



ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION  
CENTRE  
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY  
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT



15 JANUARY – 21 JANUARY 2021

# OVERVIEW

- The general maritime safety and security situation in Maritime Zone F and the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) remained safe and secure.
- Maritime Zone E recorded suspicious approach incident.
- Maritime Zone A recorded a theft incident.
- 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					
	Robbery/Attempt Robbery					
	Attempt Boarding					
	Boarding					
	Theft	1				
	Suspicious Approach			1		
<b>ILLCIT TRAFIC</b>	Human					
	Drug					
	Weapons/Ammunitions					
	Smuggling					
<b>I.U.U FISHING</b>	Industrial Fishing					
	Craft Fishing					
<b>POLLUTION</b>						
<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>						



# DETAILS OF INCIDENT

## **Theft – Banana Anchorage, DR Congo.**

Information received on 18 Jan 2021 indicated that the Bahamas flag reefer GREEN FREEZER managed by Green Management, Gdynia, Poland was boarded in position 06°02'S 012°21'E at Banana Anchorage, DR Congo at 0300 UTC.

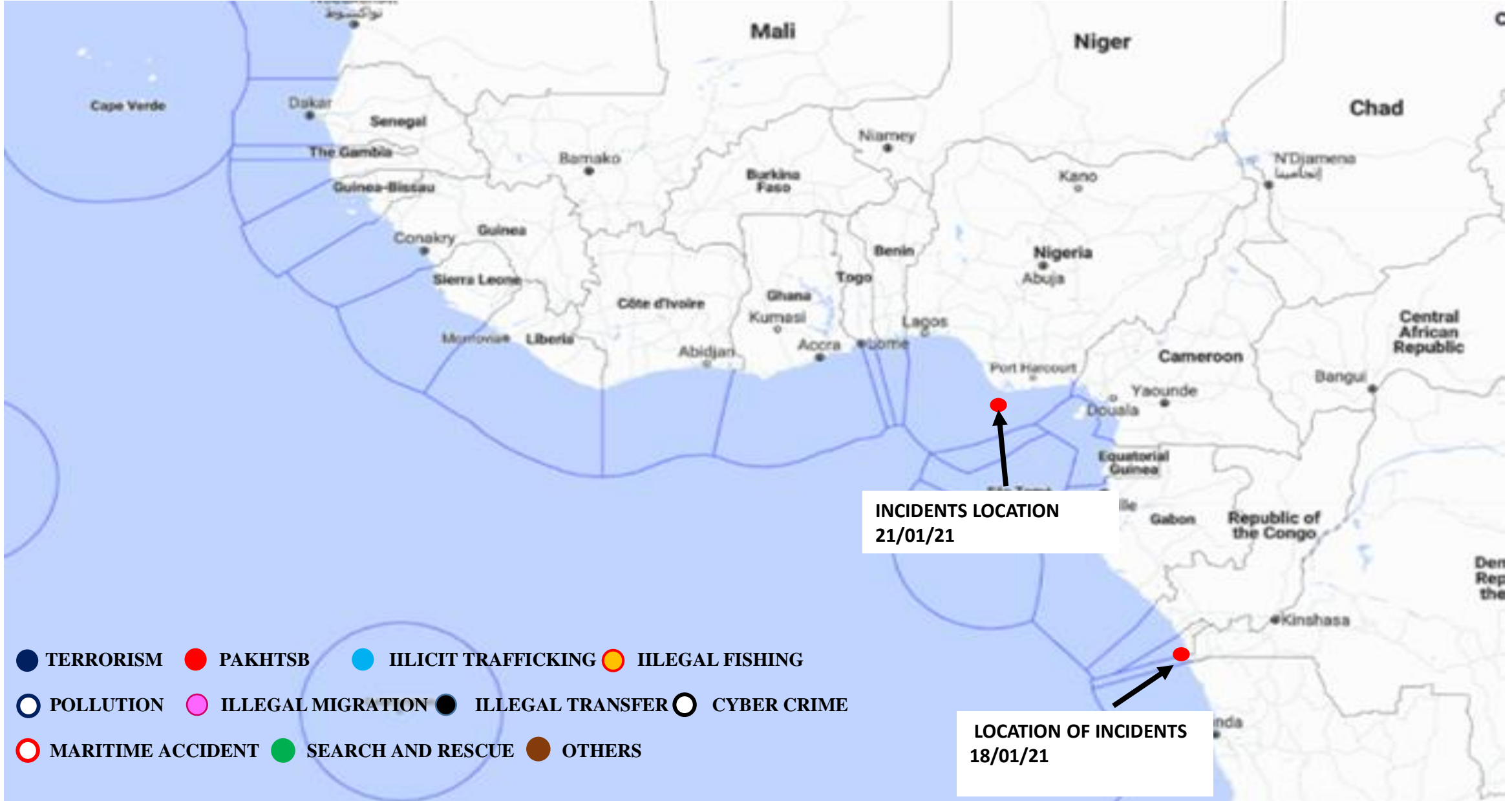
The crew on watch spotted three perpetrators at the forecastle of the vessel. An alarm was raised resulting the perpetrators escaped upon discovered. The perpetrators reportedly escaped with cans of paint and lead seals after a search have been conducted. The authorities were informed. The vessel and the crew were reported safe.

## **Suspicious Approach – Brass, Nigeria.**

Information received indicated that the Liberia flag container vessel MSC ELSA 3 was attacked in position 03°31'15"N 006°29'99"E 48NM SSW of Brass, Nigeria at 1008 UTC on 21 January 2021.

Six to seven perpetrators in a single craft boat approached the vessel within a range of 0.3 NM. The embarked security team onboard the merchant vessel fired a warning shot resulting the craft to reduce speed and withdrew. Vessel and crew are safe.

# INCIDENT DISPOSITION



# GENERAL COMMENTS

- A total of eight 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.
- 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.



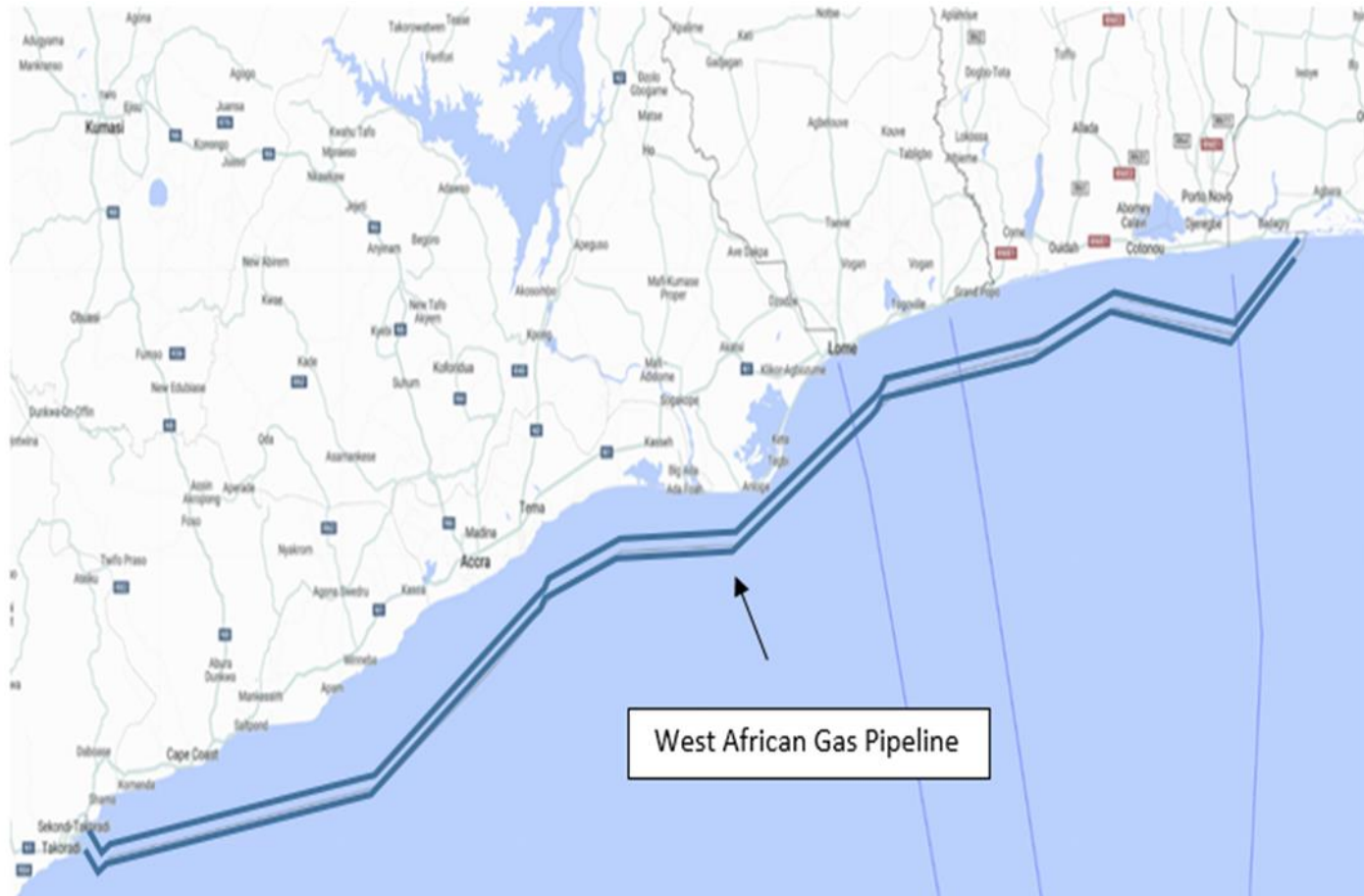
# NOTICES

## 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

- Singapore starts vaccination 10,000 maritime workers.
- Source. <https://www.fleetmon.com>

# METEOROLOGICAL FORECAST

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

### Thursday 1/21

#### Morning

Light SSW winds with a slight chop.  
Very small mid period waves.

Winds: SSW 7 to 9 knots.

Seas: SSW 3 feet at 12 seconds.

#### Afternoon

Light and variable winds with smooth seas. Very small mid period waves.

Winds: S 3 to 4 knots.

Seas: SSW 3 feet at 13 seconds.

### Friday 1/22

#### Morning

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

Winds: SSW 9 to 12 knots.

Seas: SSW 3 feet at 12 seconds.

#### Afternoon

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

Winds: W 6 to 8 knots.

Seas: SSW 3 feet at 11 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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