

ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT

28 MAY – 03 JUN 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.

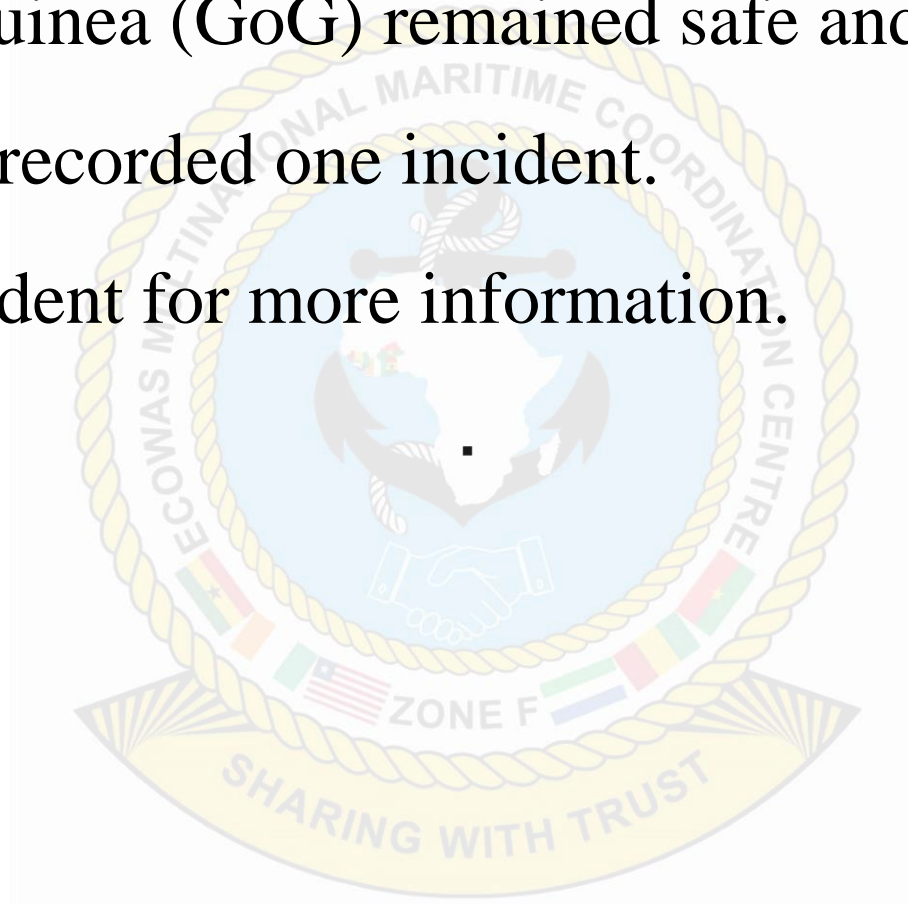
- **OTHER MARITIME INCIDENTS.**

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 E recorded one incident.
- See details of incident 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						

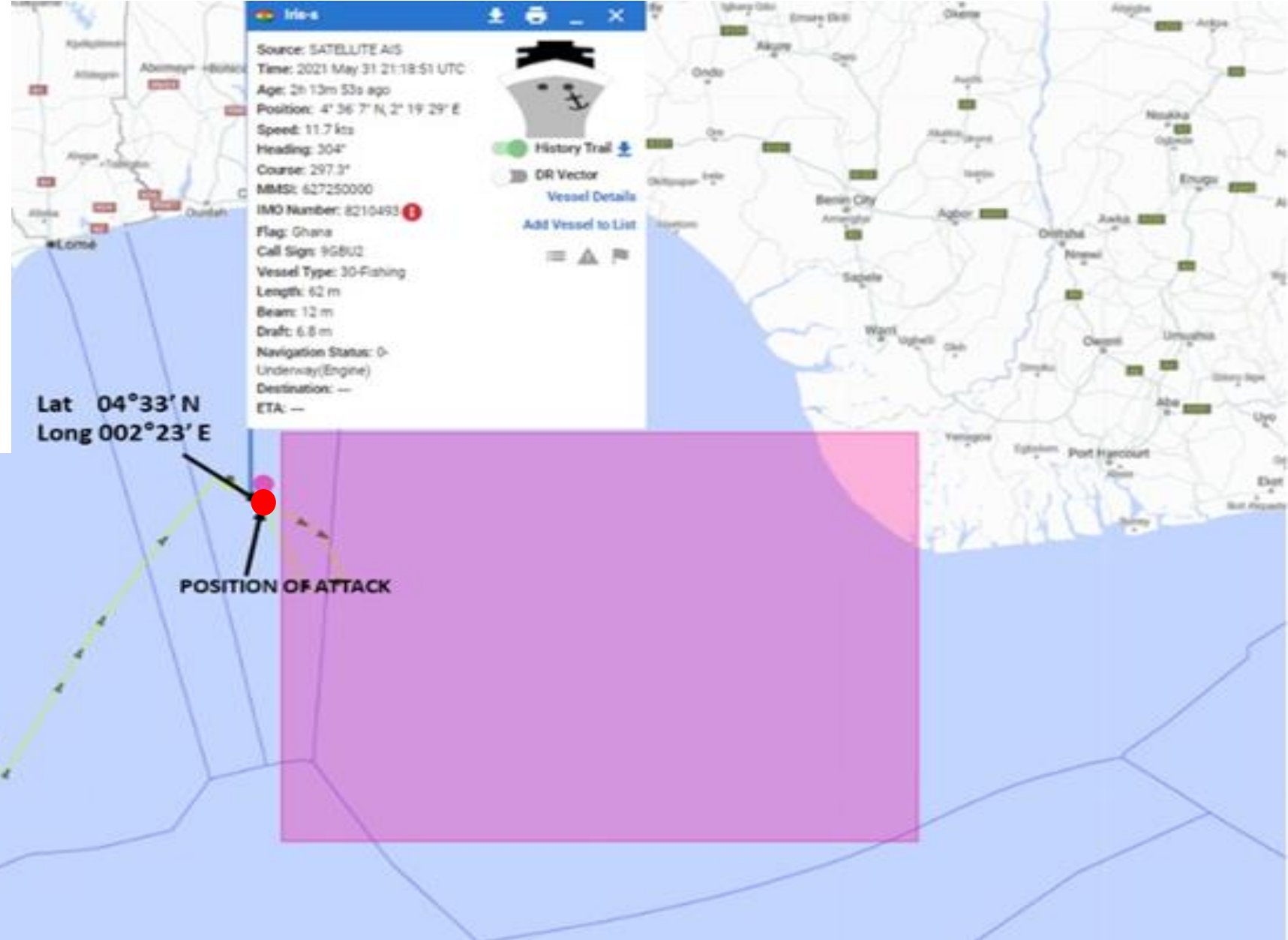
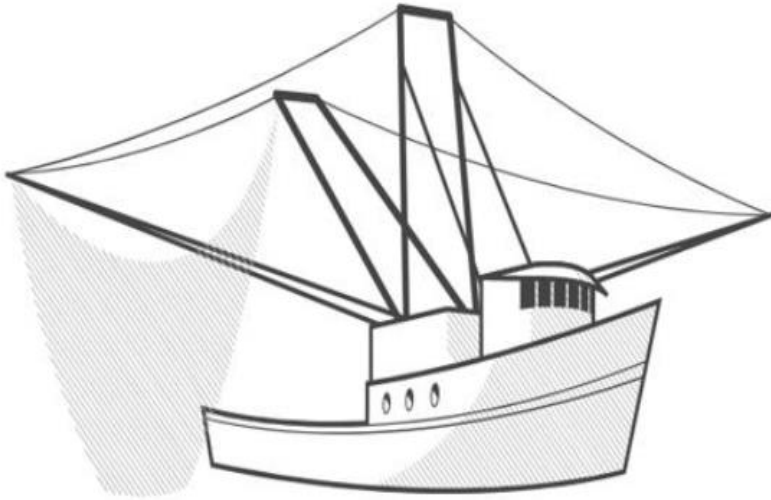
DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Kidnapping – Cotonou, Benin Republic.

The Ghanaian registered purse seine Tuna-fishing vessel IRIS-S (IMO: 8210493) was attacked at position 04 33.8N, 002 23.2 E approximately 104NM south of Cotonou, Benin Republic on 31 May 2021 at about 1930 UTC. The vessel has been conducting fishing activities in Ghanaian waters since leaving Tema harbor on 26 May 2021 and crossed into Benin waters on 30 May 2021 at about 0430 UTC since she has license to conduct fishing activities within Benin maritime domain.

According to the report, the crew reported sighting a suspected vessel at the horizon about an hour before the attack but could not ascertain whether the two skiffs were launched from the vessel. Moments later, the vessel was swiftly approached by two pirate skiff boats forcing it to stop. Seven pirates all armed with weapons boarded the vessel. The pirates rummaged the vessel and took away crew personal belongings, valuables and kidnapped 5 crew members comprising of four Koreans and one Filipino. The remaining 31 crew members were reported to be safe. The vessel was later escorted to Tema Port by the Ghana Navy for further investigations.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



VESSEL DETAILS

IMO: 8210493

MMSI: 627250000

FLAG: GHANA

LENGTH/BREADTH: 132.2 x 15.87M

NO HISTORY OF ATTACK

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Increased Piracy Threat in Maritime Zone E.

Information available indicated a possible increase in piracy attacks against vessels in the coming days within the general area demarcated below.

05°00'N – 002°30'E

05°00'N – 005°00'E

02°30'N – 005°00'E

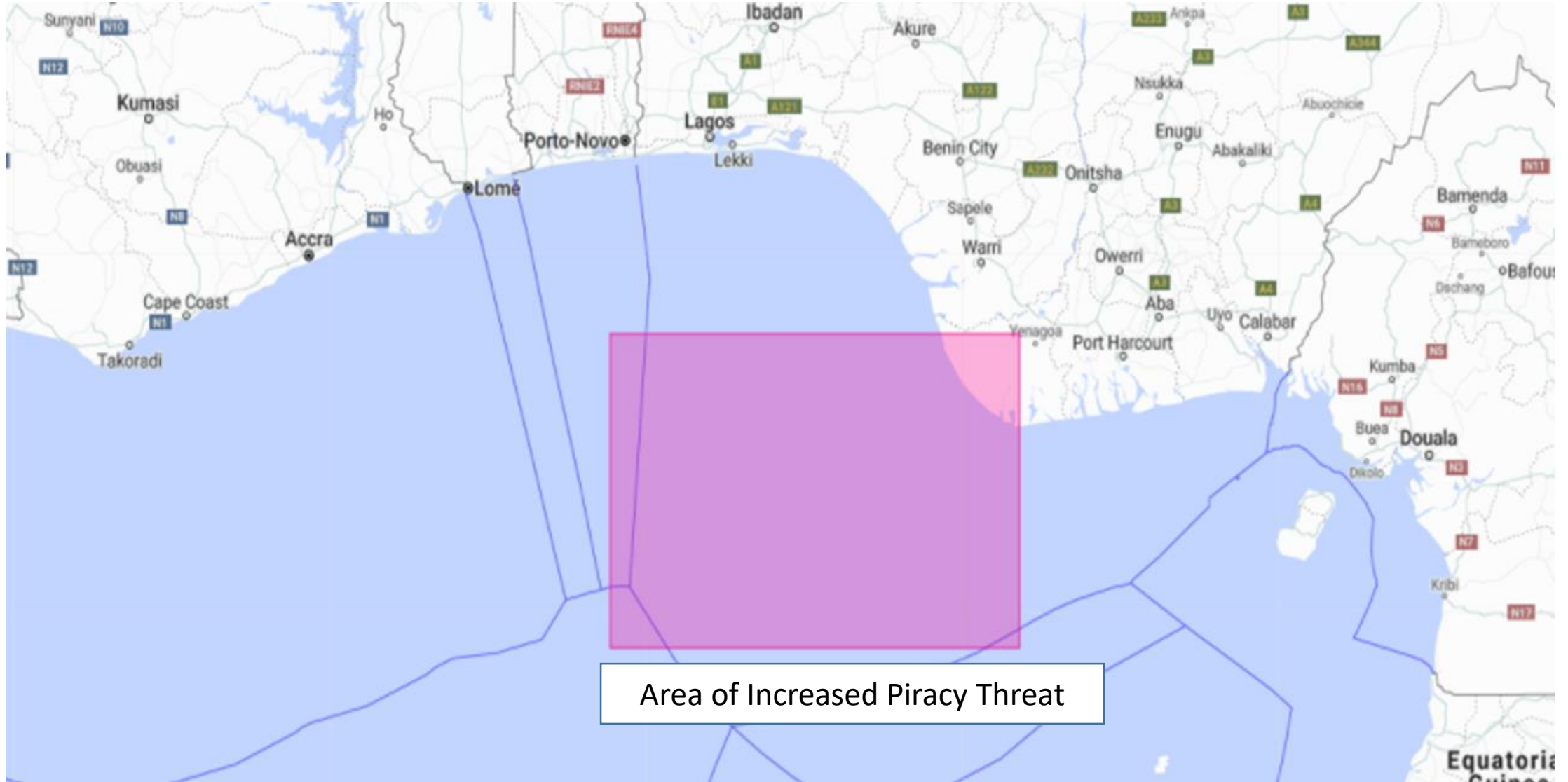
02°30'N – 002°30'E

The general area is about 41136 square miles covering parts of Nigeria and the eastern maritime area of Benin.

The general area has so far recorded five maritime incidents in 2021 with 4 offshore incidents. The offshore incidents include one kidnapping onboard DAVIDE B, two suspicious approaches against MT ROSA and MAERSK CARDIFF and one boarding incident against BOURBON EVOLUTION 802.

The general area also covers the pirates emergency escape route to Gbentu village when under pursuit as witnessed by the two pirate skiffs that escaped when pursued by ITS RIZZO following the attack on MT ROSA and MV ATLANTIC PRINCESS.

DEMARCARATED AREA OF INCREASED THREAT



DETAILS OF INCIDENT

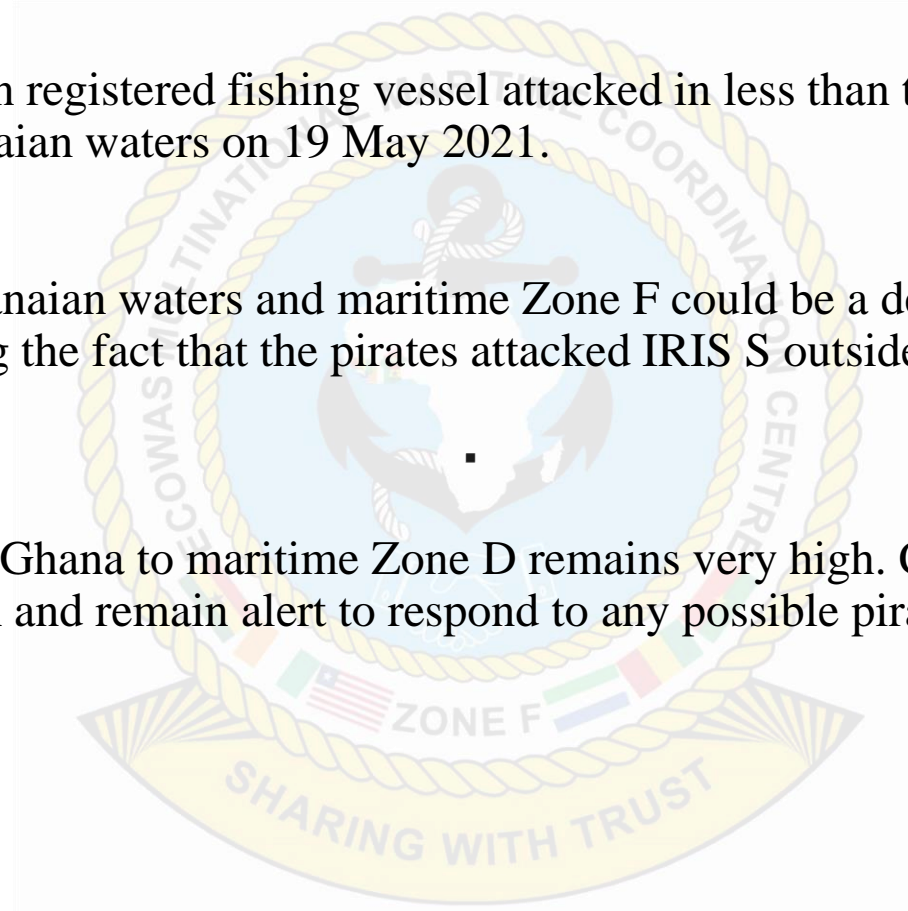
Increased threat to shipping in Ghanaian waters.

Information received from reliable sources indicates that a Pirate Action Group (PAG) left Nigeria heading towards Ghanaian waters to attack vessels especially fishing vessels. The PAG reportedly left the Gbentu village area, Bayelsa State, Niger Delta region. The pirates were expected to attack vessels on 2 June 2021 at about 1600 hours onwards.

The threat of pirate attacks remains high although no attack was recorded according to the intelligence available.

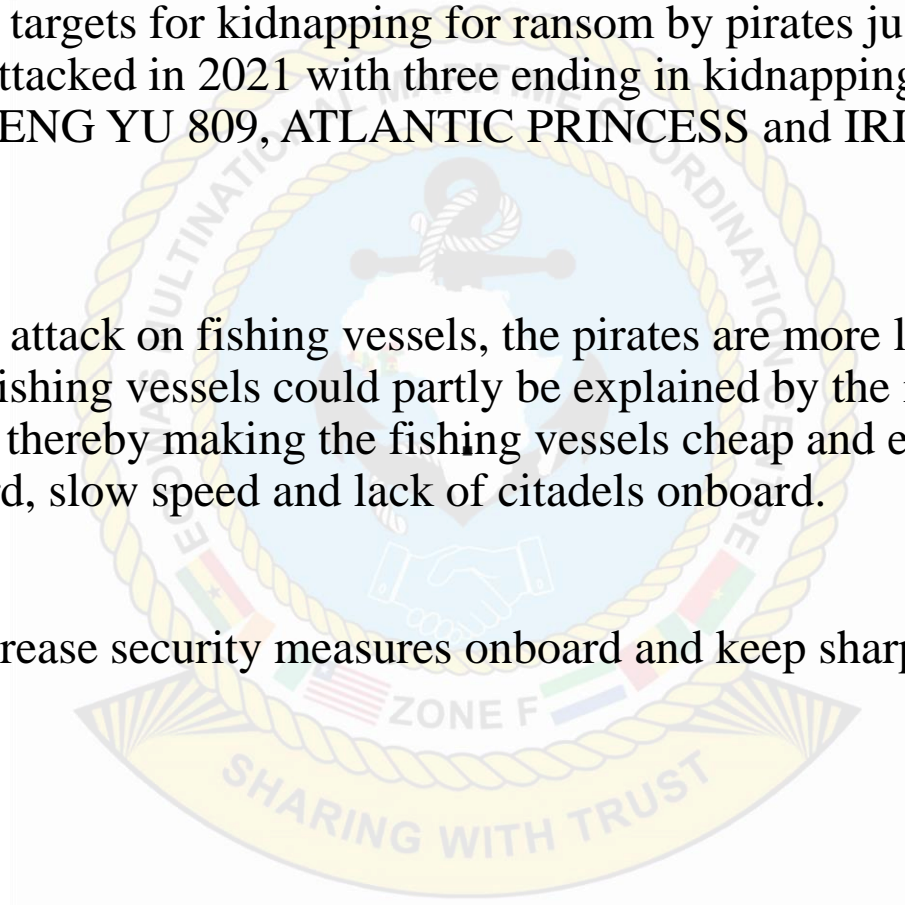
GENERAL COMMENTS/ADVISORIES

- The position of latest attack is about 5nm westward of the western boundary of the area demarcated for a potential increase in piracy attacks against vessels in the coming days.
- The attack is the second Ghanaian registered fishing vessel attacked in less than two weeks following the attack on ATLANTIC PRINCESS in Ghanaian waters on 19 May 2021.
- The inaction of the pirates in Ghanaian waters and maritime Zone F could be a decoy by the pirates to attack in other areas. This is more so considering the fact that the pirates attacked IRIS S outside the demarcated area of increased piracy threat.
- The threat of piracy attacks from Ghana to maritime Zone D remains very high. Coastal states are encourage to increase patrols within their AOR and remain alert to respond to any possible pirate attacks.



GENERAL COMMENTS/ADVISORIES

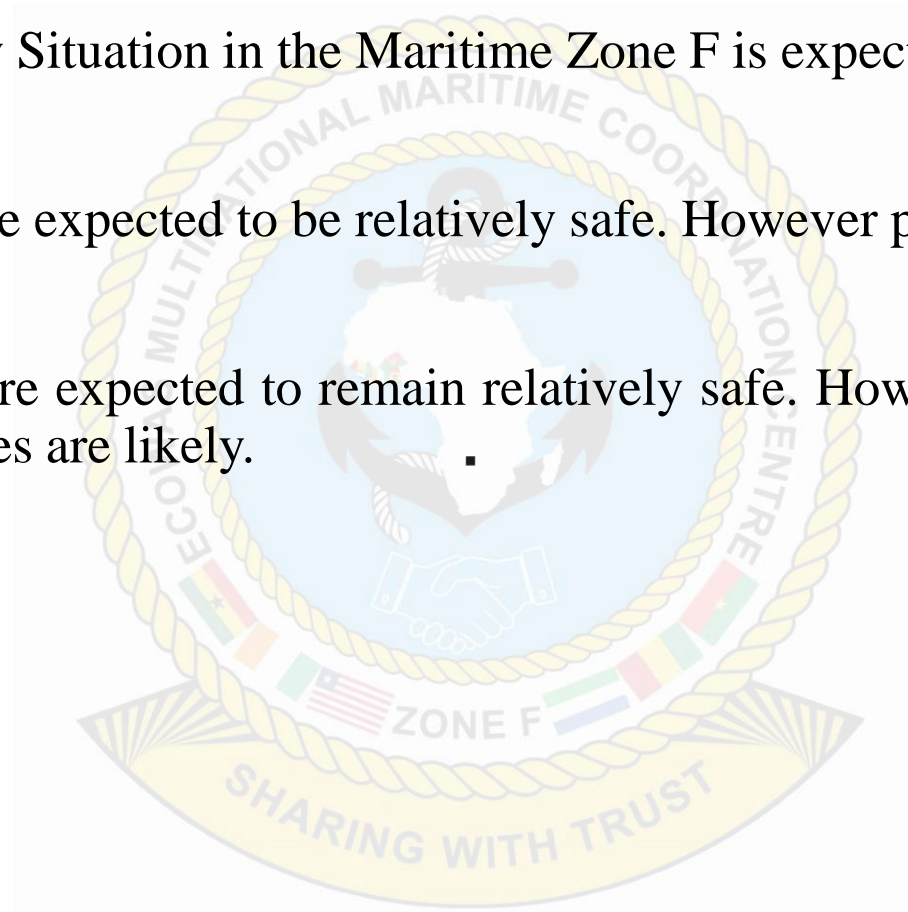
- All vessels transiting the GoG especially from Maritime Zones F to D are advised to be extra vigilant, maintain sharp anti-piracy lookout especially and report any suspicious activities to the necessary authorities.
- Fishing vessels have become real targets for kidnapping for ransom by pirates just like cargo and tanker vessels. Four fishing vessels have so far been attacked in 2021 with three ending in kidnapping. A total of 20 crew members have so far been kidnapped from LIAN PENG YU 809, ATLANTIC PRINCESS and IRIS S as compared to 14 crew members kidnapped the whole of 2020.
- Considering the recent success in attack on fishing vessels, the pirates are more likely to continue to target the fishing fleet. The increased targeting of fishing vessels could partly be explained by the relatively improved security measures onboard cargo and tanker vessels thereby making the fishing vessels cheap and easy alternatives due to their peculiar vulnerabilities such low free board, slow speed and lack of citadels onboard.
- Fishing vessels are advised to increase security measures onboard and keep sharp lookout to help reduce the risk of attacks and kidnapping.



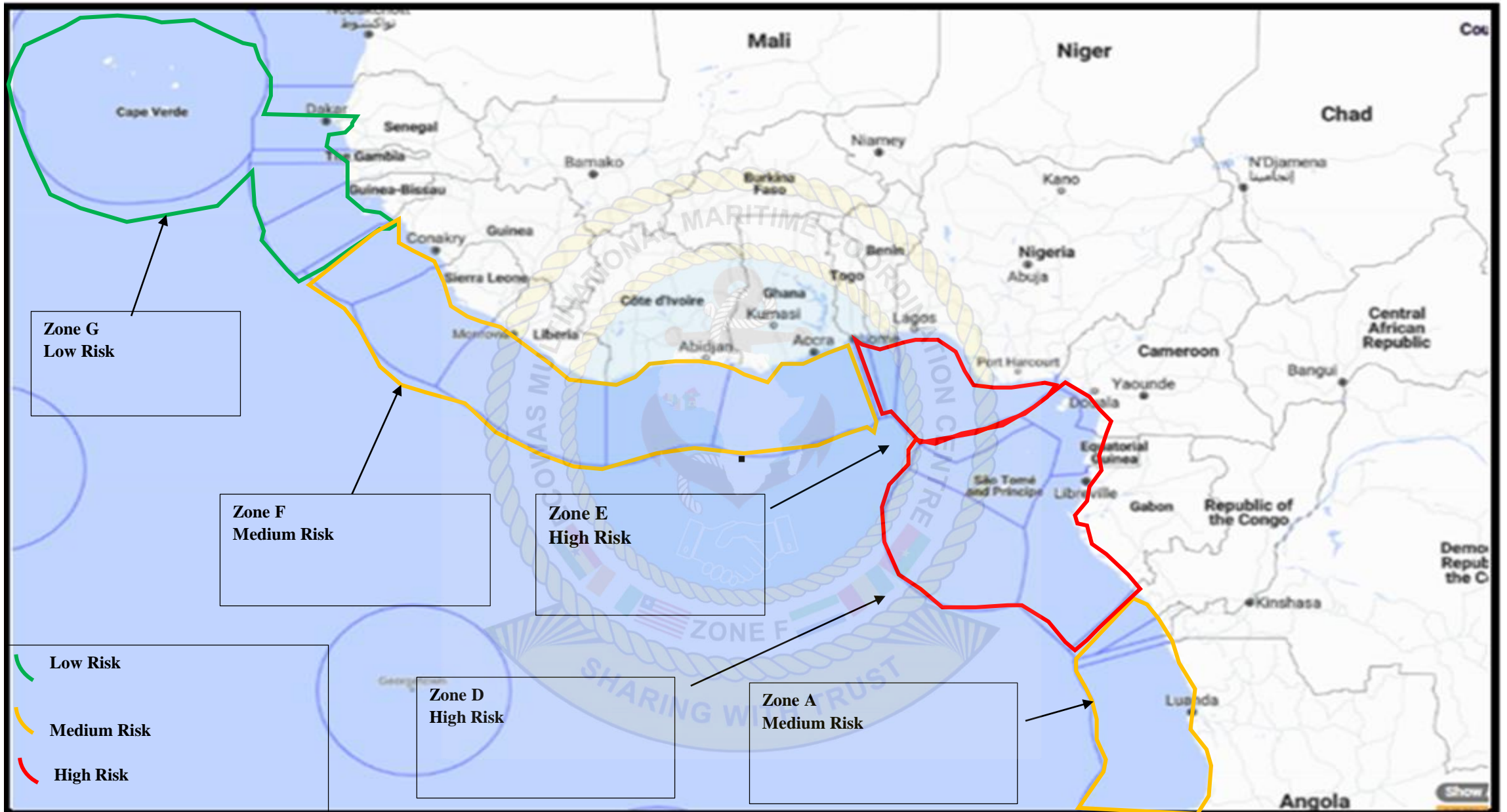
FORECAST FOR THE COMING WEEK

FORECAST

- General Maritime Security Situation in the Maritime Zone F is expected to remain incident free.
- 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



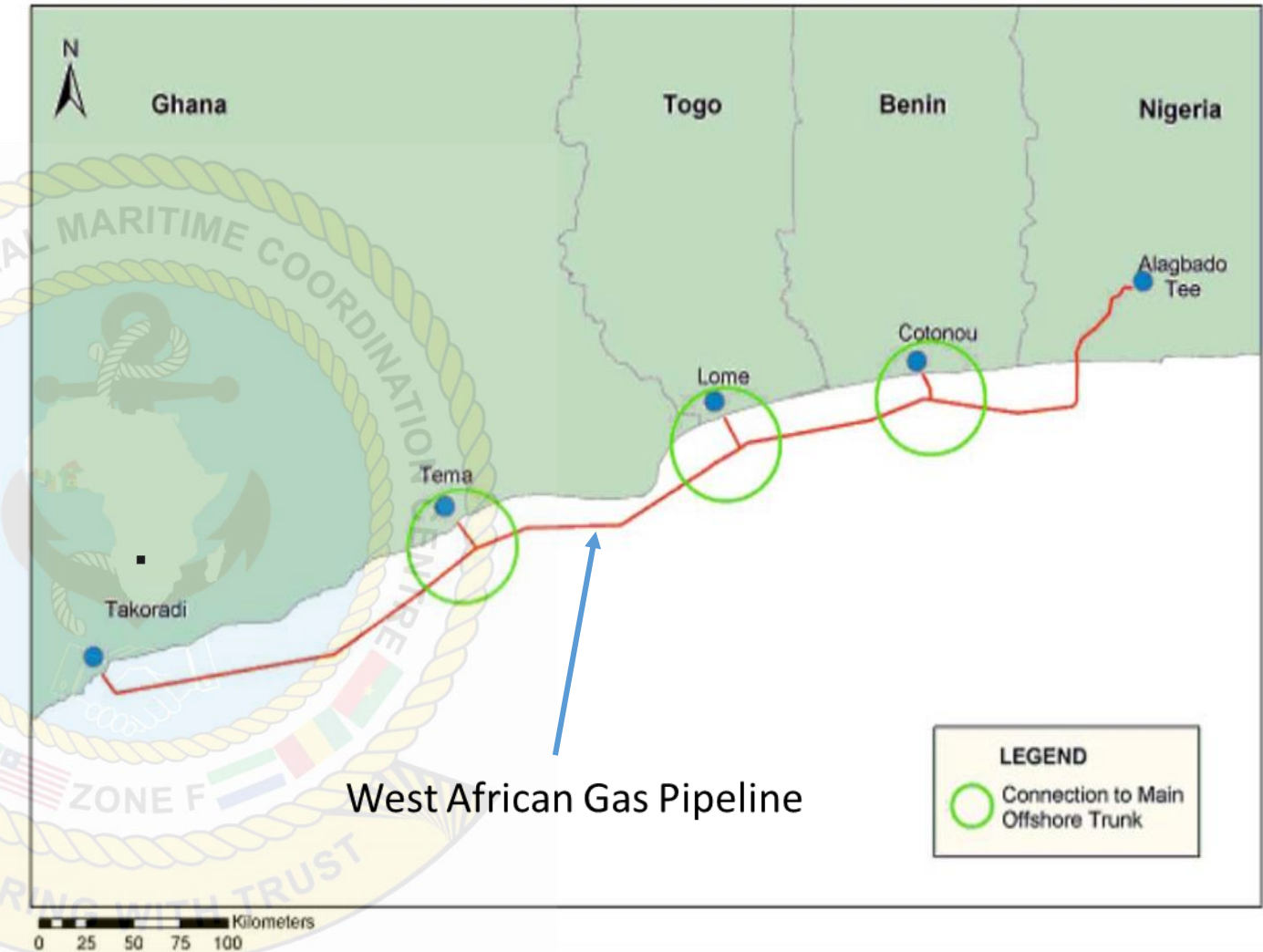
NOTICES

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.

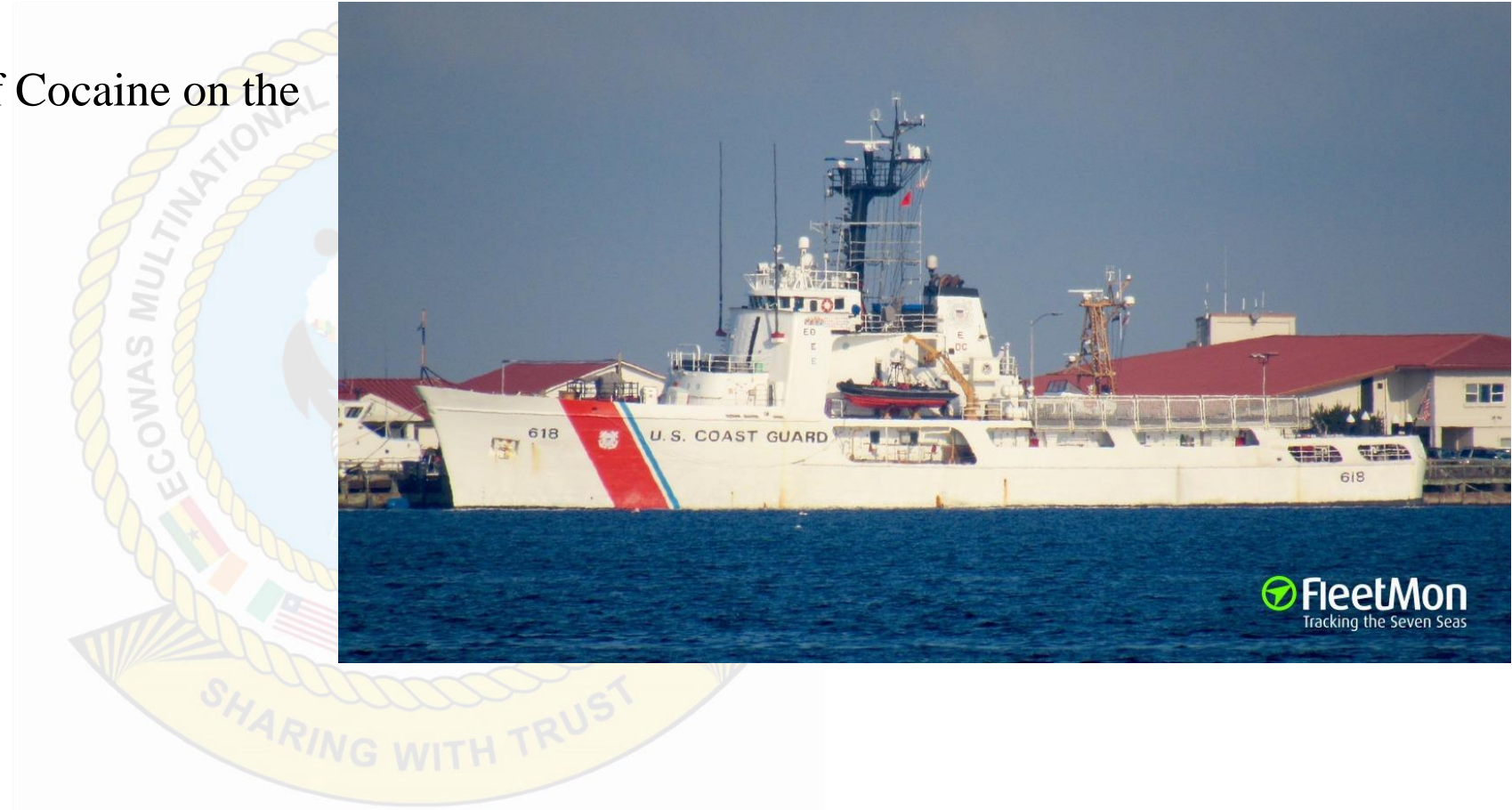


MARITIME INFORMATION OF INTEREST

DRUG TRAFFICKING

- US Coast Guard Seizes \$107M of Cocaine on the High Seas.
- <https://www.fleetmon.com>

U.S COAST GUARD



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