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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 27 April – 25 May 2022**



25 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) DJIBOUTI: On 25 May, an underway survey vessel reported a suspicious approach by a skiff with eight people onboard approximately 5 NM southeast of Perim Island.

B. (U) MEXICO: On 22 May, five robbers armed with rifles boarded an offshore support vessel underway off the coast of Tabasco.

C. (U) INDONESIA: On 21 May, four robbers armed with machetes boarded a bulk carrier underway 15 NM east of Mapur Island.

D. (U) GHANA: On 21 May, an unknown number of robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Takoradi Anchorage.

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E. (U) MALAYSIA: On 19 May, four robbers boarded a barge towed by a tugboat in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

F. (U) GUYANA: On 19 May, an unknown number of robbers armed with knives boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Georgetown Anchorage.

G. (U) NIGERIA: On 10 May, an unknown number of pirates intercepted and boarded a passenger boat transiting Bonny River towards Port Harcourt.

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 Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MEXICO: On 22 May, at around midnight local time, five robbers armed with rifles boarded the Mexico-flagged offshore support vessel CREST TARASCO underway along the coast of Tabasco. The robbers fired several shots. The crew were mustered and ordered to shelter in place inside the vessel. The perpetrators stayed onboard for about 45 minutes, stealing 35 sets of breathing apparatuses as well as communications and other valuable equipment, and escaped into their small boat. No crewmembers were reported injured during the incident. (vesseltracker.com; Fleetmon; Dryad Global; Splash 24/7)

2. (U) GUYANA: On 19 May, at 0030 local time, five robbers armed with knives boarded the Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier CS CANDY anchored at Georgetown Anchorage, near position 06:58N – 058:02W. The duty crew spotted the robbers and was threatened with knives, but escaped. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered, after which the perpetrators escaped empty-handed. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (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:

1. (U) UKRAINE: On 3 May, the Singapore-flagged tanker MTM RIO GRANDE was struck by a shell while berthed at the port of Nika-Tera, Mykolayiv. According to press reports, the vessel was indirectly hit during Russian shelling of the port. The vessel has been in the port, where it was scheduled to load sunflower oil, since 24 February; the ship has been unable to load cargo or leave as a result of the war in Ukraine. According to earlier press reports, the vessel's crew were evacuated prior to 12 March. (vesseltracker.com; Ukrainian Shipping Magazine)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:

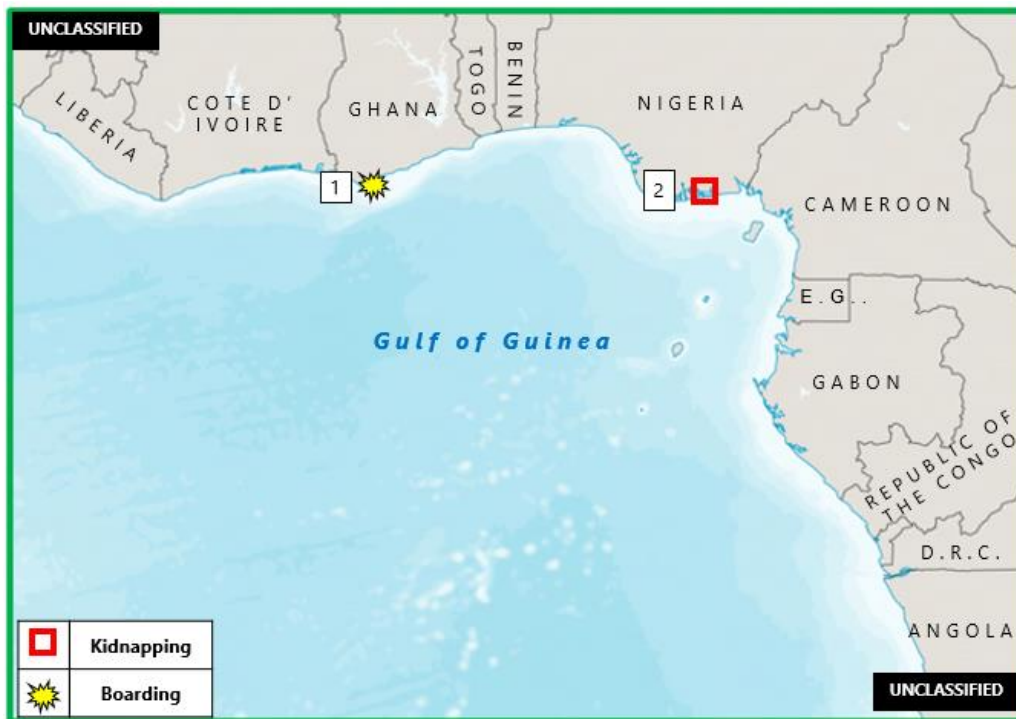


Figure 2. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GHANA: On 21 May, at 0600 local time, an unknown number of robbers boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier V ATLAS while anchored in Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:54N – 001:42E. The duty crewmember discovered that the lock on the paint store was breached. According to reports, the robbers escaped unnoticed with stolen buckets of paint and thinner. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (vesseltracker.com; IMB; MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 10 May, an unknown number of pirates intercepted and boarded a passenger boat transiting Bonny River towards Port Harcourt, near position 04:33N – 007:12E. Seven male passengers were kidnapped and taken to an undisclosed location. According to press reports, on 17 May, after ten days of captivity, the seven kidnapped passengers were rescued by the Nigerian Navy while held in a camp at Bayelsa State. The seven victims were reported unharmed. (New Telegraph; Nigerian News Direct; elenhub.net; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: On 6 May, at 2030 local time, three robbers boarded a general cargo ship berthed in the port of Matadi, near position 05:50S – 013:25E. The robbers escaped with stolen ship's properties. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (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)

5. (U) REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: On 2 May, at 0233 local time, a small boat with two people onboard approached a hydrographic vessel anchored at Pointe Noire Anchorage, near position 04:45S – 011:49E. The suspicious individuals were casting their flashlights on the vessel, and came within 100 meters when they were noticed by the security team onboard. After being spotted, the two people left the area. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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



Figure 3. Indian Ocean - East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) DJIBOUTI: On 25 May, at 1050 local time, an underway survey vessel reported a suspicious approach by a skiff with eight people onboard approximately 5 NM southeast of Perim Island, near position 12:33N – 043:31E. Upon sighting of the skiff, the master raised the alarm, anti-piracy measures were implemented, and the security team onboard positioned on the bridge. The skiff came close to within half a nautical mile before aborting the approach. The master reported the incident to the authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) YEMEN: On 19 May, at 1100 local time, there were three unsuccessful boarding attempts against the underway Hong Kong-flagged sailing vessel LAKOTA approximately 32 NM southwest of Al Hudaydah, near position 14:19N – 042:42E. Three small boats were in close proximity during the incident. The vessel and crew were reported safe and sailed away from the area. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Dryad Global; Maritime Executive; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 17 May, at 1950 local time, an underway tanker reported a suspicious approach by two skiffs approximately 65 NM south of Aden, Yemen, near position 11:51N – 045:03E. The tanker executed evasive maneuvers and eventually the two skiffs left the area. The two skiffs reportedly approached to within 100 meters. The vessel and crew were reported safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Dryad Global)

4. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 5 May, 0630 local time, an underway tanker reported a suspicious approach by two small boats each with four persons onboard, approximately 335 NM east of Socotra, Yemen, near position 13:19N – 060:14E. The two small boats approached to within a half NM of the tanker while a larger vessel and small crafts were also seen nearby. The tanker increased her speed and the small boats eventually left the area. The crew were reported safe and the tanker continued her voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Dryad Global)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



Figure 4. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 21 May, at 0500 local time, four robbers armed with machetes boarded the Barbados-flagged bulk carrier SELENA underway 15 NM east of Mapur Island, near position 01:02N – 105:05E. The perpetrators forced their entry into the navigational bridge through the bridge wing door. They threatened the duty officer and demanded to be brought to the master's cabin. The perpetrators tried to gain access to the master's cabin but failed. The alarm was raised and off duty crew were ordered through the public address system to lock themselves in their cabins. The crew mustered later and the vessel was searched. There were no sightings

of the perpetrators. It was reported that the ship and all crewmembers were safe and nothing was stolen. The vessel continued her voyage. (ReCAAP; IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 19 May, at 1345 local time, four robbers boarded the Malaysia-flagged barge SINHIN 6 towed by the Malaysia-flagged tug SINHIN 5 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:13N – 103:29E. The master was initially contacted by the Republic of Singapore Navy about a sampan in the vicinity of the tug. After the notification, the crewmembers sighted the four perpetrators onboard the barge. The robbers later escaped with stolen scrap metal. All crew were reported safe and the tugboat continued towing the barge to its destination. The master reported the incident to the local authorities. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 May, at 2215 local time, an unknown number of robbers boarded the Malta-flagged container vessel CNC LION anchored in Jakarta Anchorage, near position 06:01S – 106:55E. The duty officer sighted an unlit small boat at the ship's astern, and at the same time, the steering room door alarm went off. The general alarm was raised, the crew mustered, and the vessel was searched. According to reports, the perpetrators escaped empty-handed. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. INDONESIA: On 12 May, at 0118 local time, three robbers boarded the Cameroon-flagged tanker PELICAN underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:10N – 103:25E. The robbers escaped after being discovered in the ship's engine room. It was reported that nothing was stolen, all crew were safe, and the vessel continued her voyage. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

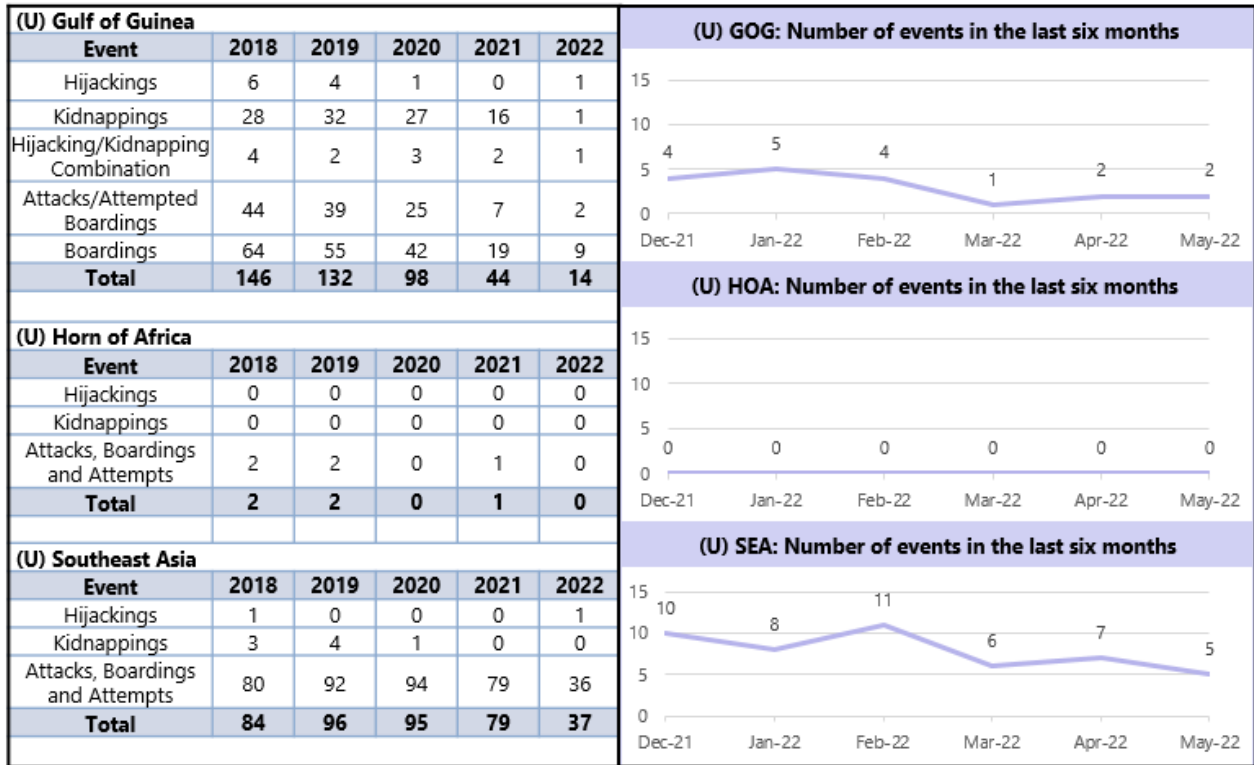
5. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 28 April, at 0345 local time, three robbers boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker SEXTANS anchored in Batangas Anchorage, near position 13:43N – 121:02E. The duty crew sighted the robbers in the forecandle deck. The alarm was raised, and the crew mustered. The perpetrators 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)

5. (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 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)

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.

7. (U) Appendix C: Active U.S. Maritime 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:** 25 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/>