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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 18 August – 15 September 2021**

15 September 2021

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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) MARAD Advisory 2021-010-Various-GPS Interference. Effective Dates: 15 September 2021–14 March 2022. This revised advisory cancels U.S. Maritime Advisory 2021-004. Issue: Instances of significant GPS interference have been reported worldwide in the maritime domain. This interference is resulting in lost or inaccurate GPS signals affecting bridge navigation, GPS-based timing, and communications equipment (include satellite communications equipment). Over the last six months, areas from which multiple instances have been reported include the eastern and central Mediterranean Sea and in the vicinity of the Suez Canal. The U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center (NAVCEN) web page, <https://go.usa.gov/xMZ2q>, contains a chronological list of recently reported GPS problems. For more information about U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories, including subscription details, please visit <https://go.usa.gov/xMZTS>.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) D.R. CONGO: On 14 September, robbers boarded a cargo ship anchored at Banana Anchorage.

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B. (U) PERU: On 13 September, robbers boarded a container ship while anchored at Callao Anchorage.

C. (U) MALAYSIA: On 13 September, four robbers armed with knives boarded a tanker underway approximately 3 NM southwest of Johor.

D. (U) UNITED KINGDOM: On 9 September, authorities boarded the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines-flagged yacht KAHU in international waters north of Guernsey Island. Officials found 2,000 kilograms of cocaine on the yacht and arrested six men.

E. (U) MEXICO: On 6 September, three robbers armed with spear guns boarded a catamaran anchored in the Bay of Punta Nizuc, south of Cancun.

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 last 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:



Figure 1. North America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MEXICO: On 6 September, three robbers armed with spear guns boarded a catamaran anchored in the Bay of Punta Nizuc, south of Cancun. Family members were watching a movie with all the lights out at 2130 hours local time when the men appeared in the cockpit and began screaming for money and food. The crew cooperated, giving the masked men money and food items. The robbers tied up both adults and then tied the children nearby. They threatened to throw the children overboard while still tied, but did not physically harm anyone. The men ransacked the boat, and after collecting what they wanted the men departed in the yacht's dinghy. The crew was then able to untie themselves and subsequently recovered a backpack left behind in the cockpit that contained their cell phones and other valuables. A report was made to the police and the port captain. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

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



Figure 2. Central America – Caribbean – South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) PERU: On 13 September, robbers boarded a container ship while anchored at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:11W. The robbers were able to board the vessel, steal ship's stores and escape unnoticed. The robbery was discovered by duty crew on routine rounds. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) COLOMBIA: On 1 September, The Colombian Navy announced the seizure of 1.8 tons of cocaine and a semi-submersible craft being used to smuggle the drugs. The seizure operation was carried out in an estuary in northern Nariño Department. (www.gcaptain.com)

3. (U) BRAZIL: On 31 August, two robbers boarded a tanker anchored in Fazendinha Anchorage, near position 00:03S – 051:06W. The robbers were spotted near the forecandle, the alarm was raised, and the perpetrators escaped through the anchor hawse pipe. Nothing was reported stolen and the crew were reported as safe. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 25 August, robbers stole a dinghy and outboard motor from a sailing yacht anchored in Grand Anse D'Arlet. (www.safetyandsecuritytnet.org)
5. (U) PANAMA: On 22 August, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Linton Bay. A report was made to the coast guard and the police. (www.caribbeansafetyandsecurity.com)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:

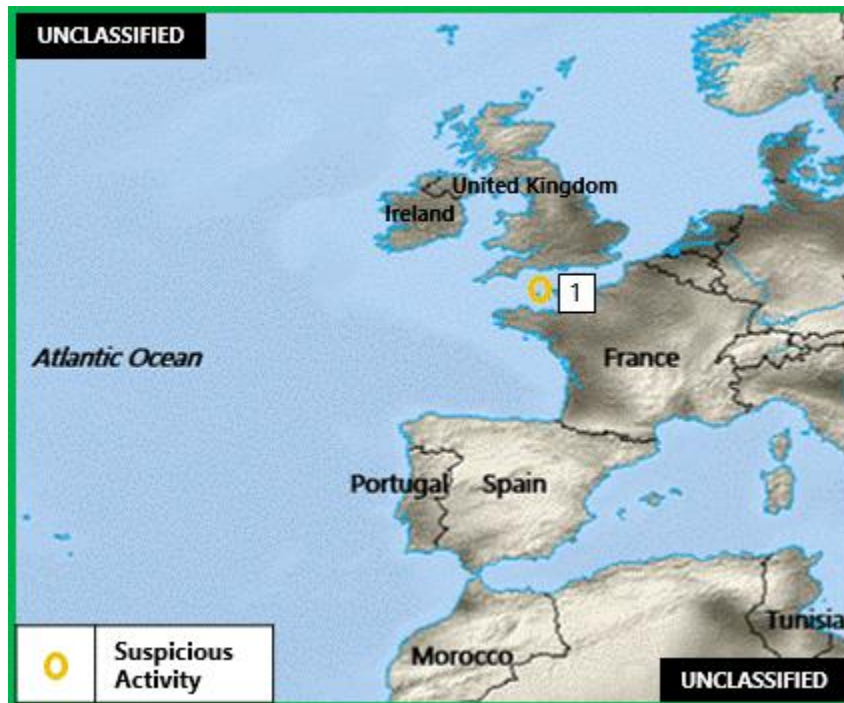


Figure 3. Atlantic Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) UNITED KINGDOM: On 9 September, authorities from England's National Crime Agency, the Border Force, and Australian Federal Police boarded the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines-flagged yacht KAHU, in international waters north of Guernsey Island. Officials found 2,000 kilograms of cocaine on the yacht and arrested six men. (www.fleetmon.com)

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC: No current incidents to report.

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA: No current incidents to report.

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:



Figure 4. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) D.R. CONGO: On 14 September, robbers boarded a cargo ship anchored at Banana Anchorage, near position 05:59S – 012:24E. The robbers managed to board the vessel and steal ship's stores without being spotted. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) GHANA: On 6 September, six robbers in a small boat attempted to board a bulk carrier anchored in Tema Anchorage, near position 05:31.2N – 000:00.9E. A duty crewman saw the robbers, raised the alarm, and shouted at the robbers, who circled the ship and then moved away. Incident reported to the port control. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) GABON: On 5 September, five robbers boarded the St Kitts and Nevis-flagged offshore supply vessel TAMPEN while it was anchored in the Owendo Inner Anchorage, Libreville, near position 00:22N – 009:24E. The alarm was raised and the crew secured themselves inside the ship. Two crewmen were injured due to gunfire and required hospitalization. One crewman was reported as missing and presumed kidnapped. The remaining crew were reported as safe and local authorities were notified. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; www.hellenicshippingnews.com; www.rigzone.com; www.onmanorama.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:**



Figure 5. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 13 September at 0415 LT, four robbers armed with knives boarded a tanker underway approximately 3 NM southwest of Johor, near position 01:15N – 103:23E. A duty crewman spotted the robbers trying to enter the engine room. The alarm was raised, the crew was mustered, and all deck lights turned on. Upon seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped empty-handed into a waiting boat with two other perpetrators. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 August, two robbers boarded the Liberia-flagged tanker SOLAR CATIE while anchored in Belawan Anchorage, near position 03:47N – 098:42E. The robbers stole items of ship's property and escape unnoticed. The theft was discovered by duty crew once the tanker had departed and the vessel's CCTV had been reviewed. The incident was reported to the Company Security Officer. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) MALAYSIA: On 21 August at 0300 local time, four robbers armed with knives boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier GOOD LUCK 1, underway in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:18N – 104:14E. The robbers escaped after stealing ship's stores. All crew were reported as safe, and the vessel has continued its voyage. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

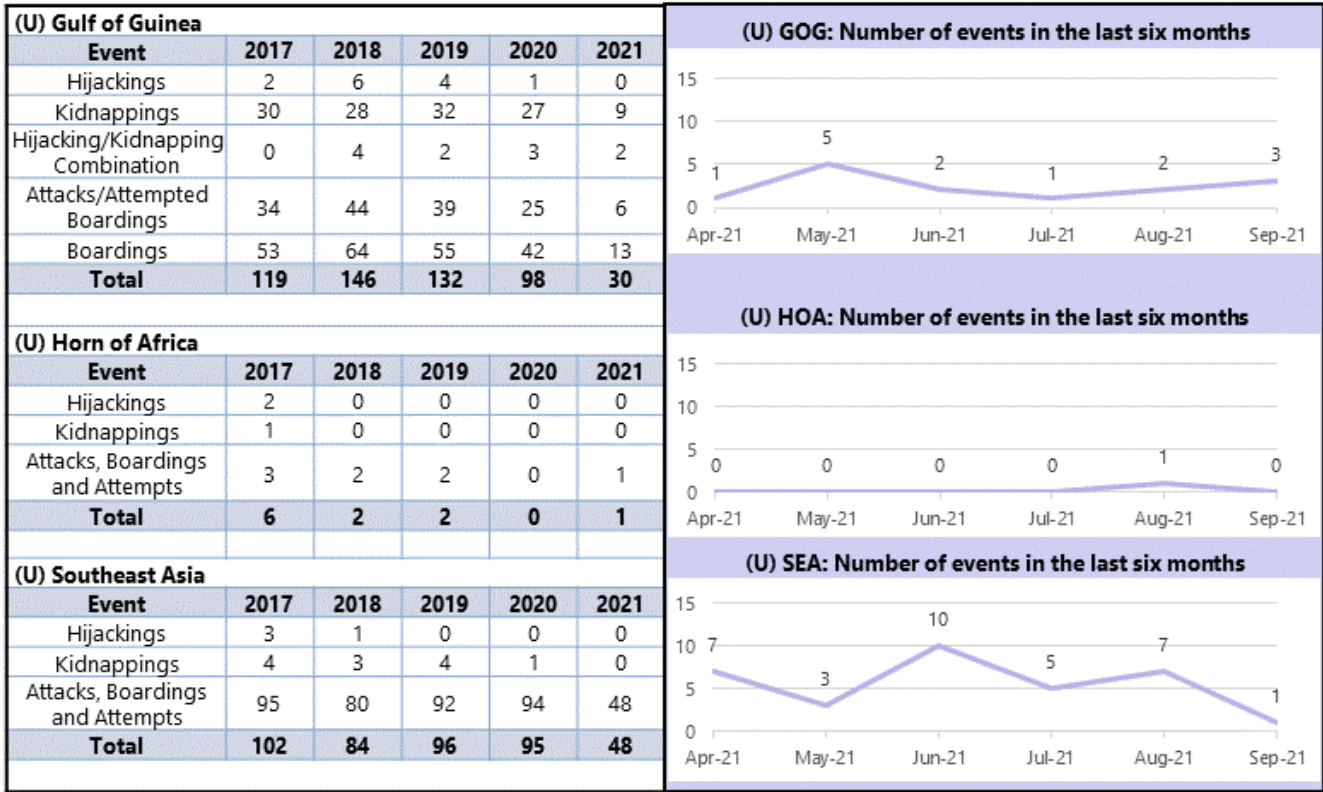
4. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 August at 2220 local time, robbers boarded the Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier NEFELI while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:15N – 104:06E. Four robbers armed with knives boarded the vessel before being spotted by duty crew in the engine room. The alarm was raised and the robbers made their escape after stealing ship's stores. All crew were reported as safe, and the vessel has continued its voyage. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 18 August, four robbers boarded the China-flagged dredger YI HANG YUN 1068 while at anchor in Manila South Anchorage Area, near position 14:33N – 120:57E. The chief engineer was confronted by one robber armed with a gun, who pointed the weapon at the chief engineer's head and locked him in a comfort room. Three additional robbers were attempting to steal items from the vessel but noticed that the crew were in the mess hall. Upon seeing the crew, the perpetrators made their escape empty-handed in a white motorbanca. The crew was mustered and a search of the vessel was conducted, which confirmed nothing had been stolen. The master reported the incident to the Manila Vessel Traffic Management Service and a Philippine Coast Guard vessel was dispatched to the area. The Coast Guard vessel carried out boardings and searches of all motorbancas within the area; however the perpetrators were not located. The Coast Guard vessel then returned to the dredger to carry out an investigation. (ReCAAP; 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.

(U) **ICOD:** 15 September 2021

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intelligence Portal:
<https://www.oni.navy.mil/News/Shipping-Threat-Reports/>