



UNCLASSIFIED

## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 17 January–14 February 2024**



14 February 2024

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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.

#### 3. (U) **Summary:**

**A.** (U) RED SEA: On 14 February, a merchant vessel spotted two possible unmanned aerial vehicles while underway approximately 12 NM southwest of Mokha, Yemen.

**B.** (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 13 February, U.S. Navy ships observed a ballistic missile launched from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen into the Gulf of Aden.

**C.** (U) BAB EL MANDEB STRAIT: On 12 February, an attack by two missiles targeted a southbound bulk carrier underway approximately 40 NM south of Mokha, Yemen.

#### 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:** No current incidents to report.

**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 7 February at 2300 local time, up to 10 robbers boarded a Marshall Islands-flagged cargo ship berthed at Berth 9, Lagos Port, near position 06:26N – 003:22E. The robbers gained access to ship's stores and stole containers of paint. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

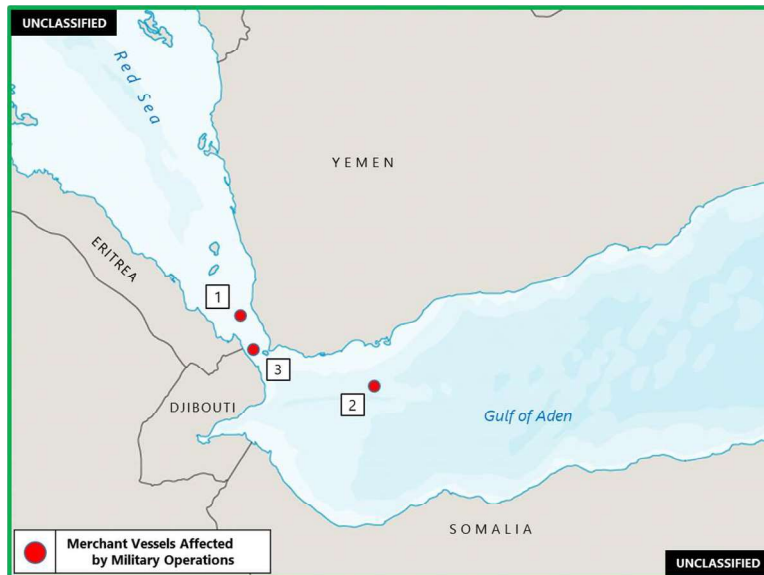
2. (U) NIGERIA: On 7 February at 2300 local time, up to 10 robbers boarded a Bahamas-flagged container ship berthed at Lagos Port, near position 06:25N – 003:20E. The robbers gained access to ship's stores and stole more than 600 kilograms of paint containers. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) ANGOLA: On 25 January at 0130 local time, robbers boarded an anchored offshore supply vessel at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:44S – 013:17E. After seeing a small canoe moving away from the vessel, the security watchman reported to the duty officer, resulting in a search of the vessel. During the search, two 50-meter mooring lines were reported missing. The incident was reported to port authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics; MDAT-GoG; IMB)

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

1. (U) ARABIAN GULF: On 28 January at an unspecified time, the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) seized a tanker 60 NM off the coast of Bandar Bushehr, Iran (exact location not specified). An IRGC Commander stated during a press briefing that the tanker is from "a country in Oceania" and was detained with 14 crewmembers from "two Asian countries". After searching the ship, the IRGC determined that the apprehended tanker was loaded with two million liters of diesel fuel, which they asserted was being smuggled illegally out of Iran. (Maritime Executive; Clearwater Dynamics)

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



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

1. (U) RED SEA: On 14 February at 2300 UTC, a merchant vessel underway approximately 12 NM southwest of Mokha, Yemen, near position 13:09N – 043:05E spotted two possible unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). As soon as the master noticed the first flying object, the vessel performed evasive maneuvers including rapid course changes. A second flying object subsequently approached, but soon departed the area. After 10 minutes, the first flying object disappeared from view. The crew and vessel were reported safe and the vessel continued its voyage. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 13 February at 1820 UTC, U.S. forces observed a ballistic missile launched from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen into the Gulf of Aden (exact location not specified). U.S. Navy ships tracked the missile but took no action because the missile was not projected to impact near any ships. There were no reports of injuries or damage from ships in the area. (U.S. Central Command; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) BAB EL MANDEB STRAIT: On 12 February at 0035 UTC, the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier STAR IRIS was attacked by two missiles while transiting southbound through the Red Sea, approximately 40 NM south of Mokha, Yemen (exact position not specified). The vessel sustained minor damage as a result of the attack. The crew were reported safe and the bulk carrier continued its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Reuters)

4. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 6 February at 1100 UTC, an explosion occurred in close proximity to the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier STAR NASIA approximately 50 NM south of Aden, Yemen, near position 11:59N – 044:29E. U.S. Central Command reported that Houthi militants had targeted the bulk carrier with three anti-ship ballistic missiles (ASBMs). The explosion of one missile caused minor damage but no injuries. Later another missile impacted the water with no effect. USS LABOON, operating near STAR NASIA, shot down a third ASBM. The crew was reported safe and the vessel remained seaworthy. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; U.S. Central Command)

5. (U) RED SEA: On 6 February at 0050 UTC, a projectile passed over the deck of a merchant vessel transiting approximately 57 NM west of Hodeida, Yemen, near position 14:19N – 042:14E. The projectile caused slight damage to the bridge windows. According to U.S. Central Command, at approximately the same time, Houthi forces fired three ASBMs likely targeting the Barbados-flagged cargo ship MORNING TIDE operating in the southern Red Sea. The three missiles impacted the water near the ship without damage. The crew and vessel are reported safe, and the vessel continued its planned passage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; U.S. Central Command)
6. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 3 February at 1040 UTC, a cargo vessel transiting through the Indian Ocean reported a medium-sized vessel ahead acting suspiciously approximately 345 NM east of Socotra Island, near position 13:01N – 060:29E. The suspicious vessel launched a small boat, which approached and proceeded to follow the cargo vessel. After approximately 20 minutes, another small boat was seen approaching. The master increased speed and carried out evasive maneuvers, after which the small boats stopped following the vessel. No weapons or ladders were sighted. The master reported all crew were safe and the cargo vessel continued its voyage. (Clearwater Dynamics)
7. (U) RED SEA: On 2 February at 1820 UTC, USS LABOON and F/A-18 fighters from USS EISENHOWER Carrier Strike Group engaged and shot down seven UAVs over the Red Sea (exact location not specified). There were no injuries or damage reported. (Clearwater Dynamics)
8. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 2 February at 0730 UTC, USS CARNEY observed and destroyed a UAV over the Gulf of Aden (exact position not specified). There were no reported injuries or damage. (Clearwater Dynamics)
9. (U) RED SEA: On 1 February at 0950 UTC, two missiles exploded in the water 0.5 NM from a Liberia-flagged cargo vessel transiting north approximately 64 NM west of Hodeidah, Yemen, near position 14:37N – 041:49E. One missile impacted the water near the vessel's port side and the other impacted the water near the vessel's starboard side. Following the incident, the crew mustered. The vessel was undamaged and the crew were reported safe. The vessel continued its transit as part of a coalition convoy. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)
10. (U) RED SEA: On 1 February at 0730 UTC, U.S. Central Command identified an explosive unmanned surface vehicle (USV) in the Red Sea (exact location not specified). The USV had been launched from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen and was heading toward international shipping lanes. U.S. forces determined the USV presented an imminent threat to vessels and U.S. Navy ships in the area and destroyed the USV. There have been no reports of injuries or damages sustained to any vessel. (Clearwater Dynamics)
11. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 1 February at 0300 UTC, U.S. forces observed and destroyed a UAV over the Gulf of Aden (exact position not specified). There were no reported injuries or damage. (Clearwater Dynamics)
12. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 31 January at 1730 UTC, USS CARNEY shot down an anti-ship ballistic missile fired from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen (exact position not specified). Subsequently, at 1810 UTC, USS CARNEY intercepted three UAVs operating in its vicinity. No injuries or damage were reported. (Clearwater Dynamics)
13. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 31 January at 1120 UTC, two suspected motherships altered course toward a merchant vessel and a skiff approached the vessel while it was underway 470 NM east of Socotra Island, Yemen, near

position 12:44N – 062:29E. Threats were reported to have been heard over channel 16. The perpetrators abandoned their approach as the vessel increased speed and changed course. (Clearwater Dynamics)

14. (U) RED SEA: On 30 January at an unspecified time, USS GRAVELY shot down an anti-ship cruise missile fired from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen (exact position not specified). No injuries or damage from the missile were reported. (Clearwater Dynamics)

15. (U) RED SEA: On 29 January at 1535 UTC, three small boats approached a merchant vessel on its starboard bow 44 NM west of Mokha, Yemen (exact position not specified). The three boats regrouped astern with the closest approaching to within 1 NM of the vessel. The master described one of the boats as grey in color with a front-mounted weapon. The embarked armed security team fired warning shots and the small boats departed the area. The crew and vessel were reported safe and the vessel continued on its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

16. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On or before 29 January at an unspecified time, 11 Somali pirates hijacked the Iran-flagged fishing vessel AL NAEEMI off the east coast of Somalia (exact position not specified). After boarding the vessel, the perpetrators took the 19 Pakistani crew members hostage. The Indian Navy responded to the incident, intercepted the fishing vessel on the evening of 29 January, and compelled the perpetrators to release the fishing vessel and its crew. (Associated Press; Indian Navy)

17. (U) RED SEA: On 28 January at an unspecified time, Houthis launched a UAV toward the British Navy's HMS DIAMOND 144 NM northwest of Hodeida, Yemen (exact position not specified). (Clearwater Dynamics; Maritime Executive)

18. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 28 January at an unspecified time, pirates hijacked the Iran-flagged fishing vessel IMAN off the coast of Abo, Somalia (exact position not specified). Once onboard, the perpetrators restrained the vessel's 17 Iranian crew members. The Indian Navy's INS SUMITRA responded to the dhow's distress call on 28 January and successfully negotiated the safe release of both the crew and vessel on 29 January. (Clearwater Dynamics; Indian Navy)

19. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 28 January at 0610 UTC, a small craft with five armed persons onboard approached a merchant vessel 70 NM northwest of Bossaso, Somalia, near position 11:32N – 048:01E. None of the perpetrators wore a uniform. The armed security team fired two warning shots and the small boat broke away from its approach. The master reported that the vessel and all crew were safe, and the vessel continued its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)

20. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 27 January at 1600 UTC, pirates hijacked the Sri Lanka-flagged fishing trawler LORENZO PUTHA 4 approximately 965 NM east of Mogadishu, Somalia, near position 00:35N – 061:19E. On 29 January, the Seychelles People's Defense Force and coast guard, in coordination with forces from India and Sri Lanka, rescued the six Sri Lankan crew members and apprehended three hijackers. The crew and fishing trawler were escorted to Port Victoria in the Seychelles. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; gCaptain; Maritime Executive; Associated Press; ReCAAP)

21. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 27 January at 0810 UTC, a small boat, with four persons armed with automatic rifles and a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, approached a merchant vessel 780 NM east of Hafun, Somalia, near position 10:31N – 064:28E. After the boat came to within 300 meters of the vessel, the armed security team aboard the merchant vessel fired warning shots and exchanged gunfire with the perpetrators. The small boat then retreated to a mothership. The crew and vessel were reported safe and the vessel continued its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)
22. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 26 January at 1642 UTC, a Houthi anti-ship ballistic missile struck the Marshall Islands-flagged product tanker MARLIN LUANDA while it was underway 60 NM southeast of Aden, Yemen, near position 12:04N – 045:44E. Following the missile strike, a fire ensued in one of the cargo holds. USS CARNEY, the French Navy's FS ALSACE and the Indian Navy's INS VISAKHAPATNAM responded, providing critical firefighting material and assistance to the civilian crew, who had depleted onboard firefighting capability. The fire was extinguished with no casualties. The ship remained seaworthy and continued its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; U.S. Central Command)
23. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 26 January at 1025 UTC, two anti-ship ballistic missiles exploded in the water off the port side of a merchant vessel underway 60 NM southwest of Aden, Yemen, near position 11:57N – 044: 25E. The master reported that the vessel and crew were safe and that there was no ship damage. The vessel continued its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)
24. (U) RED SEA: On 24 January at 1955 UTC, a UAV attacked a Liberia-flagged bulk carrier approximately 144 NM northwest of Hodeidah, Yemen, near position 16:21N – 040:46E. The UAV flew over the vessel before hitting the water nearby. No damage was sustained by the vessel and no injuries to the crew were reported. (Clearwater Dynamics)
25. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 24 January at 1100 UTC, Houthis fired three anti-ship ballistic missiles at the U.S.-flagged and -owned container ship MAERSK DETROIT while it was underway approximately 50 NM south of Mokha, Yemen (exact position not specified). The container ship was transiting with another U.S.-flagged container ship under a scheduled escort from a U.S. Navy ship. One missile impacted in the sea, 100 meters off MAERSK DETROIT's starboard side. The two other missiles were successfully engaged and shot down by USS GRAVELY. There were no reported injuries or damage to the ship or crew. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; U.S. Central Command; vesseltracker.com)
26. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 24 January at 0630 UTC, a skiff, with an unknown number of persons and a ladder onboard, approached a merchant vessel approximately 960 NM east-southeast of Eyl, Somalia, near position 05:30N – 065:48E. An armed security team onboard the vessel fired warning shots which resulted in the skiff aborting the approach. It was reported that the skiff then headed toward what appeared to be a mothership. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
27. (U) BAB EL MANDEB STRAIT: On 23 January at 0938 UTC, UAV activity was observed 46 NM south of Mokha, Yemen (exact position not specified). (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)
28. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 21 January at 0830 UTC, a small boat approached a merchant vessel 121 NM southeast of Muscat, Oman, near position 23:08N – 060:45E. The boat came to within 1,000 meters of the vessel and

stopped. No ladders or weapons were visible. The boat then began to approach another vessel. Up to three other small boats were also seen in the area. (Clearwater Dynamics)

29. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 18 January at 1900 UTC, a UAV was observed in close proximity to the Marshall Islands-flagged, U.S.-owned product tanker CHEM RANGER 110 NM southeast of Aden, Yemen, near position 12:27N – 046:53E. According to U.S. Central Command, Houthis launched two anti-ship ballistic missiles at the tanker. The crew observed a missile explode in the water near the ship. There were no reported injuries or damage to the ship. CHEM RANGER later resumed its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; U.S. Central Command)

30. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 18 January at 1833 UTC, four UAVs were observed flying near a merchant vessel 85 NM southeast of Ash Shihr, Yemen, near position 13:06N – 050:00E. One of the UAVs hit the water approximately 800 meters from the vessel. The master reported that the crew and vessel were safe following the incident and the vessel proceeded to its next port. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

31. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 17 January at an unspecified time, a UAV struck the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier GENCO PICARDY while underway approximately 60 NM SE of Aden, Yemen, near position 11:58N – 045:31E. The UAV hit the vessel on its port side. The master reported that there was a fire onboard, which was subsequently extinguished. Vessel and crew were reported safe following the incident. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; gCaptain)

32. (U) RED SEA: On 17 January at 0330 UTC, eight small boats approached a vessel underway approximately 15 NM SW of Mokha, Yemen, near position 13:17N – 042:59E. The eight boats followed the vessel before departing the area. The vessel and crew were reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

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

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 February at 0405 local time, four perpetrators boarded the underway Cyprus-flagged bulk carrier MARIA MARIA in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:09N – 103:28E. The crew reported up to four persons in the engine room. After a search by the crew, the master confirmed all crew safe, and nothing was reported missing. No assistance was required and the ship continued its voyage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

2. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 2 February at 0040 local time, five perpetrators boarded the Cyprus-flagged container ship NORDPUMA anchored at the Manila Bay Anchorage, near position 14:23N – 120:48E. The perpetrators stole ship's stores and then escaped. The alarm was raised, and fire hoses were activated while the crew conducted a search. The ship reported the incident to the vessel traffic management system Manila. The Philippines Coast Guard responded and carried out an inspection. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 31 January at 0200 local time, six robbers armed with long knives boarded the Singapore-flagged bulk carrier CLIPPER I-STAR underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:09N – 103:28E. After gaining access to the engine room, the robbers tied up the chief engineer and oiler, and blindfolded the third engineer. The alerted crew raised the alarm, and, hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's engine spare parts. The master reported the incident to the local authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com; ReCAAP)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 January at 0450 local time, the duty watchkeeper spotted a perpetrator attempting to board the Cyprus-flagged product tanker AL AMERAT at Lubuk Gaung Anchorage, near position 01:43N – 101:24E. The watchkeeper then raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the perpetrator escaped. The ship informed port authorities of the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; vesseltracker.com)

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

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 3 February at 0610 local time, the duty watchkeeper spotted two perpetrators attempting to board a container ship at Chittagong Inner Anchorage, near position 22:09N – 091:46E. The alarm was sounded, and the crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the perpetrators aborted the boarding and left empty-handed. The ship informed port authorities of the incident. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

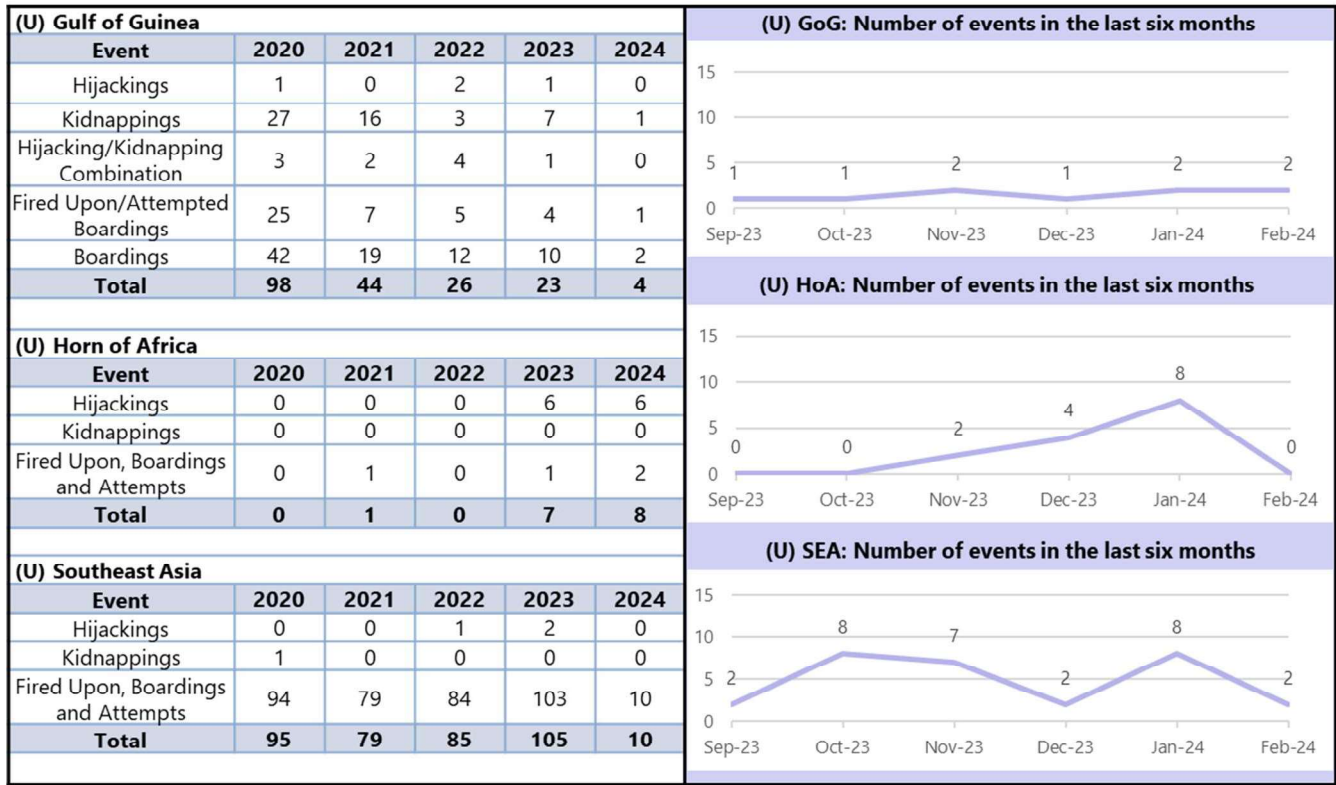
2. (U) INDIA: On 27 January at 0130 local time, a robber boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged product tanker WHITE PEACH anchored at Kakinada Anchorage, near position 17:01N – 082:21E. A duty crewman noticed the robber transferring ship's stores into a small boat alongside the tanker. The crew member raised the alarm and upon hearing the alarm, the robber escaped with stolen items. Port authorities were informed. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

3. (U) INDIA: On 24 January at 2345 local time, at least one robber boarded the India-flagged tanker REGENCY at Kakinada Port, near position 17:03N – 082:24E. The duty watchkeeper noticed a suspicious boat roaming near the ship's forward and aft. As the watchkeeper proceeded to investigate, they saw one robber jump into the water at the port side of the ship and escape in the waiting boat with five other persons onboard. Three mooring lines were later found to be missing. The ship reported the incident to port authorities. (ReCAAP; 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**



**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="#">2024-001: Southern Red Sea, Bab el Mandeb Strait, Gulf of Aden, Northwestern Indian Ocean, Somali Basin, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Strait of Hormuz, and Persian Gulf – Threats to Commercial Vessels</a>	2 FEB 24	31 JUL 24
<a href="#">2023-016: Gulf of Guinea – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom</a>	27 DEC 23	24 JUN 24
<a href="#">2023-015: Global – Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System</a>	22 DEC 23	19 JUN 24
<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

(U) **ICOD:** 14 February 2024

(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/>