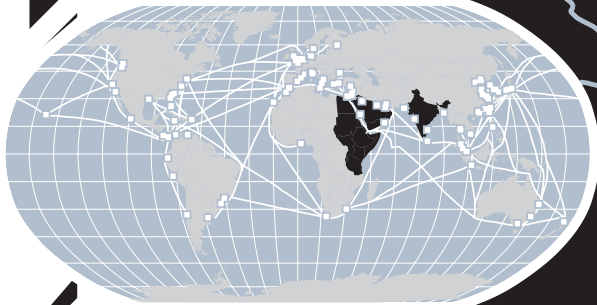


Costly Passage: The 2011 Piracy Map

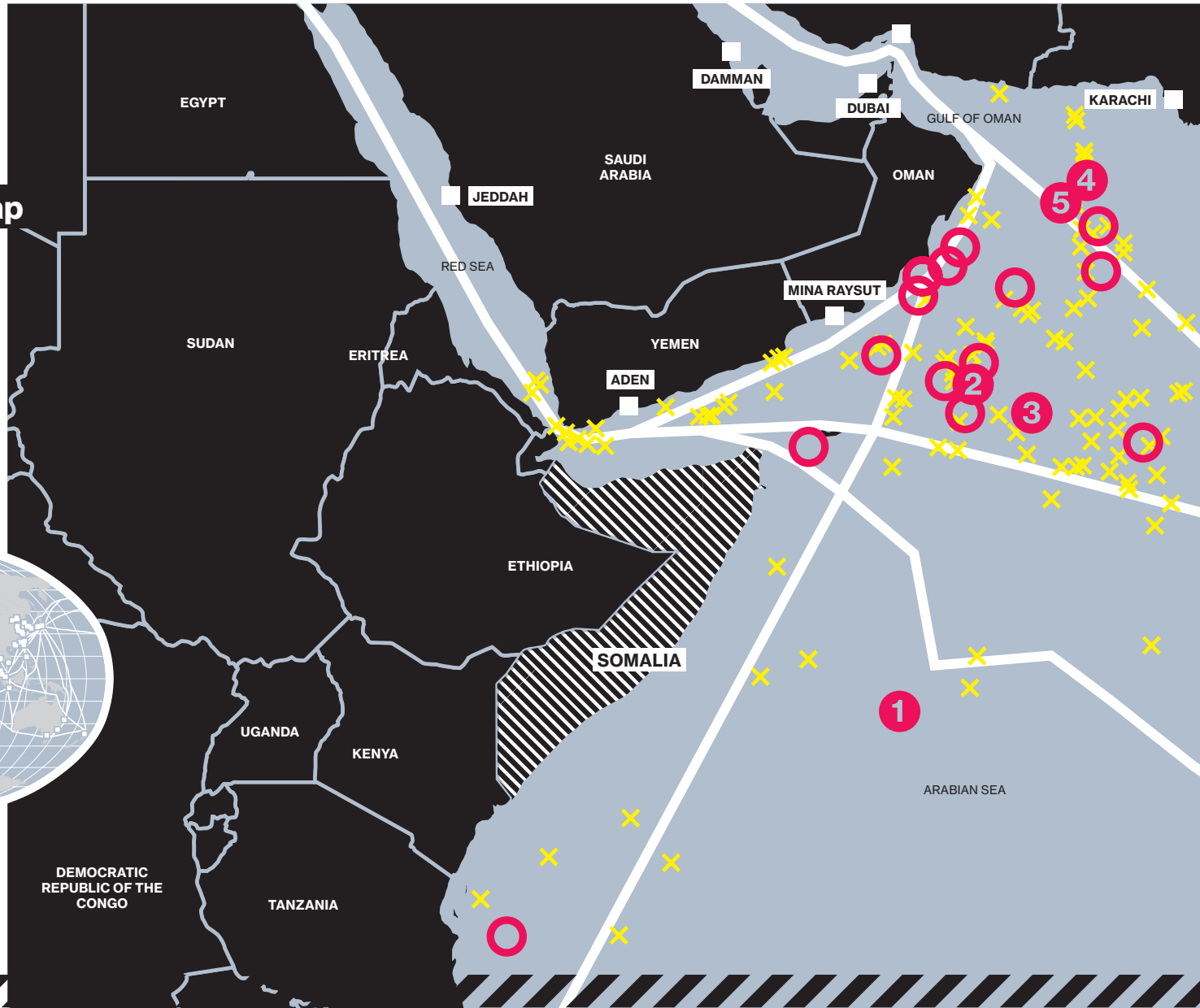
Record ransoms, countermeasure cat-and-mouse, increasingly lethal responses from navies: 2011 is shaping up to be a banner year for piracy. The National Geospatial Intelligence Agency records crimes committed against commercial shipping, of which an increasing share are hijack reports. Here's the tally along with some notable (and lucrative) seizures. —Evan Applegate

Worldwide Commercial Trade Routes



KEY

- Major Port
- Successful Hijacking
- ✕ Failed Hijacking
- Shipping Routes



↳ Ransoms and a Raid

1. Beluga Nomination

German merchant vessel seized on Jan. 22, 2011. Pirates manage to breach the secure citadel and take control of the ship, holding it for 12 weeks until a \$5 million ransom is paid.

2. Sinar Kudus

Indonesian cargo vessel is hijacked on Mar. 16, carrying \$174 million in nickel ore. Shipowners reportedly pay the ransom 46 days later, to the tune of approximately \$4.5 million.

3. Eagle

Greek-owned bulk carrier is seized on Jan. 17 as it travels from Jordan to India. The pirates release the vessel on Apr. 23 after receiving a \$4 million ransom.

4. Samho Jewelry

South Korean-owned chemical tanker seized on Jan. 15 and freed six days later by South Korean special forces, who kill eight pirates and rescue all 21 hostages. Three South Korean soldiers and the ship's captain are wounded in the raid.

5. Irene SL

Greek-owned oil tanker is hijacked on Feb. 9, carrying approximately \$200 million in crude oil. The pirates receive \$13.5 million in exchange for releasing the ship on Apr. 8.