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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 29 June – 27 July 2022**



27 July 2022

(U) **Table of Contents:**

1. (U) **Scope Note**
2. (U) **Warnings and Advisories**
3. (U) **Summary**
4. (U) **Details: Monthly Incidents by Region**
5. (U) **Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends**
6. (U) **Appendix B: Definitions and Sourcing**
7. (U) **Appendix C: Active U.S. Maritime Advisories**

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 current active warnings and advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 23 July, six robbers boarded a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

B. (U) **ANGOLA:** On 22 July, three perpetrators using a motorized canoe boarded a crew/supply vessel while anchored in Luanda 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.

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A. (U) NORTH AMERICA:

1. (U) MEXICO: On 17 July, at about dawn, an unknown number of robbers boarded the Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX) satellite platform KUIL-B located in the Kuil field, Abkatun-Pol-Chuc in the Bay of Campeche, approximately 71 NM northeast of Puerto Dos Bocas. According to press reports, the perpetrators stole sets of self-contained breathing apparatus equipment, tools, pump, lamps, and cables. (vesseltracker.com; Poresto)
2. (U) MEXICO: On 16 July, at 2230 local time, five robbers armed with guns and knives boarded the Mexico-flagged offshore support vessel XICALANGO underway along the coast of Dos Bocas, 12 NM west of Puerto de Frontera, Centla, Tabasco, near position 18:40N – 092:55W. The perpetrators detained one of the crew members, and injured another on the left temple and by cutting the crew member's thumb with a knife. The robbers were looking for cash, but none was found. The robbers left with stolen equipment from the vessel. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com; Poresto).
3. (U) MEXICO: On 15 July, an unknown number of perpetrators boarded and robbed five PEMEX platforms in Cantarell Complex in the Bay of Campeche, approximately 45 NM northwest of Ciudad del Carmen. According to press reports, the identified platforms were the AKAL-M, AKAL-DB, AKAL-T, AKAL-TI, and SHIL-A. The platforms were unmanned during the hours of darkness when the boardings occurred. Reports indicate that the stolen items included 40 sets of self-contained breathing apparatus equipment, tools, pumps, pipes, and cables. The robberies were discovered by the duty crew when they arrived to work the following morning. (El Financiero; Milenio; Clearwater Dynamics)
4. (U) MEXICO: On 29 June, at 0330 local time, an unknown number of robbers armed with rifles boarded the PEMEX platform ICHALKIL-ALFA located approximately 27 NM from Ciudad del Carmen in the Bay of Campeche. According to press reports, the robbers stole tools, cables, and different communications equipment. (Riviera Maya News; htnewz; lodehoy Puebla; Aristegui)

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

1. (U) SAINT LUCIA: On 8 July, at 2000 local time, two robbers armed with guns boarded a catamaran yacht anchored in Canaries Bay, near position 13:54N – 061:04W. The yacht captain, who was sailing solo, made an overnight stopover in the bay for shelter. The perpetrators held the captain at gunpoint and demanded cash and valuables. The captain complied with the demands and the robbers departed after 45 minutes with cash, a tablet, and cell phone. The captain was reported safe and the yacht continued its voyage. (CSSN – Caribbean Safety and Security Net)

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:

1. (U) UKRAINE: On 7 July, the Moldova-flagged tanker MILLENNIAL SPIRIT was struck by a missile while unmanned and adrift in the Odessa region of the Black Sea. This is the second time that the tanker was hit.

According to press reports, the tanker had been abandoned and drifting since 25 February when it was first hit. (Clearwater Dynamics; Splash 24/7; Fleetmon; Dryad Global)

2. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 5 July, two bulk carriers, Liberia-flagged SMARTA and Panama-flagged BLUE STAR I, that had already berthed at the port of Mariupol were seized by the Russian-backed separatist group, Donetsk Peoples Republic (DPR). According to press reports, DPR representatives sent letters to the two shipping companies stating that their ships were subjected to "forcible appropriation of movable property with forced conversion into state property," offering no compensation. The two ships have been stranded at the port since 24 February 2022 and their crews were reportedly evacuated on or before 11 April 2022. (Clearwater Dynamics; gCaptain; Reuters; Newsweek; Maritime Executive)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:



Figure 1. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) ANGOLA: On 22 July, at 0110 local time, three perpetrators in a motorized canoe boarded a crew/supply vessel anchored in Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:47S – 013:14E. The perpetrators escaped with a stolen outboard engine, and the incident was subsequently reported to port authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics; MDAT-GoG)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 16 July, pirates intercepted and boarded an underway passenger boat with an unknown number of people onboard while in transit on inland waterways from Calabar in Cross River State to Oron Beach in Akwa Ibom State, near position 04:55N – 008:17E. According to press reports, the perpetrators stole passengers' belongings and kidnapped all male passengers, including the boat captain. The female passengers were left in the

passenger boat. One of the passengers contacted the authorities, and the Nigerian Navy and Marine Police responded and chased the pirates. The pirates escaped, and released all but two of the kidnapped male passengers. The released passengers were rescued by the Marine Police. (Clearwater Dynamics; Vanguard; Sahara Reporter)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 15 July, at 1800 local time, pirates attacked and boarded a boat with 28 fish traders onboard while underway in the Uruan Water Channel in Akwa Ibom State, near position 04:58N – 008:06E. According to press reports, five armed men fired shots in the air prior to boarding the passenger boat. After boarding, the pirates took all 28 traders and their boat to an undisclosed location, where the traders were robbed of cash and valuables. Several of the traders were beaten. One of the traders managed to contact the local authorities by phone during the attack. A marine patrol vessel was dispatched, and, after eight hours, located the fish traders' boat. Local authorities rescued all 28 kidnapped traders and the wounded were given medical attention. The pirates had already escaped. (Clearwater Dynamics; Daily Post Nigeria; Premium Times; Punch)

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 2. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 23 July, at 0110 local time, six robbers boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier BULK SAO PAOLO underway in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:08N – 103:29E. A duty crew

member discovered the perpetrators in the engine room, at which point the alarm was raised and the crew mustered. A search found that several engine spare parts were missing. The ship and all crew were reported safe, and the vessel continued its voyage. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 July, at 0100 local time, three robbers armed with long knives attempted to board a bulk carrier as it approached the Jakarta Anchorage area, near position 06:20S – 106:54E. A duty crew member spotted the robbers and immediately informed the bridge. The alarm was raised, and the perpetrators escaped empty-handed. All crew were reported safe and the incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 12 July, at 2200 local time, an unknown number of armed robbers boarded a sailing vessel underway 14 NM north-northwest of Roxas city, near position 11:50N – 122:41E. The robbers escaped with stolen crew belongings. All crew members were reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) MALAYSIA: On 8 July, at 2324 local time, five perpetrators armed with knives boarded the Panama-flagged tanker EVEREST underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:17N – 104:19E. The perpetrators went to the engine room and restrained the duty engineer. They were sighted by the duty crew during rounds, and alerted the bridge. The alarm was raised, and the crew mustered. The robbers escaped empty-handed upon hearing the alarm. The ship and all crew were reported safe. The vessel did not require assistance and continued her voyage. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) MALAYSIA: On 4 July, at 0410 local time, six robbers armed with guns boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier NEMRUT BAY underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:17N – 104:19E. The robbers were sighted in the engine room, and restrained one of the duty crew members. After the robbers escaped, the restrained crew member managed to free himself and immediately raised the alarm. The crew mustered, and the vessel was searched. The master later reported that the six robbers had stolen engine spare parts, and all crew were safe. The vessel did not require any assistance and continued its voyage. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (vesseltracker.com; ReCAAP; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

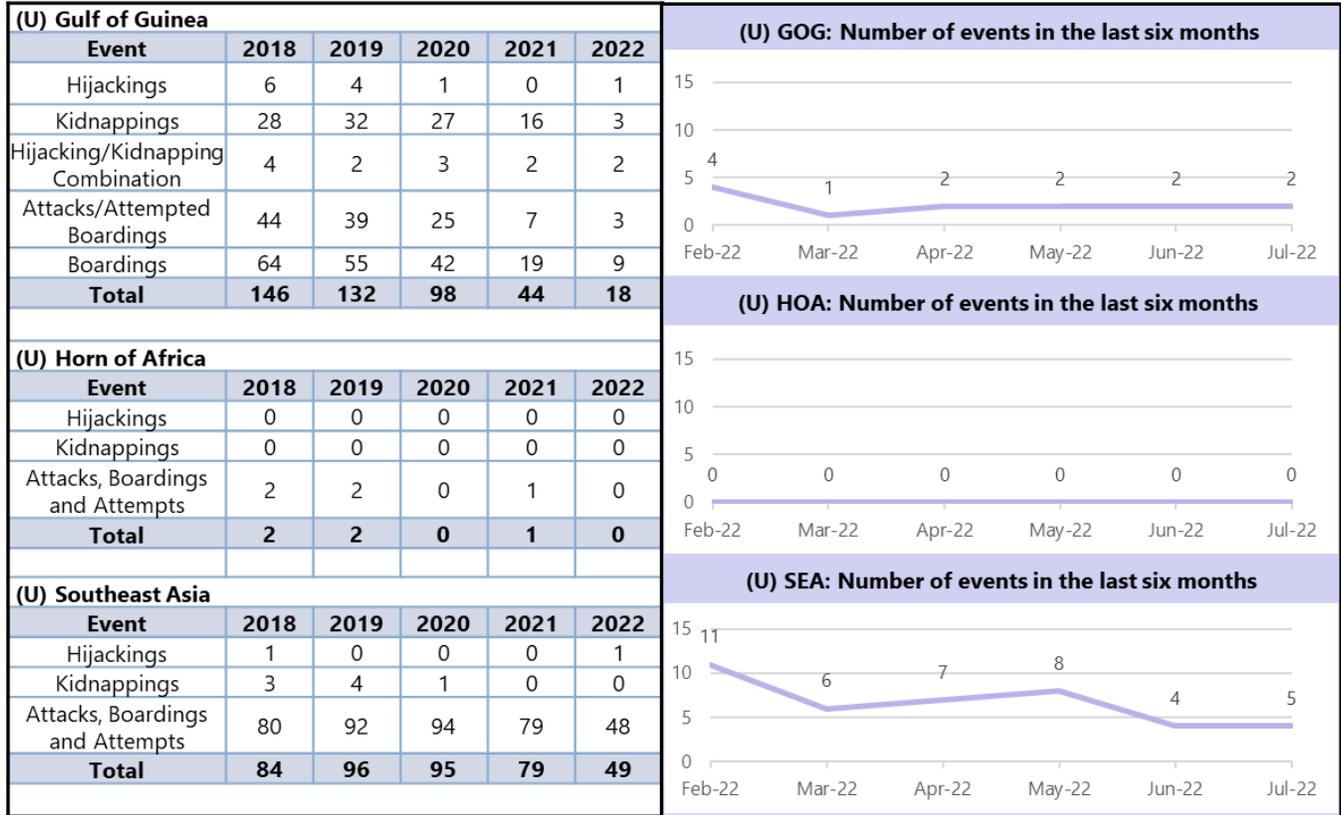
6. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 June, at 0230 local time, two robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged tanker MAERSK BERING while berthed in Port Belawan. A duty crew member sighted the two robbers leaving the vessel in an open boat. The vessel was searched, and it was discovered that fire hydrant caps, hydrant couplings, and fire hose nozzles were stolen from the ship's stores. All crew members were reported safe and the incident was reported to the local authorities. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 12 July, at 1200 local time, a boat with seven armed robbers onboard attempted to board the Malta-flagged heavy lift vessel BLUE MARLIN anchored in Mongla Anchorage, near position 21:56N – 089:31E. The crew spotted the robbers, the alarm was raised, and the port authority was notified. A coast guard vessel was subsequently dispatched, and the perpetrators fled the area. Reporting indicates that the local law enforcement arrested and detained the seven suspects and their boat. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com; Daily Observers)

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.

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

Title	Effective Date	Expiration Date
2022-007-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	6 JUL 22	2 JAN 23
2022-006-Global-Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System	15 JUN 22	12 DEC 22
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

(U) **ICOD:** 27 July 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/>