



ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT

20 NOVEMBER – 26 NOVEMBER 2020

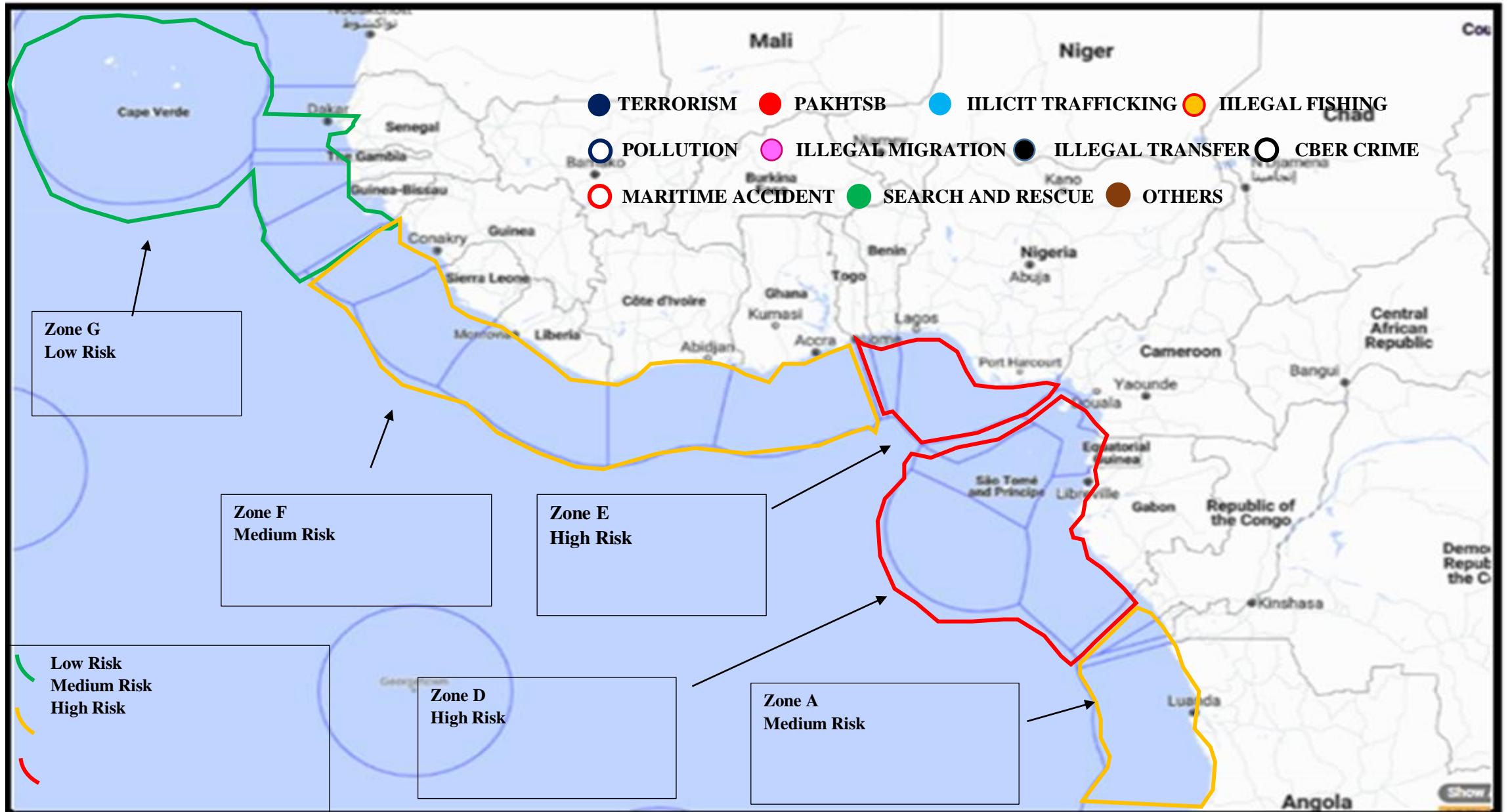
OVERVIEW

- 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 two (2) Kidnapped 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			2		
	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					
	Capsized					
OTHERS						

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Hijack/Kidnapping – STELIOS K (Off Lome Togo)

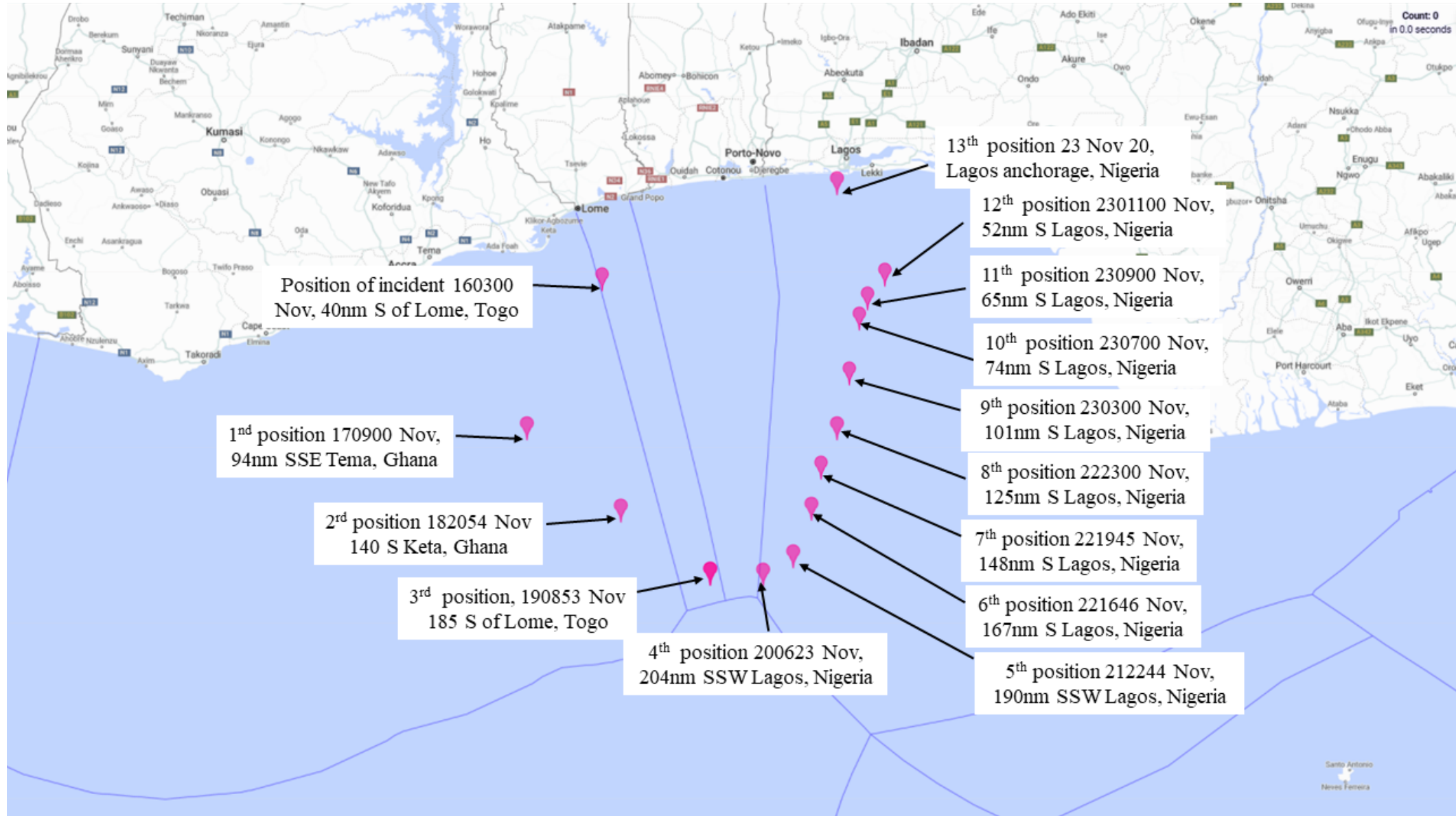
The Togolese flag bunkering tanker STELIOS K (IMO 8679209) operated by Royal Ship management, Majuro, Marshall Islands was reported to have lost communication with its owners on 16 November 2020 at about 0545 UTC in position 05°28N 001°25E approximately 40 NM S of Lome, Togo .

On 17 November 2020, the vessel was confirmed to have been hijacked by pirates. The pirates whilst onboard the vessel made several satellite calls using the ship's system to the vessel managers demanding for ransom before they would release the vessel. Naval vessels from Ghana, Togo, and Nigeria as well as an Italian warship MARTINENGO which sailed to various updated positions could not locate the vessel.

On 23 November 2020, the pirates finally kidnapped three out of the five Greek crew members, including the master and disembarked the vessel. The vessel was subsequently escorted to the Lagos anchorage on 23 November 2020 by NNS EKULU after STELIOS K was handed over to her by the ITS MARTINENGO. Investigation by the Nigerian authorities is ongoing.

Below is the updated positions of STELIOS K during the incident.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



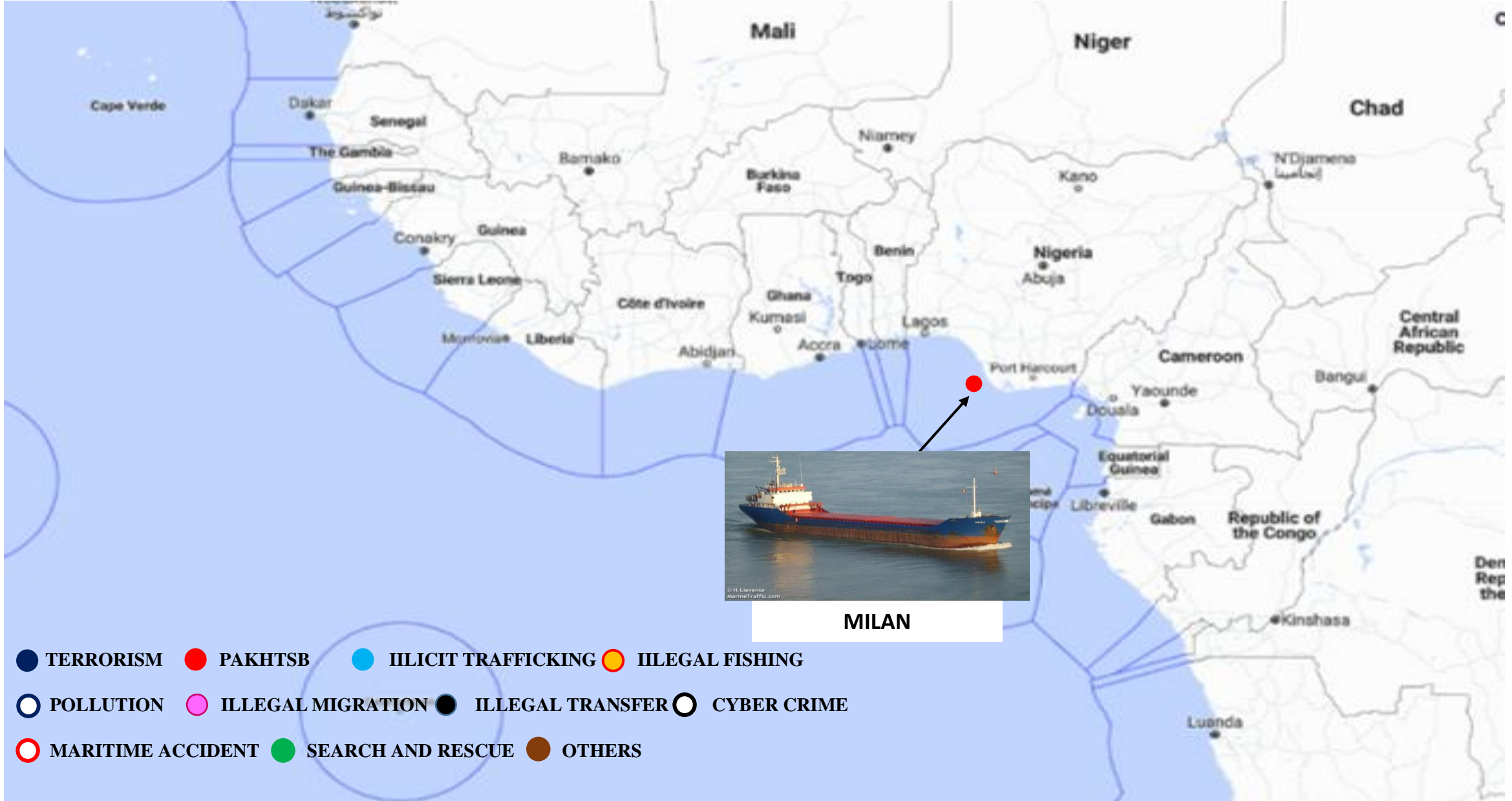
DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Kidnapping– Brass Offshore Terminal, Nigeria

Information received from MDAT at about 1251 UTC on 26 Nov 20 indicates that, the Saint Kitts and Nevis flag general cargo vessel MILAN (IMO 8113619) managed by Miro Shipping, Tripoli (Lebanon) reported an ongoing attack (boarding) in position 04°28'15"N 005°31'17"E about 52NM NW of Brass Offshore Terminal, Nigeria. An unknown number of perpetrators boarded the vessel and kidnapped 10 out of the 12 crew members including the Captain. The kidnapped crew included 3 Lebanese, 4 Indians, 2 Egyptians, and 1 Cameroonian. Two (2) crew members from Cameroon were left on board. The Nigeria Navy has been informed.

The MMCC Zone F will continue to investigate this incident and provide update accordingly.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



GENERAL COMMENTS

- Pirates are now keeping 42 crew members from the latest five kidnapping incidents. Mass kidnapping is expected to continue till the end of 2020 with a possible spill over into the first quarter of 2021.
- This is the second incident within the month where African nationals have been kidnapped. Currently the pirates are keeping hostage a total of 8 African crew members comprising 5 Ghanaians, 2 Egyptians and one Cameroonian. This is a new trend that is beginning to unfold.
- The frequency and persistent nature of attacks over the past three weeks indicate the risk of pirate attacks in maritime Zone E has reached critical level as the pirate action groups are still at sea looking for 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 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.

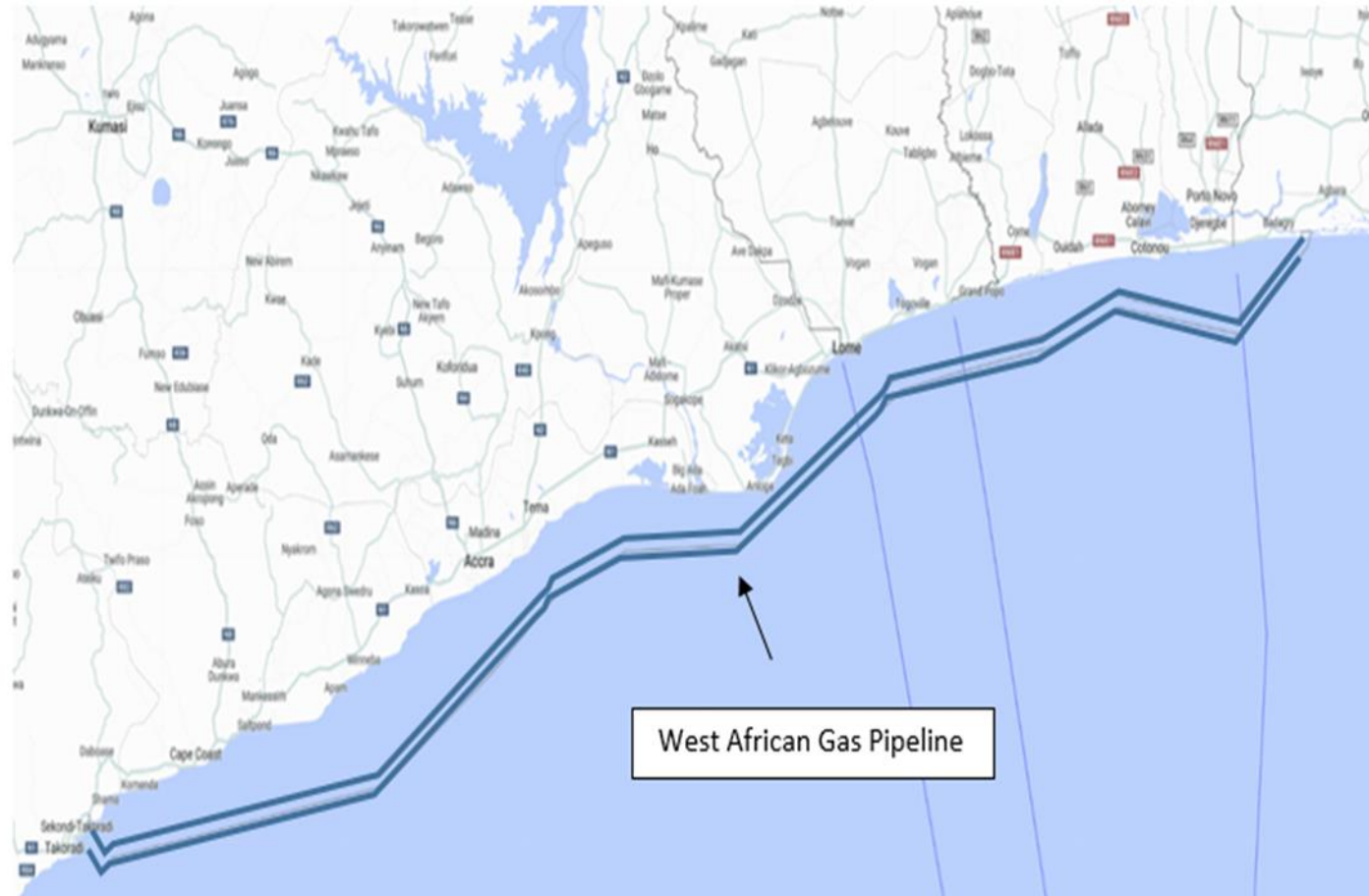
NOTICES

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

- Iran launches unconventional aircraft carrier against US threat.
- Source. <https://www.fleetmon.com>

METEOROLOGICAL FORECAST

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

Thursday 11/26

Morning ▶

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

Winds: SSW 15 to 21 knots.

Seas: SSW 5 feet at 5 seconds.

Afternoon ▶

Breezy SSW winds with moderate choppy seas. Small very short period waves.

Winds: SSW 14 to 20 knots.

Seas: SSW 5 feet at 5 seconds.

Friday 11/27

Morning ▶

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

Winds: SSW 15 to 21 knots.

Seas: SSW 5 feet at 6 seconds.

Afternoon ▶

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

Winds: SSW 15 to 21 knots.

Seas: SSW 5 feet at 6 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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