

UNCLASSIFIED



## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 10 April–8 May 2024**



8 May 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) **ARABIAN SEA:** On 8 May, a small fast boat approached a merchant vessel while underway approximately 350 NM east of Socotra, Yemen.

**B.** (U) **GULF OF ADEN:** On 7 May, two explosions occurred in close proximity to an underway merchant vessel approximately 82 NM south of Aden, Yemen.

**C.** (U) **GABON:** On 7 May, a fishing trawler approached a tanker while approximately 89 NM southeast of Sao Tome.

**D.** (U) **NIGERIA:** On 6 May, an unknown number of perpetrators intercepted a passenger boat during its transit along the Onne River, robbed its 20 passengers and abducted seven before departing.

**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) HAITI: During the evening of 13 April, heavily armed individuals hijacked the ship JEVI VLE and kidnapped its six crew members near Arcahaie, on the eastern side of the Gulf of Gonâve and approximately 16 NM northwest of Port-au-Prince Port. The ship was heading toward the island of La Gonâve with a cargo of 1,500 bags of rice. The information was confirmed by the Maritime and Navigation Service of Haiti. (HaitiLibre)

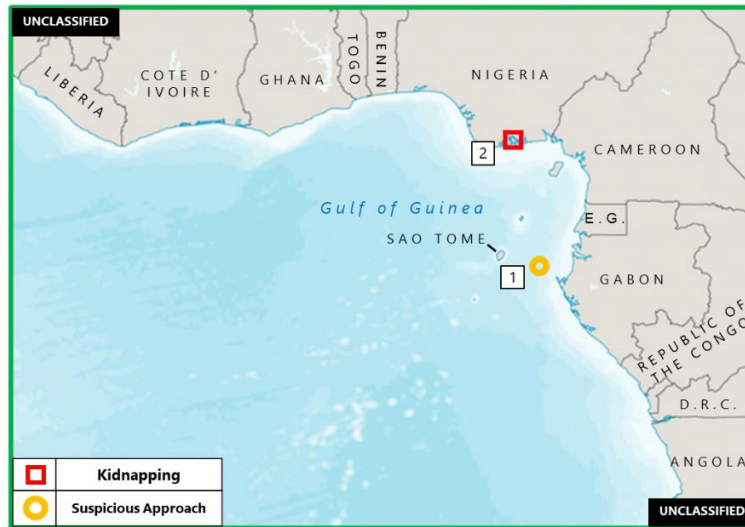
2. (U) GUYANA: On 12 April, three perpetrators armed with knives boarded a Cyprus-flagged container ship as it was berthing at Georgetown Port, near position 06:48N – 058:10W. The master raised the alarm and mustered the crew. After hearing the alarm, the perpetrators escaped. The vessel reported the incident to the authorities and a patrol boat was dispatched to search the vessel's location for suspicious activity while a security team performed a search of the vessel. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

**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:



(U) Figure 1. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Armed robbery at Sea

1. (U) GABON: On 7 May at 1630 UTC, a fishing trawler approached a tanker while approximately 89 NM southeast of Sao Tome, near position 00:15S – 008:05E. The closest point of approach was 0.9 NM. The trawler was not reporting or identifying on AIS. The tanker altered course and increased speed, which resulted in the trawler aborting the approach. The tanker's crew did not observe any weapons or ladders on the trawler. The tanker continued to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 6 May at an unspecified time, an unknown number of perpetrators intercepted a passenger boat during its transit on the Onne River between Bonny and Onne (exact position not specified). The perpetrators robbed the boat's 20 passengers and abducted 7 before departing. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) ANGOLA: On 15 April at 0352 UTC, a vessel received a distress call on SAT-C phone from a person pretending to be the Coast Guard and Maritime Regional Coordination Center (MRCC) while approximately 130 NM west of Tombua, near position 15:36S – 009:40E. The person stated that a fishing vessel located about 0.5 NM from the harbor of Tombua was in distress and seeking assistance. The vessel called the MRCC to verify the authenticity of the distress call. After the MRCC could not confirm its authenticity, the vessel concluded that it had not been a genuine distress call. (MDAT-GoG)

4. (U) ANGOLA: On 12 April at 0045 local time, two wooden boats approached and lingered on the port side of a fire fighting vessel anchored at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:44S – 013:18E. The officer of the watch raised the alarm after observing the boats' approach and subsequent landing on the port side of the vessel. Upon hearing the alarm, the boats moved away from the anchored vessel. (Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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



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



(U) Figure 3. Arabian Sea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 8 May at an unspecified time, a small fast boat with three persons onboard approached a merchant vessel while underway approximately 350 NM east of Socotra, Yemen, near position 11:49N – 060:32E. Following the approach, the boat turned away and returned to a 30-meter fishing vessel that had another three speedboats located at its stern. All vessels appeared to be acting together. No weapons or ladders were observed. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 7 May at 0205 UTC, an attack occurred on a Panama-flagged container ship while underway approximately 82 NM south of Aden, Yemen, near position 11:23N – 045:01E. The master reported that two explosions hit the water approximately 200 meters from the vessel. The vessel and crew were reported safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) RED SEA: On 29 April at 0702 UTC, three antiship ballistic missiles (ASBMs) and three UAVs launched from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen targeted the Malta-flagged bulk carrier CYCLADES while underway approximately 51 NM northwest of Mokha, Yemen, near position 13:42N – 042:27E. The company security officer reported that the vessel had sustained damage, the vessel and crew were safe, and that the vessel was continuing its transit. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; U.S. Central Command; Maritime Executive)

4. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 28 April at 1440 UTC, a small boat with four persons onboard approached the port side of a merchant vessel underway approximately 177 NM southeast of Nishtun, Yemen (exact position not specified). After the vessel conducted evasive maneuvers, the boat ceased its pursuit and departed the area. Following the incident, the master reported the vessel and its crew were safe and that the vessel was resuming its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 26 April at 2200 UTC, a UAV targeted the Madeira-flagged container ship MSC ORION while underway approximately 300 NM southeast of the Horn of Africa, or more than 170 NM south of Socotra Island, near position 07:53N – 056:32E. The ship reported an explosion and found debris believed to be a UAV onboard. The master reported minor damage to the vessel, no injuries to the crew, and that the vessel was continuing its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Maritime Executive)

6. (U) RED SEA: On 26 April at 1500 UTC, three ASBMs launched from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen landed in the vicinity of two crude oil tankers, the Antigua and Barbuda-flagged MAISHA and the Panama-flagged ANDROMEDA STAR, while underway approximately 14 NM southwest of Mokha, Yemen (exact positions not specified). One missile impacted the water and two struck the ANDROMEDA STAR, causing minor damage. No other ship damage or crew injuries were reported, and the vessels continued their transits. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; U.S. Central Command)

7. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 25 April at 0715 UTC, the master of an underway merchant vessel reported that a loud bang was heard, followed by a splash and smoke coming from the sea, approximately 15 NM southwest of Aden, Yemen (exact position not specified). The vessel was not hit and all crew were reported safe. The vessel proceeded to its next port of call. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

8. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 24 April at 0900 UTC, an ASBM launched from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen targeted the U.S.-flagged container ship MAERSK YORKTOWN while underway approximately 72 NM southeast of Djibouti, near position 11:18N – 044:18E. U.S. Central Command confirmed that coalition forces engaged and destroyed the ASBM. The master reported an explosion in the water at a distance from the vessel. The vessel and crew were reported safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Maritime Executive; vesseltracker.com)

9. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 21 April at 1035 UTC, three skiffs approached a Panama-flagged container ship from a distance of 5 NM, approximately 50 NM south of Socotra Island, Yemen, near position 11:36N – 054:35E. As the skiffs continued their approach, the ship altered course and, after a period of time, the skiffs stopped their pursuit.

The master reported that the vessel and crew were safe, and that the vessel would proceed to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics)

10. (U) GULF OF OMAN: On 13 April at 0443 UTC, members of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) used a helicopter to board the Madeira-flagged container ship MSC ARIES while underway approximately 50 NM northeast of Fujairah, United Arab Emirates (exact position not specified). Iran's state news agency IRNA said the IRGC had seized the vessel that is "linked to Israel" and that it was being brought to Iran's territorial waters. There are 25 crew members of five nationalities onboard, consisting of 17 Indians, four Filipinos, two Pakistanis, one Russian, and one Estonian. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Reuters)

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

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 1 May at 0154 local time, two robbers armed with knives boarded an oil tanker anchored at Belawan Anchorage, near position 03:54N – 098:45E. The crew spotted the robbers onboard and raised the alarm. After hearing the alarm, the robbers fled with ship's stores. All crew were reported safe following the incident and the vessel did not require any assistance. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 14 April at 1020 local time, three or four robbers boarded the barge HEXAGRO 9 under tow by the Malaysia-flagged tug BONGAWAN 9 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:18N – 104:15E. Approximately 20 minutes later, the master reported that the robbers had left the barge. The master reported to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that the crew was safe, scrap metal had been stolen, and that no assistance was required. (ReCAAP)

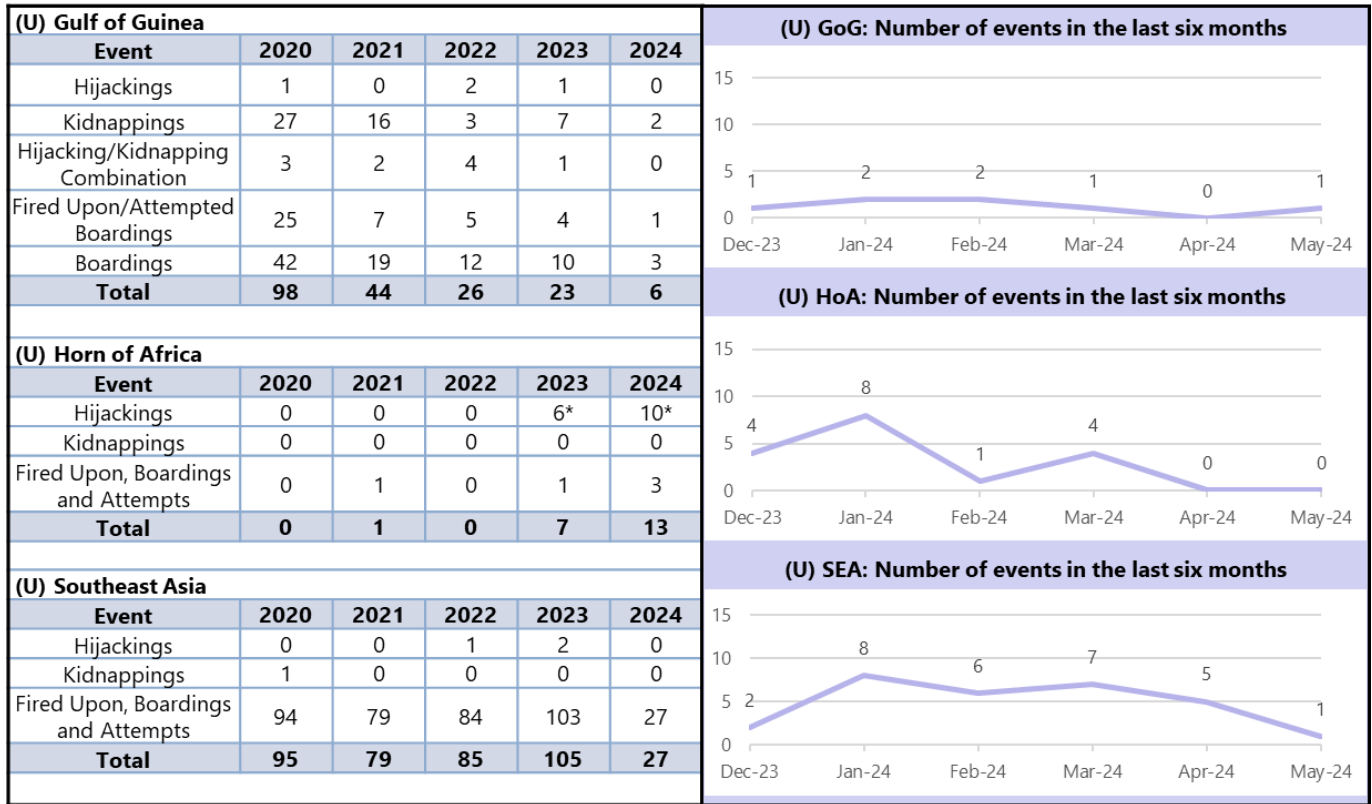
3. (U) INDONESIA: On 14 April at 0319 local time, five perpetrators boarded the Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier CASANOVA in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:40E. The 3rd engineer discovered the perpetrators, several of whom were reportedly armed with pistols, in the engine room and notified the bridge. The master raised the alarm, mustered the crew, and had them search the vessel. During the search, the crew were unable to ascertain any loss of property. The master reported to Singapore VTIS that all crew were safe. The vessel did not require assistance, and continued its voyage. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 April at 0525 local time, four robbers boarded a chemical tanker at Balikpapan Anchorage, near position 01:17S – 116:47E. The robbers boarded the tanker using the anchor chain, broke into the forecabin store, and escaped with ship's stores and properties. (IMB)

**J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:** No current incidents to report.

**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**



\*Horn of Africa hijacking numbers include Dhows and Fishing Vessels

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="#">2024-006: Southern Red Sea, Bab el Mandeb Strait, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean, Somali Basin, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Strait of Hormuz, and Persian Gulf – Threats to Commercial Vessels</a>	18 APR 24	15 OCT 24
<a href="#">2024-005: Global – U.S. Maritime Advisory Updates, Resources, and Contacts</a>	16 APR 24	12 OCT 24
<a href="#">2024-003: Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations</a>	26 FEB 24	25 AUG 24
<a href="#">2024-002: Worldwide – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence</a>	21 FEB 24	19 AUG 24
<a href="#">2023-016: Gulf of Guinea – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom</a>	27 DEC 23	24 JUN 24

(U) **ICOD:** 8 May 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/>