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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 19 January – 16 February 2022**



16 February 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:**

A. (U) MARAD ADVISORY 2022-002-Black Sea and Sea of Azov-Risks Due to Regional Tensions: Effective Date: 02/13/2022–08/12/2022. Issue: Regional tensions and increased naval activity in the above listed geographic areas could pose a risk to U.S.-flagged commercial vessels. Guidance: U.S.-flagged commercial vessels operating in the subject geographic areas are advised to exercise caution, conduct a risk assessment, review security measures, and incorporate appropriate protective measures into their vessel security plans. Vessels should ensure AIS is transmitting at all times (except when the master believes that continuing to operate AIS might compromise the safety or security of the ship or when a security incident is imminent), consistent with provisions of the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), and monitor VHF Channel 16. In the event of any incident or suspicious activity, U.S.-flagged commercial vessels should notify the NATO Shipping Center and activate the Ship Security Alert System immediately. U.S.-flagged commercial vessels are also encouraged to participate in the NATO Shipping Center's Mediterranean Voluntary Reporting Scheme. This entails contacting the NATO Shipping Center when entering or departing the Mediterranean Sea, and/or departing port in the Mediterranean Sea. Preferred reporting method is online via the "Mediterranean Reporting Scheme – Format A" link at <https://shipping.nato.int/nsc>. Alternatively, the forms can be downloaded, completed, and submitted either via email to info@shipping.nato.int or by fax to +44 (0) 1923-956-575. Vessels operating in these areas may

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encounter GPS interference, AIS spoofing, and/or other communications jamming. Maritime GPS disruptions or anomalies should be reported immediately to the USCG NAVCEN at <https://go.usa.gov/xQBaw> or via phone at 703-313-5900, 24-hours a day. Additional guidance for vessels experiencing GPS interference can be found in Maritime Advisory 2021-010 at <https://go.usa.gov/xtHn2>.

3. (U) Summary:

A. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 February, two unauthorized personnel boarded an underway bulk carrier in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

B. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 February, two unauthorized personnel boarded an underway bulk carrier in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.

C. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 February, two robbers boarded an underway bulk carrier in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.

D. (U) NIGERIA: On 8 February, a group of fishing boats were attacked by pirates while fishing in the vicinity of Brass Island, Bayelsa 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) PERU: On 4 February, at 0200 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded the Malta-flagged bulk carrier ATLANTIC ELM anchored at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:13W. Robbers restrained the roving crew on-duty. The on-duty officer noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. The perpetrators escaped on a waiting boat with stolen ship's property. The incident was reported to the agent and port authorities. (ReCAAP; IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) BRAZIL: On 25 January, at 1945 local time, crew members on the anchored Singapore-flagged bulk carrier KT BIRDIE foiled an attempted boarding at Macapa Anchorage, near position 00:00N – 050:59W. Two small boats were seen approaching the vessel, after which three robbers wearing black diving suits attempted to board from different positions. The master raised the alarm and mustered the crew. The crew used anti-piracy hoses to repulse the perpetrators, and, at 2000 local time, the crew observed the three perpetrators fleeing in one of the two boats spotted earlier. (ReCAAP; IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) VENEZUELA: On 25 January, at 0210 local time, a robbery occurred on the United Kingdom-flagged bulk carrier BERGE GALDHOPPIGEN 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; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
4. (U) BRAZIL: On 23 January, at 0120 local time, four robbers armed with a handgun and a machete boarded the anchored Singapore-flagged bulk carrier KT BIRDIE at Macapa Anchorage, near position 00:00N – 050:59W. The robbers were spotted in the forecandle by the on-duty crew member. The robbers restrained the crew member and confiscated his handheld radio. After more than an hour, the perpetrator released the restrained crew member, who immediately raised the alarm. The crew were mustered, conducted a search, and discovered that the perpetrators escaped with stolen ship's property. (ReCAAP; IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
5. (U) PERU: On 22 January, at 1940 local time, three robbers boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier VEGA ROSE 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; vesseltracker.com; 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.

F. (U) WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:

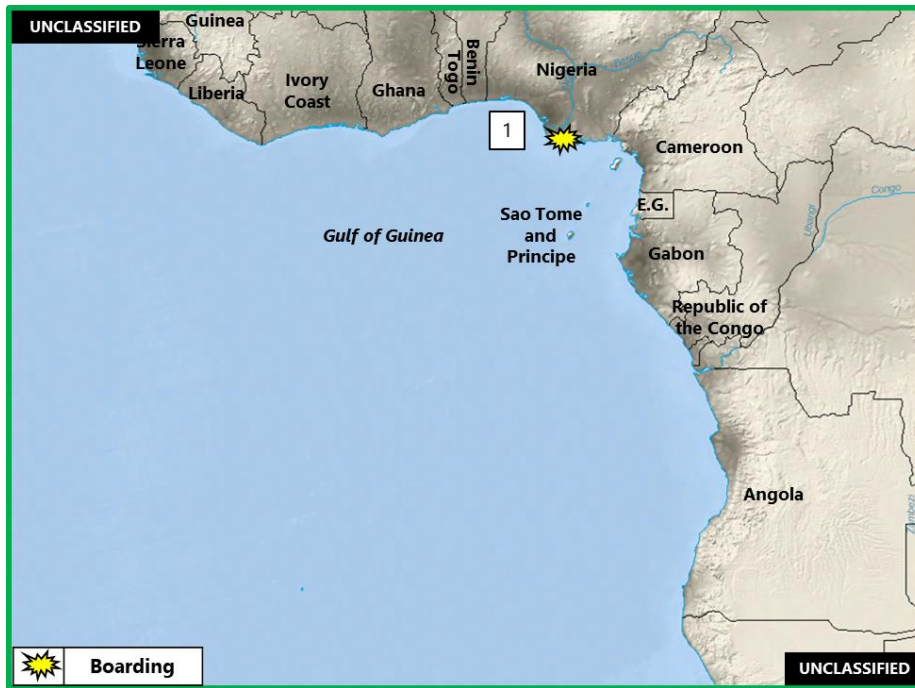


Figure 1. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 8 February, a group of fishing boats were attacked while fishing in the vicinity of Brass Island, Bayelsa State, near position 04:15N – 006:12E. According to press reports, and as narrated by one of the survivors, an unknown number of perpetrators armed with guns onboard six speed boats came close to the fishermen and opened fire. One fisherman was killed instantly, while the rest of the fishermen jumped overboard. The attackers then took the fishing boats' engines and set the boats ablaze. A number of fishermen were reported wounded or missing. The incident was reported to the local authorities and divers were dispatched to search for the missing fishermen. (The Sun; Sahara Reporters NY; Punch NG; Daily Trust; naijaonpoint.com)

2. (U) GHANA: On 9 February, at 0040 local time, two robbers were sighted on the main deck onboard the Bahamas-flagged general cargo BALTIC SPRINGS anchored at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:54N – 001:42W. The alarm was raised, the crew were mustered, and the vessel was searched. It was later confirmed that the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (MDAT-GoG; vesseltrcker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) ANGOLA: On 8 February, at 0415 local time, a robbery occurred on the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged tanker BW THOR at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:44S – 013:18E. The robbers boarded the vessel by climbing through the anchor chain and escaped unnoticed with stolen ship's property. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 February, seven hostages were released. They were part of a group of 17 kidnapped on 17 January from an underway passenger boat while in transit from Safe Journey Beach in Calabar, Cross River State, to Oron Beach in Akwa Ibom State waterways. Five hostages remain in captivity. (Clearwater Dynamics)
5. (U) GHANA: On 2 February, at 0116 local time, a robber was sighted attempting to board the Cyprus-flagged container vessel WARNOW MATE anchored at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:54N – 001:42W, through the anchor chain. The alarm was raised, and the robber escaped on a waiting boat with two accomplices onboard. All the crew were safe and the incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
6. (U) ANGOLA: On 29 January, at 0210 local time, three robbers boarded two Panama-flagged crew boats, SURFER 3601 and SURFER 3602, alongside each other at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:47S – 013:15E. After being spotted by the port security, the robbers escaped on a canoe powered by a small motor. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
7. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 29 January, armed pirates onboard a speed boat approached and fired upon the underway St. Vincent and the Grenadines-flagged roll-on roll-off ship DONA CANDIDA between Bata and Malabo, near position 02:05N – 009:35W. The armed military guards onboard the ferry returned fire, which resulted in the pirates moving away. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
8. (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. Between 9 and 11 pirates armed with guns boarded the tanker, detained the crew, and turned off all communication and navigation equipment. The pirates asked the bosun to paint over the vessel name written on top of the bridge. They then used their own GPS equipment to rendezvous with an offtake vessel. Once alongside the offtake vessel, the pirates had the chief officer and bosun commence discharge operations, which lasted for approximately six hours. The pirates escaped with stolen cargo, ship's properties and cash, and crew personal belongings and cash. The crew were reported safe. (Dryad Global; Fleetmon; IMB; MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)
9. (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)
10. (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)
11. (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)

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

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

1. (U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: On 5 February, at 1445 local time, an attempted boarding occurred on an anchored tanker at Khor Fakkan Anchorage, approximately 9 NM east of the port, near position 25:20N – 056:32E. A small boat with two people onboard wearing diving suits was spotted alongside the vessel. Following the raising of the alarm, the boat left the area. The crew and the vessel were reported safe and the port authorities were informed. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) SOUTH AFRICA: On 2 February, at 2115 local time, a robbery occurred on the Panama-flagged bulk carrier ISABELLA M while berthed at the port of Durban, near position 29:52S – 031:02E. The robbers stole crew's valuables and belongings and escaped unnoticed. The incident was reported to local authorities. (vesseltracker.com; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics).

3. (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).

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

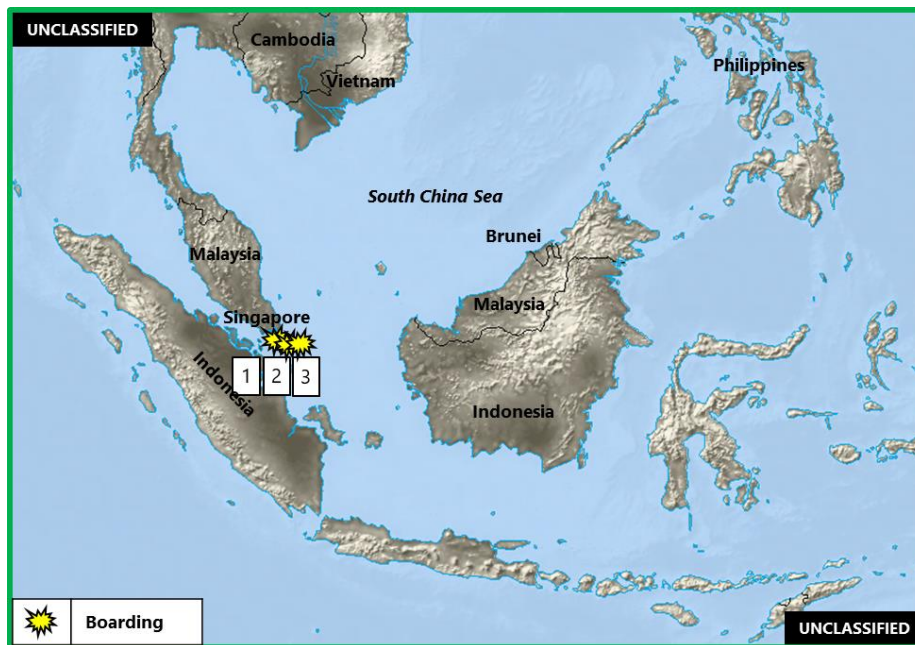


Figure 2. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 February, at 0208 local time, two unauthorized personnel boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier GOLDEN LEAF underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:12N – 104:01E. When spotted by the on-duty crewmembers, the two perpetrators made their escape in a waiting sampan. Nothing was reported stolen and all crew were reported safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
2. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 February, at 2158 local time, two unauthorized personnel boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier NAVIOS BONHEUR underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:14N – 104:03E. The two robbers jumped overboard after being seen by on-duty crewmembers. It was reported that the ship and all the crew were safe and nothing was stolen. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
3. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 February, at 0330 local time, two robbers boarded the underway Portugal-flagged bulk carrier THEODOR OLDENDORFF in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:17N – 104:18E. The two perpetrators were spotted in the engine room. After the alarm was raised, the crew mustered and searched the vessel. It was later reported that the robbers escaped with stolen engine spare parts. The incident was reported to the local authorities. The ship and all the crew were reported safe and did not require any assistance. (IMB; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
4. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 February, at 0126 local time, four unauthorized personnel boarded the underway Liberia-flagged tanker FPMC C JADE in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:14N – 104:04E. The four perpetrators were spotted in the engine room. The alarm was raised, and the robbers escaped empty-handed. All crew were reported safe. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 February, at 0114 local time, two robbers boarded the Germany-flagged tanker AVALON anchored at inner Balikpapan Anchorage, near position 01:16S – 116:47E. The robbers used a hook attached to a rope to board the vessel. The on-duty crew member sighted the perpetrator at the forecandle and raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped into a waiting boat with two accomplices onboard. The crew mustered and searched the vessel. It was reported that the forecandle boatswain's store was breached and ship's stores were stolen. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
6. (U) MALAYSIA: On 2 February, at 0540 local time, a robber boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker PS STARS while berthed at Sandakan Port, Sabah, near position 05:47N – 118:01E. The on-duty crew member sighted the perpetrator near the forecandle store and raised the alarm. The crew mustered and searched the vessel. The robber escaped and, following a search of the tanker, it was reported that the forecandle store was breached and ship's stores were stolen. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
7. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 February, at 0435 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier BOBIC anchored at Belawan Anchorage, near position 03:55N – 098:47E. The robbers used a hook attached to a rope to board the vessel. They chased the on-duty crew member who was on routine rounds. The crew member managed to escape and raised the alarm. The crew mustered, and searched the vessel. The robbers escaped with stolen ship's property. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 30 January, at 0428 local time, two robbers boarded the underway Vietnam-flagged tugboat HAI DUONG 29 while towing the Panama-flagged platform HAKURYU 5 about 4.6 NM northeast of Karimun Kecil Island in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:10N – 103:29E. The robbers were seen on the vessel's closed circuit television system as they boarded. It was reported that nothing was stolen and that all crew were safe. The ship required no assistance and resumed her voyage. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

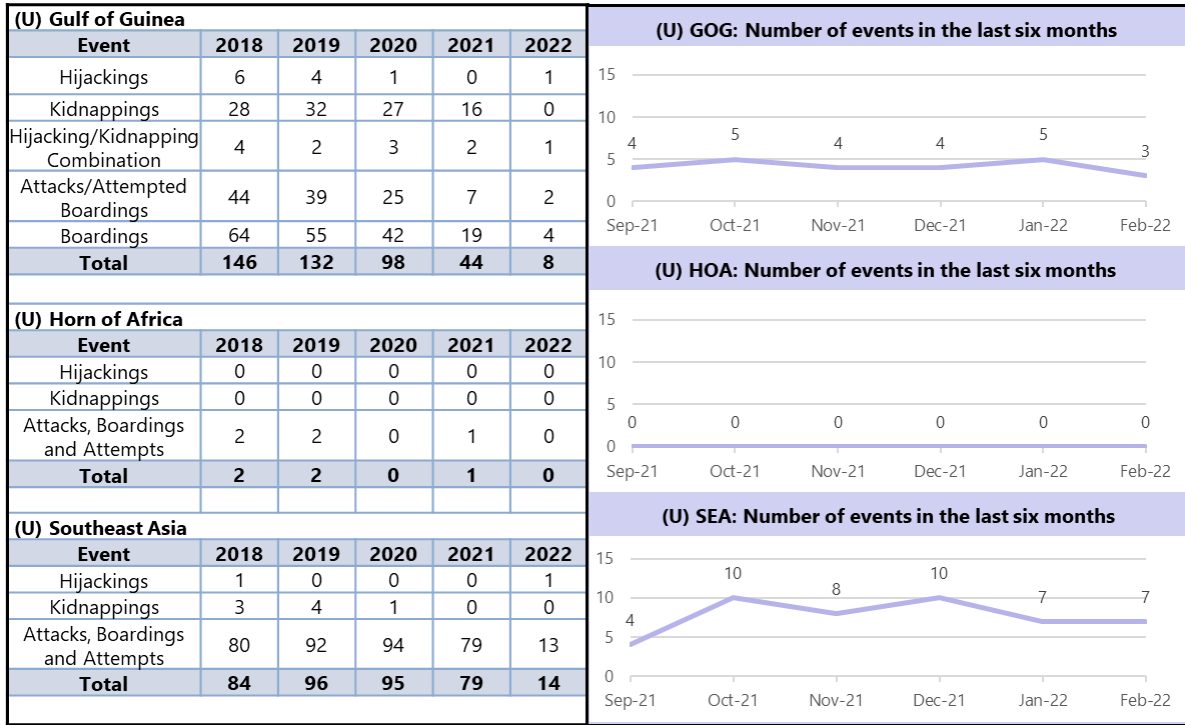
1. (U) INDIA: On 25 January, at 0446 local time, a robbery occurred on the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier SEA GEMINI berthed at the port of Haldia, near position 22:02N – 088:05E. The robbers boarded the vessel using a hook attached to a rope and escaped unnoticed with stolen ship's property. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (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)

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**



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.

(U) **ICOD:** 16 February 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/>