



ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT

29 JANUARY – 04 FEBRUARY 2021

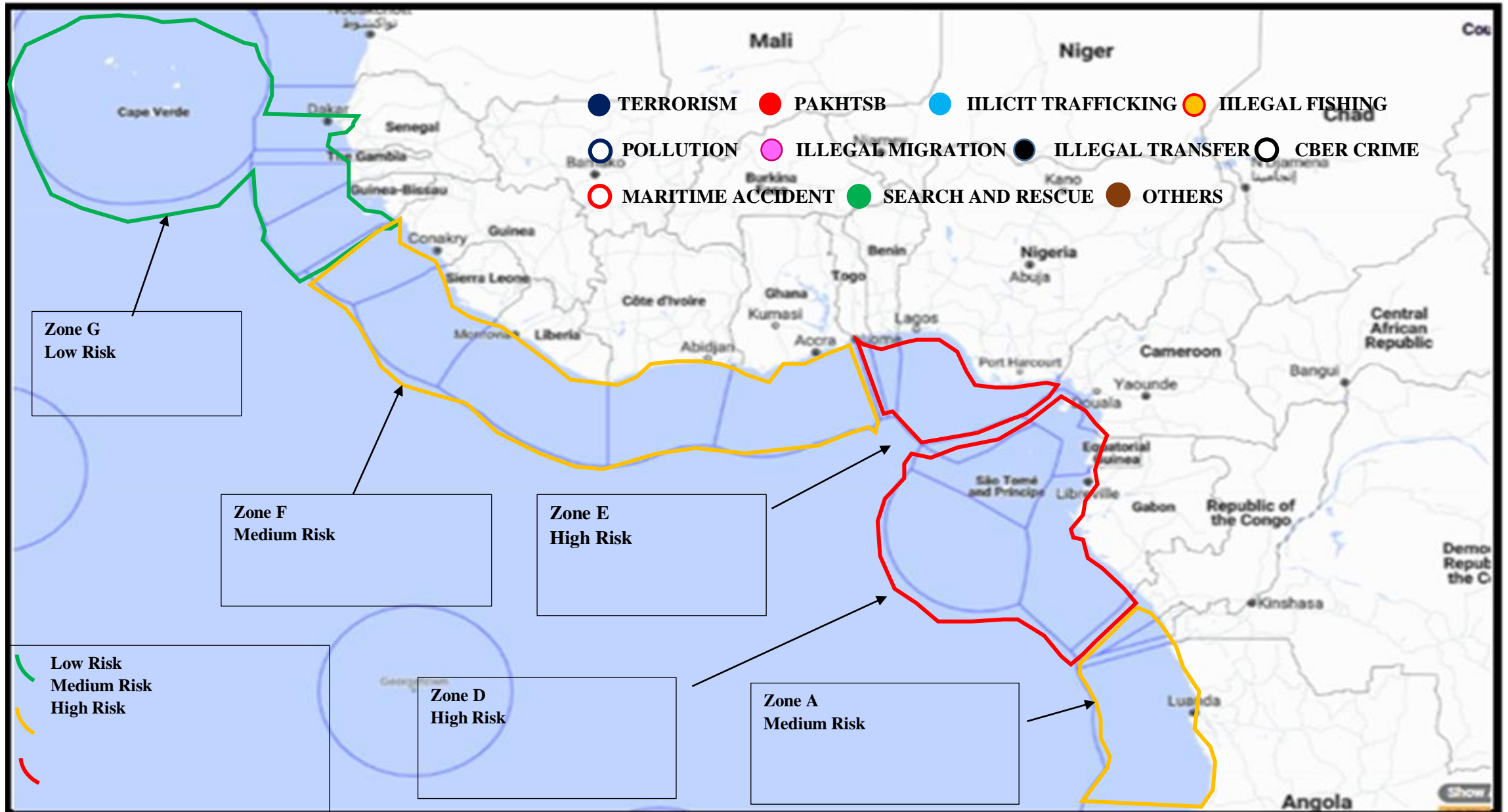
OVERVIEW

- The general maritime safety and security situation in Maritime Zone F and the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) remained safe and secure.
- Update on crew kidnapped from STEVIA on 16 Dec 20.
- Maritime Zone F recorded one incident.
- Maritime Zone E recorded one 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					
	Armed Robbery					
	Firing Upon					
	Robbery/Attempt Robbery					
	Attempt Boarding					
	Boarding				1	
	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

Boarding – Keta Ghana.

Recall that the Marshall Islands flag Bulk Carrier ROWAYTON EAGLE (IMO: 9575216) was attacked in position 02°55'00"N 001°56'06"E about 186NM South of Keta, Ghana at 0424 UTC on 30 January 2021 while transiting from Santa Cruz, Spain to Lagos, Nigeria. According to the report, an unknown number of perpetrators boarded the vessel. The crewmembers successfully withdrew into the citadel. After several hours of temporarily hijacking the vessel with several unsuccessful attempts in gaining access into the citadel, the perpetrators finally abandoned the vessel. The vessel was later escorted by Nigerian security vessel to Lagos port for further investigations.

All the crew members were reported safe.

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Suspicious Approach – Brass, Nigeria.

Information received indicated that, the Liberia flag container vessel MSC PANAYA managed by MSC Ship management, Limassol, Cyprus was attacked in position 03°31'N 006°35'E about 50 NM SSE of Brass, Nigeria at 0925 UTC on 04 February 2021.

A speedboat with six to seven perpetrators onboard approached the vessel while underway at a range of 1 NM. The crew confirmed neither weapons nor other pirate paraphernalia were spotted. The master took evasive manoeuvres and the perpetrators aborted the pursuit. The authorities were informed vessel and crew are safe.

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

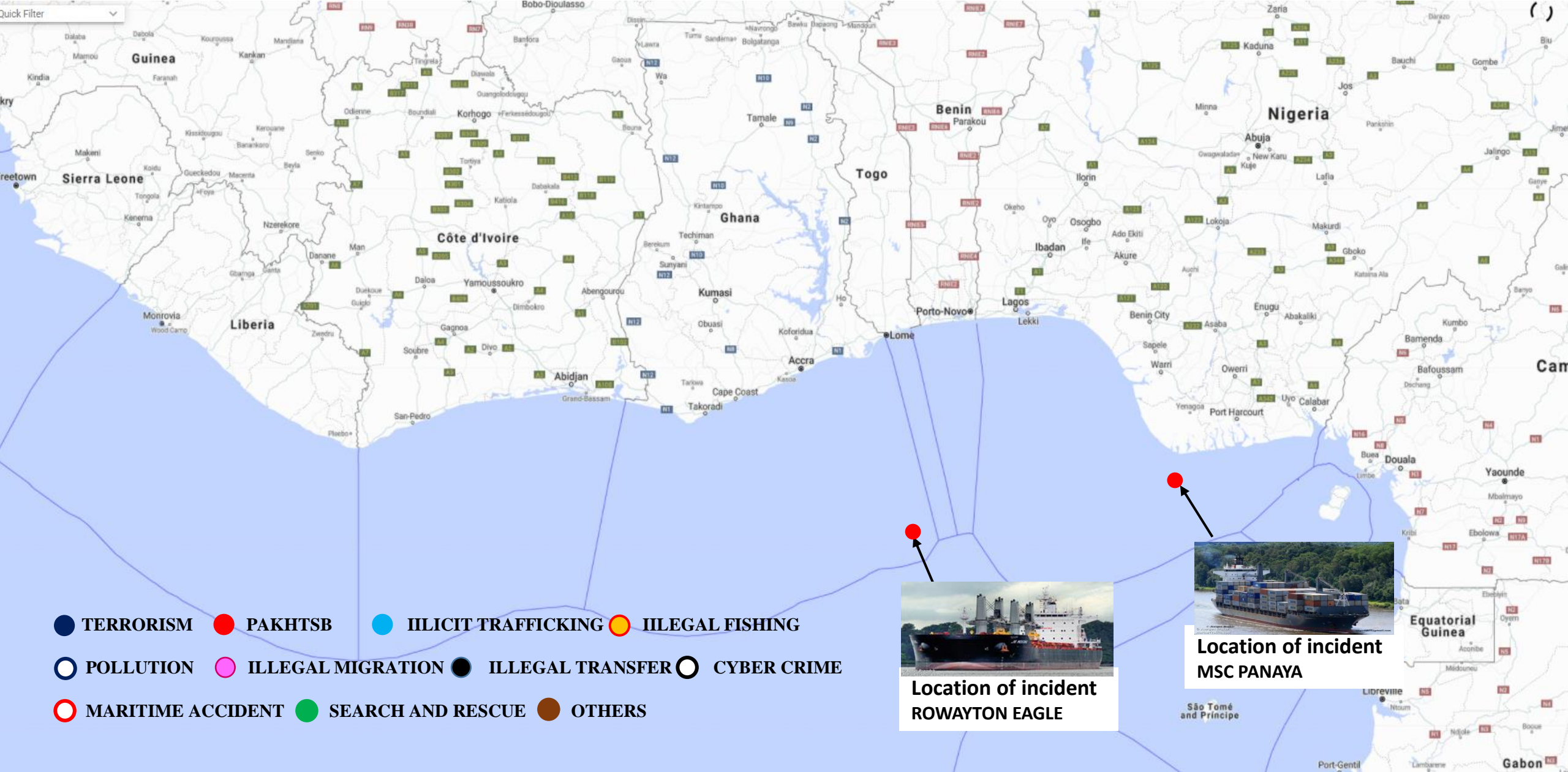
Kidnapped onboard STEVIA – Brass, Nigeria.

Recall that on 16 Dec 2020 at 0706 UTC, the Cameroonian flag cargo vessel STEVIA (IMO 8107000) was attacked in position 03°51'N 006°09'E about 27nm SW of Brass, Nigeria and 8 crew members were kidnapped.

UPDATE

Information available indicates that six of the eight crew members were released on 30th January 2021.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



GENERAL COMMENTS

- The threat of piracy attacks deep offshore still remains high. The recent attacks on MT MOZART and ROWAYTON EAGLE have exposed the challenges of GoG states in responding to pirate attacks deep offshore. Coastal states are therefore encouraged to increase presence at sea to serve as deterrence to pirates and offer quick response in case of pirate attacks.
- 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.

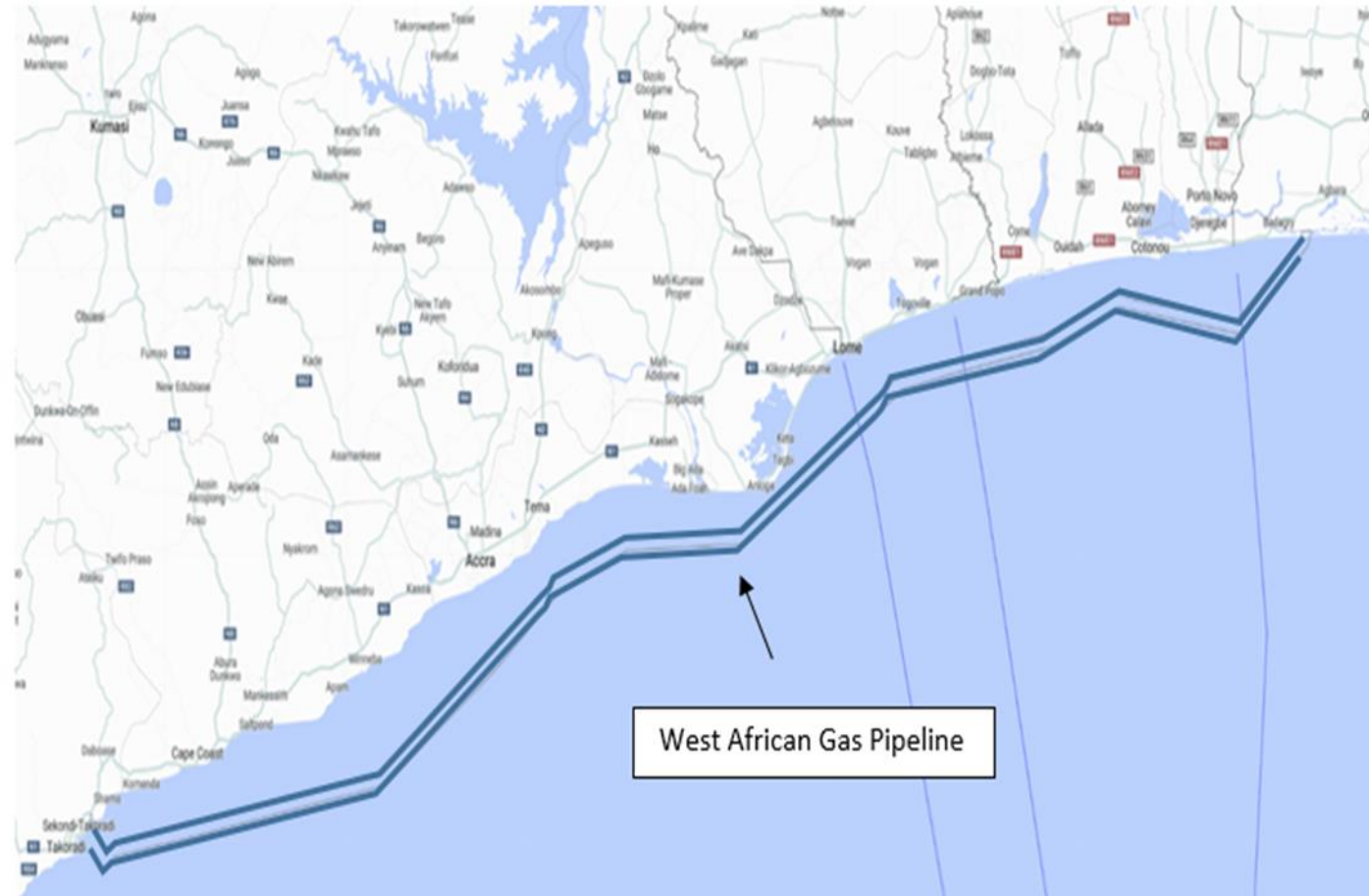
NOTICES

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

- One dead, 3 injured onboard bulk carrier GIULIA I in Atlantic Storm.
- <https://www.maritime-executive.com>

METEOROLOGICAL FORECAST

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

Thursday 2/4

Morning

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

Winds: SSW 6 to 9 knots.

Seas: SSE 3 feet at 8 seconds.

Afternoon

Light WSW winds with a slight chop.
Very small short period waves.

Winds: WSW 5 to 7 knots.

Seas: SSE 3 feet at 8 seconds.

Friday 2/5

Morning

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

Winds: SW 10 to 14 knots.

Seas: SSE 2 feet at 8 seconds.

Afternoon

Light WSW winds with a slight chop.
Very small short period waves.

Winds: WSW 9 to 12 knots.

Seas: SSE 2 feet at 8 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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