(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 6 September – 4 October 2023

4 October 2023

(U) **Table of Contents:**

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 past 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 2023-013: Various – GPS Interference & AIS Spoofing
Issued on: 2 October 2023. This advisory cancels U.S. Maritime Advisory 2023-005. Issue: Instances of significant GPS interference have been reported worldwide in the maritime domain. This interference can result in lost or inaccurate GPS signals affecting bridge navigation, GPS-based timing, and communications equipment (including satellite communications equipment). The U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center (NAVCEN) webpage, https://navcen.uscg.gov/gps-problem-report-status, contains a chronological list of recently reported GPS problems. GPS interference may also be caused by planned testing or training activities. Further information on planned outages can be found at https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/gps-service-interruptions, and will also be published in the Notice to Mariners. Additionally, Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) are open, unencrypted, and unprotected radio systems intended to operate on non-secure VHF-FM channels. As such, AIS signals can be spoofed, resulting in incorrect or missing AIS data. For more information about U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories, including subscription details, please visit https://www.maritime.dot.gov/msci. This advisory will automatically expire on 30 March 2024.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) GHANA: On 3 October, two robbers boarded an anchored container ship at Takoradi Anchorage.

B. (U) EGYPT: On 29 September, two stevedores were spotted exiting from the helicopter store onboard a berthed bulk carrier at Port Said.

C. (U) PERU: On 29 September, between 15 and 18 robbers boarded an anchored tanker at Callao Anchorage.

D. (U) (LATE REPORTING) INDONESIA: On 24 August, three robbers boarded an anchored product tanker at Dumai Inner 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 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) PERU: On 29 September at 0150 local time, between 15 and 18 robbers boarded an anchored tanker at Callao Anchorage, near position 11:59S – 077:13W. The robbers tied up the duty crew and watchmen while they were conducting their routine rounds and held them at knifepoint before escaping with stolen ship's stores. The ship reported the incident to the port authorities; the Peru Coast Guard boarded to investigate the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)
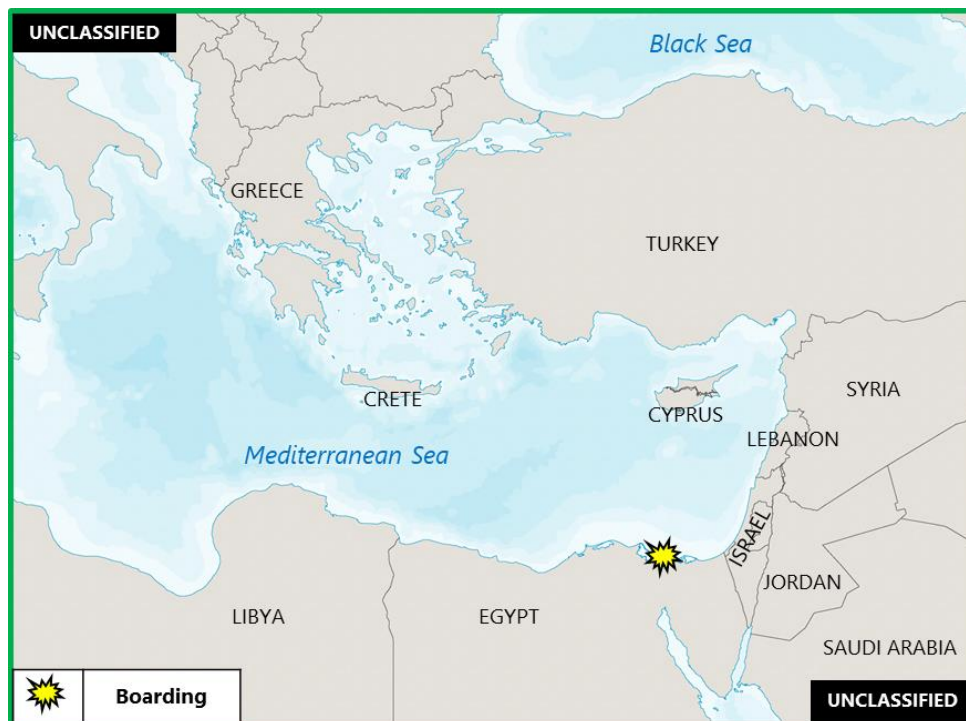
2. (U) PERU: On 23 September at 0330 local time, two perpetrators armed with knives boarded the anchored Bahamas-flagged LNG tanker MUREX at Callao Anchorage, near position 11:59S – 077:13W. The perpetrators boarded the vessel from a small boat with six persons onboard and gained access to the tanker by crawling in between the anchor chain and the hawsepipe cover, which they later removed. The perpetrators threw the securing bar from the hawsepipe cover at approaching duty crew, who raised the alarm, resulting in the perpetrators fleeing the vessel and escaping in the waiting boat. During a search of the vessel, the crew reported nothing had been stolen. The ship made several attempts to call authorities, but no response was received. (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.

(U) Figure 2. Mediterranean – Black Sea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) EGYPT: On 29 September at 1945 local time, the chief officer onboard a bulk carrier berthed at Port Said, near position 31:10N – 032:20E, noticed two stevedores exiting from the helicopter store room. When the chief officer called out for the stevedores to stop, they ran away. One stevedore was apprehended with the assistance of a port safety officer. An investigation revealed that ship's stores and properties had been stolen. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

F. (U) **WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:**

(U) Figure 3. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) GHANA: On 3 October at 0024 local time, four perpetrators in a local canoe approached an anchored container ship at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:53N – 001:40W. After coming alongside the vessel, two of the perpetrators boarded the container ship and were spotted by the duty crew who raised the alarm. With the ship's crew alerted, the two robbers escaped with ship's properties. The container ship notified local port authorities, and a security vessel moved to the ship's location. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 11 September at 0035 local time, as many as five robbers armed with knives and steel bars boarded the berthed Liberia-flagged container ship MSC WAVE F in Lagos Port, near position 06:25N – 003:21E. The robbers escaped with a high pressure machine hose. The ship reported all crew and vessel safe to the port authorities. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.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:**

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

1. (U) (LATE REPORTING) INDONESIA: On 24 August at 0150 local time, three robbers boarded the Panama-flagged product tanker SHOTAN anchored in Dumai Inner Anchorage, near position 01:43N – 101:26E. The duty crew noticed the perpetrators armed with knives near the engine room. The robbers threatened the duty crew, who fled the vicinity and raised the alarm. Once the alarm was raised, the robbers fled the vessel with stolen engine spares. (IMB; vesseltracker.com)
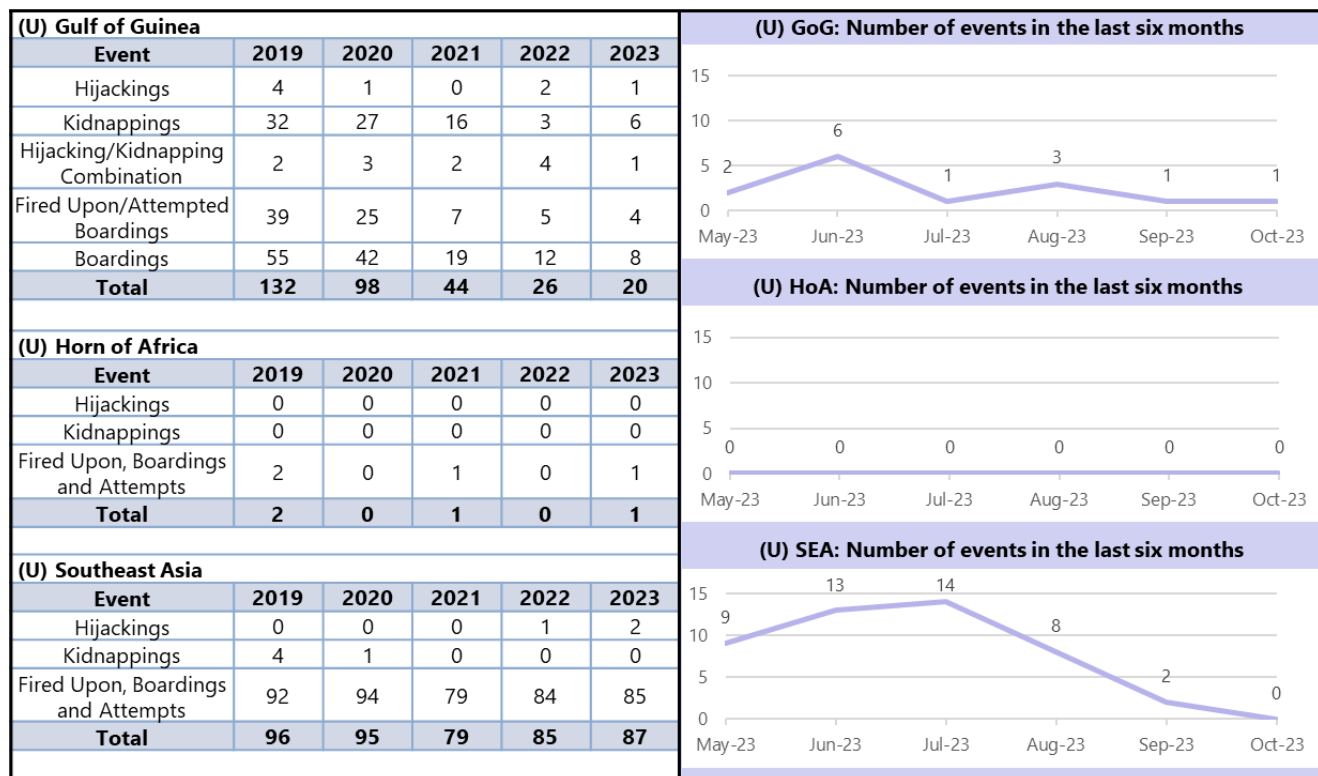
2. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 September (time not specified), six robbers boarded a berthed barge at Cilacap Port on the island of Java, near position 07:44S – 108:59E. Indonesian authorities apprehended one of the perpetrators and recovered two tons of coal stolen from the barge. (Clearwater Dynamics)

J. (U) **INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:**

1. (U) INDIA: On 20 September at 2300 local time, a duty crew member heard engine noise from the port side aft of the Singapore-flagged product tanker MAERSK BELFAST anchored at Kakinada Anchorage, near position 17:02N – 082:26E. While investigating, the crew member observed a boat moving away from the tanker, but was unable to determine the number of perpetrators onboard the boat. Crew members later conducted a search of the tanker and discovered two mooring lines were missing. The ship reported the incident to local authorities through the local agent. All crew were reported safe following the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

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

(U) Gulf of Guinea

Event	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hijackings	4	1	0	2	1
Kidnappings	32	27	16	3	6
Hijacking/Kidnapping Combination	2	3	2	4	1
Fired Upon/Attempted Boardings	39	25	7	5	4
Boardings	55	42	19	12	8
Total	**132**	**98**	**44**	**26**	**20**

(U) Horn of Africa

Event	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hijackings	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnappings	0	0	0	0	0
Fired Upon, Boardings and Attempts	2	0	1	0	1
Total	**2**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**

(U) Southeast Asia

Event	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hijackings	0	0	0	1	2
Kidnappings	4	1	0	0	0
Fired Upon, Boardings and Attempts	92	94	79	84	85
Total	**96**	**95**	**79**	**85**	**87**

(U) GoG: Number of events in the last six months

May-23: 2, Jun-23: 6, Jul-23: 1, Aug-23: 3, Sep-23: 1, Oct-23: 1

(U) HoA: Number of events in the last six months

May-23: 0, Jun-23: 0, Jul-23: 0, Aug-23: 0, Sep-23: 0, Oct-23: 0

(U) SEA: Number of events in the last six months

May-23: 9, Jun-23: 13, Jul-23: 14, Aug-23: 8, Sep-23: 2, Oct-23: 0

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
2023-013-Various – GPS Interference & AIS Spoofing	2 OCT 23	30 MAR 24
2023-012-Global – New U.S. Maritime Alert and Advisory Subscription Process	22 SEP 23	24 MAR 24
2023-011-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb, Red Sea, and Somali Basin – Threats to Commercial Vessels	6 SEP 23	4 MAR 24
2023-010-Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations	1 SEP 23	28 FEB 24
2023-009-Worldwide – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, And Cyber Influence	23 AUG 23	19 FEB 24
2023-008-Gulf of Guinea – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	30 JUN 23	29 DEC 23
2023-007-Global – Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System	6 JUN 23	3 DEC 23
2023-006-Worldwide – U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Industry Cybersecurity Resource Center Website	24 APR 23	23 OCT 23

(U) **ICOD:** 4 October 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/