



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 27 March–24 April 2024**



24 April 2024

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1. (U) **Scope Note**

(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.

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

A. (U) U.S. Maritime Advisory 2024-006: Southern Red Sea, Bab el Mandeb Strait, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean, Somali Basin, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Strait of Hormuz, and Persian Gulf – Threats to Commercial Vessels

Issued on 18 April 2024. This advisory supersedes and cancels U.S. Maritime Advisory 2024-004. Regional conflict, military activity, terrorist attacks, and piracy pose significant threats to commercial vessels operating in the above listed geographic areas as evidenced by recent Houthi terror attacks and Somali piracy activity. The following are currently deemed to be the most pressing threats to U.S.-flagged and U.S.-affiliated commercial vessels throughout this region: Houthi Hostile Actions, Iranian Illegal Boarding/Detention/Seizure, Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and Limpet Mines. For maritime industry questions about this Advisory, contact the Global Maritime Operational Threat Response Coordination Center at GMCC@uscg.mil. Supplemental information about U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories, including subscription details, may be found at: <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/msci>. This advisory will automatically expire on 15 October 2024.

3. (U) Summary:

- A. (U) GULF OF ADEN:** On 24 April, an attack occurred on a merchant vessel approximately 72 NM southeast of Djibouti.
- B. (U) ARABIAN SEA:** On 21 April, three skiffs approached a cargo ship while underway approximately 50 NM southeast of Socotra Island, Yemen.
- C. (U) ANGOLA: (Late Reporting)** On 15 April, a vessel received a distress call on SAT-C phone from a person pretending to be the Coast Guard and Maritime Regional Coordination Center while approximately 130 NM west of Tombua.
- D. (U) GUYANA: (Late Reporting)** On 12 April, three perpetrators boarded a container ship as it was berthing at Georgetown Port.

4. (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.

A. (U) NORTH AMERICA: No current incidents to report.

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



(U) Figure 1. Central America – Caribbean – South America Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) GUYANA: (Late Reporting) On 12 April, three perpetrators armed with knives boarded a Cyprus-flagged container ship as it was berthing at Georgetown Port, near position 06:48N – 058:10W. The master raised the alarm and mustered the crew. After hearing the alarm, the perpetrators escaped. The vessel reported the incident to the authorities and a patrol boat was dispatched to search the vessel's location for suspicious activity while a security team performed a search of the vessel. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) HAITI: During the evening of 13 April, heavily armed individuals hijacked the ship JEVI VLE and kidnapped its six crew members near Arcahaie, on the eastern side of the Gulf of Gonâve and approximately 16 NM northwest of Port-au-Prince Port. The ship was heading toward the island of La Gonâve with a cargo of 1,500 bags of rice. The information was confirmed by the Maritime and Navigation Service of Haiti. (HaitiLibre)

3. (U) HAITI: On 4 April at an unspecified time, members of two gangs seized the cargo ship MAGALIE as it departed the Varrreux terminal at the Port-au-Prince Port destined for the northern coastal port of Cap Haitien. The gangs reportedly kidnapped everyone aboard the ship and stole 10,000 bags of rice from the ship's cargo of 60,000 bags. On 6 April, the Coast Guard and Haitian National Police (PNH), with logistical support from the National Port Authority, regained control of the cargo ship after more than 5 hours of intense fighting. During the shootout, an undetermined number of gang members were killed and two police officers were injured, according to the PNH. (HaitiLibre; Associated Press; Maritime Executive)

C. (U) **ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:** No current incidents to report.

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

E. (U) **MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA:** No current incidents to report.

F. (U) **WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:**



(U) Figure 2. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

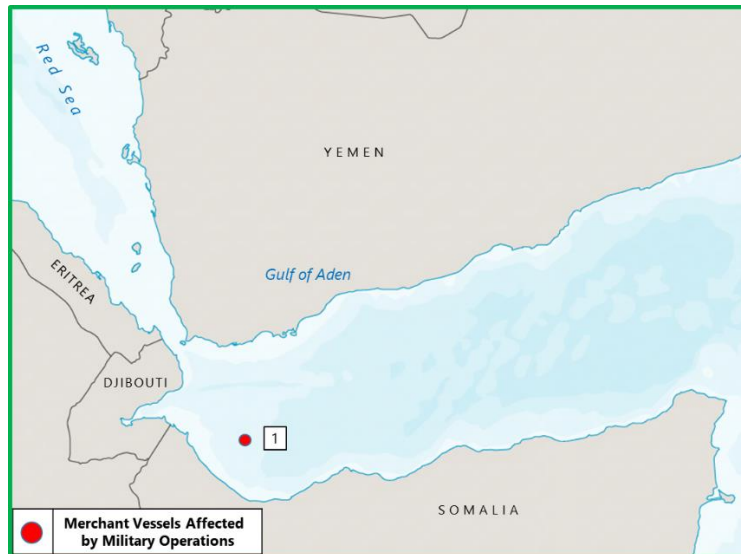
1. (U) ANGOLA: On 15 April at 0352 UTC, a vessel received a distress call on SAT-C phone from a person pretending to be the Coast Guard and Maritime Regional Coordination Center (MRCC) while approximately 130 NM west of Tombua, near position 15:36S – 009:40E. The person stated that a fishing vessel located about 0.5 NM from the harbor of Tombua was in distress and seeking assistance. The vessel called the MRCC to verify the authenticity of the distress call. After the MRCC could not confirm it made the call, the vessel concluded that it had not been a genuine distress call. (MDAT-GoG)

2. (U) ANGOLA: On 12 April at 0045 local time, two wooden boats approached and lingered on the port side of a fire fighting vessel anchored at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:44S – 013:18E. The officer of the watch raised the alarm after observing the boats' approach and subsequent landing on the port side of the vessel. Upon hearing the alarm, the boats moved away from the anchored vessel. (Clearwater Dynamics)

G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:

1. (U) ARABIAN GULF: Overnight between 2 April 2300 UTC and 3 April 0100 UTC, a vessel experienced a disruption to maritime electronic navigation systems (GPS/AIS) approximately 95 NM east of Ras Al Zour, Saudi Arabia (exact position not specified). (UKMTO)

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



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



(U) Figure 4. Arabian Sea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 24 April at 0900 UTC, an anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM) launched from Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen targeted the U.S.-flagged container ship MAERSK YORKTOWN while underway approximately 72 NM southeast of Djibouti, near position 11:18N – 044:18E. U.S. Central Command confirmed that coalition forces engaged and destroyed the ASBM. The master reported an explosion in the water at a distance from the vessel. The vessel and crew were reported safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Maritime Executive; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 21 April at 1035 UTC, three skiffs approached a Panama-flagged container ship from a distance of 5 NM, approximately 50 NM south of Socotra Island, Yemen, near position 11:36N – 054:35E. As the skiffs continued their approach, the ship altered course and, after a period of time, the skiffs stopped their pursuit. The master reported that the vessel and crew were safe, and that the vessel would proceed to its next port of call. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) GULF OF OMAN: On 13 April at 0443 UTC, members of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) used a helicopter to board the Madeira-flagged container ship MSC ARIES while underway approximately 50 NM northeast of Fujairah, United Arab Emirates (exact position not specified). Iran's state news agency IRNA said the IRGC had seized the vessel that is "linked to Israel" and that it was being brought to Iran's territorial waters. There are 25 crew members of five nationalities onboard, consisting of 17 Indians, four Filipinos, two Pakistanis, one Russian, and one Estonian. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Reuters)

4. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 9 April at 0000 UTC, an ASBM launched from Houthi-controlled territory likely targeted the U.S.-flagged container ship MAERSK YORKTOWN approximately 36 NM southeast of Aden, Yemen (exact position not specified). The container ship was under escort by guided missile destroyers USS LABOON and USS MASON. U.S. forces successfully engaged and destroyed the ASBM. No injuries or damage were reported by U.S., coalition, or commercial ships. (U.S. Central Command; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 9 April at 0630 UTC, four skiffs launched from a green-colored fishing vessel approached a merchant vessel approximately 467 NM east of Socotra Island, Yemen, near position 12:39N – 062:37E. The crew and vessel were reported safe following the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics)
6. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 7 April at 0505 UTC, a missile impacted the water in close proximity to the Marshall Islands-flagged container ship HOPE ISLAND's port quarter approximately 59 NM southwest of Aden, Yemen (exact position not specified). The vessel reported no damage and the crew was safe. The vessel continued to its next port of call. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Maritime Executive)
7. (U) RED SEA: On 6 April at 1452 UTC, two missiles targeted the Marshall Islands-flagged container ship HOPE ISLAND approximately 60 NM southwest of Hodeida, Yemen (exact position not specified). The first missile was intercepted by coalition forces, the second impacted the water at a distance from the vessel. The vessel reported no damage and the crew was safe. The vessel proceeded on its voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; Maritime Executive)
8. (U) RED SEA: On 1 April at 1956 UTC, an entity claiming to be the Yemeni Navy hailed a vessel and requested that the vessel turn on its AIS approximately 150 NM northwest of Hodeida, Yemen, near position 17:19N – 040:32E. After the hailing, a crew member reported hearing suspected gunshots. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)
9. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 28 March at an unspecified time, nine armed pirates hijacked the Iran-flagged fishing dhow AL KAMAR 786 (also reported as AL KAMBAR 786) approximately 90 NM southwest of Socotra Island, Yemen, near position 11:02N – 052:53E. On 29 March, two Indian warships, INS SUMEDHA and INS TRISHUL, mission-deployed to the Arabian Sea for maritime security operations, intercepted the dhow. After 12 hours of negotiations, the pirates surrendered. The Indian Navy safely rescued the dhow's 23 Pakistani crew members. (Clearwater Dynamics; daily-sun.com; news.abplive.com; vesseltracker.com)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 14 April at 1020 local time, three or four robbers boarded the barge HEXAGRO 9 under tow by the Malaysia-flagged tug BONGAWAN 9 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:18N – 104:15E. Approximately 20 minutes later, the master reported that the robbers had left the barge. The master reported to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that the crew was safe, scrap metal had been stolen, and that no assistance was required. (ReCAAP)
2. (U) INDONESIA: On 14 April at 0319 local time, five perpetrators boarded the Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier CASANOVA in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:40E. The 3rd engineer discovered the perpetrators, several of whom were reportedly armed with pistols, in the engine room and notified the bridge. The master raised the alarm, mustered the crew, and had them search the vessel. During the search, the crew were unable to ascertain any loss of property. The master reported to Singapore VTIS that all crew were safe. The vessel did not require assistance, and continued its voyage. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
3. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 April at 0525 local time, four robbers boarded a chemical tanker at Balikpapan Anchorage, near position 01:17S – 116:47E. The robbers boarded the tanker using the anchor chain, broke into the forecabin store, and escaped with ship's stores and properties. (IMB)

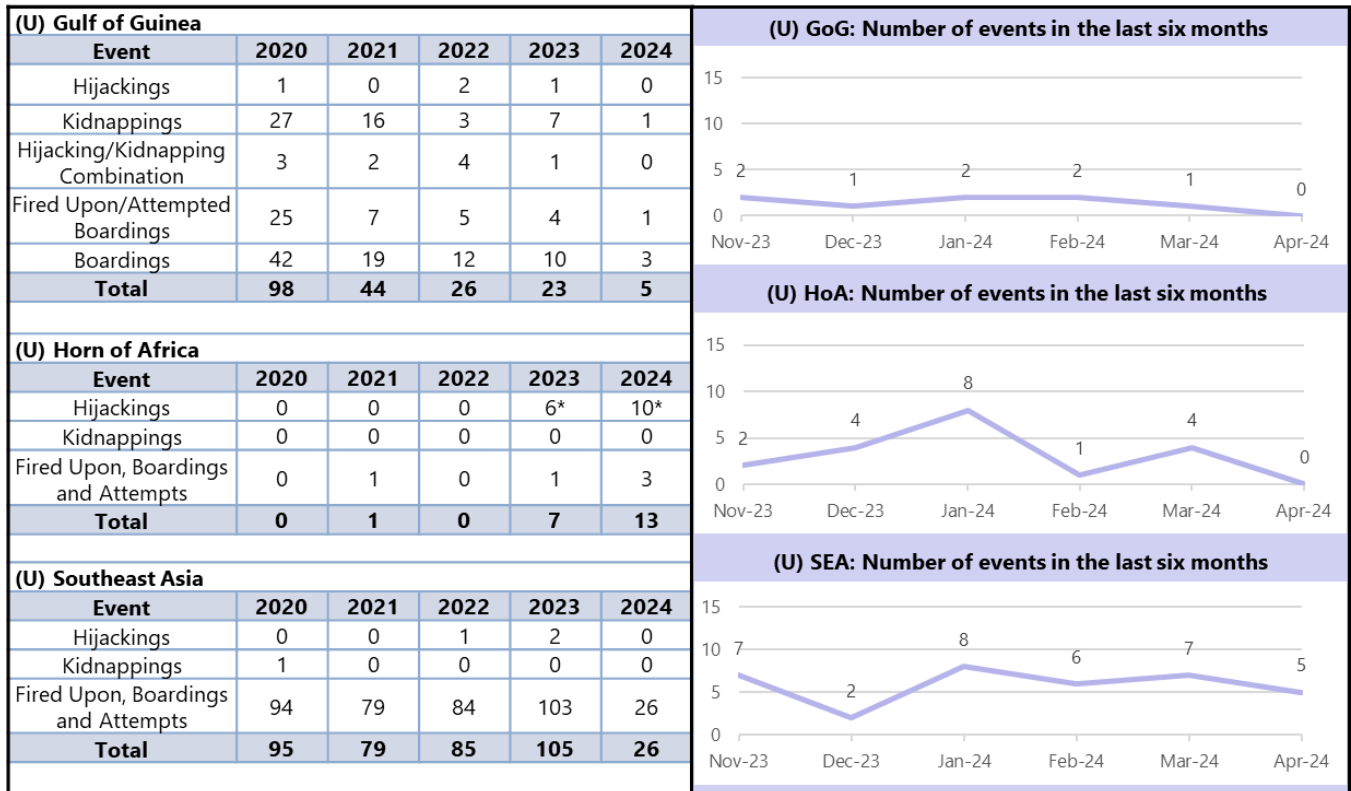
4. (U) MALAYSIA: On 6 April at 1645 local time, three unarmed perpetrators boarded the barge LINAU 135 under tow by Malaysia-flagged tug DANUM 53 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:18N – 104:15E. The master reported nothing was stolen and the crew was safe. The tug did not require any assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 4 April at 0110 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded the Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier SHAKESPEARE BAY berthed at Kuala Tanjung Port, near position 03:22N – 099:28E. After the robbers entered the engine room, they took hostage and tied up the duty crew. The robbers stole engine spare parts and made their escape. Prior to leaving the vessel, the robbers released the duty crew. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
6. (U) INDONESIA: On 31 March, four robbers boarded a barge under tow by a tug near Tanjung Balai Karimun in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS (exact position and time not specified). An Indonesian Navy First Fleet quick response team responded to the incident, apprehended the robbers, and recovered ship's stores from the barge. The robbers and evidence were brought to Tanjung Balai Karimun Naval Base for further investigation. (Clearwater Dynamics)
7. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 March at 2358 local time, three perpetrators boarded the underway Liberia-flagged bulk carrier GEORGE ISLAND in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS near position 01:03N – 103:39E. The crew sighted the perpetrators in the engine room and notified the bridge. The master raised the alarm and mustered the crew. After a search of the vessel, the master reported that no perpetrators were found and nothing was stolen. All crew members were reported safe. The vessel continued its voyage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 8 April at 0158 local time, two robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged container ship MAERSK CHATTOGRAM anchored off Chittagong Port, near position 22:10N – 091:43E. A duty watchman saw the robbers on the main deck. When the perpetrators realized they had been spotted, they chased the crew member into the accommodation block. The bridge was notified of the unauthorized persons onboard and the alarm was raised. The master mustered the crew and alerted the local coast guard. The robbers were able to escape before the coast guard arrived. When the crew conducted a search, they discovered that ship's stores and paint had been stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
2. (U) BANGLADESH: On 29 March at 2145 local time, three perpetrators in a small boat attempted to board the Marshall Islands-flagged general cargo ship ASL LEBAN anchored at Chattogram Anchorage, near position 22:14N – 091:42E. The perpetrators used a rope and hook in their attempt. The ship's alarm was raised and the crew mustered, causing the perpetrators to abandon their attempt and depart the area. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
3. (U) BANGLADESH: On 28 March at 0325 local time, eight robbers armed with knives boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Kutubdia Anchorage, near position 21:48N – 091:47E. The ship's alarm was raised, the crew mustered, and a search was conducted. Following the alarm, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. The master reported that all crew were safe. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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



*Horn of Africa hijacking numbers include Dhows and Fishing Vessels

6. (U) **Appendix B: Definitions and Sourcing**

A. (U) **Definitions:** 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.

B. (U) Sourcing: ONI derives information in this report primarily from government agencies, piracy reporting centers, maritime security companies, and open press.

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

Title	Effective Date	Expiration Date
2024-006: Southern Red Sea, Bab el Mandeb Strait, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean, Somali Basin, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Strait of Hormuz, and Persian Gulf – Threats to Commercial Vessels	18 APR 24	15 OCT 24
2024-005: Global – U.S. Maritime Advisory Updates, Resources, and Contacts	16 APR 24	12 OCT 24
2024-003: Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations	26 FEB 24	25 AUG 24
2024-002: Worldwide – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence	21 FEB 24	19 AUG 24
2023-016: Gulf of Guinea – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	27 DEC 23	24 JUN 24
2023-015: Global – Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System	22 DEC 23	19 JUN 24
2023-014: Eastern Mediterranean Sea – Regional Conflict	26 OCT 23	23 APR 24

(U) **ICOD:** 24 April 2024

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intelligence Portal:
<https://www.oni.navy.mil/ONI-Reports/Shipping-Threat-Reports/Worldwide-Threat-to-Shipping/>