



ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT

19 JUNE – 25 JUNE 2020

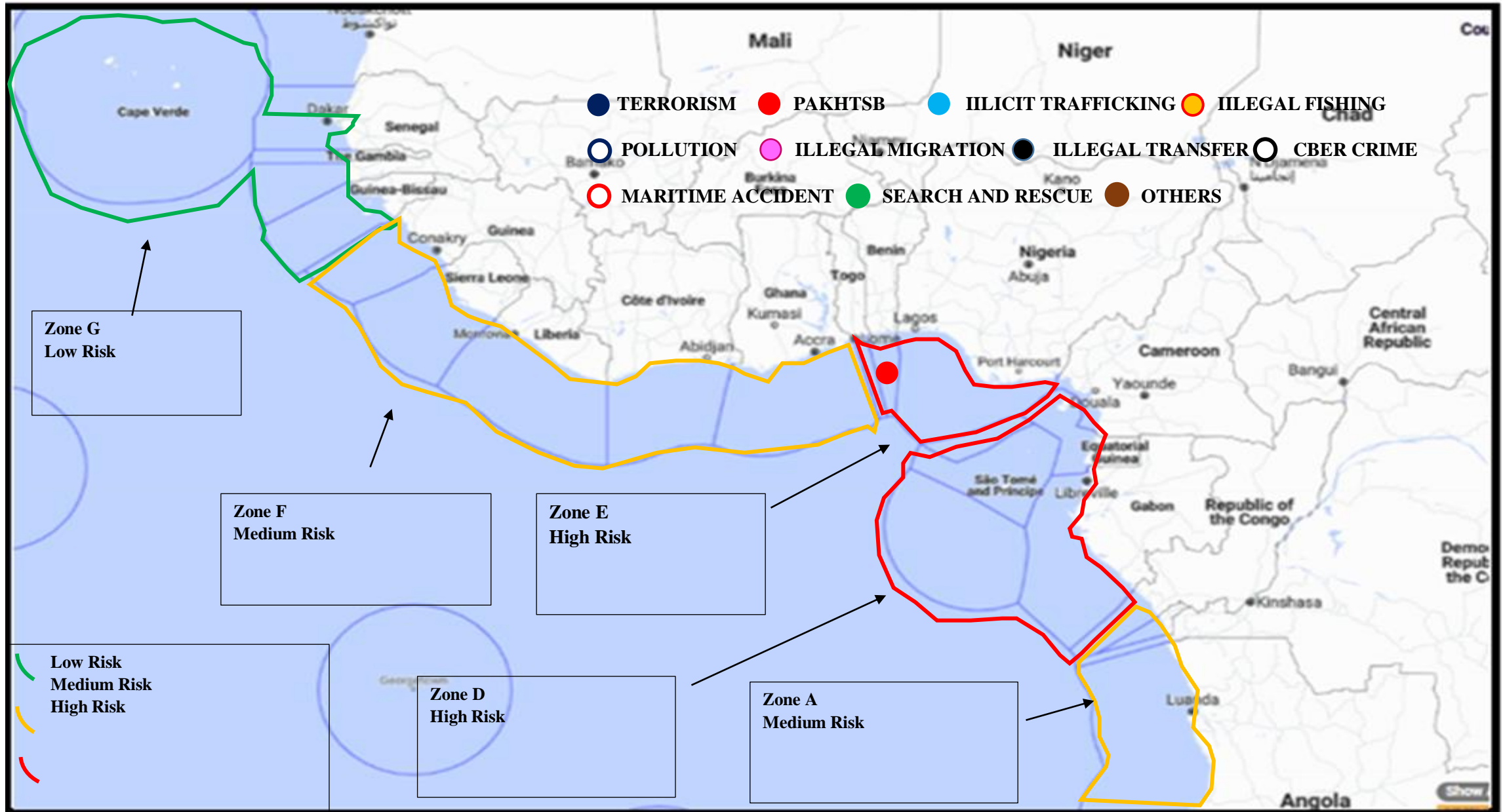
OVERVIEW

- The general maritime safety and security situation in Maritime Zone F and the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) remained safe and secure during week under review.
- Maritime Zone E recorded a kidnapping incident.
- 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/KIDNAPPING/HIJACKING/FIRING UPON/THEFT/SUSPICIOUS APPROACH/BOARDING (PAKHFTSB)	Suspicious Hijacking					
	Kidnapping			1		
	Armed Robbery					
	Firing Upon					
	Robbery/Attempt Robbery					
	Attempt Boarding					
	Boarding					
	Theft					
	Suspicious Approach					
ILLCIT TRAFIC	Human					
	Drug					
	Weapons/Ammunitions					
	Smuggling					
I.U.U FISHING	Industrial Fishing					
	Craft Fishing					
POLLUTION						
ILLCIT MIGRATION	Organized Migration					
	Stowaways					
ILLEGAL TRANSFER	Illegal Bunkering					
	Oil Robbery					
CYBER CRIMINALITY						
MARITIME ACCIDENT	Shipwreck					
	Collision					
	Sinking					
	Damage					
SEARCH AND RESCUE	Men Overboard					
	Assistance And Towing					
	Sanitary Evacuation					
OTHERS						

INCIDENT DISPOSITION

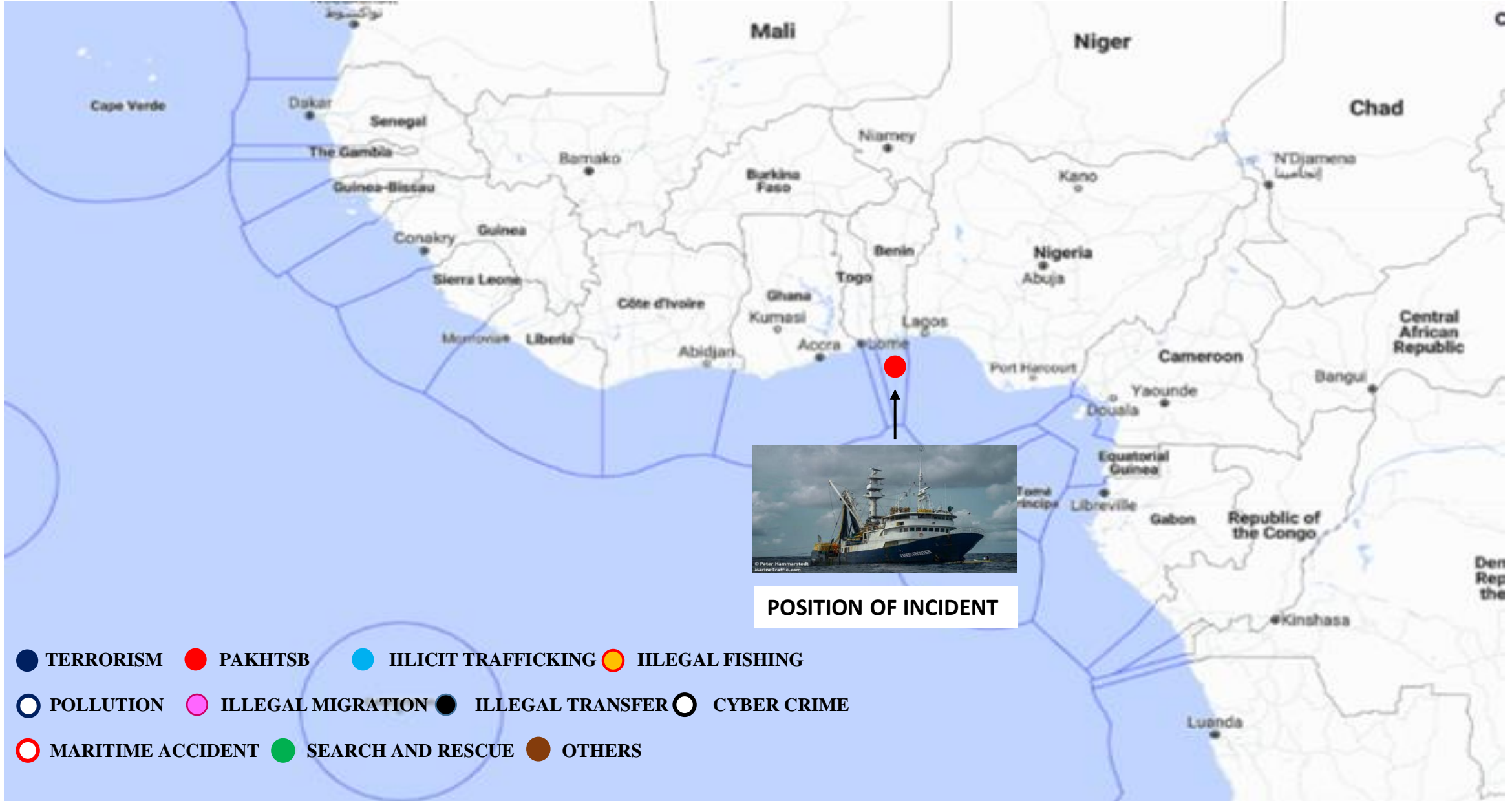


DETAILS OF INCIDENT

KIDNAPPING – Cotonou, Benin.

- On 24th June 2020 around 1430 UTC, a Ghanaian flag fishing vessel PANOFI FRONTIER was attacked by pirates in position 05°21'N 002°37'E about 56NM South off Cotonou, BENIN.
- The pirates approached the vessel in a high-speed skiff carrying about 4-6 armed men.
- The pirates boarded the vessel and abducted 5 Koreans and one Ghanaian and headed into Nigerian waters.
- The total number of crew on board the vessel were 30, made of 5 Koreans and 25 Ghanaian. The vessel is currently at Tema port for further investigation.
- The MMCC Zone F shall monitor the situation and provide update.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



GENERAL COMMENTS

- This is the latest kidnapping within BENIN waters after the kidnapping of 8 crewmembers onboard the TOMMI RITSCHER at the Cotonou Anchorage on 18 April 2020.
- This kidnapping of crew onboard PANOFI in BENIN waters and also from AMERGER II and AMERGER VII on 03 May, 2020 in Gabon waters revealed a change in pirates strategy of attacking fishing vessels that are more vulnerable.
- All vessels especially fishing vessels should exercise more caution and vigilance and avoid areas where they are prone to attacks. .
- Security agencies are encouraged to always remain prepared to render assistance to vessels at sea.
- Vessels are also encouraged to report any suspicious movements for quick response.

FORCAST FOR THE COMING WEEK AND ADVISORIES

FORECAST

- 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.

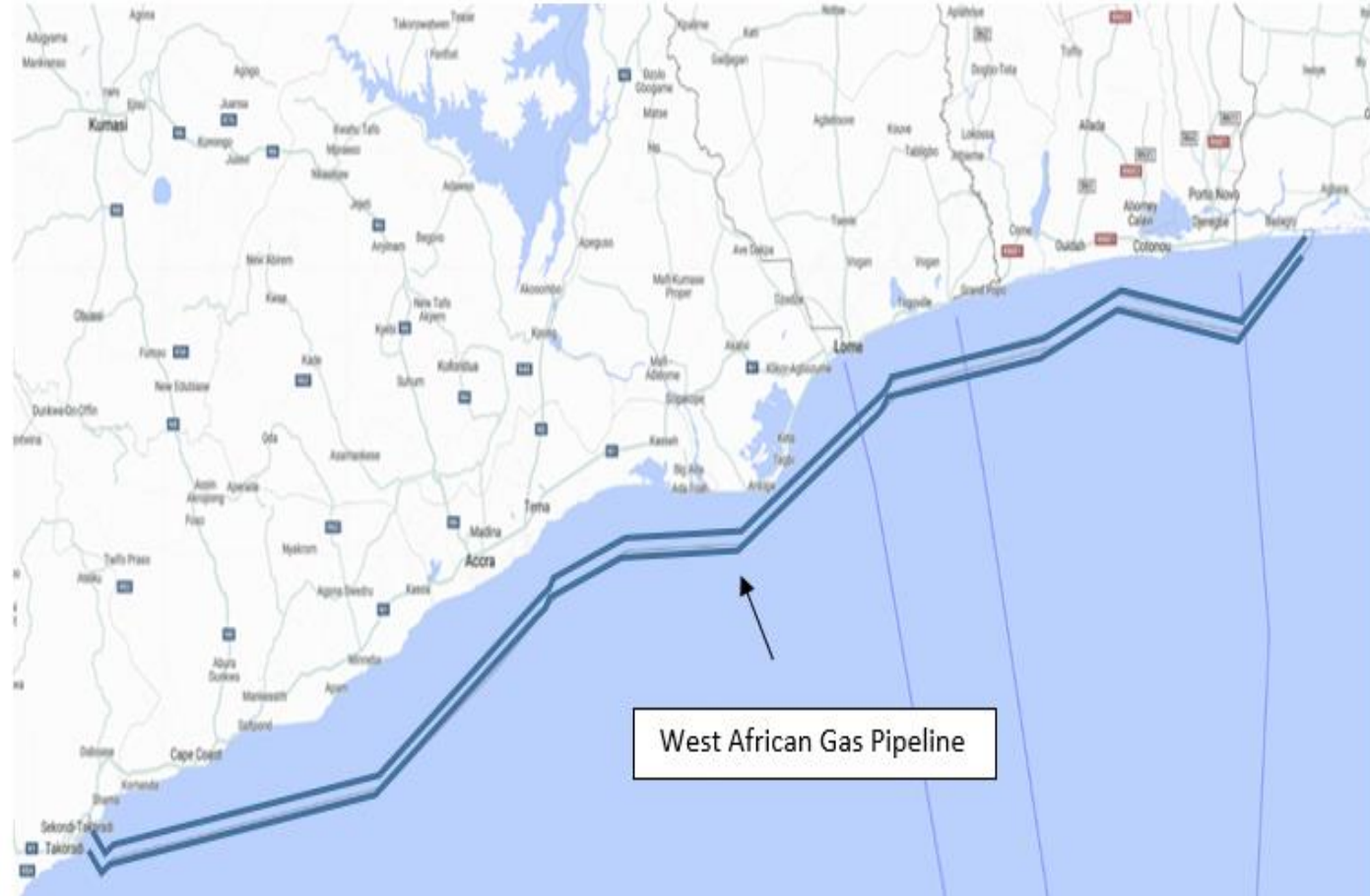
NOTICES

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

- Ex Niger delta militants kick against plan end amnesty program vow shutdown national.
 - Source. <http://saharareporters.com>

METEOROLOGICAL FORECAST

16-Day Marine Weather Forecast [What's new?](#)

Thursday 6/25

Morning

Moderate to strong SSW winds with choppy seas. Small mid period waves.

Winds: SSW 15 to 21 knots.

Seas: SSW 5 feet at 12 seconds.

Afternoon

Moderate to strong SSW winds with choppy seas. Small mid period waves.

Winds: SSW 15 to 21 knots.

Seas: SSW 5 feet at 11 seconds.

Friday 6/26

Morning

Breezy SSW winds with moderate choppy seas. Small mid period waves.

Winds: SSW 13 to 18 knots.

Seas: SSW 5 feet at 11 seconds.

Afternoon

Breezy SSW winds with moderate choppy seas. Small mid period waves.

Winds: SSW 14 to 19 knots.

Seas: SSW 5 feet at 11 seconds.



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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.



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