

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** **1 May – 5 June 2019**



6 June 2019



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1. (U) **Scope Note**

1. (U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message 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 and Advisories:**

A. (U) No current incidents to report.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN: On 4 June, authorities confiscated over a ton of cocaine and arrested seven people aboard a Brazilian fishing boat off Portugal.

B. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 June, five Port Harcourt-bound speedboats traveling in a convoy were attacked by heavily armed men.

C. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 June, heavily armed men attacked a Port Harcourt-bound passenger boat in Rivers State.

D. (U) AZORES: On 1 June, Portuguese authorities seized 592 kilograms of cocaine from a sailing yacht in the Port of Horta.

E. (U) BRAZIL: On 31 May, six persons boarded an anchored bulk carrier in Macapa Anchorage.

F. (U) MALAYSIA: On 30 May, robbers boarded the Malaysia-flagged tugboat ASIA JAYA 28 approximately 3.4 nm southeast of Tanjung Piai.

G. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN: On 27 May, Spanish tax police boarded the Spain-flagged fishing vessel GURE LEIRE in an area approximately a thousand nautical miles west of Vigo, Spain.

4. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for June 2019. To apply for JMSDF escort, visit http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html, please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932; Fax: +81-3-5253-1643. Email: hqt-info-piracy@mlit.go.jp (MSCHOA)

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: China Navy convoy schedule for June 2019. For further information, please email: planavy@navy.mil.cn, or call Tel: 441 202 486 or 00870 773907298. (MSCHOA)

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: South Korea Navy convoy schedule for June 2019. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at the Escort Task Group CCC: 001-1-646-466-9521 / 001-1-646-466-9522, or INMARSAT: (001)-870-773-110-528. Email: cheonghae29@navy.mil.kr or cheonghae29@gmail.com (MSCHOA)

5. (U) Details: 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 last 30 days. Every effort is made to ensure that 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.

A. (U) NORTH AMERICA:

1. (U) UNITED STATES: On 13 May, more than 1,000 pounds of marijuana were discovered in a maritime smuggling attempt gone wrong after a boat and car were found abandoned at Pescadero State Beach in northern California. The Sheriff's Office was alerted to the incident after a boat was seen along the coast and a white Chevrolet Suburban was found stuck in the sand. (www.smdailyjournal.com)

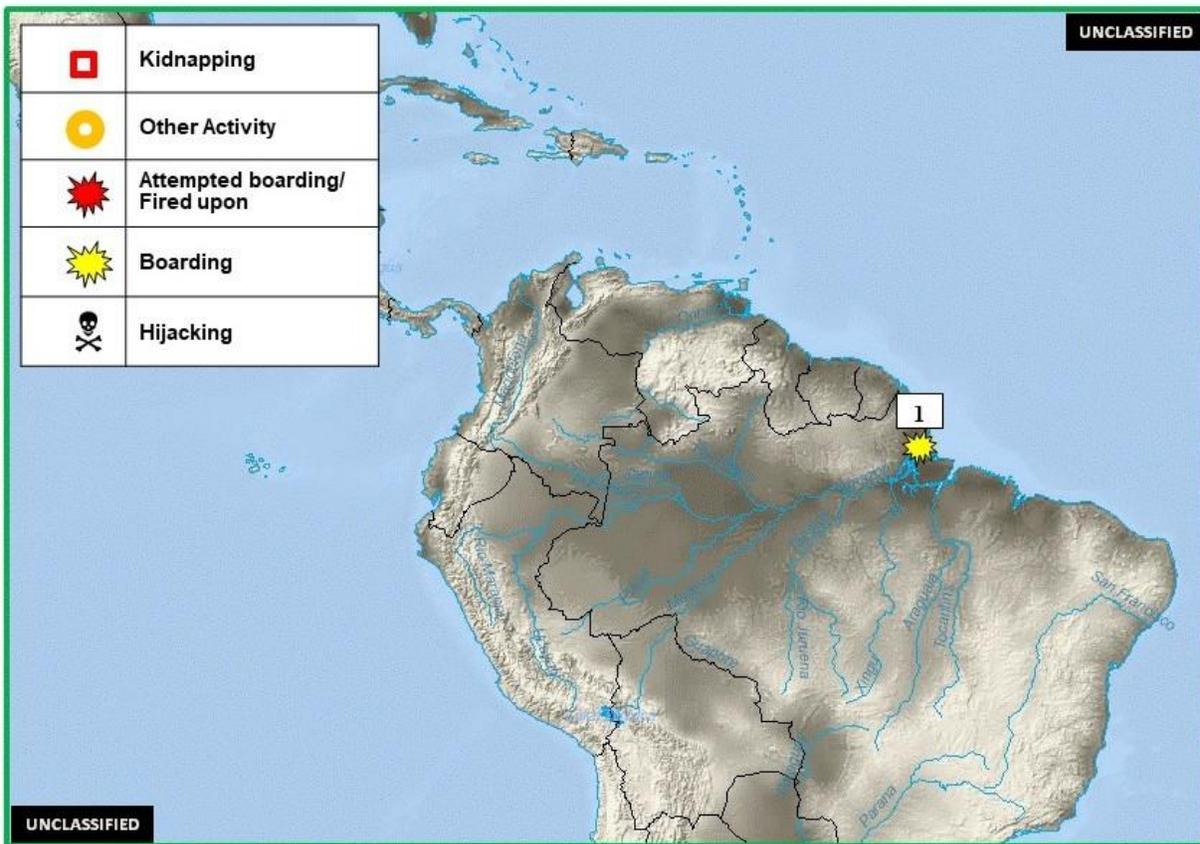
B. (U) CENTRAL AMERICA - CARIBBEAN - SOUTH AMERICA:

Figure 1. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) BRAZIL: On 31 May, six persons armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier via the anchor chain near position 00:03N - 050:58W, Macapa Anchorage. A duty crew member on routine rounds spotted the persons and immediately informed the master, who raised the alarm. A PA announcement was made, whistle was blown, and all crew was mustered. A search of the ship was conducted. Ship's crew found the paint storeroom's lock broken and ship's stores were stolen. (IMB)

2. (U) GRENADA: On 24 May, an unsecured dinghy was stolen in Mt. Hartman Bay. The owner was onboard and found the cut line. A report was made to the Grenada Coast Guard. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

3. (U) GRENADA: On 24 May, a secured catamaran was boarded at night in Mt. Hartman Bay. The owner was not onboard at the time. No further details are available. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

4. (U) PANAMA: On 20 May, robbers boarded a yacht anchored off the Bocas Marina through a small but unlocked hatch. Two laptops, a smartphone, binoculars and other personal items were stolen. A police report was made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

5. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 20 May, a robber boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Charlestown Bay. The yacht owners scared the thief who jumped in the water and disappeared. A police report was made the next day, and a good description of the thief was provided to the local police who seemed aware of this individual and the persistent but unresolved problems in this anchorage. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

6. (U) PERU: On 18 May, five robbers wearing facemasks boarded an anchored LNG tanker via the hawse pipe near

position 11:59S - 077:11W, Callao Anchorage. They took hostage the duty crewman on routine rounds. Alarm was raised, ship's whistle was sounded, and crew was mustered. Hearing the alarm, the robbers took the duty crewman's radio, pushed him down, and escaped in their boat. Incident was reported to port control, and a patrol boat was dispatched to the anchorage area. (IMB)

7. (U) BRAZIL: On 13 May, security forces seized 1 ton of cocaine at the Port of Natal, northeastern Rio Grande do Norte State. The narcotics were seized from a Netherlands-bound container and were hidden in a fruit shipment. (www.pvilttd.com)

8. (U) COLOMBIA: On 12 May, authorities seized 2.2 tons of cocaine hidden inside four bags of copper ore in a container at Santa Marta Port. The narcotics belonged to the Clan del Golfo drug gang and were bound for Antwerp Port in Belgium, police said. (www.pvilttd.com)

9. (U) ECUADOR: On 3 May, two speed boats with five persons in each boat approached a bulk carrier underway near position 00:08S - 081:19W, 52 nm west-northwest of Cabo Pasado. Alarm was raised and crew was mustered. Vessel increased speed, commenced evasive maneuvers and started spraying the boats with charged fire hoses, resulting in the boats moving away. Crew and vessel reported safe. (IMB)

10. (U) PANAMA: On 2 May, three armed robbers boarded the New Zealand-flagged yacht, AQUA LOBO, anchored near position 09:16N - 078:07W, 1.9 nm east-northeast of San Ignacio De Tupile. The captain, a New Zealand national, died of wounds received during the attack, and other family members were injured. Three suspects were taken into custody in the Colon jurisdiction. (IMB; www.tvnz.co.nz; www.safetyandsecuritynet.org; www.noonsite.com)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:

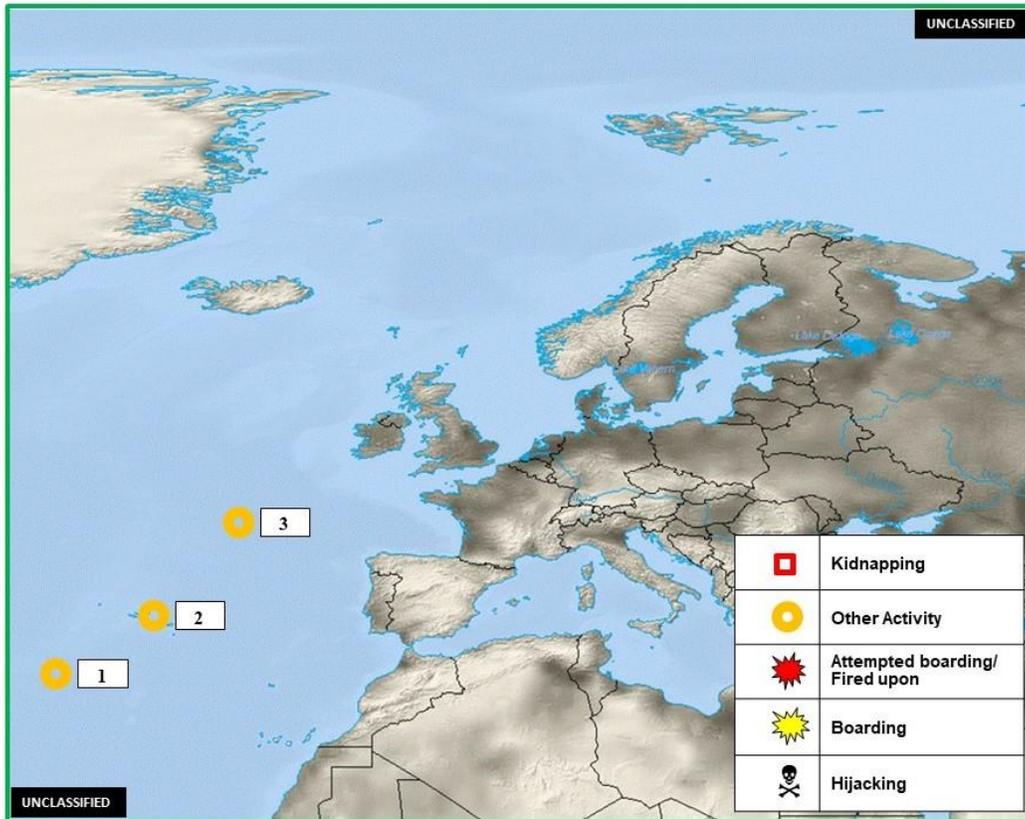


Figure 2. Atlantic Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN: On 4 June, authorities seized over a ton of cocaine and arrested seven people aboard a Brazilian fishing boat in a drug bust on the high seas off Portugal backed up by international crime agencies. Portuguese police discovered 50 cloth sacks full of cocaine, apparently destined for the continental European market, inside a specially designed, hard-to-access compartment of the fishing vessel, a police statement said. (www.reuters.com)

2. (U) AZORES: On 1 June, Portuguese authorities seized 592 kilograms of cocaine from a sailing yacht in the Port of Horta. The police said that the search of the yacht was the result of an international investigation as part of fighting drug trafficking on the high seas. (www.theportugalnews.com)

3. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN: On 27 May, Spanish tax police boarded the Spain-flagged fishing vessel GURE LEIRE in an area approximately a thousand nm west of Vigo, Spain. The authorities seized 2,500 kilograms of cocaine. The ship reportedly met another ship in the north Atlantic and transferred the drugs to GURE LEIRE. (www.fis.com)

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:

1. (U) ENGLAND: On 11 May, robbers boarded the museum fishing ship MINICARIO in Lowestoft. The robbers vandalized bridge equipment, stole items, and escaped unseen. (www.edp24.co.uk)

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

1. (U) SPAIN: On 27 May, a joint Spanish and Italian police operation resulted in the seizure of 5 tons of cocaine at the Port of Barcelona. Police searched three containers from a shipment arriving from Colombia following a tip-off from Colombian authorities. Police arrested six port employees following the initial investigation, seizing cash and encrypted mobile phones during raids. (www.pvilttd.com)

2. (U) MOROCCO: On 27 May, the Moroccan Navy patrolling their coast rescued 249 migrants from 11 makeshift vessels in a 24-hour period. The migrants were seeking to cross the Mediterranean Sea and enter Spanish territory. (www.pvilttd.com)

3. (U) MALTA: On 25 May, The Maltese Armed Forces announced that they had rescued 216 migrants from two dinghies in the Mediterranean Sea. The nationality of the migrants was unknown. Good weather conditions have seen a surge in departures of migrants from Libya, Tunisia, and Algeria, resulting in 12 migrant boats arriving in Sicily, Sardinia, and Lampedusa. (www.pvilttd.com)

4. (U) LIBYA: On 24 May, the coast guard rescued 290 migrants in two operations near the capital Tripoli. A coast guard vessel rescued 87 migrants from an inflatable boat off Qarabuli, a town 50 km east of Tripoli. Another group of 203 migrants were rescued from two inflatable boats off Zlitin, a town 160 km east of the capital. (www.pvilttd.com)

5. (U) ROMANIA: On 21 May, three fishermen from Turkey's northern Ordu province were reportedly shot off the coast of Romania. The injured fishermen are currently receiving treatment at a hospital in Romania. (www.dailysabah.com)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

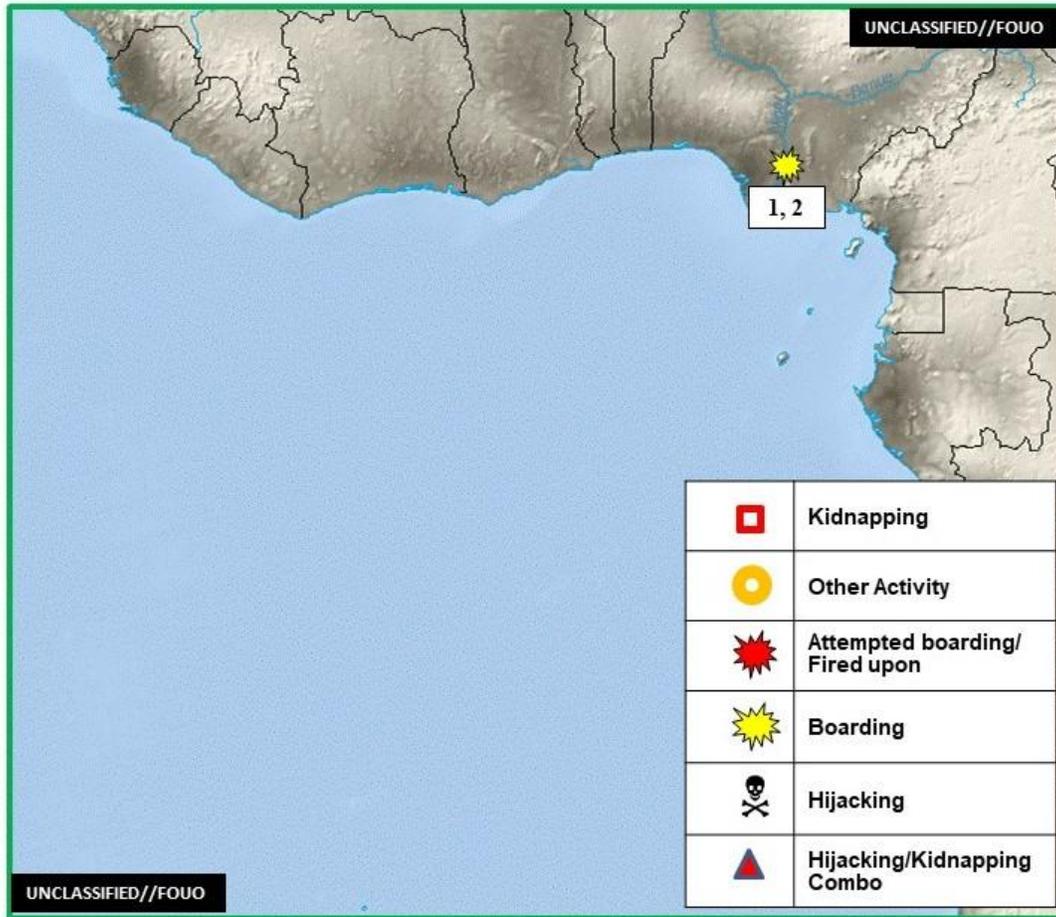


Figure 3. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 June, five Port Harcourt-bound speedboats traveling in a convoy were attacked by heavily armed sea pirates in military camouflage clothing. The gunmen stole personal valuables and two boats and escaped. (www.sunnewsonline.com)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 June, heavily armed men attacked a Port Harcourt-bound passenger boat travelling in the Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State. They reportedly stole personal valuables and their boat and escaped. (www.sunnewsonline.com)

3. (U) GUINEA: On 14 May, four robbers armed with automatic rifles and knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 09:23N - 013:41W, Conakry Anchorage. They took the crew hostage, ransacked their cabins, and stole ship and crew cash and property before escaping. Master was injured during the incident. The incident was reported to Conakry port control, and a patrol boat came for investigation. (IMB)

4. (U) TOGO: On 12 May, armed persons boarded and hijacked an anchored chemical tanker near position 06:00N - 001:16E, Lome Anchorage. The Togo Navy received a call from the owners that their tanker had been attacked and immediately responded by dispatching patrol boats to investigate. The tanker was intercepted 25 nm from the anchorage area and forced to return to Lome Port. The crew were reported safe, and the armed persons were captured and handed over to the authorities. (IMB; www.pvilt.com)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 7 May, two suspects boarded an offshore supply vessel berthed at the Federal Ocean Terminal in Onne

Port. A duty crewman on watch saw the perpetrators and raised the alarm. Perpetrators escaped, and port security was informed. (www.lss-sapu.com)

6. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 5 May, pirates hijacked a tug near position 03:04N - 007:59E, around 42 nm southwest of Luba, Bioko Island. (IMB: www.sguardian.com)

7. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 5 May, the semi-submersible heavy lift ship BLUE MARLIN was boarded by 7 pirates near position 03:00N - 007:50E, approximately 44 nm southwest of Luba Port, Bioko Island. As the attack started, master activated SSAS, all 20 crew mustered in citadel. Pirates boarded and demanded from crew via PA to surrender, and give the pirates all crew money and valuables. Crew remained in citadel; pirates found a hole and fired through it into citadel, without injuring anyone. During this time, the Spanish Navy's Operations and Surveillance Center (COVAM), alerted by ship's distress signal, ordered their patrol boat SERVIOLA (P-71), deployed in an international navy security mission in Gulf of Guinea, to free the ship. On the morning of 6 May, teams from the Spanish Navy and the Equatorial Guinean Navy boarded and searched the ship. No pirates were found and the crew was freed from the citadel. The pirates shot several times during their time aboard the BLUE MARLIN and caused substantial material damage on the bridge, preventing the ship from being sailable. (MDAT-GoG; www.lss-sapu.com; www.marinelink.com; www.fleetmon.com)

8. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 May, a duty crewman onboard an anchored tanker noticed two robbers near the cargo tank with a hose. The ship was anchored near position 06:16N - 003:13E, Secure Anchorage Area (SAA), Lagos. Alarm was raised and PA announcement was made. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped in their boat with their hose. A patrol boat was informed which came and searched the area. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB)

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

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

1. (U) MOZAMBIQUE: On 26 May, a duty crewman onboard a cargo ship anchored near position 14:32S - 040:39E, Nacala Inner Anchorage found a storeroom door with a broken lock. He reported the event to the duty officer who raised the alarm. A search was carried out resulting in footprints being discovered on the forecastle deck. Ship's stores reported stolen. (IMB)

2. (U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: On 12 May, United Arab Emirates officials said that four commercial vessels were sabotaged at Fujairah anchorage, one of the world's largest bunkering hubs lying just outside the Strait of Hormuz, but did not describe the nature of the attack or say who was behind it. Authorities in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore have now identified all four ships. Two of the tankers, AMJAD and AL MARZOQAH, are flagged in Saudi Arabia, while a third vessel, A. MICHEL is a fuel bunkering ship and registered in Sharjah, one of the seven emirates that make up the UAE. The last vessel, ANDREA VICTORY, is a Norway-flagged tanker. (www.gcaptain.com; www.marinelink.com; www.fleetmon.com; www.thedrive.com; www.lss-sapu.com)

3. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 3 May, the Seychelles-flagged fishing support ship HAIZEA LAU reported being approached by suspected pirates off the coast of Somalia. The vessel managed to flee at full speed from a skiff manned by a group of presumed pirates. The pirates could not keep up, which meant that the private security agents of the HAIZEA LAU did not have to fire warning shots. (www.insurancemarinenews.com)

I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA - INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

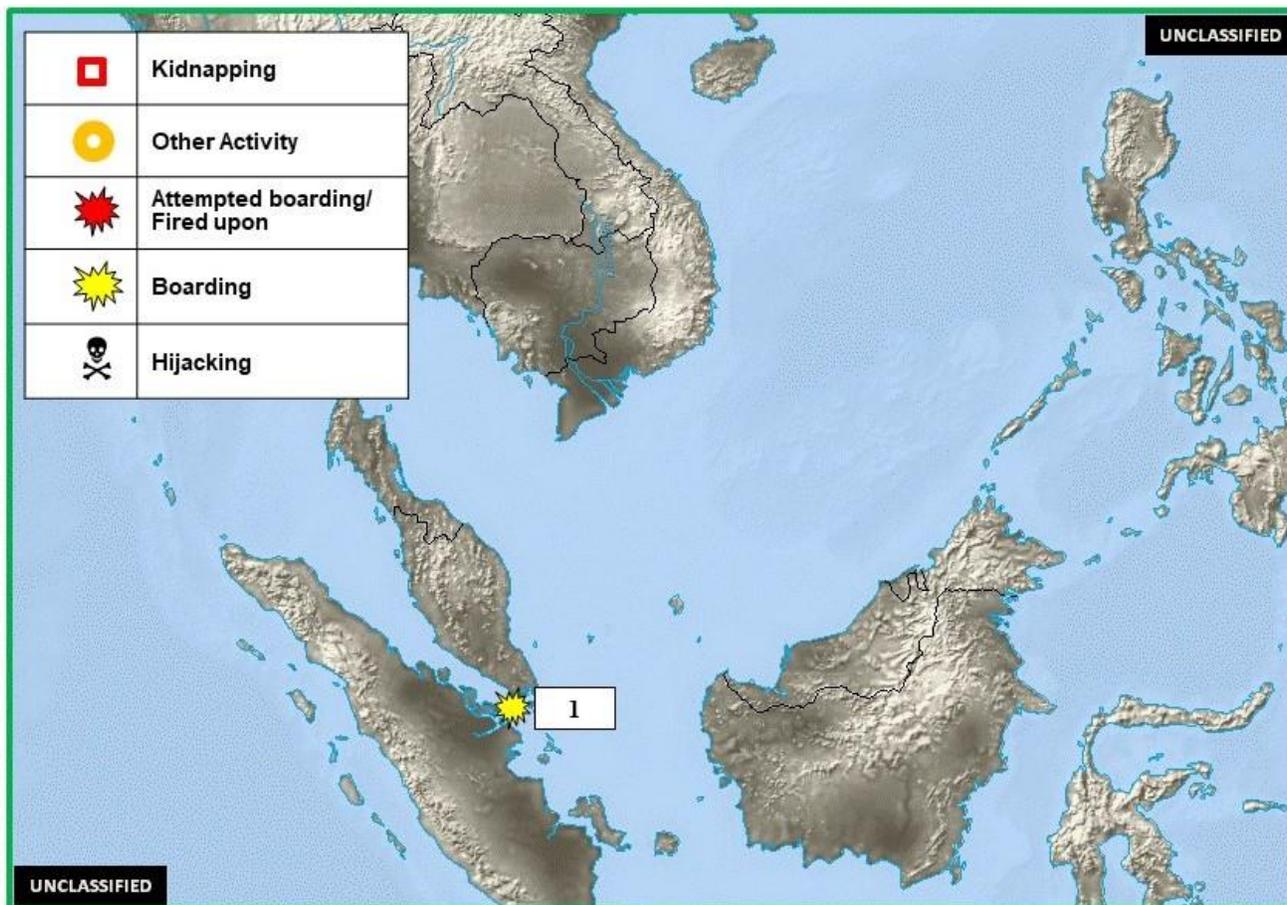


Figure 4. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 30 May, an unknown number of robbers boarded the barge SINAR JAYA 2912, being towed by Malaysia-flagged tugboat ASIA JAYA 28 near position 01:13N – 103:32E, 3.4 nm southeast of Tanjung Piai. The master of the tugboat reported to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) via VHF that an unknown number of perpetrators had boarded the barge on tow. The perpetrators escaped in a small craft, with some small tools stolen from the barge. (ReCAAP)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 May, a duty watchman on routine rounds onboard a bulk carrier anchored near position noticed two robbers 05:59S - 105:57E, D6 Berth, Cigading Port noticed two robbers in the steering gear room. He immediately informed the duty officer who sounded the ship's whistle and made a PA announcement. A subsequent search of the vessel revealed the steering gear room's lock broken and ship's engine spares stolen. (IMB)

3. (U) VIETNAM: On 24 May, authorities seized 5.26 tons of pangolin scales at Cai Mep port. The scales were hidden in two cashew nut containers coming from Nigeria. (www.pvilttd.com)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 23 May, seven individuals armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 03:43S - 114:26E, Taboneo Anchorage. When the duty watchman saw them, he raised the alarm and mustered the crew. The individuals threatened the crew with their knives, stole ships property, and departed. The crew reported to Taboneo port control. A patrol boat was dispatched to investigate. (IMB)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 22 May, a person in a fishing boat approached an anchored sailing vessel near position 00:53S -

131:14E, 0.18 nm southeast of Pulau Doom, Sorong, and attempted to steal the sailing vessel's dinghy. When the skipper noticed the individual, he directed his flashlight towards him and shouted. Upon seeing the skipper, the person let go of the dinghy and departed the area. Incident reported to the local authorities. (IMB)

6. (U) INDIA: On 21 May, units from the India Coast Guard apprehended a Pakistan-flagged fishing vessel off Gujarat, on the western coast, and seized 200 kilograms of heroin. (www.fis.com)

7. (U) MALAYSIA: On 18 May, the master of the Niue-flagged tugboat BARLIAN T1201 reported to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) via VHF that six perpetrators had boarded his barge from a small boat near position 01:13N - 103:32E, 3.3 nm southeast off Tanjung Piai, Malaysia. The master later reported that the perpetrators had left the barge with some tools stolen from the barge. The tugboat and barge continued their voyage to Port Klang, Malaysia. (ReCAAP)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 May, four robbers armed with long knives boarded a general cargo ship underway near position 01:00N - 104:54E, 4 nm east of Pulau Mapur. They took hostage a duty crewman and entered into the master's cabin. They tied up the crewman and the master, and escaped with their personal cash and effects. (IMB)

9. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 May, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier unnoticed and escaped with engine spare parts. The ship was anchored near position 01:42N - 101:26E, Lubuk Gaung Anchorage, Dumai Port. The third engineer noticed the robbery when he went to the engine room and found the spare parts room broken into. Alarm raised and a search was carried out. (IMB)

10. (U) PACIFIC OCEAN: On 10 May, unidentified persons in a speedboat approached and closed onto a bulk carrier underway near position 07:40N - 128:29E, 115 nm east of Baganga, Philippines. Alarm was raised, crew was mustered and fire hoses pressurized. The persons were observed to be shouting towards the ship while holding steel hooks. After 30 minutes of chasing, the boat aborted and moved away. The ship resumed her passage. (IMB)

11. (U) INDIA: On 9 May, seven unarmed perpetrators boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker ARIONAS from a small boat near position 22:46N - 070:02E, Deendayal Port (Kandla) Outer Anchorage. They stole two cargo reducers from the amidships starboard-side manifold area. The Master raised the alarm, sounded the ship's whistle, mustered the crew, and reported the incident to the ship's agent, Marine Police, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Kandla port authority. The crew was not injured. (ReCAAP)

J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA: No current incidents to report.

K. (U) AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND - PACIFIC OCEAN AREA: No current incidents to report.

6. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

(U) Contact

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

(U) Other Resources

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm

7. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

(U) Terminology

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

(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) 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) Sourcing

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News
- DNK Intelligence & Operations Centre (DNK IOC)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London

- Lloyd's
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S.
- Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)
- Marine Domain Awareness for Trade - Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG)
- Maritime Asset Security and Training (MAST) Ltd
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- The Maritime Executive (website)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

(U) ICOD: 5 June 2019

(U) The PAWW and WTS reports are posted each week on the ONI Intel Portal and can be found at:
<https://www.oni.navy.mil/News/Weekly-Piracy-Reports/>