



ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION  
CENTRE  
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY  
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT

04 – 10 DECEMBER 2020

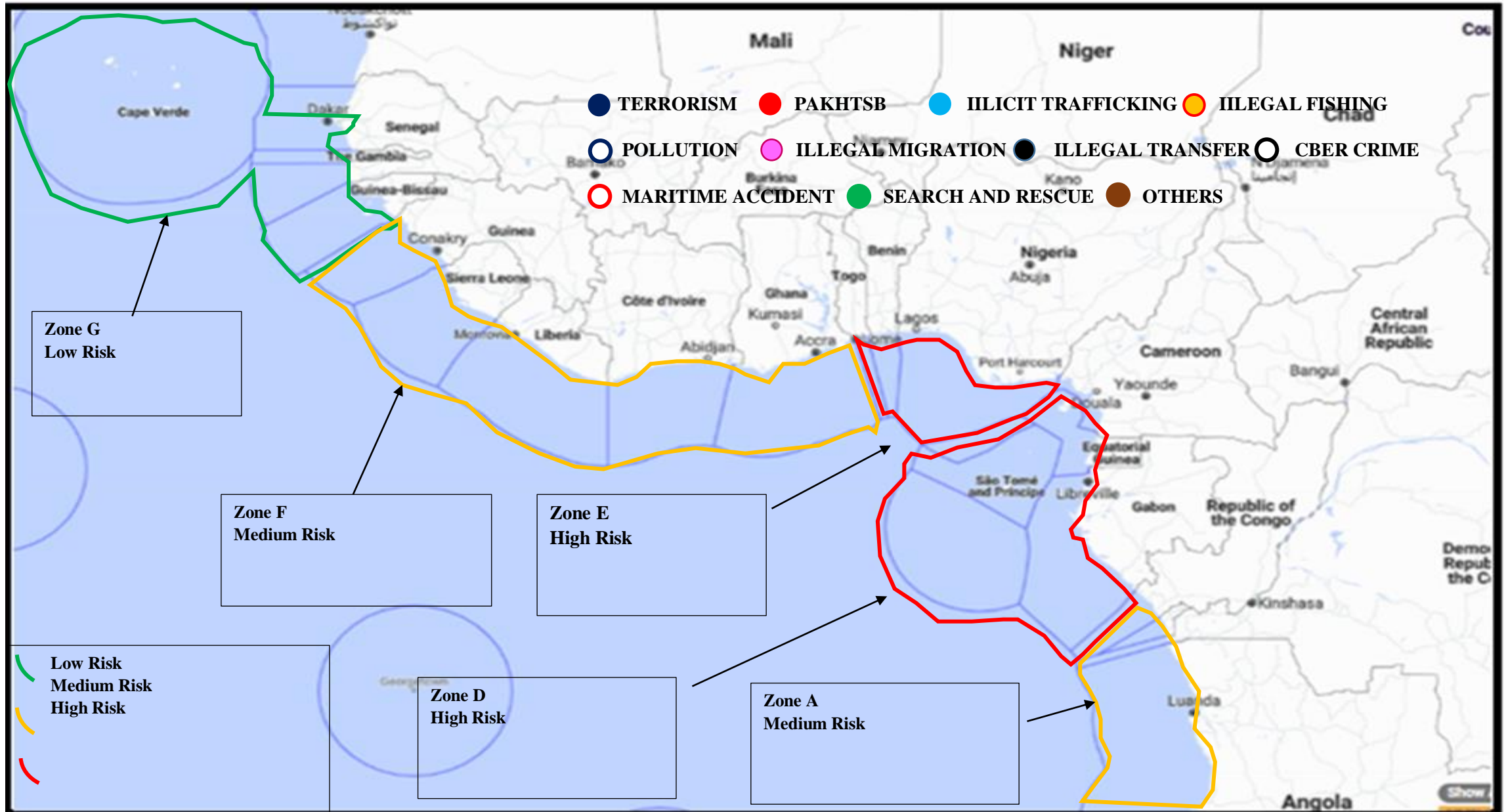
# OVERVIEW

- The general maritime safety and security situation in Maritime Zone F and the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) was relatively unsafe for shipping during during week under review.
- Maritime Zone E recorded a Boarding, two Fired Upon and suspicious approach incidents.
- 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					
	Kidnapping					
	Armed Robbery					
	Firing Upon			2		
	Robbery/Attempt Robbery					
	Attempt Boarding					
	Boarding			2		
	Theft					
<b>ILLCIT TRAFIC</b>	Suspicious Approach			1		
	Human					
	Drug					
	Weapons/Ammunitions					
<b>I.U.U FISHING</b>	Smuggling					
	Industrial Fishing					
<b>POLLUTION</b>	Craft Fishing					
<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

## **Fired Upon– Port Harcourt, Nigeria**

On 03 December 2020 at 1035 UTC, the Panama flag reefer vessel COOL GIRL (IMO: 9194921) managed by Lavinia Corp, Athens, Greece was attacked in position 02°50'00"N 005°25'00"E approximately 150nm Southwest of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Two skiffs with about 6 – 8 armed men onboard each approached the vessel whilst underway. The crew assembled in the citadel while the Master carried out evasive manoeuvres. The perpetrators fired at the vessel and naval security team onboard returned fire forcing the speedboats to abort their chase. The crew and the vessel were reported to be safe.

## **Fired Upon - Brass, Nigeria**

The Greece flag crude oil tanker MINERVA EVROPI (IMO 9785237) managed by Minerva Marine Inc, Athens, Greece which was en route from Europe to the Qua Iboe Terminal in Nigeria was approached in position 02° 34'N 002° 53'E about 230nm southwest of Brass, Nigeria by a white skiff with 7 armed men onboard on 04 December 2020 at 0935 UTC .

The perpetrators fired three shots into the air. The vessel increased her speed and carried out evasive manoeuvres forcing the perpetrators to abort their pursuit. The vessel and crew were reported safe.

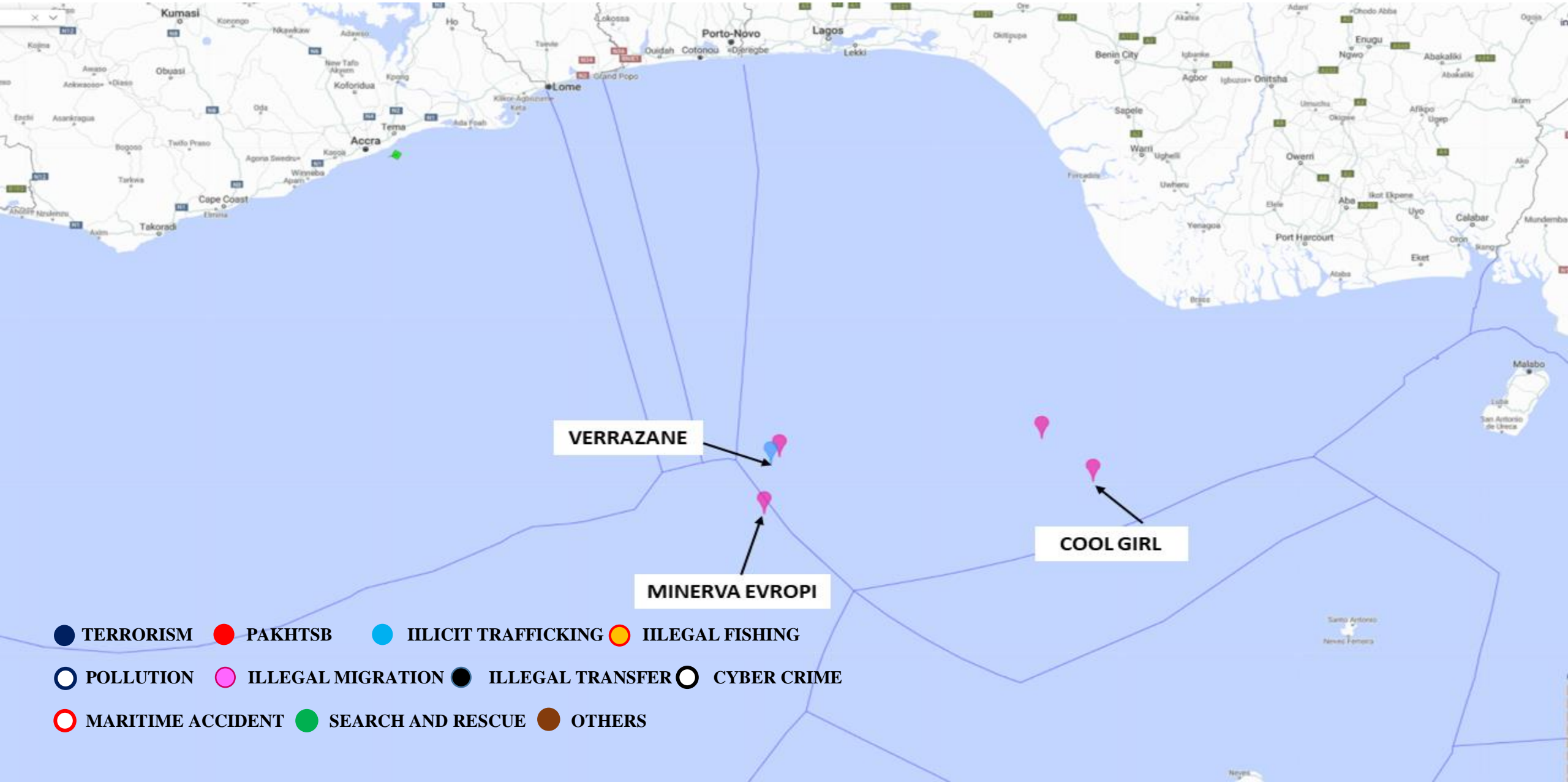
# DETAILS OF INCIDENT

## **Suspicious Approach - Lagos, Nigeria**

The French flag LPG tanker VERRAZANE managed by Geogas, Geneva, Switzerland was suspiciously approached in position 02°59'08"N 002°56'04"E about 204 NM south of Lagos, Nigeria at 0620 UTC on 05 December 2020. A speedboat with an unknown number of perpetrators onboard approached the vessel.

An escorting security vessel moved into position, resulting in the speedboat leaving the area. Local sources indicate that the speedboat was the same that was involved in the NEW RANGER incident. The vessel and the crew were reported safe.

# INCIDENT DISPOSITION



# DETAILS OF INCIDENT

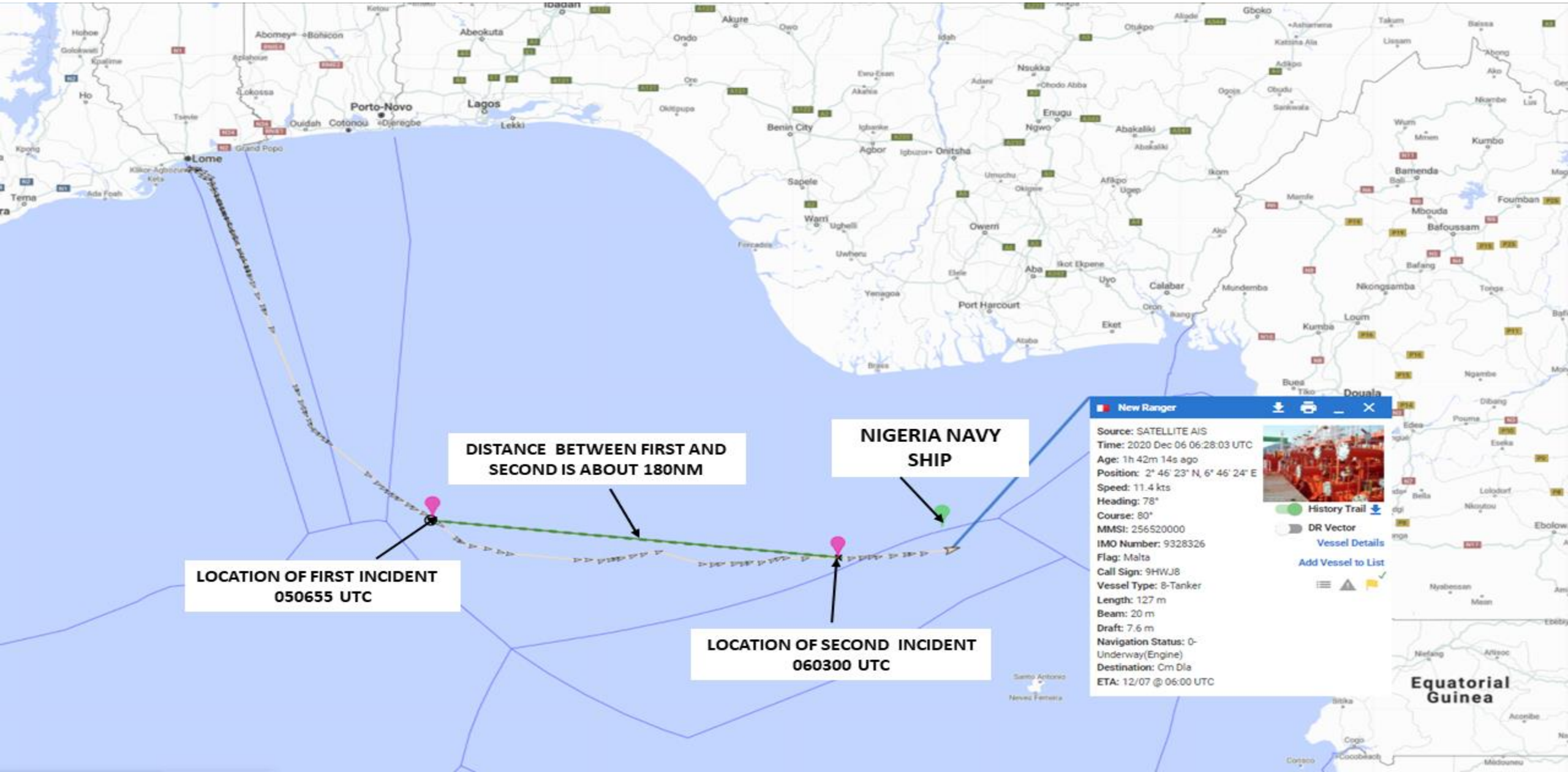
## **Boarding – Lagos/Brass, Nigeria**

The Malta flag product tanker NEW RANGER was boarded on the 05 December and 06 December 2020 at 0655 UTC and 0300 UTC respectively. The first incident occurred at position 03°02'N 003°00'E about 201nm South of Lagos, Nigeria. According to the report, the perpetrators boarded the vessel and the crew went into citadel, the perpetrators later abandon the vessel.

The second incident also occurred at position 02°42'N 005°57'E about 94NM South of Brass, Nigeria. The distance between the first and second boarding incidents is 180nm. Four (04) perpetrators boarded the vessel and all the crew managed to retreat safely into the citadel. The pirates stayed on board for more than an hour before disembarking. The Nigerian authorities were informed and a Naval ship was sailed to offer necessary assistance. No crew was kidnapped in both incidents.



# INCIDENT DISPOSITION



# GENERAL COMMENTS

- The week witnessed a spill over of the unprecedented increase in pirate attacks and crew kidnapping incidents experienced in the month of November although there was no successful kidnapping except MT NEW RANGER which was boarded twice.
- A series of six unsuccessful kidnapping attempts were made from 2 – 6 December 2020. This was due to the alertness of vessels resulting in early detection and withdrawal of crew into the citadel. However, no incident has been recorded since 7 December till date. This could be attributed to the increased presence of Nigerian Naval vessels at sea deep into the EEZ. The pirate action groups might have also regrouped to figure out their next course of action. The calmness of the general area for the past three days should therefore not make law enforcement agencies and ships relax their efforts in countering the threat.
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- The threat of pirate attacks within maritime Zone E and beyond is still high. Maritime Zone E member states especially Togo and Benin as well as Ghana and Cameroon are encouraged to remain on high alert and increase presence at sea as the pirate the action groups may target new areas as a result of the series of unsuccessful attacks in the Nigerian EEZ.
- 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.

# 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

- Libyan Forces Seize Turkish Cargo Ship Breaking Fragile Ceasefire
- Source. <https://www.maritime-executive.com>

# METEOROLOGICAL FORECAST

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

### Thursday 12/10

#### Morning

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

Winds: SSW 11 to 15 knots.

Seas: S 4 feet at 5 seconds.

#### Afternoon

Light SW winds with a slight chop. Small very short period waves.

Winds: SW 9 to 13 knots.

Seas: S 4 feet at 5 seconds.

### Friday 12/11

#### Morning

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

Winds: SW 12 to 17 knots.

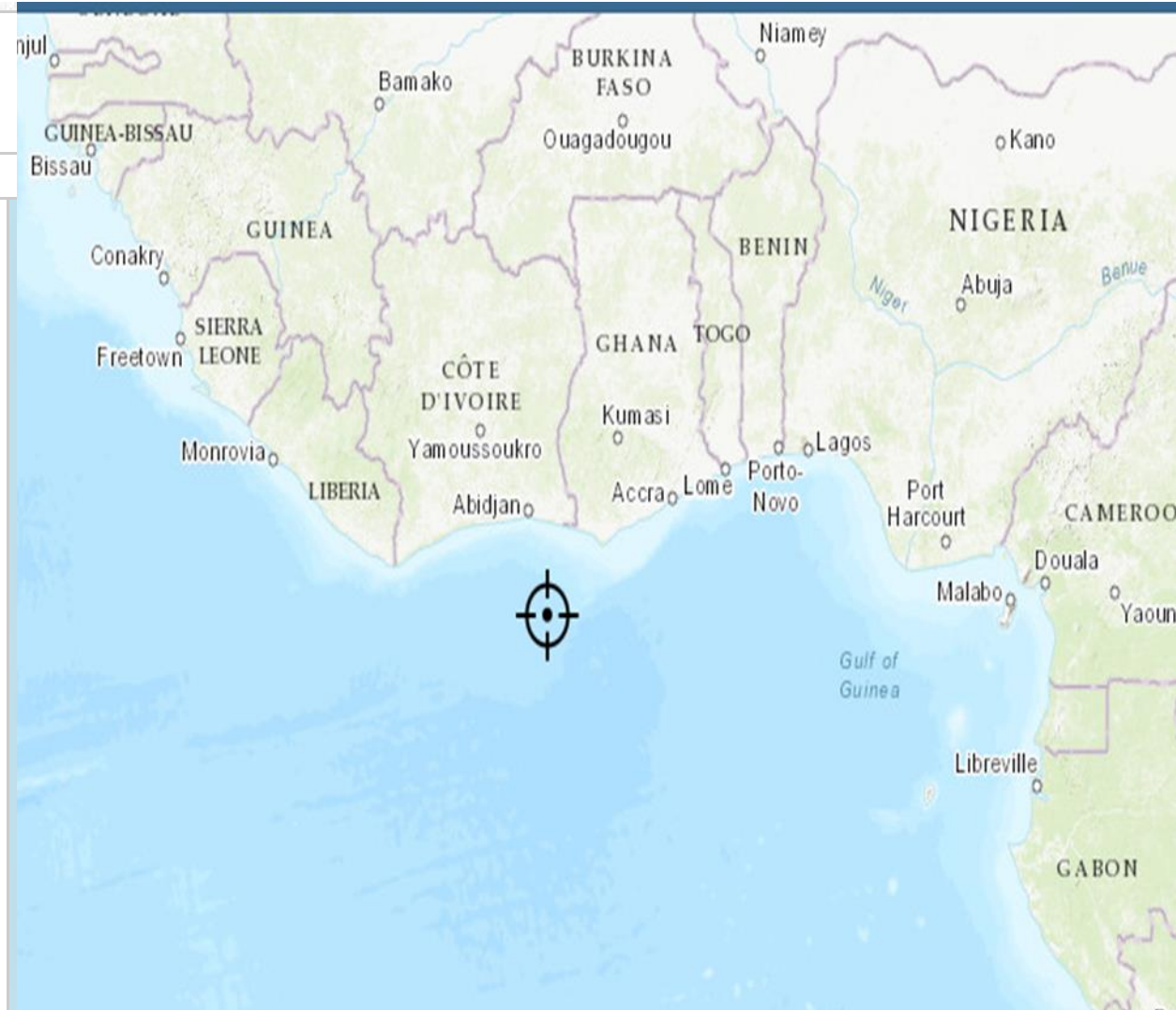
Seas: SSW 4 feet at 5 seconds.

#### Afternoon

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

Winds: SW 11 to 15 knots.

Seas: SSW 4 feet at 5 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.





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