



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 11 January – 8 February 2023**



8 February 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.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 8 February, an unknown number of robbers boarded a barge under tow by a tug while transiting in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

B. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 4 February, four perpetrators boarded a bulk carrier underway off Little Karimun Island in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.

C. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 3 February, nine perpetrators armed with knives boarded a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.

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: No current incidents to report.

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

1. (U) COLOMBIA: On 19 January at 0040 local time, three perpetrators boarded the Panama-flagged container ship NYK RIGEL underway approximately 20.5 NM southwest of Cartagena near position 10:12N – 075:50W. After the crew spotted the perpetrators, the ship's alarm was raised, the crew mustered, and the Colombian Coast Guard was notified. The perpetrators escaped in their boat. The coast guard escorted the vessel to its berth and subsequently boarded the vessel to conduct an investigation. All crew were reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) GRENADA: On 16/17 January between 2230 and 0130 local time, perpetrators stole an unsecured dinghy with a 15HP Yamaha outboard engine from a yacht anchored in Tyrrel Bay near the approximate position 12:27N – 061:29W. An incident report was made on the VHF net and to the local coast guard. (Caribbean Safety and Security Net)

3. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 11 January during hours of darkness, perpetrators stole a secured dinghy from an occupied yacht anchored in Anse D'Arlet near the approximate position 14:30N – 061:05W. It is not known if a police report was made. (Caribbean Safety and Security Net)

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) CAMEROON: On 31 January at 0345 local time, two speed boats approached a Chinese fishing trawler operating off of Idenau near position 04:13N – 008:50E, approximately 31 NM from the Nigeria-Cameroon maritime border. Armed military guards onboard the trawler fired shots toward the two speed boats, which resulted in them aborting their approach and moving away from the area. The vessel, crew, and military guards have been reported as safe. (Clearwater Dynamics; MDAT-GoG)

2. (U) GHANA: On 25 January at 2350 local time, robbers boarded the Hong Kong-flagged product tanker SEACLIPPER while anchored at Takoradi Anchorage near position 04:55N – 001:41W. The incident was reported to port authorities who tasked a security vessel to investigate the incident. The vessel and crew were reported safe, and nothing was reported stolen. (MDAT-GoG; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE: On 11 January at 0200 local time, two skiffs made a suspicious approach to an unidentified vessel located approximately 27 NM northwest of Sao Tome Island near position 00:45N – 006:20E.

The master took evasive action and increased the vessel's speed causing the skiffs to abandon their approach. The crew and vessel are reported safe. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

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:

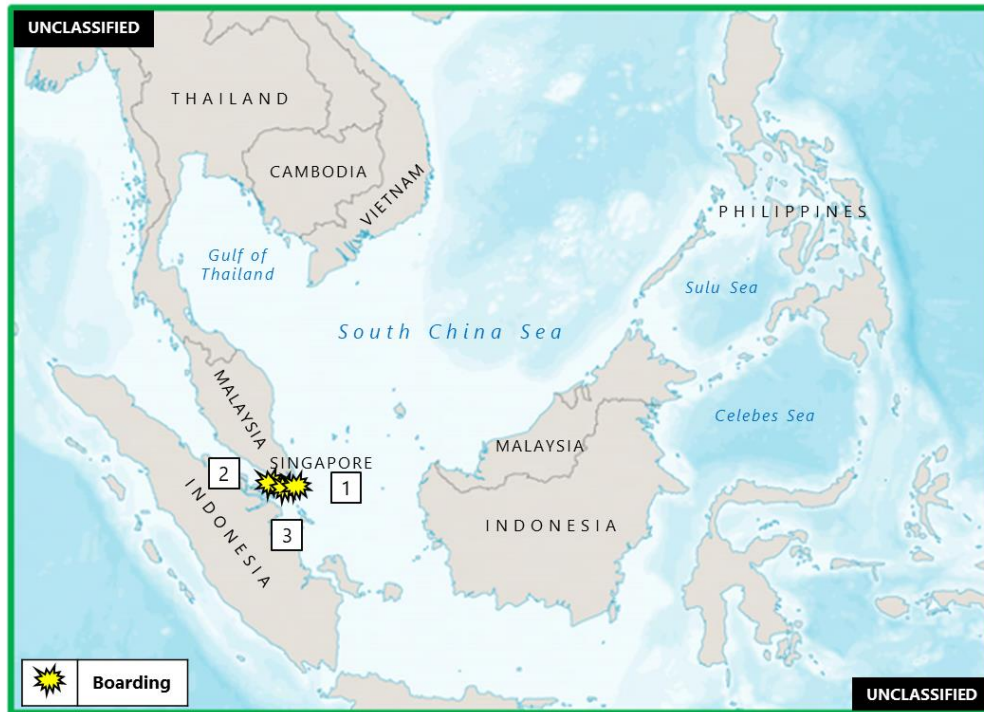


Figure 1. (U) East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 February at 1730 local time, an unknown number of robbers boarded a barge under tow by a Singapore-flagged tug while transiting the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) near position 01:11N – 103:52E. The perpetrators stole scrap metal before escaping. The ship master reported all crew were safe and that the vessel did not require any assistance. The tug and barge continued their transit to Kuantan, Malaysia. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 4 February at 0130 local time, four perpetrators boarded the underway Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier CHRYSSA K in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS off Little Karimun Island near position 01:11N – 103:24E. The master reported all crew were safe and that nothing was stolen. The vessel did not require any assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 February at 0145 local time, nine perpetrators armed with knives boarded the underway Liberia-flagged bulk carrier PACIFIC WEST in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS near position 01:03N

– 103:37E. The master reported all crew members were safe and that no items were stolen. The vessel did not require any assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

4. (U) MALAYSIA: On 1 February at 1940 local time, two perpetrators boarded a barge under tow by a Singapore-flagged tugboat in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS near position 01:17N – 104:09E. The master reported all crew members safe, and reported scrap metal as stolen. The vessel did not require assistance and will continue to the next port of call in Vietnam. (Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 January at 0400 local time, four perpetrators boarded the anchored Malta-flagged bulk carrier LBC GREEN at the Panjang Anchorage near position 05:30S – 105:17E. The second engineer found the perpetrators trying to gain entrance to the engine room and alerted the bridge. The ship's alarm was raised, and the crew mustered. The crew reported the incident to the local agent and port authorities. The authorities boarded the ship and conducted a search. No unauthorized persons were located, the crew was reported safe, and nothing was determined stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; ReCAAP)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 27 January at 2335 local time, two robbers armed with adjustable wrenches boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier IZUMI underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS in the vicinity of the Phillip Channel near position 01:02N – 103:39E. After the robbers were identified in the steering gear room, the master raised the general alarm, mustered the crew, and requested assistance from the Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS). A Republic of Singapore Navy vessel escorted the ship to the Singapore pilot boarding ground. The next morning, the Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded and searched the ship with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The crew was reported safe and nothing was reported stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 26 January at 0215 local time, five perpetrators in a small boat approached and boarded the Panama-flagged product tanker CETO anchored at Balongan Anchorage near position 06:14S – 108:25E. Duty crew discovered one of the perpetrators on the poop deck assisting a second to board. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. After being spotted, the perpetrators escaped in the waiting boat. The incident was reported to port control. All crew were reported as safe and nothing was reported stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; ReCAAP)

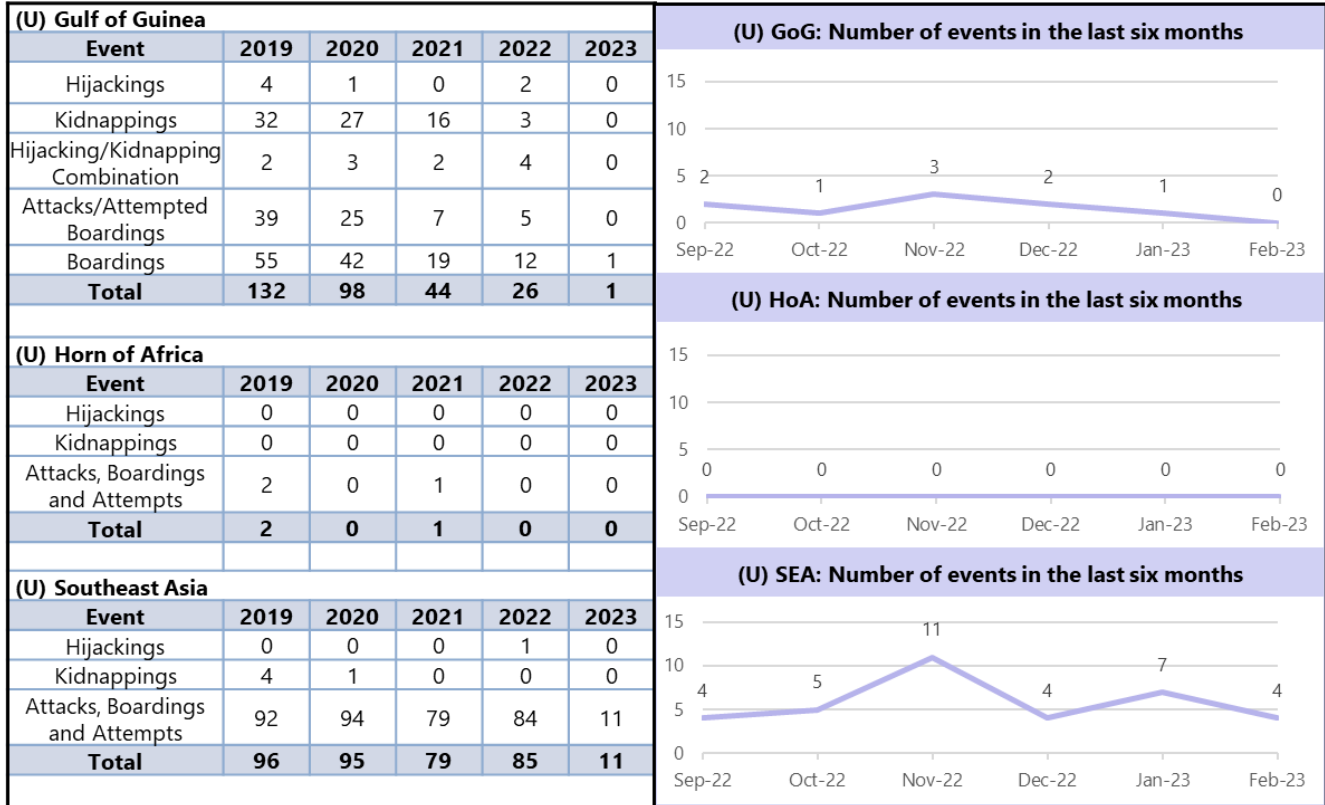
8. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 January at 0115 local time, five perpetrators boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier S CAPE underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS near position 01:04N – 103:35E. The crew sighted the perpetrators in the engine room of the vessel. The crew raised the ship's alarm, mustered, and then conducted a search. Following the incident, the crew were reported safe, nothing was reported stolen, and the vessel continued its voyage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

1. INDIA: On 19 January at 2030 local time, three robbers boarded the Norway-flagged chemical tanker MH LANGOEY anchored at Kandla Anchorage near position 22:48N – 07:00E. Following the discovery of the robbers onboard, the master raised the alarm. Hearing the alarm, the robbers jumped into the water and escaped in a waiting small fishing boat. Various items of ship's stores were stolen, including brass valves and stainless steel bolts and nuts. The master reported the incident to Kandla Signal Station, and an Indian Coast Guard ship was diverted to investigate. The crew were reported to be safe following the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

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:** 8 February 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/>