



ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE (MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY
REPORT NO. 14

01 – 07 APR 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.

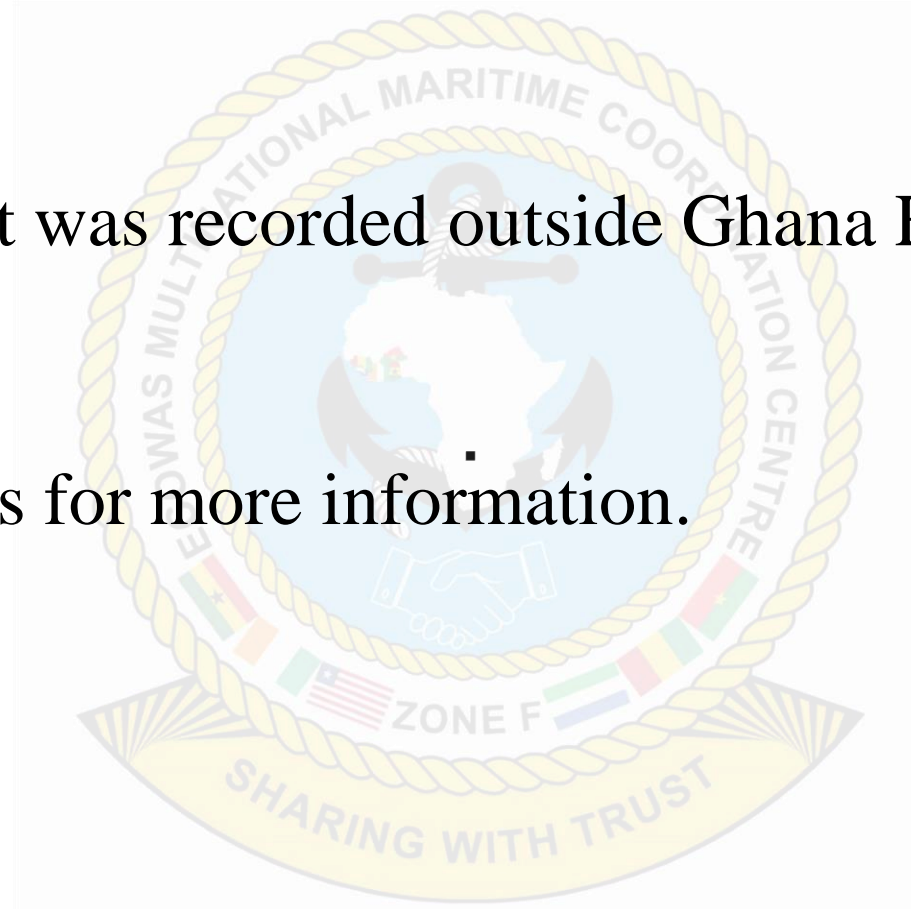
SIGHTING AND IRREGULAR ACTIVITY: All suspicious information with no proof of intent to board the vessel.

OVERVIEW

- The general maritime safety and security situation in Maritime Zone F and the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) remained safe and secure.

- One Boarding incident was recorded outside Ghana EEZ.

- See details of incidents for more information.



INCIDENTS RECORDED

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

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

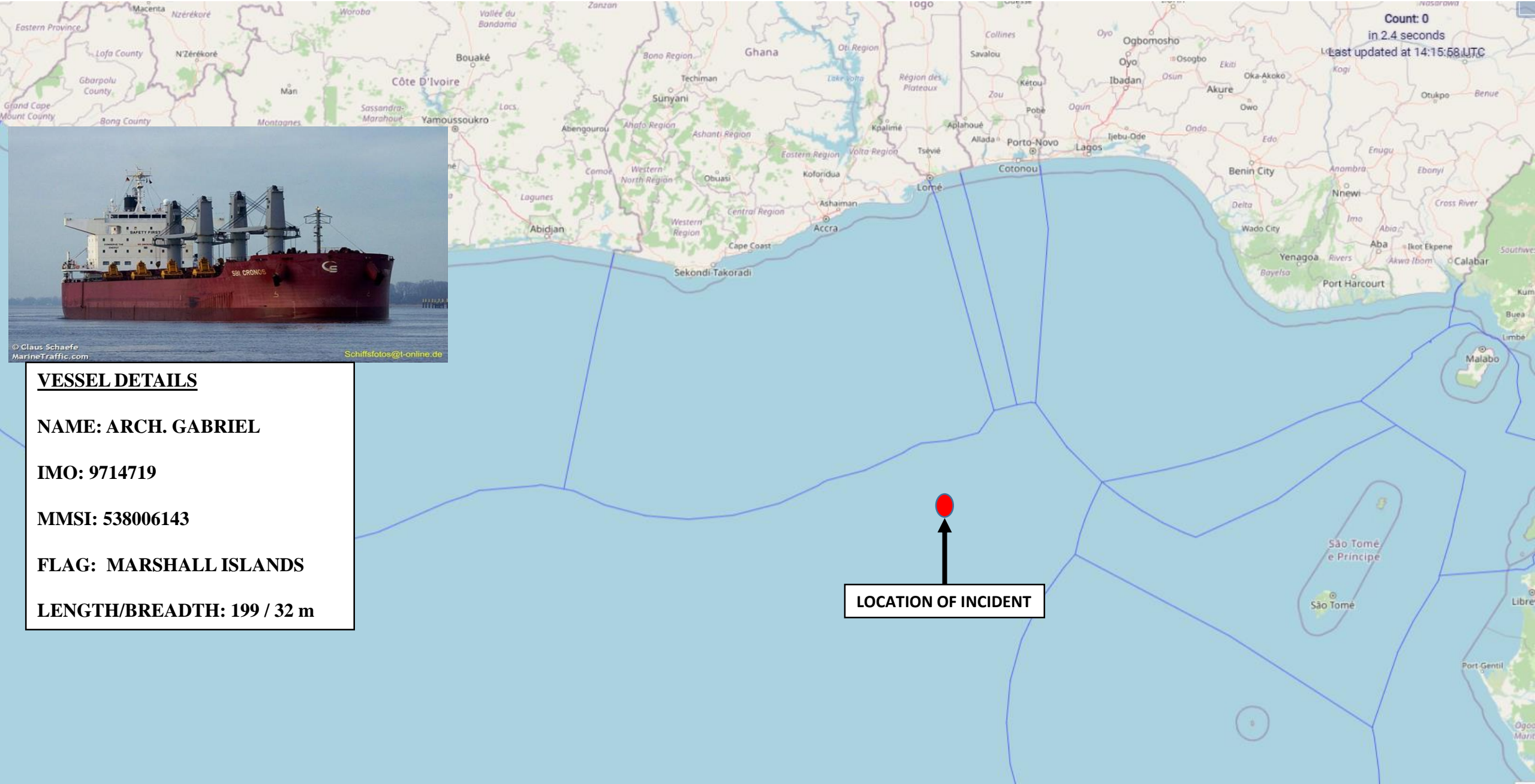
BOARDING – KETA, GHANA

The Marshall Islands flag cargo vessel ARCH GABRIEL (IMO 9714719) was attacked by an unknown number of perpetrators at position 264nm south of Keta, Ghana at 1848 UTC on 03 March 2022.

The Italian warship ITS RIZZO responded to the distress call and sailed to the general area. MV ARCH GABRIEL was sighted drifting within the general area of the attack. Communication with the Captain of the vessel via VHF indicated all 19 crew members managed to enter the citadel before the pirates took control of the vessel.

ITS RIZZO Boarding Team conducted VBSS operations to clear the vessel, but the pirates had left before the arrival of the ITS RIZZO. However, some expended cartridges were found in the Captain's cabin. The pirates also damaged some navigational equipment at the bridge (GPS/COMPASS/and others). The vessel's damaged steering and propulsion systems were restored and escorted to Lagos Port for further investigations.

LOCATION OF INCIDENTS



VESSEL DETAILS

NAME: ARCH. GABRIEL

IMO: 9714719

MMSI: 538006143

FLAG: MARSHALL ISLANDS

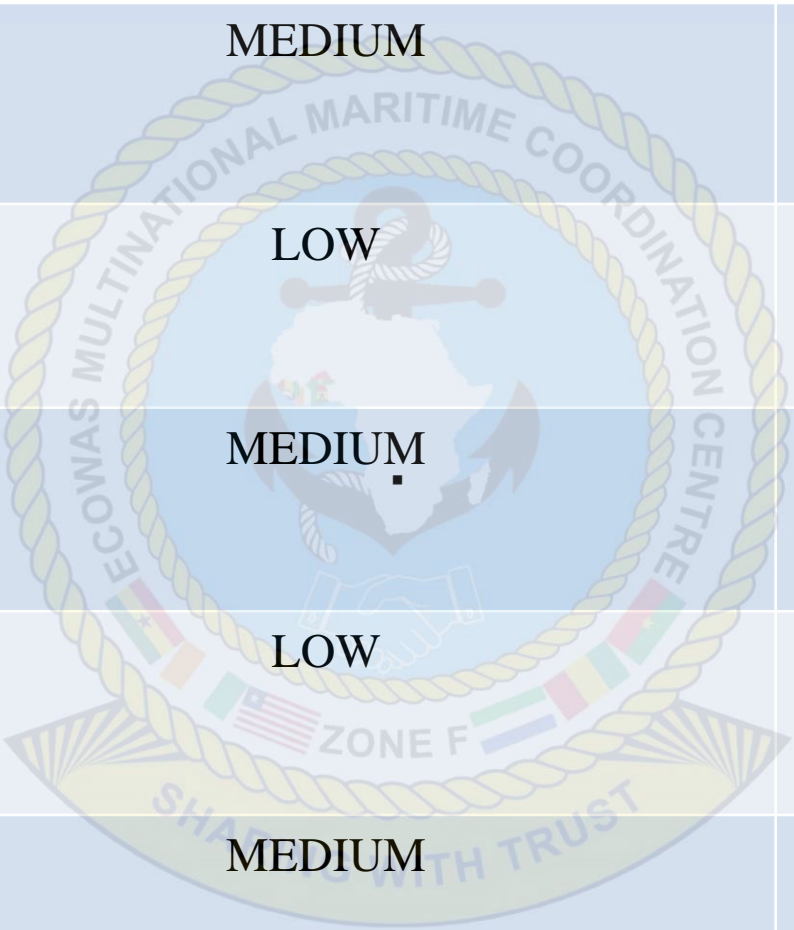
LENGTH/BREADTH: 199 / 32 m

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	NTR	NTR

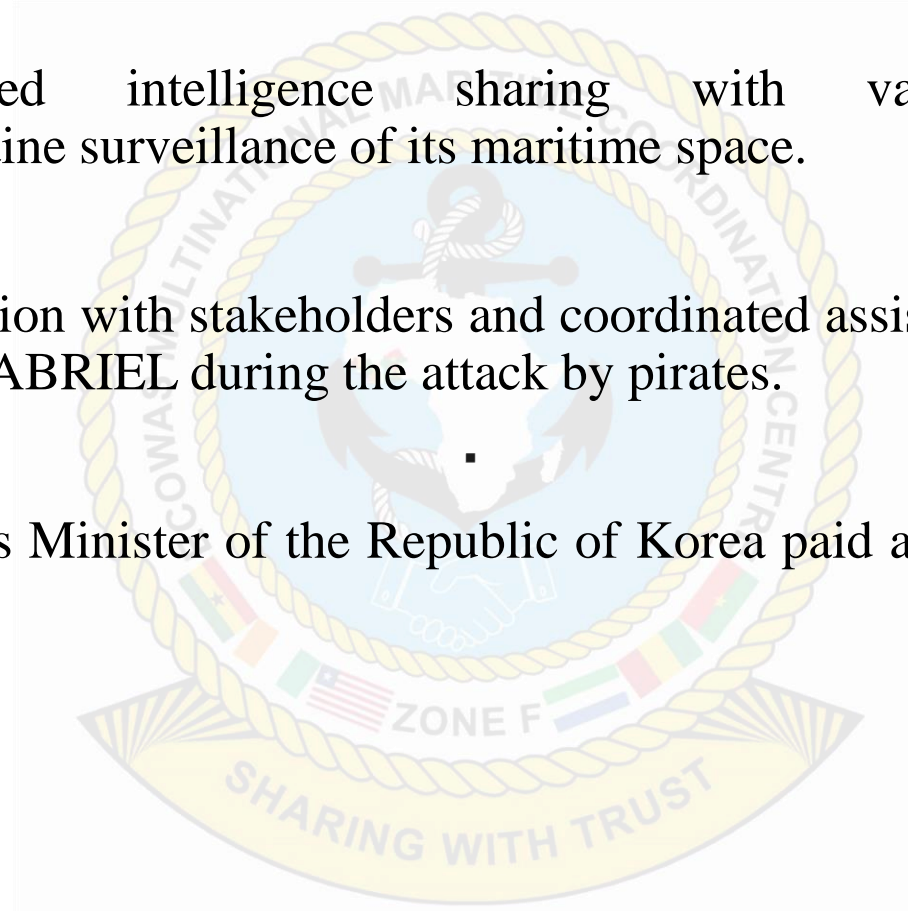
MARITIME RISK ANALYSIS – ZONE F

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



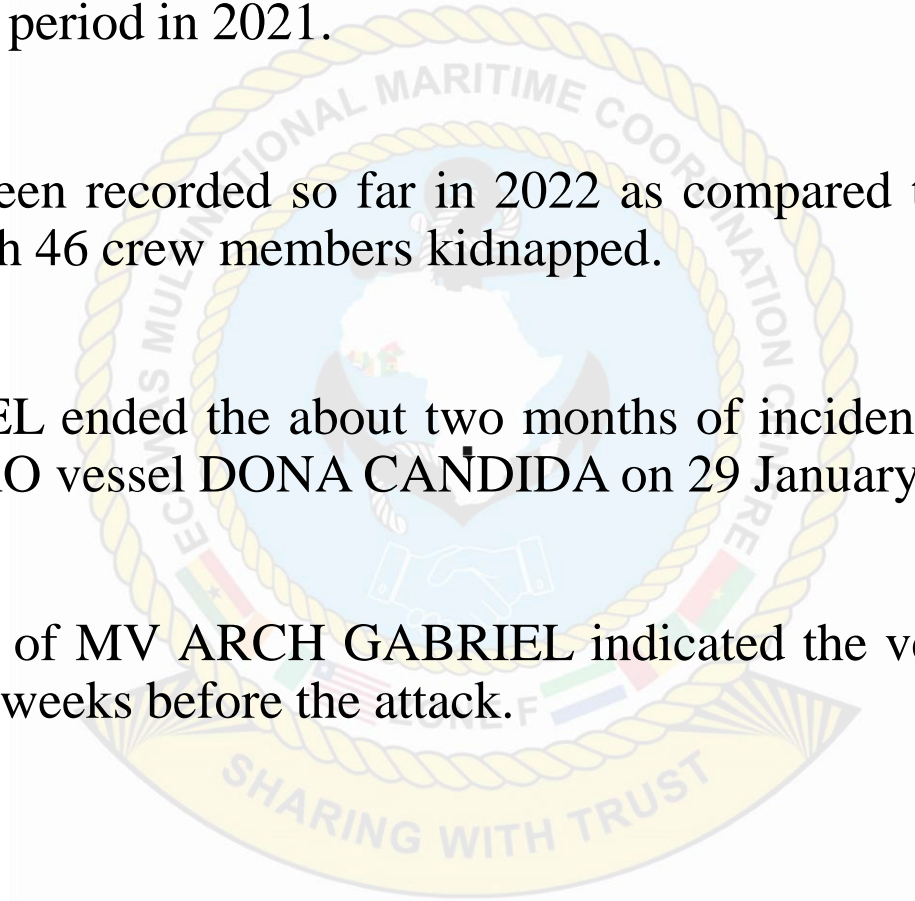
ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

- Checked communication with member states and other relevant agencies/stakeholders.
- The Centre coordinated intelligence sharing with various maritime actors in Zone F and maintained routine surveillance of its maritime space.
- The Centre shared information with stakeholders and coordinated assistance with foreign assets to offer assistance to MV ARCH GABRIEL during the attack by pirates.
- The Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister of the Republic of Korea paid a working visit to the Centre on 5 April 2022.



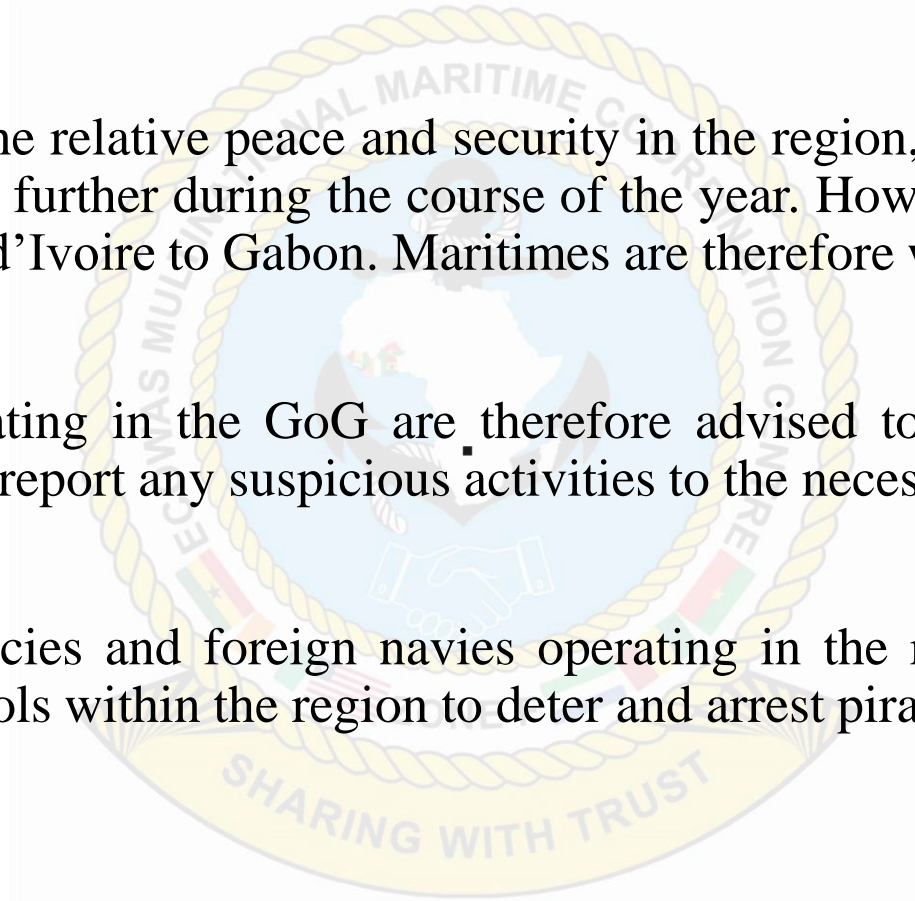
GENERAL COMMENTS/ADVISORIES

- The week under review remained relatively calm with one incident recorded outside Ghana EEZ.
- The GoG has so far recorded 17 incidents with only 3 incidents occurring offshore as compared to 31 incidents recorded within same period in 2021.
- No kidnapping incident has been recorded so far in 2022 as compared to 4 kidnapping incidents recorded within same period in 2021 with 46 crew members kidnapped.
- The attack on ARCH GABRIEL ended the about two months of incident free period in the GoG following the last offshore attack on RORO vessel DONA CANDIDA on 29 January 2022.
- An analysis of the history trail of MV ARCH GABRIEL indicated the vessel had been loitering around the general area for more than two weeks before the attack.



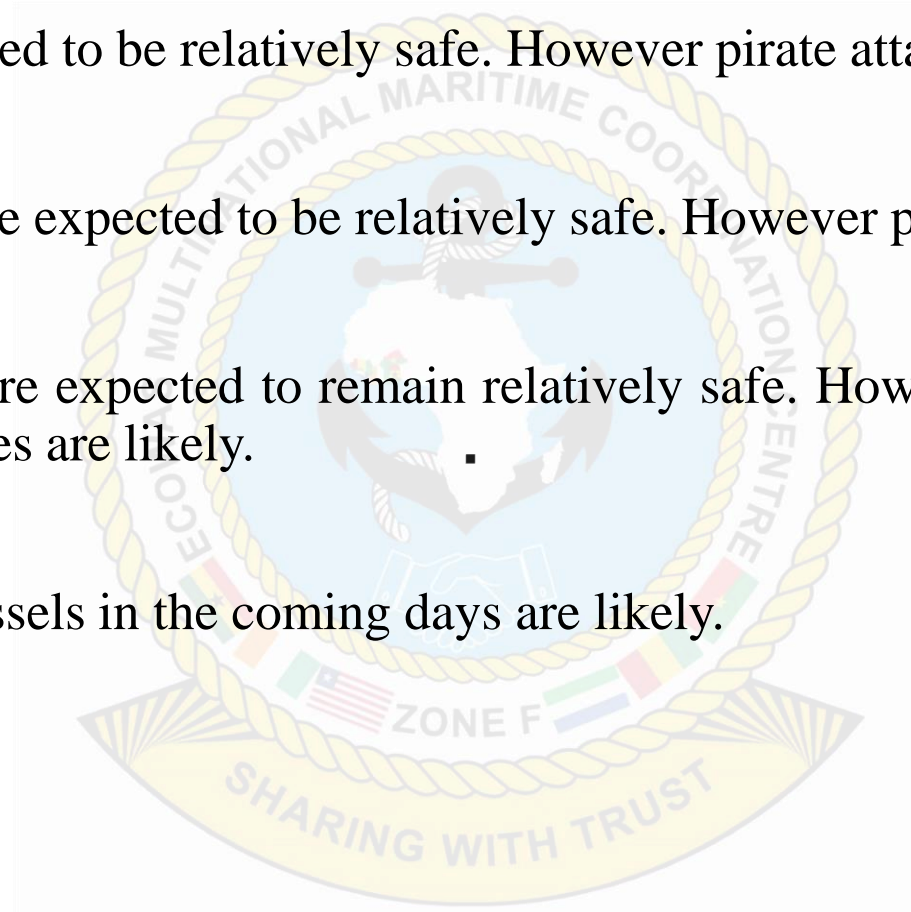
GENERAL COMMENTS/ADVISORIES

- A lot of vessels have been observed to be loitering around deep offshore either waiting to enter Port or conducting their operations, both legal and illegal. This trend makes such vessels vulnerable to pirate attacks. Vessel CSO, Captains are therefore advised to desist from loitering around such areas where security presence may not be readily available in case of pirate attacks.
- Notwithstanding the break in the relative peace and security in the region, the number of piracy incidents are expected to continue to decline further during the course of the year. However, PAGs are still potent offshore the GoG especially from Cote d'Ivoire to Gabon. Maritimes are therefore warned not to be complacent.
- All vessels transiting or operating in the GoG are therefore 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.

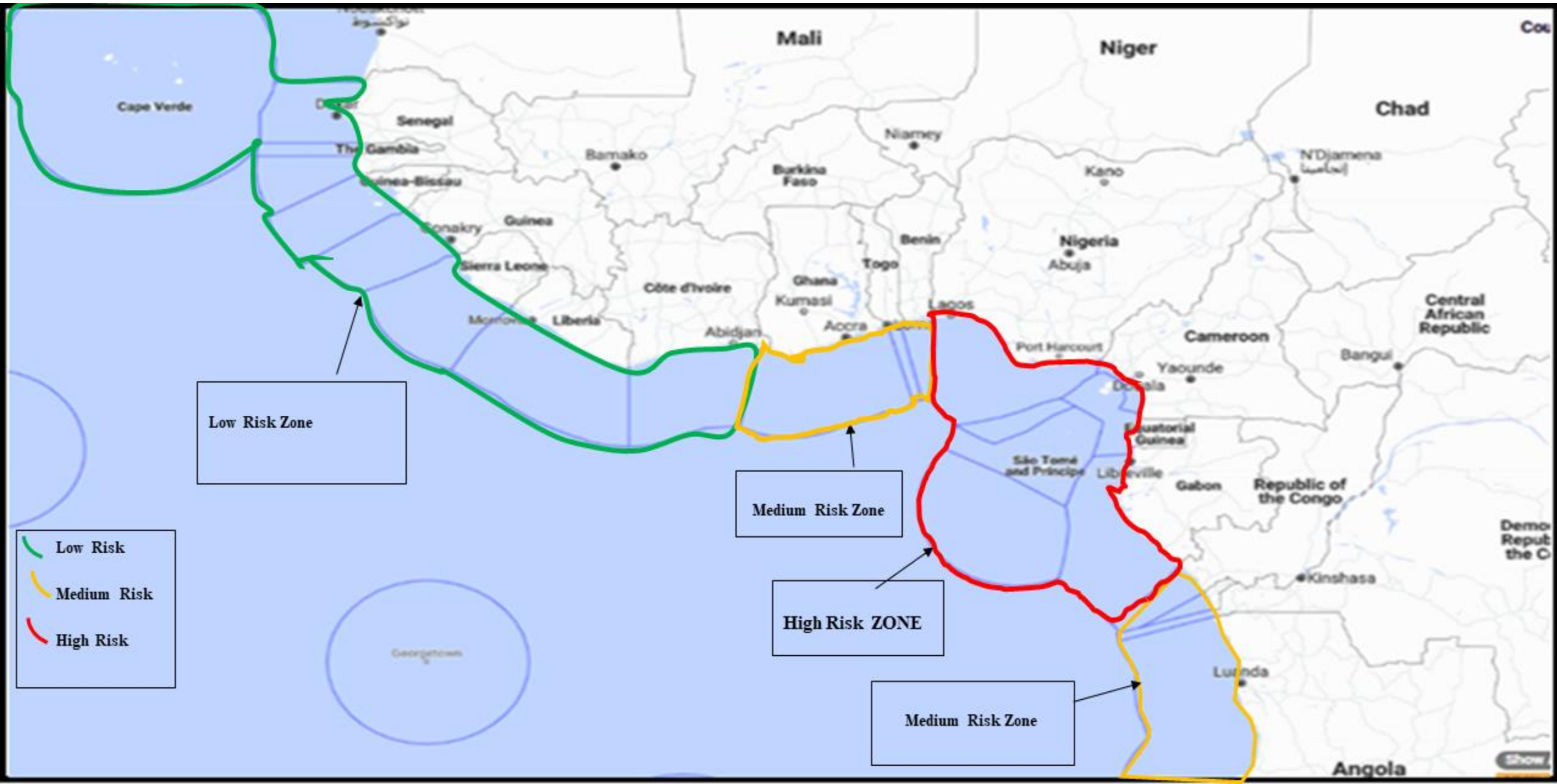


FORCAST FOR THE COMING WEEK

- 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



MARITIME NEWS OF INTEREST

SWAIMS support ECOWAS member states with Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIBs) to help fight maritime crimes in the Sub-region.



Source: <https://www.modernghana.com/news/1150288/ecowas-european-union-begin-maritime-security.html>

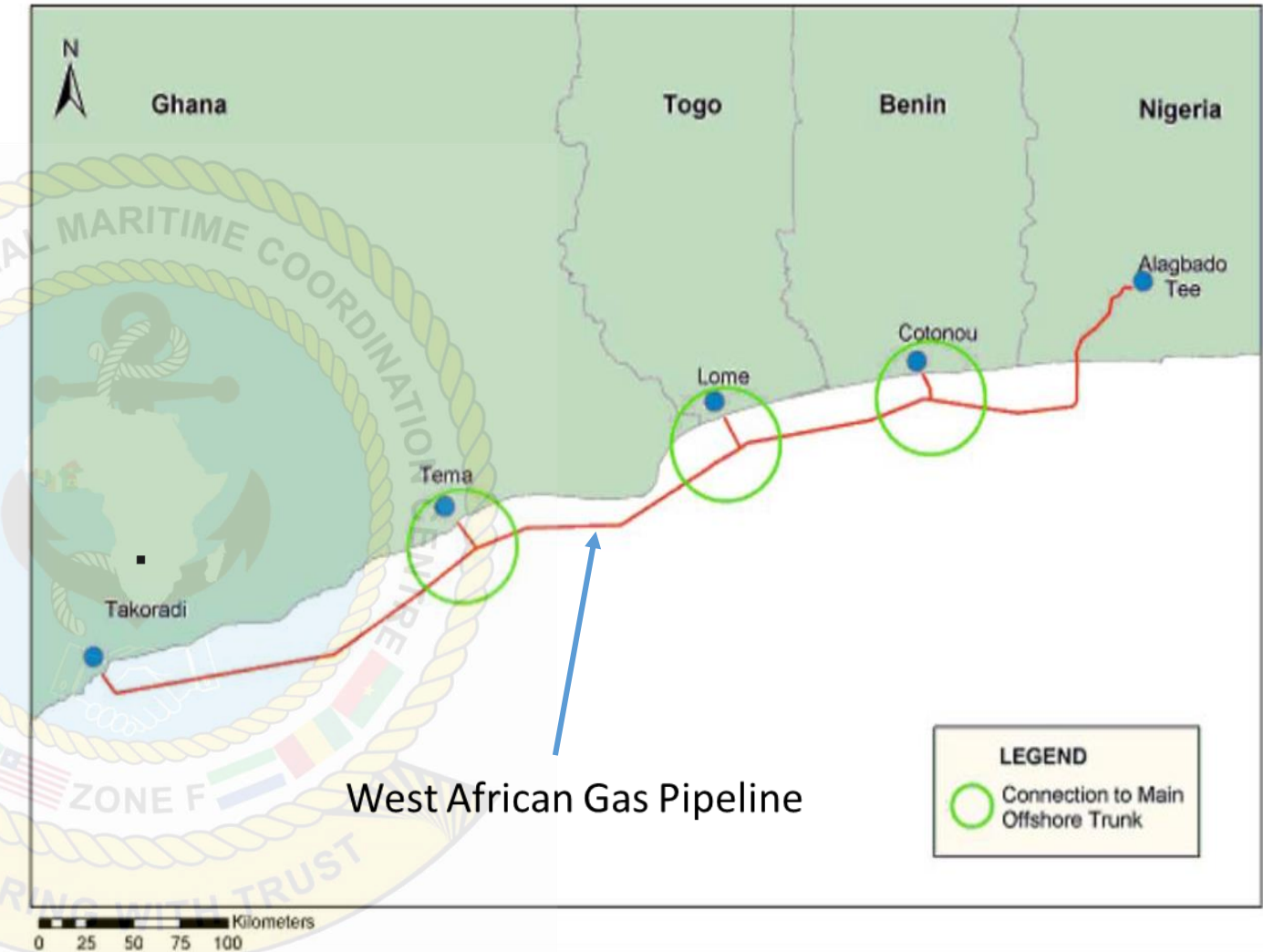
NOTICES

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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