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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 18 May – 15 June 2022**



15 June 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) U.S. Maritime Advisory 2022-006: Global – Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System.

Issued on: 15 June 2022. This revised advisory cancels U.S. Maritime Advisory 2021-011, and provides updates to maritime security resources, websites, and information. The U.S. Maritime Advisory System website (www.maritime.dot.gov/msci), which contains all current and expired U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories, is maintained by the Maritime Administration (MARAD). Maritime industry stakeholders who wish to receive U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories should send request to MaradSecurity@dot.gov. This Advisory will automatically expire on 12 December 2022.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 June, an unknown number of pirates intercepted and boarded a passenger boat with 15 persons onboard while traveling along waterways in the Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

B. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 June, a robber boarded a chemical tanker anchored in Belawan Anchorage.

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C. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 May, three robbers attempted to board a tugboat underway on the Kapuas River, West Kalimantan.

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 past 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) 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)

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

1. (U) VENEZUELA: On 25 May, at 2130 local time, two yachts travelling together were approached and followed by two small boats while underway approximately 97 NM northeast of Gran Roque Island, near position 13:14N – 065:35W. The two yachts were in transit from Grenada to Bonaire, Venezuela, when they were followed by the two small boats for almost two hours. When the two small boats came within 100 meters, the yachts increased their speed and performed evasive maneuvers until they got away. The yachts continued their voyage without further incident. (CSSN – Caribbean Safety and Security Net)

2. PANAMA: On 22 May, at approximately 0100 local time, an in-water and locked 9.9HP outboard engine was stolen from an anchored yacht in Linton Bay. It is unknown if a police report was made. (CSSN – Caribbean Safety and Security Net)

3. (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 1 June, the Tanzania-flagged tanker BRENTIX was struck by a shell while berthed at the port of Ochakov. Reports indicate that the ship's forecastle area was hit, creating a big hole in the hull above the waterline, damaging the piping system, and sparking a fire onboard. The fire was extinguished quickly by the crew. The vessel was in ballast and no crewmembers were injured during the incident. (Fleetmon; Maritime Executive; Splash 24/7)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:

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

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 June, an unknown number of pirates intercepted and boarded a passenger boat with 15 persons onboard while traveling along waterways in the Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, near position 04:27N – 006:21E. Eight passengers were reported kidnapped while six passengers and the boat's skipper were left near the site of the incident, and were later rescued by the Marine Police. (mangrovepen.ng; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (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)

G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:

1. (U) IRAN: On 27 May, two Greece-flagged tankers, DELTA POSEIDON and PRUDENT WARRIOR, were detained by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in Bandar Abbas anchorage due to unspecified maritime violations. According to press reports, the two laden tankers were underway off the Iranian coast outbound from the Persian Gulf, when they were boarded and ordered by the IRGC to divert to Bandar Abbas. The IRGC reported that the crew of the two tankers remained onboard and were in good health. (Clearwater Dynamics; Fleetmon; Dryad Global; Maritime Executive; Splash 24/7; gCaptain)

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

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)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



Figure 2. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 June, at 0330 local time, a robber boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged chemical tanker SILVER EBURNA anchored in Belawan Anchorage, near position 03:56N – 098:44E. The duty officer sighted the robber at the ship's forecandle area, the alarm was raised, and the crew mustered, which resulted in the perpetrator escaping empty-handed. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 May, at 0400 local time, three robbers approached the Indonesia-flagged tugboat LEGASEA 1 underway on the Kapuas River, West Kalimantan, near position 00:03N – 109:09E. According to press reports, the three perpetrators were following the tugboat onboard a canoe. When the canoe came close to the tugboat astern, the tugboat crew threw pieces of wood at the perpetrators to keep them away. The perpetrators, reportedly armed with airsoft guns, retaliated by firing their weapons three times, hitting one of the crewmembers in the right arm. The crew then retreated inside the tugboat accommodation and sounded the alarm, after which the perpetrators departed. The incident was reported to the local authorities, and the local police conducted an investigation onboard. (Tribun Mempawah; KOMPAS.com)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 30 May, the Panama-flagged tanker NORD JOY, was detained by the Indonesian Navy off Batam Island on suspicion of anchoring in Indonesian waters without a permit. According to press reports, the Indonesian Navy personnel boarded the vessel while anchored in Indonesian waters, east of the Singapore Strait.

The vessel was then escorted by the Indonesian Navy to an anchorage near Batam for further investigation. (vesseltracker.com; Reuters; Jakarta Post; Asia Financial)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 May, at 0259 local time, three robbers armed with knives were sighted in the afterdeck of the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier MAGNUM ENERGY underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:07N – 103:31E. The alarm was raised and the vessel was searched. After the search, the master reported that the robbers escaped with stolen engine spare parts. The incident was reported to the local authorities. The ship and all crew were reported safe, and the vessel continued its voyage. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 27 May, at 2256 local time, three robbers boarded the Panama-flagged tanker YONG XING SHUN HANG underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:07N – 103:30E. The duty engineer saw the perpetrators in the steering gear room and raised the alarm. The crew mustered, and the vessel was searched. According to reports, the three perpetrators escaped empty-handed. The vessel did not require any assistance and continued its voyage. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (ReCAAP; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

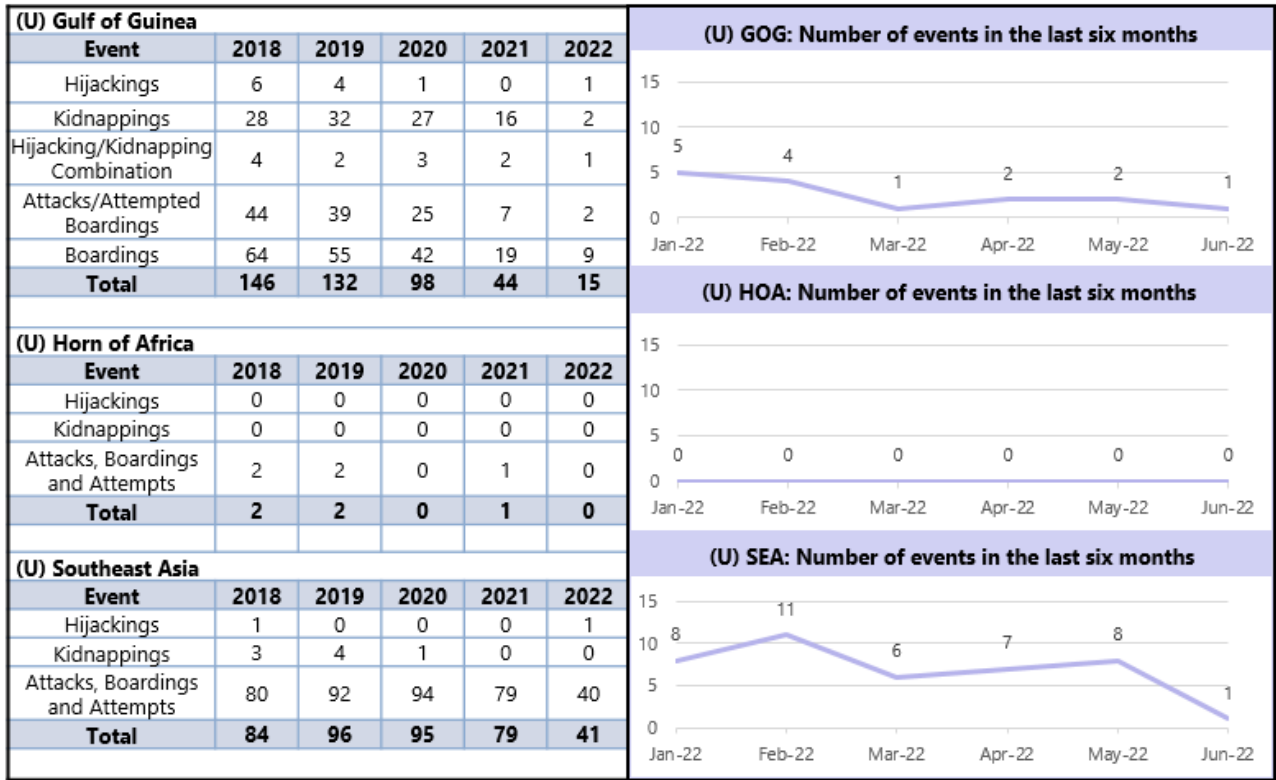
6. (U) INDONESIA: On 21 May, at 0500 local time, four robbers armed with machetes boarded the Barbados-flagged bulk carrier SELENA underway 15 NM east of Mapur Island, near position 01:02N – 105:05E. The perpetrators forced their entry into the navigational bridge through the bridge wing door. They threatened 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)

7. (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 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)

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
2022-006-Global-Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System	15 JUN 22	12 DEC 22
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

(U) **ICOD:** 15 June 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/>