(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report,
29 December 2021 – 26 January 2022

26 January 2022

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1. (U) Scope Note

(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: No active warnings or advisories.

3. (U) Summary:

A. (U) VENEZUELA: On 25 January, a robbery occurred on a bulk carrier anchored at Guanta Anchorage.


C. (U) ANGOLA: On 23 January, a robbery occurred on a crew boat anchored at Luanda Anchorage.

D. (U) PERU: On 22 January, three robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Callao Anchorage.

E. (U) ANGOLA: On 20 January, robbers boarded a crew boat anchored at Luanda Anchorage.

F. (U) PAPUA NEW GUINEA: On 20 January, a passenger boat with eight people onboard was hijacked and robbed while underway between Pik Island and Raicoast in Madang waterways.
G. (U) INDIA: On 19 January, a robbery occurred on an underway jack-up barge approximately 7.5 NM southeast of Alang.

H. (U) NIGERIA: On 17 January, an underway passenger boat was hijacked and the passengers onboard kidnapped by pirates while in transit from Safe Journey Beach in Calabar, Cross River State, to Oron Beach in Akwa Ibom State.

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 last 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:

1. (U) VENEZUELA: On 25 January, at 0210 local time, a robbery occurred on a bulk carrier anchored at Guanta Anchorage, near position 10:16N – 064:35W. Two robbers were spotted onboard, the alarm was raised, and the
crew were mustered. The perpetrators escaped with stolen ship’s property and stores. The incident was reported to port authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) PERU: On 22 January, at 1940 local time, three robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:13W. The alarm was raised, and the crew were mustered, after which the perpetrators escaped empty-handed. The incident was reported to the agent and port authorities, who boarded the vessel and conducted an investigation. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) BRAZIL: On 10 January, at 0615 local time, three armed robbers with knives and guns boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Macapa Anchorage, near position 00:01N – 050:59W. The alarm was raised and the crew were mustered. The robbers went to the muster station and threatened the crew with guns while they loaded stolen items from the ship’s stores into a waiting boat. The incident was reported to the local agent and authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) VENEZUELA: On 7 January, a robbery occurred on a bulk carrier berthed in the port of Pertigalete, near position 10:14N – 064:33W. The robbers escaped with a stolen lifeboat engine and spare parts from the ship. (Clearwater Dynamics)

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.
1. (U) IVORY COAST: On 24 January, at 2323 local time, pirates hijacked the underway Marshall Islands-flagged tanker B OCEAN approximately 53 NM south of Abidjan, near position 04:22N – 004:10W. The pirates escaped with stolen cargo and all the crew were reported safe. (Dryad Global; Fleetmon; IMB; MDAT-GOG; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) ANGOLA: On 23 January, at 0125 local time, a robbery occurred on a crew boat anchored at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:47SN – 013:14E. Two robbers boarded the vessel and forced their entry by breaking the padlocks with a bar. The robbers stole several pieces of ship equipment, and escaped into a waiting canoe with two or more accomplices onboard. The incident was reported to the port authorities. (IMB; MDAT-GOG; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) ANGOLA: On 20 January, at 0100 local time, an undetermined number of robbers boarded a crew boat at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:46SN – 013:15E. They gained entry to the boat by breaking the padlocks on the accommodation entrance. The robbers escaped with a stolen water pump. The incident was reported to the port authorities. (MDAT-GOG; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 17 January, an underway passenger boat with 17 people onboard was hijacked and kidnapped by pirates while on transit from Safe Journey Beach in Calabar, Cross River State, to Oron Beach in Akwa Ibom State waterways, near position 04:55N – 008:17E. According to press reports, eight armed pirates intercepted the boat with 16 passengers and one skipper onboard, comprised of 10 men and seven women, and took them to an undisclosed camp. On 19 January, the pirates released five of the hostages: a four-year-old child, a wounded man,
a pregnant woman, an elderly woman, and the boat skipper. They were dropped off in Akpabuyo, Cross River State and were taken into custody by the local authorities. Twelve of the hostages remained in the camp. (Daily Post; People Gazette; NY Sahara Reporters)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 January, a group of fishing boats were boarded and robbed while fishing at the Brass River entrance, Bayelsa State, near position 04:15N – 006:15E. The robbers stole the outboard engines from the fishing boats and then escaped. The crew of the fishing boats were reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 January, three Cameroonian crew members, previously kidnapped from the Vanuatu-flagged supply vessel MONTET TIDE approximately 62 NM south of Santo Antonio, Sao Tome and Principe on 25 October 2021, were reported released. (Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 January, six crew members, previously kidnapped from the Liberia-flagged container ship TONSBERG approximately 48 NM southwest of Luba, Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea on 13 December 2021, were reported released. (Clearwater Dynamics)

8. (U) LIBERIA: On 9 January, at 0500 local time, a robbery occurred on a tanker anchored at Monrovia Anchorage, near position 06:20N – 010:48E. The robbers stole an outboard engine and a fuel can, and then escaped unnoticed. The local authorities were informed and security in the area was increased. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

9. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 January, five crew members, previously kidnapped from the Cameroon-flagged general cargo vessel CAP SAINT GEORGES approximately 58 NM southwest of Brass, on 11 November 2021, were released after 52 days in captivity. (Clearwater Dynamics)

10. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 January, an underway passenger boat was boarded and robbed while in transit between Yenegoa and Brass Island, Bayelsa State waterways, near position 04:24N – 006:15E. The armed robbers stole passengers’ valuables and the 115 horsepower Yamaha engine. The passengers were left stranded in the creeks and a rescue team was dispatched to assist. (Clearwater Dynamics)

11. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 30 December, at 0430 local time, unknown number of armed pirates in a black speedboat attacked and boarded a fishing vessel approximately 12 NM southwest of Mbini, near position 01:30N – 009:25E. Six crew members were reported kidnapped including the captain, and one crew member was killed during the attack. The nationalities of the kidnapped crew are Ghanaian and Malian. Nine crew members were left onboard. The incident was reported to the Equatoguinean Navy which dispatched a vessel to assist. (The Maritime Executive; Dryad Global; MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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

1. (U) YEMEN: On 20 January, at 1610 local time, an underway chemical tanker reported a suspicious approach by three small boats with a larger vessel nearby, approximately 53 NM southwest of Aden, near position 12:09N – 044:19E. The three small boats approached to within one NM of the tanker while the larger vessel came within
three NM. The master reported that there appeared to be a ladder in one of the small boats. (UKMTO; Dryad Global; Clearwater Dynamics).

2. (U) OMAN: On 11 January, at 0948 local time, an underway tanker reported a suspicious approach by eight, white-hulled, unknown crafts, approximately 70 NM east of Muscat, near position 23:51N – 059:47E. The vessel and crew were reported safe and have continued their voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics).

3. (U) YEMEN: On 5 January, at 1644 local time, an underway vessel reported a suspicious approach by a single unidentified craft, approximately 30 NM west of Port Saleef, near position 15:36N – 041:55E. The vessel and crew were reported safe and have continued their voyage. (Dryad Global; UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics).

4. (U) YEMEN: On 3 January, at 0050 local time, it was reported that the United Arab Emirates-flagged landing craft RWABEE was attacked, seized, and held allegedly by Yemeni Houthi militia, approximately 23 NM west of Ras Isa, near position 15:13N – 042:12E. A Saudi-led coalition is negotiating for the release of the vessel. (Fleetmon; Dryad Global; S&P PLATTS; UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics).

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 January, at 2110 local time, the Indonesian Navy arrested 47 robbers and seized eight boats caught stealing coal from a barge at Muara Kembang, buoy 17, Samarinda, East Kalimantan. According to press reports, the robbers managed to unload 31 tons of coal from the barge to the boats. The perpetrators and the boats were detained at Anggana naval station for further investigation. (Antara News; Kompas.com).

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 10 January, at 2200 local time, an attempted boarding occurred on an underway Malaysia-flagged tanker CARLA in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:13N – 103:32E. Five robbers onboard a sampan approached the tanker and were able to hook a ladder to the side of the vessel. The alarm was raised, which resulted in the perpetrators aborting their attempt to board. The incident was reported to the port operations control center. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics).

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 January, at 0540 local time, four robbers armed with knives managed to board a Norway-flagged tanker BOW SANTOS underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:14E. The robbers were sighted in the engine room. The alarm was raised, the crew were mustered, and the vessel was searched with no sighting of the perpetrators. Nothing was stolen, all crew were reported safe, and the ship resumed her voyage. The master reported the incident to the authorities. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 January, at 0320 local time, four robbers, one armed with a long knife, boarded underway Liberia-flagged tanker BLUE SEA in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:16E. The robbers were sighted in the engine room and escaped upon notice. The master reported that nothing was stolen and that all crew were safe. The ship required no assistance and resumed her voyage. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) MALAYSIA: On 6 January, at 1138 local time, an unauthorized person boarded an underway barge KIEN SAN 8 towed by the Malaysia-flagged tug KIEN SAN 1 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:13N – 103:33E. The perpetrator managed to escape with scrap metal in a sampan tied alongside the barge. The
master reported the incident to the port operations control center. All crew were reported safe and the tugboat continued towing the barge to its destination. (ReCAAP, Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 January, pirates hijacked the Indonesia-flagged tanker GRAHA DUA SATU at night while anchored in Morosi waters, Southeast Sulawesi, near position 03:42S – 122:38E. Six masked robbers armed with machetes climbed onboard while two remained on their speed boat. The pirates immediately restrained the eight crew members in the mess hall and instructed the bridge to maneuver the vessel to a specified position. Once arrived, the crew were restrained again in the mess hall. An unknown vessel berthed alongside the tanker and the diesel cargo was transferred from the GRAHA DUA SATU. The robbers left the ship early on 7 January, after robbing the ship and crew of valuables and cash. The vessel sailed back to Morosi waters that morning around 0700 local time. The incident was reported to the local authorities which immediately conducted an investigation. (Maritime Bulletin, Fleetmon)

7. (U) MALAYSIA: On 31 December, at 1000 local time, a robber boarded an underway barge SAMWOH GALLANT towed by the Singapore-flagged tug SAMWOH COURAGE in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:11N – 103:33E. The master spotted a boat moving closer to the towed barge, the horn was sounded, and the tug maneuvered closer to the barge. The crew sighted a perpetrator on the barge who immediately escaped. The barge cargos were checked, and the master reported that nothing was stolen and that all crew were safe. (ReCAAP)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

1. (U) INDIA: On 19 January, at 2010 local time, a robbery occurred on an underway jack-up barge VIMLA-1 towed by the India-flagged tug ROSE approximately 7.5 NM southeast of Alang, near position 21:21N – 072:18E. The
master spotted four perpetrators onboard the unmanned barge. The robbers subsequently escaped on a waiting boat. The incident was reported to the Khambhat Vessel Traffic Service and an Indian Coast Guard vessel was dispatched. The Coast Guard boarded the barge on arrival and discovered the lock to the living space was broken and properties were stolen. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) BANGLADESH: On 15 January, at 0000 local time, members of the Bangladesh Police Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested six suspected pirates armed with guns onboard a trawler in the Maheshkhali channel in the Bay of Bengal. Acting on a tip-off, members of the RAB police unit headed out to sea onboard a fishing vessel in the guise of fishermen. According to press reports, a suspicious group of individuals were seen onboard a trawler. The police boarded the trawler which led to the arrest of the six suspects and the seizure of three guns and 11 bullets in their possession. The suspects were detained at the local police station for further investigation. (Dhaka Tribune; The Financial Express; DBC24/7newstv; bdnews24.com)

3. (U) INDIA: On 3 January, a robbery occurred on Cayman Islands-flagged tanker MID EAGLE anchored at Kandla Anchorage, near position 22:47N – 070:02E. Three robbers were spotted onboard by a duty crew member. The alarm was raised and a full search was conducted. The perpetrators escaped with 40 pieces of ship spare parts from the main deck. The incident was reported to port authorities. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

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

1. (U) PAPUA NEW GUINEA: On 20 January, an underway passenger boat with eight people onboard was hijacked and robbed between Pik Island and Raicoast in Madang waterways. According to press reports, the armed robbers stole the boat engine and left the boat and the passengers stranded at sea. The local police stated that the
wounded boat skipper survived by swimming to the shore, while one passenger was found dead and six are still missing. (The National PG)

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

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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.
- **Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.

- **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.

- **Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.

- **Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained activity in close proximity of an unknown vessel.

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

**ICOD:** 26 January 2022

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