



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 25 January – 22 February 2023**



22 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.

A. (U) U.S. Maritime Advisory 2023-002-Worldwide-Maritime Port Vulnerabilities – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence

Issued on 17 February 2023. This advisory seeks to alert maritime stakeholders of potential vulnerabilities to maritime port equipment, networks, operating systems, software, and infrastructure. Maritime ports, facilities, and infrastructure, worldwide, are vulnerable to physical and cybersecurity exposure through foreign adversarial access to port equipment and supply chain information management systems. Specifically, proprietary foreign adversarial companies manufacture, install, and maintain port equipment that pose potential vulnerabilities to global maritime infrastructure information technology and operational technology systems. For more information about U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories, including subscription details, please visit

www.maritime.dot.gov/msci/maritime-security-communications-industry-msci-web-portal

This advisory will automatically expire on 16 August 2023.

3. (U) Summary:

A. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 February, six perpetrators boarded an underway bulk carrier in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme.

B. (U) CAMEROON: On 17 February, suspected militants reportedly fired upon and boarded an oil vessel anchored off the Bakassi Peninsula.

C. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 10 February, an "airborne object" struck an underway tanker approximately 300 NM off the coast of Oman.

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 12 February, two perpetrators attempted to board the anchored Japan-flagged bulk carrier FRONTIER SKY in the Puerto Bolivar Anchorage, near position 12:17N – 072:01W. The perpetrators approached the vessel in a small boat and attempted to board using a rope attached to a hook. A duty crewman observed the attempt and notified the bridge. The alarm was raised and the ship's horn sounded. Hearing the alarm, the perpetrators aborted their attempted boarding and moved away. The master reported the incident to Puerto Bolivar marine operations. A patrol boat responded and searched the waters around the bulk carrier. (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:

Figure 1. (U) West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) CAMEROON: On 17 February, suspected militants reportedly fired upon and boarded an oil vessel anchored off the Idabato subdivision of the Bakassi Peninsula. Armed men boarded the vessel after shooting and killing two escorts. The perpetrators then attempted to set the vessel ablaze, escaping before Cameroonian forces arrived. (Clearwater Dynamics; Daily Post Nigeria)

2. (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)

3. (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)

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

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



Figure 2. (U) Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 10 February, an “airborne object” struck the underway Liberia-flagged tanker CAMPO SQUARE approximately 300 NM off the coast of Oman, near position 20:36N – 062:34E. The vessel suffered minor damage, no crew were harmed, and the vessel continued its voyage to Fujairah. (Clearwater Dynamics; Maritime Executive)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



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

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 February at 0420 local time, six perpetrators boarded the underway Japan-flagged bulk carrier OCEAN CREATION in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:16N – 104:13E, northwest of Bintan Island. Duty crew members spotted the perpetrators in the vessel's engine room. The master later reported all crew safe and that nothing had been stolen. The vessel did not require any assistance and continued its voyage to the Philippines. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 15 February at 0510 local time, two robbers armed with knives boarded an underway Liberia-flagged bulk carrier in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:15N – 104:12E, northeast of Batam Island. The duty crew spotted the robbers in the engine room. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. A search of the vessel found that engine stores had been stolen. The master reported all crew members safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 15 February at 0415 local time, five perpetrators armed with knives boarded the underway Pakistan-flagged bulk carrier MALAKAND in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:10E, northeast of Batam Island. The ship's master reported that all crew were safe, and that nothing was reported stolen. The vessel did not require any assistance, and continued its transit to China. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 February at 1730 local time, an unknown number of robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged barge LKH 3883 under tow by the Singapore-flagged tug HK TUG 2 while transiting the eastbound lane of

the Malacca Strait 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; vesseltracker.com)

5. (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)

6. (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)

7. (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)

8. (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)

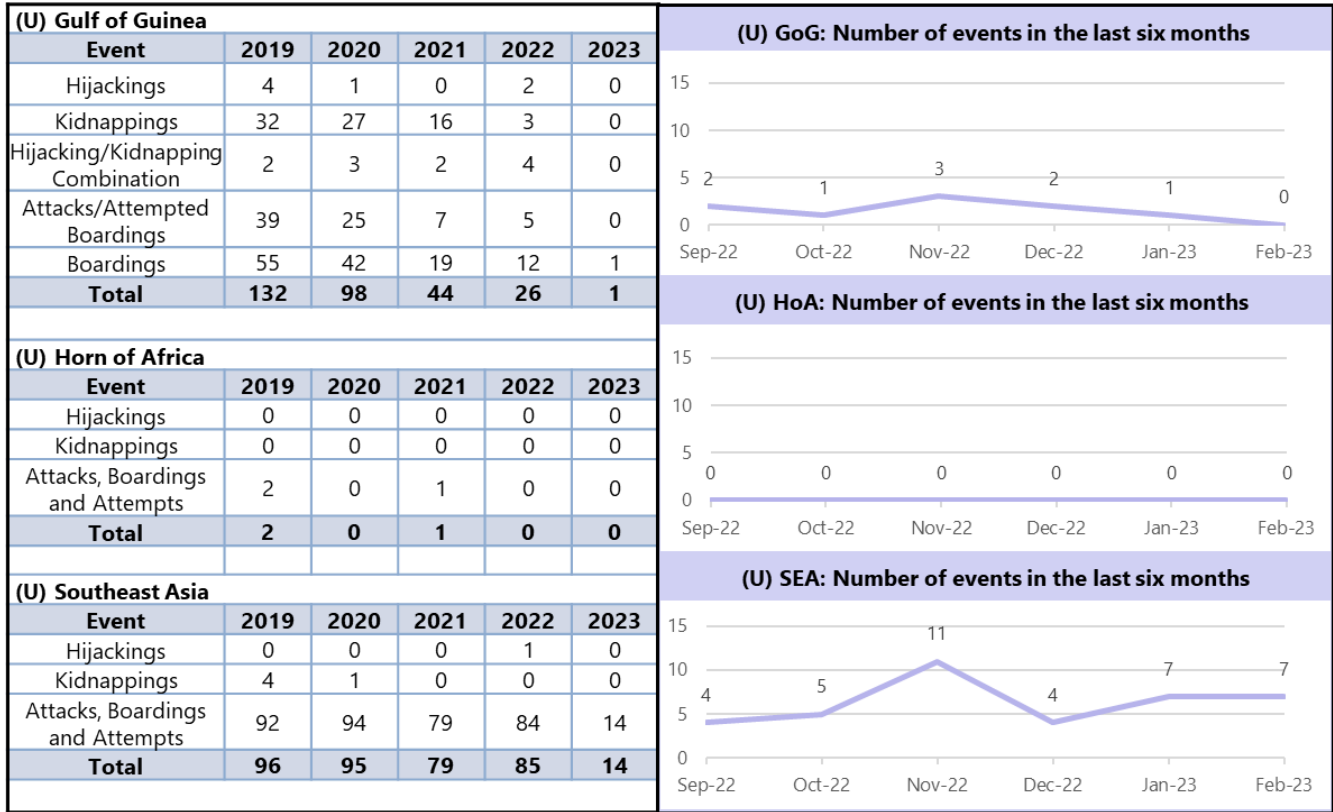
9. (U) INDONESIA: On 27 January at 2335 local time, two robbers armed with adjustable wrenches boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier IZUMI underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS in the vicinity of the Phillip Channel near position 01:02N – 103:39E. After the robbers were 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)

10. (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)

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
U.S. Maritime Advisory 2023-002-Worldwide-Maritime Port Vulnerabilities – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence	17 FEB 23	16 AUG 23
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:** 22 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/>