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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 6 April – 4 May 2022**



4 May 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 warnings or advisories issued this week. See Appendix C for active advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) **BENIN:** On 3 May, a boarding on a tanker was reported 55 NM south of Cotonou; later reports confirmed that the ship had not been boarded by pirates.

B. (U) **PHILIPPINES:** On 28 April, three robbers boarded a tanker anchored in Batangas Anchorage.

C. (U) **BANGLADESH:** On 26 April, a group of robbers boarded a tanker anchored at the outer Chittagong 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

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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 26 April, at 0400 local time, three robbers boarded The Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier AZZURA anchored at Macapa Anchorage, near position 00:04S – 051:06W. The duty crew member spotted the robbers. The alarm was raised, and the crew were mustered, after which the perpetrators escaped empty-handed. (Clearwater Dynamics)

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

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC:

1. (U) NORWAY: On the morning of 25 April, a group of protesters onboard small boats and kayaks came alongside the Hong Kong-flagged tanker UST LUGA while anchored at Skagerrak, near position 59:19N – 010:30E. According to press reports, the group was protesting against oil imports from Russia. Activists onboard one of the small boats chained themselves to the ship's anchor chain to prevent the ship from raising its anchor, while others in kayaks unfurled banners reading "oil fuels war". The vessel was loaded with 95,000 tons of crude oil from the port of Ust-Luga, Russia. The local police and coast guard came to monitor the situation. Reports indicate that the vessel later berthed at the port of Slagen at 1800 local time the same day. (vesseltracker.com; Agence France-Press; Times Malta)

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA:

1. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 18 April, crew members were evacuated from the Malta-flagged bulk carrier TZAREVNA berthed at the port of Mariupol. According to press reports, the 15 seafarers (14 Bulgarian and one Ukrainian) traveled by bus from Mariupol to Sochi, Russia, where they were flown by a Bulgarian plane to Varna, Bulgaria. Bulgarian authorities reportedly facilitated the evacuation and coordinated with both Ukrainian and Russian authorities. Five remaining crew members opted to stay onboard the vessel. (Bulgarian News Agency; TASS; Balkan Insight)

2. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 12 April, crew members of three general cargo ships (Jamaica-flagged LADY AUGUSTA, Panama-flagged BLUE STAR I, and Malta-flagged AZOV CONCORD), berthed at the port of Mariupol, were taken off the ships by Russian forces. According to press reports, the ships have been in the port since 24 February. The crew members of the three vessels were reportedly taken to an undisclosed location. (Fleetmon; TradeWinds; CMIO; TASS; tsu.ua; The Press United)

3. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 11 April, crew members from the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier SMARTA were detained by the Russian military while berthed at the port of Mariupol. According to press reports, all 19 crew members (18 Ukrainians and one Egyptian) as well as the captain's wife were detained and taken to an undisclosed location. (Fleetmon; Maritime Executive; Splash247)

4. (U) UKRAINE: On 11 April, the Ukraine-flagged seagoing tug SAPHIR arrived in the port of Izmayil, Ukraine after being released by the Russian Navy. The Russian Navy previously intercepted and detained the SAPHIR in the vicinity of Snake Island. According to press reports, the vessel's crew members were released on 25 March. (The Odessa Journal; vesseltracker.com)

5. (U) SEA OF AZOV: On 8 April, at 2253 local time, the Malta-flagged general cargo ship APACHE was fired upon by Russian Navy and Coast Guard vessels while underway, after deviating from a convoy transiting from Taganrog Bay, eastern Sea of Azov, to the Kerch Strait. According to press reports, the vessel was in a convoy when she deviated her course towards Mariupol and was ordered by the Russian Navy to return to the convoy. After not complying, the Russian Navy and Coast Guard fired upon the vessel, which was struck on her stern. The master of the vessel then contacted the Russian Navy and Coast Guard to cease firing and agreed to rejoin the convoy. According to the Russian military, there were no casualties nor injuries to the crew members, and the vessel was escorted to the port of Yeysk, on the Sea of Azov, for investigation. (Fleetmon; Maritime Executive)

6. (U) UKRAINE: On 7 or 8 April, the Ukraine-flagged ice breaker KAPITAN BELOUSOV was fired upon while berthed at the port of Mariupol. According to press reports, one of the crew members was killed and several were injured during the attack. There is no further information available. (Fleetmon; frontnews.eu; The Observatorial)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:



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

1. (U) BENIN: On 3 May, 1730 local time, the underway Panama-flagged tanker KAMOME VICTORIA was reported boarded 55 NM south of Cotonou near position 05:26N – 002:15E. It was later confirmed that the ship had not been boarded by pirates. Press reporting suggests that the incident may have been linked to a Nigerian Navy operation. The vessel continued her voyage after the incident. (vesseltracker.com; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2 (U) GHANA: On 13 April, at 0400 local time, a robber boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier MARGRET OLDENDORFF, anchored in Takoradi Anchorage. The duty crew member spotted the robber and raised the alarm, after which the perpetrator escaped with four stolen buckets of marine paint. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; IMB; 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 2. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 28 April, at 0345 local time, three robbers boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker SEXTANS anchored in Batangas Anchorage, near position 13:43N – 121:02E. The duty crew sighted the robbers in the forecandle deck. The alarm was raised, and the crew were mustered. The perpetrators escaped with stolen buckets of grease, a bundle of rope, and hatch butterfly nuts. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 27 April, at 0226 local time, a robber was spotted in the engine room of the Panama-flagged-bulk carrier LADY FLORA underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:16N – 104:17E. It was reported that the ship and all crew members were safe and nothing was stolen. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
3. (U) SINGAPORE: On 19 April, at 2230 local time, the Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) arrested nine robbers who had boarded the Malaysia-flagged barge ASIA SINAR 2912 towed by the Malaysia-flagged tug boat ASIA JAYA 28 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, in the vicinity of Kusu Island near position 01:13N – 103:53E. The PCG spotted a suspicious sampan alongside the barge and conducted an investigation, which led to the arrest of eight perpetrators onboard the barge as well as one of the tug boat crew members who had colluded with the robbers. (ReCAAP; Singapore Police Force; The Straits Times; CNA; Clearwater Dynamics)
4. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 18 April, at 0305 local time, an unknown number of robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged container ship KOTA HAPAS, anchored in General Santos Anchorage, near position 06:05N – 125:09E. The perpetrators escaped empty-handed and the incident was reported to the local authorities. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 April, at 0442 local time, a robber boarded the Malta-flagged tanker MEGALI underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:14N – 103:58E. The perpetrator was sighted at the engine room entrance. The alarm was raised and a search was conducted. It was reported that the ship and all crew members were safe and nothing was stolen. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
6. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 April, three unauthorized personnel boarded the Singapore-flagged bulk carrier SILOSO, anchored in Jakarta Anchorage, near position 06:00S – 106:54E. The duty crew members sighted the three perpetrators and raised the alarm. The crew mustered, conducted a search, and discovered that nothing was stolen. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

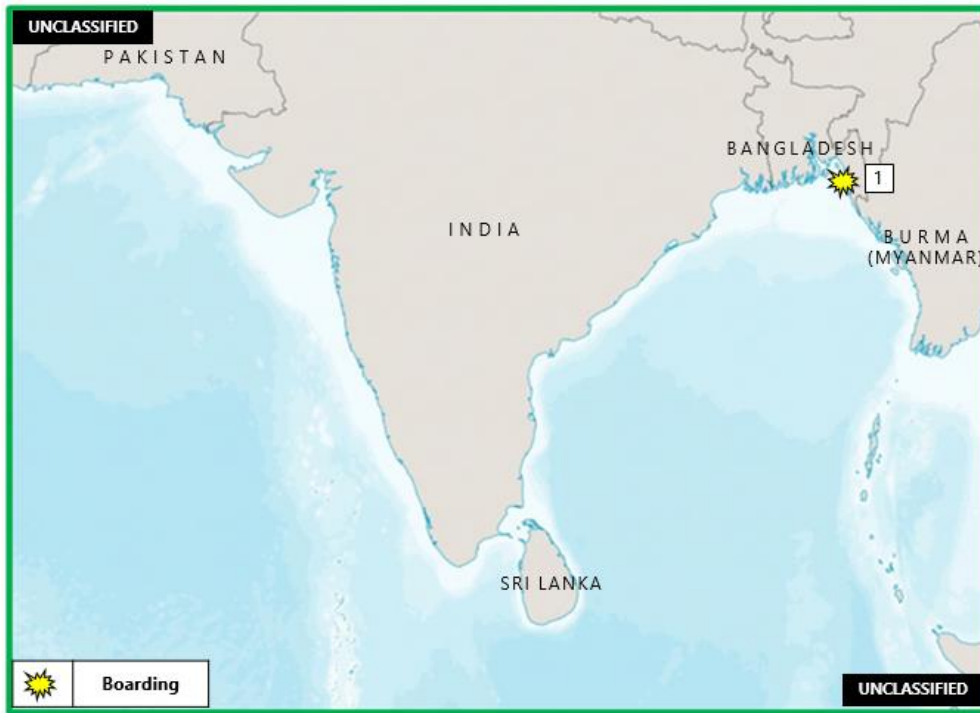
J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

Figure 3. Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 26 April, at 0001 local time, a group of robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged tanker STI MAGISTER anchored in the outer Chittagong Anchorage near position 22:13N – 091:43E. The duty officer sighted four robbers on the forecastle deck through the vessel's closed circuit television system. The duty officer raised the alarm and the crew mustered. After the alarm was sounded, three more robbers were seen exiting the forecastle store. Subsequently, crew members saw about eight robbers escaping into a small boat. The vessel was searched, and the forecastle store door lock was found breached and a set of accommodation ladder wire rope was missing. The incident was reported to the local authorities and the coast guard boarded the vessel to conduct an investigation. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDIA: On 19 April, around 2100 local time, three fishing boats were boarded and robbed while fishing within 13 NM east-southeast of Nagapattinam, state of Tamil Nadu, near position 10:15N – 080:06E. According to press reports, items stolen in the three incidents included GPS devices, mobile phones, inverter batteries, fishing gear, and diesel fuel. The three incidents were reported to Vedaranyam Marine Police. (The New Indian Express; The Hindu)

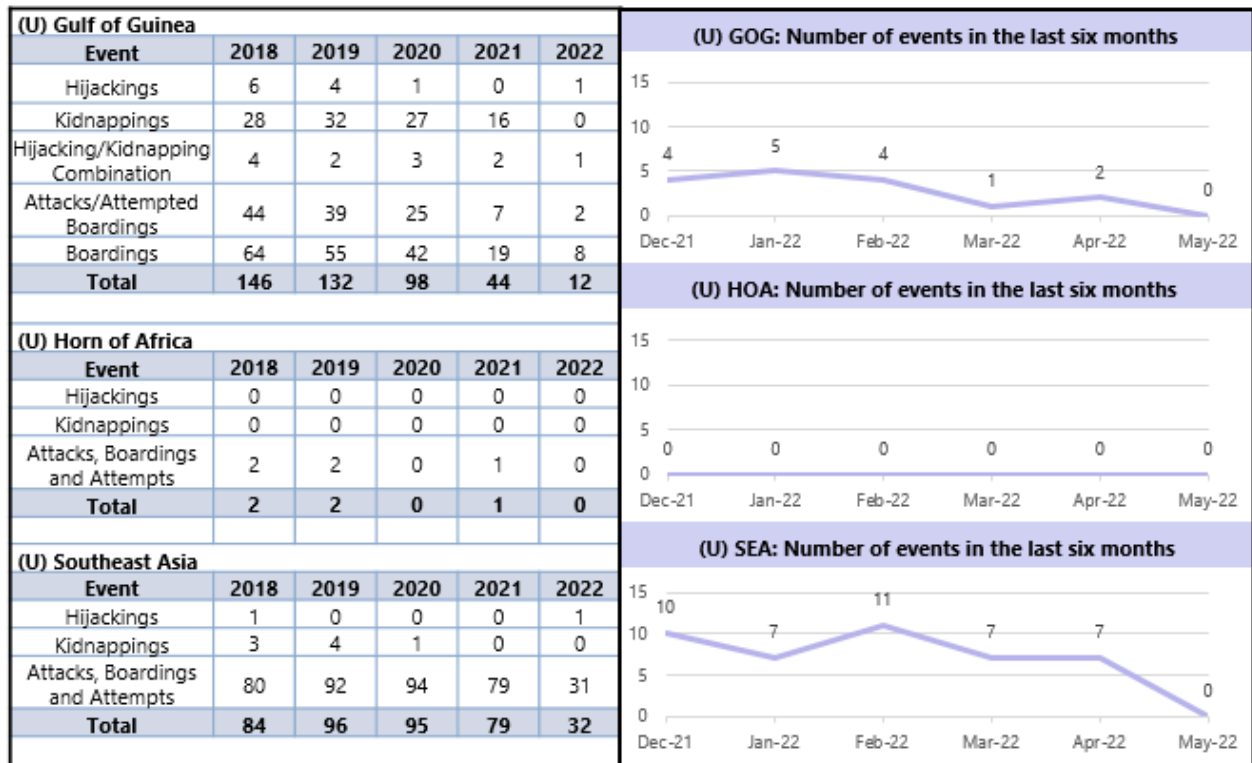
3. (U) BANGLADESH: On 16 April, a robber boarded the Panama-flagged tanker B LPG SOPHIA anchored at Chittagong Anchorage, near position 22:10N – 091:47E. Duty crew members sighted the robber and raised the alarm. The crew searched the vessel and reported that the robber had escaped with 22 stolen drums of marine paint. The local authorities and coast guard conducted an investigation and the stolen items were later recovered. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) BANGLADESH: On 9 April, at 1400 local time, an unknown number of robbers boarded the Malta-flagged bulk carrier TAIZHOU PIONEER anchored at Chittagong Anchorage, near position 22:13N – 091:44E. The robbers escaped unnoticed with an engine stolen from a fast rescue boat. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)

5. (U) INDIA: On 8 April, at 2300 local time, an unknown number of robbers attempted to board the Saint Kitts and Nevis-flagged semi-submersible platform VEGA under tow by the Singapore-flagged anchor handling tug POSH OSPREY in the Gulf of Khambhat, near position 21:28N – 072:22E. The authorities reported that the vessel and all crew were safe. The vessel did not require assistance and continued her voyage. (ReCAAP; 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



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.

7. (U) **Appendix C: Active MARAD Advisories**

Title	Effective Date	Expiration Date
2022-005-Various-GPS Interference & AIS Spoofing	14 MAR 22	10 SEP 22
2022-004-Black Sea and Sea of Azov-Military Combat Operations	8 MAR 22	4 SEP 22
2022-003-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Western Indian Ocean-Threats to Commercial Vessels	28 FEB 22	27 AUG 22
2022-001-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	4 JAN 22	3 JUL 22
2021-011-Global-Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System	17 DEC 21	15 JUN 22

(U) **ICOD:** 4 May 2022

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