Worldwide

(U) Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 22 April – 20 May 2026

21 MAY 2026

ICOD: 20 May 2026

(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 15 May at 0545 UTC, a vessel was boarded.
2. **(U) GULF OF GUINEA:** On 14 May at 0300 UTC, a possible robbery occurred onboard vessel.
3. **(U) GULF OF OMAN:** On 14 May at 0545 UTC, a vessel has been boarded.
4. **(U) GULF OF OMAN:** On 13 May at 0330 UTC, an attack occurred on an Indian-flagged livestock carrier.
5. **(U) BAY OF CAMPECHE:** On 09 May at 0230 UTC, a robbery occurred onboard vessel.

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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 incidents are not double-counted. In the event 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) BAY OF CAMPECHE:** On 09 May at 2230 local time, a robbery occurred onboard a multi-purpose offshore vessel that was located close to Pemex Maritime Terminal. A crew member observed a small outboard motor vessel approach their vessel and board it. There were approximately six culprits, who were armed and made verbal threats. There was no report of damage to the vessel nor items stolen. All crew members were reported safe. (Closed/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.

(U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

(U) No current incidents to report.

(U) AUSTRALIA – NEW ZEALAND – PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

(U) No current incidents to report.

(U) WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA

1. **(U) IVORY COAST:** On 14 May at 2300 local time, a possible robbery occurred on a multi-purpose offshore vessel that was anchored at Abidjan Inner Anchorage. The duty crew spotted one robber on deck and raised the alarm. After hearing the alarm, the robber jumped overboard and escaped. There was no damage to the vessel reported, and the crew members are still assessing for damage to their equipment. All crew members were reported safe. (Closed/Clearwater Dynamics)

2. **(U) IVORY COAST:** On 27 April at 0358 local time, an attempted robbery occurred on a container ship that was anchored at San Pedro anchorage. Duty crew raised the alarm after observing a number of perpetrators attempt to gain access to the vessel by climbing up the anchor chain. On hearing the alarm, the perpetrators aborted their attempt to board and fled on a wooden boat. All crew members were reported safe. (IMB/Clearwater Dynamics)

(U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA

1. **(U) SINGAPORE STRAIT:** On 12 May at 1730 UTC, an attempted robbery occurred aboard a bulk carrier while underway in the Singapore Strait. The perpetrators were armed with knives and threatened the crew. Upon the crew's response, the robbers escaped. All crew members were reported safe. (IMB/Clearwater Dynamics)

2. **(U) MALAYSIA:** On 25 April at 1200 local time, a robbery occurred onboard a tanker while it was anchored in Malaysia. During a routine inspection, duty crew logged that items of the ship's properties had been stolen. The incident was then reported to the local authorities. All crew were reported safe. (IMB/Clearwater Dynamics)

(U) PERSIAN GULF

1. **(U) GULF OF OMAN:** On 14 May at 0545 UTC, a vessel was boarded by unauthorized personnel while anchored approximately 38NM northeast of Fujairah, Oman. The vessel has been reportedly taken by the unauthorized personnel and is heading to Iranian territorial waters. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)
2. **(U) GULF OF OMAN:** On 13 May at 0330 UTC, an attack occurred on an Indian-flagged livestock carrier while underway off Limah, Oman. The report stated that an explosion occurred on the vessel. Due to the damage from the explosion, the vessel subsequently sank. All crew members were rescued by Omani authorities and were reported safe. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)
3. **(U) PERSIAN GULF:** On 10 May at 0301 UTC, a bulk carrier was struck by an unknown projectile while operating approximately 23NM northeast of Doha, Qatar. A small fire broke out and was quickly extinguished. All crew members were reported safe. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)
4. **(U) STRAIT OF HORMUZ:** On 05 May at 2310 local time, a tanker was attacked while underway, approximately 78NM north of Fujairah, United Arab Emirates. Initial reports state that the tanker was struck by unidentified projectiles. All crew were reported safe. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)

5. **(U) GULF OF OMAN:** On 05 May at 2200 local time, a cargo vessel was struck by an unidentified projectile while operating in the Strait of Hormuz. The vessel sustained impact from an unknown projectile, and a fire had been reported onboard the vessel. An unknown number of crewmen were wounded. The origin of the projectile and the identity of the aggressor have not been established at this time. (UKMTO/Closed/Clearwater Dynamics)
6. **(U) GULF OF OMAN:** On 05 May at 1500 local time, a bulk carrier was attacked by multiple small craft approximately 11NM west of Sirik, Iran. All crew have been reported safe. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)
7. **(U) GULF OF OMAN:** On 05 May at an unspecified time, a tanker was attacked north of Muscat, Oman. Reports indicate that three projectiles splashed into the water in close proximity to the vessel. No further details regarding the condition of the tanker or crew have been disclosed at this time. (Closed/Clearwater Dynamics)
8. **(U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:** On 05 May at an unspecified time, a vessel was hit while at anchor in the vicinity of Ras Al Khaimah, Khaimah, United Arab Emirates. Reports state that the vessel had been struck and is currently on fire, leading other vessels in the area to relocate to Dubai anchorages. (Closed/Clearwater Dynamics)
9. **(U) GULF OF OMAN:** On 22 April at 0338 local time, a cargo ship was fired upon approximately 8NM west of Iran. All crew members were reported safe and no damage to the vessel has been reported. (UKMTO/Closed/Clearwater Dynamics)
10. **(U) OMAN:** On 22 April at 0100 local time, a container vessel was fired upon while underway 15NM northeast of Oman. The vessel was reportedly approached by one IRGC gun boat and Iranian forces have reported the vessel was seized. (Closed/Open/UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)
11. **(U) OMAN:** On 22 April at 0055 local time, a vessel was reportedly attacked by an IRGC gun boat approximately 15NM northeast of Oman. Heavy damage to the bridge occurred during the firing. (UKMTO/Clearwater Dynamics)

(U) INDIAN OCEAN – EAST AFRICA – RED SEA

1. **(U) GULF OF ADEN:** On 15 May at 0545 UTC, a fishing vessel was stopped and boarded by unauthorized personnel. Witnesses observed AK-47 rifles onboard the culprits' small craft. There is still an ongoing investigation by ATALANTA. All crew members were reported safe. (MSCIO/Clearwater Dynamics)
2. **(U) SOMALIA:** On 09 May at 1016 UTC, a dhow was possibly hijacked while transiting to Kismayo, Somalia. The dhow was reportedly boarded and possibly taken over by armed pirates. (MSCIO/Clearwater Dynamics)
3. **(U) SOMALIA:** On 28 April at 1900 local time, a vessel was approached by multiple suspicious crafts while underway approximately 488NM southeast of Hobyo, Somalia. The vessel executed evasive maneuvers, increased speed, and the armed security team onboard displayed weapons which resulted in the small craft aborting its approach. All crew were reported safe. (MSCIO/Clearwater Dynamics)
4. **(U) SOMALIA:** On 26 April at 2300 local time, a cargo vessel was hijacked while underway near Garacad, Somalia. Initial reports indicate that a number of unauthorized persons have taken control of the vessel which has been re-directed to within the Somalian territorial waters. Local authorities are investigating. (UKMTO/Closed/Clearwater Dynamics)

5. **(U) SOMALIA:** On 23 April at 1020 local time, a container vessel was approached off the coast of Somalia by two small craft with two armed perpetrators. Warning shots were fired by the vessel's security team, after one of the small craft approached within 600m. The small craft returned fire before moving away from the container ship and clearing the area. All crew were reported safe and accounted for. (UKMTO/IMB/Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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

(U) Gulf of Guinea

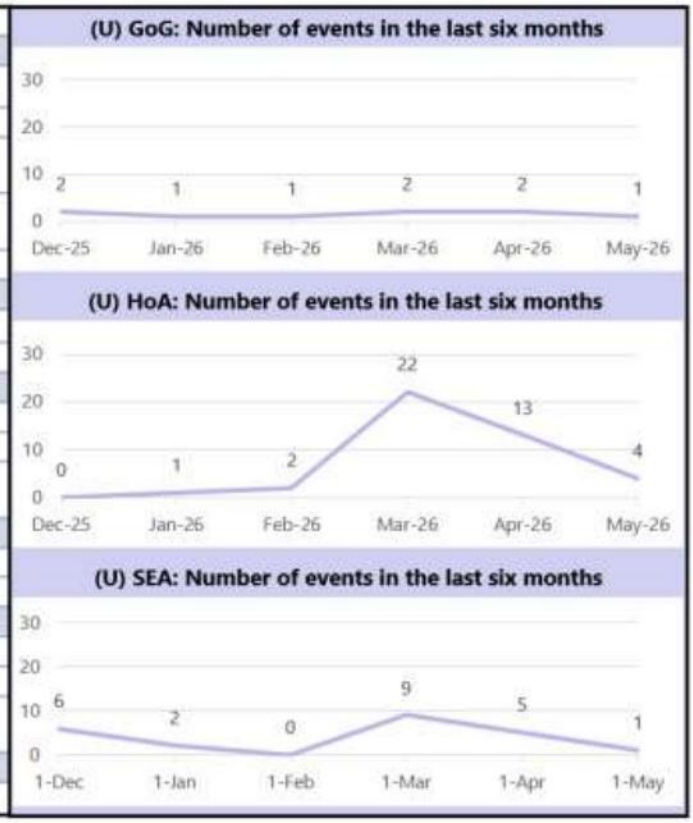
Event	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Hijackings	2	1	0	0	0
Kidnappings	3	7	10	9	1
Hijacking/Kidnapping Combination	4	1	0	0	0
Fired Upon/Attempted Boardings	5	4	5	5	1
Boardings	12	10	10	15	5
Total	**26**	**23**	**25**	**29**	**7**

(U) Horn of Africa

Event	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Hijackings	0	6*	12*	4*	2
Kidnappings	0	0	0	0	0
Fired Upon, Boardings and Attempts	0	1	6	9	28
Total	**0**	**7**	**18**	**13**	**30**

(U) Southeast Asia

Event	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Hijackings	1	2	2	0	0
Kidnappings	0	0	0	0	0
Fired Upon, Boardings and Attempts	84	103	96	134	15
Total	**85**	**105**	**98**	**134**	**15**



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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.

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

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(U) **Active U.S. Maritime Advisories**

2026-008-Global-U.S. Maritime Advisory Updates, Resources, and Contacts	24 Apr 2026	21 Oct 2026
2026-007-Worlwide-Worldwide-Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence	24 Apr 2026	21 Oct 2026
2026-006-Red Sea, Bab el Mandeb Strait, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, and Somali Basin-Houthi Attacks on Commercial Vessels	26 Mar 2026	22 Sep 2026
2026-005-Black Sea and Sea of Azov-Military Combat Operations	19 Mar 2026	15 Sep 2026
2026-004-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman-Iranian Attacks on Commercial Vessels	13 Mar 2026	09 Sep 2026
2026-002-Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean-piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	09 Feb 2026	08 Aug 2026
2025-015-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	15 Dec 2025	13 Jun 2026

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