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## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 1 February – 1 March 2023**



1 March 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 2023-003-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab el Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Somali Basin – Threats to Commercial Vessels.**

Issued on: 23 February 2023. This advisory replaces U.S. Maritime Advisory 2022-008, and seeks to alert maritime stakeholders to threats from regional conflict, military activity, and political tension toward commercial vessels operating in the above listed geographic areas. While some past incidents may have targeted specific commercial 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 commercial vessels. Heightened regional tensions in the listed areas, caused by an array of geopolitical issues, could result in an increased threat level to commercial vessels, as noted in Maritime Alert 2023-001A. The following are currently deemed to be the most pressing threats to U.S.-flagged commercial vessels in these areas, in no particular order: Explosive Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) attacks; Iranian Boarding/Detention/Seizure; Limpet Mines; Explosive Boats; Yemen Conflict; Navigation or Communication Disruptions; Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea; and the Suez Canal Southern Anchorage. For maritime industry questions about this advisory, contact GMCC@uscg.mil. This advisory will automatically expire on 22 August 2023.

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**3. (U) Summary:**

- A. (U) ARABIAN SEA:** On 2 March, an underway vessel was approached by two small crafts approximately 345 NM east of Socotra Island.
- B. (U) OMAN:** On 1 March, a rotary Unmanned Aerial Vehicle was sighted approaching to within 10 meters of a vessel approximately 126 NM east-southeast of Salalah
- C. (U) ANGOLA:** On 1 March, robbers boarded a container ship anchored near Soyo.
- D. (U) BRAZIL:** On 27 February, five robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Macapa Anchorage.
- E. (U) GULF OF ADEN:** On 24 February, 12 small craft were sighted in the vicinity of Point B of the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor with as many as six persons observed onboard each of the small craft.
- F. (U) INDONESIA:** On 23 February, six robbers boarded an underway bulk carrier in the Singapore Strait, east of Little Karimun Island.
- G. (U) PERU:** On 21 February, three robbers boarded an anchored tanker at Callao Anchorage.
- H. (U) INDONESIA:** On 17 February, robbers boarded an underway bulk carrier in the Singapore Strait, northwest of Batam Island.

**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:**

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

1. (U) BRAZIL: On 27 February at 2345 local time, five robbers armed with long knives boarded the anchored Cyprus-flagged bulk carrier BRIGITTE at Macapa Anchorage, near position 00:05N – 050:58W. The duty crew discovered the robbers close to the forecandle and notified the duty officer. The alarm was raised, the ship's horn sounded, and the crew mustered. Upon realizing they had been spotted, the robbers escaped with ship's properties. The master reported the incident to port control. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) PERU: On 21 February at 0048 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded the anchored Bahamas-flagged tanker LOS ANGELES SPIRIT at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:13W. The alarm was raised, the ship's horn sounded, and the crew mustered, after which the robbers escaped with ship's stores. The master reported the incident to port authorities and a patrol boat was dispatched to search the area around the vessel. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

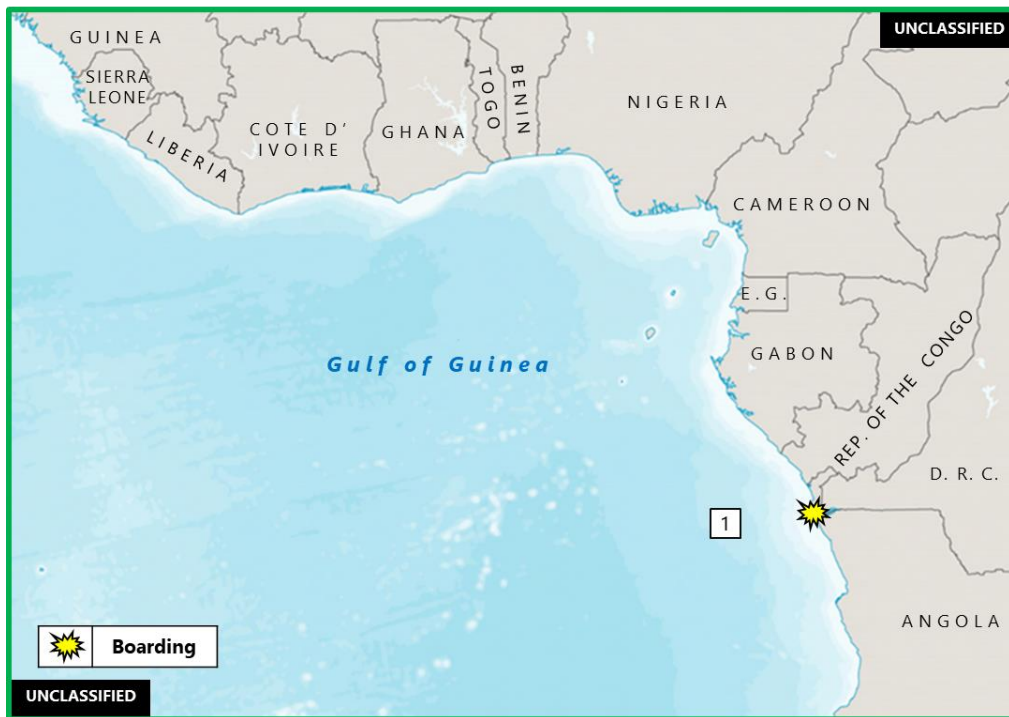
3. (U) COLOMBIA: On 12 February, two perpetrators attempted to board the anchored Japan-flagged bulk carrier FRONTIER SKY in the Puerto Bolivar Anchorage, near position 12:17N – 072:01W. The perpetrators approached the vessel in a small boat and attempted to board using a rope attached to a hook. A duty 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:**



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

1. (U) **ANGOLA:** On 1 March, robbers from a small craft boarded a container ship anchored in the vicinity of Soyo, near position 06:05N – 012:14E. After boarding, the robbers threatened a crew member with a knife before stealing items from inside a container. The local authorities were alerted and the crew was reported as safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (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)

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

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



(U) Figure 3. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 2 March, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) received reports that an underway vessel was approached by two small crafts approximately 345 NM east of Socotra Island near position 12:24N – 060:19E. The two craft with white hulls approached to within 0.1 NM of the vessel. One craft had five persons onboard and the other craft had six persons onboard. Reporting also indicated that these crafts were being supported by a larger blue-hulled vessel. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) OMAN: On 1 March, the master of a vessel informed the UKMTO that a rotary Unmanned Aerial Vehicle was sighted approaching to within 10 meters of the vessel approximately 126 NM east-southeast of Salalah, near position 16:35N – 056:17E. The UAV loitered in the vicinity of the vessel for two minutes before departing. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 24 February, at 1300 UTC, a master of a vessel reported to the UKMTO that up to 12 small craft were sighted in the vicinity of Point B of the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor, near position 14:20N – 053:10E. Up to six persons were observed onboard each of the small craft. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (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:



(U) Figure 4. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 23 February at 0130 local time, six robbers armed with knives boarded the underway Panama-flagged bulk carrier LOWLANDS AMSTEL in the Singapore Strait, near position 01:08N – 103:29E, east of Little Karimun Island. Duty crew discovered the robbers near the engine room, where a standoff occurred with the engine crew. The robbers threw tools at the crew resulting in two crew members sustaining injuries. The master reported that the robbers had left the vessel and scrap metal had been stolen. The vessel did not require any assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 February at 0430 local time, robbers boarded an underway Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier OTAGO BAY in the Singapore Strait, near position 01:04N – 103:13E, northwest of Batam Island. Robbers stole engine spare parts and escaped without being observed. Duty crew discovered the theft after determining that unauthorized entry had been made into the engine room. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

3. (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)

4. (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)

5. (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)

6. (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)

7. (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)

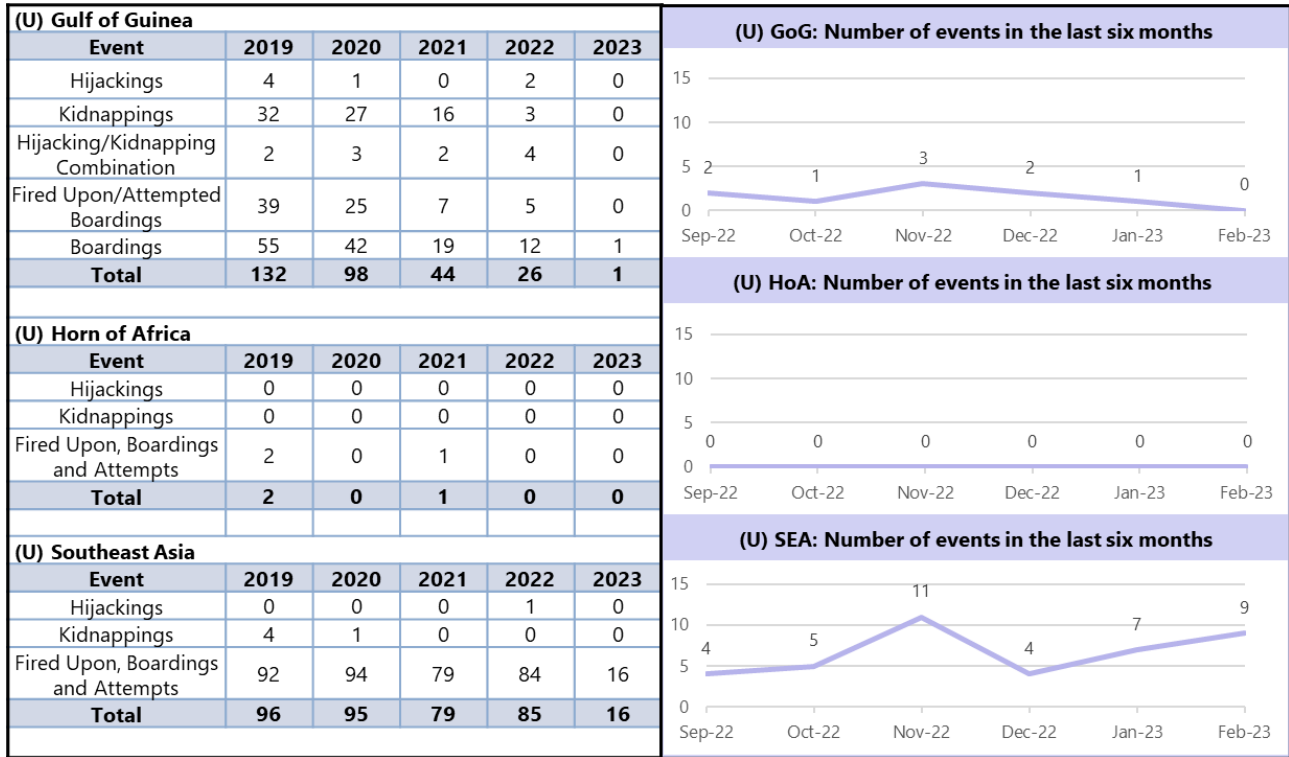
8. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 February at 0145 local time, nine perpetrators armed with knives boarded the underway Liberia-flagged bulk carrier PACIFIC WEST in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS near position 01:03N – 103:37E. The master reported all crew members were safe and that no items were stolen. The vessel did not require any assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

9. (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)

**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
<a href="#">2023-003-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab el Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Somali Basin – Threat to Commercial Vessels</a>	23 FEB 23	22 AUG 23
<a href="#">2023-002-Worldwide-Maritime Port Vulnerabilities – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence</a>	17 FEB 23	16 AUG 23
<a href="#">2023-001-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom</a>	3 JAN 23	2 JUL 23
<a href="#">2022-011-Global-Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System</a>	12 DEC 22	10 JUN 23
<a href="#">2022-005-Various-GPS Interference &amp; AIS Spoofing</a>	9 SEP 22	8 MAR 23
<a href="#">2022-009-Black Sea and Sea of Azov-Military Combat Operations</a>	4 SEP 22	3 MAR 23

(U) **ICOD:** 1 March 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/>