

Preliminary Codebook for
MARTIME PIRACY EVENT & LOCATION DATABASE (MPELD)
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Source: International Maritime Bureau Yearly Reports and IMO Monthly Reports

Materials to provide for coders:

- All IMB reports
- All IMO reports
- List of ports when only ports are mentioned (for earlier reports with missing location information)
- List of independent states (Correlates of War independent states excel file)

I. INCIDENT-LEVEL DATA

Incident Reference Information

Incident Reference (maybe Incident ID)

Unique incident ID simple count from earliest incident to latest

Date

Broken into the day, month and year the incident occurred

Time of day

24 hour time format

Time of day Recode

1 = 6:01-12:00

2 = 12:01-18:00

3 = 18:01-0:00

4 = 0:01a-6:00

-99 = missing

Recode of time of day (non 24 hour format)

1 = 6:01am-12:00pm

2 = 12:01pm-6:00pm

3 = 6:01pm-12:00am

4 = 12:01am-6:00am

-99 = missing

Incident Type

Actual
Attempted
Missing

Incident Action

Describes different types of actions taken by pirates

Hijacked
Boarded
Fired Upon

Geographic Reference Information

Latitude

Latitude in decimal degrees

Blank = missing

Longitude

Longitude in decimal degrees

Blank=missing

Territorial Water Status

Country where pirate incident occurred if incident occurred in territorial waters

Determined by location description or calculated GPS coordinates

Closest Coastal State

Determined by description in IMB report, either based on closest coastal state or identity of the pirates

Closest State COW

Correlates of war state code for closest coastal state

Location Precision

1: GPS coordinates provided by source

2: Port location provided by source

3: Distance from point provided by source

4: Body of water or general geographic reference provided by source (ex. Somalia or Off Eastern Somali Coast).

5: No information provided

Geolocation Source IMB

1 = IMB yes

0 = IMB no

Geolocation Source IMO

1 = IMO yes

0 = IMO no

Geolocation source ASAM

1 = ASAM yes

0 = ASAM no

Location Description

Includes all information for location description from IMB reports (e.g. Malacca Straits) except for coordinates

Vessel Reference Information

Vessel Name

As provided by IMB Annual Report

(NOTE: If incident mentions two vessels (e.g. tug and barge), both names are recorded, but coded as a single incident, as in IMB procedure).

Vessel Type

- 1) Barge or Tug
- 2) Carrier
- 3) Chemical Tanker
- 4) Container Ship
- 5) Fishing Boat, Trawler or Vessel
- 6) General Cargo
- 7) LNG, LPG, Oil Tanker
- 8) Tanker & Product Tanker
- 9) Yacht, Leisure Craft or Passenger Ship
- 10) Other

(NOTE: Type is 1 for Tug and/or Barge, 2 for Carrier including Bulk Carriers. 10 is used for all other types, and no specification about the type of “others” is to be entered).

Vessel Country

As provided by IMB Annual Report

(NOTE: If flag is different for tug and Barge, tug’s flag is used. In some cases, flag refers to entities that are not considered independent states and therefore do not have COW codes, in which case the code of the state with sovereignty over the territory is used. Recurring cases are Cayman Islands (UK, CC 200), Gibraltar (UK, CC 200), Isle of Man (UK, CC 200) and Hong Kong (China, CC 710). Be careful with COW codes for countries that were unified or separated, such as North and South Korea, Vietnam, or Yemen, since their codes change over time. For example, the current code Yemen is 679, in use since the 1990 unification of YPR (680) and YAR (678))

Vessel Country COW code

Correlates of war state code for vessel country

Vessel Status

Steaming
Anchored
Berthed

Additional Information

Violence Dummy

0= no
1= yes

(NOTE: Violence is 1 in the following cases: Killings, injures and assaults; Threats; Members of crew taken as hostages; Destroyed equipment; Hijacking)

Steaming Recode

1=steaming
2=anchored
3=berthed
4=stationary
-99 = missing

Incident Type Recode

1=actual
0=attempted

Incident Action Recode

1=hijacked
2=boarding
3=fired upon
4=attempted
5=missing
6=detained