(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 13 April – 11 May 2022

11 May 2022

(U) **Table of Contents:**

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 warnings or advisories issued this week. See Appendix C for active advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 May, three robbers boarded an underway tanker in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

B. (U) DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: On 6 May, three robbers boarded a general cargo ship berthed in the port of Matadi.

C. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 5 May, an underway tanker reported a suspicious approach by two small boats each with four persons onboard, approximately 335 NM east of Socotra, Yemen.

D. (U) UKRAINE: On 3 May, a tanker was struck by a shell while berthed at the port of Nika-Tera, Mykolayiv.

E. (U) REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: On 2 May, a small boat with two people onboard approached a hydrographic vessel anchored at Pointe Noire 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) BRAZIL: On 26 April, at 0400 local time, three robbers boarded The Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier AZZURA anchored at Macapa Anchorage, near position 00:04S – 051:06W. The duty crew member spotted the robbers. The alarm was raised, and the crew were mustered, after which the perpetrators escaped empty-handed. (Clearwater Dynamics)

C. (U) **ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:** No current incidents to report.

D. (U) **NORTHERN EUROPE** – **BALTIC:**

1. (U) NORWAY: On the morning of 25 April, a group of protesters onboard small boats and kayaks came alongside the Hong Kong-flagged tanker UST LUGA while anchored at Skagerrak, near position 59:19N – 010:30E. According to press reports, the group was protesting against oil imports from Russia. Activists onboard one of the small boats chained themselves to the ship's anchor chain to prevent the ship from raising its anchor, while others in kayaks unfurled banners reading "oil fuels war". The vessel was loaded with 95,000 tons of crude oil from the port of Ust-Luga, Russia. The local police and coast guard came to monitor the situation. Reports indicate that the vessel later berthed at the port of Slagen at 1800 local time the same day. (vesseltracker.com; Agence France-Presse; Times Malta)

E. (U) **MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA:**

Figure 1. Mediterranean - Black Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) UKRAINE: On 3 May, the Singapore-flagged tanker MTM RIO GRANDE was struck by a shell while berthed at the port of Nika-Tera, Mykolayiv. According to press reports, the vessel was indirectly hit during Russian shelling of the port. The vessel has been in the port, where it was scheduled to load sunflower oil, since 24 February; the ship has been unable to load cargo or leave as a result of the war in Ukraine. According to earlier press reports, the vessel's crew were evacuated prior to 12 March. (vesseltracker.com; Ukrainian Shipping Magazine)

2. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 18 April, crew members were evacuated from the Malta-flagged bulk carrier TZAREVNA berthed at the port of Mariupol. According to press reports, the 15 seafarers (14 Bulgarian and one Ukrainian) traveled by bus from Mariupol to Sochi, Russia, where they were flown by a Bulgarian plane to Varna, Bulgaria. Bulgarian authorities reportedly facilitated the evacuation and coordinated with both Ukrainian and Russian authorities. Five remaining crew members opted to stay onboard the vessel. (Bulgarian News Agency; TASS; Balkan Insight)
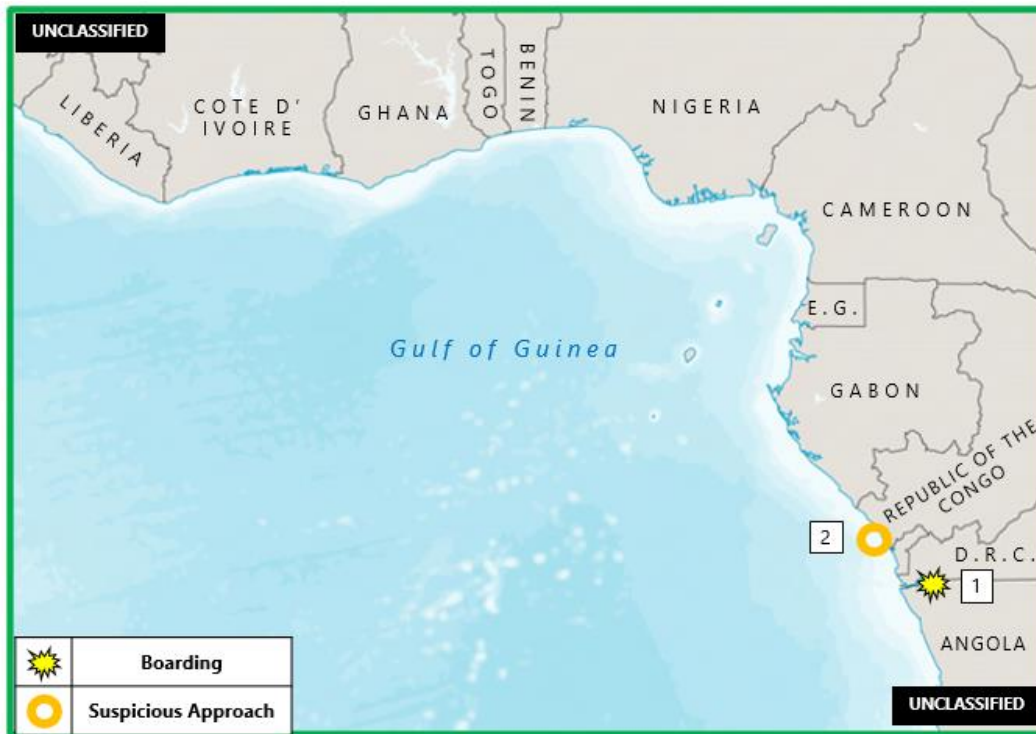
F. (U) **WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:**

Figure 2. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: On 6 May, at 2030 local time, three robbers boarded a general cargo ship berthed in the port of Matadi, near position 05:50S – 013:25E. The robbers escaped with stolen ship's properties. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: On 2 May, at 0233 local time, a small boat with two people onboard approached a hydrographic vessel anchored at Pointe Noire Anchorage, near position 04:45S – 011:49E. The suspicious individuals were casting their flashlights on the vessel, and came within 100 meters when they were noticed by the security team onboard. After being spotted, the two people left the area. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) BENIN: On 3 May, 1730 local time, the underway Panama-flagged tanker KAMOME VICTORIA was reported boarded 55 NM south of Cotonou near position 05:26N – 002:15E. It was later confirmed that the ship had not been boarded by pirates. Press reporting suggests that the incident may have been linked to a Nigerian Navy operation. The vessel continued her voyage after the incident. (vesseltracker.com; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

4 (U) GHANA: On 13 April, at 0400 local time, a robber boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier MARGRET OLDENDORFF, anchored in Takoradi Anchorage. The duty crew member spotted the robber and raised the alarm, after which the perpetrator escaped with four stolen buckets of marine paint. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; IMB; MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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

Figure 3. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 5 May, 0630 local time, an underway tanker reported a suspicious approach by two small boats each with four persons onboard, approximately 335 NM east of Socotra, Yemen, near position 13:19N – 060:14E. The two small boats approached to within a half NM of the tanker while a larger vessel and small crafts were also seen nearby. The tanker increased her speed and the small boats eventually left the area. The crew were reported safe and the tanker continued her voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Dryad Global).

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

Figure 4. East Asia –Southeast Asia - Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 May, at 0118 local time, three robbers boarded an underway tanker in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:10N – 103:25E. The robbers escaped after being discovered in the ship's engine room. It was reported that nothing was stolen, all crew were safe, and the vessel continued her voyage. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 28 April, at 0345 local time, three robbers boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker SEXTANS anchored in Batangas Anchorage, near position 13:43N – 121:02E. The duty crew sighted the robbers in the forecastle deck. The alarm was raised, and the crew were mustered. The perpetrators escaped with stolen buckets of grease, a bundle of rope, and hatch butterfly nuts. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 27 April, at 0226 local time, a robber was spotted in the engine room of the Panama-flagged-bulk carrier LADY FLORA underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:17E. It was reported that the ship and all crew members were safe and nothing was stolen. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) SINGAPORE: On 19 April, at 2230 local time, the Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) arrested nine robbers who had boarded the Malaysia-flagged barge ASIA SINAR 2912 towed by the Malaysia-flagged tug boat ASIA JAYA 28 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, in the vicinity of Kusu Island near position 01:13N – 103:53E. The PCG spotted a suspicious sampan alongside the barge and conducted an investigation, which led to

the arrest of eight perpetrators onboard the barge as well as one of the tug boat crew members who had colluded with the robbers. (ReCAAP; Singapore Police Force; The Straits Times; CNA; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 18 April, at 0305 local time, an unknown number of robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged container ship KOTA HAPAS, anchored in General Santos Anchorage, near position 06:05N – 125:09E. The perpetrators escaped empty-handed and the incident was reported to the local authorities. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 April, at 0442 local time, a robber boarded the Malta-flagged tanker MEGALI underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:14N – 103:58E. The perpetrator was sighted at the engine room entrance. The alarm was raised and a search was conducted. It was reported that the ship and all crew members were safe and nothing was stolen. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
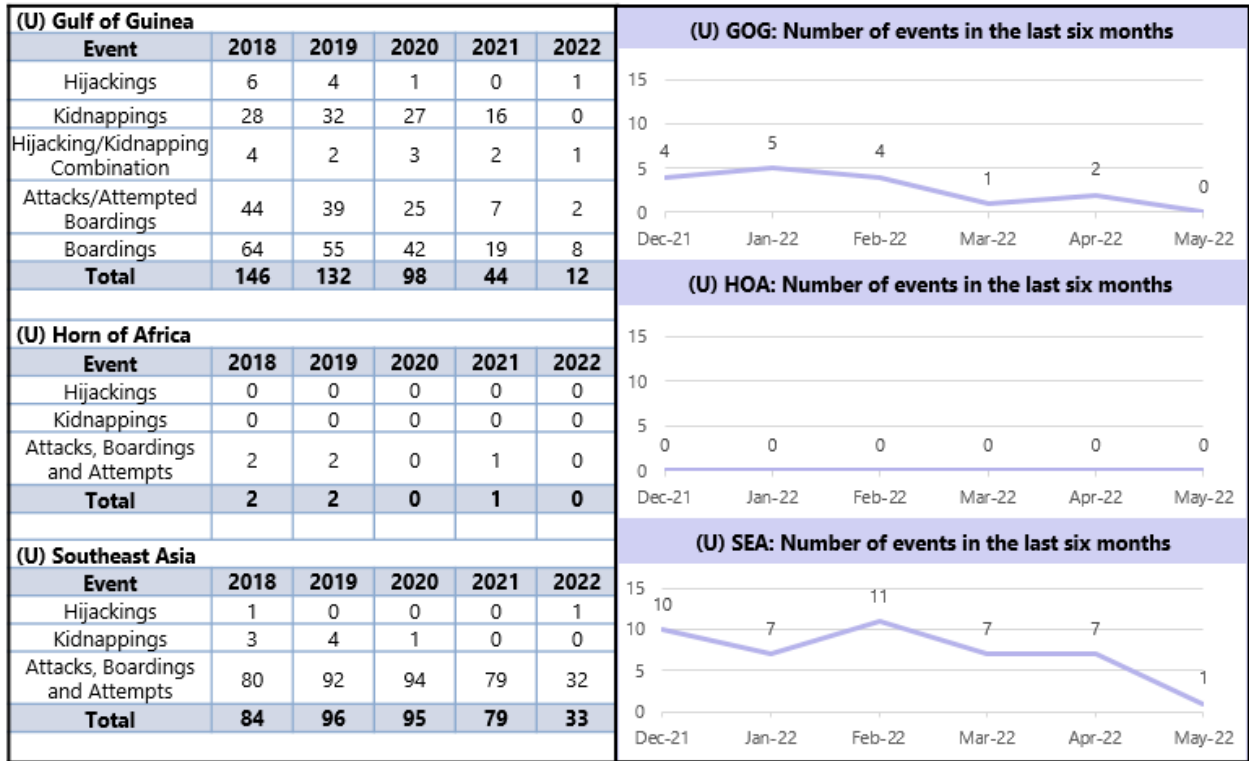
J. (U) **INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:**

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 26 April, at 0001 local time, a group of robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged tanker STI MAGISTER anchored in the outer Chittagong Anchorage near position 22:13N – 091:43E. The duty officer sighted four robbers on the forecastle deck through the vessel's closed circuit television system. The duty officer raised the alarm and the crew mustered. After the alarm was sounded, three more robbers were seen exiting the forecastle store. Subsequently, crew members saw about eight robbers escaping into a small boat. The vessel was searched, and the forecastle store door lock was found breached and a set of accommodation ladder wire rope was missing. The incident was reported to the local authorities and the coast guard boarded the vessel to conduct an investigation. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDIA: On 19 April, around 2100 local time, three fishing boats were boarded and robbed while fishing within 13 NM east-southeast of Nagapattinam, state of Tamil Nadu, near position 10:15N – 080:06E. According to press reports, items stolen in the three incidents included GPS devices, mobile phones, inverter batteries, fishing gear, and diesel fuel. The three incidents were reported to Vedaranyam Marine Police. (The New Indian Express; The Hindu)

3. (U) BANGLADESH: On 16 April, a robber boarded the Panama-flagged tanker B LPG SOPHIA anchored at Chittagong Anchorage, near position 22:10N – 091:47E. Duty crew members sighted the robber and raised the alarm. The crew searched the vessel and reported that the robber had escaped with 22 stolen drums of marine paint. The local authorities and coast guard conducted an investigation and the stolen items were later recovered. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

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	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hijackings	6	4	1	0	1
Kidnappings	28	32	27	16	0
Hijacking/Kidnapping Combination	4	2	3	2	1
Attacks/Attempted Boardings	44	39	25	7	2
Boardings	64	55	42	19	8
Total	**146**	**132**	**98**	**44**	**12**

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

Dec-21: 4, Jan-22: 5, Feb-22: 4, Mar-22: 1, Apr-22: 2, May-22: 0

(U) Horn of Africa

Event	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hijackings	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnappings	0	0	0	0	0
Attacks, Boardings and Attempts	2	2	0	1	0
Total	**2**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**0**

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

Dec-21: 0, Jan-22: 0, Feb-22: 0, Mar-22: 0, Apr-22: 0, May-22: 0

(U) Southeast Asia

Event	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hijackings	1	0	0	0	1
Kidnappings	3	4	1	0	0
Attacks, Boardings and Attempts	80	92	94	79	32
Total	**84**	**96**	**95**	**79**	**33**

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

Dec-21: 10, Jan-22: 7, Feb-22: 11, Mar-22: 7, Apr-22: 7, May-22: 1

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 MARAD Advisories**

Title	Effective Date	Expiration Date
2022-005-Various-GPS Interference & AIS Spoofing	14 MAR 22	10 SEP 22
2022-004-Black Sea and Sea of Azov-Military Combat Operations	8 MAR 22	4 SEP 22
2022-003-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Western Indian Ocean-Threats to Commercial Vessels	28 FEB 22	27 AUG 22
2022-001-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	4 JAN 22	3 JUL 22
2021-011-Global-Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System	17 DEC 21	15 JUN 22

(U) **ICOD:** 11 May 2022

(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/