



UNCLASSIFIED

## (U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 1–29 November 2023



29 November 2023

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### 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 last 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 Alert 2023-006A: Indian Ocean – Multiple Threats**

Issued on: 27 November 2023. The Liberia-flagged M/T CENTRAL PARK was boarded by unknown armed entities and subsequently released in the Gulf of Aden, 50 nautical miles east of Djibouti, on 26 November 2023. In addition, the Malta-flagged M/V CMA CGM SYMI was reportedly attacked by an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) in the Indian Ocean on 24 November 2023. Exercise caution when transiting these areas and remain cognizant of evolving threats in this region. U.S. commercial vessels operating in these areas should review [U.S. Maritime Advisory 2023-011 \(Threats to Commercial Vessels – Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Somali Basin\)](#) for amplifying information and points of contact. This alert will automatically expire on 4 December 2023. Any maritime industry questions regarding this alert should be directed to [GMCC@uscg.mil](mailto:GMCC@uscg.mil).

**3. (U) Summary:**

- A.** (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 29 November, up to eight perpetrators armed with weapons hijacked an Iran-flagged fishing vessel while operating off Quandala, Somalia.
- B.** (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 29 November, UKMTO received three separate reports of suspicious activity by small boats approximately 54 NM south-southeast of Aden.
- C.** (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 27 November, a craft with three persons onboard approached a vessel 50 NM south of Aden.
- D.** (U) PHILIPPINES: On 26 November, five robbers boarded an anchored container ship at Manila Bay Anchorage.
- E.** (U) PHILIPPINES: On 26 November, five robbers boarded a second anchored container ship at Manila Bay Anchorage.
- F.** (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 26 November, two black and white craft with a total of eight persons in military style clothing onboard approached a vessel 80 NM south of Aden.
- G.** (U) YEMEN: On 26 November, five armed individuals boarded a product tanker 53 NM southwest of Aden.
- H.** (U) RED SEA: On 25 November, UKMTO reported that an entity declaring itself to be the Yemeni authorities ordered a vessel transiting the Red Sea to alter course in an area west of Mokha, Yemen.
- I.** (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 24 November, a drone struck an underway Malta-flagged cargo vessel operated by a shipping company with Israeli affiliations.
- J.** (U) INDONESIA: On 23 November, four robbers armed with knives boarded a tanker anchored at Dumai Anchorage.
- K.** (U) SOMALIA: On 22 November, an Iran-flagged fishing vessel was hijacked while underway 90 NM northeast of Eyl.
- L.** (U) INDONESIA: On 20 November, an unspecified number of robbers boarded a berthed tanker at Wharf 106, Belawan Port.

**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:**

1. (U) PERU: On 16 November, two robbers armed with a gun boarded the anchored, Portugal-flagged bulk carrier NORDMOSEL at Callao Anchorage, near position 11:59S – 077:13W and stole ship's stores from the forward station. The ship reported the incident to Callao port authorities. All crew were safe. (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.

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

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 November, perpetrators disguised as pipeline surveillance workers boarded a tug towing a barge on the Andoni River, Rivers State, near position 04:29N – 007:26E. The disguised perpetrators kidnapped the tug's captain, but the Nigerian Navy reacted quickly and forced the kidnappers to flee into the undergrowth where they abandoned the captain. Two suspected kidnappers were apprehended and the captain was rescued. (Clearwater Dynamics)

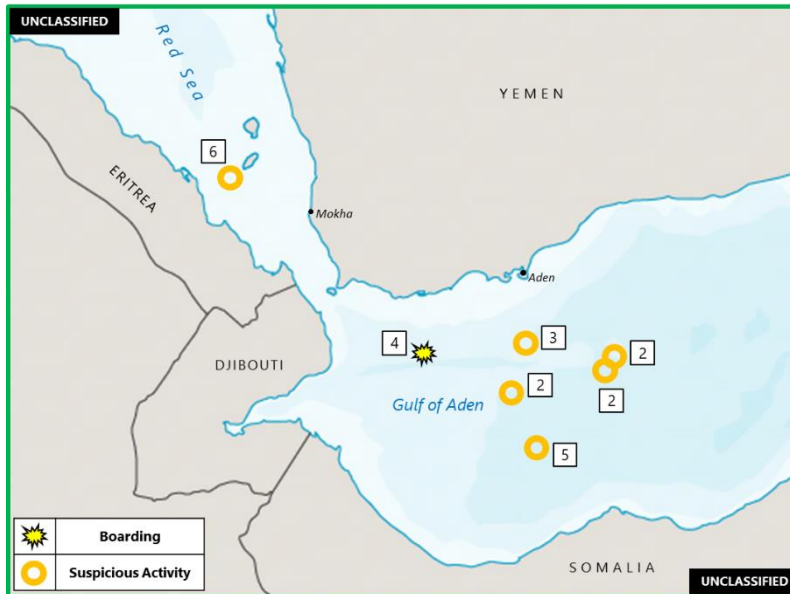
2. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 November in the early morning, a number of armed men attacked a Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps service boat on the Bakana River, Rivers State, near position 04:43N – 006:57E. The incident resulted in the killing of four Nigerian officers. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) ANGOLA: On 2 November at 2320 local time, two robbers boarded the moored Panama-flagged fast supply vessel BOURBON AUTAN at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:44S – 013:18E. The duty watchman spotted the persons on deck and raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers fled the vessel and escaped with stolen paint canisters. The vessel notified local authorities of the incident. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

**G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:**

1. (U) STRAIT OF HORMUZ: On 1 November at 1830 UTC, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) received reports of uncrewed aerial system (UAS) activity in the vicinity of the Strait of Hormuz Traffic Separation Scheme, near position 26:35N – 056:28E. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

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



(U) Figure 1. Red Sea – Gulf of Aden Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea



(U) Figure 2. Indian Ocean – East Africa Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 29 November at 1106 UTC, up to eight perpetrators armed with automatic rifles and rocket propelled grenades hijacked an Iran-flagged fishing vessel operating off Quandala, Somalia, near position 11:34N – 049:55E. The fishing vessel had reportedly engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the area. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 29 November at 1000 UTC, UKMTO received three separate reports from masters providing information on small craft acting suspiciously in the Gulf of Aden near positions 11:52N – 044:54E, 12:13N – 045:48E, and 12:09N – 045:44E. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 27 November at 0643 UTC, one craft with three persons onboard approached a motor vessel to within 0.6 NM near position 12:15N – 045:02E, approximately 50 NM south of Aden, Yemen. The craft followed the motor vessel for one hour before changing direction and departing the area. The master reported the vessel and all crew safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) YEMEN: On 26 November at 0601 UTC, five armed individuals in a skiff boarded the Liberia-flagged, Israeli-affiliated product tanker CENTRAL PARK, 53 NM southwest of Aden, near position 12:09N – 044:16E, while in transit in the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC). While the attack was in progress, the crew secured themselves in the citadel and issued a distress call. The USS MASON and other allied ships from the coalition counter-piracy task force CTF 151 responded to the tanker's call. After unsuccessfully attempting to breach the citadel door, the gunmen retreated to their skiff and escaped. The USS MASON pursued the subjects and successfully apprehended the five individuals. The tanker and crew were reported safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; MARAD; Ambrey; Reuters; Guardian; Fox News)

5. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 26 November at 0600 UTC, a vessel was approached by eight persons in military style clothing onboard two black and white craft 80 NM south of Aden, Yemen, near position 11:25N – 045:03E. The craft approached to within 0.5 NM and were positioned on each quarter of the vessel. The master reported the vessel and all crew safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) RED SEA: On 25 November at 1009 UTC, UKMTO reported an entity declaring itself as Yemeni authorities had ordered an underway tanker in the Red Sea to alter course, while west of Mokha, Yemen, near approximate position 13:37N – 042:37E. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 24 November at an unspecified time, the Malta-flagged, Israeli-managed container ship CMA CGM SYMI was struck by a drone while underway in the Arabian Sea, near position 17:38N – 069:16E. The ship sustained damage but the crew was unharmed. (Clearwater Dynamics; gCaptain; Maritime Executive)

8. (U) SOMALIA: On 22 November at 0600 UTC, a group of armed Somali clan members hijacked the Iran-flagged fishing dhow ALMERAJ 1 while underway 90 NM northeast of Eyl. The militia's reported reason for the hijacking was alleged IUU fishing by the fishing dhow. The dhow's owner stated that the hijackers have demanded a \$400,000 ransom and threatened to conduct further attacks if the ransom went unpaid. On 28 November, EUNAVFOR issued an official statement that Operation ATALANTA has deployed dedicated assets to monitor the dhow's movements and report its position to maritime traffic. (Clearwater Dynamics; Maritime Executive; Shipping Telegraph; Ambrey; EUNAVFOR)

9. (U) SOUTHERN RED SEA: On 19 November at 1415 UTC, Yemen's Huthi militants hijacked the Bahamas-flagged car carrier GALAXY LEADER 50 NM west of Hodeida, Yemen, near position 14:50N – 041:55E. The vessel is beneficially owned by an Israeli shipping group. Video footage showed that armed militants boarded the vessel by helicopter in broad daylight. The militants captured 25 crew members, including Bulgarians, Filipinos, Mexicans,

Romanians, and Ukrainians. The ship's chief security officer reported the vessel had been taken to Hodeida. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Maritime Executive; vesseltracker.com)

10. (U) GULF OF OMAN: On 14 November at 0950 UTC, a company security officer informed UKMTO that four armed persons in a small open vessel approached a larger commercial vessel to within 0.5 NM approximately 80 NM south of Shahid Beheshti, Iran, near position 24:00N – 060:33E. The open vessel with four armed persons departed with no further interaction. All crew and passengers have been declared safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

11. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 1 November at 1338 UTC, UKMTO reported a distress alert in the vicinity of 500 NM northeast of Mogadishu, Somalia. The chief security officer later reported to UKMTO that the vessel is safe and proceeding to the nearest port. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

#### I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



(U) Figure 3. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 26 November at around 0245 local time, five robbers boarded the anchored Liberia-flagged container ship G CROWN at Manila Bay Anchorage, near position 14:36N – 120:49E. The perpetrators boarded the vessel through the hawse pipe. The duty crew observed the robbers and raised the alarm. The robbers, noting the alerted crew, escaped with stolen ship's properties. The ship informed authorities and a coast guard patrol boat was sent to the vicinity. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 26 November at around 0245 local time, five robbers boarded the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged container ship HANSA COLOMBO at Manila Bay Anchorage, near position 14:36N – 120:49E, several hundred meters from the position of G CROWN. The duty crew noticed the robbers onboard and raised the alarm, after which they escaped with stolen ship's properties. The ship alerted authorities and the coast guard responded. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 23 November at 0435 local time, four robbers armed with knives boarded the anchored Singapore-flagged tanker ARGENT DAISY at Dumai Anchorage near position 01:43N – 101:26E. The robbers threatened and took hostage a crew member, while another crew member escaped, informed the duty officer and raised the alarm. Following the sounding of the general alarm, the perpetrators released the crew member and fled into a small boat. A search was conducted by the crew and nothing was found to be stolen. All crew members were reported safe following the incident. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com; ReCAAP)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 November at 0445 local time, an unspecified number of robbers boarded the berthed Singapore-flagged tanker ARGENT DAISY at Wharf 106, Belawan Port, near position 03:47N – 098:41E. The duty crew observed the robbers on the upper deck and raised the alarm. The robbers fled the ship with stolen ship's properties. The vessel reported the incident to local authorities through the local agent. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com; ReCAAP)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 15 November at 0545 local time, three robbers armed with a knife boarded an anchored product tanker at Belawan Anchorage, near position 03:56N – 098:45E. The duty crew discovered the robbers and raised the alarm after which the robbers escaped empty-handed. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) VIETNAM: On 6 November at 0150 local time, robbers boarded the Portugal-flagged general cargo ship ELISABETH OLDENDORFF anchored at Vung Tau Anchorage, near position 10:13N – 107:00E. After the boarding, a duty watchman noticed footprints on the deck and saw the paint locker padlock broken and ship's stores missing. The alarm was raised, the crew mustered and they searched the vessel. The ship reported the incident to port authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 November at 0145 local time, five robbers armed with knives boarded the Panama-flagged general cargo ship MATSUSHIRO anchored at Lubuk Guang, Dumai, along the Malacca Strait, near position 01:43N – 101:26E. Crew members attempted to drive off the robbers but after being threatened, the crew retreated to the accommodation area and informed the master. The ship subsequently reported generator parts had been stolen. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

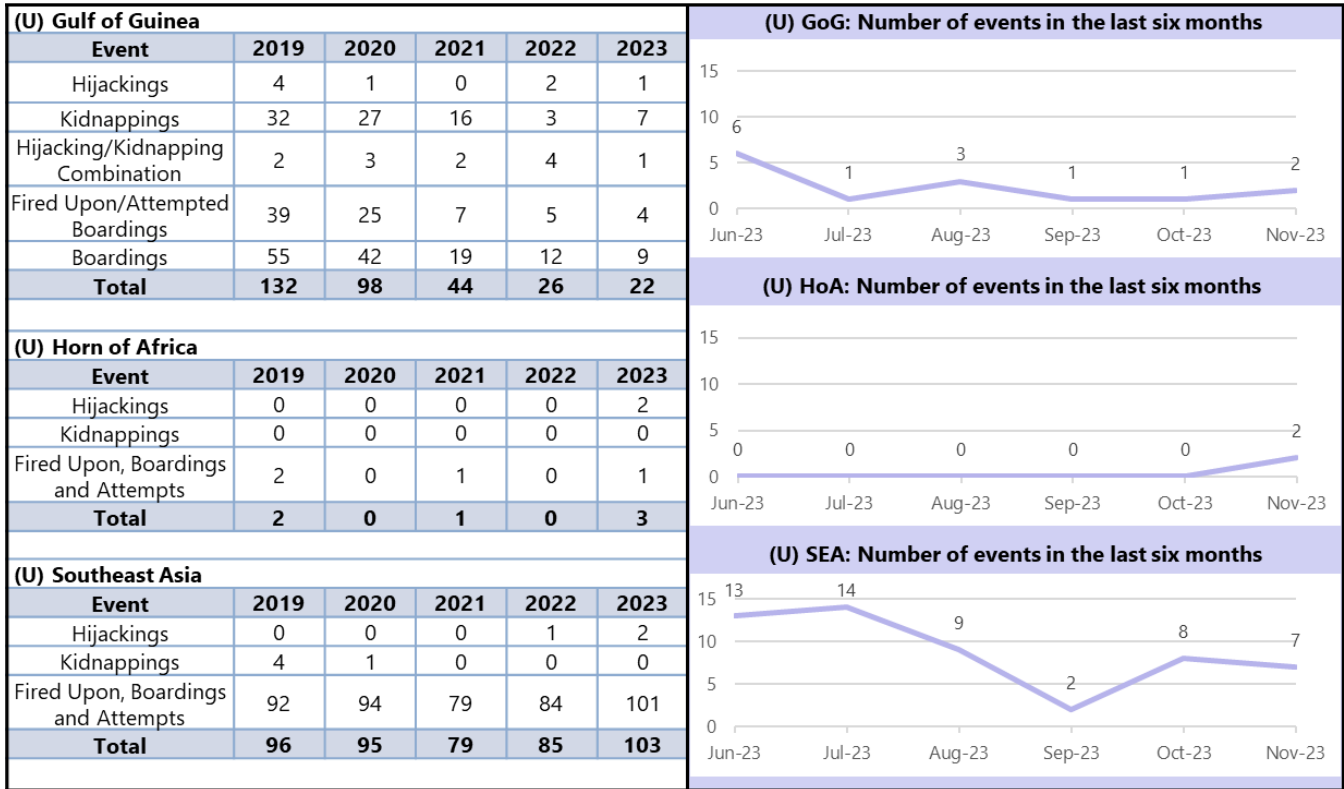
#### **J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:**

1. (U) INDIA: On 13 November at an unspecified time, as many as 10 perpetrators armed with long knives, an axe, and steel rods boarded a tanker anchored at Kandla Anchorage, near position 22:47N 070:03E. The perpetrators gained access to the vessel by climbing the starboard manifold area. The duty crew spotted the boarding party and informed the master who raised the alarm. Seeing the crew's alertness, the perpetrators fled the vessel. (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**



**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
<a href="#">2023-014-Eastern Mediterranean Sea – Regional Conflict</a>	26 OCT 23	23 APR 24
<a href="#">2023-013-Various – GPS Interference &amp; AIS Spoofing</a>	2 OCT 23	30 MAR 24
<a href="#">2023-012-Global – New U.S. Maritime Alert and Advisory Subscription Process</a>	22 SEP 23	24 MAR 24
<a href="#">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</a>	6 SEP 23	4 MAR 24
<a href="#">2023-010-Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations</a>	1 SEP 23	28 FEB 24
<a href="#">2023-009-Worldwide – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, And Cyber Influence</a>	23 AUG 23	19 FEB 24
<a href="#">2023-008-Gulf of Guinea – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom</a>	30 JUN 23	29 DEC 23
<a href="#">2023-007-Global – Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System</a>	6 JUN 23	3 DEC 23

(U) **ICOD:** 29 November 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/>