



ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION  
CENTRE  
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY  
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT

13 NOVEMBER – 19 NOVEMBER 2020

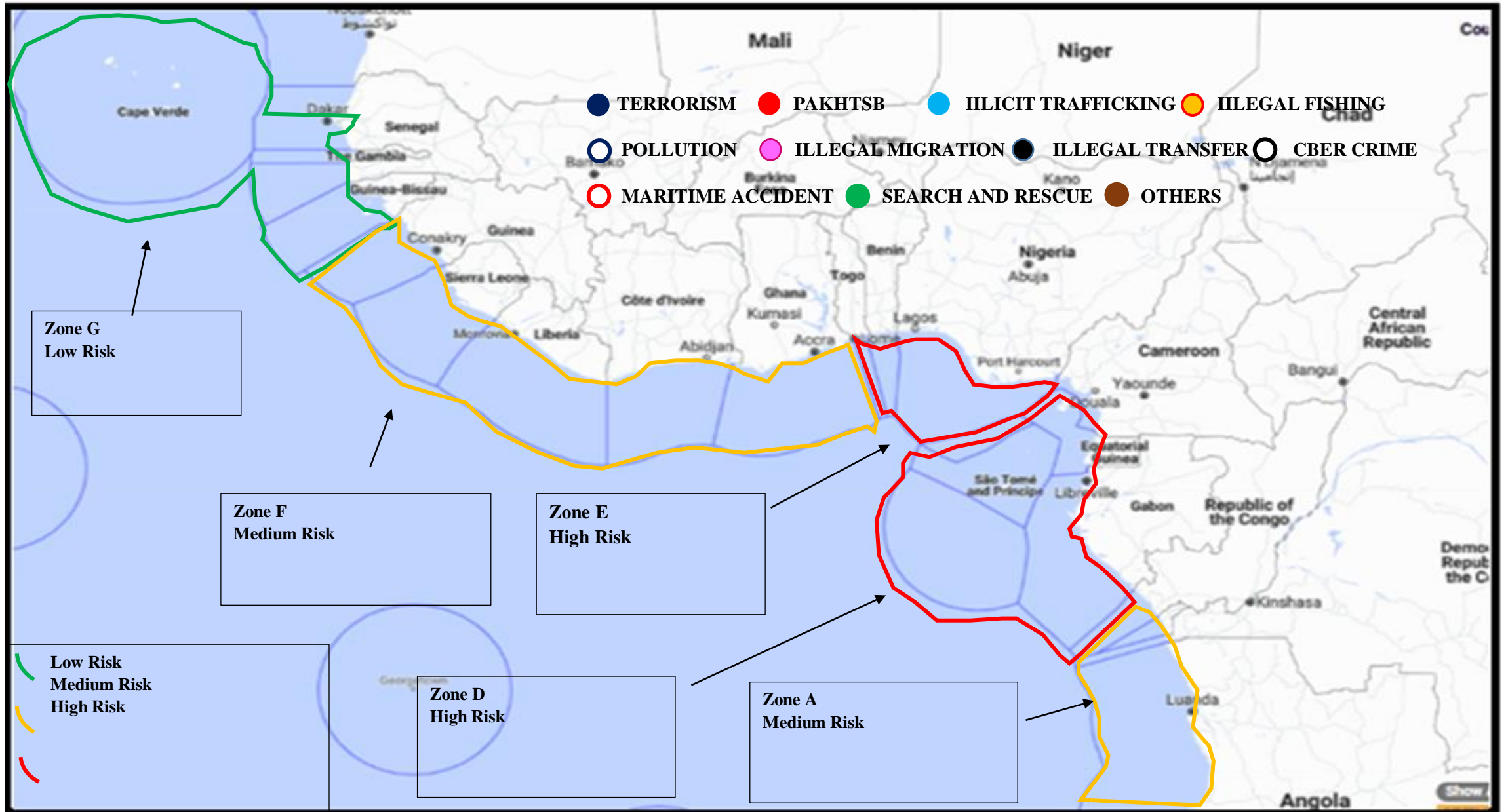
# OVERVIEW

- 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 F recorded a theft and suspicious approach incident.
- Maritime Zone D recorded a Kidnapped incident.
- Maritime Zone E recorded a Kidnapped incident and a Hijacking incident.
- See details of incidents for more information.

# INCIDENT RECORD

Category	Type of Incidents	No of Incident in Zones				
		A	D	E	F	G
<b>TERRORISM</b>	Terrorism					
<b>PIRACY/ ARMED ROBBERY/KIDNAPPING/HIJACKING/FIRING UPON/THEFT/SUSPICIOUS APPROACH/BOARDING (PAKHFTSB)</b>	Suspicious Hijacking			1		
	Kidnapping		1	1		
	Armed Robbery					
	Firing Upon					
	Robbery/Attempt Robbery					
	Attempt Boarding					
	Boarding					
	Theft				1	
	Suspicious Approach				1	
<b>ILLCIT TRAFIC</b>	Human					
	Drug					
	Weapons/Ammunitions					
	Smuggling					
<b>I.U.U FISHING</b>	Industrial Fishing					
	Craft Fishing					
<b>POLLUTION</b>						
<b>ILLCIT MIGRATION</b>	Organized Migration					
	Stowaways					
<b>ILLEGAL TRANSFER</b>	Illegal Bunkering					
	Oil Robbery					
<b>CYBER CRIMINALITY</b>						
<b>MARITIME ACCIDENT</b>	Shipwreck					
	Collision					
	Sinking					
	Damage					
<b>SEARCH AND RESCUE</b>	Men Overboard					
	Assistance And Towing					
	Sanitary Evacuation					
	Capsized					
<b>OTHERS</b>						

# INCIDENT DISPOSITION



# DETAILS OF INCIDENT

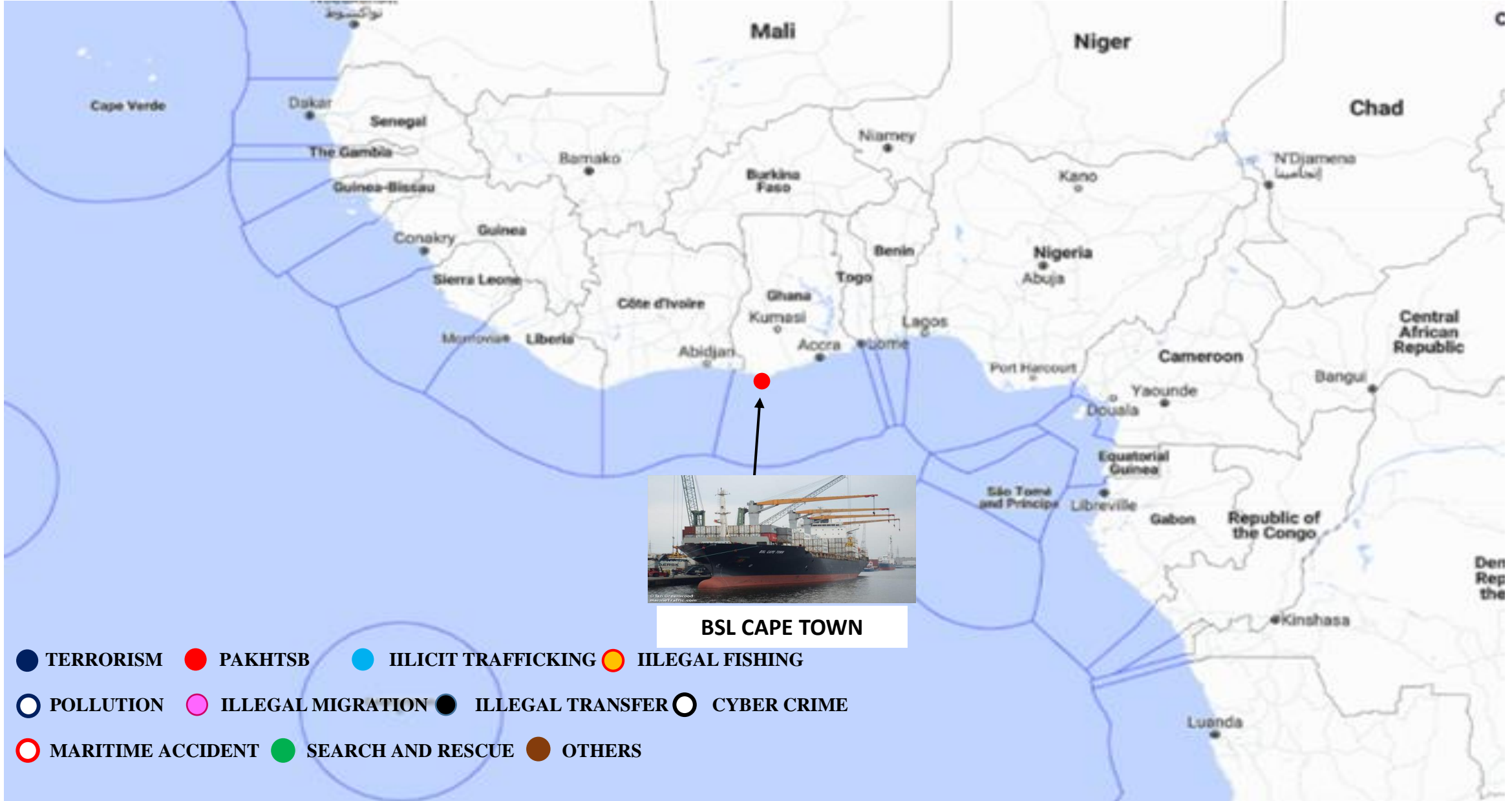
## **Theft – Takoradi anchorage, Ghana**

The Liberian flag container vessel BSL CAPE TOWN was boarded in position 04°53'N 001°42'W at Takoradi anchorage on 13 November 2020 at 0212 UTC .

An unknown number of perpetrators boarded the anchored vessel via the mooring chain. They broke into the forecastle store and stole two welding machines, an extension cord and tools without being detected.

The theft incident was later discovered during routine rounds by the crew and was reported to the local authorities. The vessel and the crew are all safe.

# INCIDENT DISPOSITION



# DETAILS OF INCIDENT

## **Kidnapping – Sao Tome and Principe**

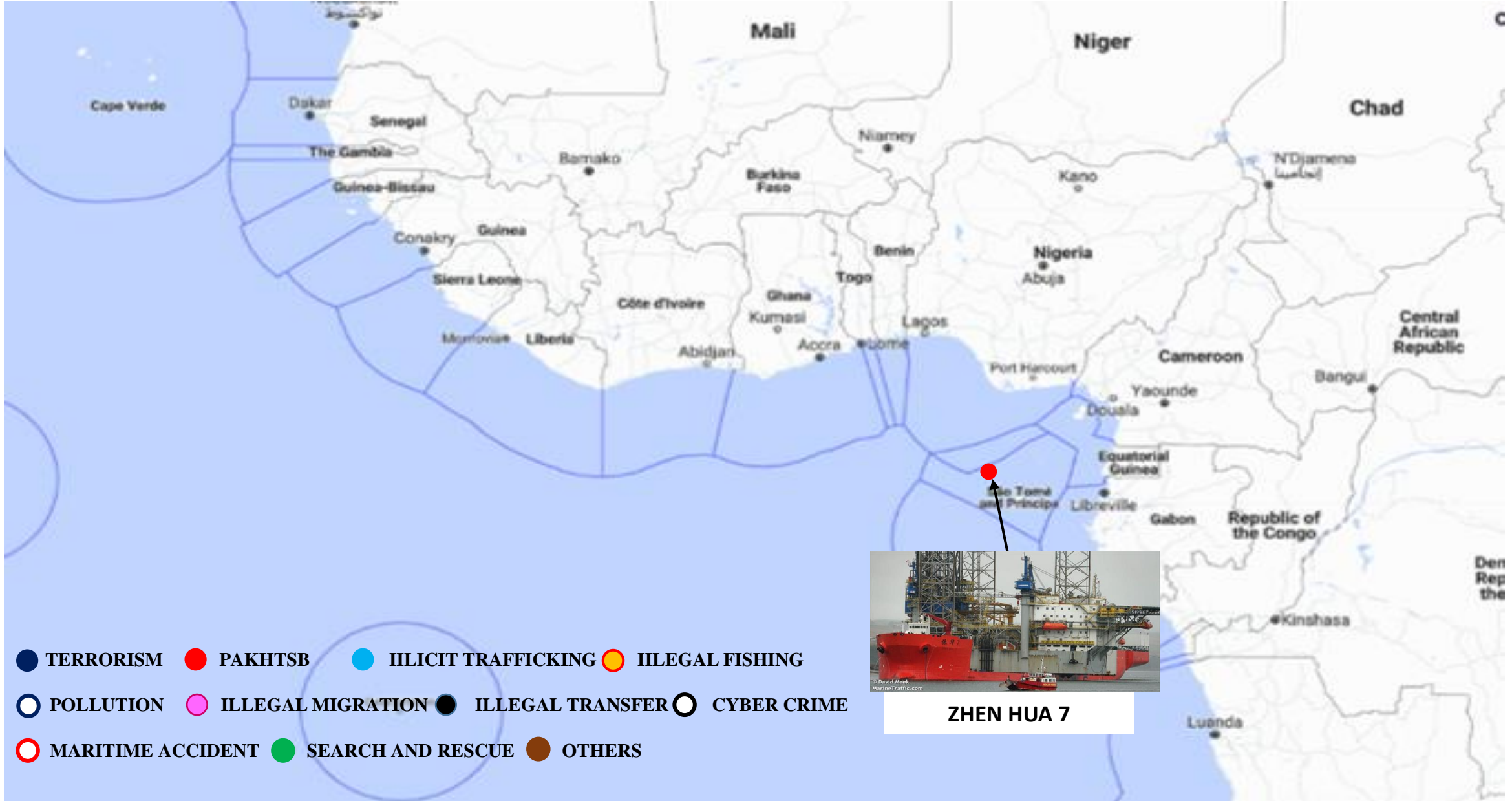
Information received from MDAT indicated that the Liberia flag heavy load carrier ZHEN HUA 7 was boarded in position 01°11'00"N 005°33'00"E about 77 nautical miles NW of Sao Tome an unknown number of perpetrators at 1455 UTC on 13 November 2020. The authorities were informed.

## Update

The Portuguese and the Spanish navies responded by sailing to the general area. The perpetrators kidnapped 14 of the 27 Chinese crew onboard and escaped before the military vessels got to the scene. One crew member also sustained some gunshot injuries and was given medical care onboard.

The remaining crew and the vessel are all safe whiles the vessel proceeded to Sao Tome.

# INCIDENT DISPOSITION





# DETAILS OF INCIDENT

## **Kidnapping – Brass, Nigeria**

Information received from the management of a Ghanaian flag cargo vessel AM DELTA indicated that the vessel had been attacked by 7-8 armed perpetrators in position 03°32'07"N 006°09'04"E about 45 nautical miles south of Brass, Nigeria while she was en route from Cameroon at around 0400 UTC on 16 Nov 20. The perpetrators boarded the vessel and kidnapped 5 out of 7 crewmembers all Ghanaian. They also destroyed the ship's navigational and communication equipment.

The remaining crew are all safe while the vessel is currently drifting. The authorities have been informed.

## **Latest Update:**

Following the attack and kidnapping of the 5 crew out of 7, the 2 traumatised crew left onboard have been able to sail the vessel all the way from Nigerian waters towards Ghana. The vessel is currently about 66 miles off Tema, heading towards Takoradi. The Ghana Navy is sending a new crew to assist sail the AM DELTA safely to Takoradi.

## Comments

The kidnapping of the 5 Ghanaian onboard the AM DELTA represents a new phase in piracy in the region. This is the first time where pirates boarded an all-Ghanaian manned vessel and kidnapped them for Ransom.

# INCIDENT DISPOSITION



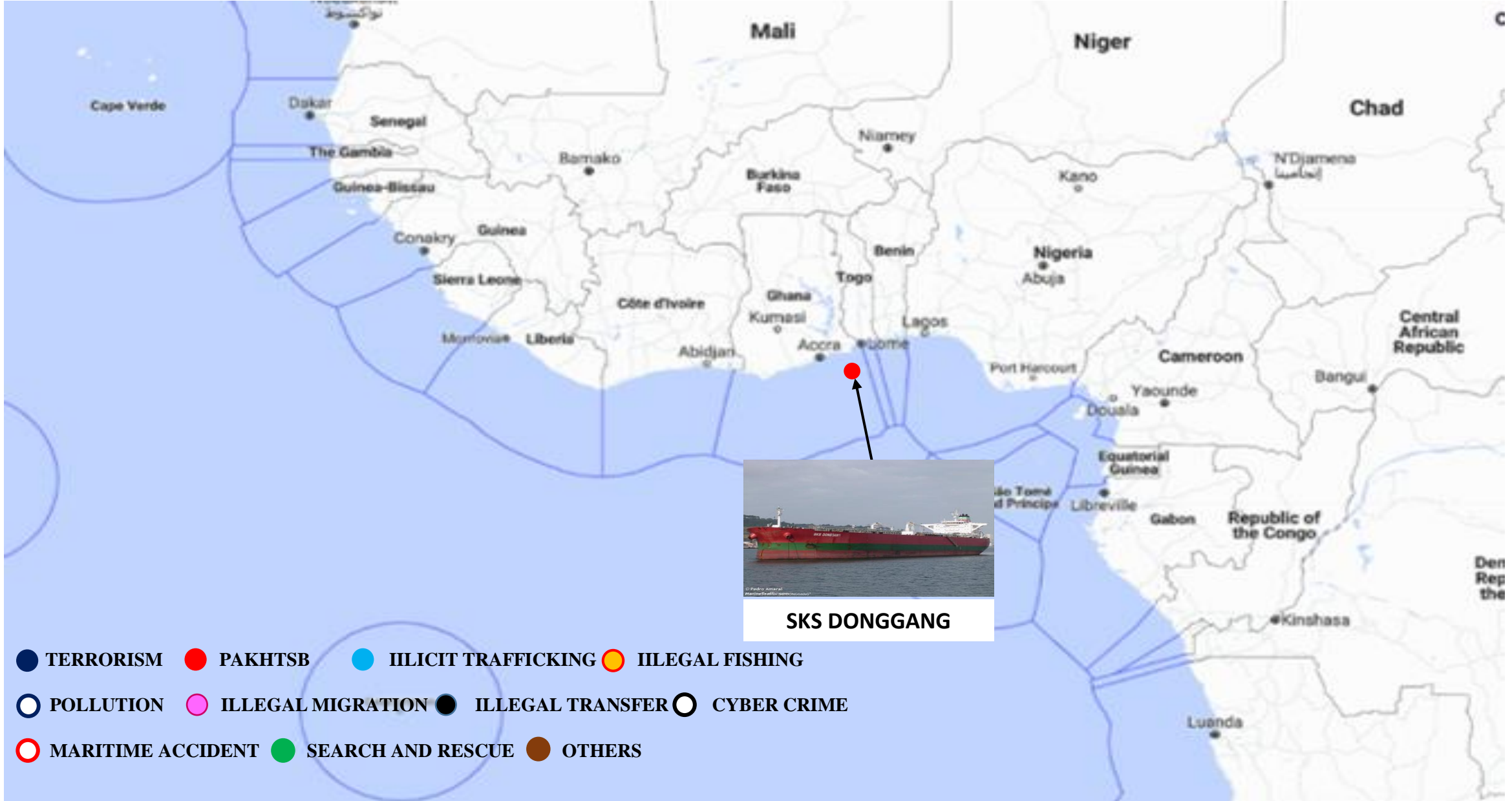
# DETAILS OF INCIDENT

## **Suspicious Approach – Keta, Ghana**

At about 0440 UTC on 17 Nov 20, information received from MDAT indicates that the Bahamas flag product tanker SKS DONGGANG (9461855) was approached by a skiff at 0.5 NM with an unknown number of perpetrators onboard in position 05°08'N 001°09'E about 49nm South of Keta, Ghana.

The crew mustered in the citadel whilst master and bridge team carried out evasive manoeuvring. The skiff later aborted the attack. Vessel and crew are reported to be safe and currently heading towards Lomé.

# INCIDENT DISPOSITION



# ON GOING INCIDENT

## **ONGOING HIJACK – STELIOS K ( Off Lome Togo)**

Recall that the MMCC Zone F reported that the owners of STELIOS K, Togolese Flag have lost contact with the vessel at about 0300 UTC on 17 Nov 20. Further information received from MDAT indicates that Hellenic Coast Guard contacted them because they have been unable to communicate with the vessel since 16 Nov 20. The vessel last known position as at 0540 UTC was 05°28'00"N 001°25'00"E, approximately 40 nautical miles south of Lomé, Togo.

## **SERIES OF UPDATE-STELIOS K**

As you may recall , the incident started on 16 Nov 20, off Lomé, the MMCC zone F has been coordinating and sharing information regarding the various updated positions of the vessel. The first updated position puts the vessel about 69 Miles south of Tema. Update 2, puts vessel position about 94 miles South of Tema. Update 3, which was received at about 0830, puts the STELIOS position at about 140 Miles South KETA, Ghana. Update 4 - at about 1500 hours, 19 Nov 20, indicates the vessel is now at 185 Miles South of Lomé. As it stands now the vessel is heading towards Benin EEZ and finally into Nigerian waters. Please find attached the movements pattern of the vessel based on received updated positions.

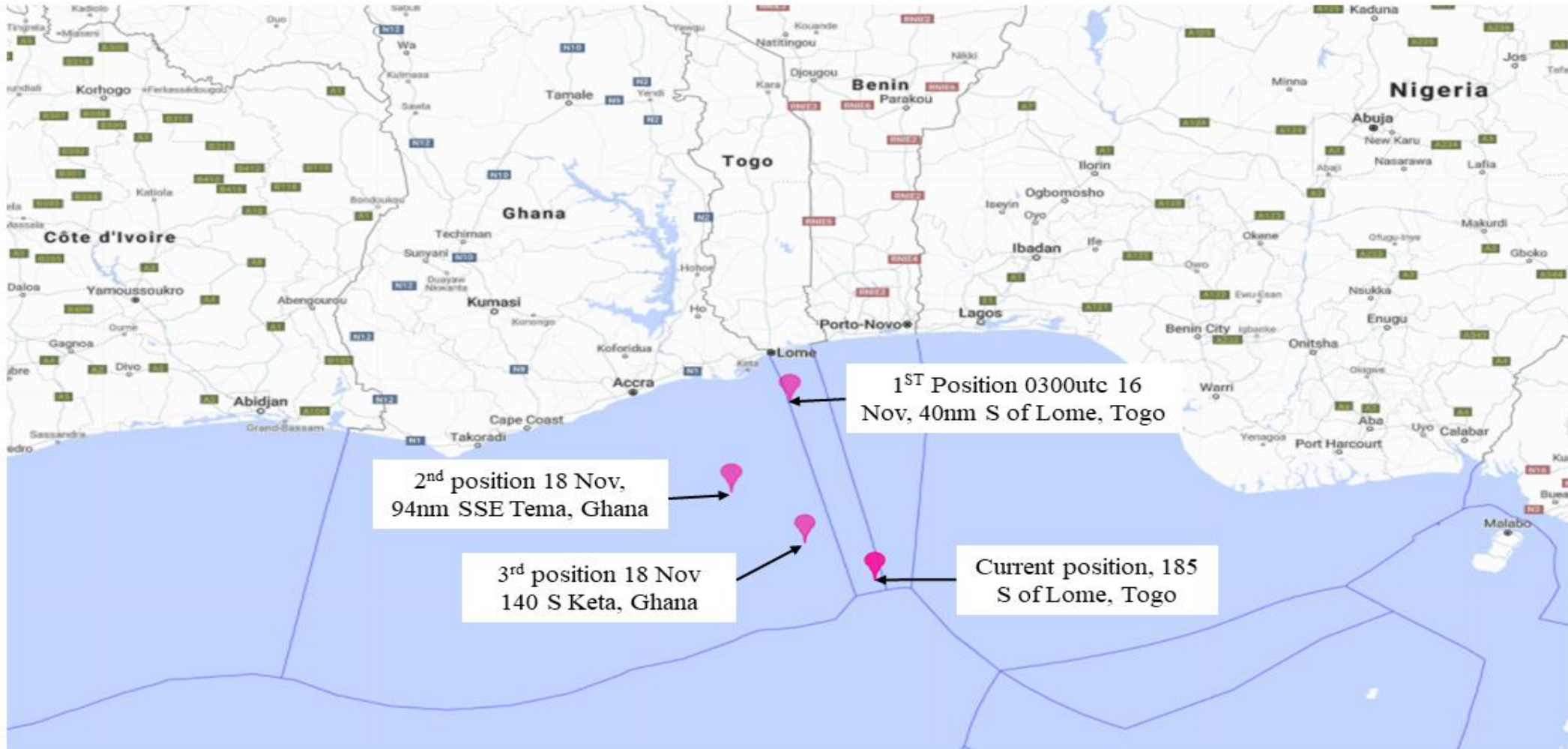
# ONGOING RESPONSE -STELIOS K INCIDENT

- Since the incident started coordinated efforts have been ongoing at various levels. Firstly, the Ghana Navy Eastern Naval Command have sailed a warship with special Forces embarked on 3 different occasions in pursuit of the vessel based on the updated positions provided by the owner of the Vessel. So far the Ghana Navy ship has gone to all the various positions but did not locate the STELIOS K.
- The Italian Navy ship which left Tema on Tuesday morning was also contacted by the MMCC Zone F , to assist in locating the vessel. The Italian ship yesterday 18 Nov, at 2000 hours reported it did not locate the vessel within the general area off Tema, following aerial Patrols by its helicopter. The Italian Ship is till at sea.
- The MMCC Zone F, has also been involved in information sharing and coordination with MMCC Zone E and Ghanaian Law enforcement authorities over the period.

# ONGOING RESPONSE -STELIOS K INCIDENT

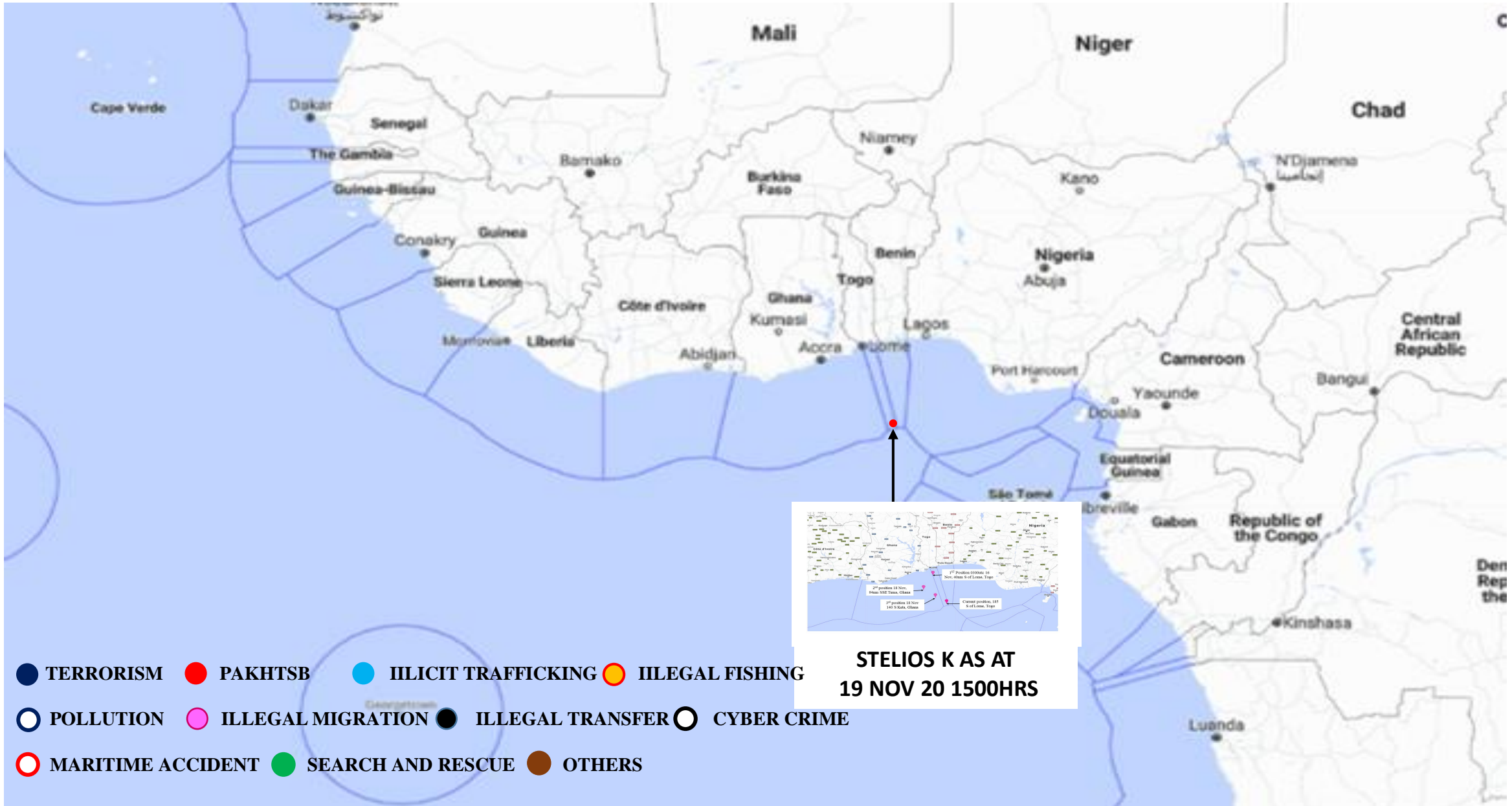
- Currently, the MMCC Zone F has handed over the vessel to MMCC Zone E. Indications from MMCC Zone E are that all the Navies of Togo, Benin and Nigeria have deployed vessels to track and interdict the vessel. The Nigerian Navy is expected to eventually locate and interdict the vessel as the vessel enters Nigerian EEZ.
- It should be emphasized that the response to this situation by the various countries and partners has been swift although the vessel has not been interdicted at this point. Part of the difficulty in locating the vessel may be due to the accuracy of the reported updated positions of the vessel and the time lag between received of updated positions.
- The MMCC Zone F, remains committed to the process and would keep you updated of further developments.

# POSITION UPDATE ON STELIOS K





# CURRENT LOCATION STELIOS K



# COMMENTS

This STELIOS ongoing hijack looks unusual for pirates to hijacked vessel South of Lomé and bring it to South of Tema. Based on position received over the period , the Ghana Navy ship and Italian Navy ship have reached the reported position of the STELIOS but did not locate the vessel so far . Further information of the incident where the pirates are still onboard the vessel and continue to threatened and negotiate for ransom makes the STELIOS ongoing hijack bizarre. While hijacking may seem to be the case, another option is that the crew of the vessel is trying to stimulate a hijacking in order to hide an illegal business or the hijackers are arranging for a vessel to transfer the products from the STELIOS. Whichever way it is, this incident remains unusual. We will keep you updated on further developments.

# GENERAL COMMENTS

- This is the seventh incident in Maritime Zone E and ten in the GoG in less than two weeks. The sudden upsurge in maritime Zone E and the GoG as a whole is following the trajectory of the last quarter of 2019, which recorded an increase in pirate attacks.
- The increased and persistent attacks also indicate the risk of attack in maritime Zone E has reached critical level as the pirate action groups are still at sea looking for soft targets to attack.
- All vessels transiting between maritime Zones D, E and F are advised to remain extremely vigilant, maintain a sharp anti-piracy lookout and report any suspicious activities or skiff/boat movements to the necessary authorities promptly.
- Coastal states are encouraged to intensify patrols and increase presence at sea including the use of MPAs to help interdict the perpetrators and also provide security for shipping.

# 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.

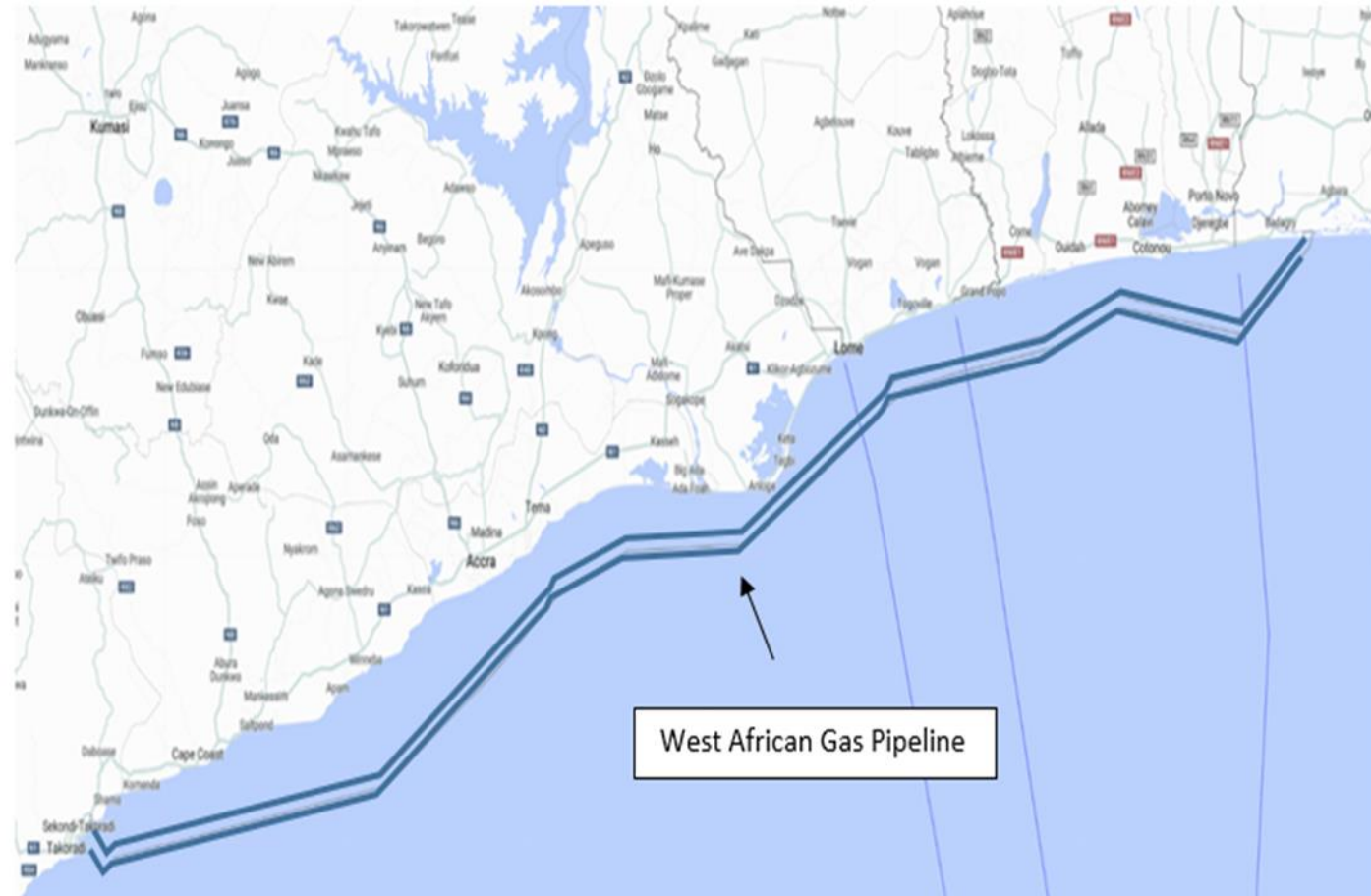
# NOTICES

## 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

- Russian nuclear container carrier with damaged propeller cruising in Angolan waters
- Source. <https://www.fleetmon.com>

# METEOROLOGICAL FORECAST

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

### Thursday 11/19

Morning ▶

Light WSW winds with a slight chop.  
Very small mid period waves.

**Winds:** WSW 8 to 11 knots.

**Seas:** ENE 0 feet at 10 seconds.

Afternoon ▶

Moderate to strong SSW winds with  
choppy seas. Very small short period  
waves.

**Winds:** SSW 18 to 25 knots.

**Seas:** ESE 1 foot at 8 seconds.

### Friday 11/20

Morning ▶

Moderate to strong SW winds with  
choppy seas. Small very short period  
waves.

**Winds:** SW 18 to 25 knots.

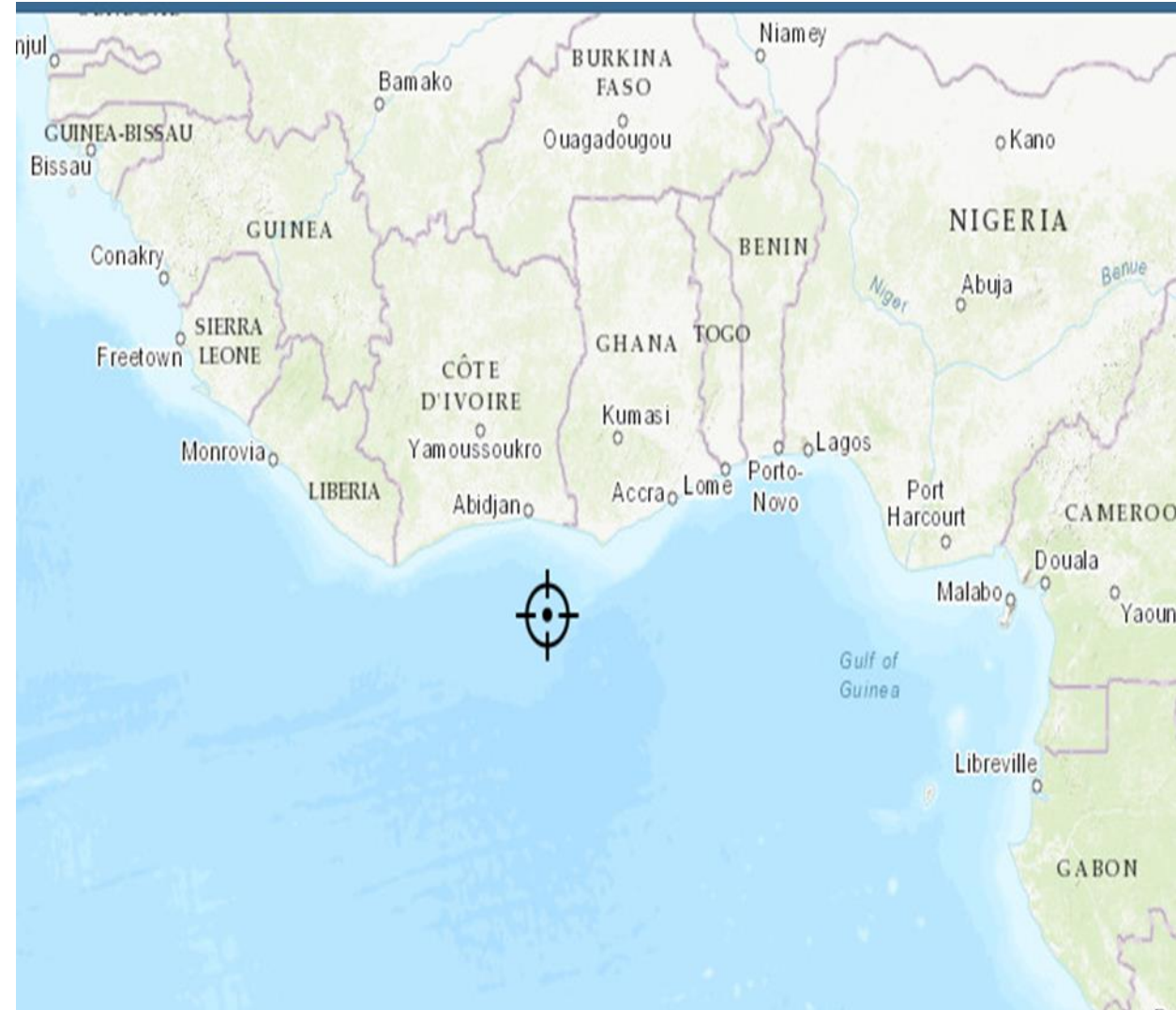
**Seas:** SSW 4 feet at 5 seconds.

Afternoon ▶

Moderate to strong SW winds with  
choppy seas. Small very short period  
waves.

**Winds:** SW 16 to 21 knots.

**Seas:** SSW 3 feet at 6 seconds.



# CONTACT DETAILS NATIONAL AND ZONAL CENTERS

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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.



# **CONTACT DETAILS MMCC ZONE F**

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