

Contemporary Maritime Piracy Database ©2020

Code Book

Wave

1= 1991-2000

2= 2001-2010

3=2011-2018

4=Yearly Update

CMPD **CMPD Case Number**

OBJECTID **Case ID**

IMBREP **IMB Cross Reference Code or if NGIA=3**

SOURCE 2 **Corrected Source ID**

1=IMB (also reported by NGIA)

2=IMB reported only

3=NGIA only

4=ReCAAP (NGIA)

5=UKMTO (NGIA)

6=Vessel operator

7=Open Press

8=IMO

9=MSCHOA

10=Mercury Chat

11=Risk Intelligence

12=Reuters

13=Maritime Global Net

14=Noonsite

15=State

16=TW

17=SAP

18=Agencies

19=Air Security International, USCG/USCGC

DUPL Incident Codes (only for Wave 2)

1=One Incident, Multiple Ships Boarded

2=One Incident, One Ship, Attacked Multiple Times, Boarded and Not

3=One Incident, Multiple Ships, Boarded and Not

4=One Incident, One Ship, Attacked Multiple Times, Boarded

5=Similar Cases in Bangladesh (291) and in Vietnam (40)

9=One Incident, One Ship Attacked Once.

REFERENCE Reference Codes

NGIA Code: Year-Numeric Code

IMB Code: Year, Letter Cross Reference & Number (2012B003)

SUBREG NGIA Region Code

If from IMB: 99, 999

ATTACK BASICS

DATE month/day/year

YEAR Year

TIME Time

9999=Unknown

ZONE Time Zone (for time reported)

1= Local Time

2=Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)/ Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) /Z-Time

9999=Unknown

ATKSUC Victim Vessel Boarded (Was vessel boarded?)

0=No

1=Yes

9999=Unknown

NMCOAST Attack's Distance from Coast

0 = On the coast/In Port

1= In Anchorage

Numerical= if provided, the number of nautical miles from the coast

9999=Unknown

ATKLOC Attack Location (Country (if in EEZ) of Attack or Location at Sea)

0=International Waters

1=Afghanistan

2=Åland Islands

3=Albania

4=Algeria

5=American Samoa

6=Andorra

7=Angola

8=Anguilla

9=Antigua and Barbuda

10=Argentina

11=Armenia

12=Aruba

13=Australia

14=Austria

15=Azerbaijan

16=Bahamas

17=Bahrain

18=Bangladesh

19=Barbados

20=Belarus

21=Belgium
22=Belize
23=Benin
24=Bermuda
25=Bhutan
26=Bolivia
27=Bosnia and Herzegovina
28=Botswana
29=Brazil
30=British Virgin Islands
31=Brunei Darussalam
31=Brunei
32=Bulgaria
33=Burkina Faso
34=Burundi
35=Cambodia/Democratic Kampuchea
36=Cameroon
37=Canada
38=Cape Verde
39=Cayman Islands
40=Central African Republic
41=Chad
42=Channel Islands
43=Chile
44=China / People's Republic of China
45=Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of China
46=Macao, Special Administrative Region of China
47=Colombia

48=Comoros
49=Congo
50=Cook Islands
51=Costa Rica
52= Ivory Coast / Côte d'Ivoire
53=Croatia
54=Cuba
55=Cyprus
56=Czech Republic
57=North Korea / Democratic People's Republic of Korea
58=Congo / Democratic Republic of the Congo / *Formerly Zaire*
59=Denmark
60=Djibouti
61=Dominica
62=Dominican Republic
63=Ecuador
64=Egypt
65=El Salvador
66=Equatorial Guinea
67=Eritrea
68=Estonia
69=Ethiopia
70=Faeroe Islands
71=Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
72=Fiji
73=Finland
74=France & Corsica
75=French Guiana

76=French Polynesia
77=Gabon
78=Gambia
79=Georgia
80=Germany
80=German Democratic Republic
80=Federal Republic of Germany
81=Ghana
82=Gibraltar
83=Greece
84=Greenland
85=Grenada
86=Guadeloupe
87=Guam
88=Guatemala
89=Guernsey
90=Guinea
91=Guinea-Bissau
92=Guyana
93=Haiti
94=Holy See
95=Honduras
96=Hungary
97=Iceland
98=India
99=Indonesia
100=Iran / Islamic Republic of Iran
101=Iraq

102=Ireland
103=Isle of Man
104=Israel
105=Italy
106=Jamaica
107=Japan
108=Jersey
109=Jordan
110=Kazakhstan
111=Kenya
112=Kiribati
113=Kuwait
114=Kyrgyzstan
115=Laos / People's Democratic Republic of Laos
116=Latvia
117=Lebanon
118=Lesotho
119=Liberia
120=Libya / Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
121=Liechtenstein
122=Lithuania
123=Luxembourg
124=Madagascar
125=Malawi
126=Malaysia
127=Maldives
128=Mali
129=Malta

130=Marshall Islands
131=Martinique
132=Mauritania
133=Mauritius
134=Mayotte
135=Mexico
136=Micronesia / Federated States of Micronesia
136=Micronesia
137=Monaco
138=Mongolia
139=Montenegro
140=Montserrat
141=Morocco
142=Mozambique
143=Myanmar
143=Burma
144=Namibia
145=Nauru
146=Nepal / Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal
147=Netherlands
148=Netherlands Antilles
149=New Caledonia
150=New Zealand
151=Nicaragua
152=Niger
153=Nigeria
154=Niue
155=Norfolk Island

156=Northern Mariana Islands
157=Norway
158=Palestine/Occupied Palestinian Territory
159=Oman
239=Pacific Islands
239=Pacific Islands (Trust Territory)
160=Pakistan
161=Palau
162=Panama
163=Papua New Guinea
164=Paraguay
165=Peru
166=Philippines
167=Pitcairn
168=Poland
169=Portugal
170=Puerto Rico
171=Qatar
172=South Korea/Republic of Korea
173=Republic of Moldova
174=Réunion
175=Romania
176=Russian Federation
177=Rwanda
178=Saint-Barthélemy
179=Saint Helena
180=Saint Kitts and Nevis
181=Saint Lucia

182=Saint-Martin (French)
183=Saint Pierre and Miquelon
184=Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
185=Samoa
186=San Marino
187=Sao Tome and Principe
188=Saudi Arabia
189=Senegal
190=Serbia
240=Serbia and Montenegro
191=Seychelles
192=Sierra Leone
193=Singapore
194=Slovakia
195=Slovenia
196=Solomon Islands
197=Somalia
198=South Africa
172=South Korea
199=Spain
200=Sri Lanka
201=Sudan
202=Suriname
203=Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands
204=Swaziland
205=Sweden
206=Switzerland
207=Syrian Arab Republic

207=Syria
208=Tajikistan
209=Thailand
210=The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
210=Macedonia
211=East Timor / Timor-Leste
212=Togo
213=Tokelau
214=Tonga
215=Trinidad and Tobago
216=Tunisia
217=Turkey
218=Turkmenistan
219=Turks and Caicos Islands
220=Tuvalu
221=Uganda
222=Ukraine
223=United Arab Emirates
224=United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
225=United Republic of Tanzania /Tanzania
226=United States of America
227=United States Virgin Islands
242=Union of Soviet Socialist Republics / USSR
228=Uruguay
229=Uzbekistan
230=Vanuatu
231=Venezuela / Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
232=Viet Nam /Vietnam

233=Wallis and Futuna Islands
234=Western Sahara
235=Yemen
235=Democratic Yemen
241=Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia/Yugoslavia
236=Zambia
237=Zimbabwe
238=Czechoslovakia
243=Taiwan, Region of China
244/300=Malacca Straits (Indonesia/Malaysia)
301=Singapore Straits
302=East China Sea
245=Southern Red Sea (Yemen/Eritrea)
306=Red Sea
246/307=Gulf of Aden (Yemen/Somalia)
247=Singapore Straits
248/305=Arabian Sea
249/304=Indian Ocean
250/310=Atlantic Ocean
251/308=Gulf of Oman
252/303=South China Sea
253=Gulf of Guinea
254=Bay of Bengal
255=Mediterranean Sea
309= Caspian Sea
311=Persian Gulf
312=Pacific Ocean
313=Caribbean Sea

314=Gulf of Thailand

315=Solomon Sea

999/9999=Unknown

ATKCONT **Continent of Attack** (if confirmed) / High Seas

1= Africa

2=Asia

3=North America

4=South America

5=Europe

6=Oceania

7=High Seas

ATKRESP **Reported Responsibility for Attack**

See country code for ATKLOC

VIC **Vessel Victim Type**

0=Unknown

1=Merchant Vessel/Cargo Ship/General Cargo Ship/ General Cargo Vessel /Bulk Carrier

2=Fishing Vessel /Shrimping Vessel/Trawlers

3=Passenger/Ferry/Cruise/ Cruise Ship/Tourist Excursion

4=Private Vessel/Yacht/Pleasure Boat/Sport Fishing/Catamaran/Sailing Vessel

5=Tanker/Bunker/Chemical Tanker/ Oil Field Boat/ Oil Hovercraft/Supply Vessel/Oil Tug/Product Tanker

6=Tug towing/Tug and Barge

7=Barge

8=Navy/Coast Guard

9=Survey Vessel/Research Vessel

10=Oil Rig/Drill Rig/Oil Terminal

11=Dredger

12=Pipe Laying Ship/Cable Laying Ship

13=Dredger

14= Tug / Offshore tug
15=Diving Vessel
16=Dinghy
17=Houseboat
18=Private Security Vessel
19=Speedboat
20=Semi-submersible ship
21=Oil Prospecting Ship
22=Landing Craft
23= Guard Vessel
24=Supply Vessel
25=Salvage ship / Salvage vessel
9999=Unknown

VSSTAT Victim Vessel Motion Status

1=Stationary
2=Motoring, Steaming, Underway
3=Drifting
9999=inapplicable

VICLOC Victim Vessel Activity

1= Berthed/ Loading or Unloading cargo/ at Jetty/ at Terminal/ at Mooring station/ Alongside/ Pier side.
2=Anchorage / Approaching anchorage/ Harbor Limits /Outer roads / Pilot station/ In port area /
Lightering /Awaiting berthing instructions.
3=At sea/Underway
4=Fishing Activities
9999=Unknown/Inapplicable

CARGO Victim Vessel Cargo

0=Inapplicable (e.g. If it is a tug, sailing boat etc.)
1=Cigarettes
2=Fish/Shrimp
3=Gasoil/Diesel/Liquefied Gas/Kerosene/Oil related goods (Tanker)
4=Footwear
5=Car Tires

6=Sugar
7=Salad Oil
8=Electronic Goods /Computers
9=Nylon Taffeta
10=Shoes
11=Hostages
12=Food (World Food Program)
13=Aid supplies
14=Paint
15=Steel
16=Cement
18=Salt
19=Dates
20=Chemical liquids
21=Clay
22= Palm Oil/Palm Stearin/Vegetable Oil
23 & 47=Containerized Cargo/ Containers
24=Hazardous Cargo
25=Ethanol
26=Mineral Sand
27=Propane
28=Bitumen
29=Refrigerated Cargo
30=Furnace Slag
31=Ore
32=Garments
33=Coal
34=Consumer Goods

35=Soda Ash
36=Defense Supplies/Military Cargo
37=Timber/Logs
38 & 48=Vehicles
39=Livestock
40=Bulk Cargo
41=Gypsum
42=Gas
43=Colorant
44=Cocoa
45=Ammonia
46=Tin Plates/Steel plates
49=Asphalt
50=Barge/Crane Barge
51=Fertilizer
52=Phosphoric Acid
53=Rig
54=Copper Slag
55=empty code
56=Scrap Metal or Vessel for scrap
57=Chicken Feet
58=Fruit Juice
59=General Cargo / Unspecified
60=Tug
61=Woodchipper
9999=Unknown

AGGRS Reported Aggression Type

9999=Unknown

- 1=Theft
- 2=Identified Terrorist Group (LTTE, JI, FARC, Separatist,)
- 3= Identified Political Engagement (Greenpeace)
- 4=Unidentified Political Engagement (Rebels, Militants, Extremists)
- 5=Stowaways/ Asylum Seekers
- 6=Seizure for Ransom/Hijack
- 7=Authorities
- 8=Property Damage
- 9=Vandalism & Theft
- 10=Kidnapping
- 11=Kidnap, Theft, & Vandalism
- 12=Kidnap & Theft
- 13=Suspicious Approach
- 14=Commercial Dispute
- 15=Extortion
- 16=Suspicious Activity
- 17=Yemen Conflict

ARMS

ARMED

- 0=No
- 1=Yes
- 9999=Unknown

ARMS1 Types of arms

- 0=No arms
- 1=sticks/iron rods/steel rods/pipes
- 2=clubs/crow bars/hammers/catapult/big spanners/tools
- 3=axe/hacksaw/chopper
- 4=knives, daggers (small)
- 5=swords, machetes, parangs, spears, cutlass, billhooks (larger), long knife
- 6=handguns, pistols, rifles
- 7=automatic weapons, AK47, M16

8=submachine guns, machine guns

9=empty code

10= rocket propelled grenades (RPG), bazookas, grenades, mortars

11=dynamite, missiles, other explosives

9999,999,99999=Unknown

ARMS2 **Types of arms** (as above if more than one reported)

99=inapplicable/ no additional arms reported

ARMS3 **Types of arms** (as above if more than one reported)

99=inapplicable/ no additional arms reported

VSLFIR **Weapons Fired** (by attackers)

0=No

1=Yes

9999=unknown

VICTIMIZATION

This usually refers to crew on board the victim vessel but can include passengers when the vessel is a ferry, cruise ship or other pleasure craft.

CRWDTH **Crew Deaths**

0=No

1=Yes

9999=unknown

CRDTHN **Number of Crew Deaths**

0=None

1+=number of deaths

99=Entire Crew

9999=unknown

CRWASS **Crew Assaulted**

0=No

1=Yes

9999=unknown

CRWRES Crew Restrained

0=No

1=Yes

9999=unknown

CRWINJ Crew Injured

0= No

1=Yes

9999= Unknown

CRTHRT Crew Threatened

0=No

1=Yes

9999,9999=unknown

CRHOST Crew Taken Hostage (long term incapacitation)

0=No

1=Yes

999,9999=unknown

NUMHOST Number of Crew Victimized in Attack

0=Inapplicable

99=Entire Crew

9999= Unknown number

CROVRB Crew Thrown Overboard

0=No

1=Yes

9999=unknown

KIDNAP Crew Kidnapped (crew removed from vessel)

0=No

1=Yes

99=All Crew

999,9999=unknown

CRMISS **Crew Missing**

0=No

1=Yes

9999=unknown

FEMASS **Female Crew/Passengers Victimized**

0=None

1=Assaulted

2=Raped

3=Killed

TARGET VESSEL IMPACT

VSLDMG **Vessel Damaged**

0=None Reported

1= Minor Damage. Bullet holes, broken glass.

2= Medium Damage. Fire due to shooting. Ramming vessel.

3=Major Damage. Communication equipment purposefully destroyed.

4=Excessive Damage. Vandalism. Bombing. Suicide boat.

5=Vessel left to drift unstaffed.

9999=unknown

VLSNKG **Vessel Sunk**

0=No

1=Yes

9999=unknown

VSHIJK **Vessel Seized for Ransom** (Temporary appropriation for the purpose of monetary gain)

0=No

1=Yes

9999=unknown

VSTHFT **Vessel Stolen** (Permanent appropriation)

0=No

1=Yes

9999=unknown

PAYDMND **Payment/Ransom Demanded**

0=No

1=Yes

9999=unknown

PHNTM **Phantom Ship** (Vessel Renamed/Repainted)

0=No

1=Yes

9999=unknown

DETEN **Vessel Detained in Port**

0=No

1=Yes

9999=Unknown

STLN1 **Property on Vessel Stolen**

0=Nothing Stolen

1=Mooring rope/line

2=VHF Radio or other electronic ships equipment (fishing sonars)

3=Crew's / Ship's Cash

4=Crew's personal valuables/effects (jewelry, watches, etc.)

5=Food/Supplies/Provisions

6=Engine Spare Parts or spare parts

7=Some Cargo

8=Other ships equipment/ Stores/ property (non-electronic such as safe deposit box, firefighting equipment, breathing apparatus, fireman outfit, tools, lubricants, signal flares, pumps, may be pain or mooring line if unspecified, nets, towing equipment, safety equipment)

9= Entire Cargo (see AL)

10=Crew's other personal belongings/ property (Cell phones, TVs, laptops...)
11=Arms, ammunition, firearms
12=Lashing gear, container locks
13=Paint
14=No cargo on board or cargo was of no interest
15=The vessel
16=Life raft/Ships Raft/Life buoys/Inflatable boat/Dinghy/Dink/Zodiac boat/Workboat
17= Vessel's Oil/Fuel/Gasoil/Lube oil/Gas Cylinders
18=Medicine
19=Fresh Water
20=Plywood
21=Engine/Motor
22=Zinc Anodes (on exterior of vessel, on rudder or propeller)
23= Generator
24=Clothes, Shoes
25=Bonded store of cigarettes/spirits/wine
26 Portable aluminum gangways
27=Fire hoses
28=Documents/Passports/Ship Documents
29=Emergency towing wire/Extension wire
30=Marine Gas Oil (17)
31=Night vision goggles (2)
32=Artwork, Furnishings
33=Fenders
34=Deck gear
35=Tank cleaning machines
36=Water pump
37=Satellite Dish

38=Cigarettes

39=Fish glue

40=Net

41=Alcohol

42=Fishing Gear

43=Garbage bins

99=Inapplicable

9999=Unknown

STLN2 **Other Items Stolen...** as above

99=inapplicable / no additional items stolen

STLN3 **Other Items Stolen...** as above

99=inapplicable/ no additional items stolen

STLN4 **Other Items Stolen...** as above

99=inapplicable/ no additional items stolen

RESPONSIBLE PARTY DETAILS

NUMASSL **Number of assailants Reported**

1=1-5

2=6-10

3=11-15

4=16-20

5=21-25

6=26-30

7=over 30

999,9999=unknown

NUMBR **Individual or Group Attack**

1=Sole pirate

2=Two or more individuals

9999=Unknown

NUMBOT **Number of Boats Involved in Attack**

0=None

1+=number of boats

9999,99999=unknown

NMFEMPR **Number of Female Pirates Involved**

0=None

1+=number of women aggressors

PIRMTHR **Suspected Pirate Mother Ship in Vicinity**

0=No

1=Yes

PIRUNI **Garb** (Attackers attire e.g. wearing uniforms, dressed all in black, wearing matching clothing, wearing masks, using a disguise, etc.)

0=No

1=Yes

9999=Unknown

ATHSTTE **Attackers claimed to be authorities**

0=No

1=Yes

9999=Unknown

PIRAUTH **Pirates were reported to be authorities**

1=Yes

0=No

9999=Unknown

RESPONSE

PIRDTH **Responsible Party Killed**

0=None Reported

1+=number of pirates killed

9999=unknown number killed

PIRINJ Responsible Party Injured

0=None Reported

1+= number of pirates injured

9999= unknown number injured

AUTHRES Authority Response Type

0= Unknown

1=Authorities responded promptly when alerted and caught/killed culprits or some culprits immediately or later/fired on pirates

2=Authorities responded promptly but culprits escaped/ patrol set up/ gave priority berthing/ guard were provided/scared away culprits/dispatched helicopter/dispatched patrol boat/warships dispatched

3=Authorities responded: by investigation/told vessel to move out further into sea/coast guard

4=Authorities did not respond

5=Authorities refused to respond/chose not to respond/said would send help but did not/said it was a common occurrence

6=Authorities suspected of being accomplices/ corruption

7=Int'l Naval force response & escort to port/British fisheries protection vessel

8=Naval convoy but ineffective

9=Naval vessel destroyed / sunk ship in error

10=Pre-emptive strike

11=Language problems, could not communicate

99=Inapplicable

RESPTIM Response Time

0=Did not come to the crime scene

1=Arrived within an hour/provided security/captured pirates later/searched area

2...=number of hours before authorities came to the scene, within n hours.

99=Inapplicable/Unknown

9999=Arrived to investigate within an unknown time frame

REPR1 Attack Reported

0=Unknown

1=To local authorities/port control/coast guard

2=To coalition forces/warship/IMB/UKMTO

99=inapplicable

EVAS1 Evasion Tactics Used

0=Unknown

1=Whistle

2=Alarms Sounded/Foghorn

3=Searchlights/Aldis lights/Signal Lamp/Spotlight

4=Water hoses/Jets/Fire hoses activated or used/Fire pumps

5=Flares shot/Signal rockets/Fired rocket flares/Parachute Rockets/Warning Shots/Pyrotechnics

6=Nearby Vessel /Aircraft approaching/Naval forces assisted

7=Locked Doors/Barricaded crew and valuables/ citadel

8=Maneuvered so as to stop boarding or increased speed/evasive maneuvers/alterd course/heaved up anchor

9=External weather conditions/sea conditions

10=Used firearms/fired shots (by crew)

11= Crew mustered. Crew was alert and active. Crew was vigilant/On standby. Crew was alerted.

12=Radioed for assistance, broadcast a MAYDAY signal/ Communicated via radio with pirates/ Notified nearby vessels/Used VHF to communicate that it was being attacked/distress message

13=Homemade Molotov

14=Vessel with high free board

15=Used makeshift weapons (steel bars, scrap metal, tools, turnbuckles...)

16=Distress radio beacon activated/SSAS/LRAD

17=Deck lights switched on/flashed

18=Shore guard/Local Watchmen/Hired guards/Private Security/Navy Security Guards (EXTERNAL)

19=Shouted/Ordered pirates to leave

20=SHIPLOC SYSTEM

21=Vessel watchman/anti-piracy watch/unarmed guards
22=Razor wire/Barb wire/Electric fence
23=Counter piracy measures/anti-piracy measures/anti-piracy system
24=Foam monitors
25=Armed guard/Security/Naval officers using firearms/showing their firearms
26=Locked all doors/Secured stores/Secure ropes with wires
27=Captured pirates – released them
28=Captured pirates – handed to authorities
29=Recorded sound of barking dogs played
30=Ramming attacker
31=Chased pirates/Confronted pirates/fought pirates
32=Long range acoustic device
33=Warned other vessels
34=Evasive maneuvers that capsized the pirate vessel
35=Security team pretending to hold arms
36=Threw items at pirates, e.g. garbage
37=Escaped crew defended themselves
38=Moved rudder
39=Threw things at pirates
40=Photographed pirates
41=Cast off barge
42=Captured pirates and threw overboard
43= Stopped main engines/disabled machinery
44=Paid off pirates
45=Ballast overflow
46=Switched off lights
99=Inapplicable
9999=unknown

EVAS2 **Other Evasion Tactics...** as above

99=inapplicable / no additional evasion tactics used

EVAS3 **Other Evasion Tactics...** as above

99=inapplicable / no additional evasion tactics used

EVAS4 **Other Evasion Tactics...** as above

99=inapplicable / no additional evasion tactics used

Background Information of CMPD^{©2020}:

The CMPD includes information on maritime piracy attacks from 1991 through 2018, with over 10,000 cases worldwide. The database will be maintained with yearly updates. Each attack lists information on the date, time, location, target vessel characteristics, victimization, responsible party details, arms, responses, and evasion tactics. The database is currently the most comprehensive maritime piracy database available and includes over 50 distinct variables. Empirical, comprehensive cataloguing of piracy data allows for the continued monitoring of the changing nature and trends of contemporary piracy. Throughout history, piracy has morphed. In the first decade of this dataset, 1991-2000, overt forms of state piracy were exhibited as well as phantom ship piracy. The second wave, 2001-2010, shows no incidents of either of these types of piracy, instead Somali piracy became the dominant issue. More recently, piracy has changed again with different geographic locations and modus operandi. The CMPD makes it possible to understand the changes in piracy tactics, nature, and trends, which in turn provide for evidence-based policy formulation and targeted allocation of resources. The data can be searched and browsed online; for deeper analytical research, the entire database can be downloaded.

History of the CMPD

The CMPD project began in 2008 in response to the lack of comprehensive datasets on current forms of maritime piracy for research and analytical purposes. The database has been created, updated and managed by Dr. Twyman-Ghoshal as part of her ongoing research on maritime piracy. This online interface is aimed at bringing this work into the public domain in an effort to increase the general understanding of contemporary maritime piracy.

Data Collection Methods

The CMPD is compiled from two major sources – the International Chamber of Commerce International Maritime Bureau (IMB) piracy reports and the United States National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGIA) world-wide threats to shipping summaries. The integrated CMPD includes all non-duplicated reported attacks of maritime piracy between 1991-2018. The IMB is the primary source of information on piracy attacks globally, providing the majority of the CMPD data. The NGIA, however, adds a substantial amount to this dataset, around 25 percent.

The IMB is the principal international organizations dealing with maritime piracy. In October 1992, it established the Piracy Reporting Center (PRC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The PRC is a 24-hour operated center receiving and disseminating reports of piracy and armed robbery. The PRC collects self-reports from captains or owners of ships that have been the victim of a pirate attack; each report is logged using a standard report template. The PRC is tasked primarily with issuing status reports on piracy and armed robbery to ships via broadcasts using a global satellite communication service. In addition, the IMB issues quarterly and annual reports detailing the information collected by the PRC.

The NGIA provides maritime safety information for U.S. shipping. The NGIA messages provide the location and description of hostile acts against ships and mariners at sea. This information is summarized in the NGIA monthly Worldwide Threat to Shipping Reports and the weekly Piracy Analysis and Warning Reports. The NGIA receives its information from self-reports as well as reports from a variety of sources, including navies and coast guards from around the world, press reports, the IMB, and other maritime organizations.

The process of integration of these two data sources was made easier by the fact that both sources provided comparable information in their reports. The choice of variables coded was driven by the availability of information in the attack descriptions. For each event, information is available on the date, time, and location of the attack, the type of vessel victimized, and when available, information on the responsible party, the types casualties and losses, and the weapons used.

Although there is a good amount of general information in the data, the CMPD is constrained by what information is feasible to obtain in the short time frame when an attack is called in (in the case of the IMB) and what can be drawn out from other sources (in the case of the NGIA). The outcomes of the cases are not included in this database. Information on each attack is variable due to the level of detail in each description.

The NGIA reports include all cases that infringe on the safety of shipping – this introduces some ambiguity as to which of these constitutes piracy. The CMPD adopts a broad definition of maritime piracy, which is particularly appropriate for creating a comprehensive dataset. It is based on the IMB's definition, used for statistical purposes, and includes any act of boarding or attempting to board any ship with the apparent intent or capability to use force in the furtherance of the act. This definition has been used consistently over all the data included. This definition of maritime piracy allows for a variety of attacks to be included in the database. This enables users to hone in on various types of shipping threats. The variables in the database do allow for the use of more limiting legal definitions.

The production of the database has changed over time due to the extent of information available and efficiency of workflows. Code validity was maintained by consulting with an advisory committee. The dataset was compiled in three waves, some of the waves were coded by a single researcher (2001-2010) and others by a small team of researchers (2011-2018 & 1991-2000). Retest reliability was conducted by the single researcher. Inter-rater reliability tests were used by the research teams to ensure consistency in the coding procedure.

Note the following about this dataset:

1. Attacks vs Attempts

The IMB annual reports divide the narration of cases between two categories: attempted and actual attacks. Attempted attacks are cases where the victim vessel is not boarded, while actual attacks describe when a vessel is boarded. The CMPD does not distinguish piracy between attempted and actual attacks. The problem in distinguishing between attempted and actual attacks lies in the assumption that boarding a vessel is a sign of a successful piracy, however considering the various motives for piracy, boarding may not be necessary for a successful attack. The CMPD uses the working definition provided by the IMB that does not require boarding as a prerequisite for success, instead it includes any act of boarding or attempting to board.

2. Coding Assumptions

Due to the nature of the descriptions being coded, some coding assumptions had to be made to ensure consistency. Unless otherwise specified:

- The responsibility of the attack is assumed to be the nationals of the country (territorial waters) in which the attack happened. The exception was for Somali cases, which mostly occurred in high seas, then the geographic location and modus operandi of the attack was used to identify these as Somali cases.
- If a vessel was boarded (and it is witnessed by the crew) and there is no mention of evasive tactics, then evasive tactics are coded as unknown.
- If a vessel is boarded without being seen, the armed is coded as unknown.
- An attack that is described to have taken place at berth or in anchorage is coded as one occurring in territorial waters
- A chemical tanker cargo is coded as carrying chemical liquids.
- Cases that are described as warnings to mariners are coded as a suspicious activity
- The motive for an attempted attack for a Somali case is coded as hijack due to the unique modus operandi of these cases.
- All seizure cases assume the perpetrators were armed in some way (armed is coded as yes and type of arms is coded as unknown).
- If a vessel is seized but doesn't mention ransom, ransom is coded as unknown.
- If crew is kidnapped, they are coded as also being retrained.
- A seizure can be for both a ransom or for stealing cargo.
- If the crew mustered in citadel, it is coded as mustering and citadel (two evasive techniques).
- Armed security guards firing warning shots is coded armed guards using firearms (25)
- and firing warning shots (2).
- When a description mentions heavily armed, it is coded as automatic weapons in arms.
- If a crew is described as being taken hostage, it is coded as hostage and as retrained
- The code for the number of boats included the total number of skiffs and any motherships.
- When there is not time given of the attack but words are used to describe the time:
 - A description of "early hours" is coded as 5am local time (0500 LT)

- A description of “night hours” is coded as one-minute past midnight local time (0001 LT)
 - A description of “evening” is coded as 8pm local time (2000 LT)
 - A description of “afternoon” is coded as 3pm local time (1500 LT)
 - If crew members were injured it is assumed, they were also assaulted.
 - If there was no physical violence/harm, then it is coded as a threat only.
 - If authority response to the attack is unknown, the response time is also coded as unknown.
3. List of sources (non-exhaustive) used to compile world-wide threats to shipping summaries of the NGIA.
- Agence France Presse (AFP)
 - Associated Press (AP)
 - Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark
 - BBC News
 - EU Naval Forces (EU)
 - Fairplay (FP), London
 - Informa Group (INFO), formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
 - International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
 - International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
 - Latitude38.com (LAT) website
 - Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
 - Local Media (LM)
 - MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
 - Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S.
 - Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)
 - Maritime Security Council (MSC), U.S.
 - National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
 - North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Brussels
 - Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
 - Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
 - 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)
 - Seafarers’ Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
 - Tradewinds (TW)
 - United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
 - United Press International (UPI)
 - U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
 - U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
 - U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
 - U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
 - U.S. Department of State (DOS)

- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

Citing the CMPD

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