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## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 10 August – 7 September 2022**

7 September 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 2022-009-Black Sea and Sea of Azov-Military Combat Operations.**

Issued on: 4 September 2022. This advisory updates and cancels U.S. Maritime Advisory 2022-004.

Issue: Since Russia's further invasion of Ukraine in late February, there have been reports of multiple commercial vessels being struck by projectiles and/or experiencing explosions in Ukrainian ports and in the Northwestern Black Sea off the coast of Ukraine. There have also been reports of naval mines, both moored and drifting, in many areas of the Black Sea. There is a high risk of damage to U.S.-flagged commercial vessels in this region. U.S.-flagged commercial vessels should avoid entering or approaching the Sea of Azov, Ukrainian ports, or Ukrainian territorial waters in the Northwestern Black Sea unless participating in the UN Black Sea Grain Initiative. Vessels operating in these areas may encounter GPS interference, AIS spoofing, and/or other communications jamming. For maritime industry questions about this advisory, contact GMCC@uscg.mil. Supplemental information may also be found on the MARAD Office of Maritime Security website at: <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/ports/office-security/office-maritime-security>. Contact Information: NATO Shipping Center (NSC): info@shipping.nato.int or +44 (0) 1923-956-574; UN Black Sea Grain Initiative Joint Coordination Center: admin@JCC-Secretariat.org; U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center: +1-800-424-8802 or hqs-smb-nrc@uscg.mil. This advisory will automatically expire on 3 March 2023.

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**3. (U) Summary:**

**A. (U) MALAYSIA:** On 7 September at 2325 local time, eleven robbers boarded a barge under tow in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

**B. (U) INDONESIA:** On 3 September, three robbers boarded an underway bulk carrier in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS. The perpetrators stole generator parts before escaping.

**C. (U) NIGERIA:** On 2 September, suspected pirates approached and opened fire on a passenger boat while underway from Bille to Port Harcourt in Degema Local Government Area, Rivers State. A spokesperson for the Rivers State police command confirmed one passenger was killed and another was wounded.

**D. (U) BRAZIL:** On 30 August, twenty masked robbers armed with knives and a gun boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Macapa Anchorage. The robbers beat and restrained six local security guards and duty crew. After the alarm was raised, the perpetrators escaped with ship's stores.

**E. (U) PHILIPPINES:** On 31 August, robbers boarded, unnoticed, a berthed vehicle carrier at Batangas Port. The duty crew, while carrying out routine rounds, discovered that ship's properties had been stolen.

**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)

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



(U) Figure 1. Central America – Caribbean – South America Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) BRAZIL: On 30 August at 0100 local time, masked robbers armed with knives and a gun boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Macapa Anchorage near position 00:30N – 050:59W. While onboard, the robbers beat and restrained six local security guards and duty crewmembers. The alarm was raised and the master informed port control via VHF. The perpetrators escaped with ship's stores. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; 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:**



(U) Figure 2. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 2 September, pirates approached and fired upon a passenger boat while underway from Bille to Port Harcourt in Degema Local Government Area, Rivers State. A spokesperson for the Rivers State police command confirmed one passenger killed and another wounded. (Clearwater Dynamics; Sahara Reporters; The Punch)

2. (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)

3. (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:**



(U) Figure 3. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 7 September at 2325 local time, ten wooden boats were sighted alongside the barge SUNG FATT 36 towed by Malaysia-flagged tugboat SUNG FATT 31 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:12N – 103:32E. Due to length of towline and hour of darkness, the master and crew aboard the tugboat were not able to determine the number of perpetrators onboard the barge. The master reported robbers stole scrap metal from barge, the crew was not injured, and that no assistance was requested. The tug continued its voyage towing the barge to Penang, Malaysia. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 September at 0045 local time, three robbers boarded an underway Singapore-flagged bulk carrier in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS. The perpetrators stole generator parts before their escape. The master informed port operations control center that the crew was safe and no assistance was necessary. The vessel continued its voyage to China. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 31 August, robbers boarded the berthed Singapore-flagged vehicle carrier NORD ADRIATIC at Batangas Port between 0730 and 2130 local time. The duty crew discovered the robbery while carrying out routine rounds and confirmed that ship's properties had been stolen. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

4. (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)

5. (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)

6. (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)

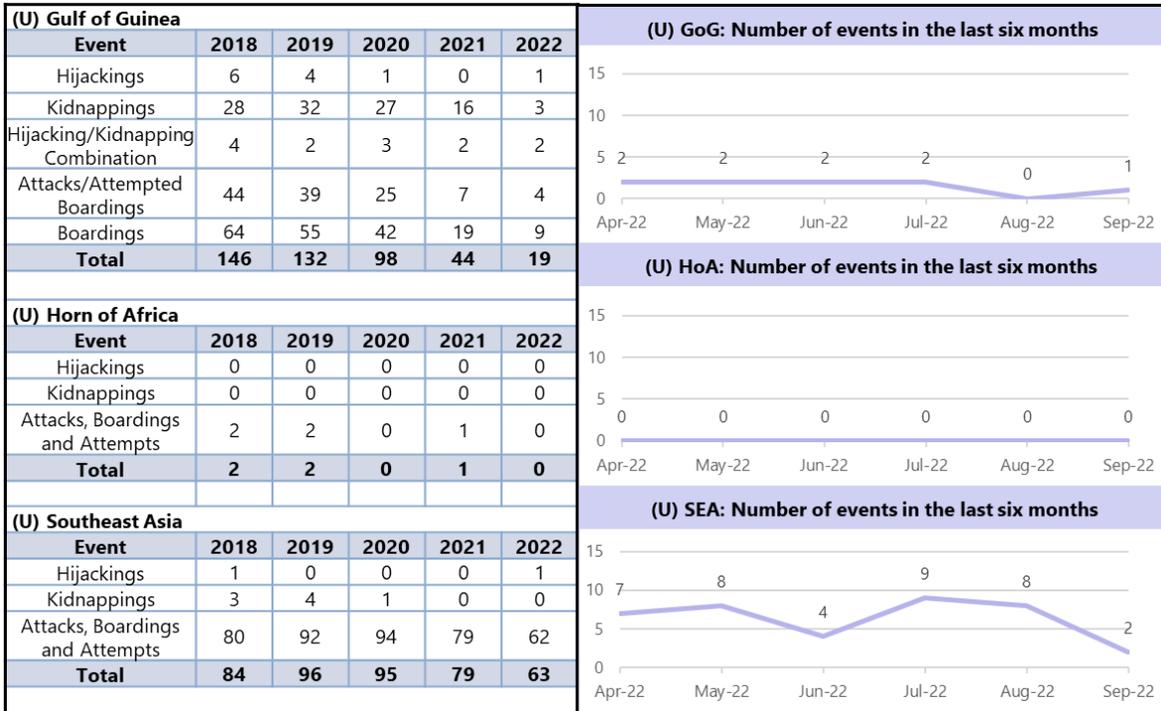
7. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 August, at 0445 local time, two robbers armed with knives boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier NORD AQUARIUS anchored at Belawan Anchorage, near position 03:56N – 098.47E. The duty crew noticed the perpetrators near the forecandle store and immediately notified the duty officer. 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)

8. (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)

**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
<a href="#">2022-009-Black Sea and Sea of Azov-Military Combat Operations</a>	4 SEP 22	3 MAR 23
<a href="#">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</a>	30 AUG 22	26 FEB 23
<a href="#">2022-007-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom</a>	6 JUL 22	2 JAN 23
<a href="#">2022-006-Global-Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System</a>	15 JUN 22	12 DEC 22
<a href="#">2022-005-Various-GPS Interference &amp; AIS Spoofing</a>	14 MAR 22	10 SEP 22

(U) **ICOD:** 7 September 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/>