



ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT

19 MARCH – 25 MARCH 2021

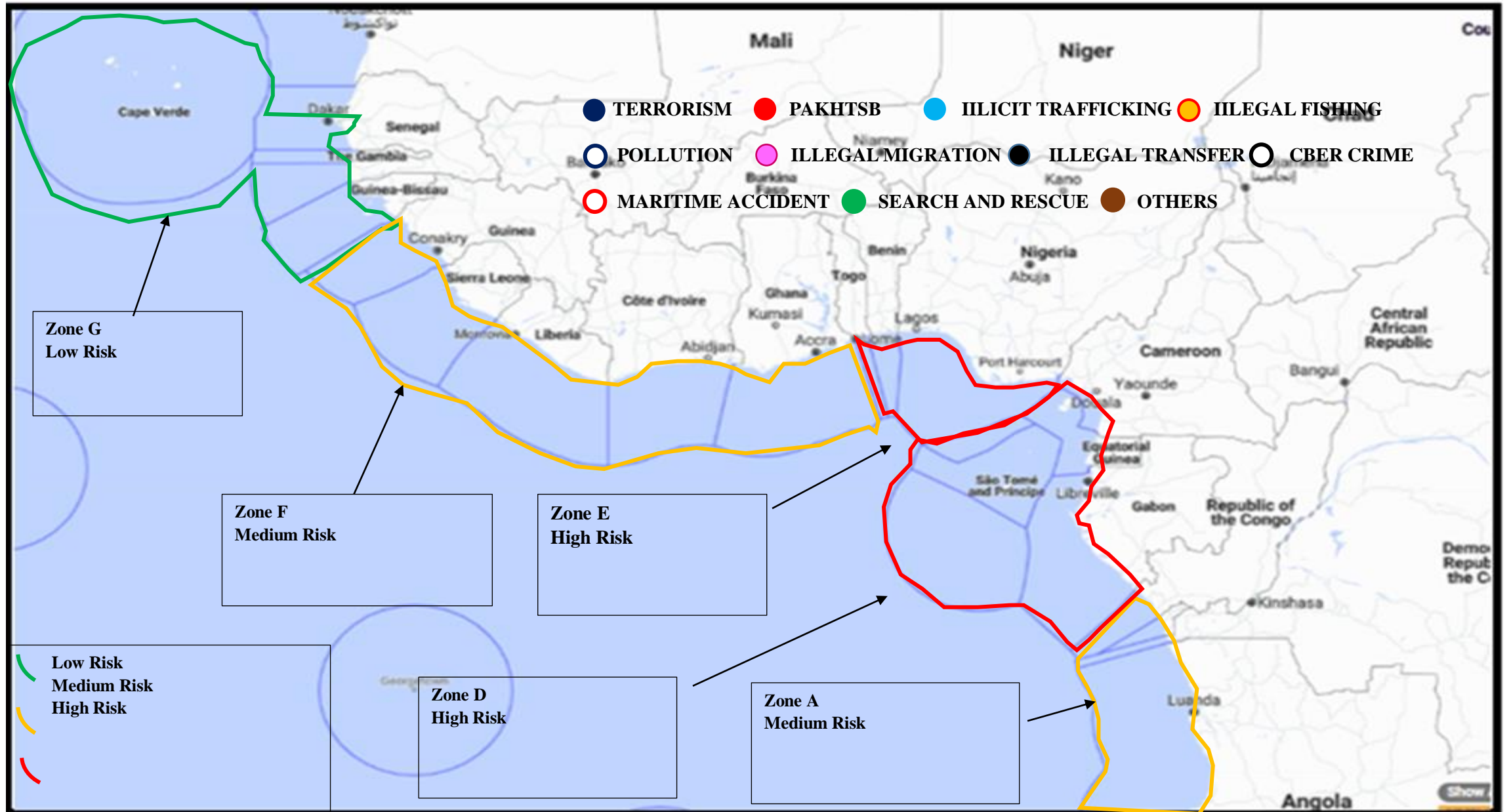
OVERVIEW

- The general maritime safety and security situation in Maritime Zone F and the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) remained safe and secure.
- Maritime Zone F recorded one incident.
- Maritime Zone G 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)	Hijacking					
	Kidnapping					
	Armed Robbery					
	Firing Upon					
	Robbery/Attempt Robbery					
	Attempt Boarding					
	Boarding					
	Theft					
	Suspicious Approach				1	
ILLCIT TRAFIC	Human					
	Drug					1
	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

Drug Trafficking– Guinea-Bissau

Information received from Guinea MOC at 211130 hours indicates the Togo Flag Vessel MV RONA (IMO 7211854) has reportedly been attacked by unknown perpetrators at about 136 NM offshore Guinea Bissau. The vessel's last position (11°37'N 017°53'W).

The vessel was believed to be heading to Conakry the next port of call.

The Guinea Authorities are currently responding to the situation. The vessel's AIS is off since the last known position at 20 march 21, 2359 UTC.

According to updated report available, the vessel RONA was intercepted by Senegalese Navy ship at same position about 136NM offshore Guinea Bissau with no crew onboard. Further information indicates the vessel was suspected to be involved in international drug trafficking with corroborated intelligence.

The vessel has been escorted to Dakar port for further investigation.

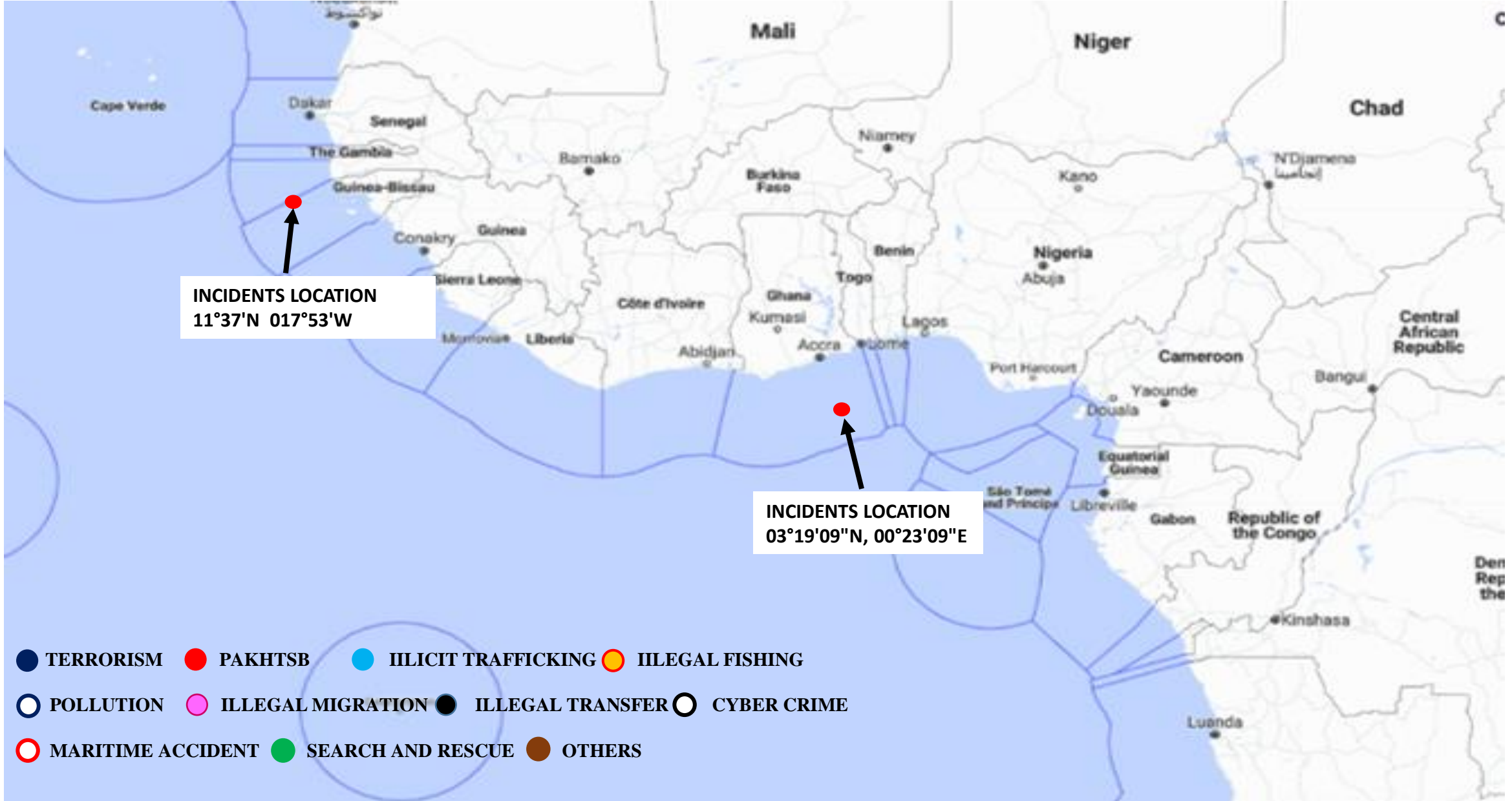
DETAILS OF INCIDENT

SUSPICIOUS APPROACH TEMA, GHANA.

Information received indicates that, The Liberia flag cargo vessel PLUTO (IMO 9432531) was suspiciously approach by small unknown tanker or bunker barge in position 03°19'09"N, 00°23'09"E approximately 140NM south of Tema, Ghana whiles awaiting for orders.

The MT was sighted 2NM abeam proceeding with course 320 and speed 6.5kts suddenly altered course towards the MV. The master conducted evasive manoeuvres to increase the distance about 25NM apart whiles the MT proceed to her normal course.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



GENERAL COMMENTS

- Generally, for the past week has become calm while the number of kidnapping cases have reduced as compared to 2020. However, the number of crew kidnapped have increased. This is the third kidnapping incident for the year resulting in 40 crewmembers being kidnapped.
- All vessels operating within the general area are advised to remain vigilant and keep sharp anti-piracy lookout as the pirates have resumed operations towards the Western frontier of the Gulf of Guinea.
- All countries especially Benin, Togo and Ghana are to be on high alert and be ready to respond to incidents at short notice.

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

- Albanian freighter collided with Italian fishing boat, boat sank, crew rescued.
- <https://www.fleetmon.com>

METEOROLOGICAL FORECAST

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

Thursday 3/25

Morning

Moderate to strong SSW winds with choppy seas. Small short period waves.

Winds: SSW 16 to 22 knots.

Seas: SSW 4 feet at 7 seconds.

Afternoon

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

Winds: SSE 6 to 8 knots.

Seas: SSW 5 feet at 5 seconds.

Friday 3/26

Morning

Light ESE winds with a slight chop. Small short period waves.

Winds: ESE 8 to 11 knots.

Seas: S 4 feet at 9 seconds.

Afternoon

Light SE winds with a slight chop. Small short period waves.

Winds: SE 9 to 12 knots.

Seas: S 4 feet at 9 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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