



ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT

14 MAY – 20 MAY 2021

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.

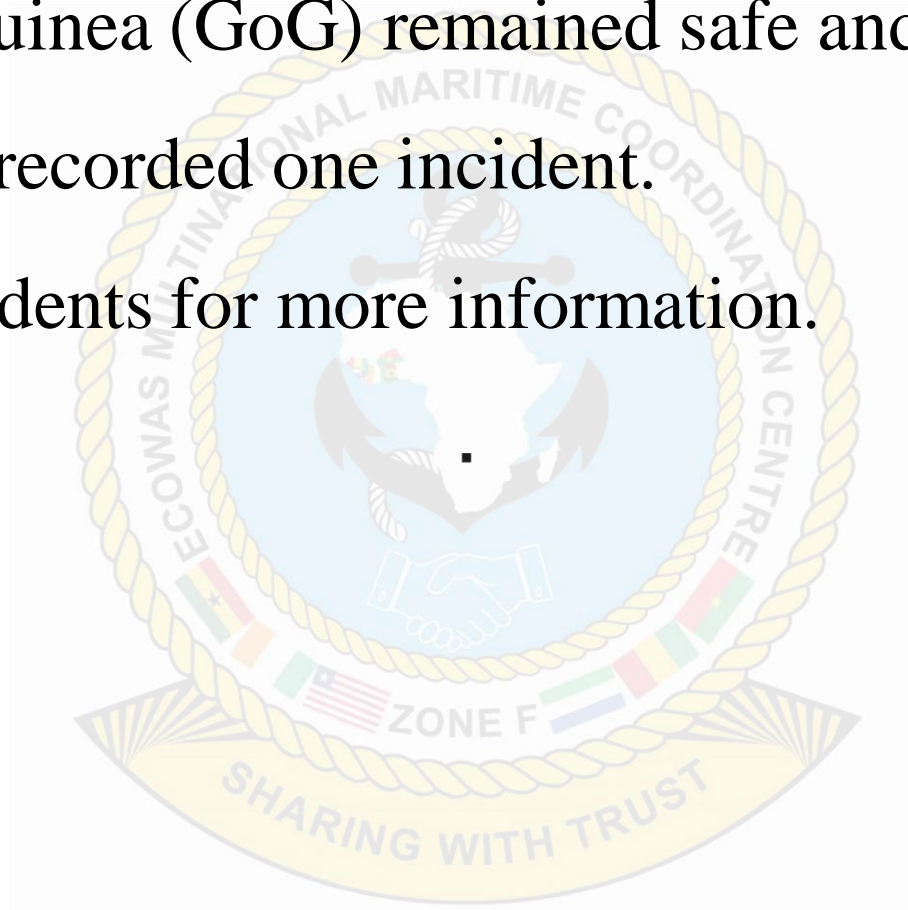
- **OTHER MARITIME INCIDENTS.**

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.

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.
- See details of incidents for more information.



INCIDENTS RECORDED

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				1	
	Armed Robbery					
	Firing Upon					
	Robbery/Attempt Robbery					
	Attempt Boarding					
	Boarding					
	Theft					
	Suspicious Approach					
ILLICIT TRAFIC	Human					
	Drug					
	Weapons/Ammunitions					
	Smuggling					
I.U.U FISHING	Industrial Fishing					
	Craft Fishing					
POLLUTION						
ILLICIT 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						

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Kidnapping – offshore Tema, Ghana.

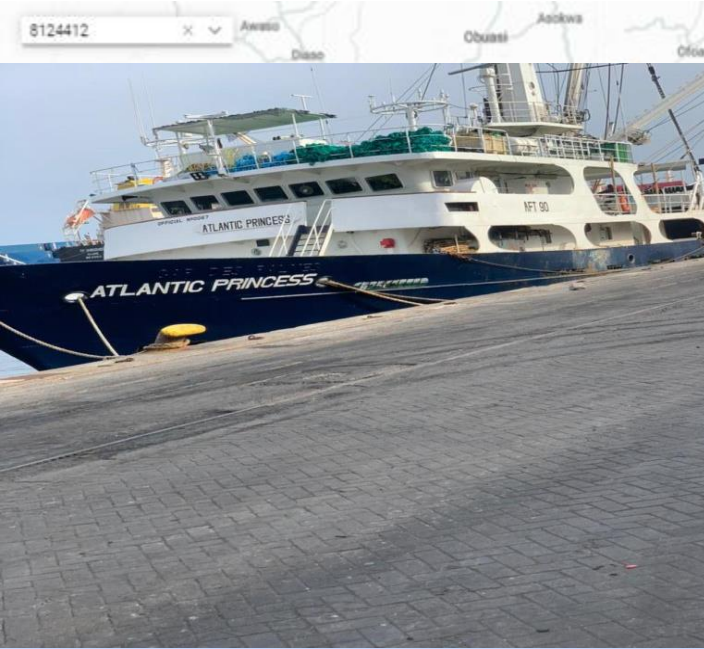
The Ghanaian registered Tuna-fishing vessel ATLANTIC PRINCESS (IMO: 8124412) was attacked at position 04 33.5N, 000 15.6 E approximately 66NM South of Tema, Ghana on 19 May 2021 at 1830 UTC. The vessel was approached and fired upon by a skiff boat with 8 armed perpetrators onboard forcing it to stop. Five pirates armed with AK 47 boarded the vessel and instructed the vessel to alter course further South East. The pirates remained onboard until 200145 hours UTC when they finally disembarked with 5 expatriate crew members kidnapped. In all the pirates spent about 6 hours onboard the vessel.

The abducted crew included Captain (Korean), Chief Officer, Second Chief officer, Chief Engineer (all Chinese) and Boatswain's mate (Russian). The pirates also rummaged the vessel and took away personal crew belongings including laptop, phones, money and other valuables. There were no injuries to the remaining crew. The crew identified the pirates as Nigerians.

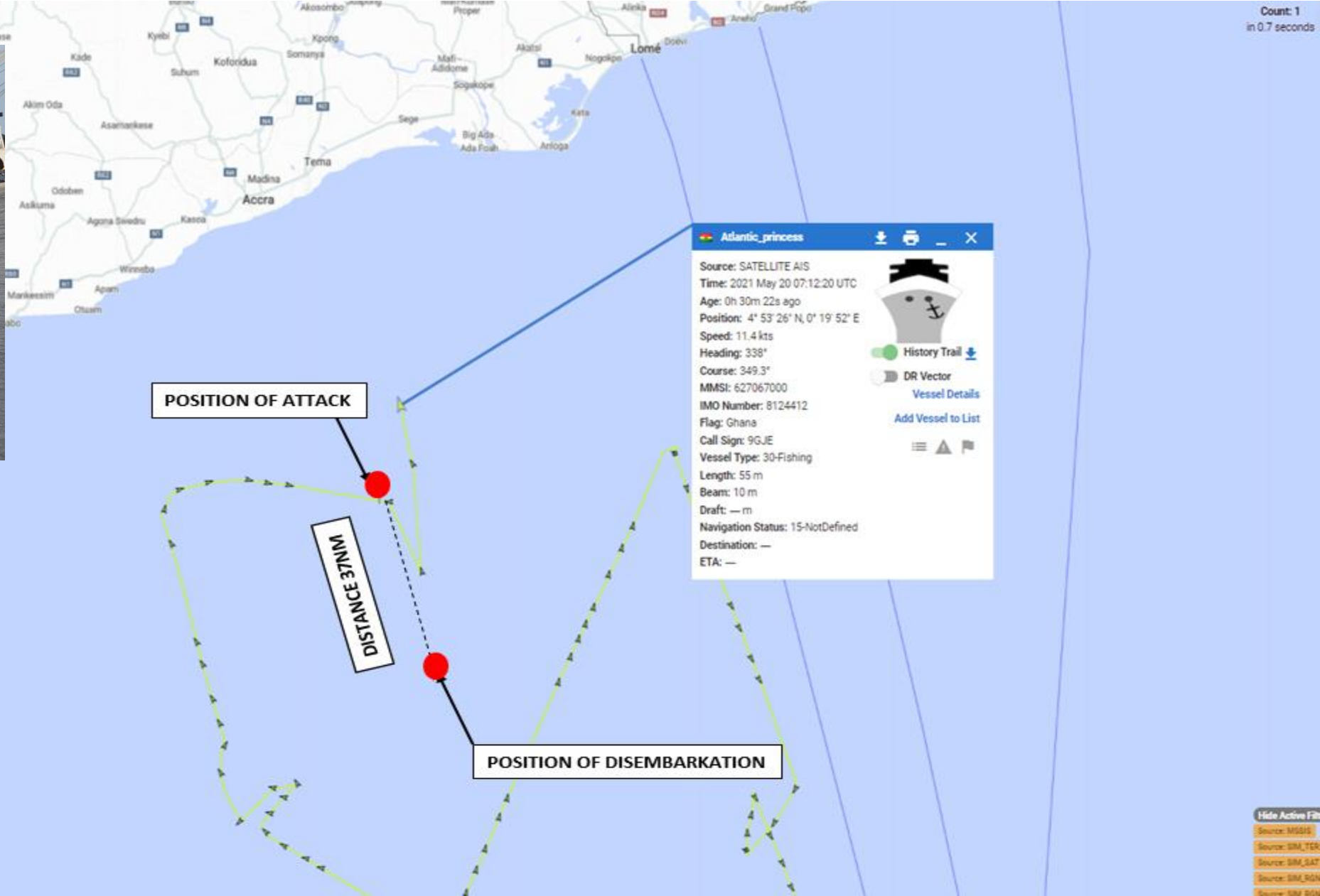
The crew members reported sighting a rusted looking mini tanker vessel far off the horizon with the AIS off 2 hours prior to the attack. It is therefore highly likely that the pirates were using the tanker vessel as a mothership.

The Ghana Navy and Ghana Air Force responded by dispatching a patrol boat and an aircraft to the general area. ATLANTIC PRINCESS was sighted and escorted to Tema Harbour alongside her sister vessel LONG TAI 1 for further investigation. The pirate skiff or suspected mothership was however not sighted by the Navy patrol boat or aircraft.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



ATLANTIC PRINCESS



Atlantic_princess

Source: SATELLITE AIS
Time: 2021 May 20 07:12:20 UTC
Age: 0h 30m 22s ago
Position: 4° 53' 26" N, 0° 19' 52" E
Speed: 11.4 kts
Heading: 338°
Course: 349.3°
MMSI: 627067000
IMO Number: 8124412
Flag: Ghana
Call Sign: 9GJE
Vessel Type: 30-Fishing
Length: 55 m
Beam: 10 m
Draft: — m
Navigation Status: 15-NotDefined
Destination: —
ETA: —

History Trail
DR Vector
Vessel Details
Add Vessel to List

POSITION OF ATTACK

MIN 37 DISTANCE

POSITION OF DISEMBARKATION

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS BY GHANA AIR FORCE



DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Update on kidnapping onboard ATLANTIC PRINCESS.

ITS RIZZO at about 1318 UTC indicated that a suspected pirate skiff boat with suspected hostages onboard has been sighted at position 04 22N 004 15E approximately 127nm SSE of Lagos making a speed of 18 knots and on course 080. Weapons have also been reportedly sighted onboard.

Suspected pirate skiff currently being pursued by ITS RIZZO. The Nigerian authorities were informed however the pirate skiff boat managed to safely reach GBENTU village around Niger Delta before the Nigerian Navy could intercept them.

AERIAL PICTURES OF SUSPECTED PIRATES SKIFF TAKEN BY ITS RIZZO



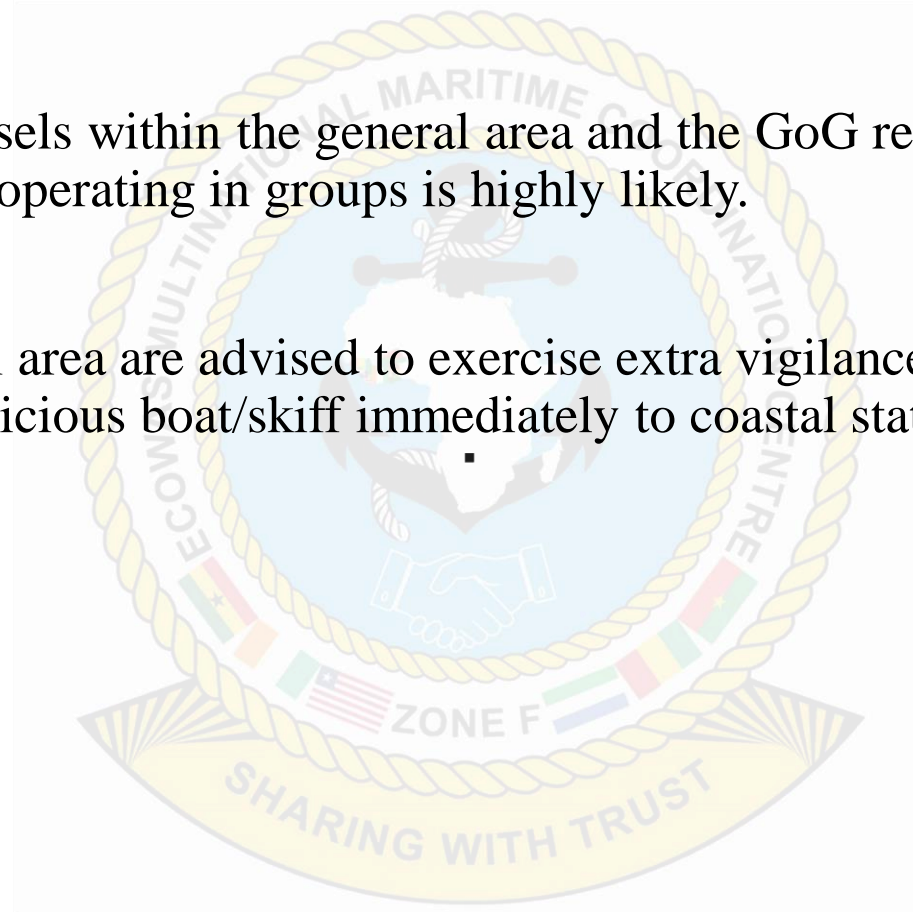
DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Movement trail of pirate skiff boat



GENERAL COMMENTS/ADVISORIES

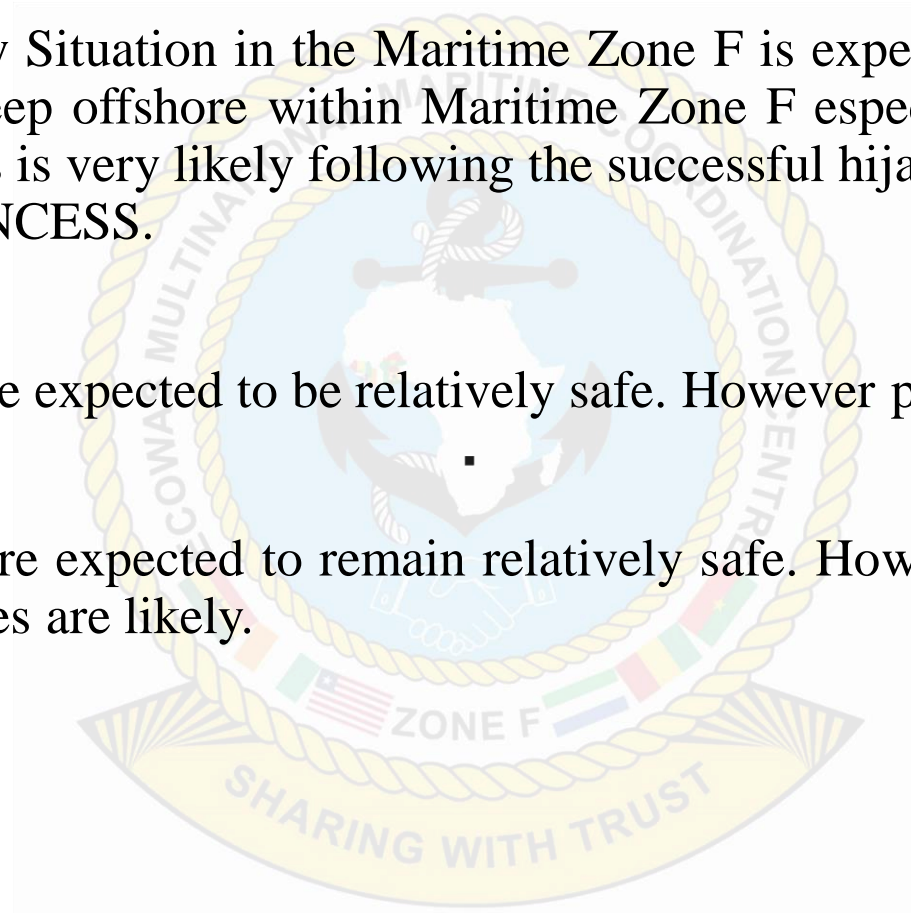
- There was a general time lapse between the time of attack on ATLANTIC PRINCESS and time of reporting. This has greatly affected the response efforts of the coastal states and the Yaounde Architecture. Vessels are advised to report incidents promptly for effective coordination and response.
- The threat of attacks against vessels within the general area and the GoG remains high. The use of suspected mothership or pirates operating in groups is highly likely.
- All vessels transiting the general area are advised to exercise extra vigilance and preparedness to hardened their vessels and report any suspicious boat/skiff immediately to coastal states for prompt response.



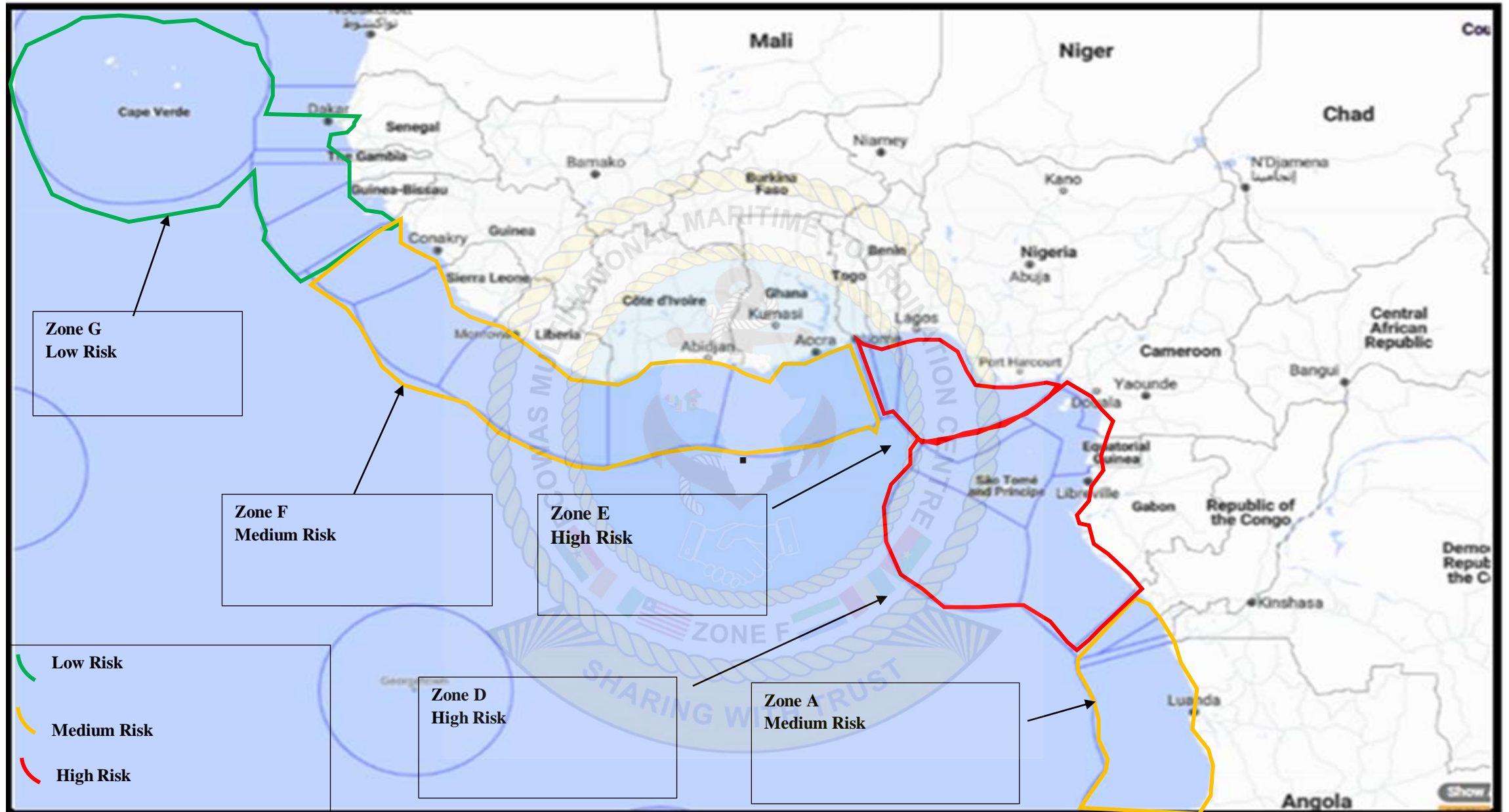
FORECAST FOR THE COMING WEEK

FORECAST

- General Maritime Security Situation in the Maritime Zone F is expected to remain relatively safe. Attacks against vessels deep offshore within Maritime Zone F especially within Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire maritime domains is very likely following the successful hijacking and kidnapping of crew onboard ATLANTIC PRINCESS.
- Maritime Zone E and D are expected to be relatively safe. However pirate attacks is more likely.
- Maritime Zone A and G are expected to remain relatively safe. However petty theft and robberies within ports and anchorages are likely.



MARITIME RISK AREAS



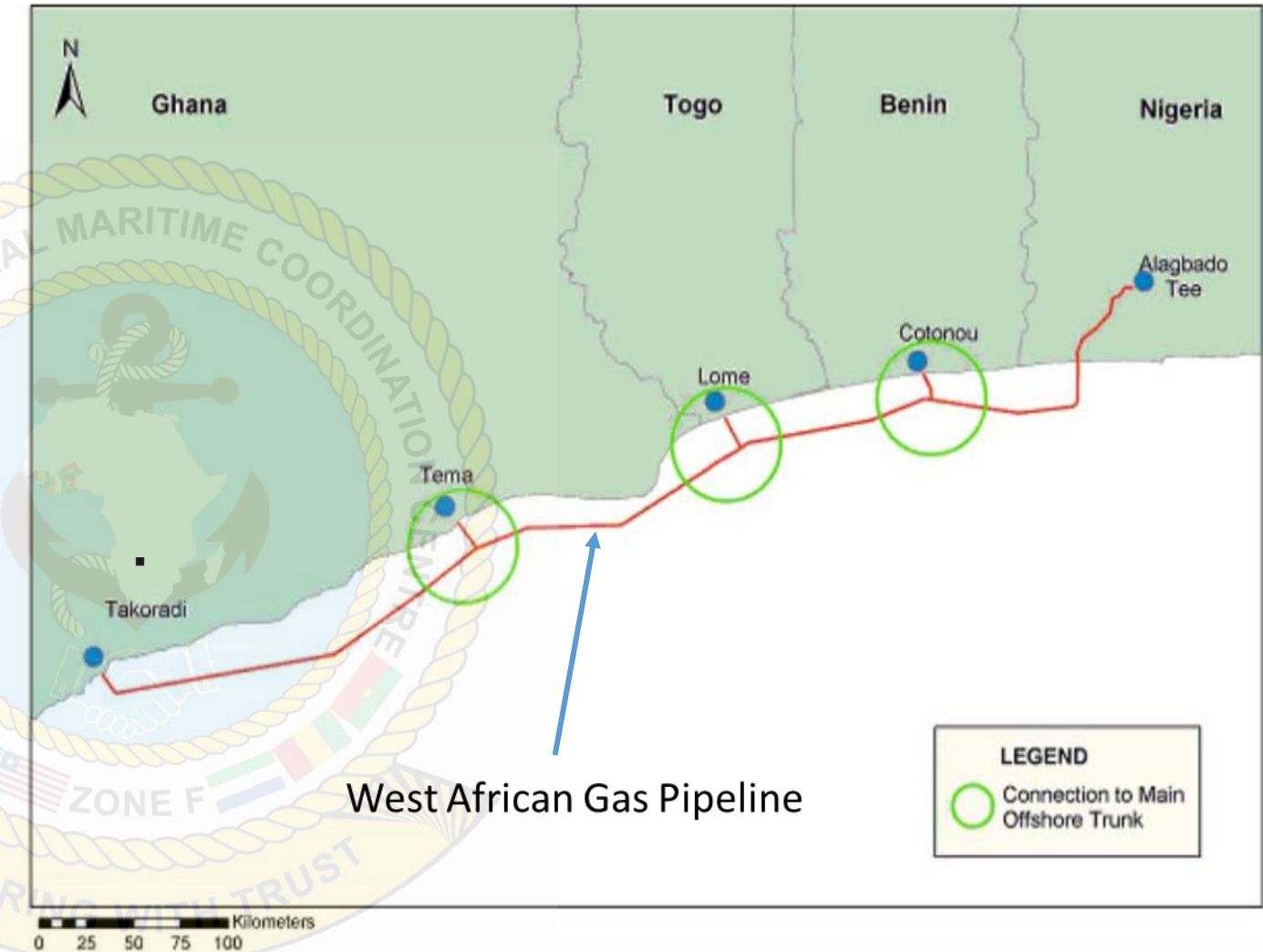
NOTICES

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.

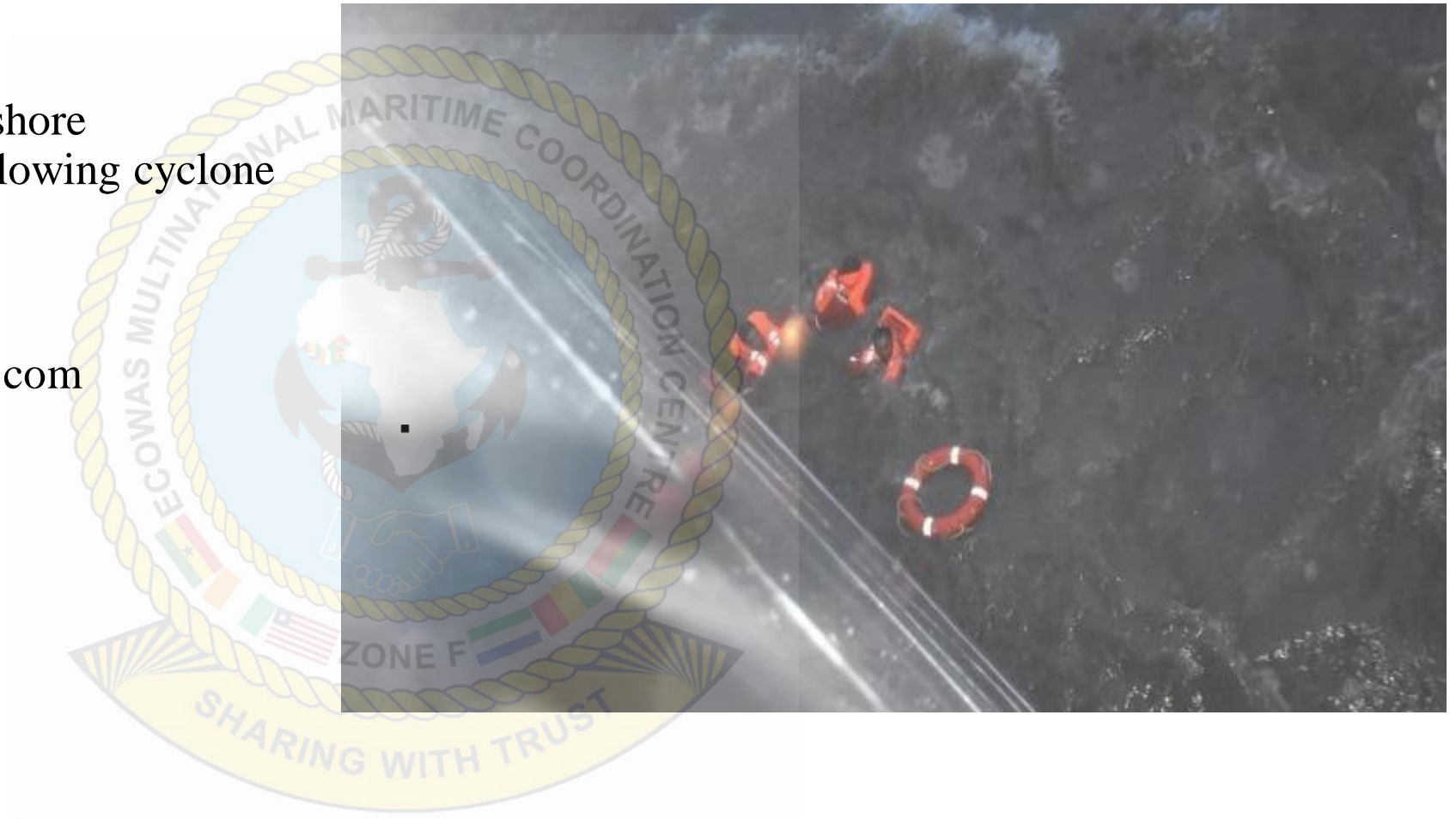


MARITIME INFORMATION OF INTEREST

EXPANSION OPERATION

- 26 dead, 49 missing in Indian offshore accommodation barge sinking following cyclone Taukte.
- <https://www.maritime-executive.com>

SUNKEN ACCOMMODATIONS BARGE P305



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