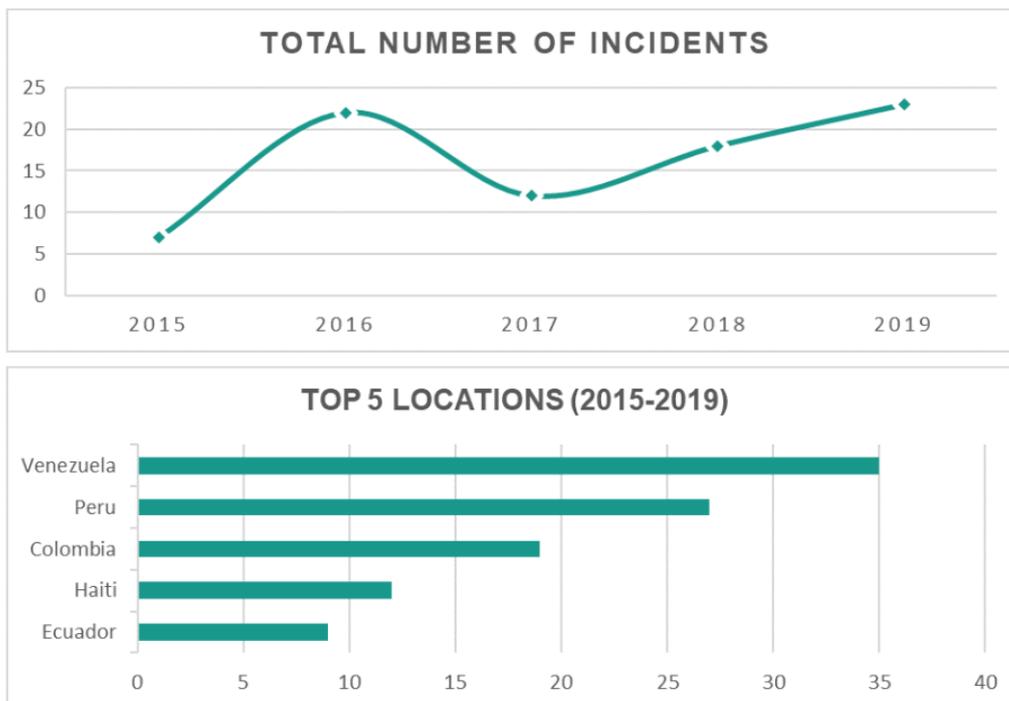


4th May 2020

Piracy attacks – South and Central America

Piracy and armed robbery against ships pose challenges to all operators in the maritime industry. Whilst traditionally restricted to ‘high risk regions’ such as Gulf of Guinea, Gulf of Aden and South East Asia, recent episodes of piracy have occurred in Peru and Ecuador. The International Maritime Bureau’s Piracy Reporting Centre (‘IMB PRC’) recorded 13 incidents at Callao Anchorage in Peru in 2019-20, and two further incidents near Guayaquil in Ecuador in April 2020.

The IMB PRC’s statistics for the previous five years show an 300% increase in the total number of incidents in South and Central America, and the Caribbean waters since 2015, as shown below:



The US Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued an Alert on 17 April 2020 warning that a series of piracy incidents involving attacks on offshore support vessels had been reported in Ciudad Del Carmen and Dos Bocas, in the southern Gulf of Mexico, making the area unsafe for vessels.

Various media also reports highlighted an increase in the number of attacks on maritime oil infrastructure in Mexico, sometimes up to an average of 16 attacks per month between January and September 2019.

Vessels instructed to sail in and around South and Central America and the Caribbean are advised to:

- Closely monitor the situation via the IMB PRC website and stay in close contact with their local agents and regional authorities;
- Carry out a voyage specific threat and risk assessments prior to entering the region, review the Vessel's Security Plan and adopt relevant preventive measures, following the Global Counter Piracy Guidance for Companies, Masters and Seafarers;
- Brief the crew on the security arrangements identified in the Vessel Security Plan and conduct drills prior to arriving in an increased-risk area. Piracy and armed robbery attacks have proven unsuccessful, when countered by a trained crew. All vessels are advised to report all attacks and suspicious sightings to local Authorities, flag state and to the IMB PRC as per IMO MSC.1/Circ. 1334.
- Keep a proper, visual lookout. According to the Global Counter Piracy Guidance, this is the most effective method of ship protection. It can help identify a suspicious approach or attack, allows defenses to be deployed, and can serve as an effective deterrent to would-be attackers.

It is also important to cooperate with other operators, military forces, law enforcement bodies and welfare providers in the region when necessary - both before, during and after an attack.

We remain always at your disposal for any further information and assistance. This newsletter, our publication archive and all of our colleagues' contact details can also be accessed through our website at www.plferrari.com

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