MDAT-GoG; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 8 February, a group of fishing boats were attacked while fishing in the vicinity of Brass Island, Bayelsa State, near position 04:15N – 006:12E. According to press reports, and as narrated by one of the survivors, an unknown number of perpetrators armed with guns onboard six speed boats came close to the fishermen and opened fire. One fisherman was killed instantly, while the rest of the fishermen jumped overboard. The attackers then took the fishing boats' engines and set the boats ablaze. A number of fishermen were reported wounded or missing. The incident was reported to the local authorities and divers were dispatched to search for the missing fishermen. (The Sun; Sahara Reporters NY; Punch NG; Daily Trust; naijaonpoint.com)

5. (U) ANGOLA: On 8 February, at 0415 local time, a robbery occurred on the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged tanker BW THOR at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:44S – 013:18E. The robbers boarded the vessel by climbing through the anchor chain and escaped unnoticed with stolen ship's property. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 February, seven hostages were released. They were part of a group of 17 kidnapped on 17 January from an underway passenger boat while in transit from Safe Journey Beach in Calabar, Cross River State, to Oron Beach in Akwa Ibom State waterways. Five hostages remain in captivity. (Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) GHANA: On 2 February, at 0116 local time, a robber was sighted attempting to board the Cyprus-flagged container vessel WARNOV MATE anchored at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:54N – 001:42W, through the anchor chain. The alarm was raised, and the robber escaped on a waiting boat with two accomplices onboard. All the crew were safe and the incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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

1. (U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: On 5 February, at 1445 local time, an attempted boarding occurred on an anchored tanker at Khor Fakkan Anchorage, approximately 9 NM east of the port, near position 25:20N – 056:32E. A small boat with two people onboard wearing diving suits was spotted alongside the vessel. Following the raising of the alarm, the boat left the area. The crew and the vessel were reported safe and the port authorities were informed. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) SOUTH AFRICA: On 2 February, at 2115 local time, a robbery occurred on the Panama-flagged bulk carrier ISABELLA M while berthed at the port of Durban, near position 29:52S – 031:02E. The robbers stole crew's valuables and belongings and escaped unnoticed. The incident was reported to local authorities. (vesseltracker.com; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics).

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

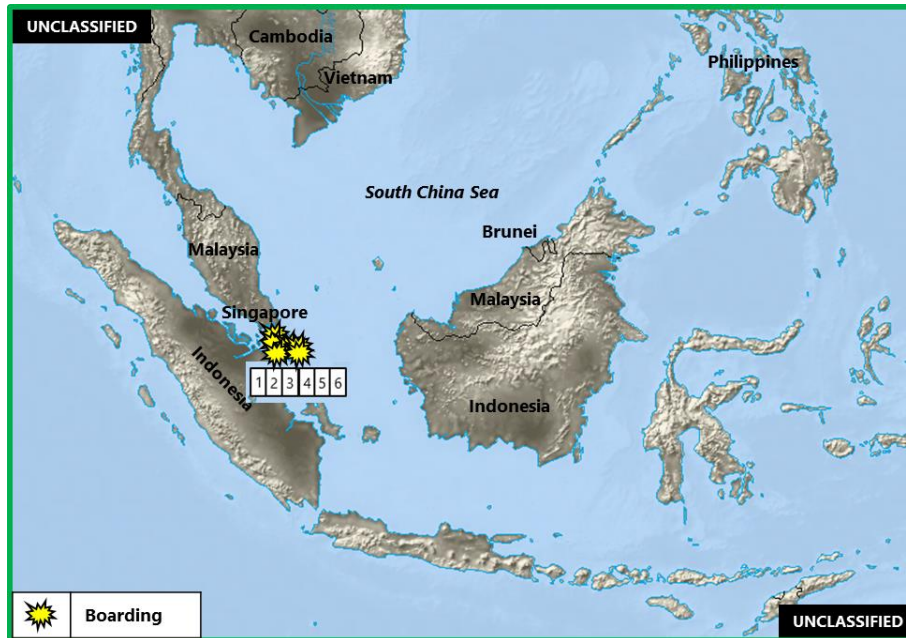


Figure 3. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 March, at 0530 local time, six unauthorized personnel boarded the Panama-flagged tanker DAISY 2 while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:14N – 104:00E. The six perpetrators were spotted in the engine room. Subsequently, the alarm was raised, the crew mustered and they searched the vessel. It was reported that the ship and all crew were safe and nothing was stolen. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 March, at 0230 local time, four robbers armed with an axe and an iron bar boarded the underway Panama-flagged bulk carrier PENTA in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:14N – 104:03E. The four perpetrators were spotted in the engine room. After the alarm was raised, the crew mustered and searched the vessel. Following the incident, the ship returned to Singapore for further search and investigation. The Singaporean authorities later reported that the perpetrators were no longer onboard and nothing was stolen. The ship and all crew were reported safe, and the vessel continued her voyage. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 March, at 0210 local time, three unauthorized personnel armed with an axe and an iron bar boarded the Malta-flagged bulk carrier FLECHA underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:15N – 104:04E. The three robbers were sighted in the emergency generator room and immediately escaped. Reports indicate that the ship and all crew were safe and nothing was stolen. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 February, at 0435 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded the Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier AFRICAN MERLIN underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:02N – 103:38E. The three perpetrators were sighted on the main deck. After the alarm was raised, the crew mustered and searched the vessel. The robbers escaped with stolen engine spare parts. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 26 February, at 0240 local time, five unauthorized personnel were discovered on the stern deck of the Panama-flagged bulk carrier ROYAL JADE underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:41E. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. After hearing the alarm, the five robbers escaped into a small boat. A set of welding equipment was reported stolen. The incident was reported to the local authorities. The ship and all the crew were reported safe and did not require any assistance. (ReCAAP; IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
6. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 February, at 0240 local time, two unauthorized personnel were sighted in the engine room of the Liberia-flagged tanker BW CHEETAH underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:15N – 104:08E. The two perpetrators made their escape through the engine room skylight. The crew mustered and searched the vessel. It was reported that a set of compressors for charging compressed air bottles was stolen. The ship and all the crew were reported safe. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
7. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 February, at 2050 local time, two unauthorized personnel were sighted in the engine room of the Liberia-flagged tanker DELTA EURYDICE underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:15N – 104:02E. After hearing the alarm, the two perpetrators escaped into a small boat. The crew mustered and searched the vessel. Nothing was reported stolen. The incident was reported to the local authorities. The ship and all the crew were reported safe and did not require any assistance. (ReCAAP; IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
8. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 February, at 0208 local time, two unauthorized personnel boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier GOLDEN LEAF underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:12N – 104:01E. When spotted by the on-duty crewmembers, the two perpetrators made their escape in a waiting sampan. Nothing was reported stolen and all crew were reported safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
9. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 February, at 2158 local time, two unauthorized personnel boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier NAVIOS BONHEUR underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:14N – 104:03E. The two robbers jumped overboard after being seen by on-duty crewmembers. It was reported that the ship and all the crew were safe and nothing was stolen. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
10. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 February, at 0330 local time, two robbers boarded the underway Portugal-flagged bulk carrier THEODOR OLDENDORFF in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:17N – 104:18E. The two perpetrators were spotted in the engine room. After the alarm was raised, the crew mustered and searched the vessel. It was later reported that the robbers escaped with stolen engine spare parts. The incident was reported to the local authorities. The ship and all the crew were reported safe and did not require any assistance. (IMB; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

11. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 February, at 0126 local time, four unauthorized personnel boarded the underway Liberia-flagged tanker FPMC C JADE in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:14N – 104:04E. The four perpetrators were spotted in the engine room. The alarm was raised, and the robbers escaped empty-handed. All crew were reported safe. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

12. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 February, at 0114 local time, two robbers boarded the Germany-flagged tanker AVALON anchored at inner Balikpapan Anchorage, near position 01:16S – 116:47E. The robbers used a hook attached to a rope to board the vessel. The on-duty crew member sighted the perpetrator at the forecandle and raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped into a waiting boat with two accomplices onboard. The crew mustered and searched the vessel. It was reported that the forecandle boatswain's store was breached and ship's stores were stolen. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

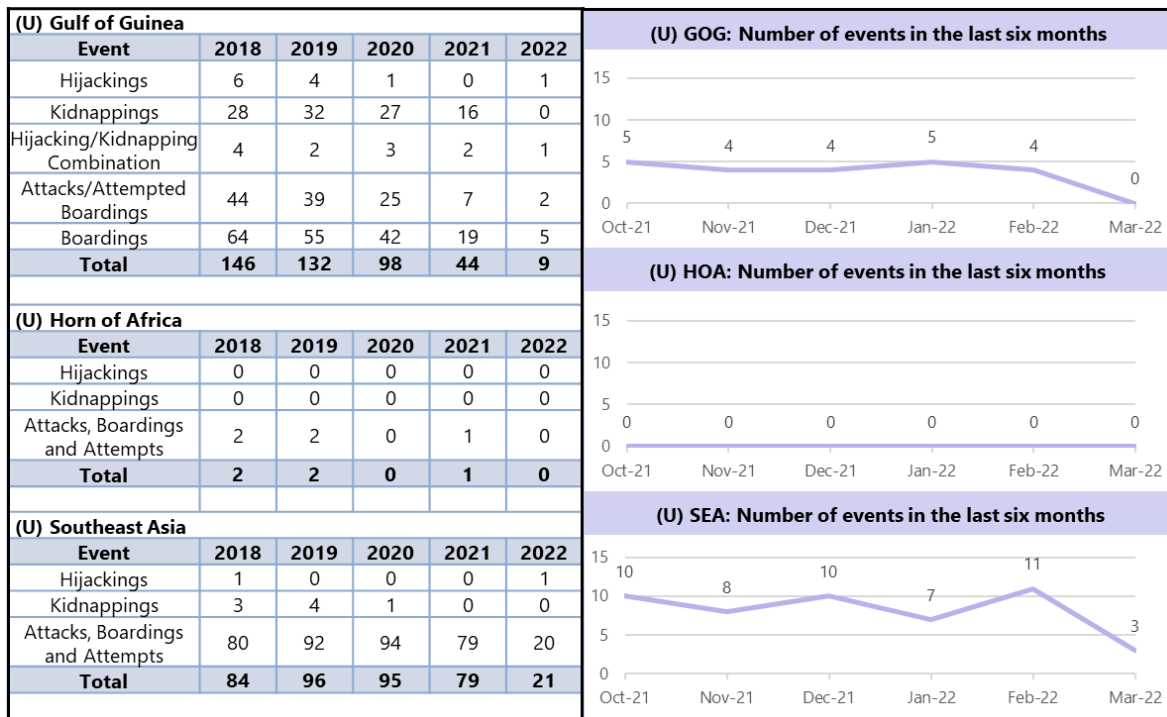
13. (U) MALAYSIA: On 2 February, at 0540 local time, a robber boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker PS STARS while berthed at Sandakan Port, Sabah, near position 05:47N – 118:01E. The duty crew member sighted the perpetrator near the forecandle store and raised the alarm. The crew mustered and searched the vessel. The robber escaped and, following a search of the tanker, it was reported that the forecandle store was breached and ship's stores were stolen. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

14. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 February, at 0435 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier BOBIC anchored at Belawan Anchorage, near position 03:55N – 098:47E. The robbers used a hook attached to a rope to board the vessel. They chased the duty crew member who was on routine rounds. The crew member managed to escape and raised the alarm. The crew mustered, and searched the vessel. The robbers escaped with stolen ship's property. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; vesseltracker.com; 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 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:** 2 March 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/>