



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 3 – 31 August 2022**

31 August 2022

(U) **Table of Contents:**

1. (U) **Scope Note**
2. (U) **Warnings and Advisories**
3. (U) **Summary**
4. (U) **Details: Monthly Incidents by Region**
5. (U) **Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends**
6. (U) **Appendix B: Definitions and Sourcing**
7. (U) **Appendix C: Active U.S. Maritime Advisories**

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 2022-008-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Western Indian Ocean-Threat to Commercial Vessels. Issued on: 30 August 2022. This revised advisory cancels U.S. Maritime Advisory 2022-003. Issue: Regional conflict, military activity, and political tensions pose threats to merchant vessels operating in the above listed geographic areas. While some past 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 most pressing threats to U.S. flagged merchant vessels, in no particular order: unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) attacks; Iranian Boarding/Detention/Seizure; Limpet Mines; Explosive Boats; Yemen Conflict; and Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea. For maritime industry questions about this advisory, contact GMCC@uscg.mil. Contact Information: Fifth Fleet Battle Watch: + 973-1785-3879, and email details to: cusnc.bwc@me.navy.mil; NAVCENT NCAGS: cusnc.ncags_bw@me.navy.mil or +973-1785-2983 or +973-1785-0084; UKMTO: watchkeepers@ukmto.org or +44 (0) 2392 222060; UKMTO advisories and warnings are available at <http://www.ukmto.org>; U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center: +1-800-424-8802. This advisory will automatically expire on 26 February 2023.

UNCLASSIFIED

3. (U) Summary:

A. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 August, the duty crew sighted three armed robbers in the engine room on an underway bulk carrier in the Singapore Strait precautionary area of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

B. (U) MALAYSIA: On 26 August, fifteen perpetrators boarded a barge towed by a tugboat in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.

C. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 August, armed assailants boarded a fishing vessel in waters near Jambi, Sumatra, in the Berhala Strait.

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 10 August, at 2040 local time, the crew of an underway offshore supply vessel (OSV), while approximately 7 NM north of Puerto Dos Boscas, observed perpetrators approaching on a speedboat from behind an oil platform. The ship raised the alarm and made a distress call on VHF Ch 16. Three other vessels operating nearby intervened by approaching and using their searchlights, which caused the speedboat to depart without a successful boarding having occurred. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) MEXICO: On 7 August, at 2300 local time, an unknown number of armed robbers onboard two speedboats boarded and robbed the Bermuda-flagged semi-submersible drilling rig BLACKFORD DOLPHIN in the Bay of Campeche, approximately 28 NM north of Paraiso, near position 18:54N – 093:21W. According to press reports, ten of the platform crewmembers were restrained by the robbers while the rest of the crewmembers sheltered in place. The robbers escaped with as many as 30 self-contained breathing apparatus sets, handheld radios, tools, and cables. (vesseltracker.com; Poresto; Fleetmon; Clearwater Dynamics)

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

1. (U) GUYANA: On 9 August, at 0000 local time, robbers boarded the Antigua and Barbuda-flagged general cargo ship INDUSTRIAL EMMA during cargo operations while berthed in the port of Georgetown, near position 06:48N – 058:10W. An unknown number of robbers escaped unnoticed with stolen ship's properties. The robbery was discovered by a duty crewmember after the ship shifted to another terminal. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; vesseltracker.com)

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: No current incidents to report.

F. (U) WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:

1. (U) ANGOLA: On 24 August, at 0420 local time, a robbery occurred on a container ship anchored approximately 7.7 NM west of Soyo, near position 06:07S – 012:12E. Two robbers boarded the ship and escaped with stolen boxes of refrigerated chicken. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics; MDAT-GoG)

2. (U) SIERRA LEONE: On 11 August, at 0300 local time, one robber boarded the anchored Indonesia-flagged transshipment barge BULK BORNEO in the Freetown Anchorage area, near position 08:30N – 013:12W. The ship's guard spotted one robber on the barge and illuminated him with his flashlight, which resulted in the perpetrator escaping. The incident was reported to port authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics; MDAT-GoG; vesseltracker.com)

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:

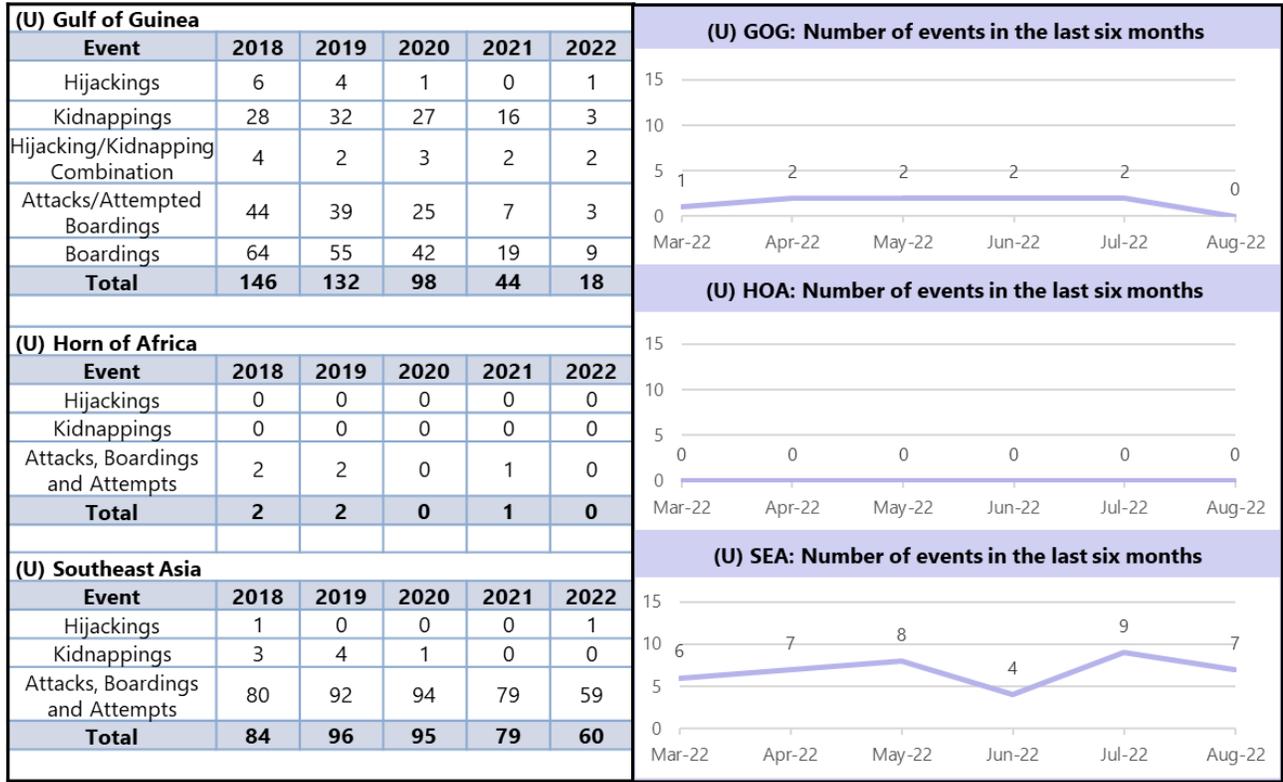


Figure 1. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 August, at 0402 local time, the duty crew sighted three robbers, armed with hammer, knife, and metal rod close to the engine room on the underway Bangladesh-flagged bulk carrier MEGHNA LIBERTY, approximately 5.4 NM east of Little Karimun Island, near position 01:07N – 103:30E. Upon hearing the ship's alarm, the perpetrators made their escape. Nothing was reported stolen and the crew are safe. The vessel did not require assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
 2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 26 August, at 1928 local time, fifteen perpetrators in eight sampans approached and boarded a barge towed by the underway Singapore-flagged tugboat HK TUG 9, while in transit along the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:17N – 104:20E. The captain reported the boarding to local authorities and a Singapore police coast guard craft deployed to the incident. The crew are reported as safe. (vesselfinder.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
 3. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 August, armed assailants boarded a fishing vessel likely within territorial waters in the Berhala Strait off the east coast of central Sumatra near Lambur Luar (01:36S – 103:56E) in Jambi province . The perpetrators stole crew's valuables, their catch, as well as the fishing vessel's battery and gearbox, leaving it adrift. Another fishing boat passed by and was able to pull the victim's vessel to a safe port. (Indonesia Maritime Information Centre)
 4. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 August, at 0445 local time, two robbers armed with knives boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier NORD AQUARIUS anchored at Belawan Anchorage, near position 03:56N – 098.47E. The duty crew noticed the perpetrators near the forecastle store and immediately notified the duty officer. The alarm was raised, a PA announcement was made, and the crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's properties. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; vesseltracker.com)
 5. (U) MALAYSIA: On 12 August, at 0420 local time, four robbers on a speedboat approached and boarded the anchored Panama-flagged tanker SOUTHERN HAWK at Sandakan Anchorage, near position 05:49N – 118.08E. The duty officer noticed movement near the bosun store and raised the alarm, sounded the ship's whistle, and made a PA announcement. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. The incident was reported to the local agent. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; vesseltracker.com)
 6. (U) INDONESIA: On 9 August, at 0938 local time, two robbers boarded the Liberia-flagged offshore supply vessel (OSV) MO PELICAN under tow by the China-flagged tugboat NING HAI TUO 4001 in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:10N – 103:35E. The robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores from the OSV. The master reported that the vessel and crew were safe, and the vessel continued its voyage. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
 7. (U) MALAYSIA: On 3 August, at 2336 local time, 13 unauthorized individuals boarded a barge under tow by the Malaysia-flagged tugboat MODALWAN 11 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:13N – 103:32E. The master reported the incident to the local authorities and confirmed that all crew were safe. (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 crewmembers 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
2022-008-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Western Indian Ocean-Threat to Commercial Vessels	30 AUG 22	26 FEB 23
2022-007-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	6 JUL 22	2 JAN 23
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

(U) **ICOD:** 31 August 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/>