



ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT



11 – 17 DECEMBER 2020

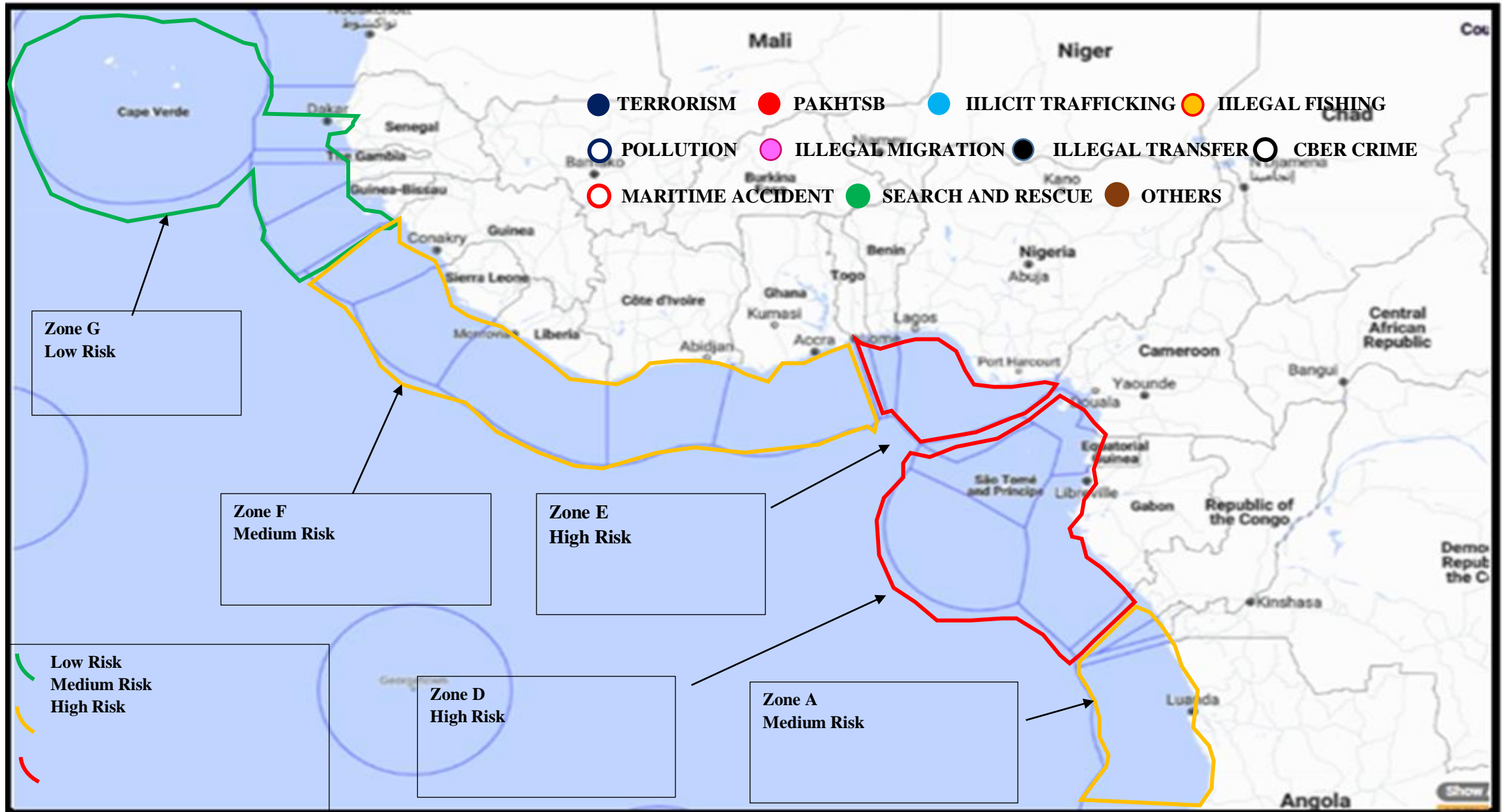
OVERVIEW

- The general maritime safety and security situation in Maritime Zone F and the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) was relatively safe for shipping during during week under review.
- Maritime Zone E however recorded boarding and kidnapping incidents.
- 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			1		
	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

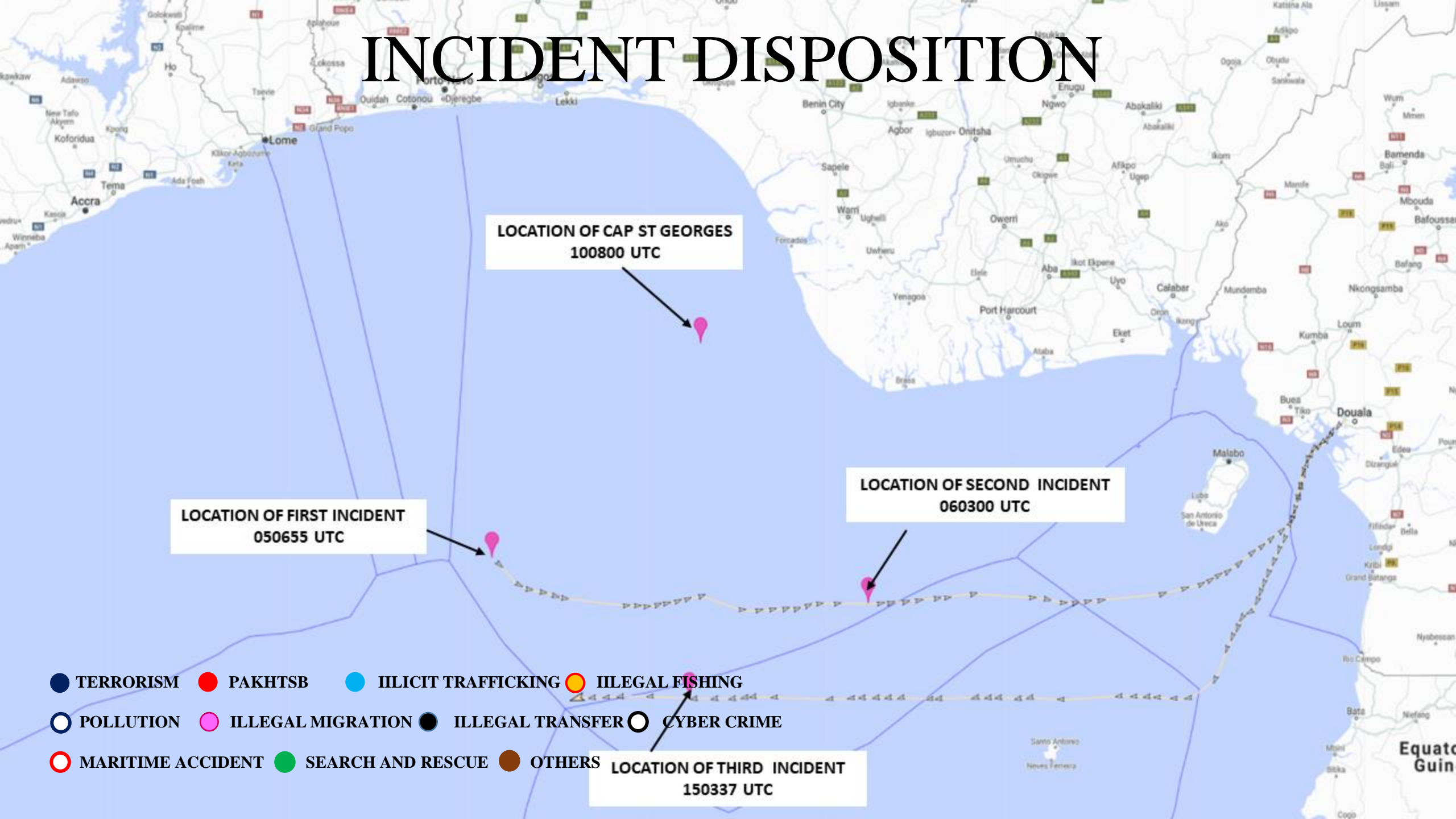


DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Boarding– Brass, Nigeria

- The Malta flag product tanker NEW RANGER was boarded for the third time in less than two weeks on 15 Dec 2020 at 0337 UTC. Recall the vessel was boarded on 5 and 6 Dec 20 while enroute from Lome to Cameroon.
- An unknown number of perpetrators boarded the vessel while underway in position 02°00'00"N 004°33'00"E approximately 169 nautical miles Southwest of Brass, Nigeria. The crew retreated to the Citadel and the Navy were informed. After sometime the perpetrators disembarked the vessel, the vessel and crew are safe.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION

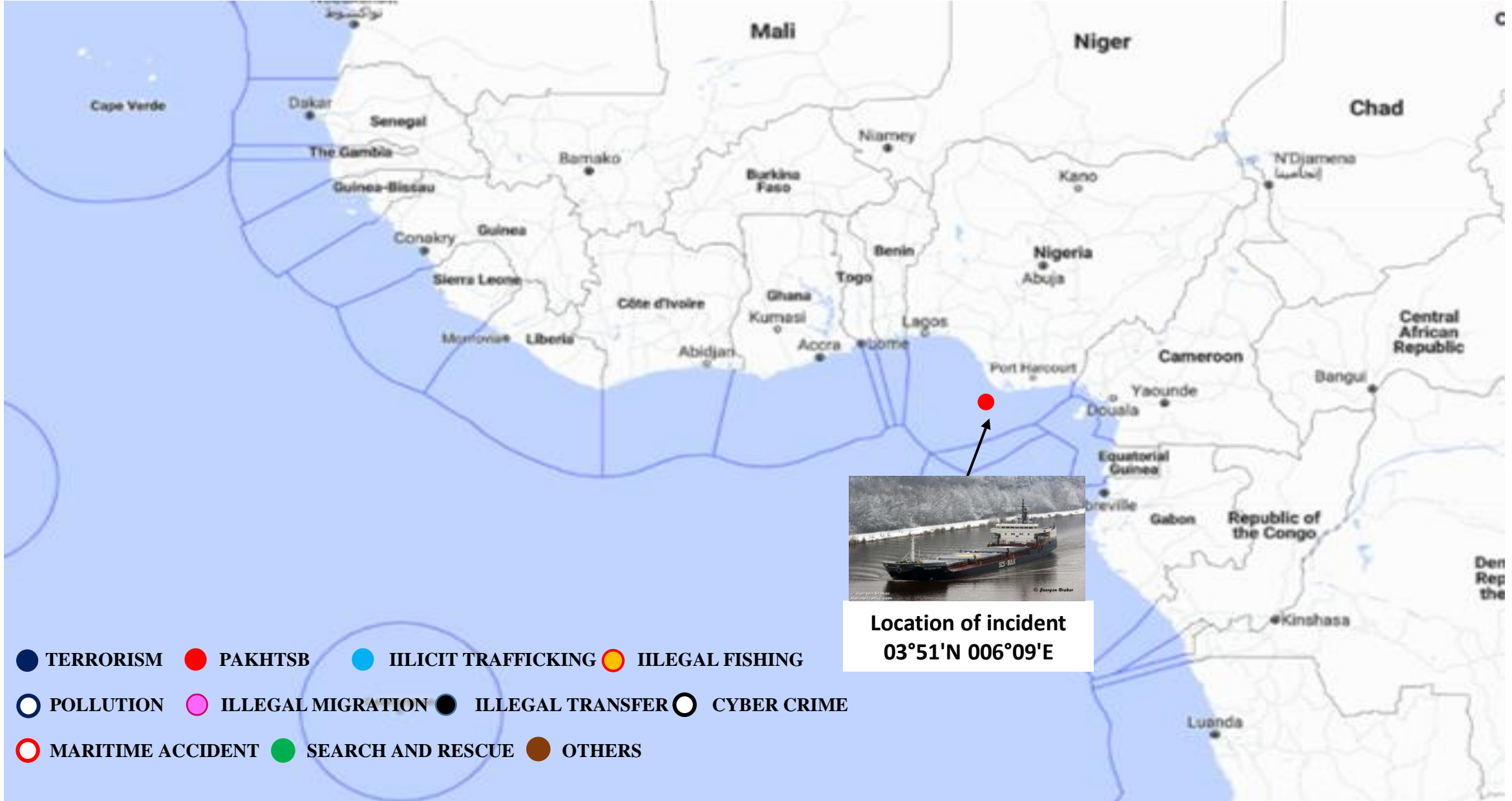


DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Kidnapping – Brass, Nigeria

- The Cameroon flag cargo vessel STEVIA (IMO 8107000) was boarded at position 03°51'N 006°09'E about 27nm SW of Brass, Nigeria, at 0745 UTC on 16 December 2020.
- An unknown number of perpetrators attacked the vessel whilst underway. The perpetrators kidnapped 8 Ukrainian crewmembers. The authorities were informed and the Nigerian Navy ship was sailed to the scene to escort the vessel to port for further investigations. The remaining crew and the vessel are all safe.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



DETAILS OF INCIDENT

UPDATE – Kidnapping – Brass, Nigeria

- Information received from Zone E on 14 Dec 2020 indicated that, on 10 Dec 2020 at 0800 UTC the Cameroonian general Cargo vessel CAP ST GEORGES (7312529) was boarded by unknown number of perpetrators in position 04°37'42"N 004°38'12"E about 98Nm off Brass, NIGERIA.
- Five crewmembers were kidnapped (3 Cameroonians, 1 Ghanaian, and 1 Sierra Leonean). The vessel is presently berthed in Lome port since the 13 Dec 20.

GENERAL COMMENTS

- The threat of pirate attacks within maritime Zone E and beyond is still high. MDAT GOG has reported of an impending series of coordinated planned attacks on vessels in the next few hours or days by pirate action groups. 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 and surveillance at sea as the pirate 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.

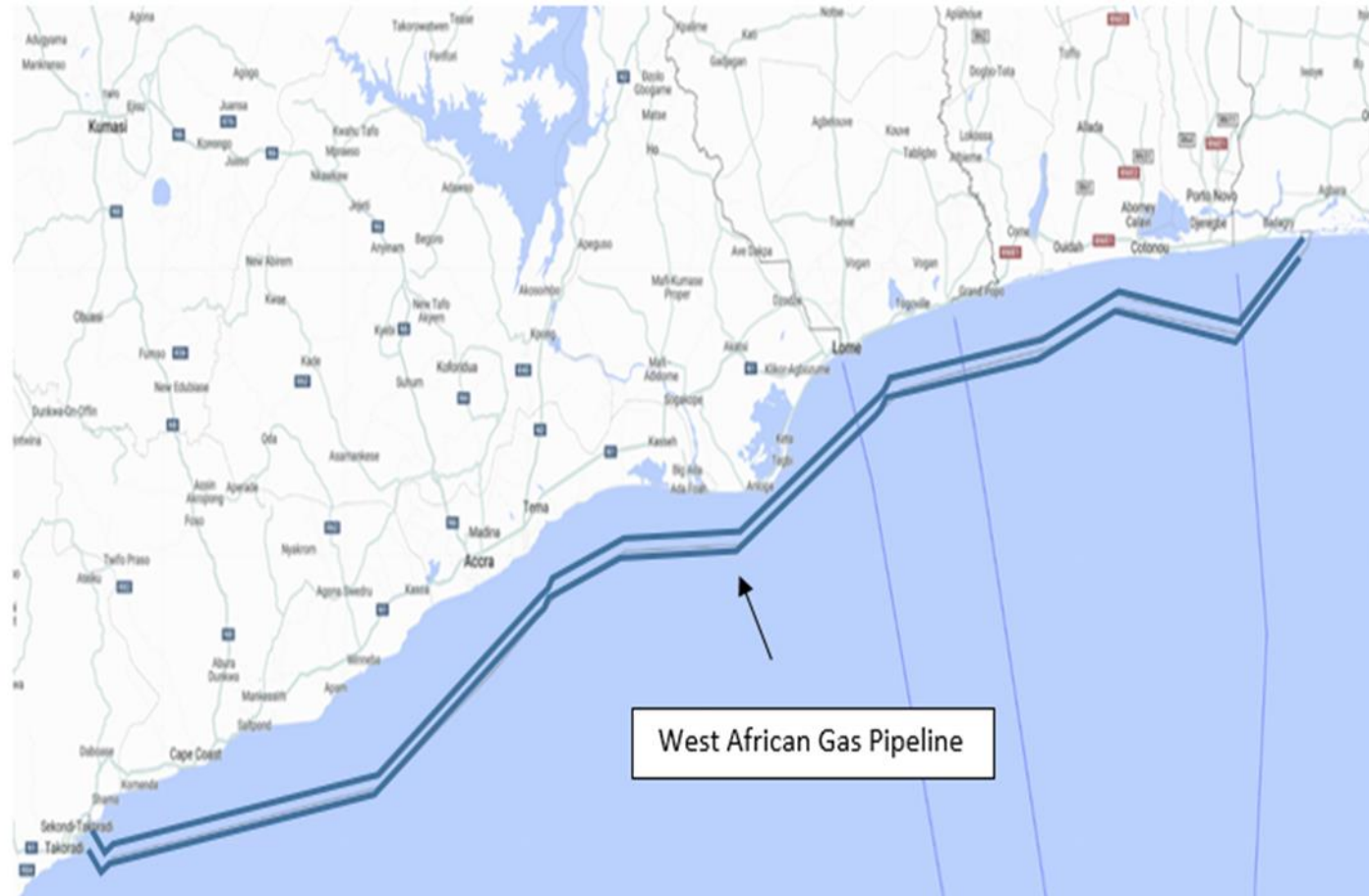
NOTICES

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

- Eight crewmembers abducted from cargo Ship by Nigerian Pirates.
- Source. <https://www.maritime-executive.com>

METEOROLOGICAL FORECAST

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

Thursday 12/17

Morning

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

Winds: SW 9 to 13 knots.

Seas: SSW 4 feet at 8 seconds.

Afternoon

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

Winds: SW 8 to 11 knots.

Seas: SSW 4 feet at 11 seconds.

Friday 12/18

Morning

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

Winds: SW 10 to 14 knots.

Seas: SSW 4 feet at 9 seconds.

Afternoon

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

Winds: SW 9 to 12 knots.

Seas: SSW 4 feet at 12 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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