

ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT

30 JUL – 05 AUG 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.

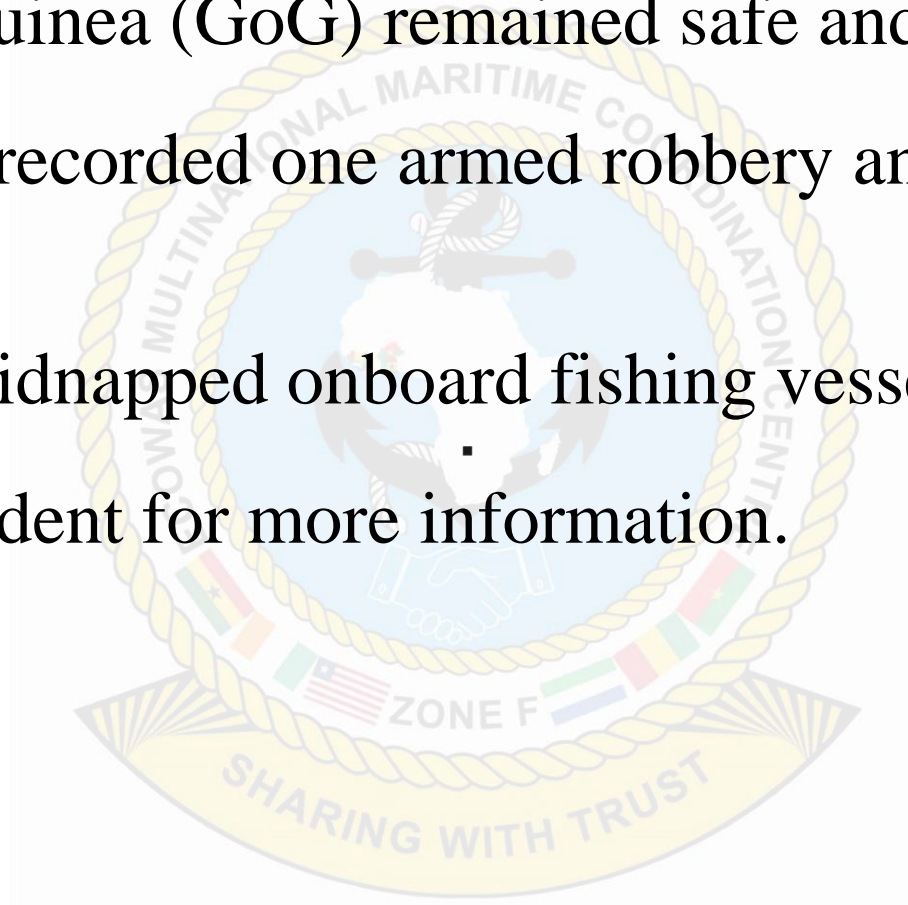
- **OTHER MARITIME INCIDENTS.**

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 armed robbery and allege boarding incident.
- Release of crew kidnapped onboard fishing vessel IRIS S.
- 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					
	Armed Robbery				1	
	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

ARMED ROBBERY – CONAKRY ANCHORAGE, GUINEA.

The Norwegian flag bulk carrier vessel CARMENCITA was attacked at position 09°16.4N – 013°48.7W about 6nm from Conakry anchorage on the 01 August 21 at 0330UTC.

According to the report, four armed perpetrators were observed on the deck. The alarm was raised and non-duty personnel locked their cabins. However, the perpetrators made their way to the bridge, took control of the duty watch and broke into the Master's cabin.

The Master was then forced to open the ship's safe and the perpetrators took their cash. The Master and crew were instructed to move the vessel to an unknown location but the duty crew managed to escape. The Master also faked a heart attack forcing the perpetrators to disembark the vessel with the cash and some equipment.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



VESSEL DETAILS

NAME: CARMENCITA

IMO: 9403176

MMSI: 259741000

FLAG: Norway

LENGTH/BREADTH: 185 / 32 m

Location of incident

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

ALLEGED ATTEMPTED BOARDING –TEMA ANCHORAGE, GHANA .

- The Liberian flag containership MSC TARANTO reported of an attack at the Tema anchorage, Ghana on 31 July 2021 at about 2145 UTC. According to the report, 3 persons attempted to board the vessel whilst at anchor. The crew onboard raised the alarm and used fire hoses to repel the intruders. The report indicated that the port authorities were notified but there was no response. The thieves returned about 90 minutes later but were once again repelled by the crew according to the report.
- Checks from the Port Authorities confirms that a distress call was received from the vessel. However contrary to the report that there was no response, the Port Authorities indicated that a security boat was deployed to the general to offer necessary assistance. The security team on arrival at the area observed a number of local fishing boats within the vicinity of the vessel. The security team sacked the fishing boats from the general area. However, some of them returned to the area more than an hour later after the security team had left. It was also indicated that the vessel had not officially reported any incident to the Port Authorities.

INCIDENT DISPOSITION



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MarineTraffic.com

VESSEL DETAILS

NAME: MSC TARANTO

IMO: 9475258

MMSI: 636092247

FLAG: Liberia

LENGTH/BREADTH: 185 / 32 m



INCIDENT LOCATION

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

RELEASE OF CREW KIDNAPPED ONBOARD FISHING VESSEL IRIS S.

Recall the Ghanaian registered purse seine Tuna-fishing vessel IRIS S (IMO: 8210493) was attacked at approximately 104NM south of Cotonou, Benin Republic with 5 crew members kidnapped on 31 May 2021.

UPDATE

Information received that all 5 kidnapped crew members were released on 01 August 2021 in good health. The crew spent 61 days in pirate captivity.

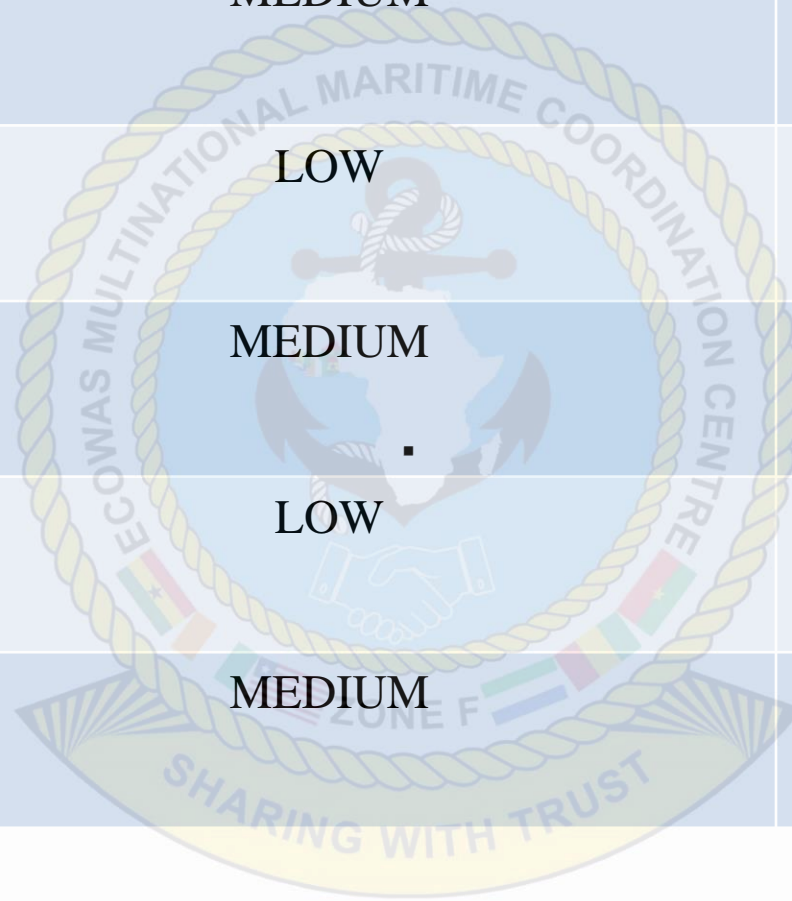
OTHER MARITIME ACTIVITIES – ZONE F

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



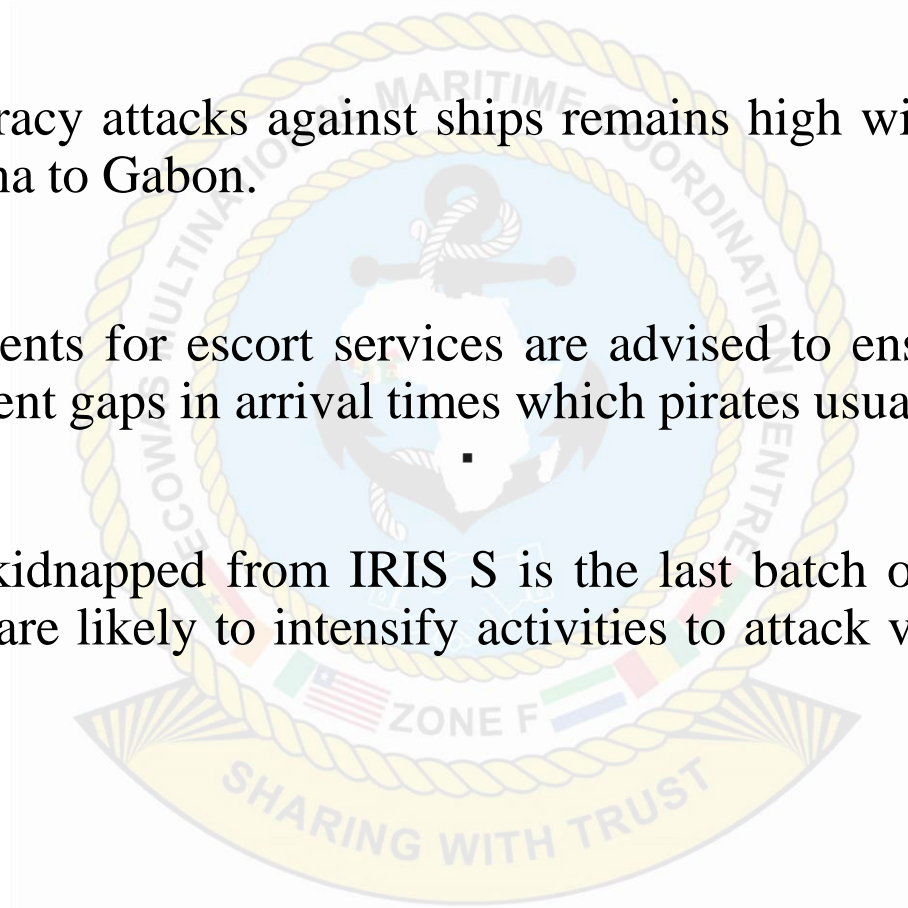
MARITIME RISK ANALYSIS – ZONE F

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



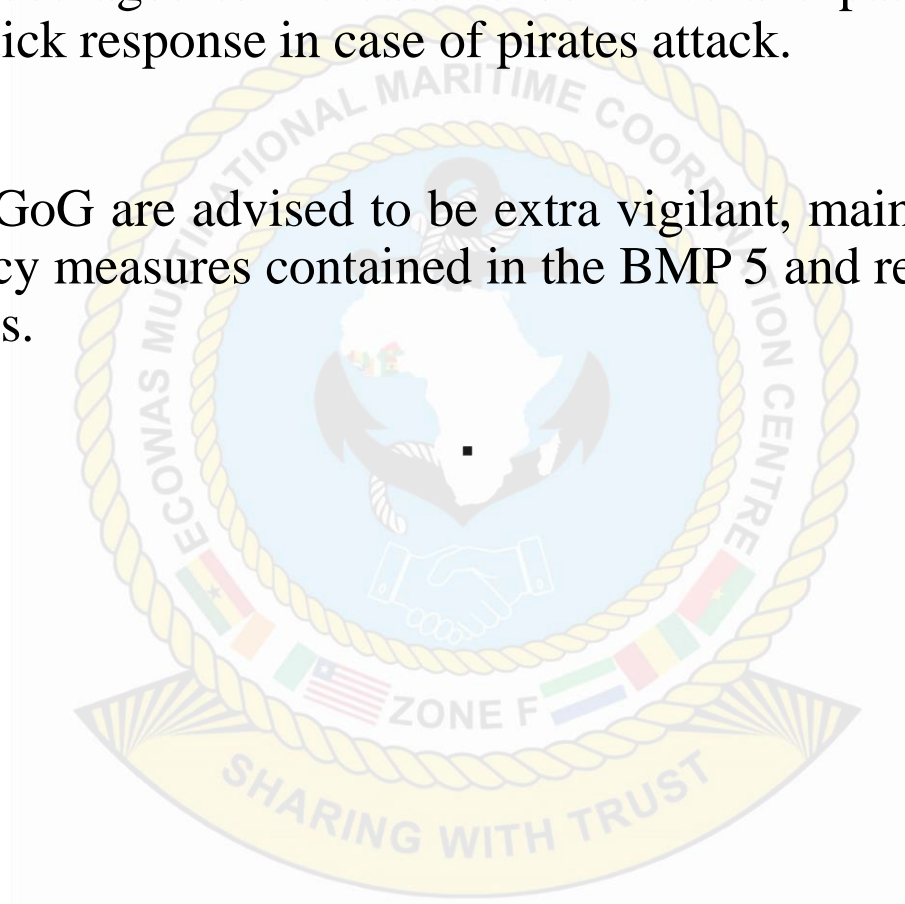
GENERAL COMMENTS/ADVISORIES

- The week has been relatively calm with no offshore incident recorded. The last incident offshore was attempted boarding against CP TIANJIN about 207nm south of Cotonou, Benin on 6 June 2021 at 1700 UTC.
- However, the threat of piracy attacks against ships remains high within the GoG especially from the eastern waters of Ghana to Gabon.
- 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 crew kidnapped from IRIS S is the last batch of crew under pirate captivity. With this release, pirates are likely to intensify activities to attack vessels in order to kidnap new crew.



GENERAL COMMENTS/ADVISORIES

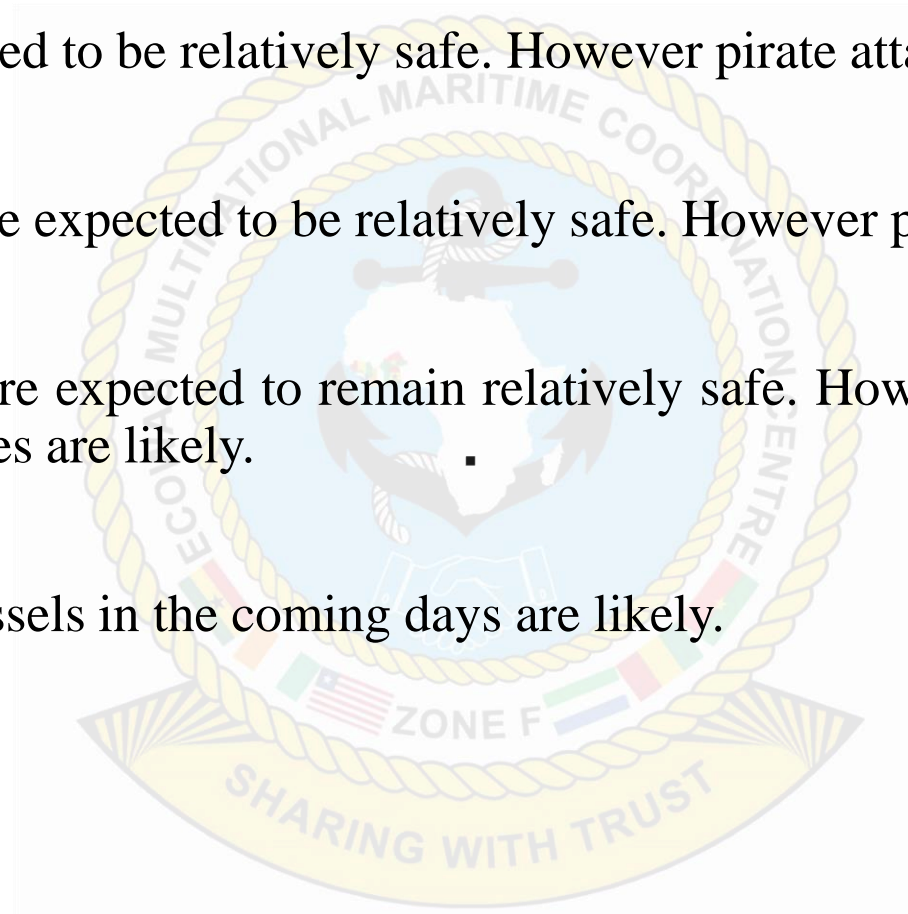
- Coastal law enforcement agencies as well as international partners (foreign naval vessels operating in GoG) are encouraged to increase surveillance and patrols within the GoG to deter pirate attacks or enable quick response in case of pirates attack.
- All vessels transiting the GoG are advised to 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.



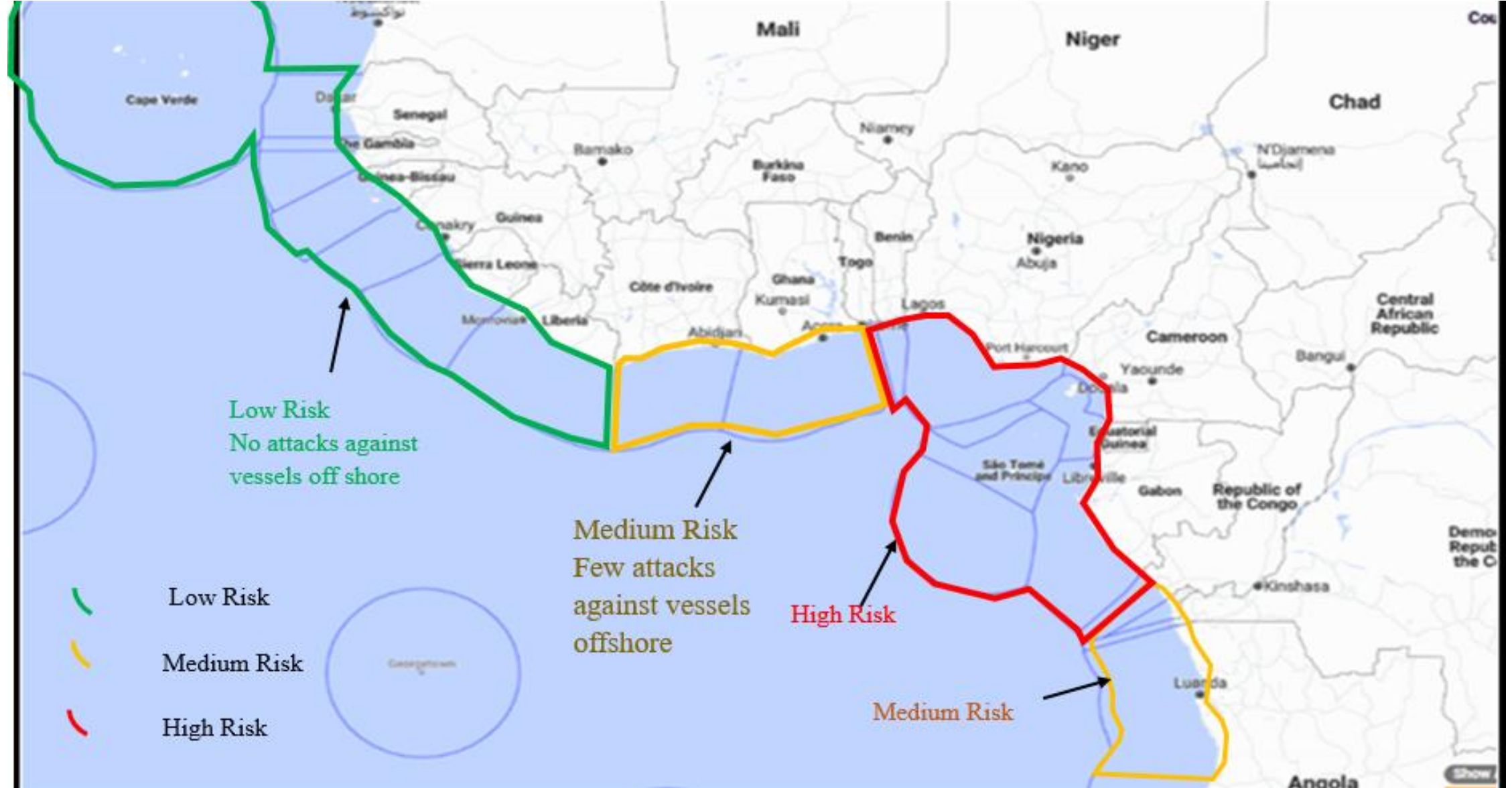
FORECAST FOR THE COMING WEEK

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



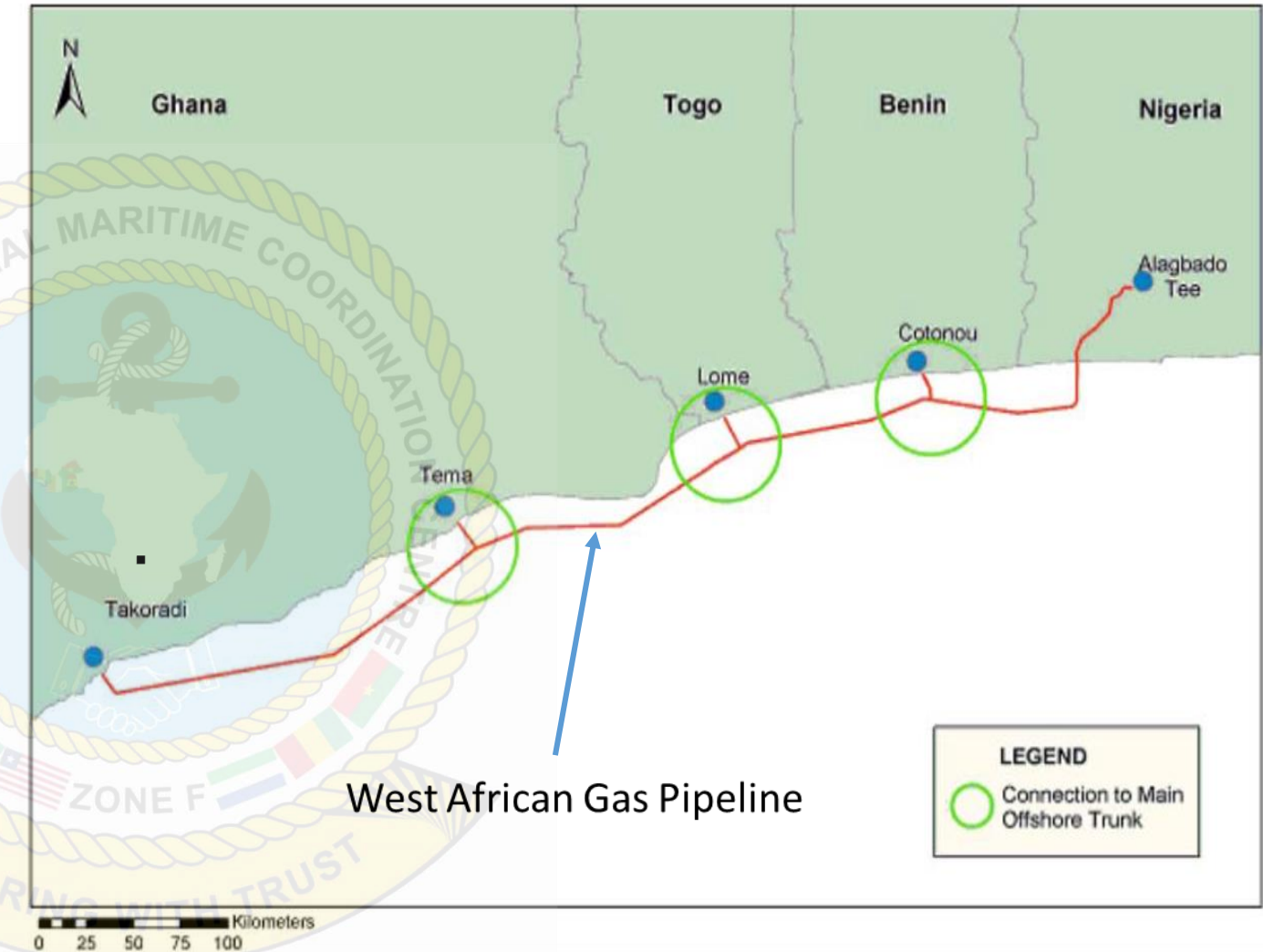
NOTICES

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

- The Nigerian Navy on Wednesday took delivery of 50 assault gunboats and drones to tackle crime and criminality in the nation's territorial waters.
- The platforms and equipment donated by Aiteo Global Group include 21 gunboats, 14 operational patrol boats, seven house boats and four air boats. Others are four high speed interception inshore patrol boats, long range surveillance drones and six high definition cameras.

Source: <https://shippingposition.com.ng/navy-takes-delivery-of-50-gunboats-drones-for-maritime-operations/>



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