



Worldwide

(U) Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 25 September–23 October 2024

24 OCTOBER 2024

(U) Executive Summary

(U) Scope

(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.

(U) Warnings, Advisories and Alerts: See Appendix C for active advisories.

(U) Summary:

1. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 23 October, five small boats approached a China-flagged bulk carrier while underway approximately 48 NM south of Aden, Yemen.
2. (U) INDONESIA: On 23 October, six perpetrators armed with knives boarded a tanker while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).
3. (U) SOMALIA: On 22 October, a possible pirate action group consisting of 13 armed pirates launched near Hobyo heading out toward the Indian Ocean.
4. (U) GHANA: On 18 October, an unknown number of perpetrators boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Takoradi Anchorage.
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 October, one unarmed perpetrator boarded a Malta-flagged bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.
6. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 October, 10 robbers armed with knives boarded a Liberia-flagged bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.
7. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 October, five perpetrators armed with knives boarded a Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.
8. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 October, one robber armed with a knife boarded a Singapore-flagged tanker anchored at Belawan Anchorage on the Malacca Strait.

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE

(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.

(U) NORTH AMERICA

1. (U) MEXICO: On 14 October at 2000 local time, four armed robbers boarded an offshore supply vessel operating near *FPSO Miamte*, approximately 5 NM northeast of Sanchez Magallanes in the Bay of Campeche, near position 18:22N – 093:49W. The perpetrators boarded from a small fishing boat and stole crew belongings and ship's property, including self-contained breathing apparatuses. Following the incident, the crew was reported safe. Two other vessels also reported seeing the same small fishing boat in the area. (Clearwater Dynamics)
2. (U) MEXICO: On 6 October at 1915 local time, five armed robbers wearing masks boarded an offshore supply vessel while underway to Dos Bocas port in the Bay of Campeche, near position 18:30N – 093:13W. The robbers stole mobile phones, laptops, portable radios, and breathing apparatuses and departed the vessel in a small boat. (Clearwater Dynamics)

(U) CENTRAL AMERICA – CARIBBEAN – SOUTH AMERICA

(U) No current incidents to report.

(U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA

(U) No current incidents to report.

(U) NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC

(U) No current incidents to report.

(U) MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA

(U) No current incidents to report.

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(U) WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA

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(U) Figure 1. Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea in the Gulf of Guinea



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1. **(U) GHANA:** On 18 October at 2219 local time, an unknown number of perpetrators boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:52N – 001:41W. The duty crew noticed movement by cargo hold number 1, raised the alarm, and the crew mustered. Following the raising of the alarm, the perpetrators escaped the vessel empty-handed. The ship reported the incident to port authorities and members of the coast guard boarded the vessel to investigate. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

(U) ARABIAN GULF

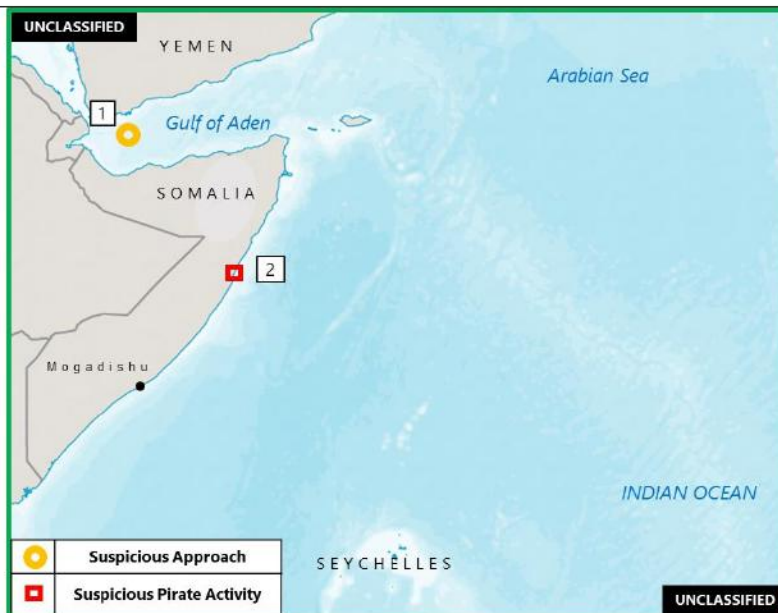
(U) No current incidents to report.

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(U) INDIAN OCEAN – EAST AFRICA – RED SEA

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



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1. **(U) GULF OF ADEN:** On 23 October at 0250 UTC, five small boats approached the China-flagged bulk carrier *Huan Hang 99* while underway approximately 48 NM south of Aden, Yemen (exact position not specified). One of the boats approached to within 0.3 NM of the vessel. The armed embarked security team fired warning shots to deter any further approach, and the boats departed the area. The master reported that the vessel and crew were safe following the incident. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Joint Maritime Information Center)
2. **(U) SOMALIA:** On the evening of 22 October, a possible pirate action group consisting of 13 armed pirates launched from Ceel Huur near Hobyo, heading out toward the Indian Ocean. The pirates may be looking for ships to target. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
3. **(U) RED SEA:** On 10 October, Huthi missiles targeted the Liberia-flagged product tanker *Olympic Spirit* while underway approximately 70 NM southwest of Hodeida, Yemen (exact position not specified). At 0010 UTC, an unknown projectile struck the vessel's bridge area on the starboard side. During a second attack at 0328 UTC, two more projectiles exploded in the water close to the tanker. The third attack occurred at approximately 0803 UTC, near position 14:28N – 041:50E, when another projectile struck the water in close proximity to the vessel. All crew members were reported safe with no injuries. The vessel

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sustained minor damage during the initial attack but was still seaworthy and able to continue under its own power to its next port of call. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Joint Maritime Information Center; gCaptain; Maritime Executive)

4. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 1 October at 1240 UTC, a UAV approached a Liberia-flagged tanker drifting approximately 224 NM southwest of Karachi, Pakistan, near position 21:56N – 064:26E. The UAV, described as blue-grey in color and approximately 10 meters in length, came within 10 to 20 meters of the vessel's funnel before leaving the area. After the crew mustered, no further UAV activity was noted. (Clearwater Dynamics)
5. (U) RED SEA: On 1 October at 0550 UTC, a missile struck the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier *Minoan Courage* while underway approximately 97 NM northwest of Hodeida, Yemen (exact position not specified). The bulk carrier sustained damage, but all crew members are reported safe. After the attack, the vessel resumed its voyage and proceeded to its next port of call. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)
6. (U) RED SEA: Overnight from 30 September to 1 October between 2125 UTC and 0500 UTC, four missiles and one unmanned surface vessel (USV) targeted the Panama-flagged crude oil tanker *Cordelia Moon* while underway approximately 64 NM northwest of Hodeida, Yemen (exact position not specified). The first missile attack occurred at 2125 UTC, followed by another at 2225 UTC. The third missile attack occurred on 1 October at 0140 UTC, and the fourth and final missile attack came at 0253 UTC. Each missile attack resulted in splashes and explosions near the tanker, with the closest striking the water within 5 meters of the vessel. After the four missile attacks the master reported no damage to the vessel, and that the crew was safe. At 0500 UTC, a USV hit the tanker and punctured the number 6 port ballast tank. Following the USV attack, the tanker continued to its next port of call. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com; Maritime Executive)

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(U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA

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



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1. **(U) INDONESIA:** On 23 October at 0035 local time, six perpetrators armed with knives boarded a tanker while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:41E. After the crew spotted the perpetrators in the engine room, the alarm was raised and the crew mustered. Aware of the crew's alertness, the perpetrators escaped. All crew members were safe and no injuries were reported. No items were reported stolen. The vessel did not require assistance and continued to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics)
2. **(U) INDONESIA:** On 18 October at 0233 local time, one unarmed perpetrator boarded the Malta-flagged bulk carrier *Maran Spirit* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:05N – 103:42E. After the crew spotted the perpetrator in the engine room, the alarm was raised and the crew mustered to conduct a search. No perpetrators were found and nothing was stolen. All crew members were safe and no injuries were reported. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
3. **(U) INDONESIA:** On 18 October at 0208 local time, 10 robbers armed with knives boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier *Aspasia Luck* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:07N – 103:30E. After the robbers were spotted in the engine room, the alarm was raised and the crew mustered to search the vessel. The master reported that no perpetrators were found and that engine spare parts had been

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stolen. All crew members were reported safe and no injuries were reported. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)

4. **(U) INDONESIA:** On 18 October at 0055 local time, five perpetrators armed with knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier *Nyon* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:07N – 103:29E. After the perpetrators were spotted in the engine room, the alarm was raised and the crew mustered to conduct a search. No perpetrators were found and nothing had been stolen. All crew members were reported safe and uninjured. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)
5. **(U) INDONESIA:** On 17 October at 0215 local time, one robber boarded the Singapore-flagged product tanker *BW Kestrel* while anchored at Belawan Anchorage, near position 03:48N – 098:44E. A crew member observed a small boat near the anchor chain of the tanker. He attempted to chase off the boat but was unsuccessful. Upon turning around, the crew member encountered a perpetrator armed with a machete. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. The crew searched the vessel and found that the padlock on the forecastle had been broken. The master reported that ship's properties had been stolen. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
6. **(U) INDONESIA:** On 2 October at 0109 local time, five perpetrators armed with knives boarded the Cook Islands-flagged tanker *Torex* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:43E. The crew sighted the robbers boarding at the stern of the tanker and in the engine room. The master raised the alarm and the crew mustered to search the ship. Following the incident, the master reported that the vessel and crew were safe and that engine spare parts had been stolen. The vessel did not require assistance and continued its transit to its next port of call. (ReCAAP)
7. **(U) INDONESIA:** On 30 September at 0102 local time, five perpetrators boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier *New Destiny* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:05N – 103:43E. The crew spotted the perpetrators, one of whom was carrying a suspected firearm, in the engine room. The crew mustered and conducted a search, but no perpetrators were found. After the search, the master reported all crew were safe, and that nothing was stolen. The vessel did not require assistance and continued its transit to its next port of call. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
8. **(U) SOUTH CHINA SEA:** On 29 September at 1000 local time, an unidentified ship with pennant number 301 approached a Vietnam-flagged fishing vessel operating in the Vietnam-claimed area of the Paracel Islands, near position 16:11N – 111:12E. The ship closed from astern toward the fishing vessel and lowered two small boats. A second ship, numbered 101, also approached the fishing vessel and lowered another boat.

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Approximately 40 assailants armed with iron bars boarded and attacked the crew. After several hours, the attackers departed the fishing vessel, taking its cargo of fish, equipment, and fishing gear. The boarding party's interpreter told the injured crew members to go back to Vietnam. Four of the injured fishermen were hospitalized after their return to Quang Ngai province. (Maritime Executive)

(U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 13 October at 0148 local time, two robbers boarded the forward deck of an anchored bulk carrier in Kutubdia Anchorage, near position 21:48N – 091:47E. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered to search the vessel. The perpetrators, seeing the crew's alertness, escaped in small boats with 10 accomplices. After the search, the crew reported ship's stores and crew belongings had been stolen. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

(U) AUSTRALIA – NEW ZEALAND – PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

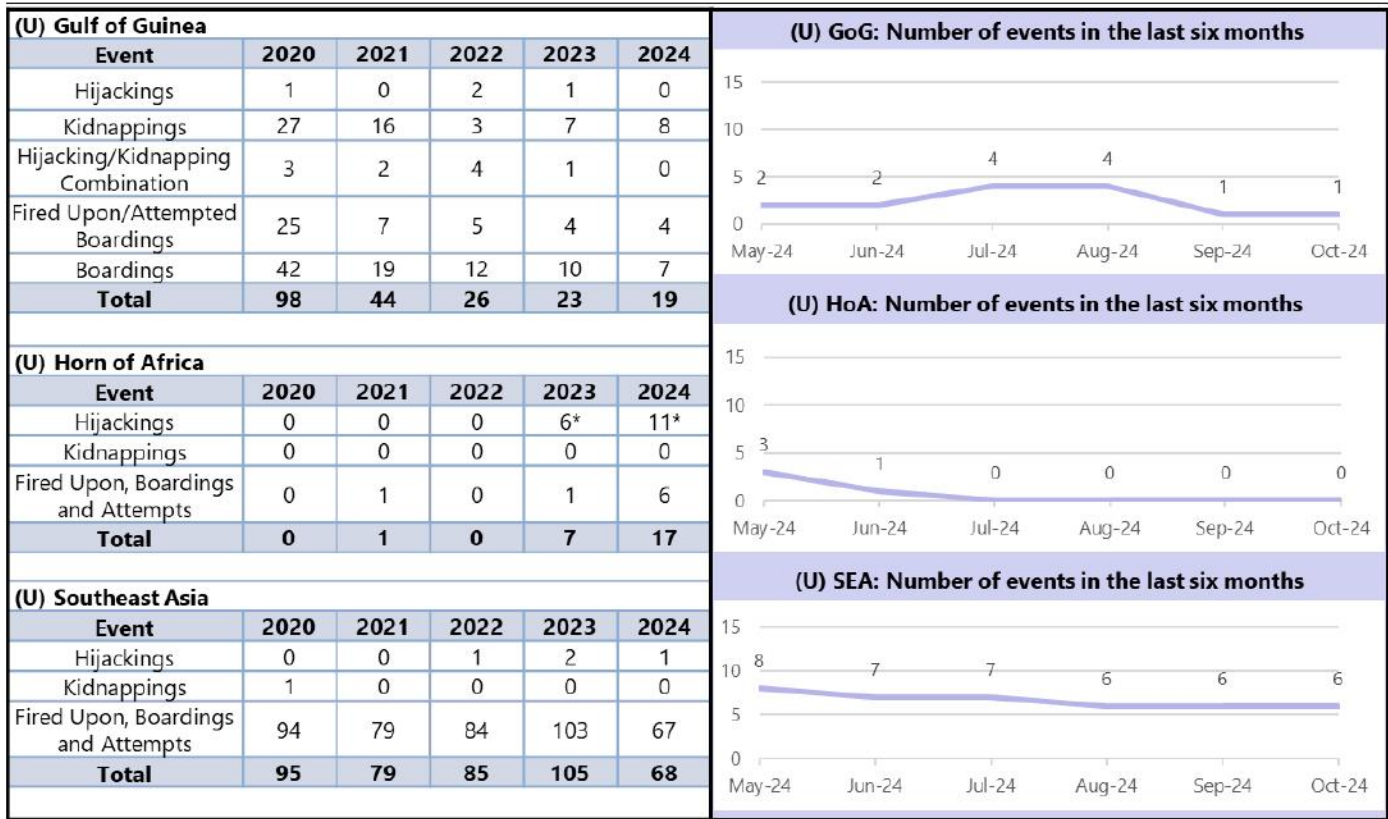
(U) No current incidents to report.

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(U) Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends

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(U) * HORN OF AFRICA HIJACKING NUMBERS INCLUDE DHOWS AND FISHING VESSELS

(U) Appendix B: Definitions

(U) 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.

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

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(U) Active U.S. Maritime Advisories

Title	Effective Date	Expiration Date
2024-013: Global – U.S. Maritime Advisory Updates, Resources, and Contacts	11 Oct 2024	11 Apr 2025
2024-011: Worldwide – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence	9 Oct 2024	7 Apr 2025
2024-012: Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations	6 Sep 2024	21 Feb 2025
2024-010: Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	16 Aug 2024	12 Feb 2025
2024-009: Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman – Iranian Illegal Boarding/Detention/Seizure	16 Aug 2024	12 Feb 2025
2024-008: Southern Red Sea, Bab el Mandeb Strait, and Gulf of Aden – Houthi Attacks on Commercial Vessels	16 Aug 2024	12 Feb 2025
2024-007: Gulf of Guinea – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	24 Jun 2024	21 Dec 2024

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