

UNCLASSIFIED



## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** **24 September – 21 October 2020**



22 October 2020

### (U) **Table of Contents:**

1. (U) **Scope Note**
2. (U) **Warnings and Advisories**
3. (U) **Summary**
4. (U) **Details: Monthly Incidents by Region**
5. (U) **Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends**
6. (U) **Appendix B: Definitions and Sourcing**

### 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) **Potential attacks against oil infrastructure in Nigeria:** A coalition of nine renegade militant groups in the Niger-Delta region has declared support for the raging protests across the country, saying they were ready to resume hostilities and to attack oil and gas facilities if the Federal Government did not meet the demands of protesting Nigerian youths. The militant groups under the aegis of the Reformed Niger Delta Avengers, RNDA, which held an emergency meeting in Delta state, also announced their preparedness to disavow the cease-fire with the Federal Government and engage military forces. (Dryad Global)

### 3. (U) **Summary:**

- A. (U) **VENEZUELA:** As of 20 October, Venezuela sent two vessels to the Gulf of Paria to begin removing up to 1.3 million barrels of crude oil from FSO NABARIMA, moored in the Corocoro Oil Field.
- B. (U) **CONGO:** On 19 October, robbers boarded a container ship anchored in Pointe Noire Anchorage.
- C. (U) **PERU:** On 17 October, robbers boarded a tanker anchored in Callao Anchorage.
- D. (U) **TOGO:** On 17 October, the Hong Kong-flagged tanker PTI NILE was attacked and boarded by pirates while underway 112 NM south-southeast of Lome.

- E. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 17 October, pirates boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged LNG tanker METHANE PRINCESS in Punta Europa Anchorage, kidnapping one crewman.
- F. (U) GHANA: On 17 October, two crewmen, kidnapped from Ghana-flagged fishing trawler AP703 on 28 August, were released.
- G. (U) AUSTRALIA: On 16 October, authorities in Sydney arrested a man for his alleged involvement in a plot to import a large consignment of cocaine into the country.
- H. (U) GUINEA: On 15 October, ten persons armed with guns and knives boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Conakry Anchorage.
- I. (U) GUINEA: On 15 October, an anchored tanker reported a suspicious approach 20 NM off Conakry.
- J. (U) HAITI (LATE REPORTING): On 5 October, three armed robbers boarded a drifting bulk carrier 5.4 NM north-northwest of La Salle.

#### 4. (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:**

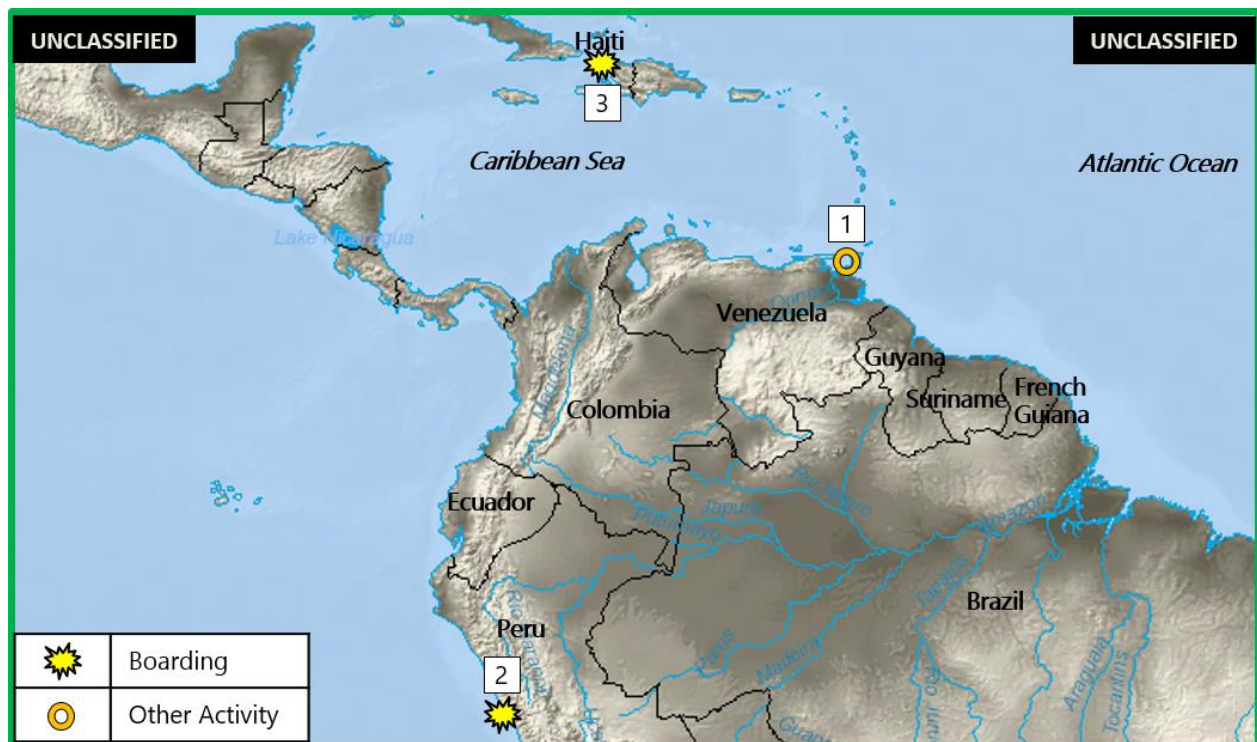


Figure 1. South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) VENEZUELA: As of 20 October, Venezuela sent two vessels to the Gulf of Paria to begin removing up to 1.3 million barrels of crude oil from FSO NABARIMA, moored in the Corocoro Oil Field. Recent photos show the vessel listing approximately eight degrees to starboard and trimmed by the head. Other photos of the interior of the vessel from August 2020 show up to nine feet of water in some areas. The Panama-flagged tanker ICARO and the Venezuela-flagged barge INMACULADA are headed to the stricken vessel to begin offloading operations. (www.gcaptain.com; www.maritime-executive.com)

2. (U) PERU: On 17 October, robbers boarded a tanker anchored near position 12:01S - 077:13W, Callao Anchorage. The duty officer saw a suspicious light near the forward storeroom and asked the duty crew to investigate. As the duty crew approached, they were taken hostage and tied up by robbers. The robbers stole personal belongings and released the duty crew before escaping. The duty officer and the master were informed, the alarm was raised, and a search was carried out. The incident was reported to the port authorities and local agent. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) HAITI (LATE REPORTING): On 5 October, three armed robbers boarded a drifting bulk carrier near position 18:39N - 072:37W, 5.4 NM north-northwest of La Salle, and escaped with stolen ship's stores. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. The incident was reported to the port authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) BRAZIL: On 8 October, three persons in a small fishing boat came alongside a bulk carrier anchored near position 00:00N - 051:00W, Macapa Anchorage. Two of the robbers boarded the ship and broke into the forecabin storeroom. When the duty officer spotted the robbers, he raised the alarm and sounded the ship's horn. Seeing the crew's response, the robbers fled empty-handed. (IMB)

5. (U) PERU: On 5 October, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored near position 12:00S - 077:13W, Callao Anchorage. The chief officer saw the robbers on the forecabin deck and instructed the bosun to investigate. As the bosun moved toward the robbers, they threatened him with a gun and a knife. The bosun retreated immediately and raised the alarm. The robbers subsequently fled with ship's stores. The crew reported the incident to port control. A subsequent investigation revealed the robbers had boarded the vessel using a rope with an attached hook. (IMB)

6. (U) BRAZIL: On 2 October, authorities searched the Antigua and Barbuda-flagged general cargo ship UNISPIRIT at Sao Sebastiao Port. During the search, 1.5 tons of cocaine were found hidden in big bags loaded with corn. The ship was destined for Cadiz, Spain. (FleetMon)

7. (U) ECUADOR: On 1 October, a container ship under pilotage near position 02:33S - 080:06W, Guayaquil river passage, was boarded by robbers armed with guns. A crew member saw the robbers opening the containers on deck. The alarm was raised and all crew instructed to stay inside the accommodation area. The robbers fired their weapons towards the accommodation area, and escaped with cargo stolen from the containers. Incident reported to port authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

8. (U) ECUADOR: On 26 September, robbers armed with guns boarded a container ship under pilotage near position 02:26S - 080:02W, Guayaquil. Ship's master raised the alarm, activated the Ship Security Alert System and mustered the crew. Despite the continuous alarm and searchlights, the robbers stole cargo from containers and departed. The master reported the incident local authorities, who later boarded the vessel to investigate. Two containers were found open. (IMB)

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:

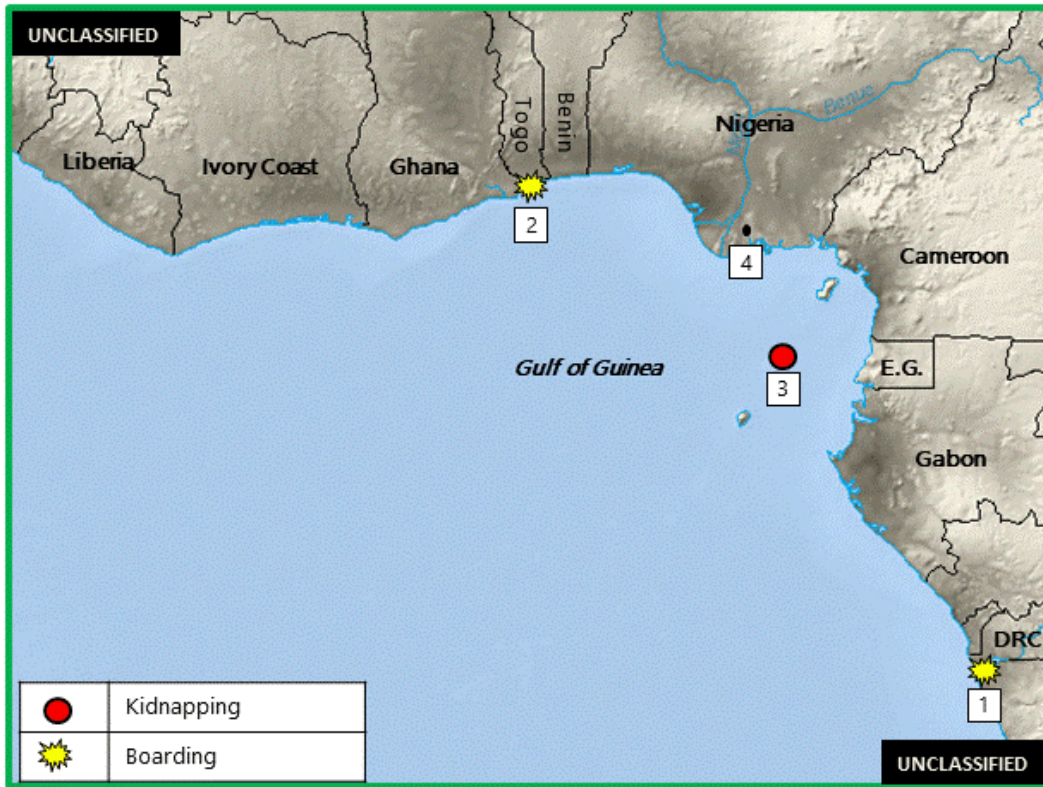


Figure 2. Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Maritime Crime



Figure 3. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) CONGO: On 19 October, robbers boarded a container vessel anchored near position 04:45S - 011:55E, Pointe Noire Anchorage. A number of robbers were spotted on the forecandle of the vessel by the crew, who then retreated to the citadel and alerted the authorities. A patrol vessel was then dispatched and an inspection was conducted. The crew carried out a search of the vessel and noticed that two mooring ropes were missing. It is believed that the robbers managed to board the vessel via the anchor chain. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) TOGO: On 17 October, the Hong Kong-flagged tanker PTI NILE was attacked and boarded by pirates while underway near position 04:16N - 001:24E, 112 NM south-southeast of Lome. All crew managed to retreat into the citadel. Togo Navy was notified and a patrol vessel was dispatched to the location. The Togo Navy team boarded the tanker and a search was carried out. Once deemed safe, the crew emerged from the citadel, and the tanker was escorted to a safe port. All crew were reported safe. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; Dryad Global; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 17 October, pirates boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged LNG tanker METHANE PRINCESS near position 03:47N - 008:41E, Punta Europa Anchorage. The vessel was attacked shortly after completing loading operations. The alarm was sounded and all crew on deck were able to retreat to the citadel. Two Filipino nationals were on the jetty and both were taken hostage, but one of the hostages jumped off the pirate vessel and was rescued, sustaining injuries. Another person was also injured entering the citadel. Equatorial Guinea Navy assets and personnel arrived on scene and started an investigation. (Dryad Global; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) GHANA: On 28 August at 0730LT, six to eight pirates in a speedboat attacked and boarded the underway Ghana-flagged fishing vessel AP703 110 NM southeast of Tema at position 04:34N - 001:31E. Pirates kidnapped the vessel's South Korean Captain and Chief Engineer. The remaining crew took the vessel to Tema, where local authorities are investigating the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics, Dryad Global, IMB) UPDATE: On 17 October, pirates reportedly released both hostages after 43 days in captivity. (Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) GUINEA: On 15 October, ten persons armed with guns and knives boarded a bulk carrier anchored near position 09:22N - 013:44W, Conakry Anchorage. The crew raised the alarm, activated Ship Security Alert System (SSAS) and informed authorities. The robbers ransacked all crew cabins and escaped with cash and the crew's personal belongings. A Coast Guard vessel came alongside and remained with the ship until daybreak. (Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) GUINEA: On 15 October, an anchored tanker reported a suspicious approach near position 09:16N - 013:46W, 20 NM off Conakry, Guinea. A fishing boat with four armed persons onboard approached the tanker to within 1 NM. The Guinean Naval armed guards onboard fired warning shots which resulted in the fishing vessel aborting the approach. The vessel and crew are reported as safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) NIGERIA: On 9 October, during heavy rain, armed robbers in two boats approached a product tanker berthed near position 03:26N - 003:22E, Apapa Bulk Terminal Ltd. Lagos Port, while engaged in cargo operations. The deck crew raised the alarm upon detecting the robbers. The discharging operations were suspended, all access doors were locked, and crew mustered in the citadel. The crew informed port control via VHF CH12. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers fled empty-handed. A Nigerian Navy officer subsequently boarded the tanker to investigate. (IMB)

8. (U) KIDNAPPING UPDATE: On 6 October, it was reported that the two Russians and one Equatorial Guinean kidnapped on 9 May from the Equatorial Guinea-flagged research/survey vessel DJIBLOHO, while anchored at Luba Anchorage, Equatorial Guinea, were released from captivity after 150 days. (Clearwater Dynamics)

9. (U) KIDNAPPING UPDATE: On 6 October, it was reported that the Russian and Ukrainian kidnapped on 9 May from the Comoros-flagged general cargo ship RIO MITONG while off Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, were released from captivity after 150 days. (Clearwater Dynamics)

10. (U) DR CONGO: On 5 October, robbers boarded a container ship anchored near position 04:44S - 011:46E, Pointe Noire Anchorage. The robbers broke into a storeroom and stole 280 liters of paint. Local authorities were informed. (Clearwater Dynamics)

11. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 October, armed pirates attacked and boarded a passenger boat near position 04:54N - 008:15E, as the boat was transiting between Oron and Calabar, Cross River State. Reports state that during the incident the attackers injured several passengers and critically injured two with gunshot wounds, before robbing them of their belongings. (www.punchng.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

12. (U) IVORY COAST: On 1 October, a fishing vessel was approached near position 02:38N - 004:37W, approximately 170 NM south-southwest of Abidjan. The crew spotted a blue speedboat, with up to four persons on board, approaching to within 3 NM. The captain increased speed and the distance from the speedboat, which resulted in the approach being aborted. The vessel and crew are reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

13. (U) LIBERIA: On 1 October, one robber boarded a tanker berthed near position 06:21N - 010:47W, BMC Pier, Monrovia. A duty crew member on routine rounds saw the person on the forecandle and immediately informed the duty officer. The alarm was raised and the local security guard was alerted. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robber escaped with stolen ship's stores. A search was made throughout the tanker. Incident reported to port authority and Coast Guard. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

14. (U) GHANA: On 26 September, a skiff with 8-10 individuals approached the Ghana-flagged fishing vessel AGNES 1 near position 03:36N - 000:28W, approximately 102 NM south of Winneba. The skiff chased the vessel, but later abandoned its pursuit. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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

1. (U) MYANMAR: On 12 October, Bangladesh Coast Guard personnel detained five alleged Myanmar robbers and rescued seven kidnapped fishermen during a raid in the Bay of Bengal. During the operation, two single-barreled guns, eight rounds of ammunition, ten long knives, and one engine boat were also seized. (www.daily-sun.com)

2. (U) INDIA: On 4 October, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored near position 17:05N - 082:38E, Kakinada Anchorage. A duty crewman saw one robber onboard the bulk carrier, and the alarm was raised. This resulted in the robber escaping. A search of the vessel was completed which confirmed that mooring ropes had been stolen. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) YEMEN: On 4 October, a tanker was suspiciously approached near position 14:18N - 049:49E, 40 NM southeast of Al Mukalla, by two skiffs with 4 to 5 persons onboard each skiff. The skiffs were reportedly followed by a fishing vessel suspected to be the mothership. Weapons were sighted and the armed security team onboard the tanker fired a warning shot as the two craft came to within 300 meters, followed by a second shot at 200 meters, resulting in the craft aborting the approach and heading north. The vessel and crew are reported safe. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) YEMEN: On 3 October, a merchant tanker at Rudum Terminal area, near position 13:58N - 047:55E, reported suspicious floating objects, apparently drifting, that exploded nearby. Vessel and crew are safe. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

**I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA:**

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 14 October, robbers boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier IAN M underway near position 01:17N - 104:20E, in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme. Upon detecting the robbers, the master notified the Port Operations Control Center via VHF. A full search of the vessel was conducted by the crew, which confirmed that the robbers had escaped with a life ring and some welding rods. (ReCAAP, Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 October, robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged chemical tanker FSL NEW YORK underway near position 01:16N - 104:15E, in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme. Upon spotting the robbers, the master notified the Port Operations Control Center. A full search was conducted by the crew, which confirmed the perpetrators were no longer onboard and that nothing had been stolen. (ReCAAP, Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 October, robbers boarded the Iran-flagged bulk carrier GANJ near position 01:16N - 104:13E, in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme. The master of the bulk carrier reported to the Port Operations Control Centre via VHF channel 10 that robbers had been able to board the vessel. The crew conducted a full search of the vessel, but were unable to locate the robbers. Nothing was reported stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) MALAYSIA: On 30 September, it was reported that one of five hostages, kidnapped on 16 January 2020 from the Malaysia-flagged fishing vessel SSK-00543, died in a clash between kidnapers and Philippine military forces. (www.washingtontimes.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 September, robbers boarded a tanker anchored near position 01:31N - 104:49E, 22 NM northeast of Tanjung Berakit, Pulau Bintan. The robbers were able to board undetected and steal ship's properties. The theft was discovered when the duty crew on routine rounds found the aft storeroom broken into and the spares missing. The incident was reported to both the port authority and local agent. (Clearwater Dynamics)

J. (U) **INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:** No current incidents to report.

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

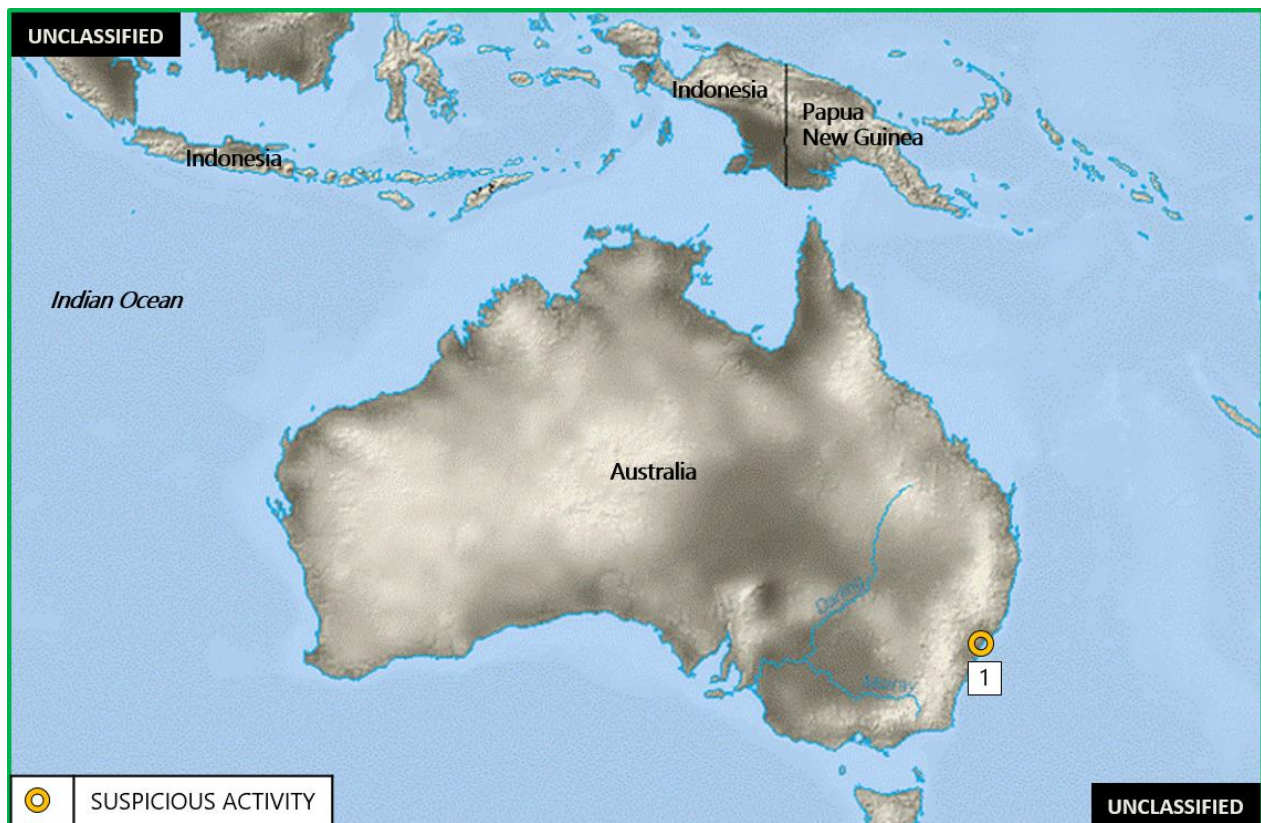
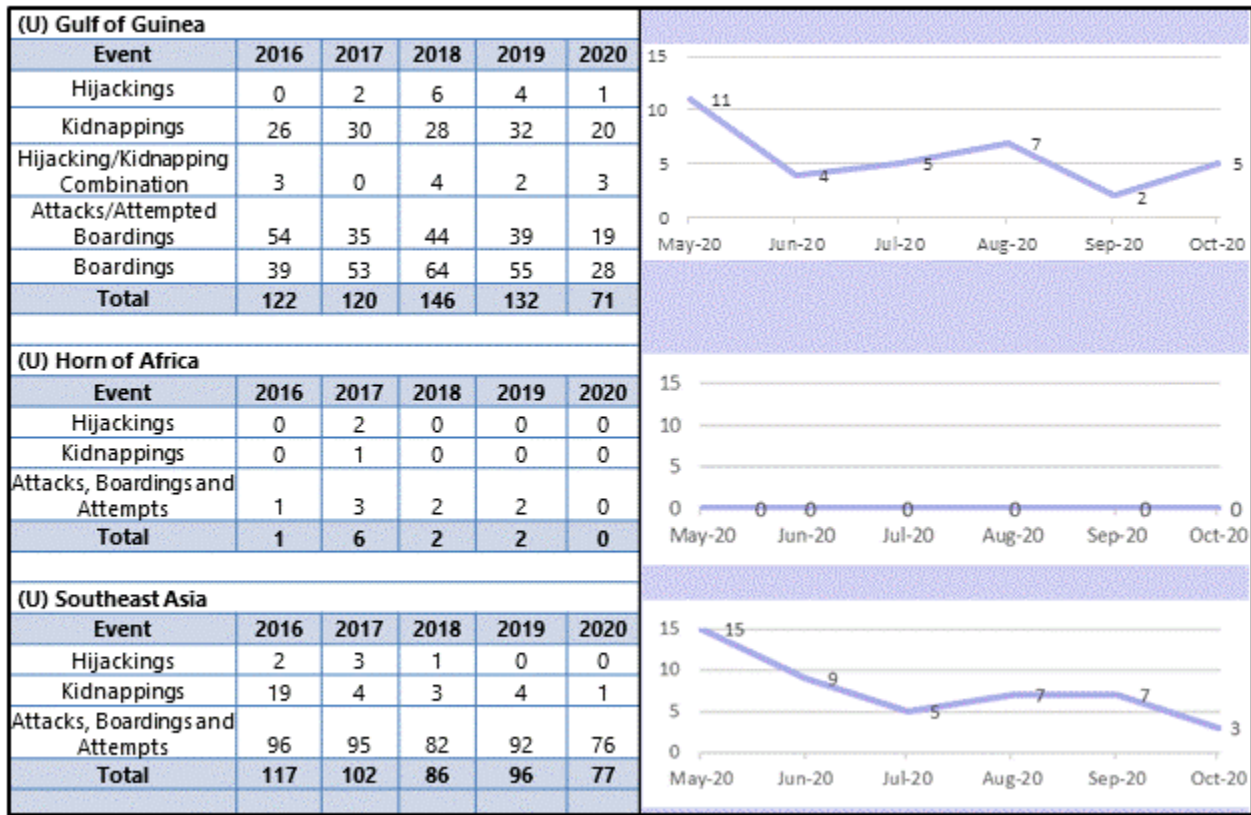


Figure 4. Australia – New Zealand – Pacific Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) AUSTRALIA: On 16 October, authorities in Sydney arrested a man for his alleged involvement in a plot to import a large consignment of cocaine into the country. The shipment was intercepted by a joint Australian Federal Police-Australian Border Force operation when it came into Sydney in September. During a search, authorities found 552 kilograms of cocaine concealed in a shipment of banana pulp from Brazil. ([www.smh.com.au](http://www.smh.com.au))

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 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) **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:** 22 October 2020

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