



**MMCC ZONE F WEEKLY
REPORT
MARITIME SAFETY AND
SECURITY
20 MAR - 26 MARCH 2020**



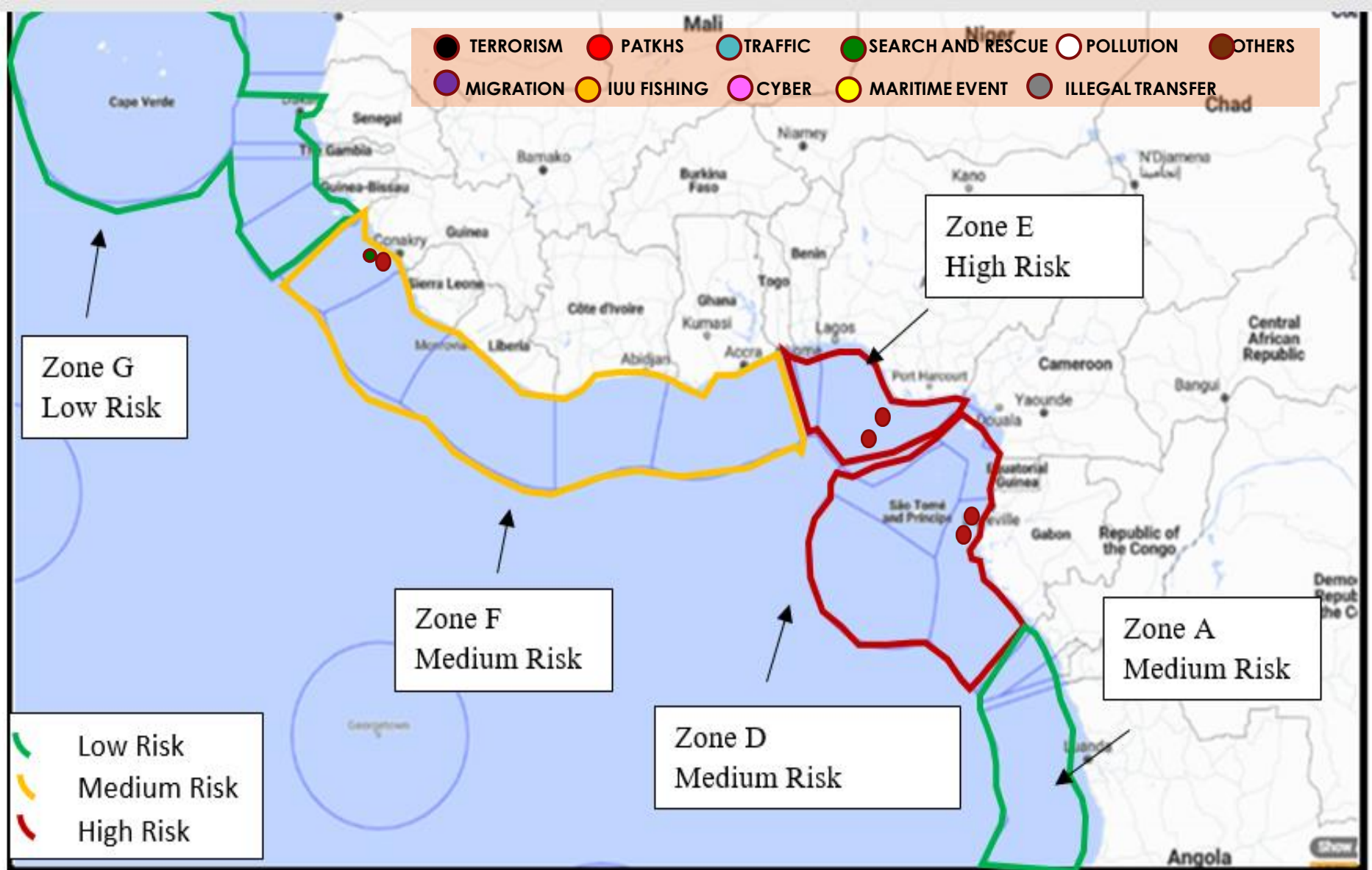
OVERVIEW

- The general maritime safety and security situation in Maritime Zone F remained safe and secure during the week under review.
- Maritime Zone F recorded a SAR and a Theft incident within Guinea Maritime Domain.
- Maritime Zone D recorded 2 separate kidnapping incidents.
- Two Suspicious Approaches and an Attempted Boarding incident occurred in Maritime Zone E.
- See Details of incidents for more information.

INCIDENT RECORD

Category	Type of Incidents	No of Incident in Zones				
		A	D	E	F	G
TERRORISM	TERRORISM					
PIRACY/ ARMED ROBBERY	HIJACKING					
	KIDNAPPING		2			
	ARMED BOARDING					
	FIRING UPON					
	ROBBERY/ATTEMPT ROBBERY					
	ATTEMPT BOARDING			1		
	BOARDING					
	THEFT				1	
	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH			2		
ILLICIT TRAFIC	HUMAN					
	DRUG					
	WEAPONS/AMUNITIONS					
	SMUGGLING					
I.U.U FISHING	INDUSTRIAL FISHING					
	CRAFT FISHING					
POLLUTION						
ILLICIT MIGRATION	ORGANIZED MIGRATION					
	STOWAWAYS					
ILLEGAL TRANSFER	ILLEGAL BUNKERING					
	OIL ROBBERY					
CYBER CRIMINALITY						
MARITIME EVENT	SHIPWRECK					
	COLLISION					
	SINKING				1	
	DAMAGE					
SEARCH AND RESCUE	MEN OVERBOARD					
	ASSISTANCE AND TOWING					
	SANITARY EVACUATION					

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Theft – Guinea

The Cyprus flag bulk carrier ANASA was boarded at Conakry anchorage, Guinea, at 0230 UTC on 27 March 2020. The incident took place at 09°20'N 013°43'W. Ten armed perpetrators, 2 with weapons, others with machete Speaking English and French boarded the vessel and took away with crew cash, electronic devices and belongings.

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Search and Rescue – Conakry, Guinea

Monday 23 March, 2020, at around 0720 UTC an emergency phone call was received by the Conakry MOC, reporting of a sinking advanced artisanal fishing vessel AMITIE 1 at about 15NM S of Kaloum, Conakry. At the time of the incident there were 4 Sierra Leoneans, 2 Guineans and 2 Vietnams crew. The Guinean authorities dispatched the patrol boat P200 to conduct a search and rescue. After investigations, reports indicated that sinking occurred due to overweight of nets being pulled back onboard which tilted and caused the boat to take in water.

The Senegalese fishermen and a tanker assisted in rescuing 6 out of the 8 crew on board the fishing vessel after 24 hours of search. A Guinean and a Sierra Leonean are still missing.

The MMCC Zone F shall continue to monitor the situation and provide updates.

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Kidnapped - Gabon

On 20 March 2020 at 0500 UTC, the Equatorial Guinea flag passenger vessel ELOBEY VI was boarded while underway about 22 NM off Port-Gentil, Gabon. An unknown number of perpetrators boarded the vessel while en route from Bata to Annobon island, Equatorial Guinea. The ship was hijacked by the perpetrators and was released on 23 March at position 03°53'N 006°51'E about 34 NM SSW of Bonny Island. 3 of the 6 crew (2 Moroccans and 1 Equatorial Guinean) were kidnapped. On release the Equatorial Guinean naval vessel WELE NZAS escorted the ELOBEY VI to port of Malabo. The vessel and the remaining crew are all safe.

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Kidnapped– Libreville, Gabon

The Portuguese flag container ship MSC TALIA F who was en route from Lomé to Libreville was boarded by a group of armed men about 60NM W of Gabon at 0726 UTC on 22 March 2020. The incident took place at 00°33'N 008°25'E. The perpetrators kidnapped 7 Ukrainian and left 10 crew onboard. The remain 10 crew are all safe.

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Attempted Boarding- Brass, Nigeria

The Greece flag bulk carrier SCARABE was pursued while en route by 7 armed men in one speedboat with a long ladder visible about 75 NM SW of Brass, Nigeria at 1045 UTC on 25 March 2020. The incident took place at 03°08'N 005°35'E. The alarm was raised and non-essential crew mustered in the citadel. The master increased speed and conducted evasive manoeuvres and was able to prevent the boarding. A security vessel from the nearby Agbami field also provided assistance to the bulk carrier. The vessel and the crew are all safe.

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Suspicious Approach - Brass, Nigeria

On 25 March 2020 at 1600 UTC, the Liberia flag crude oil tanker CAP DIAMANT was suspiciously approach approximately 155 NM south-west of Brass, Nigeria. The incident took place in position 02°30'N 004°04'E. A black coloured speedboat travelling 20 knots approached the crude oil tanker, but broke off the approach when the escorting security vessel moved in. The speedboat is suspected to be the same one that attacked the SCARABE approximately 95 NM away earlier in the day. The vessel and the crew are all safe.

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Suspicious Approach - Cotonou, Benin

On 26th Mar 2020, at 0820 UTC the Malta flag tanker PYXIS THETA was approached within 500 meters during her transit by a speed boat with 4 to 5 perpetrators on board. The incident took place at 05°59'N 002°21'E. No weapon was sighted, but some hooks were observed. The tanker increased her speed and the speedboat stopped her approach.

GENERAL COMMENTS

- The surge in crime at sea in the GoG during the week under review is an indication that criminals will conduct crime at least opportunity. The attention of law enforcement agencies maritime authorities and governments on the whole are focused on combating the global pandemic (COVID -19).
- The perpetrators are therefore exploiting the absence of continuous presence at sea to conduct crime.
- Vessels transiting or calling at ports are therefore encouraged to always be on the alert and report suspicious activities to port authorities for assistance.
- Port and law enforcement authorities are also expected to always be on alert and be prepared to assist vessels.

FORCAST FOR THE COMING WEEK AND ADVISORIES

General Maritime Security Situation in the Maritime Zone F - Expected to remain quiet and incident free however the possibility of Petty Theft and Armed Robberies within Ports and anchorages in maritime Zone F remains likely

Maritime Zone E and D are expected to be relatively safe. Kidnappings, Firing Upon and Armed Robberies are likely at anchorages and at sea.

Maritime Zone A and G are expected to remain incident free.

ADVISORIES

Merchant vessels sailing about 50 nm from the coast are likely to encounter artisanal and trawling fishing by night vessels.

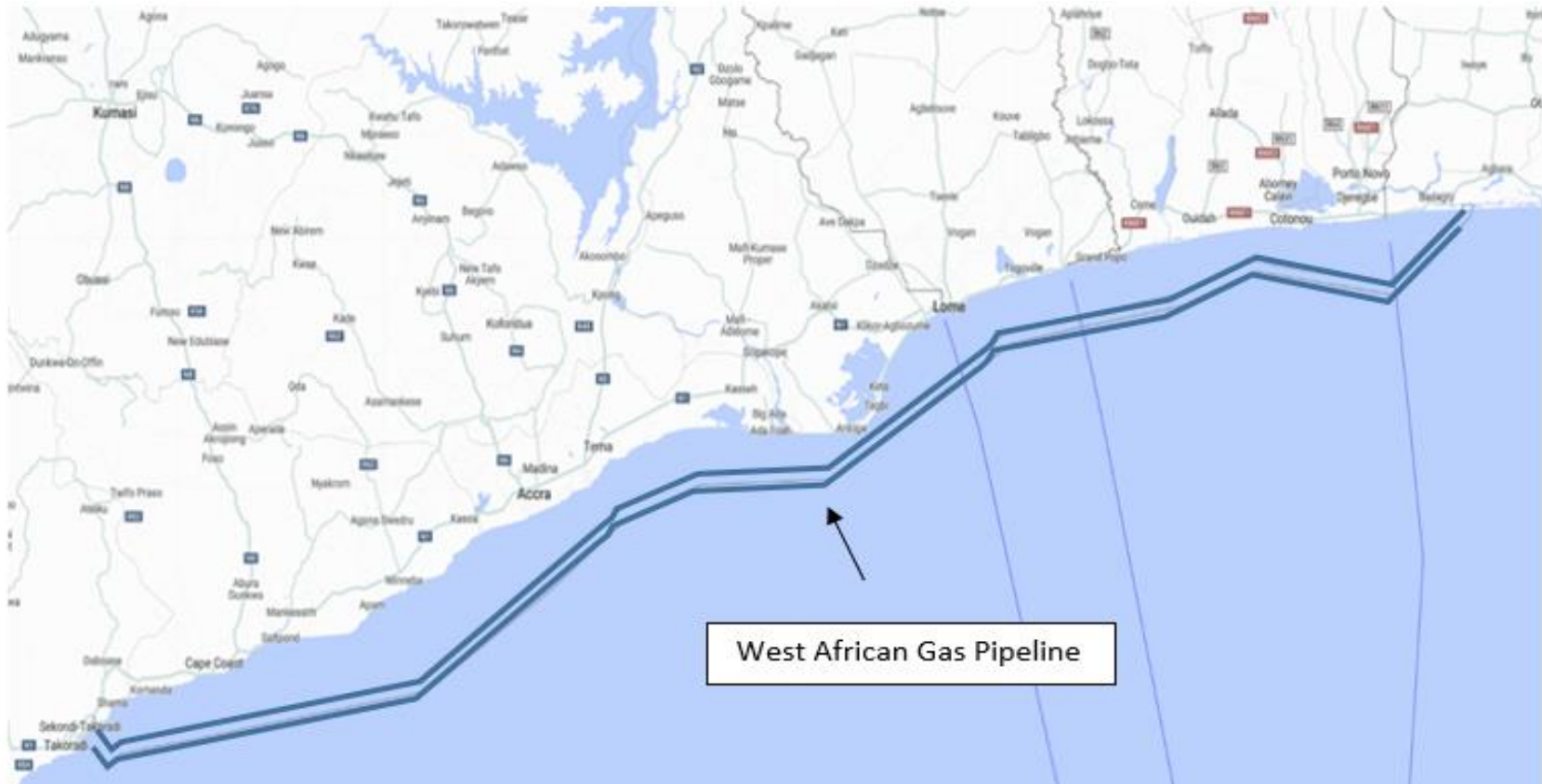
Vessels sailing in the proximity of the Jubilee Oil Fields are to remain at least 8 nm from the oil platforms to avoid being confronted /challenged by security escort vessel within the area. Mariners are cautioned to be on the alert at all times and report any suspicious activity to MMCC Zone F for immediate assistance.

Ships at anchorages and ports are to maintain sufficient duty watch especially from 2200 hours – 0400 hours and ships at anchorages to be extra vigilant.

NOTICES

Oil Fields. All vessels transiting close to the oilfields are to observe the promulgated maritime safety and security zones around the oil fields.

West African Gas Pipeline. The West African Gas pipeline extends from Takoradi in Ghana to Nigeria. The pipeline since its installation has experienced periodic breakages due to fishing and anchoring activities on the pipeline. The position of the pipeline is shown on maritime charts. All vessels transiting the coastal areas between Ghana and Nigeria are to avoid anchoring and fishing within the pipeline protective zone.



MARITIME INFORMATION OF INTEREST

- Tanker broke in two, sank or sinking, Mediterranean.

Source: <https://www.fleetmon.com/maritime-news>

- MAERSK container ship several crew tested corona positive, China.

Source: <https://www.fleetmon.com/maritime-news>

ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION CENTRE (MMCC ZONE F)

Christianborg Castle, Osu Accra, Ghana

zonefmmcc@gmail.com / zonefmoc@gmail.com

www.mmcczonef.com

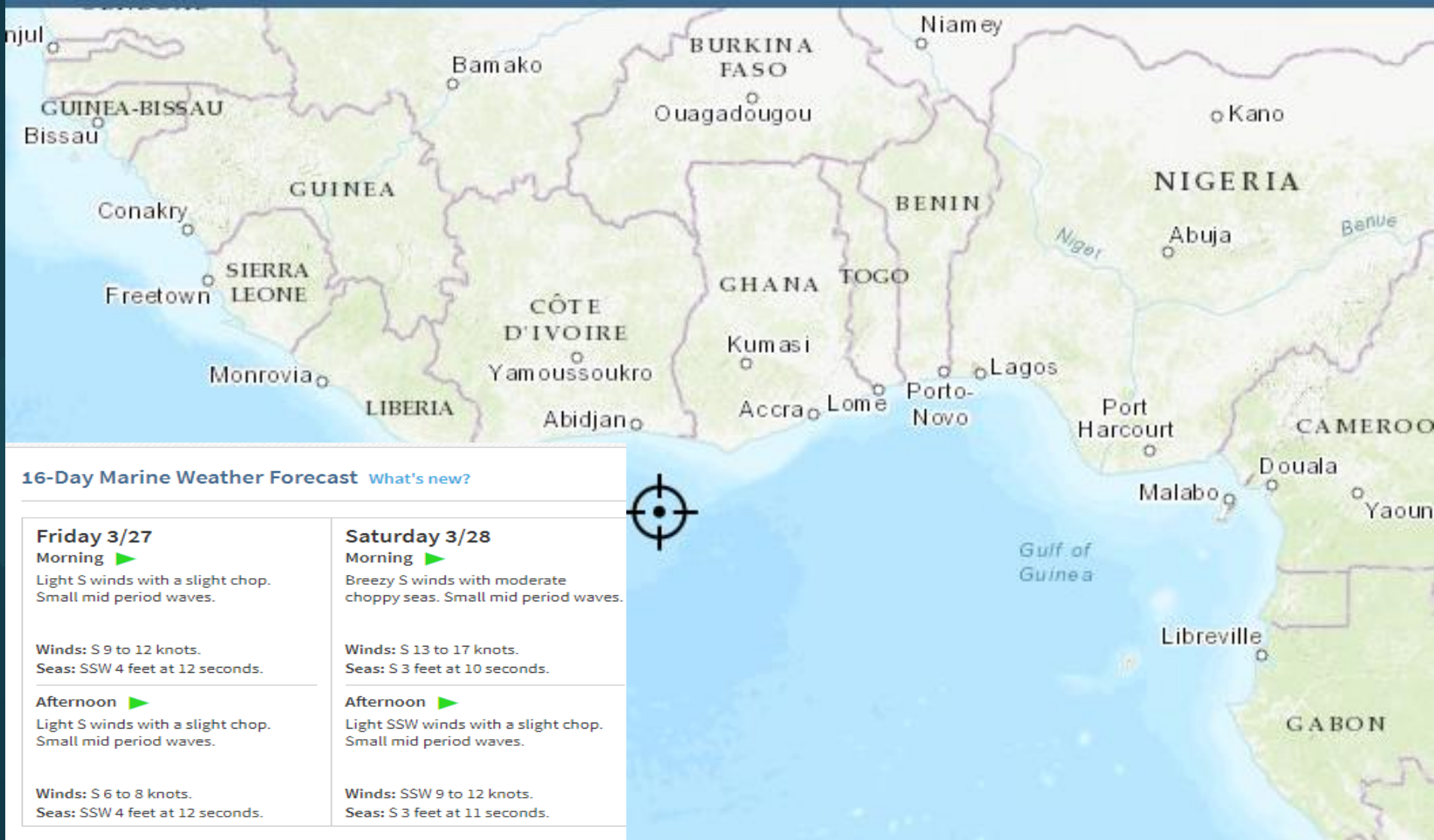
+233246476924 / +2330302736817 / +2330302736804 / +2330302736806

HF 6300 KHZ

VHF CH 16

Satellite Phone +870778617068

METEOROLOGICAL FORECAST



Source: buoyweather.com

CONTACT DETAILS NATIONAL AND ZONAL CENTERS

ZONE E	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
MMCC COTONOU	+ 229 61040475	Zonee.mmcc@gmail.com
MOC LAGOS	+ 234 07056893142	wncrmac01@gmail.com
RMCC LAGOS	+ 234 7000700010	Rmrcc.nigeria@yahoo.fr
MOC COTONOU	+ 229 21317543	forces.navales@yahoo.com
MOC LOME	+ 228 22237083	base.marine@yahoo.com
ZONE F	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
MMCC ZONE F (ACCRA)	+ 233 547976523	zonefmmcc@gmail.com
MOC (TEMA)/NHQ MOC	+233299101118/+233299010951	encmoc@gmail.com / GNHQMOC@gmail.com
MOC (TAKORADI)	+233299101066	wncmoc@gmail.com
MOC ABIDJAN	+ 225 23454326	MOC.abidjanCI@gmail.com
MOC ABIDJAN	+225 21000643	abidjan.mrcc@gmail.com / alertes@mrcc-abidjan.net
MOC SANPEDRO	+233 302777991	moc.marinesp.ci@gmail.com
MOC MONROVIA	+ 231 776129865	mahawajuana@gmail.com
MOC FREETOWN	+ 232 78194359	jocopsintel@gmail.com
MOC CONAKRY	+224621222297	compremargui@gmail.com
ZONE G	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
MMCC CAPE VERDE	+ 238 9851567	CCCosmar@gmail.com
MOC DAKAR	+ 221 338265001	marinenat@orange.sn
MOC BANJUL	+ 220 7708818	gamnavy@rocketmail.com

DEFINITION OF TERMS

- **PIRACY**

(A) Any illegal acts of Violence or Detention, or any act of Depredation, committed for private ends by the crew or the passengers of a private ship or a private aircraft, and directed: (i) on the High Seas, against another Ship or Aircraft, or against persons or property on board such ship or aircraft. (ii) against a ship, aircraft, persons or property in a place outside the jurisdiction of any State.

(B) Any act of voluntary participation in the operation of a ship or of an aircraft with knowledge of facts making it a pirate ship or aircraft.

(C) Any act of inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described in subparagraph (a) or (b).

- **ARMED ROBBERY AT SEA**

Any unlawful act of Violence or Detention, or any act of Depredation or Threat other than an act of Piracy, directed against a Ship or against Persons or Property onboard such Ships, within a States jurisdiction over such offences.

- **HIJACK:** Vessels taken by attacker, no longer under the control of the master.
- **FIRED UPON/ATTACK:** Use of weapon by assailants at vessel or boarding with intent to take control of the vessel.
- **BOARDING:** Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without taken control of the vessel.
- **ROBBERY:** Theft realize in territorial waters with threat or violence to crew.
- **THEFT:** Theft realize in territorial waters with no violence.
- **ILLEGAL UNREPORTED UNREGULATED FISHING.**

Illegal fishing conducted by national or foreign vessels in contravention of laws and regulations. Fishing conducted by vessels flying the flag of States that are parties to a regional fisheries management organization but operate in contravention of the conservation and management measures. Fishing in violation of national laws or international obligations. Fishing activities which have not been reported, or have been misreported. Fishing in the area of application of a regional fisheries management organization that are conducted by vessels without nationality. Fishing in areas or for fish stocks in relation to which there are no applicable conservation or management measures.

- **MARITIME MIGRATION.**

STOWAWAY: A person who hides on a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle 2. Someone who hides on a ship or aircraft to travel without having to pay.

- **ILLICIT TRADE.**

ILLEGAL BUNKERING: Bunkering is a term used to describe the process of filling a ship with oil (or coal). Illegal oil bunkering is a euphemism for theft.

- **OTHER MARITIME INCIDENTS.**

SUSPICIOUS APPROACH: All other unexplained activity in close proximity of an unknown vessel.

SIGHTING AND IRREGULAR ACTIVITY: All suspicious information with no proof of intent to board the vessel.