



ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT

22 JANUARY – 28 JANUARY 2021

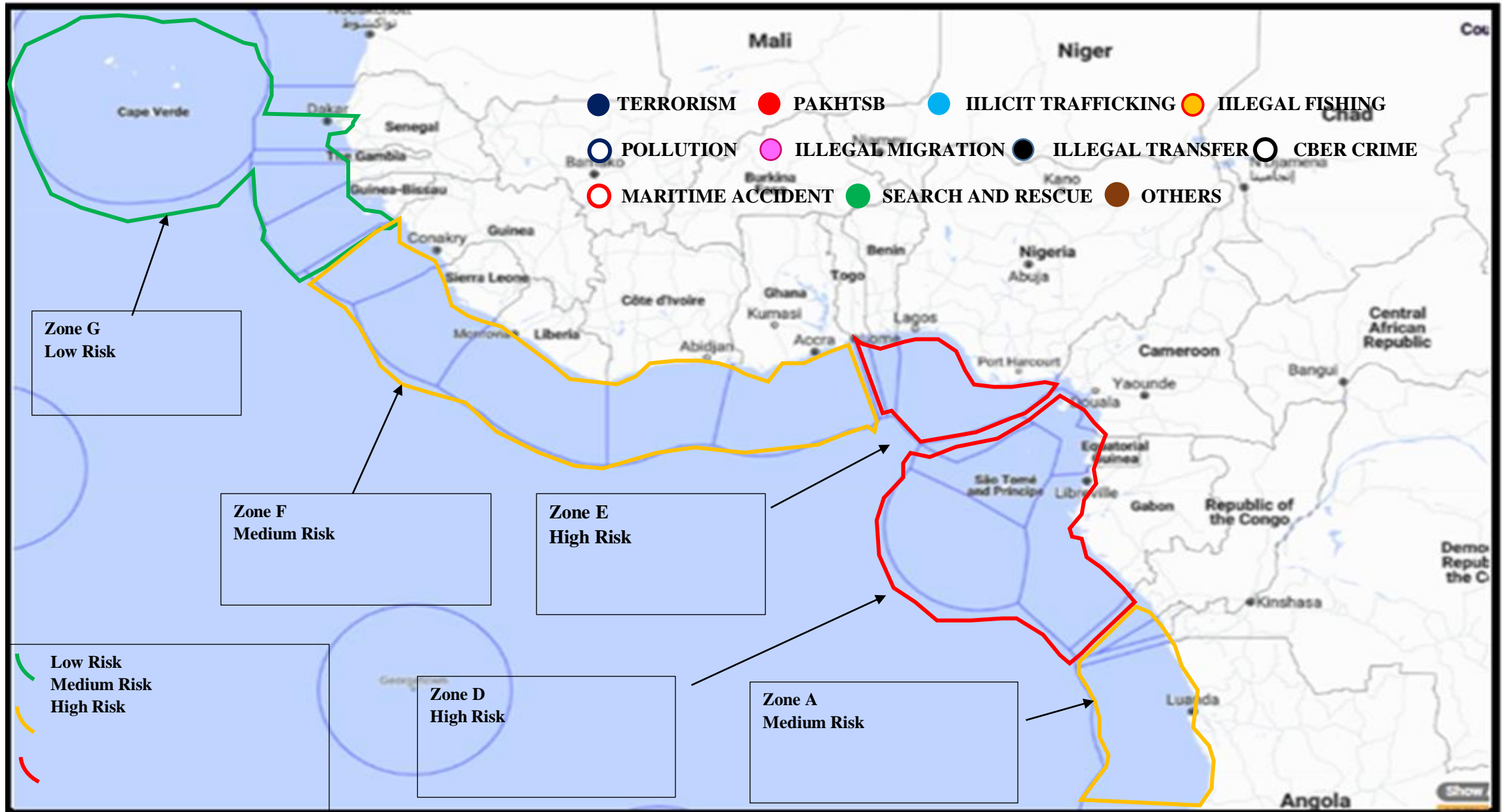
OVERVIEW

- The general maritime safety and security situation in Maritime Zone F and the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) remained safe and secure.
- Maritime Zone D recorded kidnapping incident.
- Maritime Zone E recorded suspicious approach incident.
- 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					
	Theft					
	Suspicious Approach			1		
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

Kidnapping – Sao Tome Principe.

Information received indicated that the Liberia flag container vessel MT MOZART was attacked in position 01°04'13"N 005°04'22"E about 98nm NW of Sao Tome and Principe at 0535 UTC on 23 January 2021.

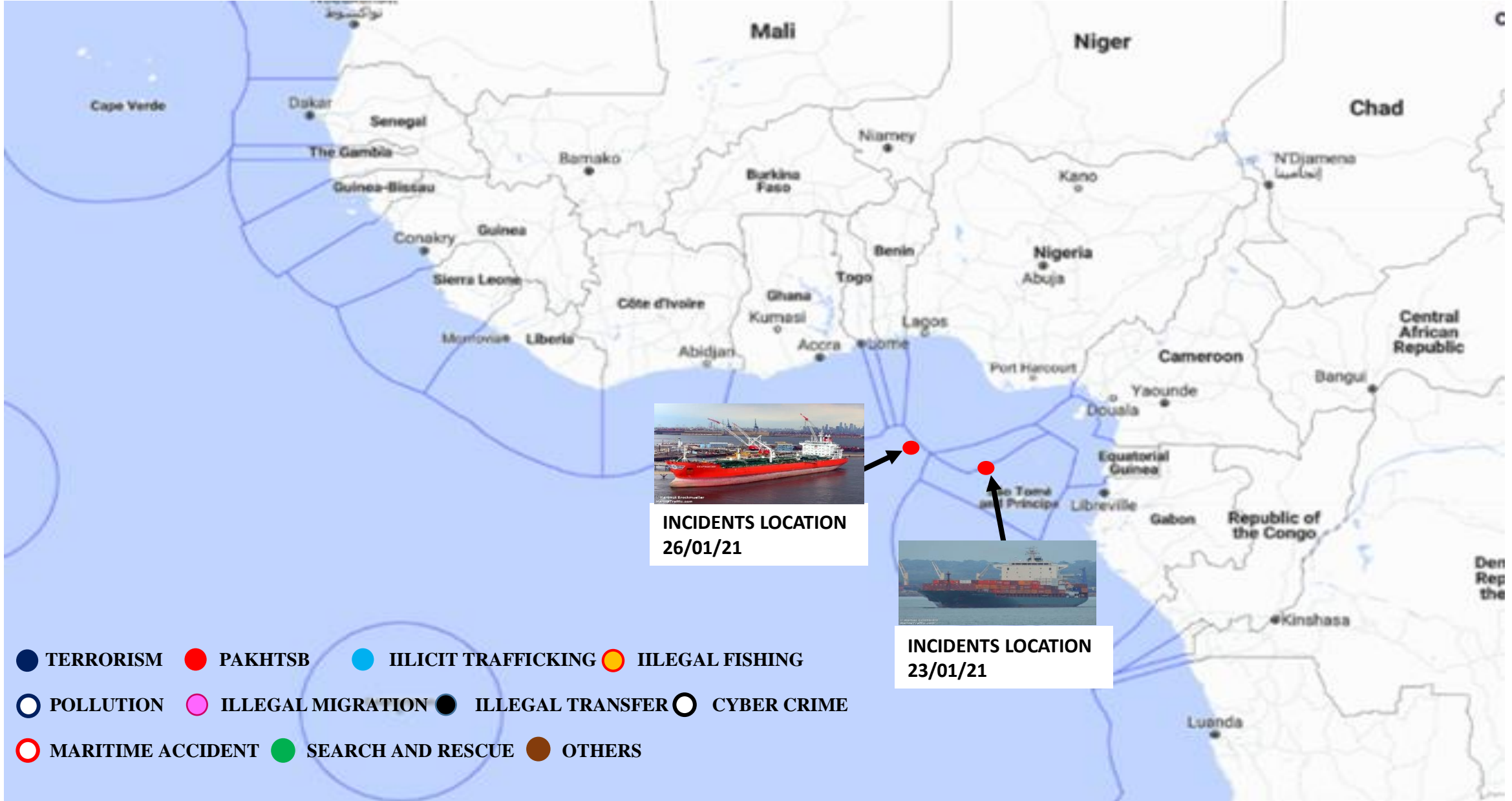
Four armed perpetrators boarded the vessel while transiting from Lagos to Cape Town. Initial report indicated that the crew had mustered in the citadel. However, the pirates managed to break the citadel and kidnapped 15 Turkish crew members out of 19 crew onboard.

Suspicious Approach – Bayelsa, Nigeria .

Information received indicated that, the Hong Kong flag product tanker SEAFRONTIER was suspiciously approached at position 01°50'90"N 003°25'07"E about 221 NM off Bayelsa, Nigeria at 0900 UTC on 26 January 2021.

According to the report, a speedboat with about six people onboard approached the vessel to about 3nm. The crew mustered in the citadel while the vessel increased speed and conducted evasive manoeuvres resulting in the speedboat aborting its pursuit. The vessel and crew members were reported to be safe.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



GENERAL COMMENTS

- The successful breaking of the citadel and kidnapping of crew onboard MT MOZART may be the beginning of a new twist to the piracy situation to the GoG. Previously, crew who managed to enter the citadel before pirates boarded the vessel could be assured of some safety but the kidnapping onboard MT MOZART may open another dimension to the whole problem of piracy in the GoG.
- The successful kidnapping onboard MT MOZART also emphasizes that GoG countries are still lacking behind in terms of their response time to piracy incidents at sea. According to reports, the perpetrators spend about five hours onboard the vessel leading to their successful breaking into the Citadel.
- Attacks against vessels deep offshore and beyond the EEZ are expected to continue as this limits the response time and capabilities of law enforcement agencies to carry out any meaningful interdiction operations as witnessed in the kidnapping incident onboard MT MOZART.
- All vessels transiting GoG 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.

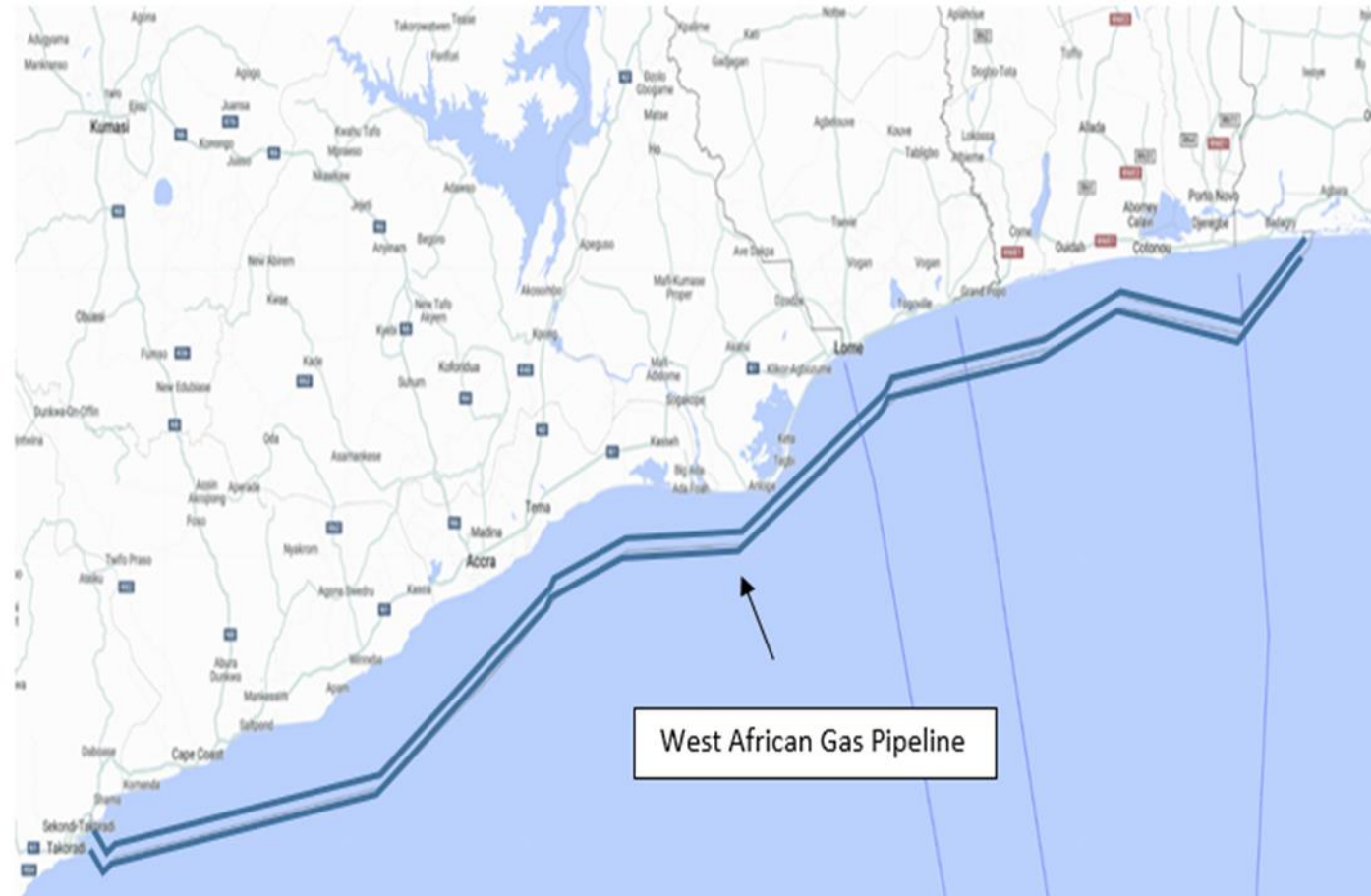
NOTICES

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

- MOZART cruel piracy attack and crew tragedy: Game changer event?
- <https://www.fleetmon.com/maritime-news>

METEOROLOGICAL FORECAST

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

Thursday 1/28

Morning ►

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

Winds: SSW 10 to 13 knots.

Seas: SSW 4 feet at 11 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 1/29

Morning ►

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

Winds: SSW 12 to 16 knots.

Seas: SSW 4 feet at 11 seconds.

Afternoon ►

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

Winds: WSW 5 to 8 knots.

Seas: SSW 4 feet at 10 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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