



ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT

08 JANUARY – 14 JANUARY 2021

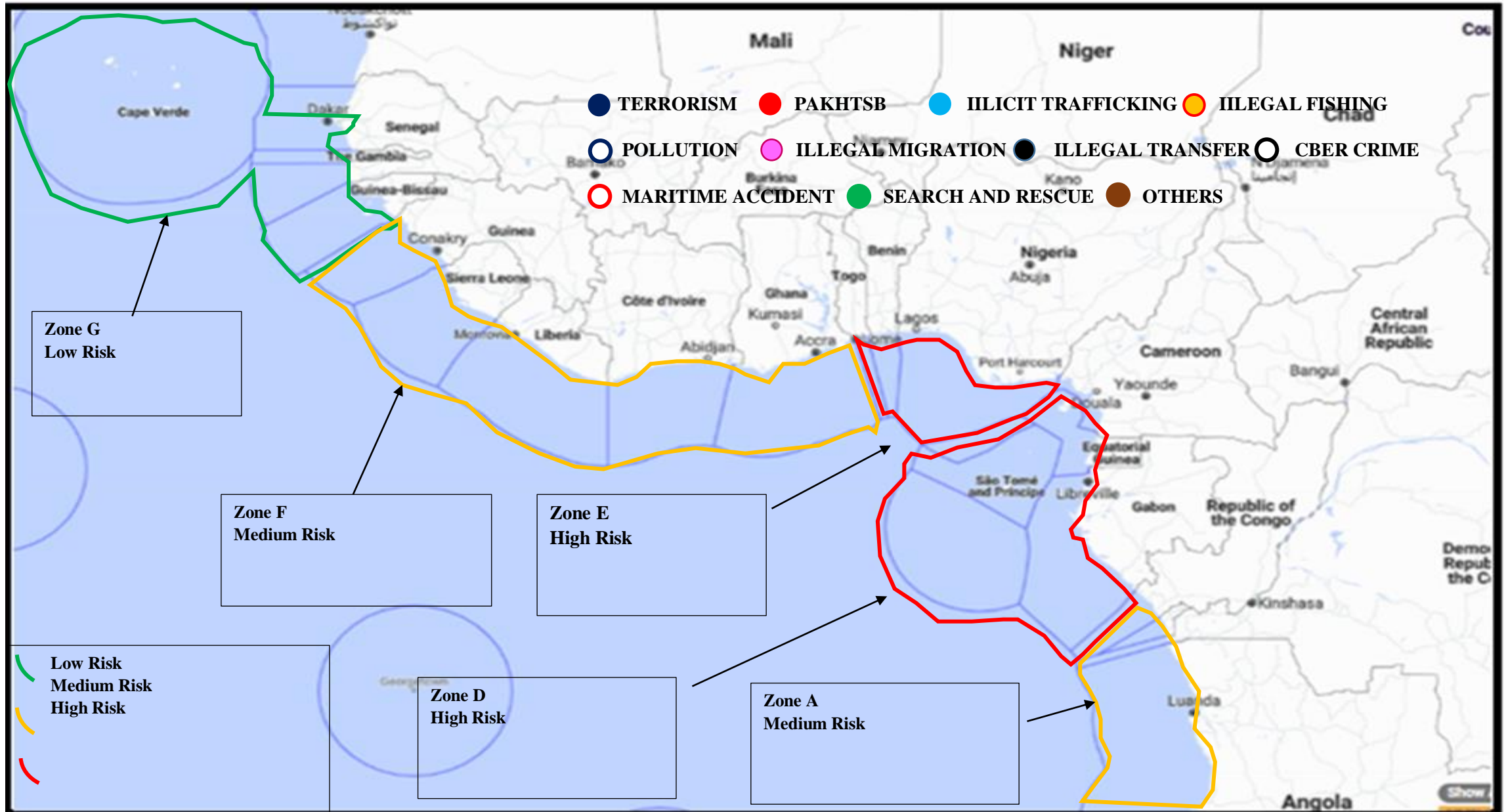
OVERVIEW

- The general maritime safety and security situation in Maritime Zone F and the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) remained safe and secure.
- Update on kidnapping onboard MT AGISILAOS.
- Maritime Zone E recorded three 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			1		
	Robbery/Attempt Robbery					
	Attempt Boarding			1		
	Boarding					
	Theft					
ILLCIT TRAFIC	Suspicious Approach			1		
	Human					
	Drug					
	Weapons/Ammunitions					
I.U.U FISHING	Smuggling					
	Industrial Fishing					
POLLUTION	Craft Fishing					
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

Attempted Boarding– Brass, Nigeria.

Information received on 08 Jan 2021 indicated that a bulk carrier while underway was suspiciously approached at 1445 UTC in position 03°38 N 006°17 E, approximately 45nm South of Brass, Nigeria by a skiff with eight persons on board. The skiff approached to within 0.3nm of the vessel resulting in the Master carrying out evasive manoeuvres, increasing speed and the crew mustering in the citadel. This forced the skiff to abort the approach. Crew were reported to be safe.

Suspicious Approach – Brass, Nigeria.

Information received indicated that, the Bermuda flag tanker LNG SOKOTO managed by Nigeria LNG, Port Harcourt, Nigeria was suspiciously approached at position 02°28'N 005°38'E about 113nm South of Brass, Nigeria at 0100 UTC.

A small speedboat with an unknown number of perpetrators onboard approached the vessel within 100 metres. The master turned off the vessel lights and increased speed. The Nigerian authorities were informed. The vessel and crew were reported safe.

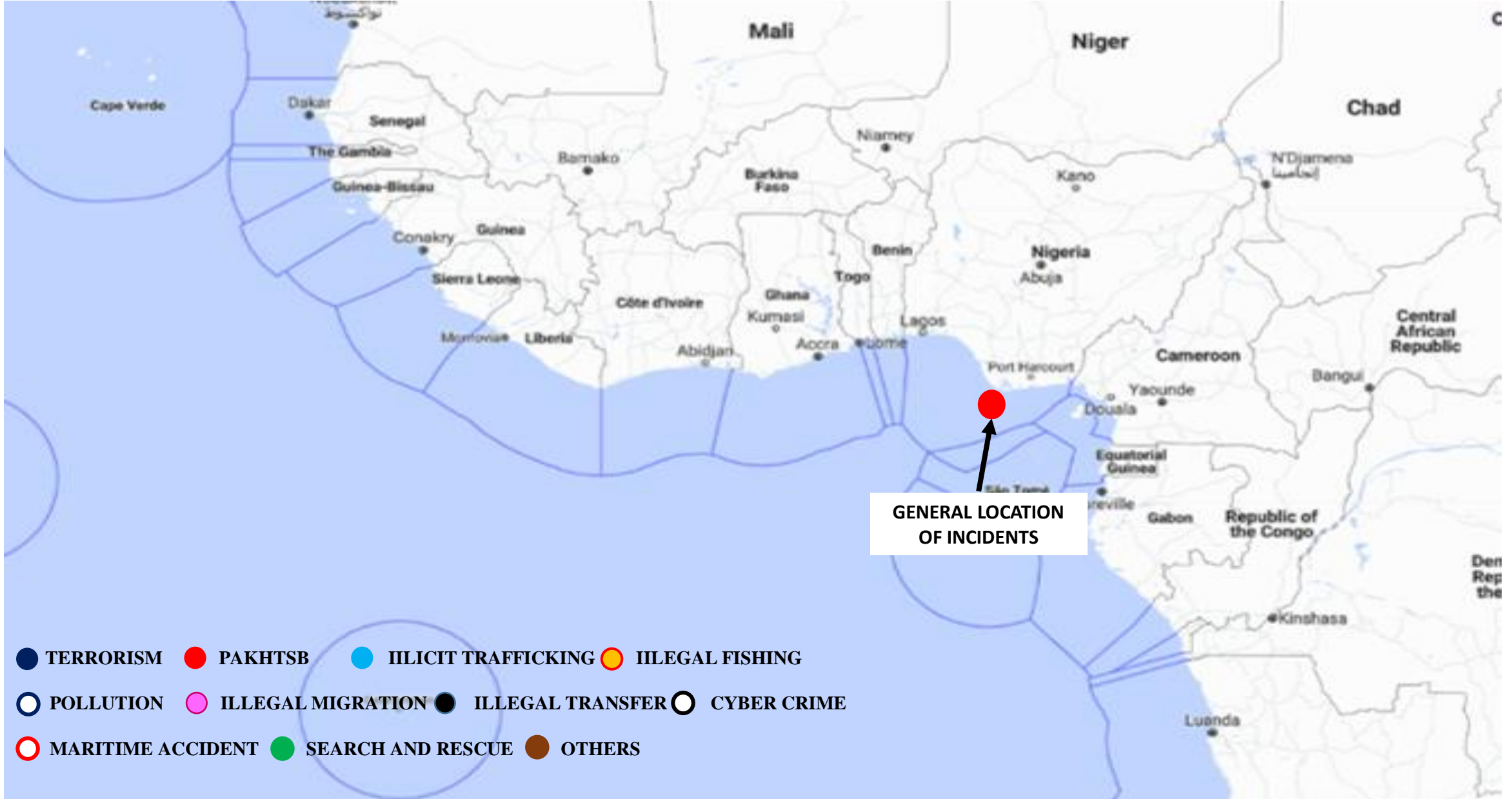
DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Fired Upon – Brass, Nigeria.

Information received indicated that, the Singapore flag container vessel MAERSK CARDIFF managed by Maersk AS, Copenhagen, Denmark was fired upon at position 02°23'N 005°39'E about 117nm South of Brass, Nigeria at 1950 UTC on 13 January 2021.

An unknown number of perpetrators in a speedboat approached the vessel at about 100 metres while underway. The vessel alarm was raised, crew mustered in the citadel, the sound of gunfire was heard while in the citadel. The Nigerian authorities were informed and a patrol boat within the general area was tasked to intervene. The vessel and crew were reported safe.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Kidnapping onboard AGISILAOS

Recall that, the Marshall Islands flag product tanker AGISILAOS was boarded by two armed perpetrators approximately 60NM South of Keta, Ghana at 2130 UTC on 29 November 2020. Four crew members were reported kidnapped.

UPDATE

It has been confirmed that the four kidnapped crew members were released on 7 January 2021.

GENERAL COMMENTS

- A total of six incidents have been recorded in GoG since the beginning of 2021 with four offshore involving fired upon, attempted boarding and suspicious approach taking place in Nigeria and Ghana. No crew have been kidnapped.
- Vessels are encouraged to increase onboard citadel withdrawal drills and evasive manoeuvring skills to prevent pirate successful boarding and possible kidnapping of crew onboard vessels.
- All vessels are advised to maintain a vigilant, sharp anti-piracy lookout and report any suspicious skiff movements to the necessary authorities.

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

- IMB: Gulf of Guinea Attacks Drive Increase in Global Piracy Numbers.
- Source. <https://www.maritime-executive.com>

METEOROLOGICAL FORECAST

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

Thursday 1/14

Morning

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

Winds: SSW 11 to 15 knots.

Seas: SSW 4 feet at 5 seconds.

Afternoon

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

Winds: SW 8 to 12 knots.

Seas: S 3 feet at 5 seconds.

Friday 1/15

Morning

Breezy S winds with moderate choppy seas. Very small mid period waves.

Winds: S 10 to 13 knots.

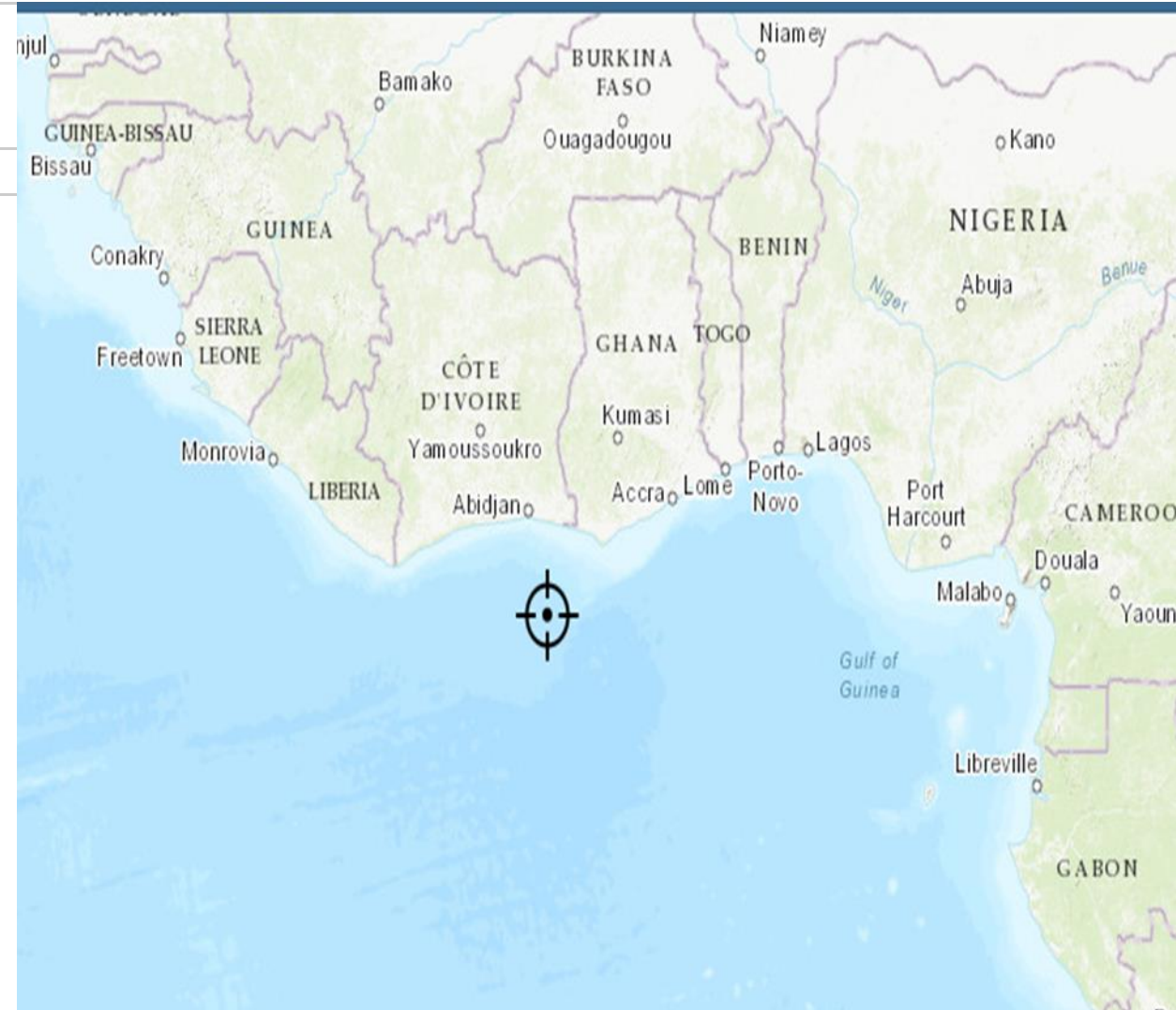
Seas: S 3 feet at 13 seconds.

Afternoon

Breezy SW winds with moderate choppy seas. Very small mid period waves.

Winds: SW 10 to 14 knots.

Seas: SSW 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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