

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** **22 October - 21 November 2018**

21 November 2018

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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 new items for this week.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) EL SALVADOR: On 19 November, authorities announced the seizure of a semi-submersible craft carrying 6.3 tons of cocaine.

B. (U) YEMEN: On 18 November, two Yemeni fishermen were killed by a sea mine planted by the pro-Iranian Houthi militias off the coast of Hodeidah.

C. (U) SPAIN: On 17 November, six activists from an environmental NGO boarded the tanker M/T STOLT TENACITY as the ship sailed in the Gulf of Cadiz.

D. (U) ARUBA: On 16 November, a woman died after being strangled and thrown from the railings of a luxury cruise ship by her partner.

E. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 15 November, it was announced that officials of a local fishing company have sought the help of Philippine authorities to locate their missing fishing vessel with at least nine crewmen.

F. (U) BRAZIL: On 14 November, authorities seized 1.3 tons of cocaine hidden inside shipping containers at Santos port.

G. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 November, one robber boarded a merchant vessel anchored in Lagos Anchorage.

H. (U) MALAYSIA: On 13 November, the Royal Customs Department seized 6.4 million smuggled cigarettes after searching, then impounding, a shipping container at Port Klang.

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

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for November 2018. 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 (MILT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932; Fax: +81-3-5253-1643. Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp. (MSCHOA)

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: China Navy convoy schedule for November 2018. For further information, please email: planavy@navy.mil.cn, or call Tel: 441 221 061 or 00870 773 120 215. (MSCHOA)

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: India Navy convoy escort schedule for November 2018. To register, email gcommcentre-dgs@nic.in; or visit ww.dgshipping.com. Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22-22613636. (MSCHOA)

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Pakistan Navy convoy schedule for November 2018. The application deadline is at least 1 day prior to the convoy escort. To register with the Pakistan Navy Convoy, please send an email to: fhq@paknavy.gov.pk. (MSCHOA)

E. (U) GULF OF ADEN: South Korea Navy convoy schedule for November 2018. 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 (001) +1 646 466 9528 or (001) +1 646 466 9521. Email: adenbay27@gmail.com or aden27@navy.mil.kr. (MSCHOA)

F. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Russian Navy convoy escort schedule for November and December 2018. For further information e-mail smb@msecurity.ru, isps@msecurity.ru or fax +7 (499) 642-83-29. (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: No current incidents to report.

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

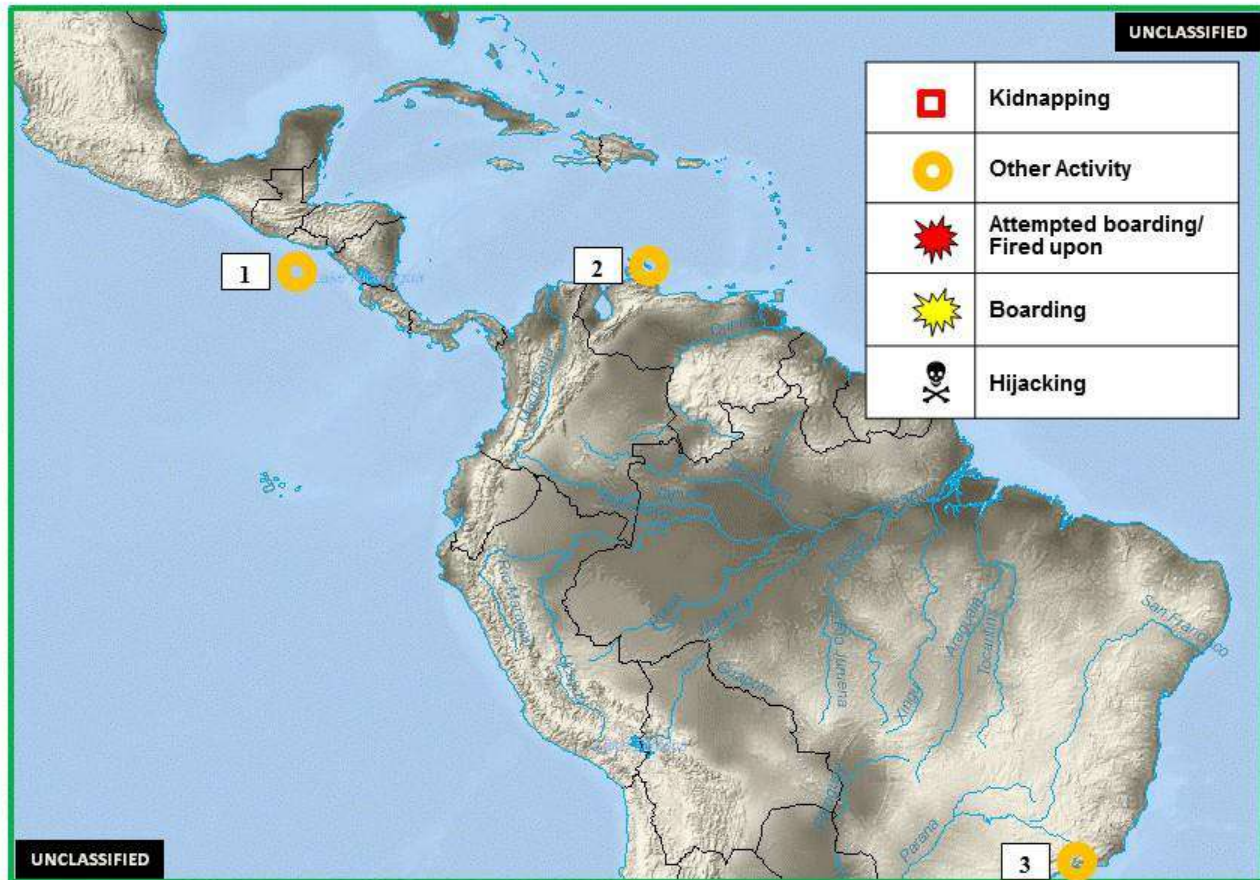


Figure 1. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) EL SALVADOR: On 19 November, authorities announced the seizure of a semi-submersible craft carrying 6.3 tons of cocaine. Four Colombians and a Guatemalan were detained aboard the vessel. (www.thecourierexpress.com)

2. (U) ARUBA: On 16 November, a woman died after being strangled and thrown from the railings of a luxury cruise ship by her partner, with whom she was arguing in the ship's casino, according to witnesses. The man believed to be her partner was ordered off the ship in Aruba and taken into custody by local authorities. (www.yenisafak.com)

3. (U) BRAZIL: On 14 November, authorities seized 1.3 tons of cocaine hidden inside two shipping containers at Santos port. Authorities found the narcotics during a cargo inspection operation. The containers, containing 690 and 605 kg of cocaine respectively, were bound for Hamburg, Germany and Antwerp, Belgium. (www.pvilt.com)

4. (U) DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: On 9 November, a robber boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Luperon. Cash was stolen. No police report was made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

5. (U) DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: On 29 October, yacht owners returned to their yacht anchored in Luperon after inland travel. They found a deck hatch that had been left closed but not locked, was open, and that the cabin had been ransacked. Only cash, which had been hidden, was taken. A report was made to the police, coast guard, port captain, the marina, the tourist office and on the VHF net. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

6. (U) GUATEMALA: On 3 November, authorities seized two tons of cocaine from a submarine 70 nm off Puerto Quetzal. The drugs were seized by navy officials during a routine operation in Guatemalan waters. Three Colombian nationals aboard the submarine were arrested in the operation. (www.pvilttd.com)

7. (U) PANAMA: On 30 October, robbers boarded an unoccupied boat at anchor in Linton Bay. The owners had been absent for about 2 weeks and on their return discovered a pry bar had been used to defeat the companionway lock and gain entry. The thieves took 2 TVs, tools, dive gear and a great deal of other equipment. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

8. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 28 October, an in-the-water and unlocked dinghy and outboard motor were stolen from a sailing yacht anchored in La Marin anchorage. The dinghy was later recovered at a nearby beach. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

9. (U) GRENADA: On 27 October, a lone swimmer boarded a sailing yacht in Mt. Hartman Bay. The robber attempted to steal a dinghy that was secured to the yacht. The robber gave up and swam away. Police report made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:

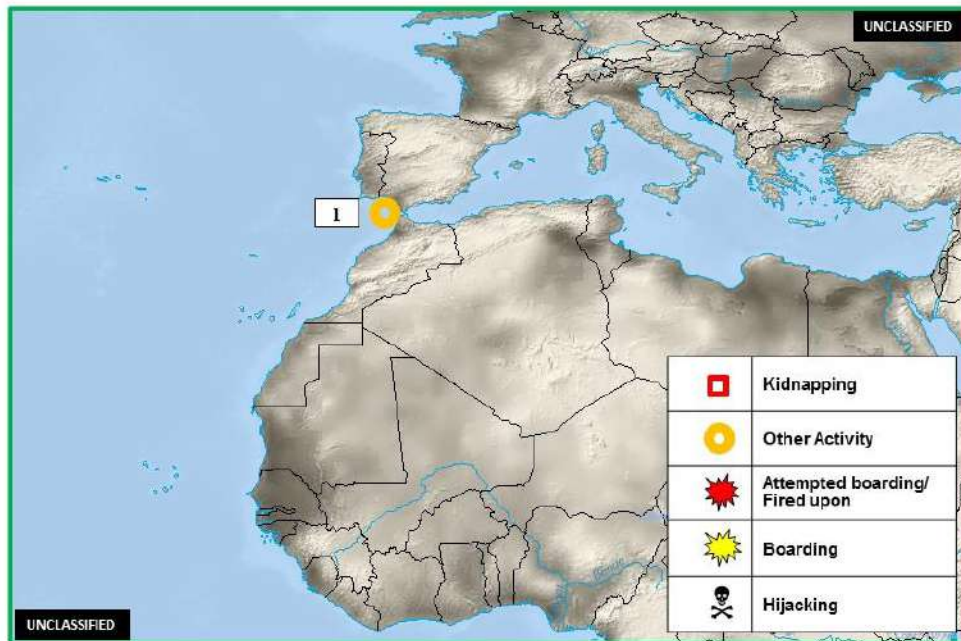


Figure 2. Atlantic Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SPAIN: On 17 November, six activists from an environmental NGO boarded the tanker M/T STOLT TENACITY as the ship sailed in the Gulf of Cadiz. The ship diverted to the port of Algeciras, where arrangements were made for the authorities to escort the activists from the vessel the next day. (www.worldmaritimeneews.com)

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC: No current incidents to report.

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

1. (U) MOROCCO: On 7 November, Moroccan naval forces rescued approximately 140 migrants off its Mediterranean coast, the country's state-run news agency reported. (BBC; MAP - state-owned, government controlled Moroccan news agency)
2. (U) SPAIN: On 30 October, the Spanish Interior Ministry declared that a joint operation between Spanish National Police and customs officers had led to the capture of 3,250 kilograms of hashish and the detention of eight people. The Ministry confirmed that the raid, which occurred in an area called the "Campo de Gibraltar" on the southwest coast of Spain, also led to the seizure of a small boat and three stolen vehicles which were prepared to transport the hashish. (www.menafn.com)
3. (U) SPAIN: On 25 October, authorities in the port of Malaga seized 6 tons of cocaine hidden amongst a cargo of bananas. Sixteen people were arrested, and cash, weapons, and luxury vehicles were also seized. (www.ticotimes.net)

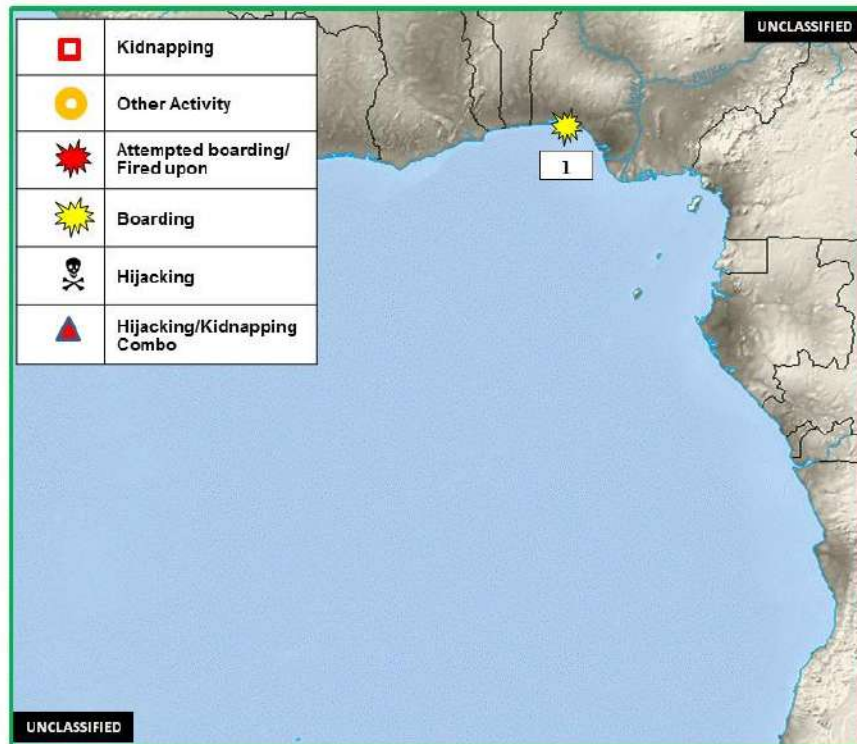
F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

Figure 3. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 November, one robber boarded a merchant vessel anchored near position 06:16N - 003:17E, Lagos Anchorage. A duty crewman saw the robber found on the main deck. Alarm was raised and the robber jumped overboard. Nothing reported stolen. (www.pvilttd.com)
2. (U) NIGERIA: On 6 November, a merchant vessel reported being attacked near position 03:55N - 006:56E, 30 nm southwest of Bonny Island. (IMB; www.pvilttd.com)

3. (U) TOGO: On 2 November, the merchant taker ANUKET AMBER anchored in Lome, after pirates released the ship and escaped with 12 kidnapped crewmen. Pirates attacked tug ARK TZE on 29 October off the coast of the Republic of Congo and boarded the ANUKET AMBER next. The pirates kidnapped four crewmembers from the ARK TZE and took them to the ANUKET AMBER. The pirates took an additional 8 hostages when they left the ship. (www.iss-sapu.com; www.fleetmon.com)
4. (U) REPUBLIC OF CONGO: On 29 October, offshore supply vessel ARK TZE was boarded and hijacked by armed pirates near position 04:57S - 010:43E, 68 nm west of Pointe Noire. All crew taken hostage and made to lie on deck while the pirates, ransacked and stole crew and ship's properties. The pirates kidnapped four crew and escaped. The remaining crew sailed the vessel to a safe port. One crewman reported injured. Bridge equipment damaged during the attack. (IMB; www.fleetmon.com)
5. (U) REPUBLIC OF CONGO: On 29 October, pirates in a speed boat chased and fired upon LPG tanker BW FRIGG carrying out bunkering operations underway near position 04:46S - 010:08E, 101 nm, west of Pointe Noire. Emergency bunker stop and cast off initiated. Speed increased and the tanker made evasive maneuvers and escaped. All crew reported safe. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; www.pviltld.com; www.sguardian.com; www.fleetmon.com)
6. (U) REPUBLIC OF CONGO: On 29 October, vessel owners lost contact with their vessel M/T ANUKET AMBER. the last known position was 04:47S - 010:08E, 102 nm west of Pointe Noire. The ship was reportedly hijacked. (MDAT-GoG; www.pviltld.com; www.sguardian.com; www.fleetmon.com)
7. (U) GHANA: On 28 October, a robber managed to board a berthed anchor handling tug vessel anchored near position 04:56.4N - 001:42.0W, Sekondi Port. Ship's properties were stolen and the robber escaped unseen. During routine rounds a duty crewman noticed the padlock to the deck container damaged and on reviewing the CCTV recording, the theft was identified. Incident reported to local authorities. (IMB)
8. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 October, pirates attacked the container ship POMERENIA SKY, near position 03:21N - 006:30E, 60 nm southwest of Bonny. Eleven crewmen were kidnapped, 8 Poles, 2 Filipinos, and 1 Ukrainian. (www.maritimebulletin.net; www.fleetmon.com; www.thenews.pl; www.sguardian.com)
9. (U) NIGERIA: On 25 October, a merchant vessel reported being attacked near position 04:21N - 007:42E. (MDAT-GoG)
10. (U) NIGERIA: On 26 October, 12 crewmen of Swiss-flagged bulk carrier GLARUS were released and are already in Switzerland, according to a press release from the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They were kidnapped on 22 September. All are reportedly in good health. No details were given on release and conditions of the release, to include whether or not a ransom was paid. (www.maritimebulletin.net; www.fleetmon.com; www.swissinfo.ch)
11. (U) NIGERIA: On 25 October, a merchant vessel reported being attacked near position 04:21N - 007:42E. (MDAT-GoG)
12. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 October, gunmen attacked a passenger boat in the Abonema waterways, kidnapping 10 persons, including a local community leader. The group was returning from a meeting with other community leaders when the event occurred. (www.dailypost.ng)
13. (U) REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: On 22 October, armed robbers boarded a Hong Kong-flagged merchant tanker anchored near position 04:46N - 011:47E, Pointe Noire Anchorage. Robbers boarded via the anchor chain. Alarm was raised, robbers escaped with ship's property in a motor boat. Crew and vessel safe. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; www.pviltld.com)

G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:

1. (U) STRAIT OF HORMUZ: On 23 October, a Royal Navy Type 45 Destroyer, HMS DRAGON, was confronted by three Iranian fast attack boats while escorting a trio of British vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, sparking a stand-off between the naval forces. Both groups of vessels soon separated and continued their journeys. (www.pvilttd.com)

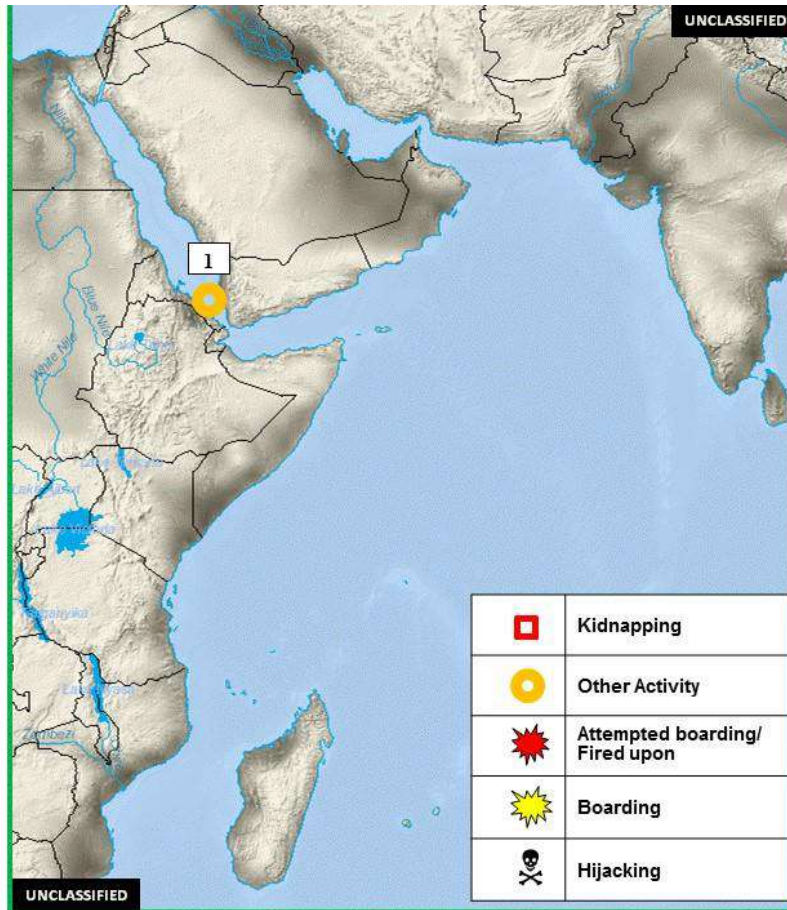
H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN - EAST AFRICA - RED SEA:

Figure 4. Indian Ocean – East Africa - Red Sea
Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) YEMEN: On 18 November, two Yemeni fishermen were killed by a sea mine planted by the pro-Iranian Houthi militias off the coast of Hodeidah port city, in the west of the country. (www.english.alarabiya.net)

2. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 9 November, Indian Navy Ship SUNAYNA interdicted several boats carrying weapons in an area approximately 400 nautical miles northeast of Mogadishu, Navy officials said. Two high-caliber AK-47 and AKM rifles as well as ammunition were seized from the boats. The boats and crew were released after the search. (www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)

3. (U) RED SEA: On 3 November, merchant vessel STENA IMPERIAL was approached by two skiffs, with 4 to 5 persons onboard each boat, near position 13:04N - 043:09E, Bab el Mandeb Strait. Two skiffs approached to 8 cables at which point onboard armed security team fired a warning flare, both skiffs then passed astern. One skiff then began a second approach, a further warning flare was fired and the skiff turned away. Crew and vessel are safe. (UKMTO; www.pvilttd.com; www.sguardian.com; www.stenabulk.com)

4. (U) MOZAMBIQUE: On 29 October, a duty crewman onboard a tanker anchored near position 14:22S – 040:42E, Nacala Outer Anchorage, saw a boat tied up to the anchor chain and a robber trying to board the tanker via the anchor chain. Alarm was raised and all crew were mustered. Hearing the alarm, the robber jumped back into the water and escaped. A search was carried out, with nothing reported stolen. (IMB)

5. (U) SOMALIA: On 28 October, EU NAVFOR military personnel seized an active Pirate Action Group (PAG) whaler and destroyed it. This followed a sustained period of surveillance after a piracy attack was conducted against the Hong Kong flagged bulk carrier KSL SYDNEY. The attack against the bulk carrier took place on 16 October, 340 nm off the coast of Somalia. (www.eunavfor.eu)

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

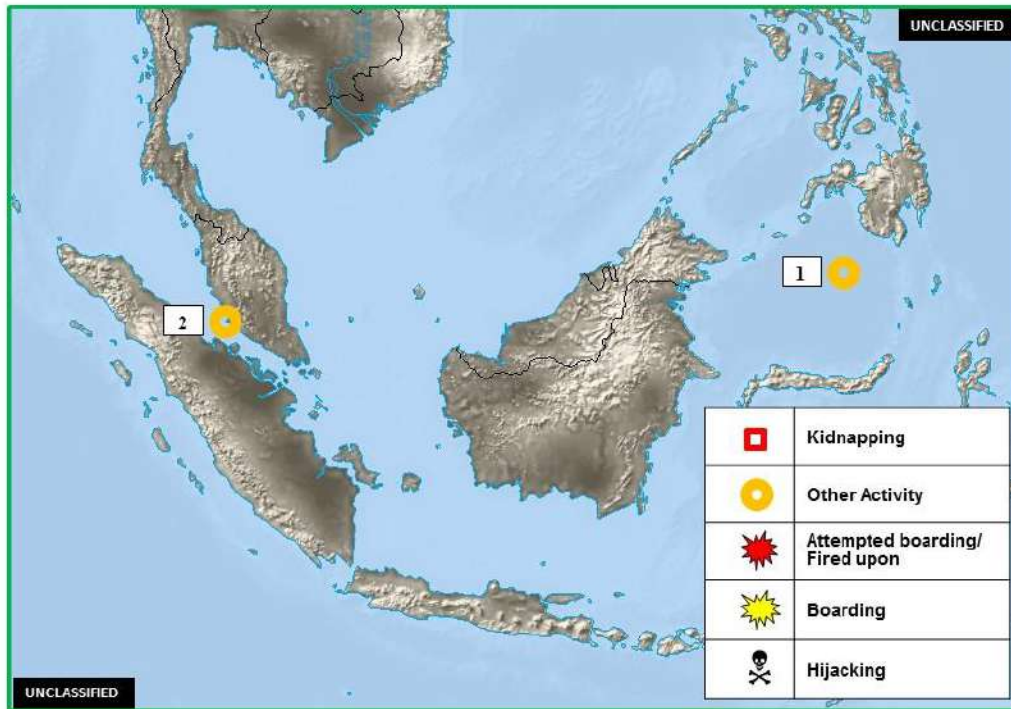


Figure 5. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 15 November, it was announced that officials of a local fishing company have sought the help of Philippine authorities to locate their fishing vessel with at least nine fishing crewmen aboard which went missing while on a fishing expedition off Celebes Sea. The owner of ZAVFI Inc. a fishing firm, said the crew of F/V SAVFI S2, contacted their base on October 29 where they informed their office that they were sailing back to the city's fish port after completing the fishing expedition with a fish catch of 20 tons. (www.news.mb.com.ph)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 13 November, the Royal Customs Department seized 6.4 million smuggled cigarettes after searching, then impounding, a shipping container at Port Klang. (www.pressreader.com)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 4 November, five robbers armed with knives boarded the bulk carrier TN SUNRISE underway near position 00:56N - 105:06E, 11 nm east of Pulau Merapas. They threatened the master, stole his personal effects and money from the ship's safe and escaped. SSAS activated. Incident reported to local authority. (IMB; www.fleetmon.com)

4. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 3 November, two robbers boarded anchored Liberia-flagged container ship NORTHERN DEFENDER near position 13:42N - 121:03E, Tabangao Anchorage area, Batangas Bay. The robbers boarded from a small motor boat three meters in length and painted blue. The robbers stole various items including fire nozzles and cable wire from the ship. The ship's master and crew were not aware of the robbery on board their ship until the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) maritime patrol team alerted and informed them of the stolen items which were confiscated by PCG. (ReCAAP; www.pvilttd.com)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 1 November, robbers board an anchored crude oil tanker near position 05:53S - 105:59E, Merak Anchorage. The robbers stole engine spares and escaped. The theft was noticed during routine rounds when the ship's crew noticed the store room door open. (IMB)

6. (U) INDIA: On 26 October, three robbers attempted to board an anchored Marshall Islands-flagged tanker using hooks attached to ropes in Kandla Anchorage. Crew noticed the assailants and raised the alarm, prompting the assailants to escape. There were no reported injuries. (www.pvilttd.com)

7. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 24 October, robbers in a small bamboo boat approached a berthed LPG tanker during cargo operation near position 13:45N - 120:48E, JG Summit Terminal Jetty 1, Batangas. One robber managed to board the tanker. Duty crewman spotted the robber and raised the alarm resulting in the robber escaping. Crew directed flashlights towards the boat as it moved away. A search was carried out and ship's properties were reported stolen. (IMB)

8. (U) MALAYSIA: On 24 October, five persons were arrested on suspicion of sea robbery. The Rompin district police chief released a statement saying that the five suspects were armed when they boarded a Vietnamese fishing boat off the waters of Rompin, posing as law enforcement officers, and took a large amount of cash as well as their catch, which reportedly weighed one ton. The suspects are now in police custody. (www.menafn.com)

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

K. (U) AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND - PACIFIC OCEAN AREA:

1. (U) AUSTRALIA: On 7 November, an Indonesian fishing vessel and its crew of five men were apprehended off the coast of Western Australia, suspected of illegally fishing in Australian waters. (www.fis.com)

2. (U) AUSTRALIA: On 19 October, customs authorities seized two sea cargo containers at the Melbourne Examination Facility after they were found to contain 10 million contraband cigarettes during a routine search. (www.ibtimes.com.au)

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)
- 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: 21 November 2018

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