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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 27 October – 24 November 2021**

24 November 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:** No active Warnings or Advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 25 November, robbers boarded a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme.

B. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 24 November, robbers boarded a container ship anchored in Jakarta anchorage.

C. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 24 November, the Royal Danish Navy frigate *ESBERN SNARE*, operating in the Gulf of Guinea, responded to reports of an increased threat of piracy south of Nigeria.

D. (U) **MALAYSIA:** On 22 November, two robbers boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier *MP THE HIGHTOWER* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme.

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E. (U) SAUDI ARABIA: On 21 November, authorities in the Red Sea port of Jeddah intercepted 3,612 bottles of alcohol hidden among a cargo of iron pipes.

F. (U) INDIA: On 18 November, at 2020 local time, two robbers boarded the Panama-flagged general cargo vessel IKI while anchored in Kandla Anchorage.

G. (U) AUSTRALIA: On 16 November, two protestors from an environmental activist organization entered the Port of Newcastle, climbed to the top of a piece of machinery and suspended themselves out of reach using an intricate set of ropes.

H. (U) ANGOLA: On 12 November, robbers boarded an anchored supply vessel at Soyo Anchorage.

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: No current incidents to report.

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

1. (U) PANAMA: On 12 November, a yacht anchored at Isla Naranjo Bajo, about 10 NM east of Colon, was approached late in the evening by three men in a local panga who threatened the yacht's crew. The panga came alongside, and it was apparent two of the three men were under the influence of alcohol or drugs. They asked to have a phone but could not say for what purpose, so the request was denied. Later one of the men showed a phone that they used to translate some of their demands. They were not subtle about looking at the yacht's outboard which was secured to the arch and they began looking into the hatches, while requesting beer and cigarettes. The men became increasingly impatient and rude, asking for a credit card to pay for "piracy protection." The crew was ultimately able to satisfy the men with a \$20 cash payment, and the panga departed westward toward Colon. The yacht pulled up anchor and departed eastward to Linton Bay. (www.noonsite.com)

2. (U) PERU: On 8 November, robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged Ro-Ro car carrier LORD VISHNU anchored in Callao Anchorage, near position 12:00S – 077:11W. A small boat was spotted by a duty crew member under the starboard bow flare of the vessel. As the duty officer was being informed, three robbers armed with knives were spotted close to the mooring station. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered, which resulted in the perpetrators escaping in the small boat. A search confirmed a mooring rope had been stolen. The master informed local authorities of the incident and requested assistance; the information was passed to a naval patrol vessel. (ReCAAP; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) PANAMA: On 6 November, authorities announced the seizure of 3.5 tons of an illicit drug cargo from a vessel bound for the Netherlands. The seizure was carried out by officials of the National Aeronaval Service of Panama (Senan) on a container ship in transit from Chile at the Panamanian Pacific port. According to the details

provided, a total of 3,499 packages of illicit drug substances were confiscated from 100 bags concealed in containers onboard the vessel. (www.fleetmon.com)

4. (U) NICARAGUA: On 30 October, a catamaran with three persons onboard departed Roatan, Bay Islands, Honduras, for Isla San Andreas, Colombia. The catamaran reported three close-aboard suspicious approaches between 0550 local time and 0945 local time in an area between 35 and 50 NM offshore. During the first two instances, one small boat and five men were involved in the approach. The last event included two small boats and 11 men. Reports were made to the Colombian authorities upon arrival. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

5. (U) TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: On 29 October, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Chaguaramas and stole a dinghy with an outboard engine. A report was made to local authorities. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

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:**

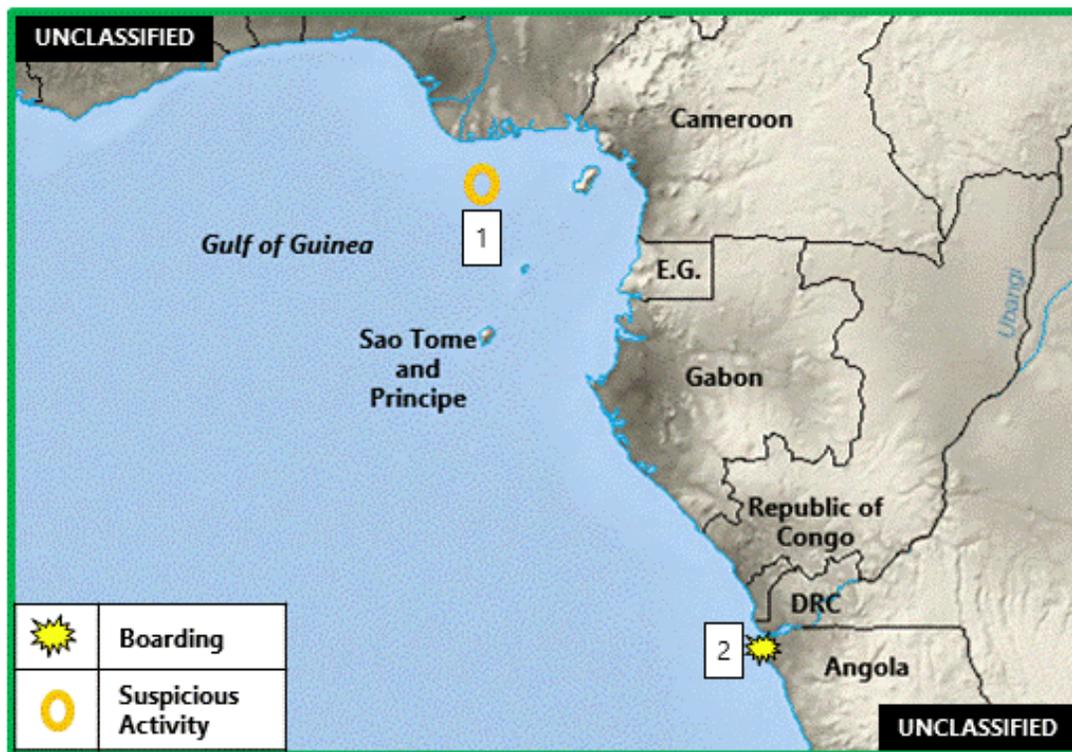


Figure 1. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 November, the Royal Danish Navy frigate ESBERN SNARE, operating in the Gulf of Guinea, responded to reports of an increased threat of piracy south of Nigeria. The frigate deployed its Seahawk helicopter to carry out advance observations. The crew of the helicopter identified a speeding motorboat with eight suspicious persons and tools associated with piracy, including ladders, onboard. That evening, the ESBERN SNARE launched small boats with members of the Frogman Corps to board the suspicious motorboat. The ESBERN SNARE made attempts to hail the motorboat to allow the Danish soldiers to board. Receiving no response, the Danish soldiers fired warning shots, after which the suspected pirates fired directly on the soldiers. The Danish soldiers reacted in self-defense and returned fire. Reports state that five pirates were hit; four were confirmed killed and one was injured. The pirate boat sank following the exchange of fire. All eight pirates have been taken aboard the frigate, with medical treatment being issued to the injured man. (www.maritime-executive.com; www.gcaptain.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) ANGOLA: On 12 November, robbers boarded an anchored supply vessel at Soyo Anchorage Area, near position 06:04S – 012:18E. The robbers boarded the vessel, stole mooring ropes, and escaped without being spotted. All crew were reported safe. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 15 November, gunmen attacked fishermen in the Ibeno local government area of Akwa Ibom State and carted away eight outboard engines. This latest attack came less than 48 hours after sea pirates attacked fishermen in Itanwa area of Ikot Abasi LGA and stole eight Yamaha outboard engines. (www.dailypost.ng)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 13 November, gunmen attacked fishermen in the Itanwa area of Ikot Abasi Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State and stole over ten 40 horsepower Yamaha outboard engines. (www.dailypost.ng)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 11 November, at 0100 UTC, a general cargo ship reported being boarded approximately 58 NM southwest of Brass, near position 0323N – 00541E. Five crewmen were reportedly kidnapped. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 November, eight armed robbers in one speedboat boarded a passenger boat transiting between Brass Island and Yenegoa, in the Bayelsa State waterways. The robbers approached and fired in the air, forcing the passenger boat to stop. The robbers then boarded the boat and stole passenger's belongings and the 75 HP outboard motor. All passengers were reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) NIGERIA: On 28 October, one merchant mariner from India, kidnapped on 5 September from the St. Kitts and Nevis-flagged offshore supply vessel TAMPEN, was reportedly released. (Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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



Figure 2. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SAUDI ARABIA: On 21 November, authorities in the Red Sea port of Jeddah intercepted 3,612 bottles of alcohol hidden among a cargo of iron pipes. (www.gulfnews.com)

2. (U) SAUDI ARABIA: On 2 November, authorities in the Port of Jeddah announced the seizure of 1.78 million Captagon tablets hidden in a shipping container manifested as carrying spices and legumes. (BBC)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

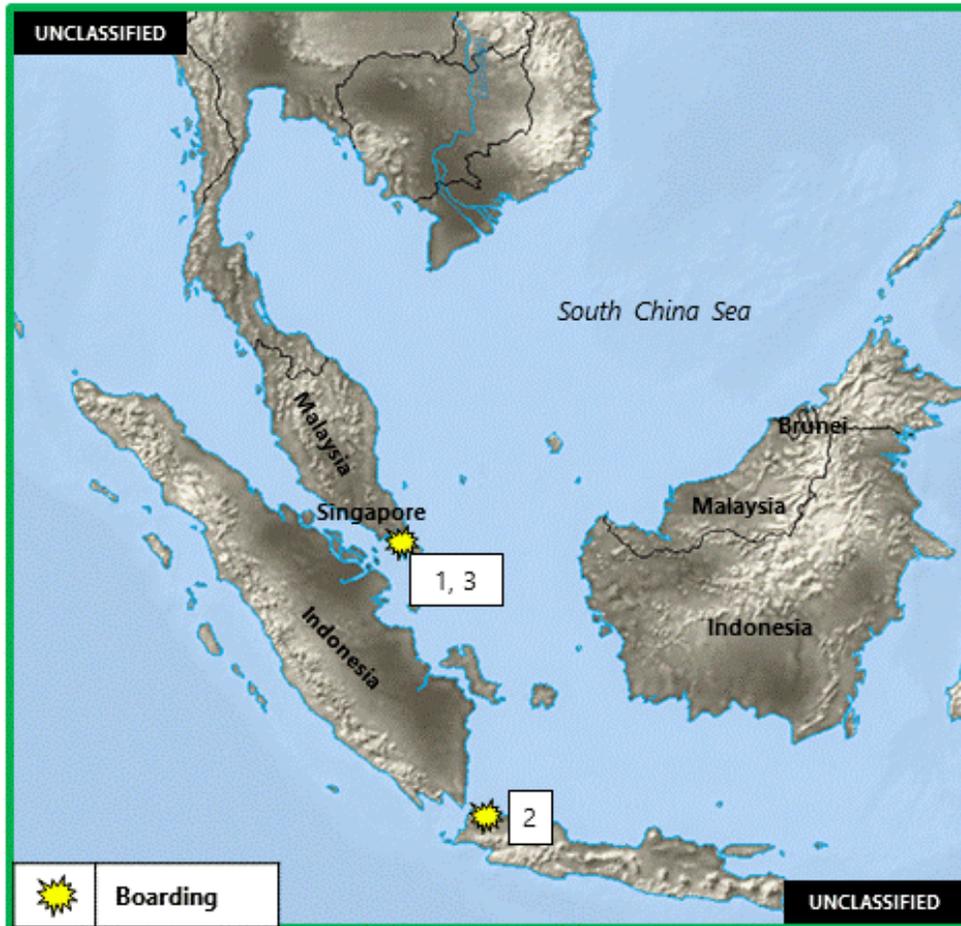


Figure 3. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 November, at 0020 local time, robbers boarded a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:14N – 104:02E. Three robbers were spotted boarding the vessel. The master requested assistance when informing the Port Operations Control Centre and returned the vessel to Singapore, where the Singapore Police will conduct an investigation. Nothing has been reported stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 24 November, robbers boarded a container ship anchored in Jakarta anchorage, near position 06:01S – 106:54E. The robbers stole engine spares before escaping unnoticed. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) MALAYSIA: On 22 November, at 0033 local time, two robbers boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier MP THE HIGHTOWER while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N - 104:13E. A duty crewman spotted the robbers and raised the alarm, causing the robbers to escape empty-handed. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 17 November, robbers boarded a utility vessel anchored in Batangas Bay, near position 13:44N – 144:02E. During routine rounds, a duty crewman noticed that the padlock to the boson store room had been broken. Upon searching the store room, three grinders, two firefighting nozzles, one electric extension cord, and one shackle were noted missing. All crew were reported as safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 November, one robber boarded the Australia-flagged barge BM 2021, under tow by the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines-flagged tug MTS VANTAGE, in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:07N – 103:32E approximately 8.6 NM northeast of Pulau Karimun Besar. All crew aboard the tug are reported as safe. One coil of towing rope and mooring rope were reported stolen from the barge. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 4 November, at 0102 local time, robbers boarded a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:15N – 104:03E. A duty crewman spotted two robbers onboard and raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the perpetrators made their escape by jumping overboard. The master confirmed that all crew were safe and that nothing had been stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 October, at 0110 local time, three robbers boarded the Greece-flagged tanker AEGEAN ANGEL while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:19E. The padlock to the steering room was found broken by a duty crewman, who then saw the perpetrators jumping overboard. A full search was completed. Nothing was stolen and no member of the crew was harmed. The vessel has continued her voyage to Thailand. (ReCAAP, Clearwater Dynamics)

J. (U) **INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:** No current incidents to report.

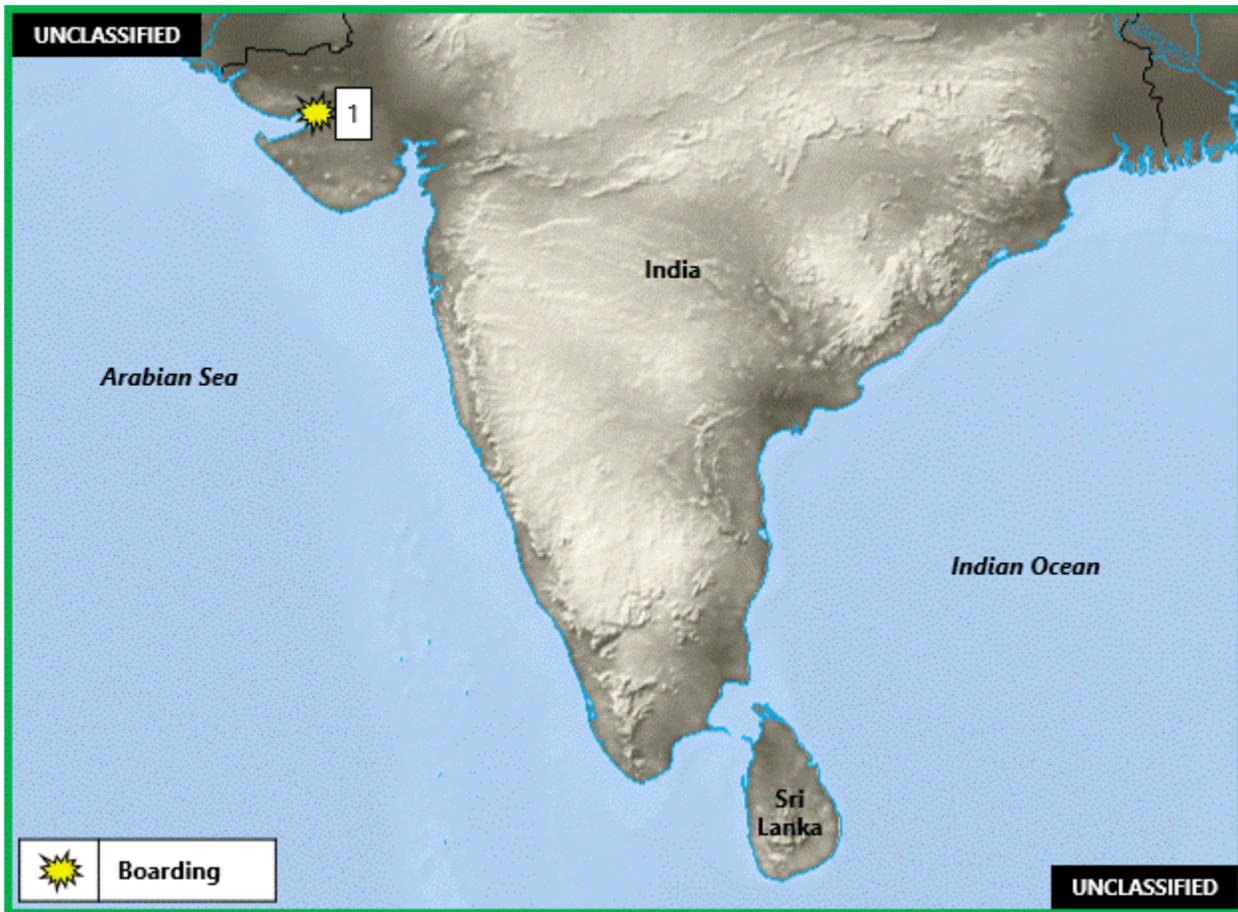


Figure 4. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDIA: On 18 November, at 2020 local time, two robbers boarded the Panama-flagged general cargo vessel IKI while anchored in Kandla Anchorage, near position 22:47N – 070:02E. The duty officer spotted the robbers onboard and raised the alarm, which resulted in the perpetrators escaping in a small boat. A search was conducted, which revealed the lock to the boson store room was missing. The incident was reported to local agents, and the Indian Coast Guard conducted an investigation. The investigation confirmed that three padlocks to the damage control room, deck store, and boson store room had been broken but that nothing had been stolen. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

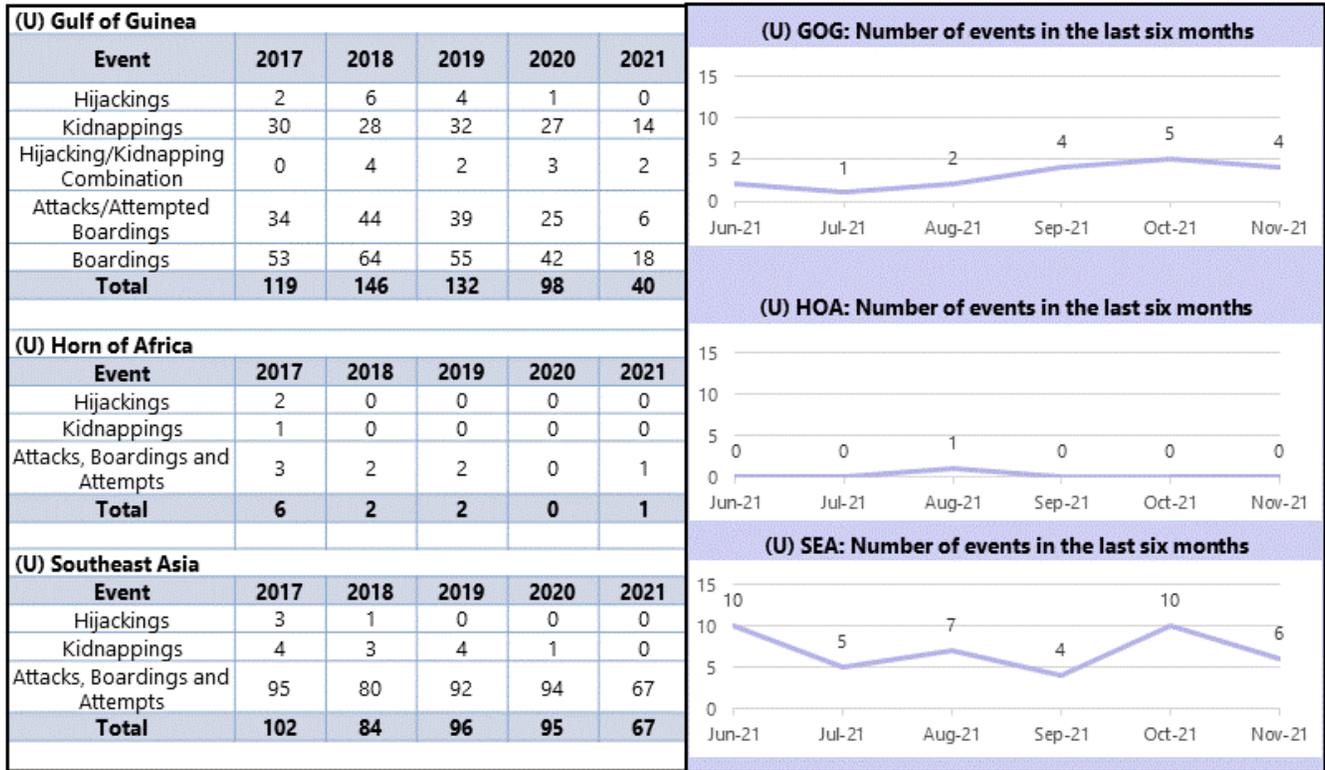
K. (U) AUSTRALIA – NEW ZEALAND – PACIFIC OCEAN AREA:



Figure 5. Australia – New Zealand – Pacific Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) AUSTRALIA: On 16 November, two protestors from an environmental activist organization entered the Port of Newcastle, climbed to the top of a piece of machinery and suspended themselves out of reach using an intricate set of ropes. This led to operations at the world's largest coal exporting facility to come to a halt. (www.fleetmon.com)

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:** 24 November 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/>