

ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE
(MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY
MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT



04 – 10 FEB 2022

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.

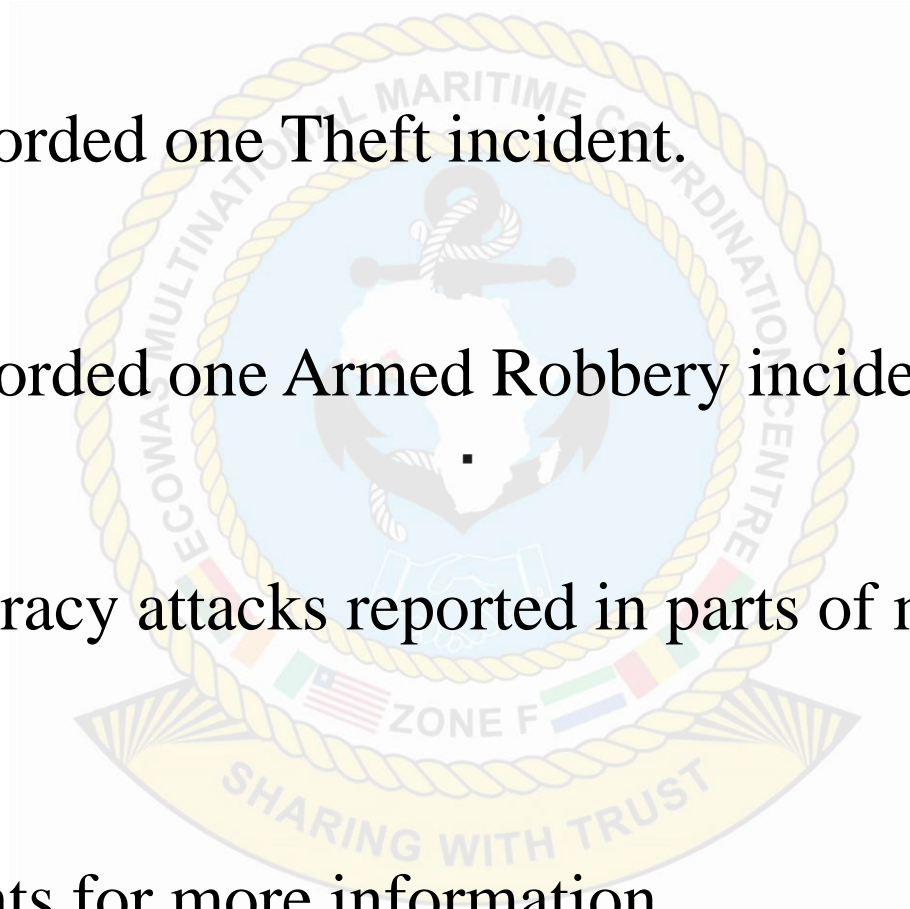
- **OTHER MARITIME INCIDENTS.**

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 Theft incident.
- Maritime Zone E recorded one Armed Robbery incident.
- Increased threat of piracy attacks reported in parts of maritime zone D and zone E.
- See details of incidents for more information.



INCIDENTS RECORDED

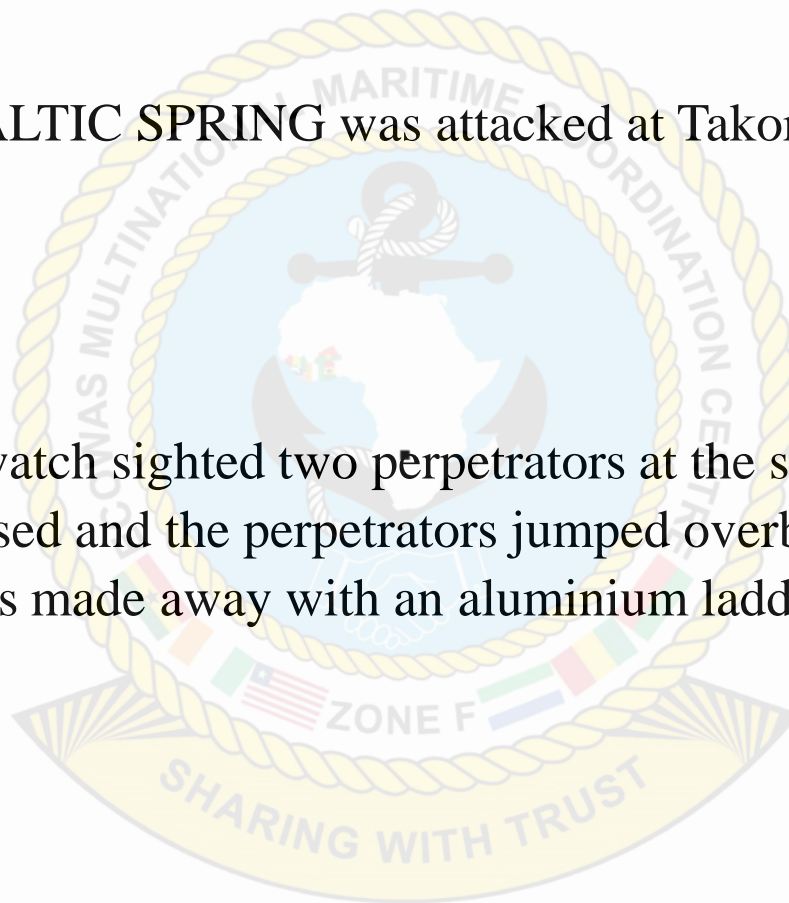
Category	Type of Incidents	No of Incident in Zones				
		A	D	E	F	G
TERRORISM	Terrorism					
PIRACY/ ARMED ROBBERY/KIDNAPPING/HIJACKING/FIRING UPON/THEFT/SUSPICIOUS APPROACH/BOARDING (PAKHFTSB)	Hijacking					
	Kidnapping					
	Armed Robbery			1		
	Fired Upon					
	Robbery/Attempt Robbery					
	Attempt Boarding					
	Boarding					
	Theft				1	
	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					
	Capsizing					
OTHERS						

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

THEFT – TAKORADI ANCHORAGE, GHANA

The Bahamas flag cargo vessel **BALTIC SPRING** was attacked at Takoradi anchorage, Ghana at about 01040 UTC on 09 February 2022.

According to the report, the duty watch sighted two perpetrators at the starboard side of the vessel during routine rounds. The alarm was raised and the perpetrators jumped overboard and fled. Further checks conducted revealed the perpetrators made away with an aluminium ladder and some cables.



LOCATION OF INCIDENT



INCIDENT LOCATION

VESSEL DETAILS
NAME: BALTIC SPRING
IMO: 8909070
MMSI: 311001003
FLAG: BAHAMAS
LENGTH/BREADTH: 156 / 23 m

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

ARMED ROBBERY – BRASS, BAYELSA STATE, NIGERIA

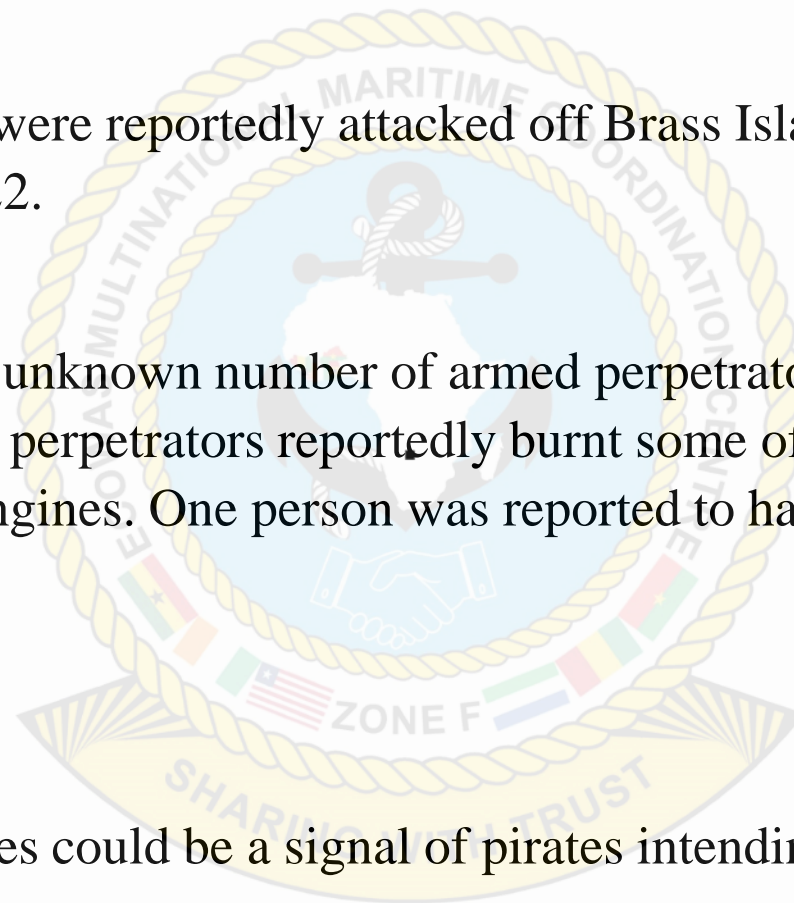
A number of local fishing vessels were reportedly attacked off Brass Island, Bayelsa State, Nigeria at an unknown time on 07 February 2022.

According to a survivor report, an unknown number of armed perpetrators in about five or six speedboats attacked them while fishing. The perpetrators reportedly burnt some of the boats and made away with unspecified number of outboard engines. One person was reported to have been killed while others sustained injuries.

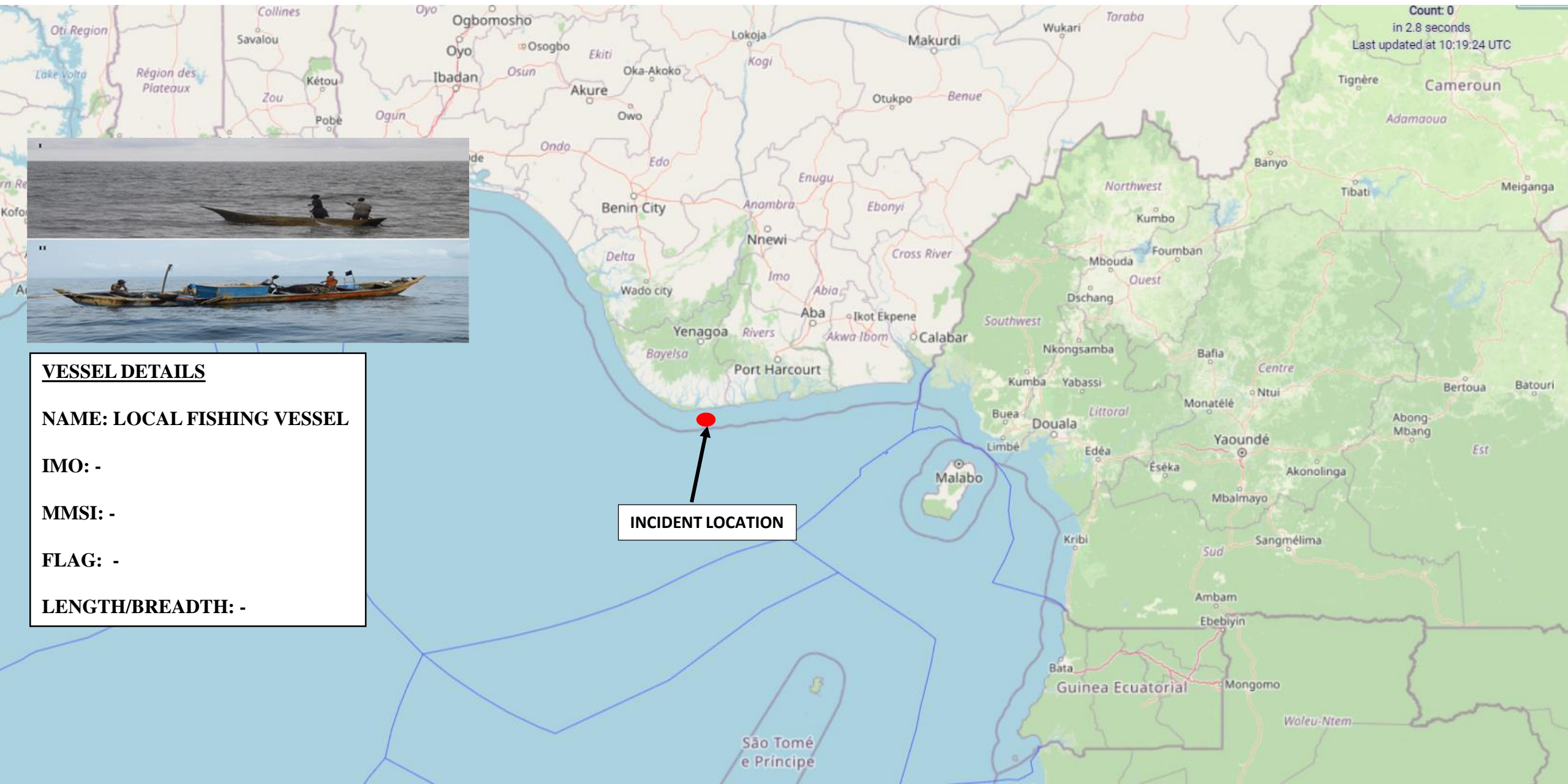
Comments

The seizure of the outboard engines could be a signal of pirates intending to attack vessels offshore in the coming days.

All vessels transiting within the Nigerian EEZ are advised to be extra vigilant especially at night.



LOCATION OF INCIDENT



VESSEL DETAILS

NAME: LOCAL FISHING VESSEL

IMO: -

MMSI: -

FLAG: -

LENGTH/BREADTH: -

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

WARNING/ALERT/ADVISORY

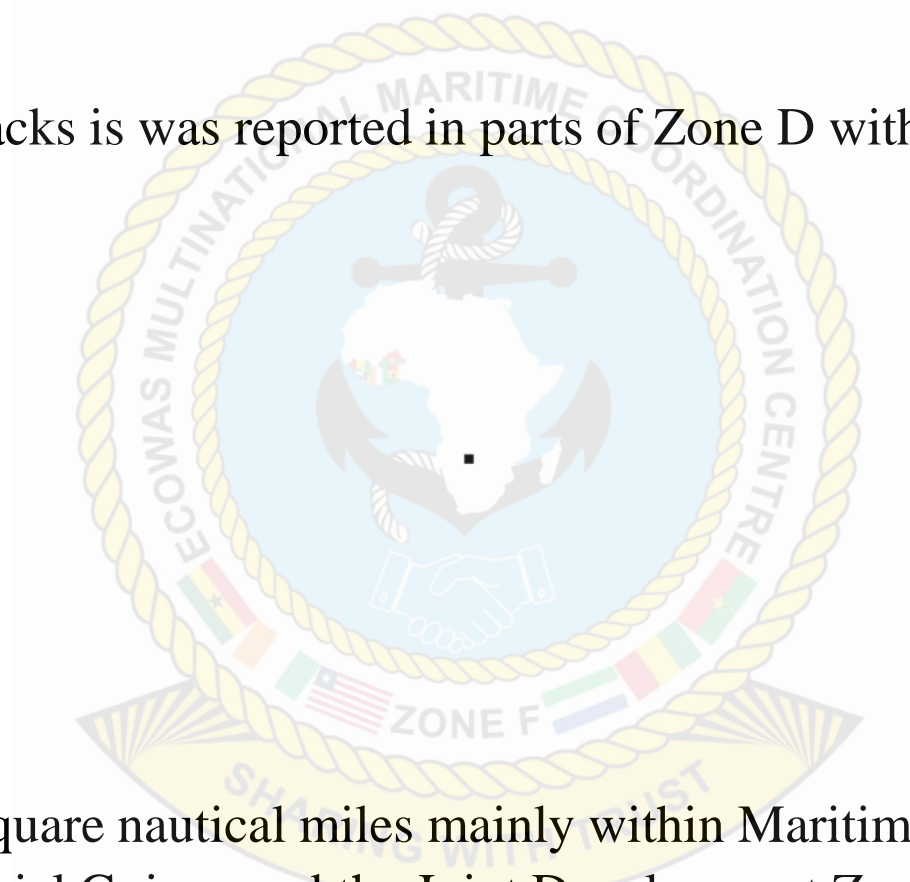
An increase threat of piracy attacks is was reported in parts of Zone D with the following coordinates.

03°15'N - 006°10'E

03°15'N - 008°40'E

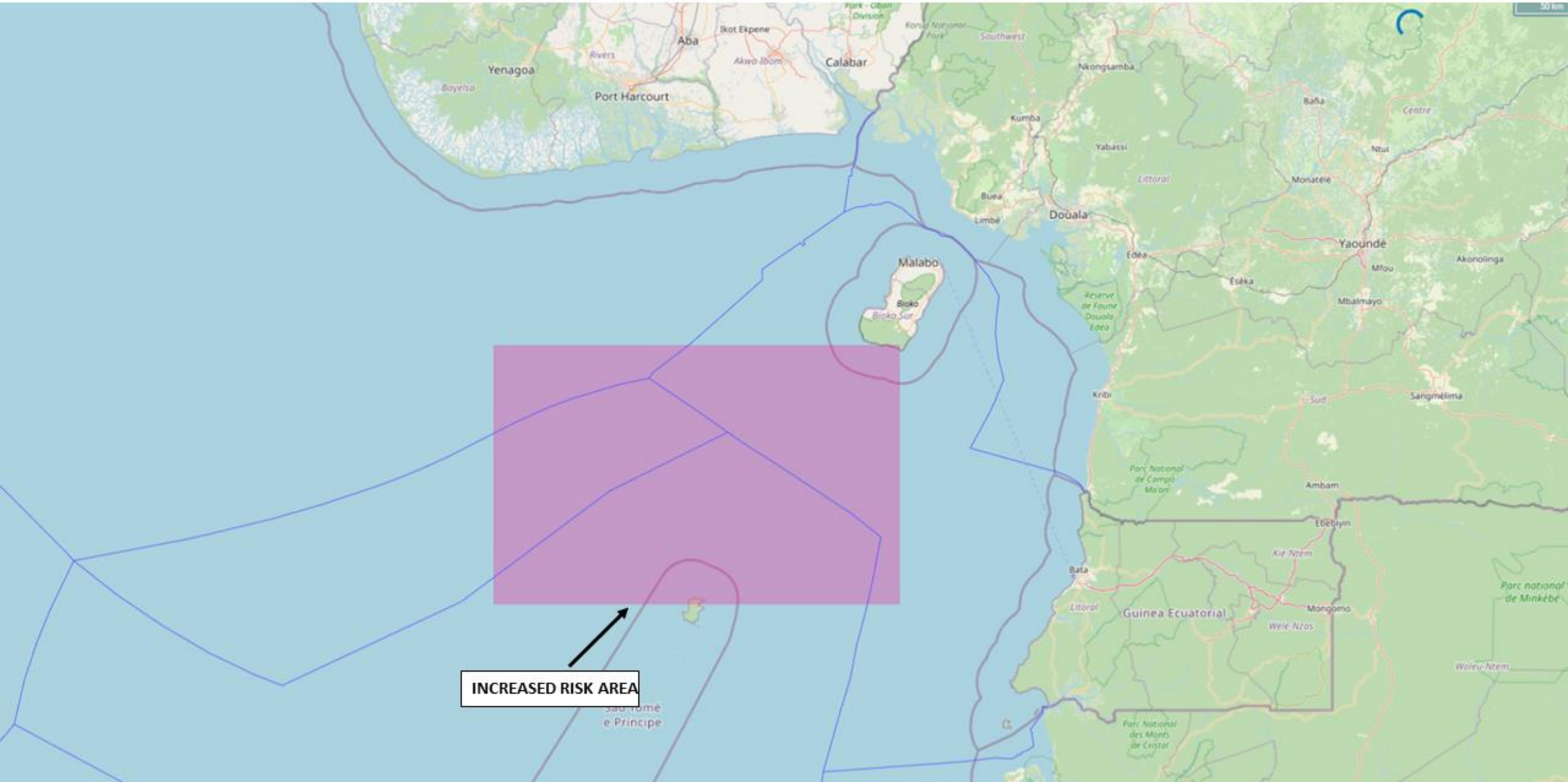
01°40'N - 008°40'E

01°40'N - 006°10'E



The general area is about 492 square nautical miles mainly within Maritime Zone D covering parts of Sao Tome and Principe, Equatorial Guinea and the Joint Development Zone. The general area is part of the high-risk zone and recorded a number of incidents in 2021 including hijacking and kidnapping.

INCREASED RISK AREA

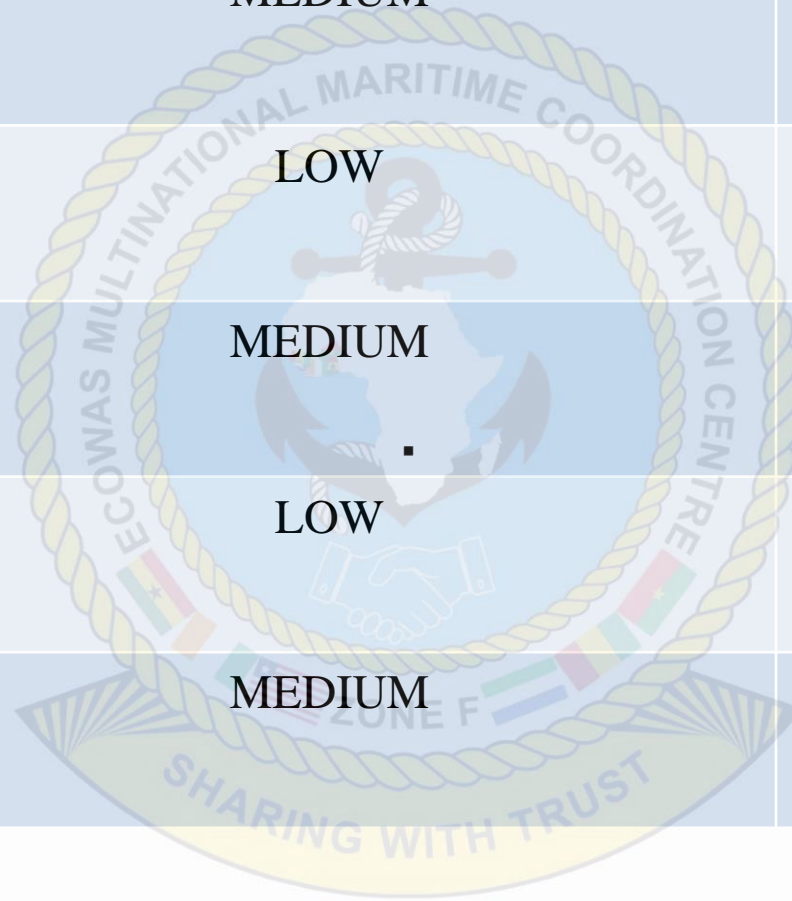


OTHER MARITIME ACTIVITIES – ZONE F

EVENT	DESCRIPTION	ACTIONS TAKEN
IUU FISHING	NTR	NTR
MARITIME POLLUTION	NTR	NTR
ILLEGAL BUNKERING	NTR	NTR
SEARCH AND RESCUE/SINKING	NTR	NTR
MARITIME ACCIDENT	NTR	NTR
DRUG TRAFFICKING	<p>The Guinean Navy with support from the Spanish intelligence services conducted an operation that led to the pursuit and seizure of large quantities of cocaine onboard fishing vessel about 80nm. Initial report indicates the vessel is Turkish flagged with 5 Turkish nationals onboard.</p>	<p>The vessel was arrested and escorted to the Conakry Naval Base for further investigations by the gendarmerie investigation team.</p> <p>Investigations still ongoing</p>

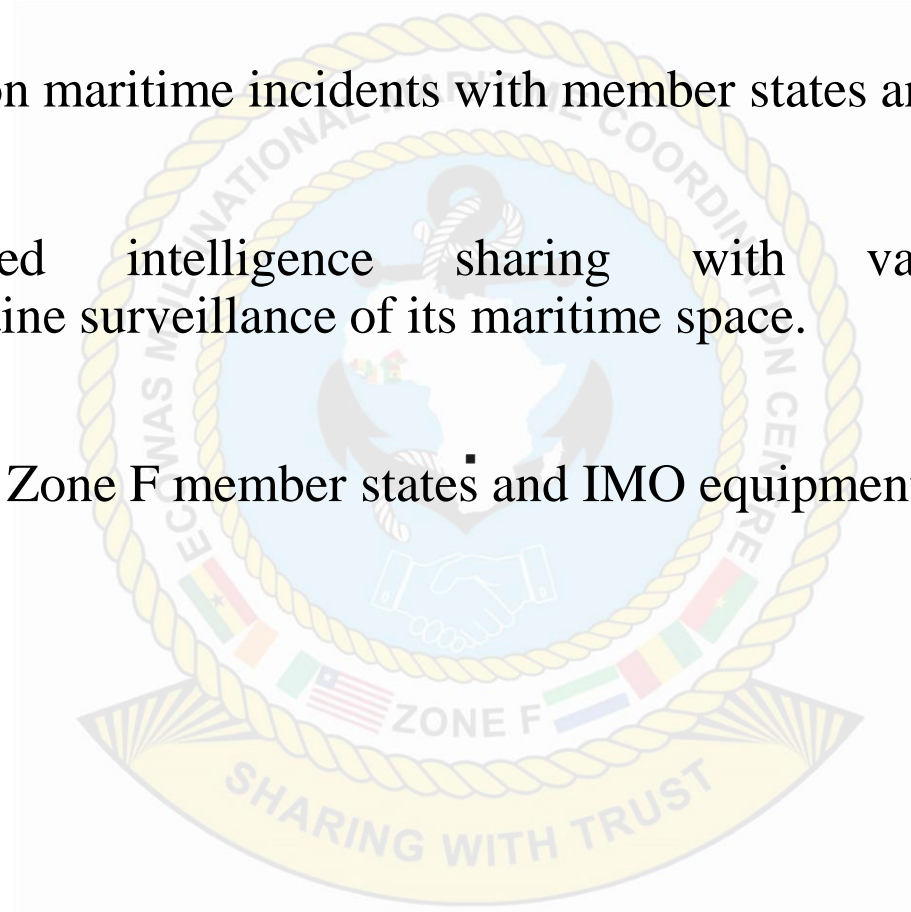
MARITIME RISK ANALYSIS – ZONE F

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



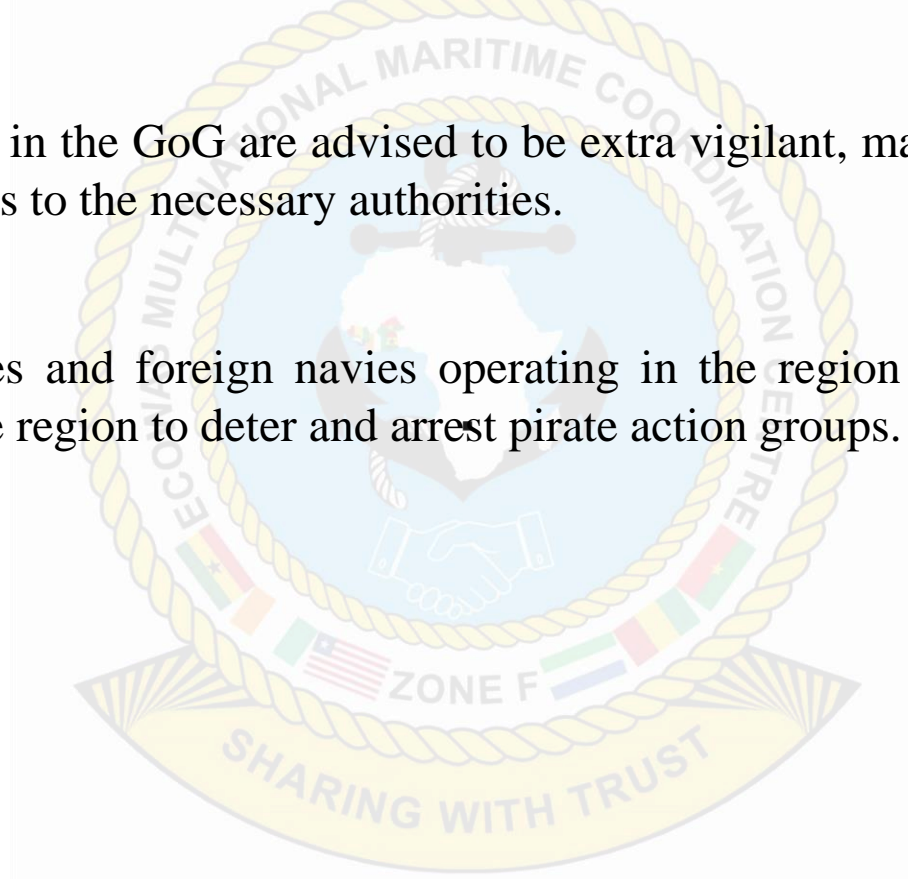
ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

- Checked communication with member states and other relevant agencies/stakeholders.
- Disseminated information on maritime incidents with member states and other stakeholders.
- The Centre coordinated intelligence sharing with various maritime actors in Zone F and maintained routine surveillance of its maritime space.
- Hosted Zoom meeting with Zone F member states and IMO equipment consultants on 4 February 2022



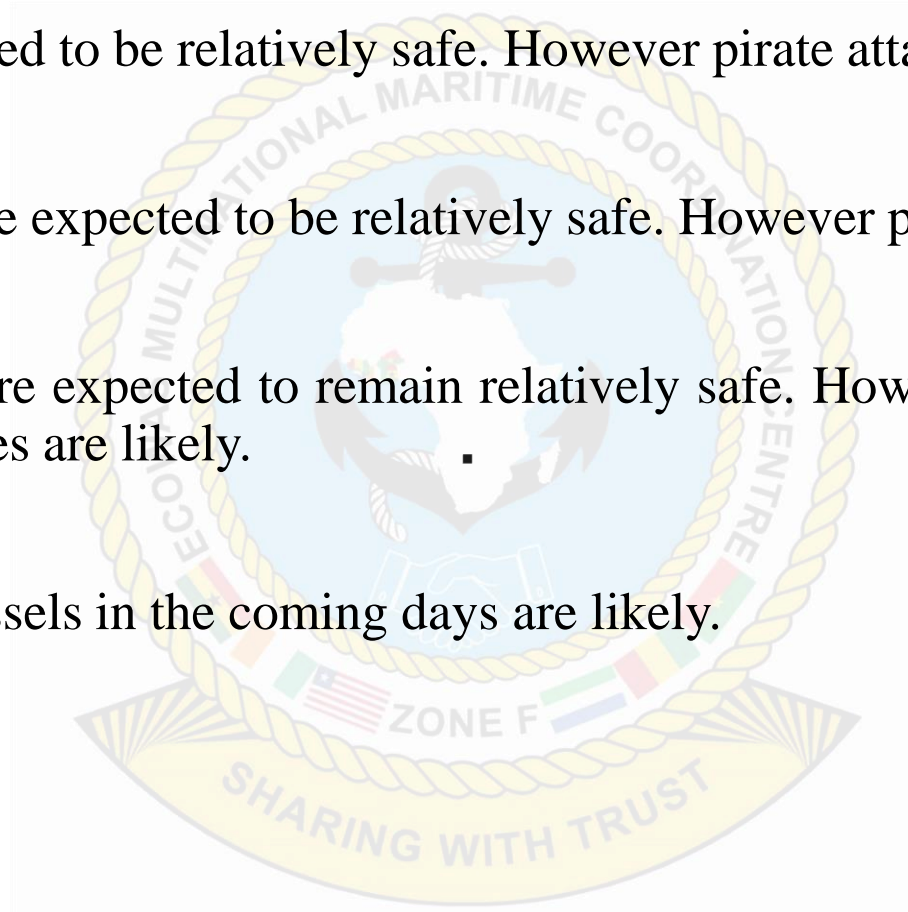
GENERAL COMMENTS/ADVISORIES

- The week under review recorded 2 maritime security and one arrest on drug trafficking.
- The threat of pirate attacks against ships remain high in GoG especially from Nigeria to Gabon.
- All vessels transiting or operating in the GoG are advised to be extra vigilant, maintain sharp lookout especially at night and report any suspicious activities to the necessary authorities.
- Coastal law enforcement agencies and foreign navies operating in the region are encouraged to maintain increased surveillance and patrols within the region to deter and arrest pirate action groups.

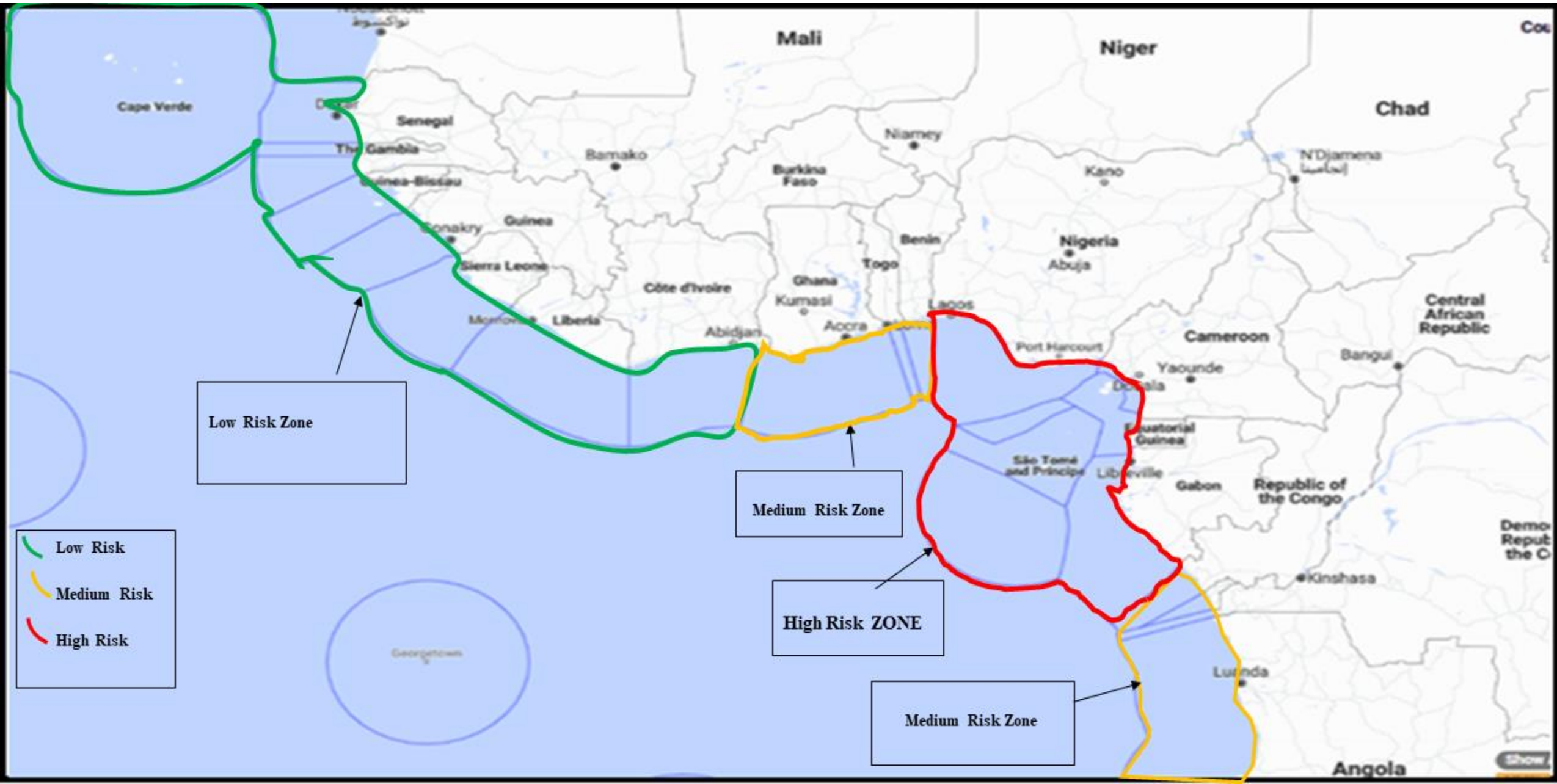


FORCAST FOR THE COMING WEEK

- 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



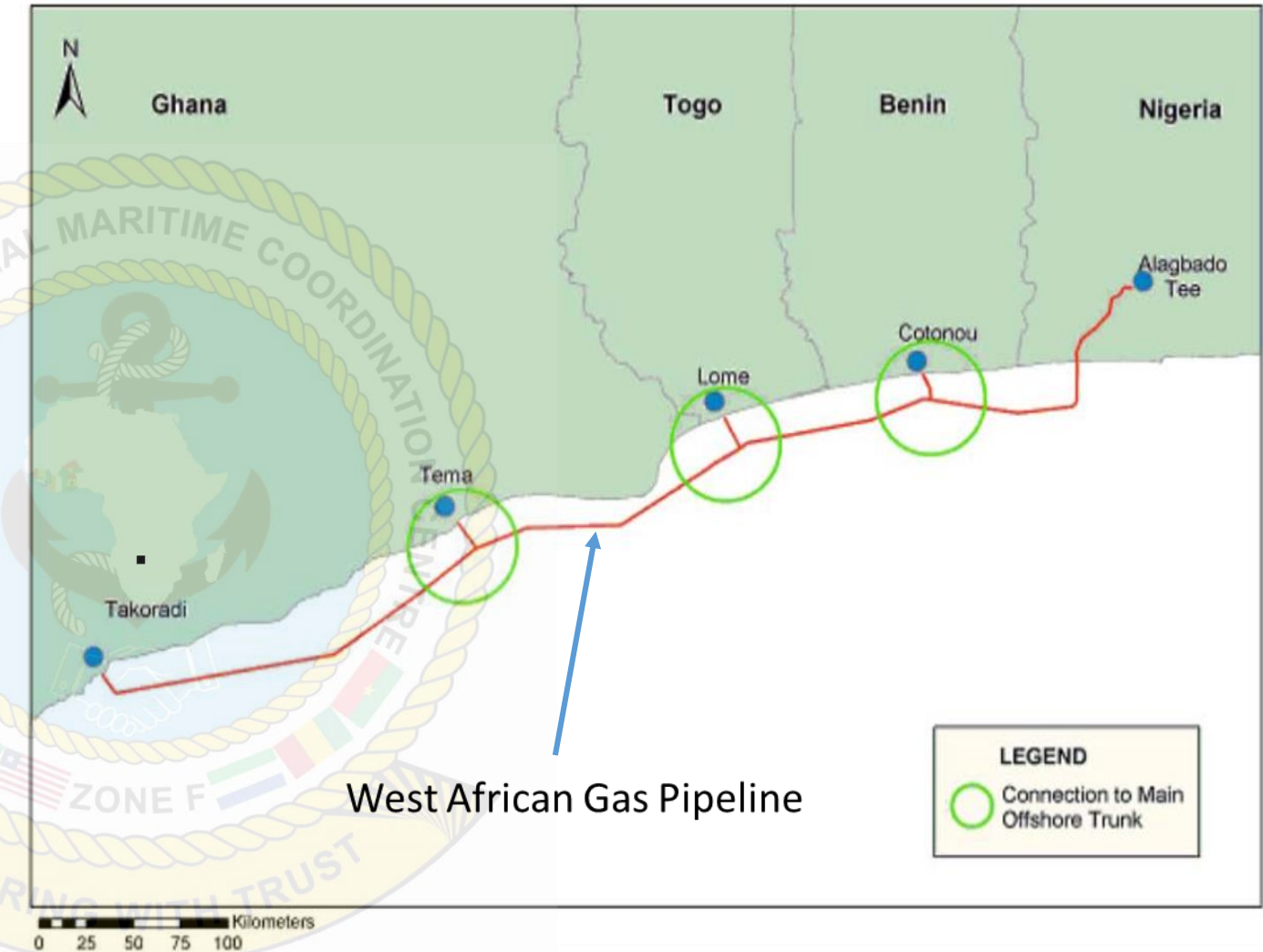
NOTICES

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.



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