



ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT

18 – 24 DECEMBER 2020

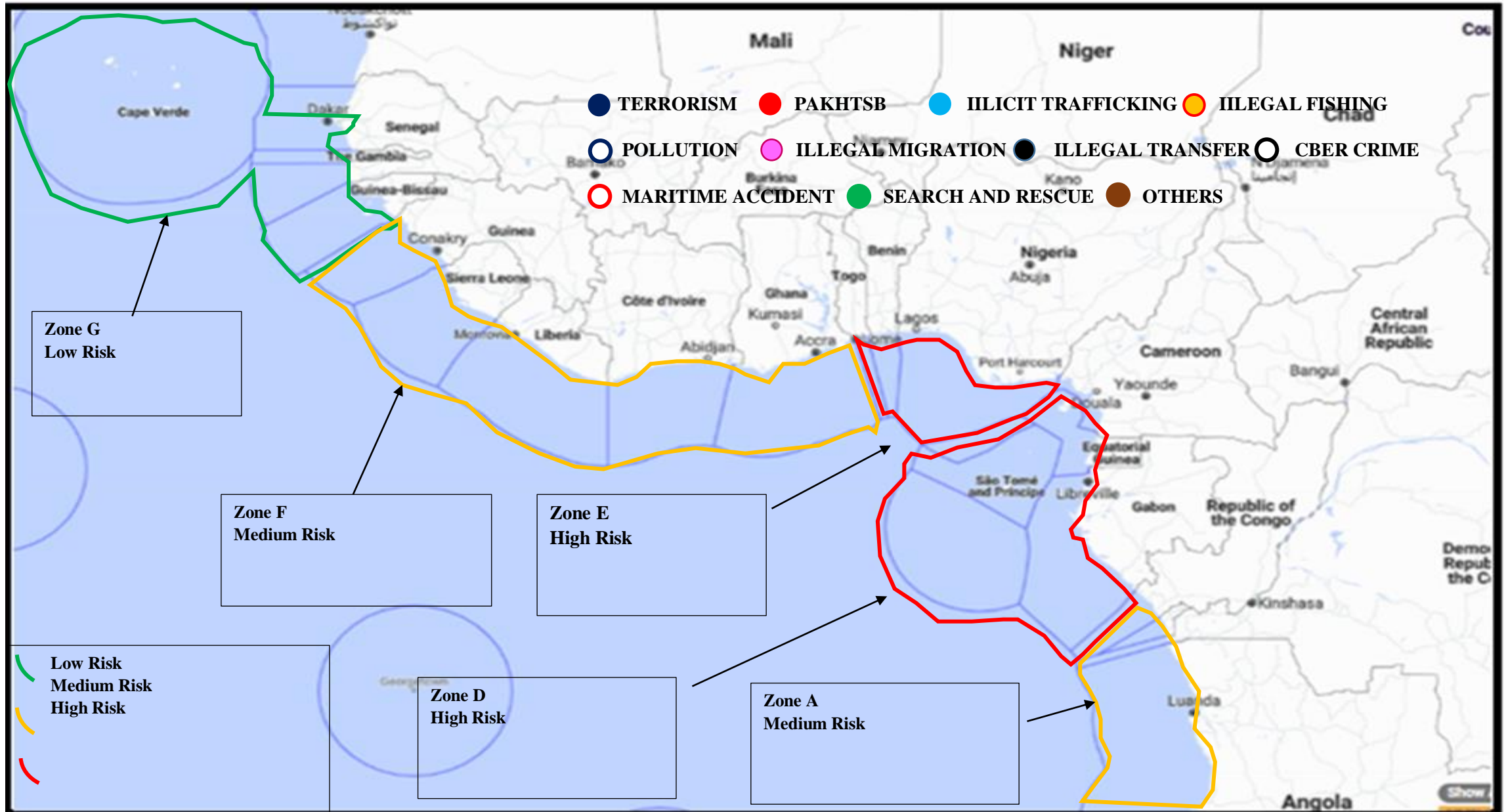
OVERVIEW

- 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 four 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					
	Armed Robbery					
	Firing Upon					
	Robbery/Attempt Robbery					
	Attempt Boarding					
	Boarding			2		
	Theft					
ILLCIT TRAFIC	Suspicious Approach			2		
	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

Suspicious Approach – Lagos, Nigeria

Information received from source indicated that, LNG LAGOS II was attack in position 02°17'N 003°54'E about 247NM of Lagos, Nigeria on 18 Dec 20 at 0630 UTC. The duty officer on watch noticed 8 to 10 perpetrators in a brown wooden skiff with hooks and ladders onboard.

The vessel Conducted evasive manoeuvres and the skiff aborted the chase after 0750UTC.

The vessel and crew are safe.

Boarding– Brass, Nigeria

The Singapore flag container vessel MAERSK CADIZ was attacked underway in position 02°39'N 006°14'E about 96 NM S of Brass Nigeria at 1336 UTC on 19 December 2020.

The vessel was en route from Tema, Ghana, to Kribi, Cameroon whiles an unknown number of perpetrators boarded the vessel. The vessel's SSAS was activated and the Nigerian Navy was alerted.

Three Nigerian navy ship DEFENDER VI, OWHO and SIRIUS at sea at that moment was sailed. Upon their approach a small boat was observed on deck of the vessel and it was presumed that the perpetrators were still onboard. A subsequent search was conducted by the Nigerian Navy around 0717 UTC, and no perpetrators were found onboard. All 21 crew are reported as safe.

The Nigeria Navy ship SIRIUS escorted the vessel as she continued her planned voyage to Kribi, Cameroon.

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Boarding– Brass, Nigeria

Information received indicates that, the Malta flag container ship PORT GDYNIA (IMO: 9334387) managed by Pol-Euro Shipping Lines PLC-SA, Gdynia, Poland was attacked in position 02°37'N 005°37'E about 107NM South of Brass, Nigeria while enroute from Lomé at 0355 UTC on 21 December 2020.

According to the report, an unknown number of perpetrators boarded the vessel. All crew were able to muster in the citadel. Whilst in the citadel, gunshots were heard being fired onboard by the perpetrators. Damage assessment is yet to be conducted to determine the extent of damage if any.

The vessel is currently reported to be safe and underway to her destination.

Suspicious Approach – Brass, Nigeria

Information received indicates that, the Singapore flag BW PAVILION LEEARA (IMO:9640645) managed by BW Fleet Management AS was attacked in position 02°16'N 005°20'E about 130Nm off Brass, Nigeria on 22 Dec 20 at 1056 UTC.

According to the report, an unknown number of perpetrators in a speedboat suspiciously approached to a range of about 3m away. The perpetrators stopped their chase as the Nigerian Navy escort boat intervened. The vessel and the crew are safe.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION

Incident location - PORT GDYNIA
21 Dec 20 at 0409 UTC



Incident location - LNG LAGOS II
18 Dec 20 at 0730 UTC



Incident location - MAERSK CADIZ
19 Dec 29 at 1336 UTC



Incident location - BW PAVILION LEEARA
22 Dec 20 at 1056 UTC

- TERRORISM
- PAKHTSB
- ILLICIT TRAFFICKING
- ILEGAL FISHING
- POLLUTION
- ILLEGAL MIGRATION
- ILLEGAL TRANSFER
- CYBER CRIME
- MARITIME ACCIDENT
- SEARCH AND RESCUE
- OTHERS

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

- Crew died in fatal accident during cargo operation, Baltimore.
- Source. <https://www.fleetmon.com>

METEOROLOGICAL FORECAST

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

Thursday 12/24

Morning ►

Breezy S winds with moderate choppy seas. Small mid period waves.

Winds: S 11 to 16 knots.

Seas: SW 4 feet at 14 seconds.

Afternoon ►

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

Winds: SSW 9 to 12 knots.

Seas: SW 4 feet at 14 seconds.

Friday 12/25

Morning ►

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

Winds: SSW 8 to 11 knots.

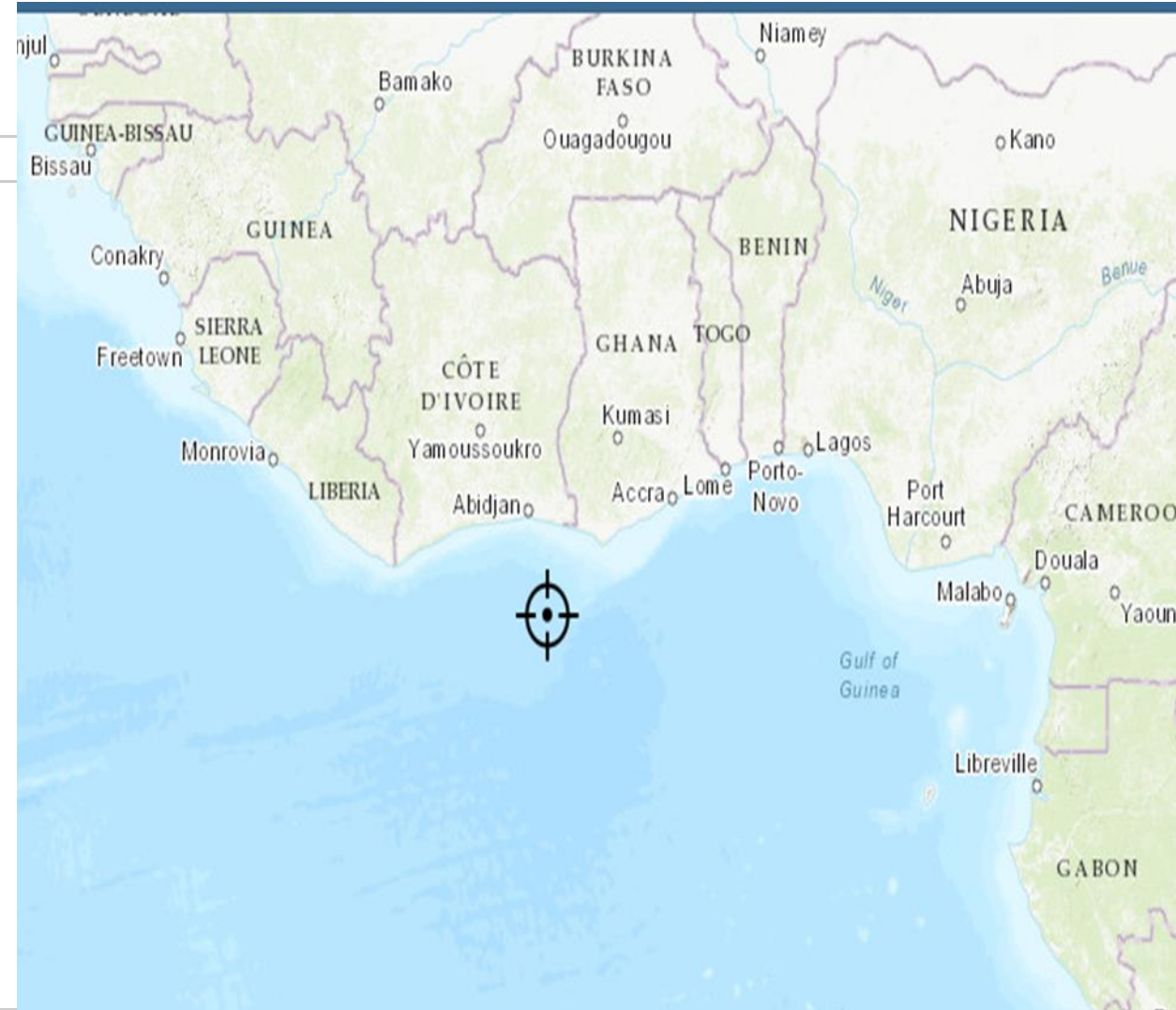
Seas: SW 3 feet at 12 seconds.

Afternoon ►

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

Winds: SW 5 to 7 knots.

Seas: SW 3 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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