



ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT

06 NOVEMBER – 12 NOVEMBER 2020

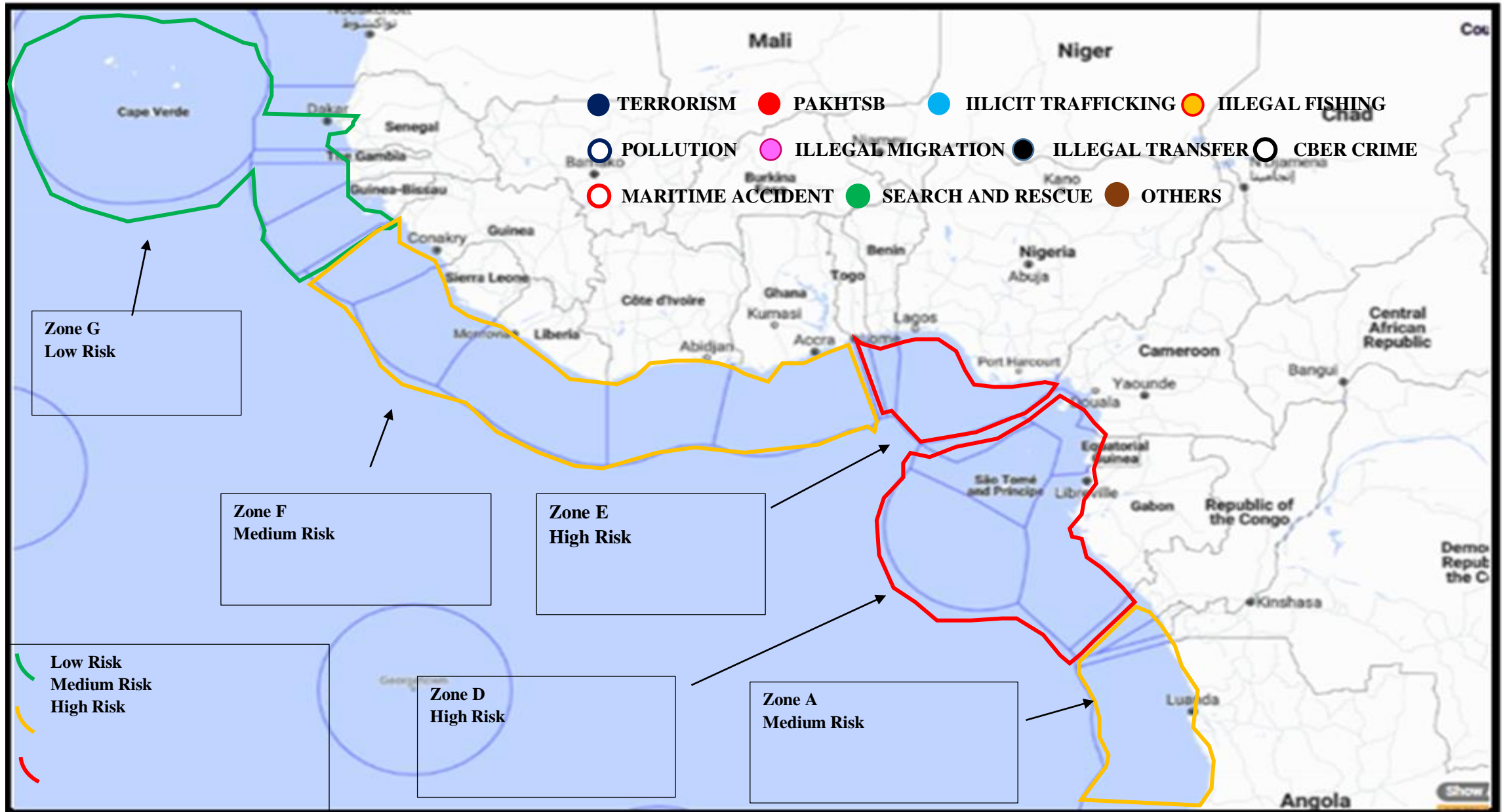
OVERVIEW

- 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 boarding and four suspicious approach 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					
	Armed Robbery					
	Firing Upon					
	Robbery/Attempt Robbery					
	Attempt Boarding					
	Boarding			1		
	Theft					
ILLCIT TRAFIC	Suspicious Approach			4		
	Human					
	Drug					
	Weapons/Ammunitions					
I.U.U FISHING	Smuggling					
	Industrial Fishing					
POLLUTION	Craft Fishing					
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					
	Capsized					
OTHERS						

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



DETAILS OF INCIDENT

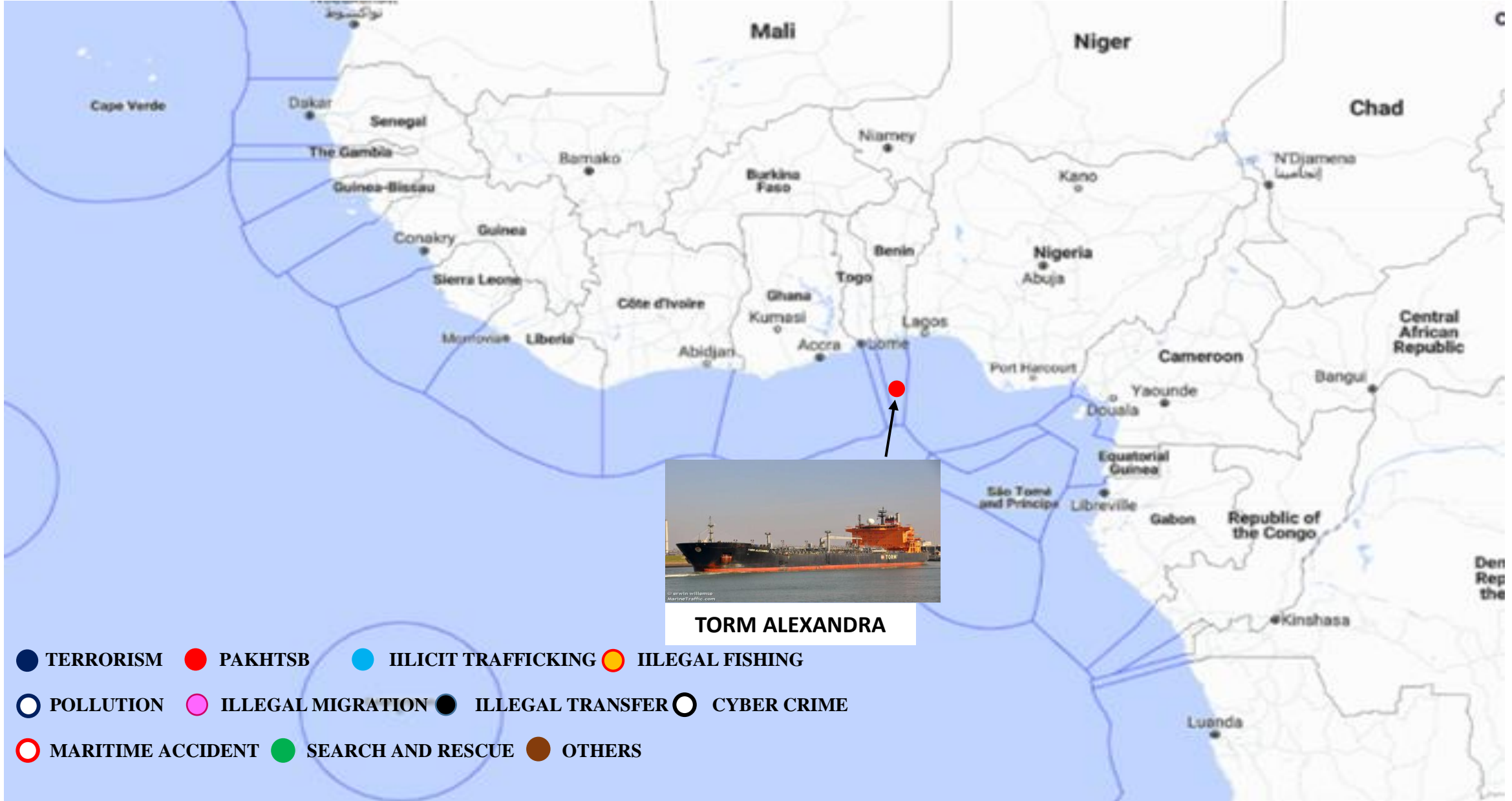
Boarding – Cotonou, Benin

The Singapore flag chemical/oil tanker **TORM ALEXANDRA** was attacked and boarded in position 03°28'N 002°35'E approximately 170 NM south of Cotonou in the Gulf of Guinea at 0630 UTC on 07 November 2020.

The information on the incident was immediately shared with Zones E and F states and international partners. The **ITALIAN NAVY SHIP MARTINENGO** which was at sea was contacted and launched a helicopter. The helicopter sighted a pirate skiff with about 15 persons, close to the **TORM ALEXANDER**. Given the urgency of the situation, the warships immediate actions were to secure the vessel. The Italian ship **MARTINENGO** upon reaching **TORM ALEXANDER** immediately sent a Boarding Team onboard to conduct search for possible pirates onboard. The Boarding Team didn't find any pirates onboard.

The **TORM ALEXANDER** was cleared and all crew came out of the citadel. The crew members were found to be in good spirit. The vessel as at 0900 hours this morning was observed heading towards Ghana.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



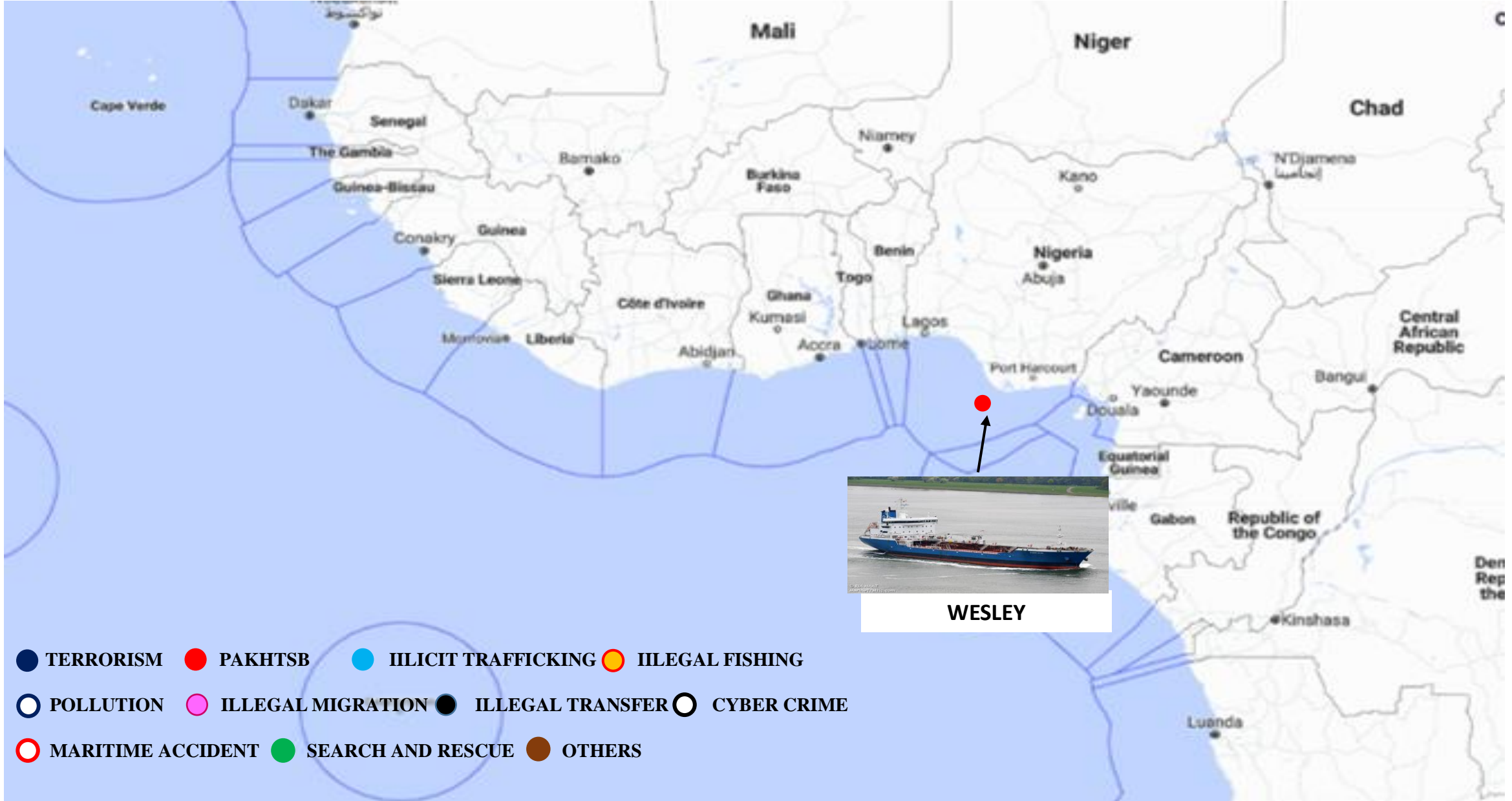
DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Suspicious Approach – Bayelsa, Nigeria

The Marshall Islands flag chemical/oil products tanker WESLEY was approached in position 03°36'N 004°36'E about 85 NM southwest of Bayelsa, Nigeria at 1620 UTC on 07 November 2020.

A speedboat with seven pirates armed with guns approached the tanker approximately 250 metres. The master ordered the crew to the citadel. The armed guards on board displayed their weapons and fired three shots at the speedboat. The perpetrators abandon the pursuit. The vessel and crew were reported as safe and the tanker continued to her next port of call.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



DETAILS OF INCIDENT

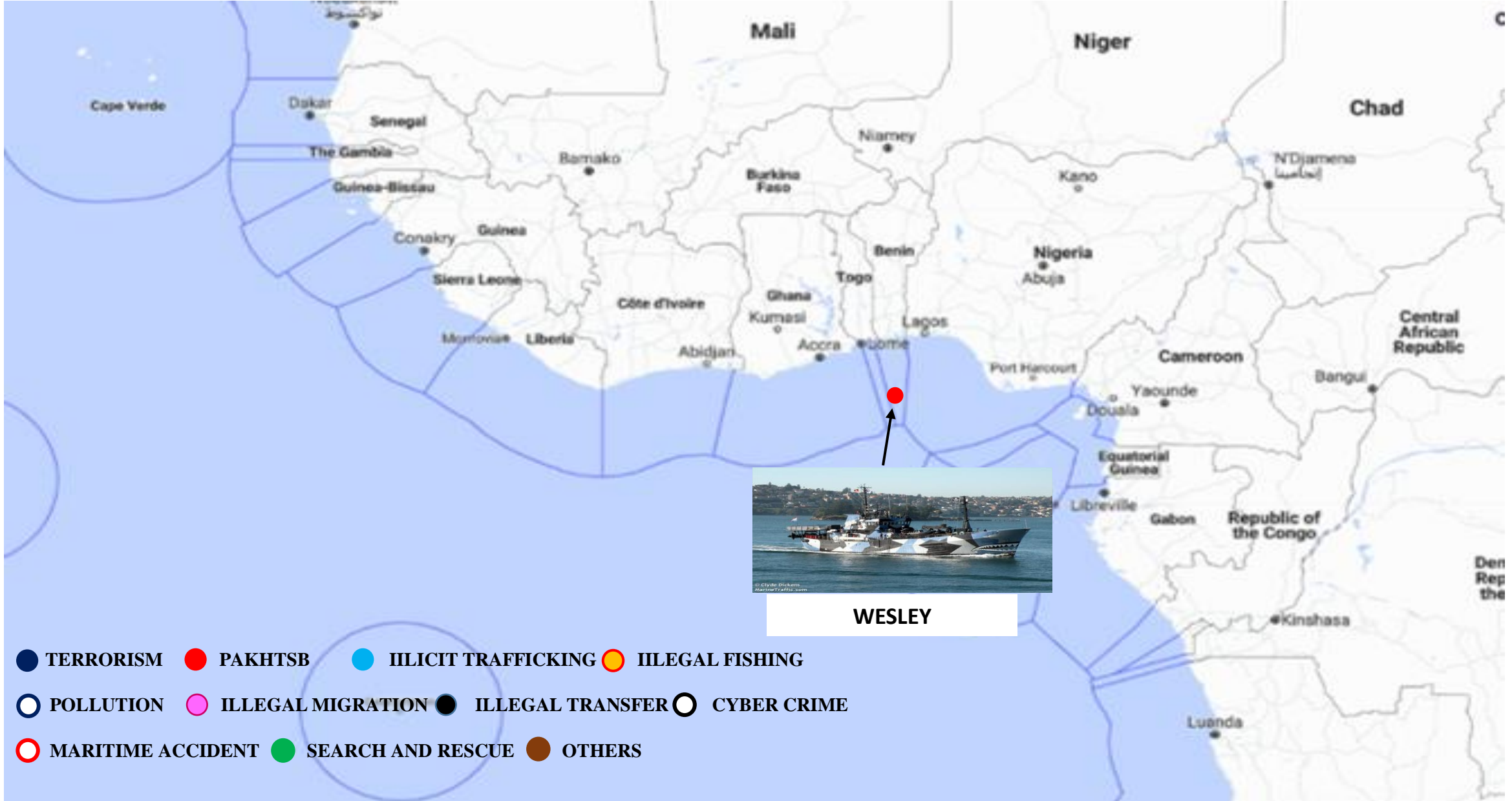
Suspicious Approach – Cotonou, Benin

Information received from MDAT-GOG indicates that, the Netherlands flag research vessel (fishery patrol vessel) BOB BARKER was suspiciously attacked in position 04° 26.3'N 002° 42'E, approximately 115 nautical miles south of Cotonou on 09 November 2020 at 0630 UTC .

The vessel reported that a skiff with 7-8 armed persons on board approached them to a CPA of 0.7 nautical miles. The crew mustered in citadel and the Benin Navy guards on board fired warning shots causing the skiff to abort its pursuit.

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INCIDENT DISPOSITION



DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Suspicious Approach – Cotonou, Benin

Information received from MDAT indicates the Marshall Island flag oil tanker LA BOHEME was suspiciously pursued in position 04°45'7"N 002°26'00"E approximately 115 nm south of Cotonou, Benin at 2036 UTC on 09 November 2020.

The crew mustered in citadel whilst master and bridge team carried out evasive manoeuvring. The skiffs then aborted the attack. Vessel and crew are safe.

Suspicious Approach – Cotonou, Benin

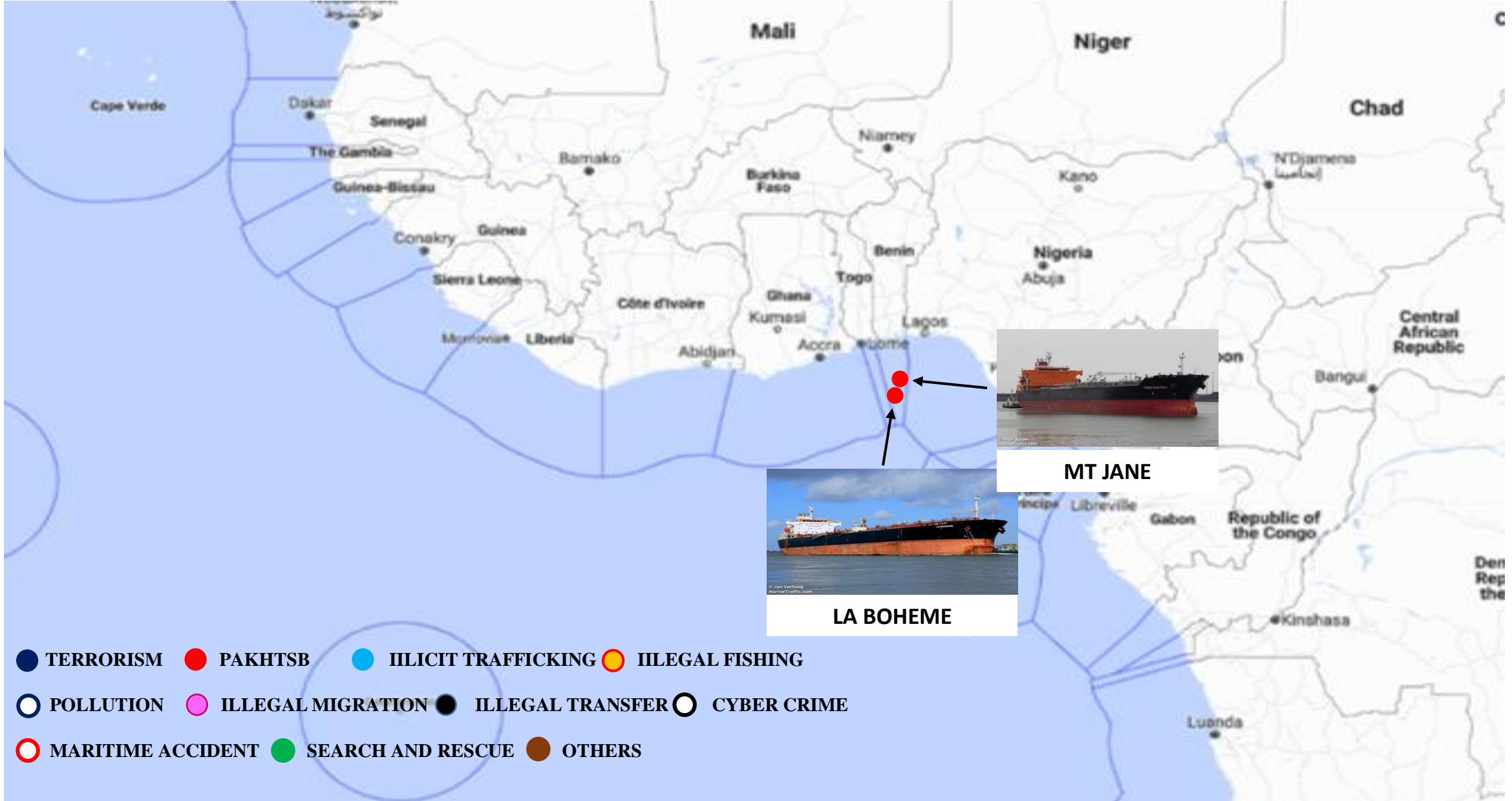
Information received from MDAT indicated that, the Marshall Islands flag MT JANE was suspiciously approached by a skiff with unknown number of perpetrators onboard on 11 November at 0119 UTC.

The incident occurred at position 05°12'N 002°35'E, approximately 70nm southeast of Cotonou. During the pursuit, shots were allegedly fired by the perpetrators.

The perpetrators aborted their pursuit of the vessel as she engaged in some evasive manoeuvres.

The vessel and crew are reported safe. The Local Authorities have been informed.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



GENERAL COMMENTS

- Pirate action groups have been very persistent in their efforts in kidnapping crew for ransom in maritime Zone E. This resulted in one boarding and four suspicious approach incidents within four days.
- All vessels transiting the general area are therefore encouraged to adopt measures and SOPs that will allow for quick detection of pirates and withdrawal to the Citadel by keeping a vigilant and sharp anti-piracy lookout as well report any suspicious boat/skiff movements to the necessary authorities timely for immediate action.
- All vessels are advised to remain vigilant , maintain sharp anti-piracy lookouts including at anchorages and report any suspicious movements to the necessary authorities.
- All security agencies are requested to be on maximum alert, increase vigilance and surveillance both at sea and in the port.

FORCAST FOR THE COMING WEEK AND ADVISORIES

FORECAST

- General Maritime Security Situation in the Maritime Zone F is expected to remain relatively safe. 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.

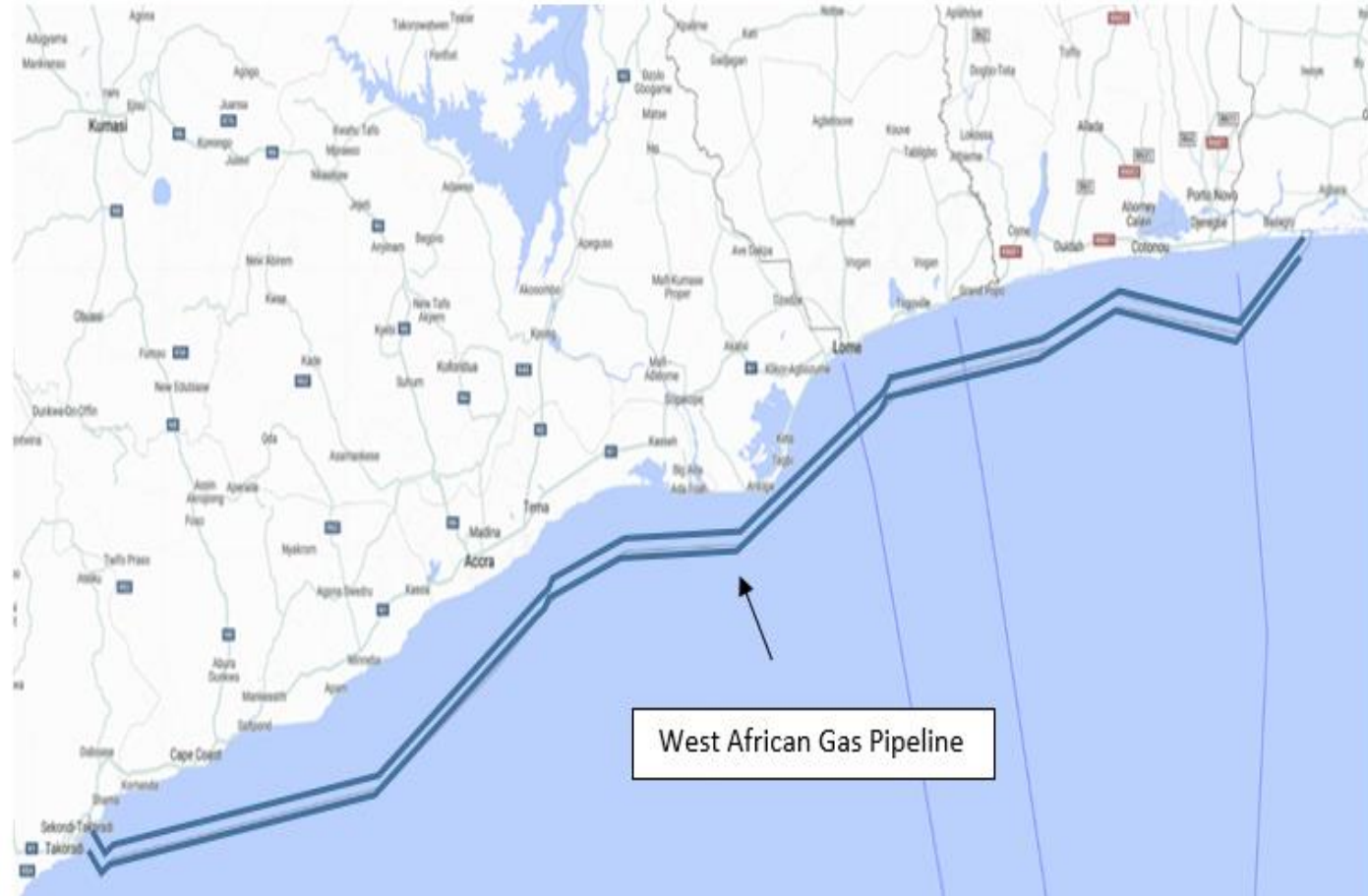
NOTICES

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

- Fire erupted in living quarters of general cargo ship OSCAR I in Greece, all crew have been evacuated.
- Source. <https://www.fleetmon.com>

METEOROLOGICAL FORECAST

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

Thursday 11/12

Morning

Light SSW winds with a slight chop.
Small mid period waves.

Winds: SSW 7 to 9 knots.

Seas: SSW 4 feet at 11 seconds.

Afternoon

Light and variable winds with smooth seas. Small mid period waves.

Winds: WSW 5 to 7 knots.

Seas: S 4 feet at 11 seconds.

Friday 11/13

Morning

Breezy SW winds with moderate choppy seas. Moderate mid period waves.

Winds: SW 10 to 13 knots.

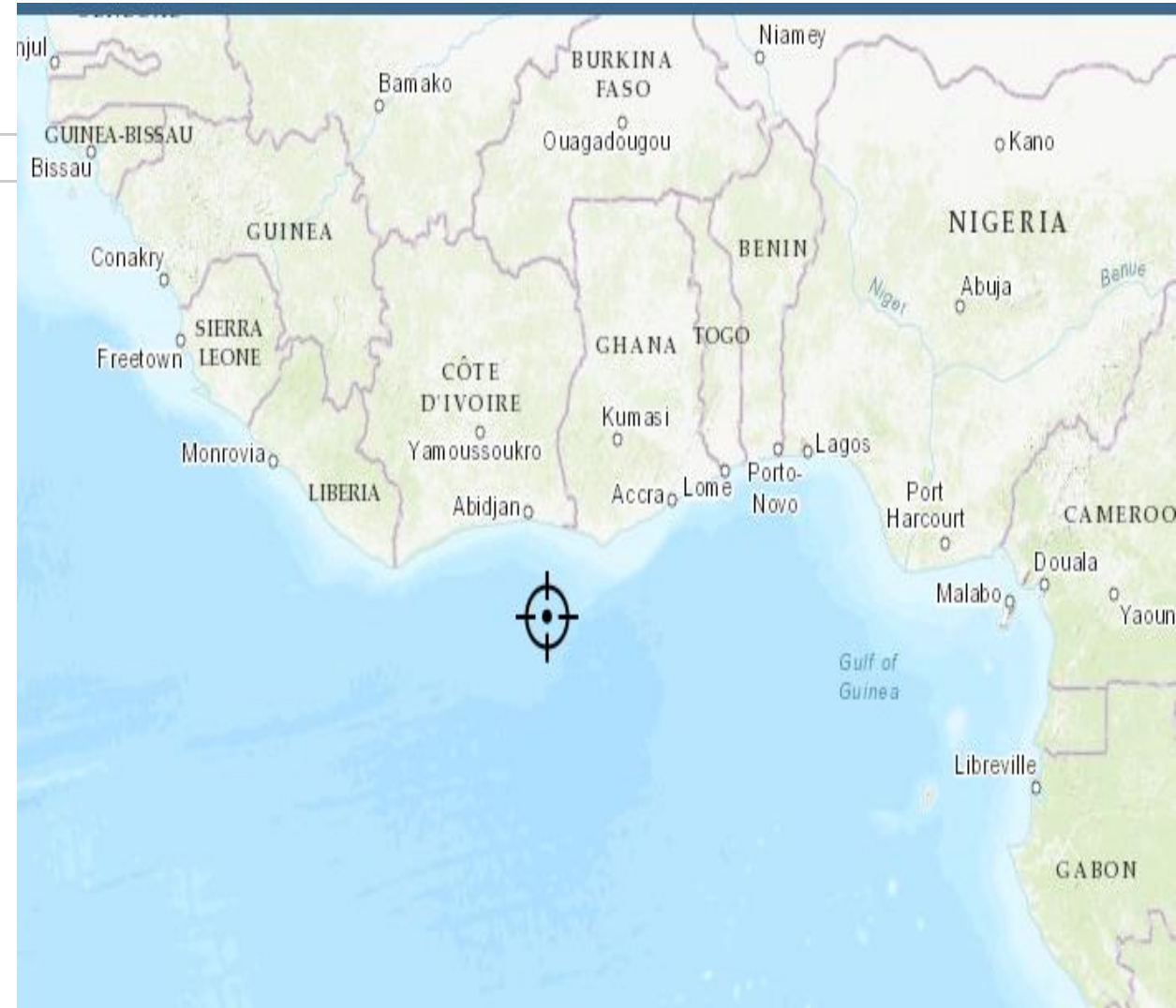
Seas: S 5 feet at 11 seconds.

Afternoon

Light SW winds with a slight chop. Moderate mid period waves.

Winds: SW 7 to 10 knots.

Seas: S 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 INCIDENTENCES.**

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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