



Worldwide

(U) Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 18 February – 18 March 2026

19 MARCH 2026

(U) Executive Summary

(U) Scope

(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.

(U) Warnings, Advisories and Alerts: See Appendix C for active advisories.

(U) Summary:

1. **(U) GULF OF OMAN:** On 18 March at 2300 UTC, a vessel was struck by an unknown projectile.
2. **(U) SINGAPORE STRAIT:** On 18 March at 0130 local time, an attempted robbery occurred onboard a bulk carrier.
3. **(U) GULF OF OMAN:** On 16 March at 2301 UTC, a tanker was struck by an unknown projectile.

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(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 incidents are not double-counted. In the event 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.

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(U) NORTH AMERICA

(U) No current incidents to report.

(U) CENTRAL AMERICA – CARIBBEAN – SOUTH AMERICA

(U) No current incidents to report.

(U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA

(U) No current incidents to report.

(U) NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC

(U) No current incidents to report.

(U) MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA

(U) No current incidents to report.

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(U) WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA

1. **(U) NIGERIA:** On 08 March, a number of perpetrators attacked 16 passengers aboard a passenger boat operating around buoy 12 along the Ibaka-Calabar waterways, the Nigerian Navy engaged the perpetrators, all hostages were rescued and all reported safe. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)

(U) PERSIAN GULF

1. **(U) IRAQ:** On 11 March at 2230 UTC, two tankers were attacked by an aerial attack. The vessel's CSOs informed the UKMTO the vessel had a fire onboard and the crew had been evacuated. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)
2. **(U) PERSIAN GULF:** On 11 March at 0205 local time, a bulk carrier was struck by an unknown projectile approximately 50NM northwest of Dubai, all crew members safe and accounted for. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)
3. **(U) PERSIAN GULF:** On 11 March at 0158 local time, a container ship was struck by an unknown projectile approximately 25NM northwest of Ras al Khaymah. The extent of the damage is unknown, all crew members safe and accounted for. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)
4. **(U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:** On 10 March at 0800 local time, a bulk carrier was targeted by an aerial attack. No damage was reported, all crew members were reported safe. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)
5. **(U) SAUDI ARABIA:** On 07 March at 1210 local time, a Liberia-flagged vessel was attacked by a UAV 10NM north of Jubail. All crew members are reported safe and a skeleton crew remains onboard. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics/CLOSED)
6. **(U) STRAIT OF HORMUZ:** On 06 March, a tugboat was struck by an unknown projectile. All crew members were reported safe. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)
7. **(U) PERSIAN GULF:** On 04 March at 2240 local time, a Bahamas-flagged oil tanker reported a large explosion on the port side of the vessel, later witnessing a small craft leave the area. As a result of this, the vessel began to discharge ballast water. All crew members were reported safe. (UKMTO/Closed)
8. **(U) STRAIT OF HORMUZ:** On 04 March at 1109 local time, a vessel was struck by an unknown projectile while transiting in the eastbound lane of the Strait of Hormuz. The strike caused a fire to break out in the engine room. Reports state the crew abandoned the vessel and all crew members are accounted for. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)
9. **(U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:** On 04 March at 0623 local time, a container ship was struck by an unknown projectile 20NM west of Dubai. The vessel hasn't reported any damage, all crew were reported members safe. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)
10. **(U) BAHRAIN:** On 02 March at 0257 local time, a vessel was struck by two unknown projectiles while in the Port of Bahrain. It's been confirmed a fire broke out on the vessel which has since been contained. All crew members were safe and evacuated. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)

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11. **(U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:** On 01 March at 1645 local time, a Liberia-flagged oil tanker was struck by an unknown projectile 35NM west of Sharjah, UAE. It's reported the projectile did not make contact with the vessel but exploded in very close proximity. No significant damage was reported and all crew members are accounted for. (UKMTO/CLOSED/Clearwater Dynamics)
12. **(U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:** On 01 March at 0830 local time, a vessel was struck by an unknown projectile 17NM northwest of Mina Saqr. The projectile caused a fire to break out on board, but has since been extinguished. All crew members reported safe and the vessel intends to continue its voyage. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)

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(U) INDIAN OCEAN – EAST AFRICA – RED SEA



1. **GULF OF OMAN:** On 18 March at 2300 UTC, a vessel was struck by an unknown projectile approximately 11NM east of Khor Fakkan, United Arab Emirates, causing a fire onboard. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)
2. **(U) GULF OF OMAN:** On 03 March at 2301 UTC, a tanker was struck by debris from an unknown projectile after being intercepted approximately 23NM east of Fujairah, UAE. The vessel received minor structural damage; all crew members were reported safe. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)
3. **(U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:** On 03 March at 2240 local time, a Panama-flagged bulk carrier was struck by an unknown projectile 7NM east of Fujairah, UAE. The strike did not cause any significant fires or flooding, all crew members were reported safe. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)
4. **(U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:** On 03 March at 2230 local time, a Marshall Islands-flagged tanker was struck by an aerial attack while anchored 10NM east of Fujairah. The smokestack reportedly received minor damage; all crew members were reported safe. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)

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5. **(U) OMAN:** On 03 March at 1950 local time, a Malta-flagged bulk carrier was struck by an unknown projectile 134NM east-southeast of Muscat, Oman, resulting in a large explosion occurring onboard. No further reported damage, all crew members reported safe. (UKMTO/ Clearwater Dynamics)
6. **(U) OMAN:** On 01 March at 0950 local time, a Marshal islands-flagged oil tanker was struck by an unknown projectile 50NM north of Muscat in the Gulf of Oman. A fire broke out in the engine room and is now under control. One crew member fatality has been reported. (UKMTO/OPEN/Clearwater Dynamics)
7. **(U) SOMALIA:** On 26 February at 1833 UTC, an Iran-flagged vessel was attacked by two small craft 19NM east of Kadal. A group of suspected pirates attempted to attack and board the vessel with the likely intention of using it as a mothership. The vessel took defensive actions resulting in the small craft retreating towards the coast. It was reported that one suspected pirate was killed and two others injured. (MSCIO/CLOSED)

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(U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA



1. **(U) SINGAPORE STRAIT:** On 18 March at 0130 local time, an attempted robbery occurred onboard a Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier while it was underway in the Phillip Channel. Four perpetrators were spotted near the gangway. The crew is safe and it is undetermined if anything was stolen. (IFC/Clearwater Dynamics)
2. **(U) SINGAPORE STRAIT:** On 06 March at 1920 local time, an attempted robbery occurred onboard a tanker while underway in the Eastbound Lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme, Phillip Channel. Seven perpetrators with knives were discovered in the engine room. The crew is safe and nothing was reported stolen. (IMB/Clearwater Dynamics)
3. **(U) SINGAPORE STRAIT:** On 28 February at 0248 local time, an attempted robbery occurred onboard a Singapore-flagged bulk carrier while underway in the Eastbound Lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme, Phillip Channel. Three perpetrators were discovered in the engine room. The crew is safe and nothing was reported stolen. (IFC/Clearwater Dynamics)
4. **(U) SINGAPORE STRAIT:** On 27 February at 0300 local time, a robbery occurred onboard a Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier while underway in the Phillip Channel. Five perpetrators were sighted by the duty crew, one of them armed with a knife, allowing them to escape. The crew is safe and a mobile phone was reported stolen. (IFC/Clearwater Dynamics)

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5. ****LATE REPORT** (U) PHILLIPINES:** On 20 February at 0354 local time, a robbery occurred onboard a Marshall Islands-flagged container ship. After the proper authorities were alerted, a search was conducted but no perpetrators were caught. All crew members reported safe. (IFC/Clearwater Dynamics)

(U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

(U) No current incidents to report.

(U) AUSTRALIA – NEW ZEALAND – PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

(U) No current incidents to report.

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(U) Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends

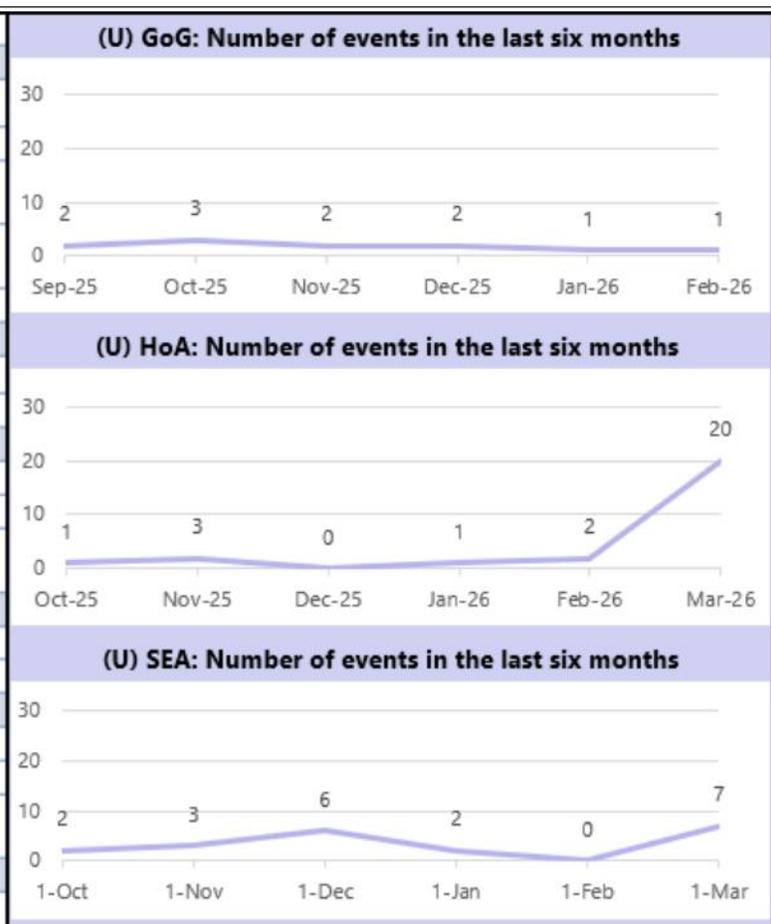
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(U) Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends

(U) Gulf of Guinea					
Event	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Hijackings	2	1	0	0	0
Kidnappings	3	7	10	9	1
Hijacking/Kidnapping Combination	4	1	0	0	0
Fired Upon/Attempted Boardings	5	4	5	5	0
Boardings	12	10	10	15	1
Total	26	23	25	29	2

(U) Horn of Africa					
Event	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Hijackings	0	6*	12*	4*	1
Kidnappings	0	0	0	0	0
Fired Upon, Boardings and Attempts	0	1	6	9	12
Total	0	7	18	13	13

(U) Southeast Asia					
Event	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Hijackings	1	2	2	0	0
Kidnappings	0	0	0	0	0
Fired Upon, Boardings and Attempts	84	103	96	134	7
Total	85	105	98	134	5



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(U) * HORN OF AFRICA HIJACKING NUMBERS INCLUDE DHOWS AND FISHING VESSELS

(U) Appendix B: Definitions

(U) 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.

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(U) Appendix C: Active U.S. Maritime Advisories

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(U) Active U.S. Maritime Advisories

2026-003-Black Sea and Sea of Azov Military Combat Operations	27 Feb 2026	27 Aug 2026
2026-001-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman-Iranian illegal Boarding / Detention / seizure	09 Feb 2026	08 Aug 2026
2026-002-Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean-piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	09 Feb 2026	08 Aug 2026
2025-015-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	15 Dec 2025	13 Jun 2026
2025-014-Global U.S. Maritime Advisory Updates, Resources, and Contacts	06 Oct 2025	04 Apr 2026
2025-013-Worldwide-Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence	06 Oct 2025	04 Apr 2026
2025-012-Red Sea, Bab el Mandeb Strait, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf, and Somali Basin-Houthi Attacks on Commercial Vessels	24 Sep 2025	26 Mar 2026
2025-11: Black Sea and Sea of Azov-Military Combat Operations	29 Aug 2025	28 Feb 2026

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