

ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT

02 JUL – 08 JUL 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.

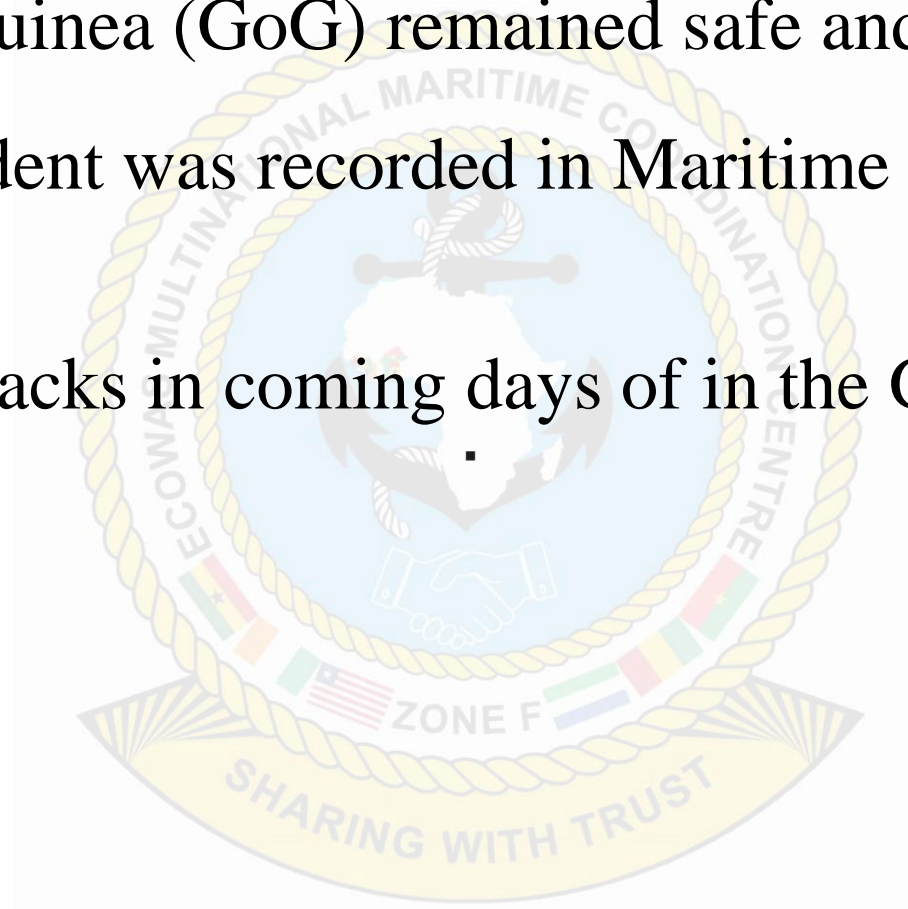
- **OTHER MARITIME INCIDENTS.**

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.
- No maritime incident was recorded in Maritime Zone F within the week.
- Possible pirate attacks in coming days of in the GoG.



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					
	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

SUSPECTED VESSEL MT RESTORER II ARRESTED BY GHANA NAVY

The Centre received information on 1 July 2021 at about 2100 UTC indicating a suspicious looking tanker vessel MT RESTORER II (IMO: 7533630) has been sighted about 75nm southeast of Tema, Ghana. Preliminary checks indicated that a similar vessel was reportedly within the general area during the attack on the FV ATLANTIC PRINCESS on 19 May 2021.

The history trail of the vessel indicated the vessel departed Port Harcourt, Nigeria on 19 June 2021 and entered Ghana's EEZ on 30 June 2021 at about 1855 hours.

Given the report from the crew of ATLANTIC PRINCESS that a rusty looking mini tanker was sighted few hours prior to her attack, the Centre immediately shared the information with Ghana Navy, which dispatched a patrol vessel to the general area.

The vessel was sighted, boarded and interrogated. The Ghana Navy later arrested and escorted the vessel to Tema Port, Ghana on 3 July 2021.

IMAGES OF MT RESTORER II



DETAILS OF INCIDENT

INCREASED THREAT TO SHIPPING WITHIN NIGERIAN MARITIME DOMAIN

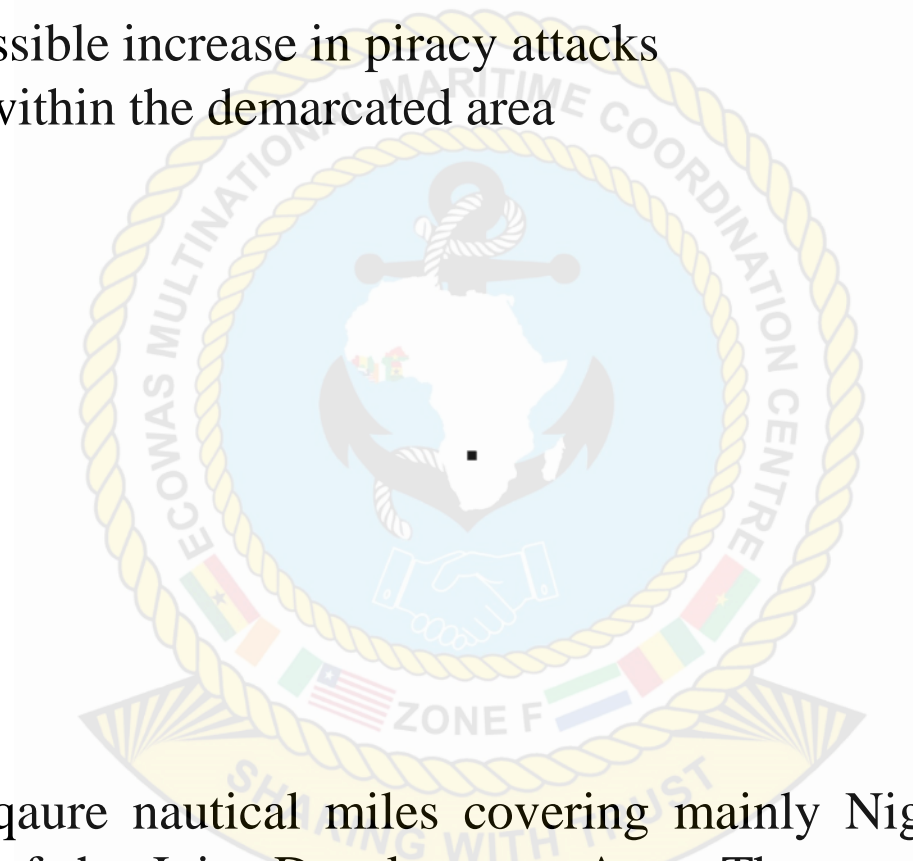
Information received indicates a possible increase in piracy attacks against vessels in the coming days within the demarcated area

Coordinates:

- A) 023000N 0073000E
- B) 023000N 0023000E
- C) 050000N 0023000E
- D) 050044N 0051317E
- E) 042059N 0060326E
- F) 043532N 0072606E

COMMENTS

The general area is over 45000 square nautical miles covering mainly Nigerian maritime domain, the eastern maritime area of Benin and parts of the Joint Development Area. The general area has so far recorded over 8 incidents including the kidnapping of 15 crew onboard DAVIDE B on 11 March 2021 beyond the EEZ south of Cotonou, Benin.



GENERAL AREA OF POSSIBLE PIRATE ATTACK



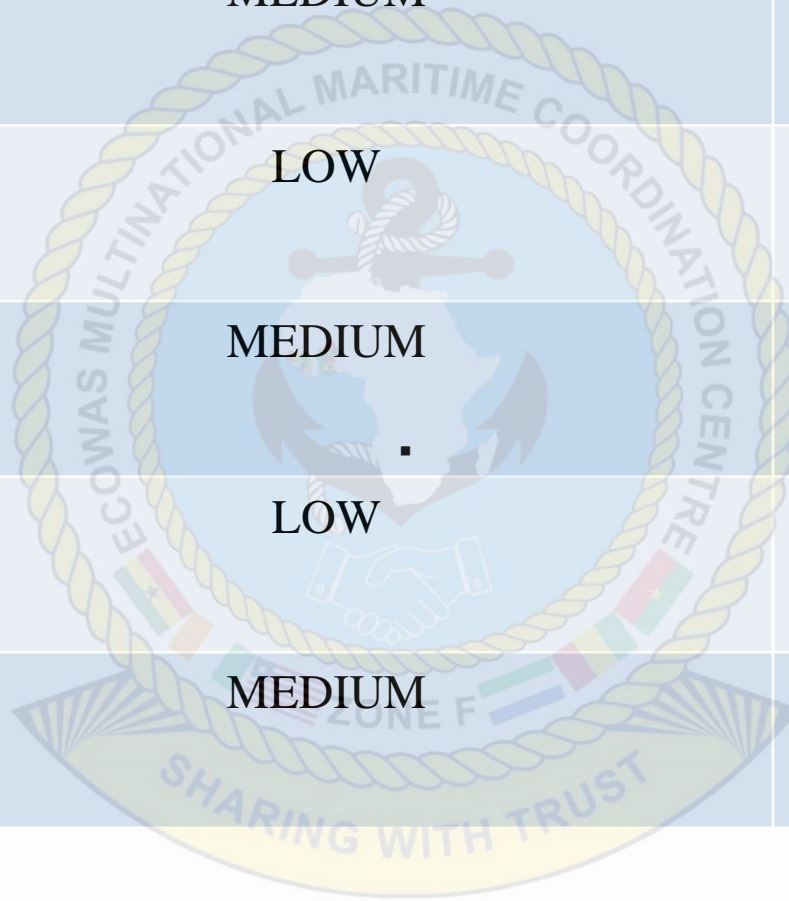
OTHER MARITIME ACTIVITIES – ZONE F

EVENT	DESCRIPTION	ACTIONS TAKEN
IUU FISHING	NTR	NTR
MARITIME POLLUTION	NTR	NTR
ILLEGAL BUNKERING	NTR	NTR
SEARCH AND RESCUE	NTR	NTR
MARITIME ACCIDENT	NTR	NTR
WEAPON/DRUG TRAFFICKING	NTR	NTR



MARITIME RISK ANALYSIS – ZONE F

COUNTRY	PORTS/ANCHORAGE	EEZ
GHANA	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
COTE D'IVOIRE	LOW	LOW
LIBERIA	MEDIUM	LOW
SIERRA LEONE	LOW	LOW
GUINEA	MEDIUM	LOW

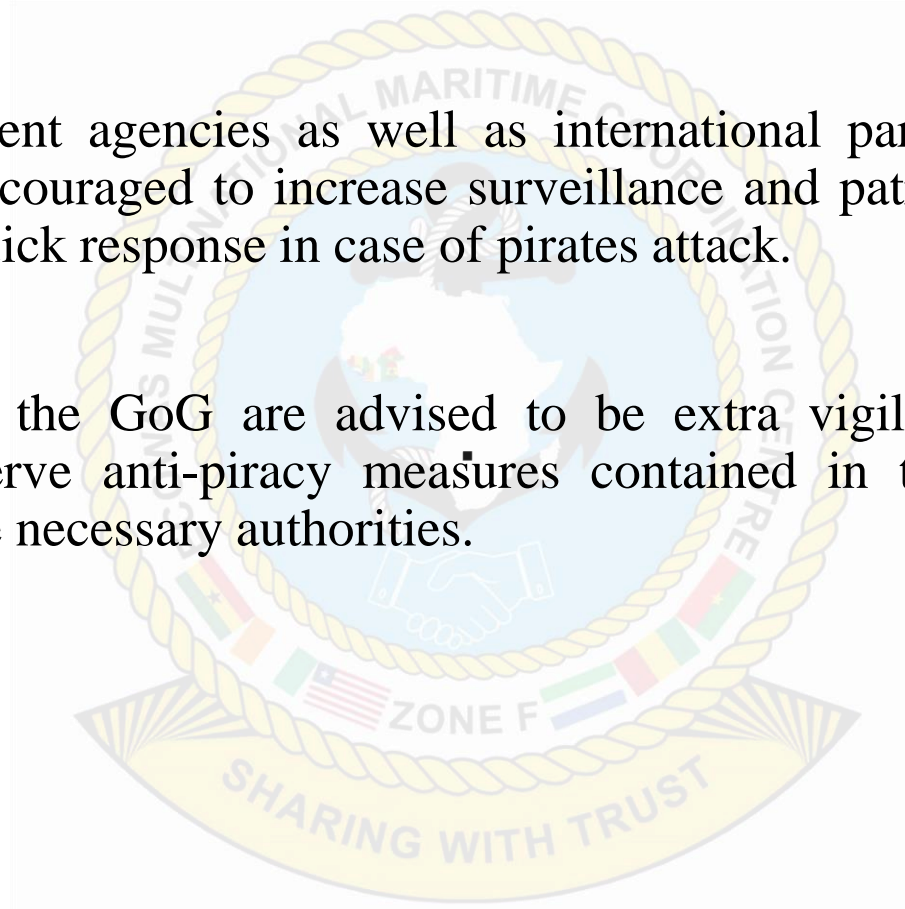


GENERAL COMMENTS/ADVISORIES

- The week has been relatively calm with no incidents recorded. The last incident offshore was attempted
- boarding against CP TIANJIN about 207nm south of Cotonou, Benin on 6 June 2021 at 1700 UTC (25days ago).
- However, the threat of piracy attacks against ships remains high within the GoG given that a deep offshore pirate action group set sail to sea on 27 June 2021 preparing to attack vessels transiting the Region.
- Vessels making arrangements for escort services are advised to ensure proper coordination with coastal authorities to prevent gaps in arrival times which pirates usually exploit to attack vessels.
- The release of the five crew in good health and condition is a welcome news. The crew were in pirate custody for 40 days. This follows the observed trend where kidnapped crew are released between 30 – 40 days duration.

GENERAL COMMENTS/ADVISORIES

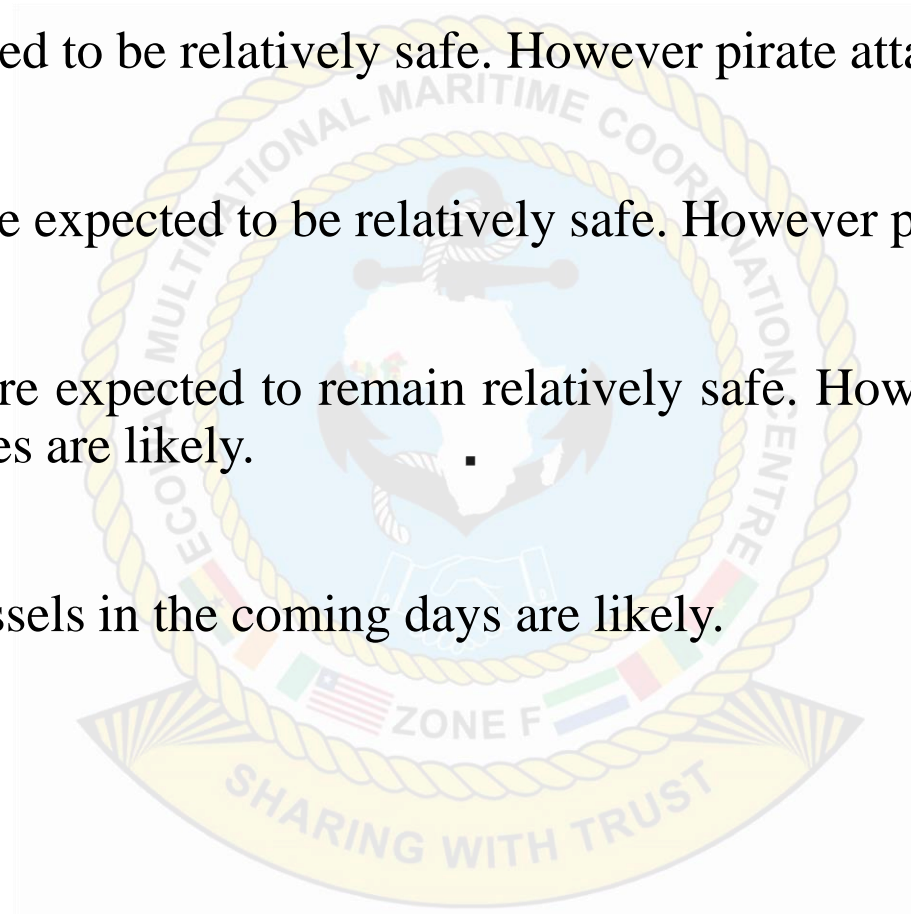
- □ However, with the release of the five crew and leaving only five in pirate's custody, the pirate action groups are likely to carry out more operations in the coming days to kidnap new crew for ransom as indicated in pirate action group that set sail to sea to attack vessels.
- □ Coastal law enforcement agencies as well as international partners (foreign naval vessels operating in GoG) are encouraged to increase surveillance and patrols within the GoG to deter pirate attacks or enable quick response in case of pirates attack.
- □ All vessels transiting the GoG are advised to be extra vigilant, maintain sharp lookout especially at night, observe anti-piracy measures contained in the BMP 5 and report any suspicious activities to the necessary authorities.



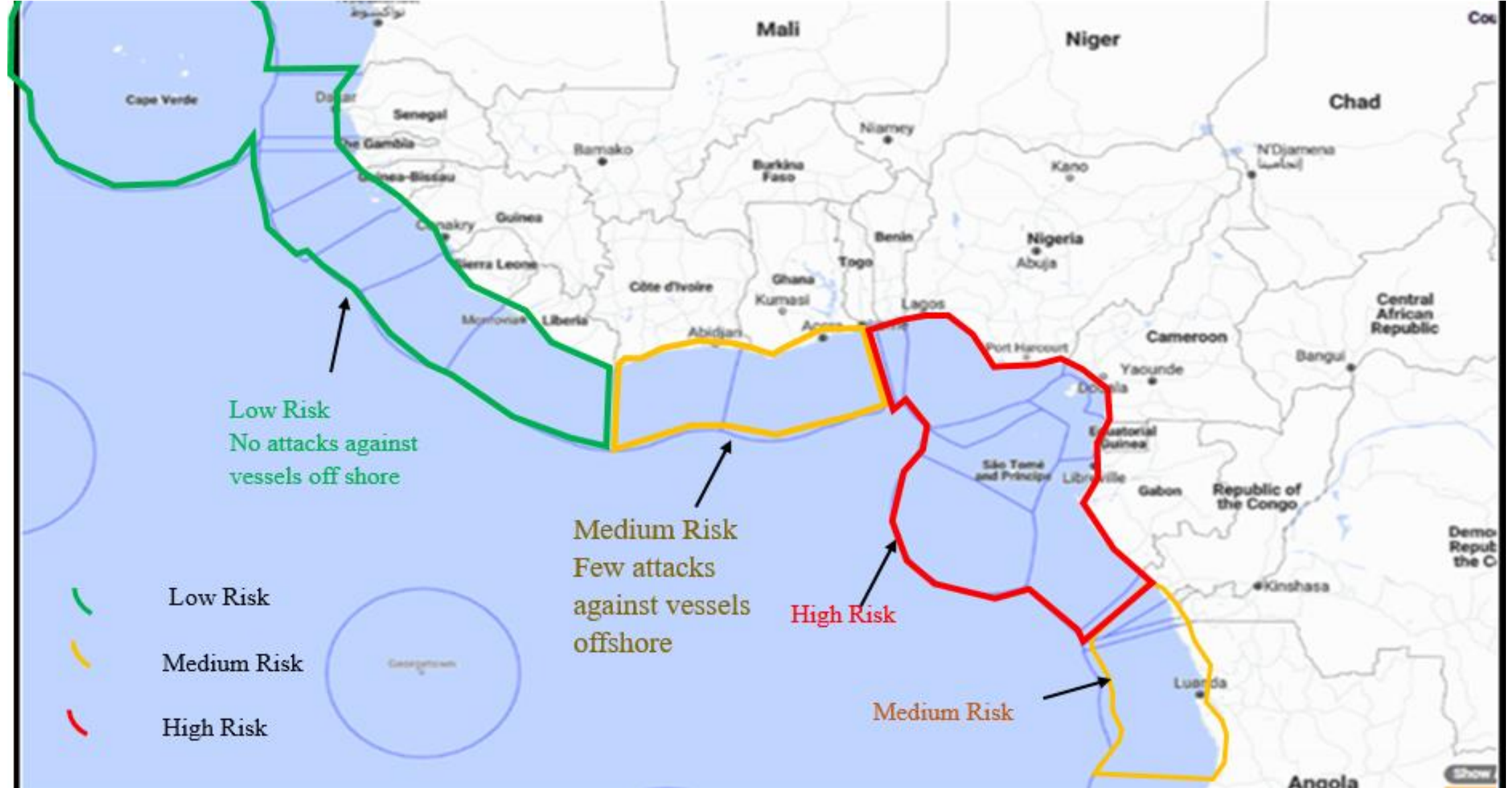
FORECAST FOR THE COMING WEEK

FORECAST

- Maritime Zone F is expected to be relatively safe. However pirate attacks is likely.
- 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.
- Attacks against fishing vessels in the coming days are likely.



MARITIME RISK AREAS



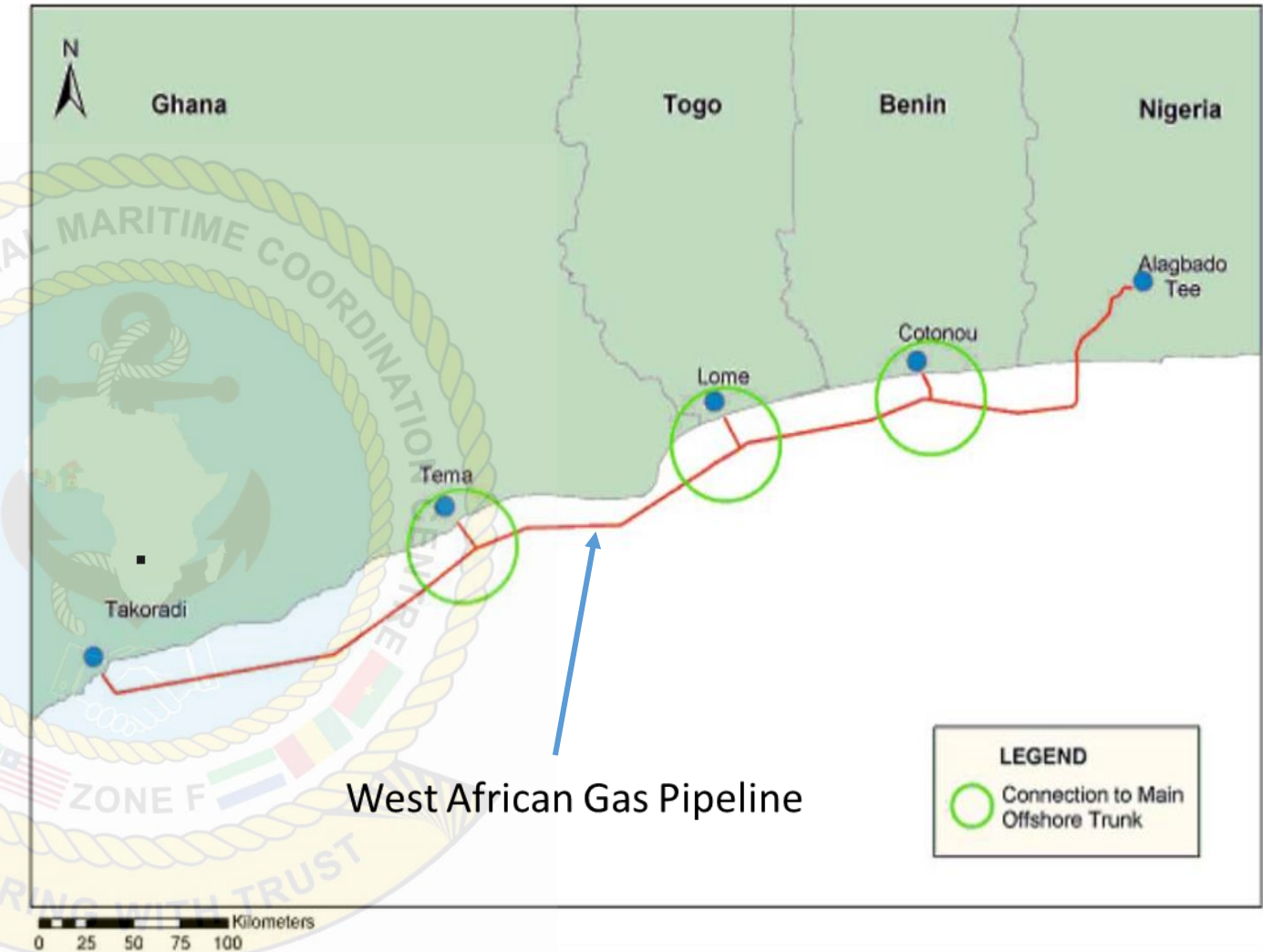
NOTICES

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

FIGHT AGAINST MARITIME CRIME

Nine Pirates Convicted in a First of its Kind Trial in West Africa. a court in the West African country of Togo convicted and sentenced nine individuals to jail for acts of maritime piracy. The group boarded a small tanker, robbed the crew before being apprehended by the Togo Navy on 2019.

Source:<https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/nine-pirates-convicted-in-a-first-of-its-kind-trial-in-west-africa>



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