

UNCLASSIFIED



(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 7 December 2022 – 4 January 2023**



4 January 2023

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1. (U) **Scope Note**

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) report 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, Advisories and Alerts:** See Appendix C for active advisories.

A. (U) U.S. Maritime Advisory 2023-001-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom

Issued on 3 January 2023. This revised advisory cancels U.S. Maritime Advisory 2022-007. Issue: Piracy/Armed Robbery at Sea/Kidnapping for Ransom (KFR) serve as a significant threat to U.S.-flagged vessels transiting or operating in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) as well as U.S. mariners onboard a vessel or transiting to or from a vessel in the GoG. Guidance: Mariners transiting this area should visit the maritime Domain Awareness for Trade-Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG) website at <https://gog-mdat.org/home> and the NATO Shipping Centre website at <https://shipping.nato.int/ncs/operations/global-maritime-risk/west-africa-gulf-of-guinea> for additional information on threats and specific recommendations for their vessels. Additionally, the "Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security Off the Coast of West Africa including the Gulf of Guinea" (available under the Geography – Gulf of Guinea pull-down menu at <https://www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org/>) provides additional guidance and resources for operating in this area. For any maritime industry questions about this advisory, contact GMCC@uscg.mil. This Advisory will automatically expire on 2 July 2023.

3. (U) Summary:

A. (U) MALAYSIA: On 4 January, three robbers boarded a barge under tow by a tug in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

B. (U) INDIA: On 26 December, three robbers boarded an anchored chemical tanker at Kandla 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 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 28 December at 0005 local time, robbers boarded the Mexico-flagged offshore supply vessel BOURBON ALIENOR, operating in the Bay of Campeche, approximately 30 NM north of Ciudad del Carmen, near position 19:10N – 092:15W. The perpetrators boarded the vessel from a speedboat. After the alarm was raised, part of the crew mustered in the vessel's citadel, while several others remained on the bridge. The robbers stole ship's property, including breathing apparatuses and firefighting equipment. All crewmembers have been reported safe. The local authorities and SEMAR were notified of the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com; Maritime Executive)

2. (U) MEXICO: On 27 December at 2200 local time, robbers boarded the Mexico-flagged offshore supply vessel BOURBON ARTABAZE, operating in the Bay of Campeche, approximately 30 NM north of Ciudad del Carmen, near position 19:11N – 092:17W. The perpetrators boarded the vessel from a speedboat. After the alarm was raised, the crew mustered in the vessel's citadel. The robbers stole ship's property, including breathing apparatuses and firefighting equipment. All crewmembers have been reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com; Maritime Executive)

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

1. (U) PERU: On 20 December at 0245 local time, five robbers armed with knives boarded the product tanker CHALLENGE PROCYON, anchored in Callao Anchorage, near position 12:00S – 077:12W. The perpetrators gained access to the vessel via the anchor chain. Once onboard, they threatened a duty crewmember with a knife and tied him up. The robbers then broke into the forecabin store, stole ship's property, and escaped. After freeing himself, the duty crewmember alerted the bridge. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. The incident was reported to Callao Vessel Traffic Service (VTS). (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) PERU: On 19 December at 0100 local time, two robbers armed with knives boarded Marshall Islands-flagged vehicle carrier VIKING DRIVE anchored in Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:12W. The perpetrators boarded the vessel through the hawse pipe. Once onboard, they threatened a duty crew member, and stole his

mobile phone and VHF radio before escaping. The crew mustered after the ship's alarm sounded. The incident was reported to port control. (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:

1. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 13 December at approximately 1007 UTC, pirates hijacked and kidnapped two crew members from the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines-flagged passenger vessel FERNANDE underway approximately 55 NM northwest of Bata, near position 02:48N – 008:41E. The two kidnapped crew members are Cameroonian nationals. Following the departure of the pirates with the two hostages, the vessel was reported to be safe and under escort into the port of Douala. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 12 December at approximately 0250 UTC, a skiff approached and fired upon Greece-flagged oil tanker MARAN POSEIDON underway approximately 103 NM west of Bata, near position 02:25N – 008:24E. The tanker increased speed as the skiff approached, and the skiff never came closer than about 200 meters. Following the incident, the master reported that the vessel and crew were safe. (MDAT-GoG; Maritime Executive; Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; vesseltracker.com)

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

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

1. (U) ERITREA: On 10 December at 0828 local time, two skiffs approached and fired upon a motor yacht in the northern section of the Bab el Mandeb Strait, near position 13:10N – 042:56E. The skiffs approached to within 1 NM and fired upon the vessel. The yacht's armed security team returned fire, after which the skiffs departed. The vessel and crew were reported safe following the incident. (UKMTO; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

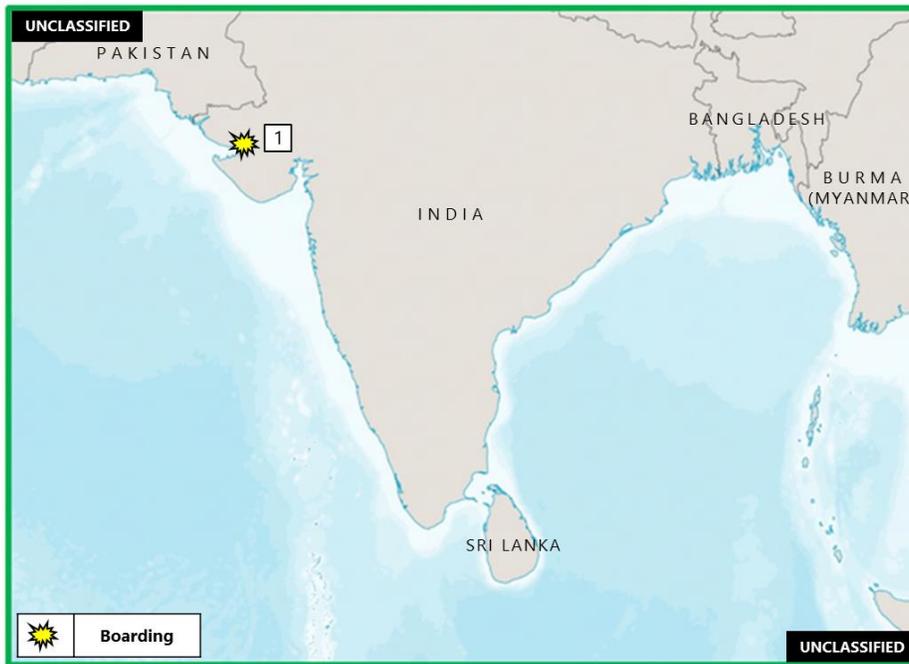


Figure 1. (U) East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 4 January at 1355 local time, three robbers boarded a barge under tow by a Singapore-flagged tug in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:17N – 104:10E. The master reported that a quantity of scrap metal was stolen. The crew were reported as safe and the vessel did not require any assistance. The tug and barge continued to their next port call at Jakarta, Indonesia. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 14 December at 0400 local time, three robbers boarded Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier GOLDEN HOUSTON underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:38E. The perpetrators stole a portable phone and generator parts before escaping. The master reported the incident to the Port Operations Control Centre (POCC). The crew were reported safe, and the vessel continued its voyage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 December at 0245 local time, five perpetrators armed with knives boarded Panama-flagged oil tanker ORBIT 1 underway approximately 3.7 NM northwest of Pulau Cula in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:39E. Crew spotted the five perpetrators in the engine room and activated the ship's general alarm, after which the perpetrators made their escape. After a search was conducted, the master reported that nothing was stolen and that all crew were safe. The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF), Singapore Police Coast Guard, and Indonesian authorities were notified of the incident. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

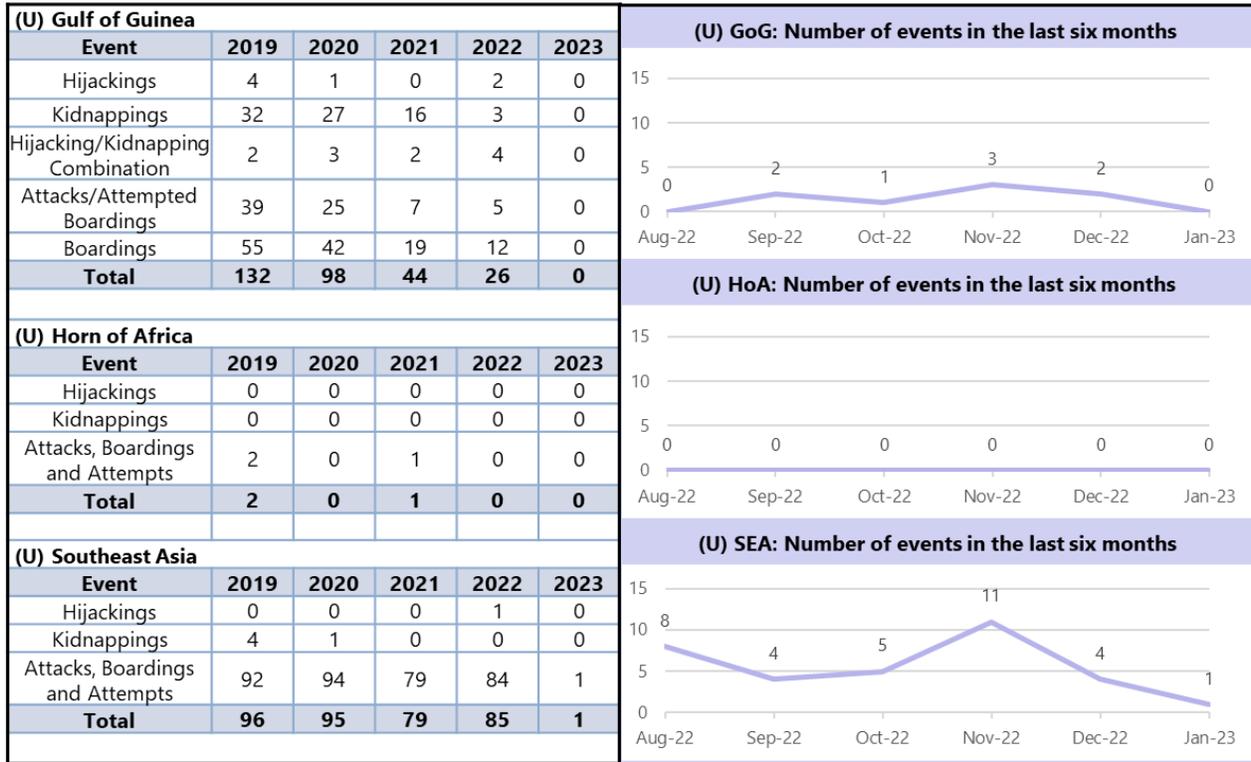
J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

(U) Figure 2. Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) INDIA: On 26 December at 2120 local time, three robbers boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged chemical tanker BOW CEDAR, near position 22:47N – 070:00E. After the perpetrators were spotted, the master alerted Kandla Tower on VHF and the general alarm was raised. Upon hearing the alarm, the perpetrators escaped in a small boat with stolen ship's stores. The crew searched the vessel with no further sighting of the perpetrators. Upon being notified of the incident by the master, an Indian Coast Guard (ICG) vessel deployed to assist the tanker. The following day, the ICG and the Kandla Marine Police boarded the vessel to conduct their investigations. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

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
2023-001-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	3 JAN 23	2 JUL 23
2022-011-Global-Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System	12 DEC 22	10 JUN 23
2022-005-Various-GPS Interference & AIS Spoofing	9 SEP 22	8 MAR 23
2022-009-Black Sea and Sea of Azov-Military Combat Operations	4 SEP 22	3 MAR 23
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

(U) **ICOD:** 4 January 2023

(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/>