ONI
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 9 March – 6 April 2022

6 April 2022

(U) **Table of Contents:**

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 active warnings and advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) UKRAINE: On 4 April, a general cargo ship was shelled and/or struck by a missile while berthed at the port of Mariupol.

B. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 3 April, an unknown number of pirates boarded a bulk carrier while underway approximately 275 NM south of Lome, Togo.

C. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 3 April, five robbers boarded an anchored vehicle carrier in Batangas Anchorage.

D. (U) INDONESIA: On 31 March, seven robbers armed with knives boarded an underway bulk carrier in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

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) UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: On 20 March, a group of protesters onboard small boats circled two tankers, the Greece-flagged MINERVA VIRGO and the Liberia-flagged CONFIDENCE, on their way to the anchorage area of Ambrose Bay, New York. According to press reports, environmental activists were protesting against oil imports from Russia. (Maritime Executive; vesseltracker.com)

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

1. (U) PERU: On 13 March, at 2000 local time, seven robbers armed with knives boarded the Liberia-flagged container vessel ALGOL anchored at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:02S – 077:12W. The alarm was raised, the crew were mustered, and, upon hearing the alarm, the perpetrators escaped with stolen ship's stores and properties. The incident was reported to the local authorities, who boarded the vessel and conducted an investigation. (vesseltracker.com; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) PERU: On 12 March, at 2000 local time, robbers boarded the Panama-flagged vehicle carrier ARIES LEADER, anchored at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:12W. The robbers escaped unnoticed with stolen ship's property. (IMB; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) PERU: On 10 March, at 0300 local time, seven robbers armed with knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier DAIDO AMBITION, anchored at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:00S – 077:13W. The robbers took advantage of foggy weather conditions to board the vessel and restrain the on-duty crew member. When the duty officer received no response after trying to contact the on-duty crew member, the alarm was raised, and the crew were mustered. After hearing the alarm, the perpetrators released the restrained crew member and escaped into a small boat with stolen ship's stores. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

C. (U) **ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:** No current incidents to report.

D. (U) **NORTHERN EUROPE** – **BALTIC:**

1. (U) GERMANY: On 23 March, a group of 20 protesters onboard rubber boats, and swimming in the water with lifejackets, swarmed the Malta-flagged tanker STAMOS while underway transiting from Ust-Luga, Russia, to Rotterdam, Netherlands, near position 54:33N – 011:12E. According to press reports, these environmental activists were protesting against oil imports from Russia. The group painted the hull of the STAMOS with "oil fuel wars" in large letters, demanding the suspension of oil transport from the Baltic Sea to western European ports. (Bietegheimer Zeitung; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) DENMARK: On 20 March, a group of protesters onboard small boats came alongside the Greece-flagged tanker DELTA PIONEER while anchored at Kattegat, near position 57:39N – 010:38E. According to press reports, these environmental activists were protesting against oil imports from Russia. The group painted "oil is war" on the hull of the DELTA PIONEER in large letters. The ship has offloaded its cargo and remains at anchor. (Maritime Executive; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) BELGIUM: On 20 March, a group of protesters onboard small boats swarmed the Liberia-flagged tanker SCF BALTICA while transiting to the port of Antwerp, near position 51:19N – 004:19E. According to press reports, environmental activists were protesting against oil imports from Russia. The group was holding banners and swimmers were also seen in front of the tanker. The tanker was loaded with 85,000 tons of fuel oil. (Maritime Executive; vesseltracker.com)

4. (U) NETHERLANDS: On 20 March, a group of protesters onboard small boats met the Malta-flagged tanker WAIKIKI while on its way to the port of Rotterdam, near position 51:38N – 003:59E. According to press reports, environmental activists were protesting against oil imports from Russia. The tanker was loaded with 100,000 tons of crude oil. (Maritime Executive; vesseltracker.com)

E. (U) **MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA:**

Figure 1. Mediterranean – Black Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) UKRAINE: On 4 April, at 2240 local time, the Dominica-flagged general cargo ship AZBURG was shelled or struck by missiles while berthed at the port of Mariupol. Reports indicate the attack destroyed the ship's bridge

<mark>and hit the ship's engine room, causing the ship to take on water. The captain ordered the crew to abandon ship. Ukraine's maritime border guard assisted the wounded and evacuated the crew to safety. One of the 12 crew members was reported injured. (Fleetmon; Maritime Executive; Clearwater Dynamics)</mark>

2. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 12 March, crew members of three bulk carriers (Marshall Islands-flagged RIVA WIND, Cayman Islands-flagged PUMA, and Liberia-flagged POLAR STAR), berthed at the port of Odessa, were evacuated. According to press reports, the crew members were transported to Hungary, where they were met by consular officers and ship's company representatives for repatriation. (Manila Bulletin; vesselfinder.com)

3. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 12 March, crew members of three bulk carriers (Marshall Islands-flagged STAR LAURA, Panama-flagged FILIA GLORY, and Liberia-flagged BONITA), berthed at the port of Yuzhnyi, were evacuated. According to press reports, the crew members were transported to Hungary, where they were met by consular officers and ship's company representatives for repatriation. (Manila Bulletin; Manila Times; PhilStar; vesselfinder.com)

4. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 12 March, crew members of four bulk carriers (Marshall Islands-flagged BOLTEN ITHAKI, Liberia-flagged MARIKA, and Panama-flagged ITHACA PROSPECT and FILIA JOY) and the Singapore-flagged tanker MTM RIO GRANDE, berthed at the port of Mykolayiv, were evacuated. According to press reports, the crew members were transported to Hungary, where they were met by consular officers and ship's company representatives for repatriation. (Manila Bulletin; Filipino Times; vesselfinder.com; marinetraffic.com)

5. (U) UKRAINE: On 9 March, the Russian Navy reportedly moved the Ukraine-flagged seagoing tug SAPFIR to Sevastopol. This follows its seizure by the Russians on 26 February in the vicinity of Snake Island, near position 45:15N – 030:12E. (Fleetmon; vesseltracker.com)

6. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 9 March, crew members were evacuated from the Hong Kong-flagged container ship JOSEPH SCHULTE berthed at the Brooklyn-Kyiv container terminal. According to press reports, the evacuation was facilitated by multiple embassies in coordination with Ukrainian port authorities. The seafarers were transported to their respective consular offices for repatriation. (vesseltracker.com; Maritime Executive)

7. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 9 March, crew members were evacuated from the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier GLOBAL AGLAIA berthed in the port of Yuzhnyi. According to press reports, the evacuation was facilitated by multiple embassies in coordination with Ukrainian port authorities. The seafarers were transported to their respective consular offices for repatriation. (vesseltracker.com; Maritime Executive)

8. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 9 March, crew members were evacuated from the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier STAR PAVLINA berthed at the port of Nikolayev. According to press reports, the evacuation was facilitated by multiple embassies in coordination with Ukrainian port authorities. The seafarers were transported to their respective consular offices for repatriation. (vesseltracker.com; Maritime Executive)

F. (U) **WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:**

Figure 2. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 3 April, at 1848 local time, an unknown number of pirates boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier ARCH GABRIEL while underway approximately 275 NM south of Lome, Togo, near position 01:31N – 001:30E. After alerting the authorities, all crew members took refuge in the vessel's citadel. According to press reports, the Italian Navy frigate LUIGI RIZZO, which was approximately 280 NM from the drifting bulk carrier, responded to the distress signal sent by the vessel. On 4 April, a helicopter was dispatched from the frigate and contacted the crew members who were safely sheltered in the citadel. After the frigate arrived in the area, a team of Italian Navy Special Forces boarded and searched the bulk carrier, and confirmed that all pirates had fled the vessel. The crew members were released from the citadel, and all were reported safe. The frigate escorted the vessel into an anchorage area. (Maritime Executive; MDAT-GoG; Dryad Global; Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 March, at 0445 local time, robbers boarded a bulk carrier berthed in port of Lagos. The duty crew member discovered that the lock on the forecastle store was breached. The robbers escaped with an undetermined amount of paints. The investigation revealed that the robbers cut the anti-boarding razor wire on the vessel's waterside to board and escape the vessel. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

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:

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

1. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 3 April, at 0030 local time, five robbers boarded the Japan-flagged vehicle carrier PROCYON LEADER anchored in Batangas Anchorage, near position 13:45N – 121:01E. The perpetrators climbed the anchor chain and managed to board through the gap on the secured hawse pipe of the vessel. After spotting the robbers, the duty crew alerted the bridge. The master raised the alarm, and the crew mustered. The robbers escaped with stolen ship's properties upon hearing the alarm. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; ReCAAP)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 31 March, at 0600 local time, six to seven robbers armed with knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier PACIFIC WEST while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:16N – 104:15E. The perpetrators restrained one of the crew members in the engine room. The crew member managed to free himself, and reported the incident to the chief engineer. The alarm was raised and the robbers escaped with stolen engine spare parts. The ship and all crew were reported safe. The vessel did not require assistance and continued her voyage. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 March, at 0420 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded the Singapore-flagged bulk carrier LAMPARD, anchored in Belawan Anchorage, near position 03:55N – 098:46E. The duty crew member first discovered the three robbers and raised the alarm, after which the crew mustered. After hearing the
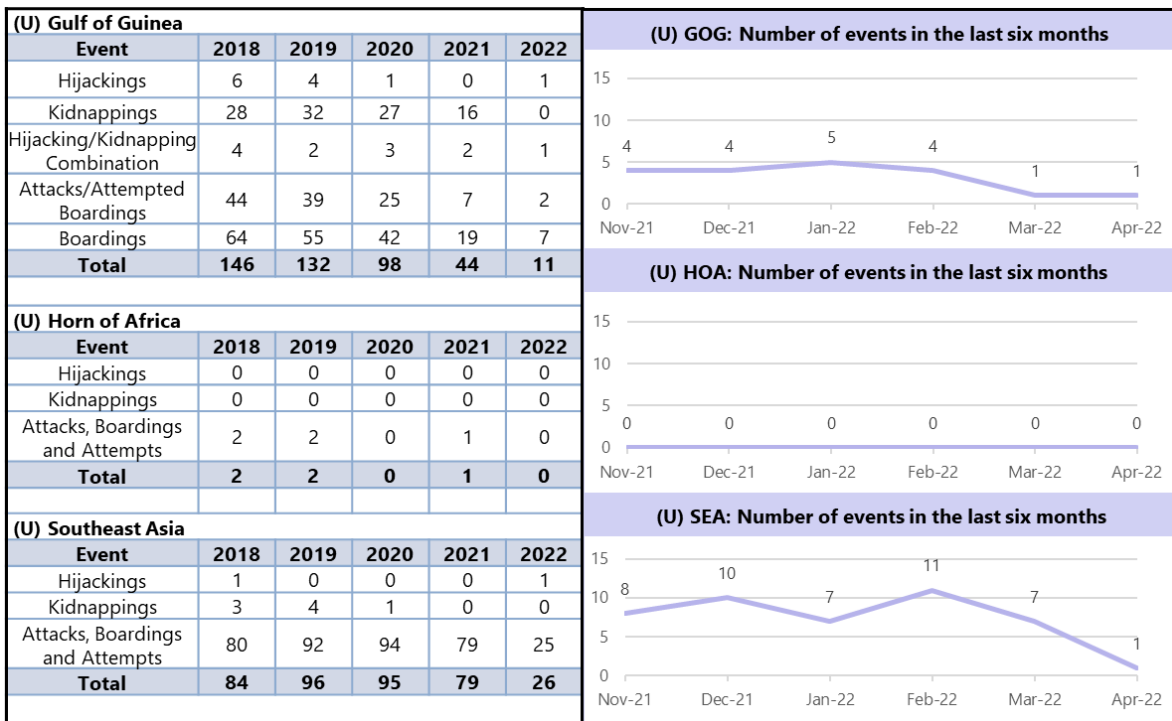
alarm, the perpetrators escaped with stolen ship's property. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

J. (U) **INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:**

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 15 March, at 2255 local time, six unauthorized personnel boarded the Panama-flagged chemical tanker WAWASAN TOPAZ berthed at Chittagong, CUFL jetty, near position 22:14N – 091:50E. The duty crew member sighted the six robbers near the forecastle store and raised the alarm. After hearing the alarm, the perpetrators escaped with stolen ship's stores. The local authorities and the coast guard were contacted and conducted an investigation. The stolen items were later recovered and returned to the ship by the authorities. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

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**

(U) Gulf of Guinea

Event	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hijackings	6	4	1	0	1
Kidnappings	28	32	27	16	0
Hijacking/Kidnapping Combination	4	2	3	2	1
Attacks/Attempted Boardings	44	39	25	7	2
Boardings	64	55	42	19	7
Total	**146**	**132**	**98**	**44**	**11**

(U) GOG: Number of events in the last six months

Nov-21: 4, Dec-21: 4, Jan-22: 5, Feb-22: 4, Mar-22: 1, Apr-22: 1

(U) Horn of Africa

Event	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hijackings	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnappings	0	0	0	0	0
Attacks, Boardings and Attempts	2	2	0	1	0
Total	**2**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**0**

(U) HOA: Number of events in the last six months

Nov-21: 0, Dec-21: 0, Jan-22: 0, Feb-22: 0, Mar-22: 0, Apr-22: 0

(U) Southeast Asia

Event	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hijackings	1	0	0	0	1
Kidnappings	3	4	1	0	0
Attacks, Boardings and Attempts	80	92	94	79	25
Total	**84**	**96**	**95**	**79**	**26**

(U) SEA: Number of events in the last six months

Nov-21: 8, Dec-21: 10, Jan-22: 7, Feb-22: 11, Mar-22: 7, Apr-22: 1

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:** 6 April 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/