



Worldwide

(U) Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 19 February–19 March 2025

21 MARCH 2025

(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) INDONESIA: On 19 March, two robbers boarded a container ship while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).
2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 17 March, a number of robbers in three small boats boarded a barge under tow by a Malaysia-flagged tug while underway in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.
3. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 17 March, ten pirates boarded a Panama-flagged asphalt tanker while underway approximately 40 NM southeast of the island of Principe, Sao Tome and Principe, and kidnapped 10 crew members.
4. (U) SOMALIA: On 16 March, eight armed pirates hijacked a Yemen-flagged fishing dhow off the coast of Durdura in the Indian Ocean.
5. (U) MALAYSIA: On 16 March, a number of robbers in two small boats boarded a barge under tow by a Malaysia-flagged tug while underway in the approaches to the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.
6. (U) MALAYSIA: On 16 March, a number of robbers boarded a container barge under tow by a Malaysia-flagged tug while underway in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.
7. (U) COLOMBIA: On 13 March, eight perpetrators boarded a Portugal-flagged container ship while underway approximately 36 NM northwest of Santa Marta.
8. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 March, four robbers armed with knives and guns boarded a container ship while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.

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(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

(U) No current incidents to report.

(U) CENTRAL AMERICA – CARIBBEAN – SOUTH AMERICA

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(U) Figure 1. Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea in South America



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1. **(U) COLOMBIA:** On 13 March at 2217 local time, eight perpetrators in two speedboats boarded a Portugal-flagged container ship while underway approximately 36 NM northwest of Santa Marta, near position 11:49N – 074:25W. The bridge raised the alarm and notified

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the authorities which resulted in a patrol boat being dispatched to investigate the incident. The crew mustered in the citadel until it was observed that the perpetrators had made their escape. The container ship diverted to Santa Marta under direction of the coast guard in order to be inspected. The master confirmed that the crew was safe and that nothing had been stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) ECUADOR: On 8 March at 0030 local time, robbers in two unlit speedboats approached a container ship while underway approximately 14 NM west of Isla Puna Island, near position 02:53S – 080:30W. As the speedboats approached the vessel, the master alerted local authorities, and when the perpetrators attempted to board the ship, the master increased speed and conducted evasive maneuvers, which resulted in the perpetrators aborting their attempt. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

(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 2. Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea in Gulf of Guinea

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1. **(U) GULF OF GUINEA:** On 17 March at 2100 UTC, 10 pirates in one speedboat boarded the Panama-flagged asphalt tanker *Bitu River* while underway approximately 40 NM southeast of Santo Antonio on the island of Príncipe, Sao Tome and Principe, near position 01:16N – 007:59E. After the boarding, the crew retreated to the citadel. Reports stated that shots had been fired but that no crew injuries had been reported. On 18 March at 0719 UTC, the company security officer reported that the pirates had disembarked the tanker with 10 kidnapped crew, including the captain and the chief engineer. The ten abducted crew members were specifically chosen and comprise of seven Indian nationals and three Romanian nationals. The vessel had then headed to Libreville, Gabon, for a safe port. (MDAT-GoG; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)
2. (U) GHANA: On 24 February at 2338 local time, two perpetrators boarded a Malta-flagged product tanker while anchored at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:52N – 001:42W. After the duty crew spotted the perpetrators onboard the tanker, the alarm was raised, which caused the perpetrators to escape into a waiting small boat with two more persons onboard. Nothing has been reported stolen and all crew members were reported safe. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

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(U) PERSIAN GULF

1. (U) STRAIT OF HORMUZ: On 10 March at 1830 UTC, vessels experienced GPS interference, with disruptions lasting several hours, affecting navigation systems and requiring vessels to rely on backup methods. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

(U) INDIAN OCEAN – EAST AFRICA – RED SEA

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(U) Figure 3. Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea in East Africa

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1. **(U) SOMALIA:** On 16 March at 1300 UTC, eight armed pirates boarded, took the crew hostage, and hijacked the Yemen-flagged fishing dhow *Al Hidayah* while operating off the coast of Durdura in the Indian Ocean (exact position not specified). The Yemen Coast Guard Headquarters in Aden confirmed the incident and stated that the dhow is crewed by eight Somali nationals. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; Joint Maritime Information Center)

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(U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA

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(U) Figure 4. Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea in Southeast Asia



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1. **(U) INDONESIA:** On 19 March at 0330 local time, two robbers boarded a container ship while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:05N – 103:43E. The duty crew observed the robbers on deck and notified the master. The alarm was raised and a PA announcement was made resulting in the robbers escaping with stolen ship's stores. After the incident, the captain reported that the crew was safe, that the vessel did not require assistance, and it was proceeding to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)
2. **(U) MALAYSIA:** On 17 March at 0532 local time, robbers from three small boats boarded the barge *POE 2502* under tow by the Malaysia-flagged tug boat *Bonspeed 10* while underway in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:12N – 103:34E. After the robbers were spotted boarding the barge, the master raised the alarm. Before departing the barge, the robbers stole scrap metal. Crew members were not injured. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
3. **(U) MALAYSIA:** On 16 March at 0856 local time, robbers from two small boats boarded the barge *POE 2502* under tow by the Malaysia-flagged tug boat *Bonspeed 10* while underway in the approaches to the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS. The master had the crew

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conduct a search but no perpetrators were found onboard the barge. The crew was not injured and scrap metal had been stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

4. **(U) MALAYSIA:** On 16 March at 001 local time, robbers boarded the container barge *Linau 135* under tow by the Malaysia-flagged tug boat *Danum 70* while underway in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:17N – 104:10E. A search conducted after the vessels reached the Western Anchorage Area of Singapore revealed that containers had been pried open and seals cut. Items missing included a gangway ladder from the barge and items from containers on the barge. All crew were safe with no injuries reported. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
5. **(U) INDONESIA:** ON 13 March at 0330 local time, four robbers armed with knives and guns boarded a container ship while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:06N – 103:44E. After boarding, the robbers entered the engine room, restrained the duty oiler crew, and locked them in a side room. The second engineer discovered the duty oiler crew and released them. The alarm was raised and the ship's crew mustered to search the vessel which confirmed that the robbers had made their escape with stolen engine spare parts. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
6. **INDONESIA:** On 11 March at 0240 local time, six robbers armed with guns boarded the Panama-flagged crude oil tanker *Prisma* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:05N – 103:43E. The robbers entered the engine room and took the chief and third engineers hostage and tied them up. The two crew managed to escape and notify the bridge of the unauthorized persons onboard. The bridge raised the alarm and activated the ship's horn, and the crew mustered. The perpetrators, seeing the ship in an alerted state, escaped empty-handed. The master reported all crew members were safe, that the vessel did not require assistance and was continuing to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; IMB)
7. **(U) INDONESIA:** On 8 March at 0145 local time, six robbers boarded the Panama-flagged general cargo ship *Mito* while berthed at port in Jakarta, near position 06:05S – 106:53E. The robbers damaged the entrance door to the wheelhouse and the anti-piracy grating, and stole generator spare parts before departing the ship. The master reported that no crew members were injured. (ReCAAP)
8. **(U) MALAYSIA:** On 7 March at 2022 local time, three robbers boarded the barge *LKH 7887* under tow by the Singapore-flagged tug boat *HK Tug 9* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:17N – 104:20E. The master confirmed that the robbers had disembarked from the barge, the crew was not injured and there was no damage to the vessel. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

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9. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 March at 0500 local time, as many as five robbers, one armed with gun-like object, boarded the Gambia-flagged crude oil tanker *Ailama* while underway in the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:42E. After the duty crew spotted the robbers in the engine room, the master raised the alarm and the crew mustered and a search was conducted with no further sighting of perpetrators. No crew members were injured and engine spare parts were stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
10. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 February at 0700 local time, several robbers, one armed with a gun-like object, boarded the Singapore-flagged product tanker *Basset* while underway in the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:08N – 103:45E. The duty crew spotted unauthorized persons entering the engine room through the steering gear room. The alarm was raised and the crew was alerted. While making their escape with stolen ship's stores, the robbers attacked and injured one crew member. The vessel diverted to Singapore Anchorage where a medical team evacuated the injured crew member to the hospital. The Singapore coast guard boarded the ship to investigate. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; IMB; Maritime Executive)
11. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 February at 0122 local time, five perpetrators, one armed with a gun-like object, boarded the Barbados-flagged bulk carrier *DSM Rose* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:05N – 103:43E. After the duty crew sighted the perpetrators in the steering gear room, the alarm was raised and the crew mustered at the bridge to search the vessel. The search revealed no perpetrators onboard and that nothing was stolen. No crew members were injured during the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; Maritime Executive)
12. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 February at 0030 local time, six perpetrators armed with hammers boarded the Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier *Ifestos* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:06N – 103:44E. After the crew spotted the perpetrators in the engine room workshop, the alarm was raised and the crew mustered at the bridge. A search was conducted with no further sighting of the perpetrators. No crew members were injured and nothing was stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; Maritime Executive)
13. (U) INDONESIA: On 26 February at 0520 local time, five perpetrators boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier *Ocean Diligence* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:06N – 103:44E. The duty crew sighted the unarmed perpetrators at the aft poop deck and raised the alarm, which mustered the crew. Seeing the crew's alertness, the perpetrators escaped empty-handed. The master confirmed that all crew members were safe and that the vessel was continuing to its next port of call. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

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14. (U) INDONESIA: On 22 February at 0310 local time, three robbers armed with knives and a gun-like object boarded the Portugal-flagged bulk carrier *Cycladic Spire* while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:02N – 103:39E. After the crew observed the robbers in the engine room, the alarm was raised and the crew mustered to conduct a search. The search revealed no perpetrators onboard and that engine spare parts had been stolen. The incident was reported to Singapore authorities, and the Singapore police coast guard boarded the ship upon arrival at the anchorage area. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
15. (U) MALAYSIA: On 19 February at 1223 local time, seven perpetrators boarded an unmanned oil platform located southeast of Terengganu in the South China Sea, near position 05:13N – 104:26E. The Petronas security group had alerted the Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) to suspicious activity on the unmanned structure. MMEA personnel discovered that the perpetrators had cut cables, gathered abandoned supplies, and dismantled equipment to later remove from the platform. MMEA authorities apprehended the perpetrators and took them to Terengganu for questioning. (Clearwater Dynamics)

(U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

1. (U) INDIA: On 7 March at 2023 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded an offshore supply vessel while anchored at Kakinada Anchorage, near position 17:00N – 082:19E. The duty crew spotted the robbers cutting mooring lines. After the alarm was raised, the perpetrators escaped into a small boat with the stolen mooring lines. (Clearwater Dynamics)

(U) AUSTRALIA – NEW ZEALAND – PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

(U) No current incidents to report.

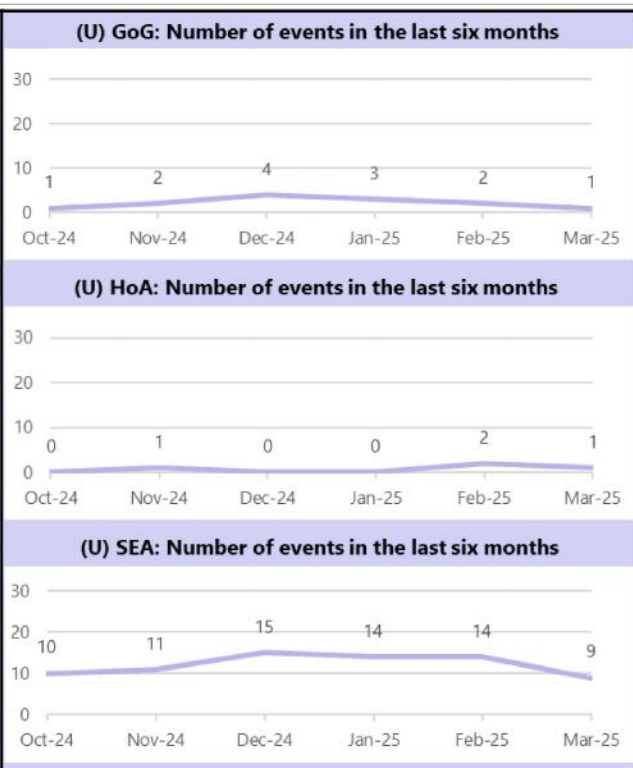
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(U) Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends

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(U) Gulf of Guinea					
Event	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Hijackings	0	2	1	0	0
Kidnappings	16	3	7	10	1
Hijacking/Kidnapping Combination	2	4	1	0	0
Fired Upon/Attempted Boardings	7	5	4	5	0
Boardings	19	12	10	10	5
Total	44	26	23	25	6
(U) Horn of Africa					
Event	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Hijackings	0	0	6*	12*	3
Kidnappings	0	0	0	0	0
Fired Upon, Boardings and Attempts	1	0	1	6	0
Total	1	0	7	18	3
(U) Southeast Asia					
Event	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Hijackings	0	1	2	1	0
Kidnappings	0	0	0	0	0
Fired Upon, Boardings and Attempts	79	84	103	97	37
Total	79	85	105	98	37



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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
2025-004: Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations	5 Mar 2025	1 Sep 2025
2025-003: Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	14 Feb 2025	11 Aug 2025
2025-002: Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman – Iranian Illegal Boarding/Detention/Seizure	14 Feb 2025	11 Aug 2025
2025-001: Southern Red Sea, Bab el Mandeb Strait, and Gulf of Aden – Houthi Attacks on Commercial Vessels	14 Feb 2025	11 Aug 2025
2024-014: Gulf of Guinea – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	20 Dec 2024	17 Jun 2025
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

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