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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 19 June–24 July 2019**

25 July 2019



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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:**

1. (U) **UKMTO ADVISORY NOTICE 002/JUL/2019**. Category: Incident. Description: UKMTO is aware of two incidents, near positions 26:25N - 056:21E and 26:02N - 054:58E. The UK and its partners are currently investigating. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution. Source: Phone and Email. This advisory is not classified as a maritime security event and has not been verified by UKMTO. This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the region. UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting. UKMTO Watchkeeper email: watchkeepers@ukmto.org, emergency tel: +44 (0)2392 222060 Emergency Tel: +971 5055 23215, general enquiries: +44 (0)2392 222065.
2. (U) **MARAD ADVISORY 2019-008-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Red Sea-Threats to U.S. and International Shipping from Iran**. Description: This revised advisory cancels U.S. Maritime Advisory 2019-006. Reference: U.S. Maritime Advisory 2019-004. Issue: The heightened military activities and increased political tensions in this region continue to present risk to commercial shipping due not only to this threat, but also due to the potential for miscalculation or misidentification. Additionally, vessels operating in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman may encounter GPS interference and other communications jamming, which could occur with little to no warning.

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- Description: Following the May 12, 2019 attacks against four commercial vessels in the vicinity of the anchorage off Fujairah, UAE (see U.S. Maritime Alert 2019-002A) and the June 13, 2019 attacks against two additional commercial vessels transiting in the Gulf of Oman (see U.S. Maritime Alert 2019-003A), there is a continued possibility that Iran and/or its regional proxies could take actions against U.S. and partner interests in the region.
- Guidance: U.S. commercial vessels operating in this area are advised to review U.S. Maritime Advisory 2019-004 and contact the U.S. Navy 5th Fleet NCAGS watch, per the below contact information, for additional guidance.
- Contact Information: U.S. flag vessels are advised to report any incidents immediately to coalition naval vessels on VHF Channel 16, the 5th Fleet Battle Watch via phone at 973-1785-3879, and email details to: CUSNC.BWC@ME.NAVY.MIL. U.S. flag commercial vessels bound for the Strait of Hormuz in either direction are encouraged to contact the U.S. Navy 5th Fleet Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS) Watch at least two days prior to transit at: CUSNC.NCAGS_BW@ME.NAVY.MIL or 973-3904-9583.
- Per 33 CFR 101.305, all suspicious activities and events must be reported to the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802. In this region, such activities and events should additionally be reported to the U.S. Navy 5th Fleet NCAGS Watch at the email address or phone number listed above.
- For maritime industry questions about this advisory, contact GMCC@uscg.mil. Supplemental information may also be found on the MARAD Office of Maritime Security website at: <https://go.usa.gov/xUKsb>.
- Cancellation of Prior Advisories: This advisory supersedes and cancels U.S. Maritime Advisory 2019-006. This message will automatically expire on December 25, 2019. For more information about U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories, including subscription details, please visit <http://www.marad.dot.gov/MSCI>.

3. (U) Summary

1. (U) SIERRA LEONE: On 21 July, five robbers armed with knives in a small wooden boat boarded an anchored container ship in the Freetown Anchorage.
2. (U) INDONESIA: On 21 July, seven pirates armed with a pistol and knives in a small speed boat boarded the South Korea-flagged bulk carrier CK BLUEBELL underway 16 NM northwest of Pulau Damar.
3. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 20 July, a sailing yacht was boarded while anchored off Princess Margaret Beach while the owners were ashore.
4. (U) ARABIAN GULF: On 19 July, Iran detained the UK-flagged tanker STENA IMPERO in the Strait of Hormuz.
5. (U) ARABIAN GULF: On 19 July, Iranian forces briefly detained the Liberia-flagged VLCC tanker MESDAR in the Strait of Hormuz.
6. (U) MYANMAR: On 19 July, Arakan Army insurgent elements attacked two navy vessels in the Taung Sein River in Myebon Township.
7. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 July, robbers boarded barge in tow SUNG FATT 36 in Singapore Strait.
8. (U) ARABIAN GULF: On 14 July, Iranian naval forces detained the Panama-flagged tanker RIAH in the Strait of Hormuz.
9. (U) PANAMA: On 13 July, a monohull with two persons onboard was boarded by six robbers while anchored in Bahia Nombre de Dios.
10. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 1 July, a robber boarded a catamaran anchored in Charlestown Bay.

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

1. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for July and August 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 (MILT), Japan: Email: hqt-info-piracy@mlit.go.jp (MSCHOA)
2. (U) GULF OF ADEN: China Navy convoy schedule for July and August 2019. For further information, please email: planavy@navy.mil.cn (MSCHOA)

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3. (U) GULF OF ADEN: South Korea Navy convoy schedule for July 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 at the Escort Task Group CCC: Email: cheonghae29@navy.mil.kr or cheonghae29@gmail.com (MSCHOA)

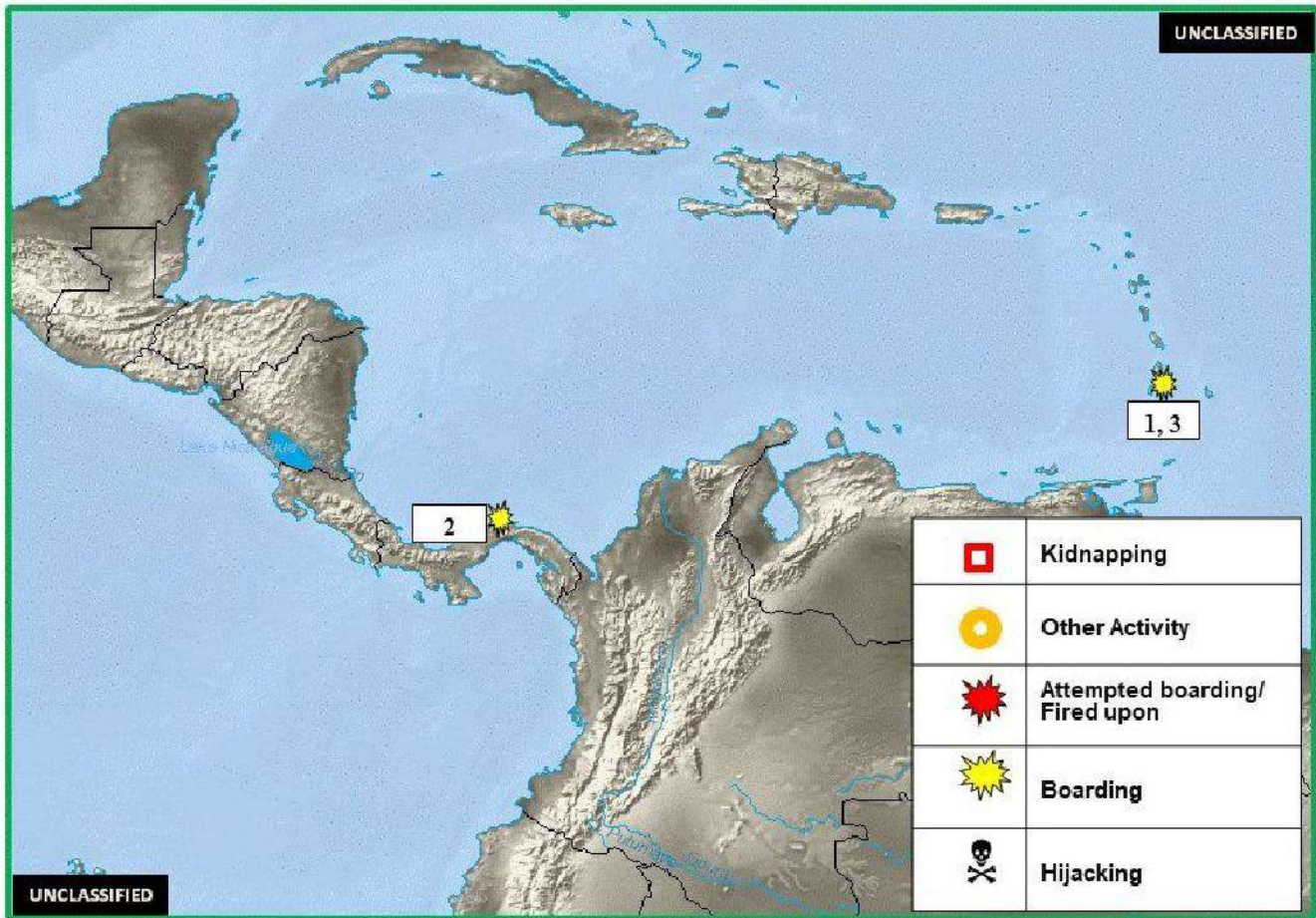
5. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(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 past 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:

(U) No current incidents to report.

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



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

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1. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 20 July, a sailing yacht anchored off Princess Margaret Beach was boarded while the owners were ashore. Cash and an LED flashlight were stolen. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
 2. (U) PANAMA: On 13 July, a monohull with two persons onboard departed Linton Bay, Panama, for the San Blas Islands, Panama. Engine issues caused the yacht to make an unplanned stop in Bahia Nombre de Dios, where no other boats were anchored. The necessary repairs were completed but the hour was late and entering the San Blas in the dark was not an option. The crew planned to lock themselves in securely for the night. They were down below and surprised just after sunset by noise on deck. The captain went up to the cockpit and was ambushed and then restrained by two swimmers who had boarded and concealed themselves behind opposite sides of the spray hood. Immediately a boat with four other men arrived and the captain was held at gunpoint. For 45 minutes the men ransacked and inspected every space in the yacht, stealing cash, credit cards, phones, cameras and video equipment, laptops, a drone, and other items. Some of the men appeared to be high on drugs and were only marginally under the control of the armed leader. Two of the men forced the crew member back into a cabin and indicated they intended to rape her, but the leader prevented this. Once they had collected all things of value, all six men departed in their boat. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
 3. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 1 July, a robber boarded a catamaran anchored in Charlestown Bay. The owner was awakened during the robbery and scared away the robber, who was able to steal cash. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
 4. (U) PANAMA: On 13 July, a robber attempted to board a sailing yacht anchored in Linton Bay. The yacht owner was awakened by the noise and confronted the robber, who fled. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
 5. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 9 July, a charter boat was boarded during the night and its dinghy and outboard motor stolen. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
 6. (U) PANAMA: On 5 July, armed robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Linton Bay. The robbers stole everything they could carry and escaped. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
 7. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 7 July, a robber boarded a sailing yacht anchored at L'Ance Guyac Point on Canouan. The robber was attempting to unlock the chained dinghy and outboard. The yacht owner awoke and scared the robber away. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
 8. (U) SAINT MARTIN: On 3 July, robbers stole a dighy and outboard from a sailing yacht anchored at Chicken Island. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
 9. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 29 June, robbers boarded a sailing yacht berthed in Grand Anse D'Arlet twice in the same evening. Cash and cell phones were stolen. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
 10. (U) HONDURAS: On 28 June, a sailing vessel en route from Providencia, Colombia, to the Bay Islands, Honduras, encountered a suspicious approach by three small boats near position 16:29N - 084:58W, northeast of Gorda Bank and 87 NM east of Guanaja. The three boats approached the yacht, matching course and speed changes. They approached to within 500 feet and then turned away. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
 11. (U) HONDURAS: On 27 June, a sailing vessel en route from Providencia, Colombia, to the Bay Islands, Honduras, encountered a suspicious approach by one 45-foot fishing boat near position 16:20N - 082:57W, northeast of Gorda Bank and 215 NM east of Guanaja. The fishing boat matched course and speed changes and closed to within 150 feet and attempted to come alongside the yacht. At this point, the yacht released sails and made a hard turn to port, passing behind the stern of the other vessel. They shut off all lights, changed course again and motorsailed at 8 knots away from the vessel. The suspect vessel initially turned to follow but then turned away. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
- C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:
1. (U) AZORES: On 12 July, Portugal's criminal investigation police seized half a ton of cocaine on a sailboat in the Azores archipelago and detained two men of foreign nationality. They were detained under the ongoing Operation Tiphon to combat narcotic drugs trafficking by sea. (www.macaubusiness.com)

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:

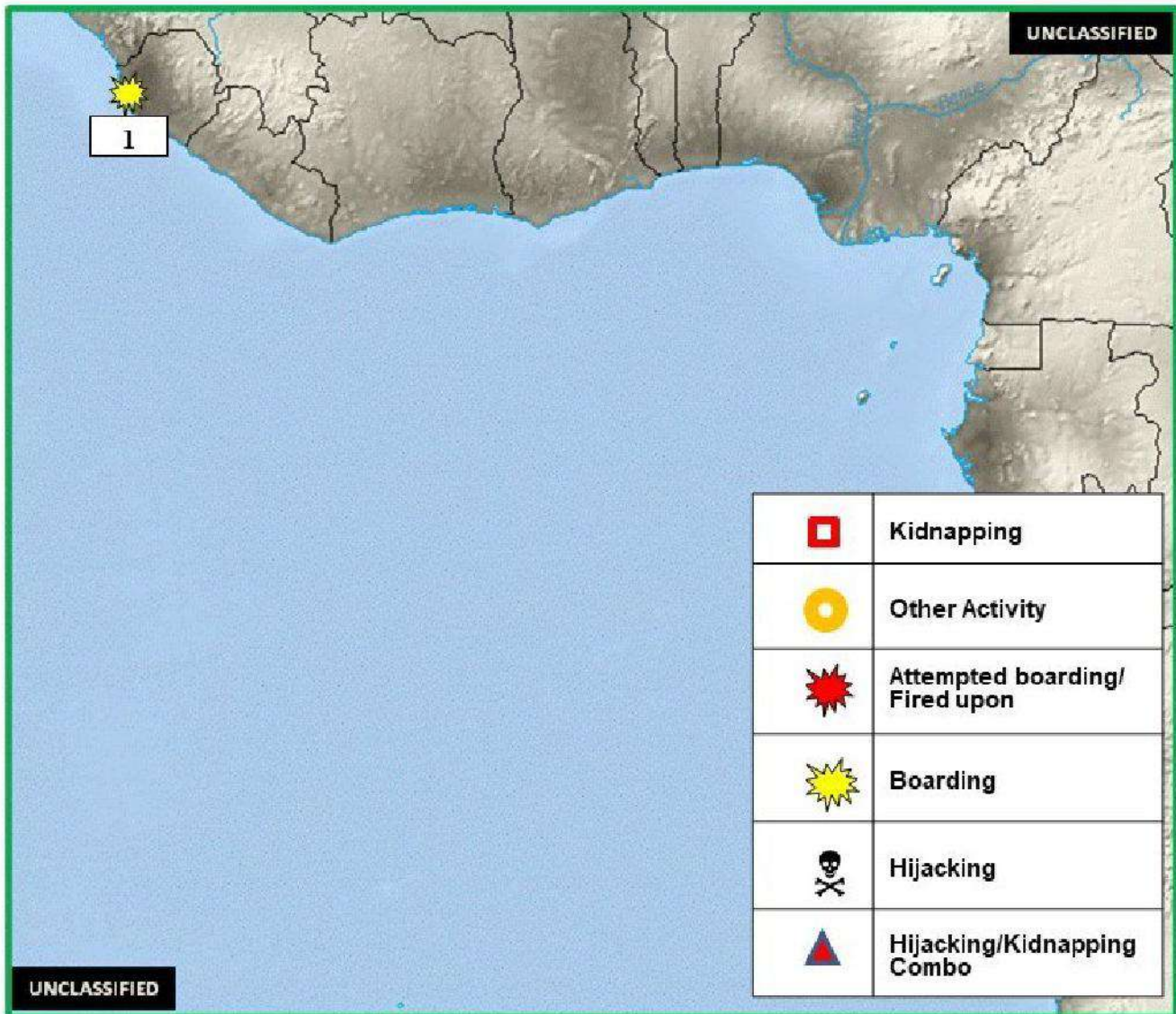
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(U) No current incidents to report.

(U) **MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:**

1. (U) GIBRALTAR: On 4 July, British Royal Marines detained the tanker GRACE 1 because officials said it was transporting oil to Syria, a violation of European Union sanctions. (www.upi.com)
2. (U) GREECE: On 26 June, customs authorities in the Port of Piraeus seized at least 1.4 million Captagon pills from three shipping containers that had arrived from Syria. (www.eksthimerini.com)
3. (U) GREECE: On 22 June, Greek coast guard forces in Piraeus removed nine stowaways that were found inside a shipping container. The stowaways reportedly snuck aboard the ship in Casablanca, Morocco. (www.fleetmon.com)

F. (U) **WEST AFRICA:**



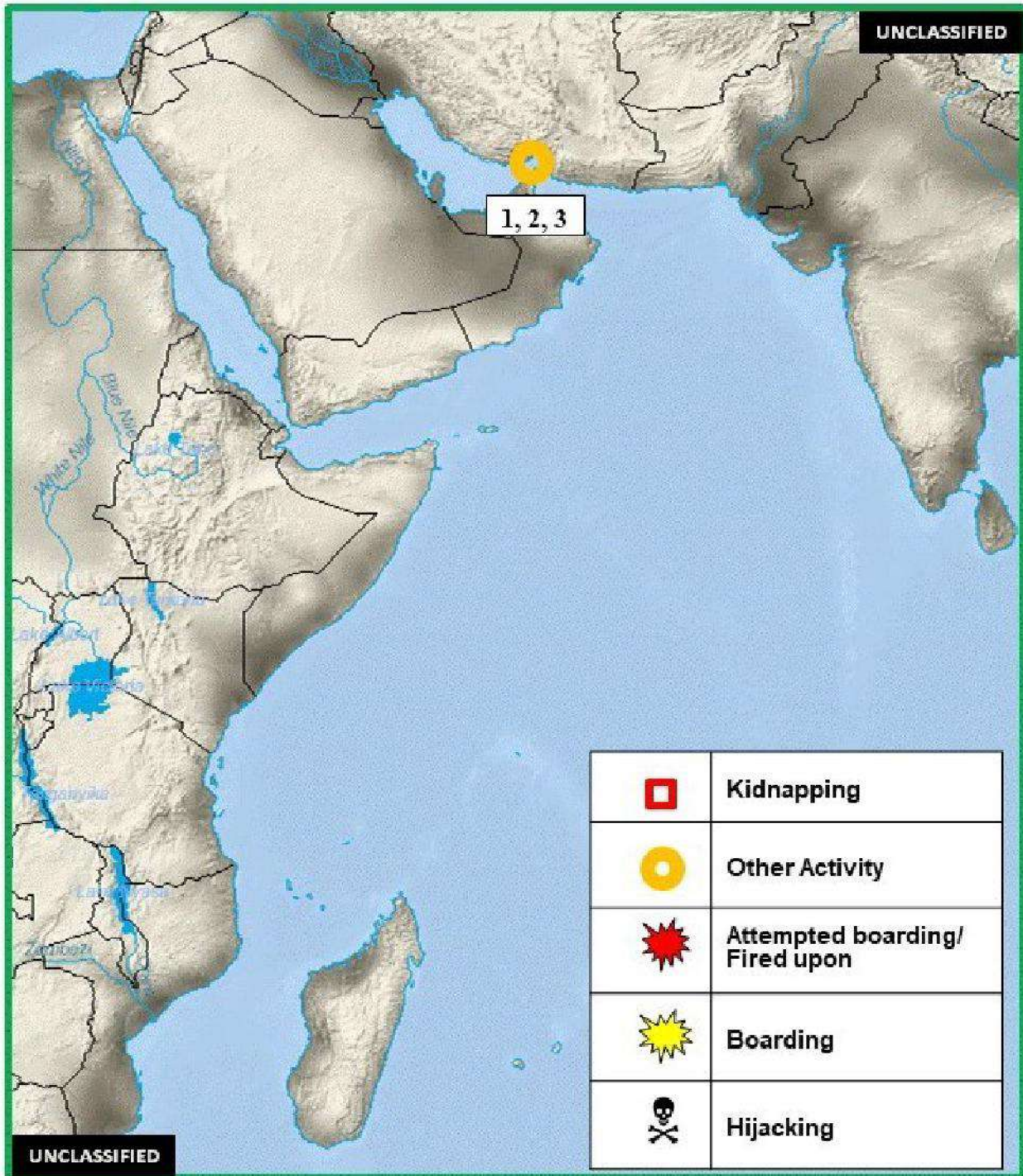
(U) Figure 2. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SIERRA LEONE: On 21 July, five robbers armed with knives in a small wooden boat boarded an anchored container ship near position 08:28N - 013:28W, Freetown Anchorage, using a rope attached with a hook. The robbers took hostage the duty crew and stole personal belongings and ship's properties. Alert crew noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. All doors locked and crew mustered. Hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped. Port control informed. During the incident the duty crew sustained injuries. (IMB)
2. (U) NIGERIA: On 13 July, pirates boarded the Turkey-flagged general cargo ship PAKSOY 1 near position 02:58N - 004:40E, 120 NM southwest of Port Harcourt. The ship was en route from Douala, Cameroon, to Abijan, Ivory Coast. Ten Turkish crewmen were taken hostage. The remaining crew, according to Turkish sources citing a ship owner's statement, took the ship to Tema Anchorage in Ghana. (www.maritimebulletin.net)
3. (U) NIGERIA: On 8 July, armed men attacked a passenger boat in the Bille waterways of Rivers State, killing one person. (www.thenationonlineeng.net)

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4. (U) DR CONGO: On 7 July, two unarmed robbers boarded an anchored vessel at 0430 hrs local time off Pointe-Noire. The two suspects stole ropes and fled in a white skiff. The vessel and crew were reported safe. (www.pvilttd.com)
5. (U) CAMEROON: On 3 July, at least 30 separatist gunmen attacked an army boat in the locality of Ekpambiri. A rescue mission was dispatched to the scene and three soldiers were found alive but in critical condition. Ten soldiers are reportedly missing. (www.journalducameroun.com/en)
6. (U) SENEGAL: On 30 June, customs officials in the Port of Dakar seized 750 kilograms of cocaine hidden among a consignment of 15 new Renault automobiles. The vehicles were aboard the Italy-flagged vehicle carrier GRANDE NIGERIA that had arrived from Brazil. (www.fleetmon.com)
7. (U) NIGERIA: On 30 June, two crew members onboard a tanker anchored in Lagos STS Anchorage observed a boat with three persons onboard alongside the tanker. All crew were alerted and a naval patrol boat came to assist the vessel. The criminals fled with two stolen moorings lines. (MDAT-GoG; www.sguardian.com)
8. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 June, five Indian seafarers kidnapped on 20 April were released from captivity. They were kidnapped from M/T APECUS near Bonny Island and held for 68 days. (www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)

G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:



(U) Figure 3. Arabian Gulf Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) ARABIAN GULF: On 19 July, UK-flagged tanker STENA IMPERO diverted from her inbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz and entered Iranian waters. Subsequent reporting indicates that the ship was detained by Iranian forces. (BBC; www.gcaptain.com; www.marinetraffic.com; www.fleetmon.com)

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2. (U) ARABIAN GULF: On 19 July, Iranian forces briefly detained the Liberia-flagged VLCC tanker MESDAR in the Strait of Hormuz. (BBC; www.gcaptain.com; www.marinetraffic.com; www.fleetmon.com)
3. (U) ARABIAN GULF: On 14 July, Iranian naval forces seized the Panama-flagged tanker RIAH in the Strait of Hormuz. The Iranian government subsequently released a statement accusing the ship and crew of smuggling oil. (www.bloomberg.com)

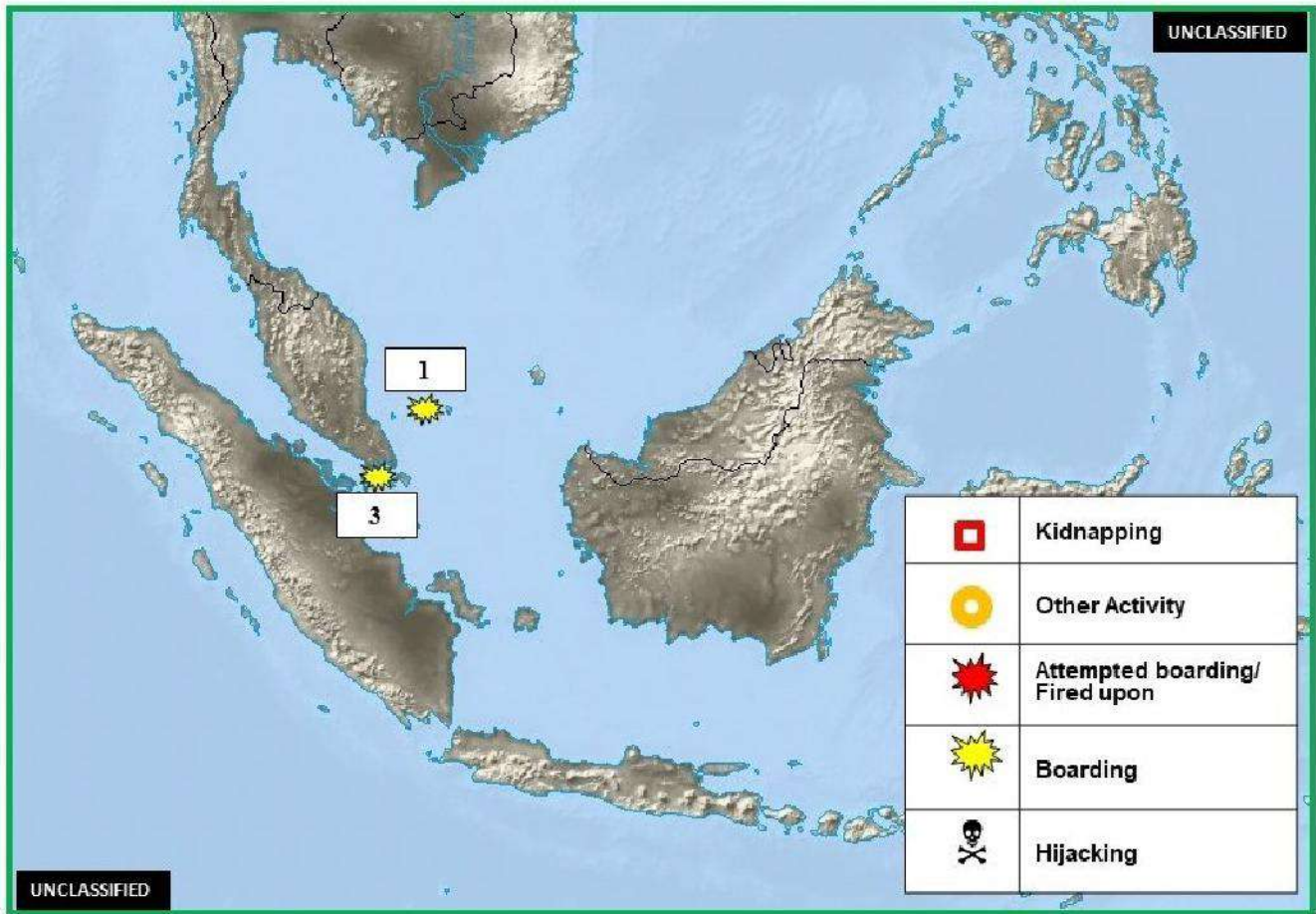
H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN - EAST AFRICA - RED SEA:

1. (U) RED SEA: On 8 July, naval forces from the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen foiled an attempted attack on an unidentified commercial ship in the southern Red Sea by the Iran-aligned Houthis, who denied the allegation. (www.reuters.com)
2. (U) RED SEA: On 1 July, a merchant vessel underway near position 12:51N - 043:14E, 11 NM northwest of Perim Island, was approached by three skiffs with five persons in each skiff. The skiffs approached to within 0.1 NM. When the embarked armed security team on the merchant vessel showed their weapons, the skiffs departed. The crew and vessel are safe. (UKMTO)

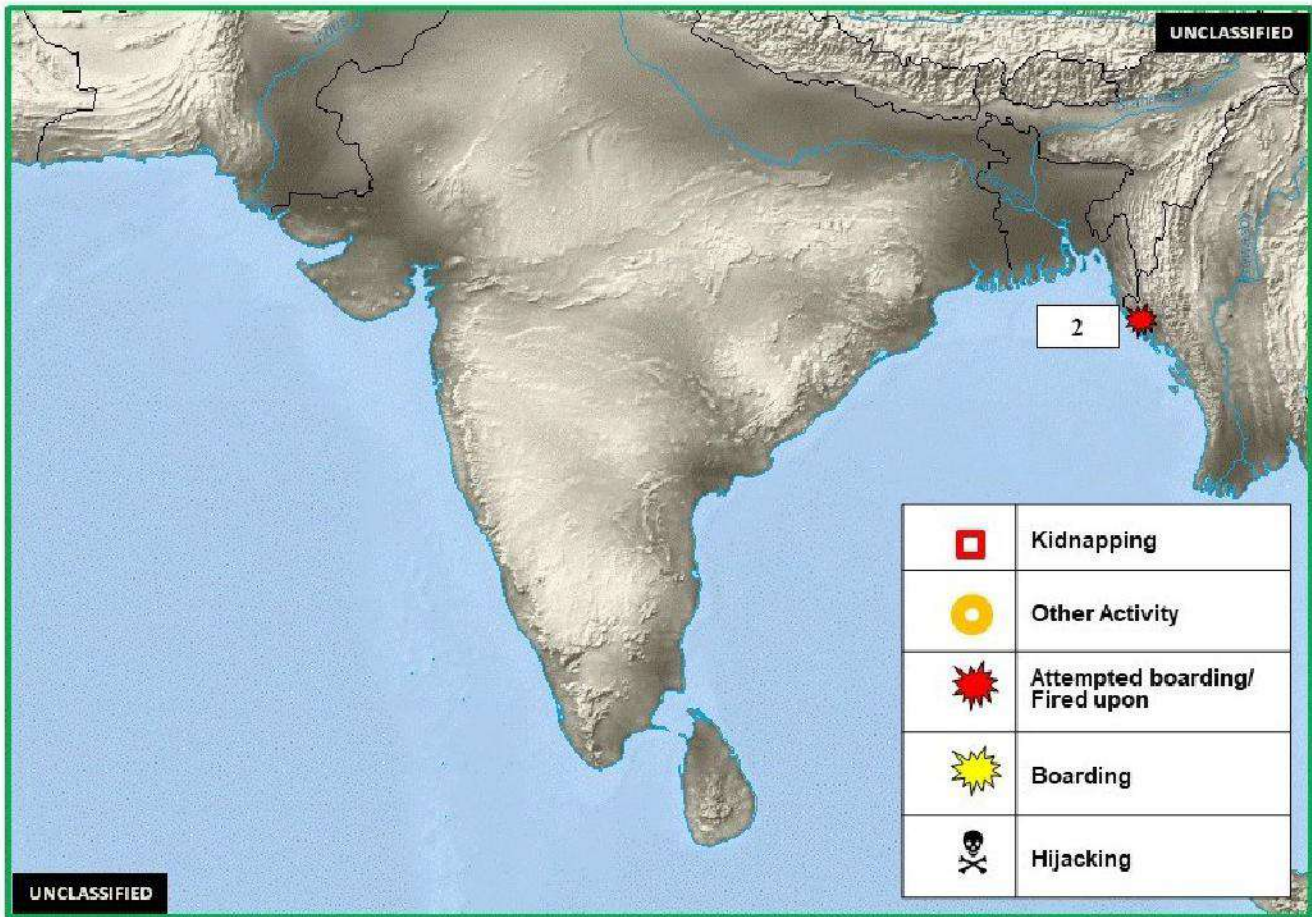
I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA - INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

(U) Figure 4. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime C-165385

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



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

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 21 July, seven pirates armed with a pistol and knives in a small speed boat boarded the South Korea-flagged bulk carrier CK BLUEBELL underway near position 02:55N - 105:10E, 16 NM northwest of Pulau Damar. They used a ladder attached with a hook to board the ship. The master and the second officer were taken hostage, tied up, and assaulted by the pirates. The pirates stole cash and crew personal belongings before escaping. Incident reported to Korean authorities. (IMB; www.marinelink.com)
2. (U) MYANMAR: On 19 July, Arakan Army insurgent elements attacked two navy vessels in the Taung Sein River in Myebon Township. An Army officer and two sailors were killed in the attack. (www.irrawaddy.com)
3. (U) MALAYSIA: On 11 July, six small wooden boats approached a tug and barge underway near position 01:13N - 103:31E, 2.9 NM south of Tanjung Piai, Johor. The unauthorized persons boarded the barge, stole its cargo of scrap metal, and escaped. The master contacted the local authorities who dispatched a patrol vessel to investigate. (IMB)
4. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 July, robbers boarded a barge under tow near position 01:10:23N - 103:39.09E, 0.6 NM west of North Nipa Beacon. The barge was carrying scrap metal bound for Penang, Malaysia. The master of tug boat SUNG FATT 31 reported to the Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that his crew spotted the perpetrators boarding the barge SUNG FATT 36 from an unknown number of sampans. The perpetrators stole scrap metal and escaped via the sampans. There was no confrontation between the perpetrators and the crew. Singapore Police Coast Guard and Republic of Singapore Navy notified. (www.pvilt.com)
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 30 June, robbers boarded a berthed bulk carrier during cargo operations in Tanjung Priok Port, Jakarta. The duty bosun on routine rounds noticed a storeroom padlock broken and notified the duty officer. Alarm

raised and crew mustered. It was reported that ship's properties were stolen. Incident reported to the port authorities. The Port Security Police and the Coast Guard boarded the ship for inspection. (IMB)

6. (U) BANGLADESH: On 24 June, the chieftain of notorious "Fakir Bahini" pirate gang was killed in a gunfight with the Special Forces' Rapid Action Battalion in the Subarnachar Upazila of Noakhali district. ([www. observerbd.com](http://www.observerbd.com))
7. (U) BANGLADESH: On 22 June, three soldiers were killed with another injured in a rocket attack on an anchored Myanmar Army tugboat in Sittway, Rakhine State. An insurgent group fired the rockets. (Xinhua)
8. (U) MALAYSIA: UPDATE - On 21 June, Abu Sayyaf gunmen released the kidnapped fishermen after finding that they were Bajau fishermen who had no money to pay for their ransom, Malaysian and Philippine officials said. They were kidnapped on 18 June. (www.globalnation.inquirer.net)

J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:

(U) No current incidents to report.

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

1. (U) NEW CALEDONIA: On 24 June, robbers armed with rifles and machetes boarded a tourist boat near the island of Ouvea. The robbers beat the boat captain then looted the boat, stealing personal belongings and escaped. (www.csoalliance.com)

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) The following terms have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping 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) **Robbery** - Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- (U) **Suspicious Approach** - All other unexplained activity in close proximity by an unknown vessel.

(U) **Sourcing**

- 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
- Norwegian Shipowners' Mutual War Risks Insurance Association
- 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)

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- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

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

(U) ICOD: 24 July 2019

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