

ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE (MMCC ZONE F)

WEEKLY MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY
REPORT NO. 19

06 – 12 MAY 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.

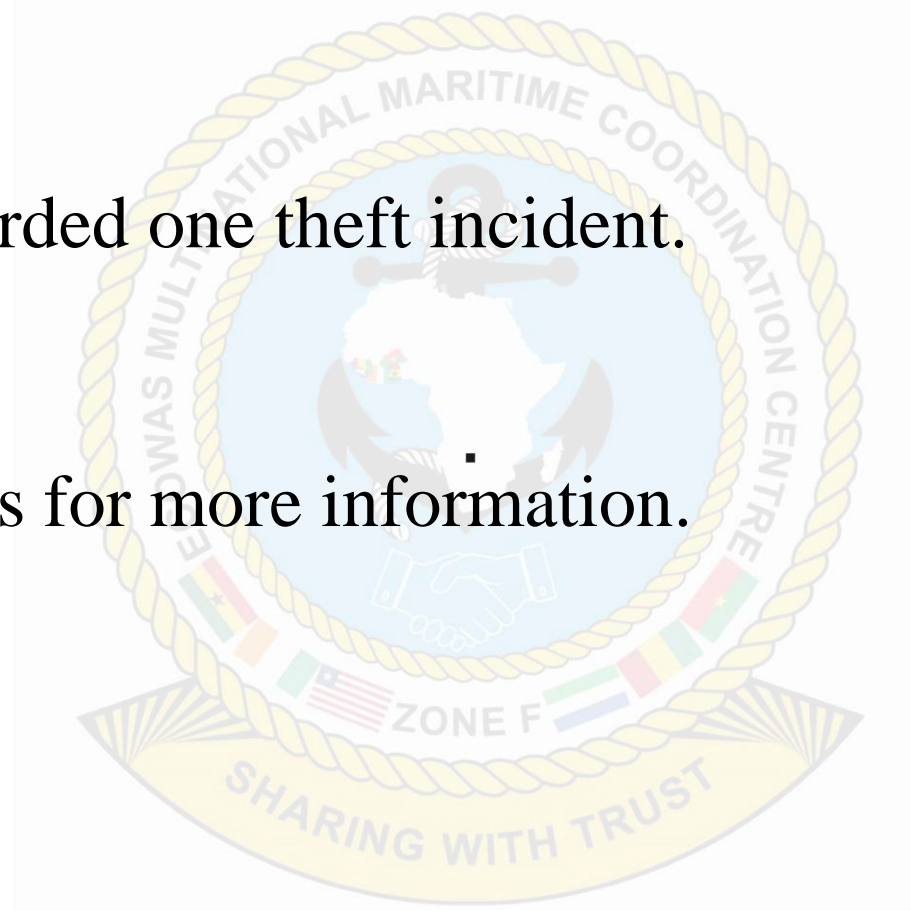
SIGHTING AND IRREGULAR ACTIVITY: All suspicious information with no proof of intent to board the vessel.

OVERVIEW

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

- Maritime Zone A recorded one theft incident.

- See details of incidents for more information.



INCIDENTS RECORDED

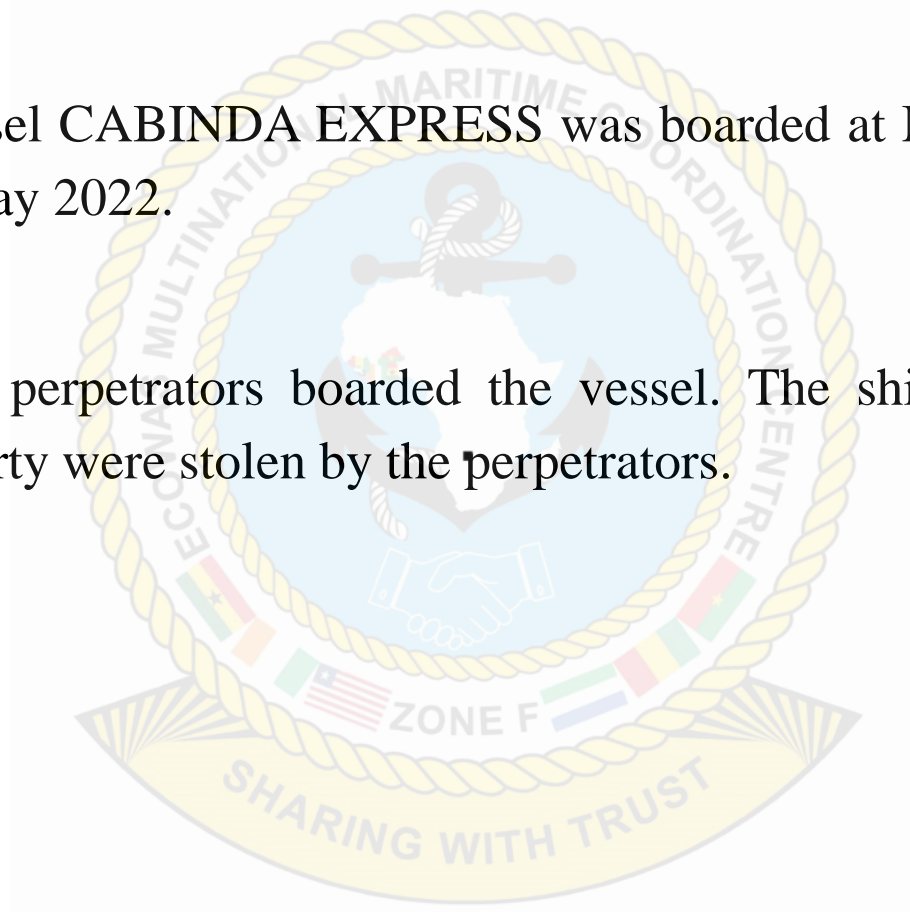
Category	Type of Incidents	No of Incident in Zones					
		A	D	E	F	G	OUTSIDE EEZ
TERRORISM	Terrorism						
PIRACY/ ARMED ROBBERY/KIDNAPPING/HIJACKING/FIRING UPON/THEFT/SUSPICIOUS APPROACH/BOARDING (PAKHFTSB)	Hijacking						
	Kidnapping						
	Armed Robbery						
	Fired Upon						
	Robbery/Attempt Robbery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

DETAILS OF INCIDENT

THEFT - MATADI PORT, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Liberian flag container vessel CABINDA EXPRESS was boarded at Matadi Port, Democratic Republic of Congo at 1924 UTC on 06 May 2022.

According to the report, three perpetrators boarded the vessel. The ship crew while on routine rounds discovered that some ship property were stolen by the perpetrators.



LOCATION OF INCIDENT



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MarineTraffic.com

VESSEL DETAILS

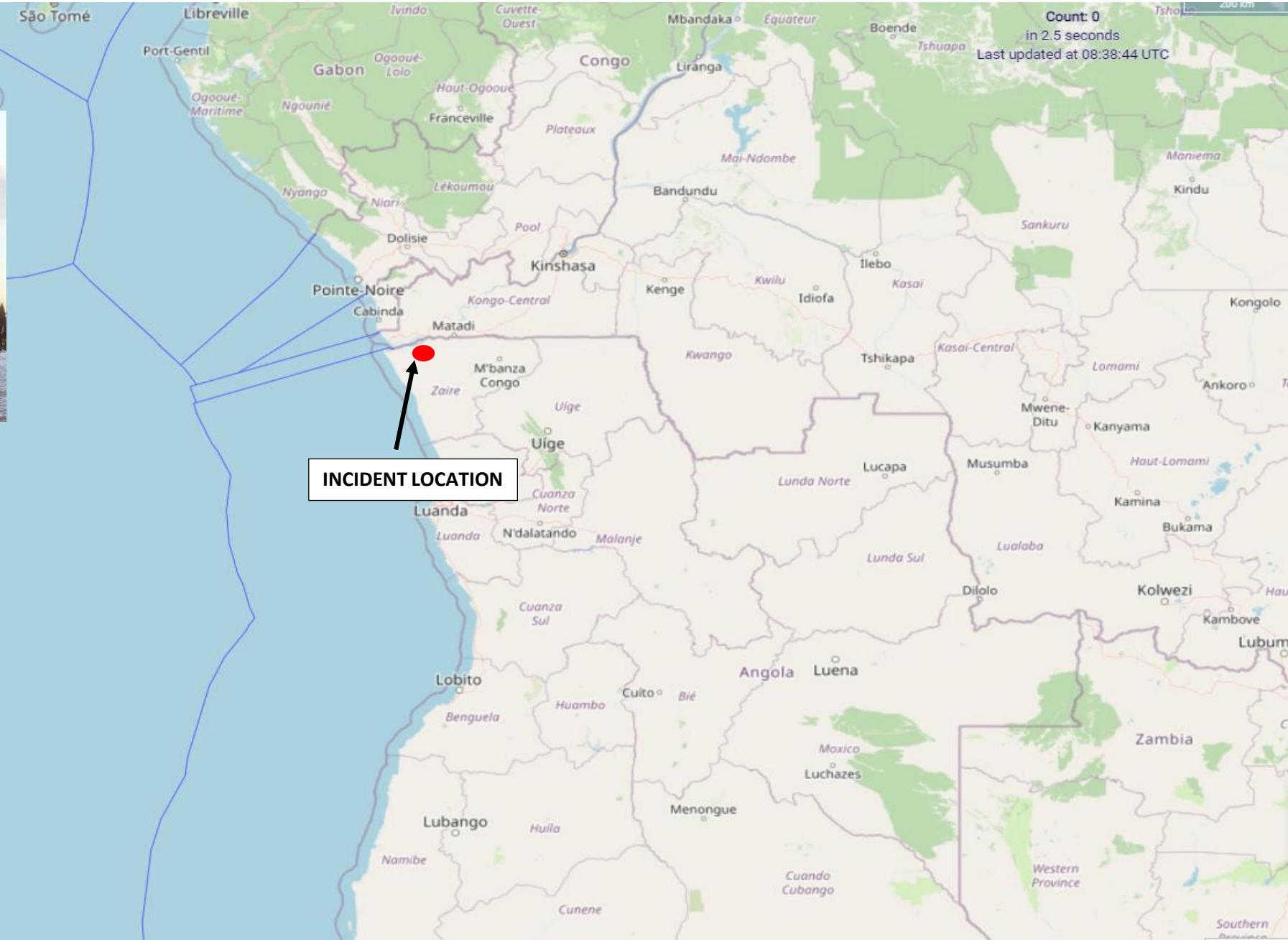
NAME: CABINDA EXPRESS

IMO: 9578347

MMSI: 636093066

FLAG: LIBERIA

LENGTH/BREADTH: -117 m × 19 m



INCIDENT LOCATION

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	1	Rescue team successfully rescued 16 persons with 9 crew members still unaccounted for
MARITIME ACCIDENT	NTR	NTR
DRUG TRAFFICKING	NTR	NTR

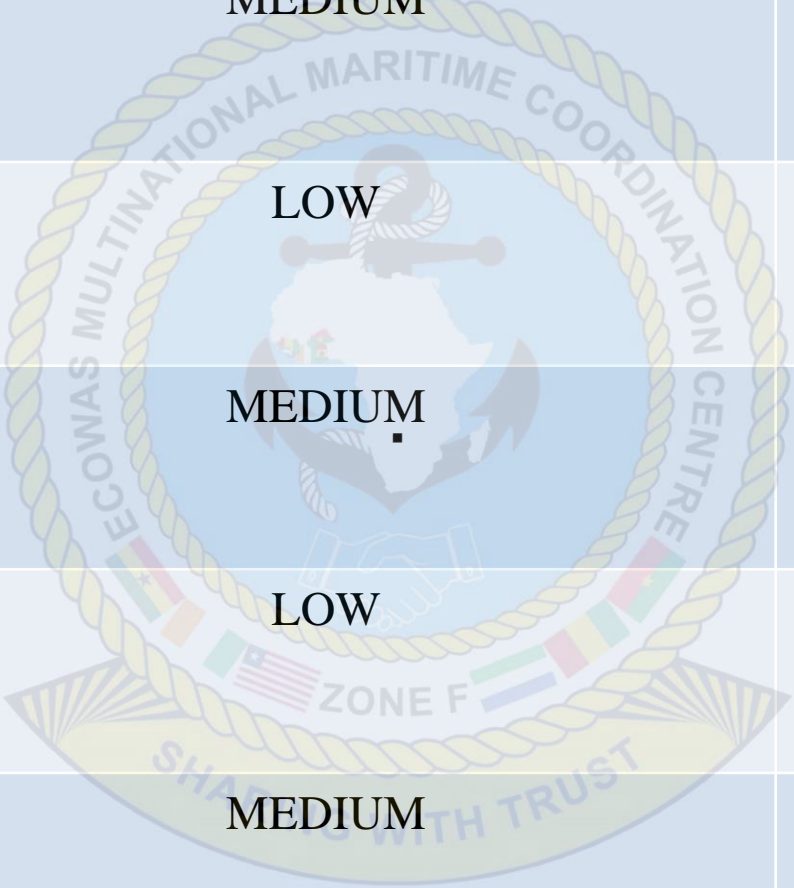
DETAILS OF INCIDENT

SINKING OF FV COMFORTER 2 OFFSHORE SALTPOND, GHANA

- The Ghanaian registered fishing vessel named COMFORTER 2 sank about 46nm South of Saltpond, Ghana on 6 May 2022. The crew onboard comprised of 20 Ghanaians (19 crew and one fishery observer) and 6 Chinese nationals.
- According to report from some survivors, the vessel caught a lot of fish in its net and was having challenges in hauling the net. The weight of the fish in the net caused the vessel to list. The crew reportedly prompted the Captain of the situation but he insisted the hauling should continue. The continued hauling caused the vessel to list further and eventually capsized.
- Some crew members managed to swim until they were rescued by a fishing vessel within the vicinity. The rescue team comprising the Ghana Navy, marine police and other sister fishing vessels, MENG XIN 6, GUO JIN 606 and JIN HAI 600 conducted search and rescue operations within the general area for survivors. The rescue team successfully rescued 16 crew members comprising 12 Ghanaians and 4 Chinese. One dead body, a Chinese national was also recovered. However, 9 persons are still unaccounted for. The rescue operation has been suspended temporarily by the team.

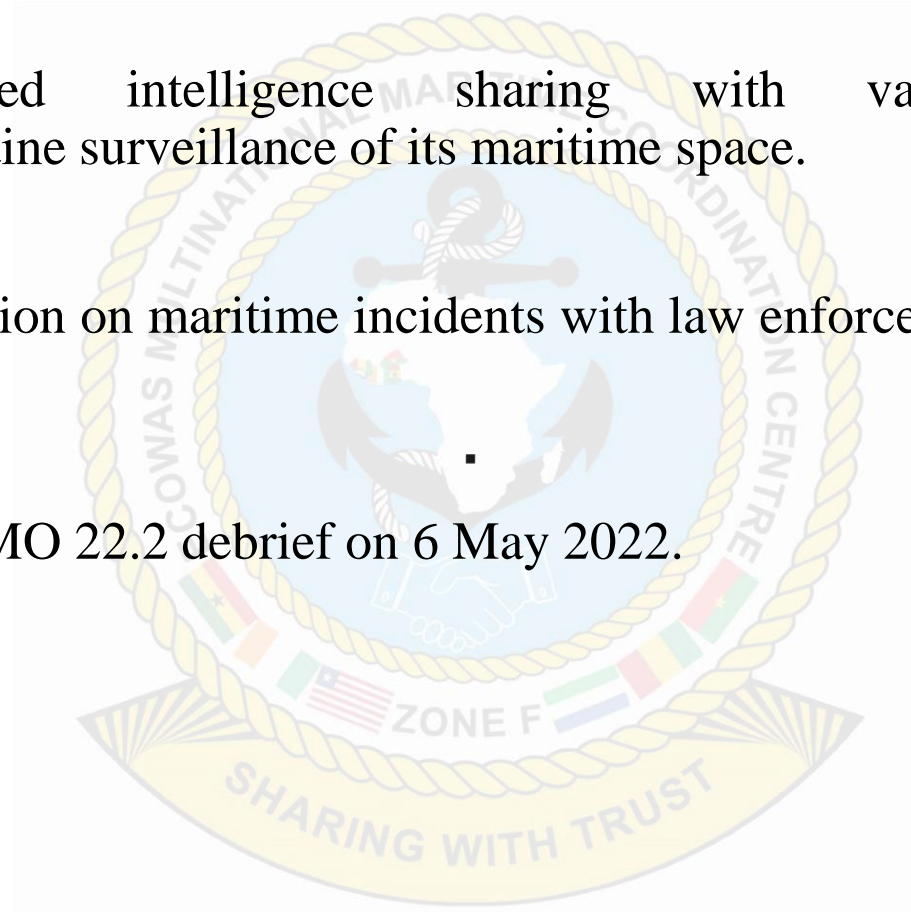
MARITIME RISK ANALYSIS – ZONE F

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 on maritime incidents with law enforcement agencies and other relevant stakeholders.
- Participated in African NEMO 22.2 debrief on 6 May 2022.

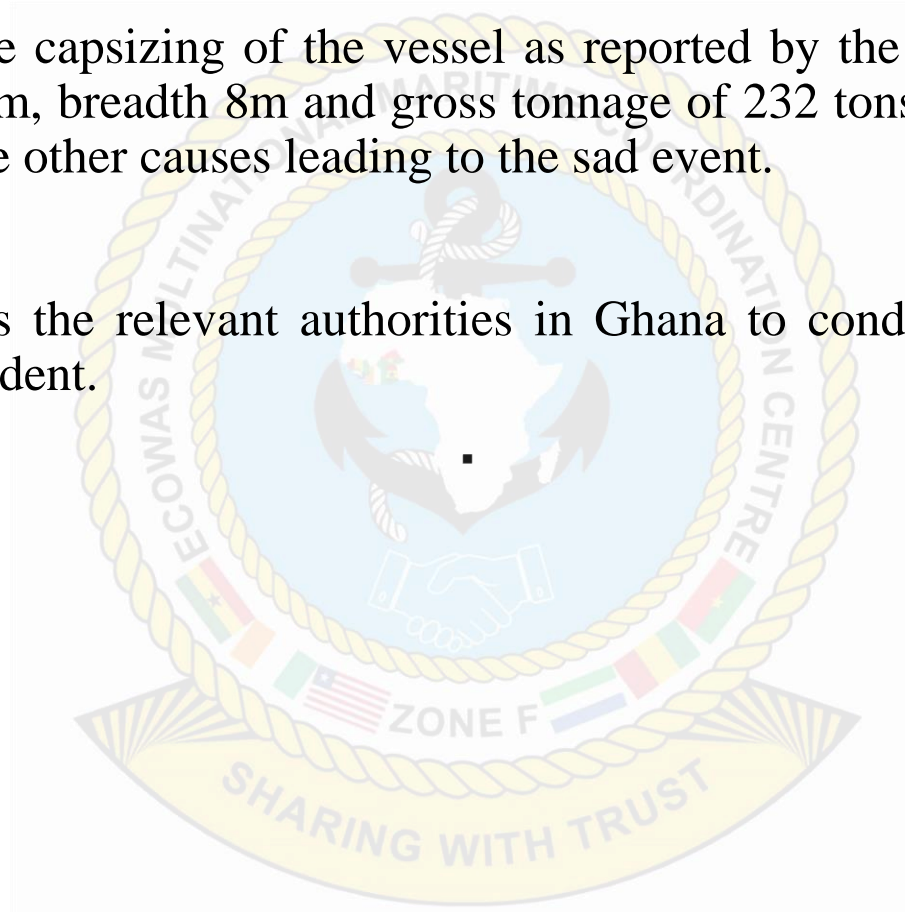


GENERAL COMMENTS/ADVISORIES

- The week under review remained calm and normal. However, one maritime security incident and one safety incident were recorded in DR Congo and Ghana respectively.
- The GoG has so far recorded about 20 maritime security incidents with only 3 incidents occurring offshore as compared over 35 incidents recorded within same period in 2021.
- No offshore 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 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.

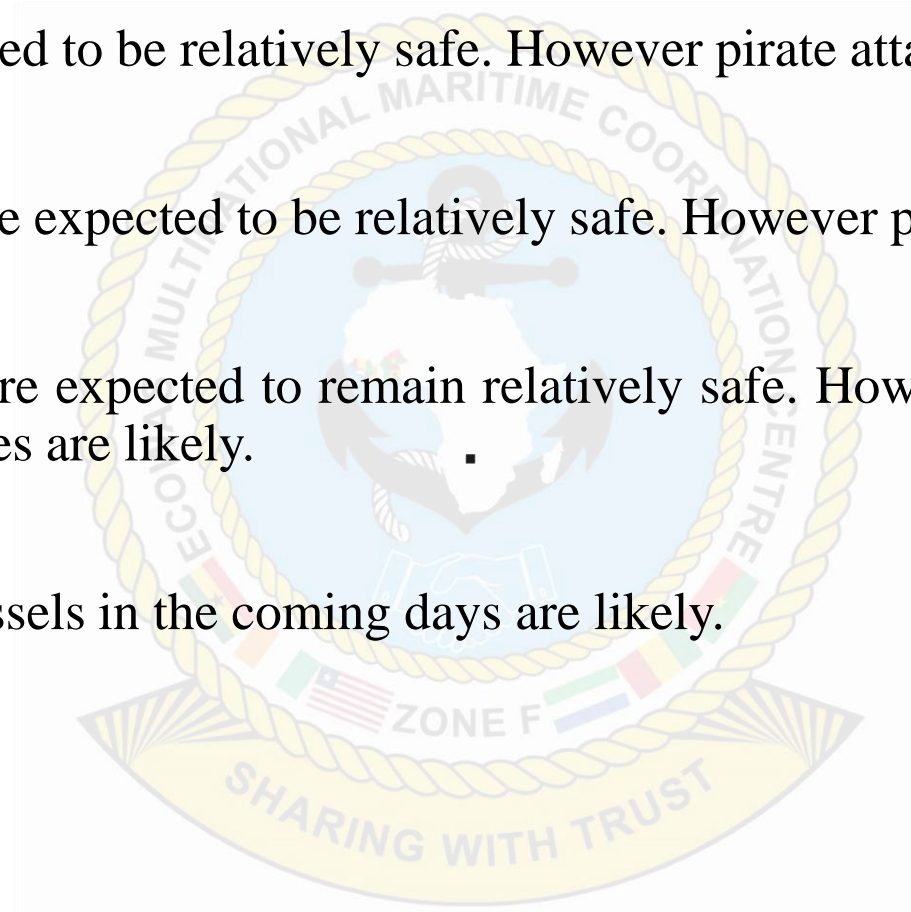
GENERAL COMMENTS/ADVISORIES

- The MMCC Zone F commends the rescue team for their efforts in rescuing 16 crew members.
- The circumstances leading to the capsizing of the vessel as reported by the survivors is quite unclear. It is quite curious for a vessel of length 45m, breadth 8m and gross tonnage of 232 tons to capsize so easily due to fish load. It is suspected that there might be other causes leading to the sad event.
- The Centre respectfully requests the relevant authorities in Ghana to conduct a thorough investigations on the circumstances leading to the accident.

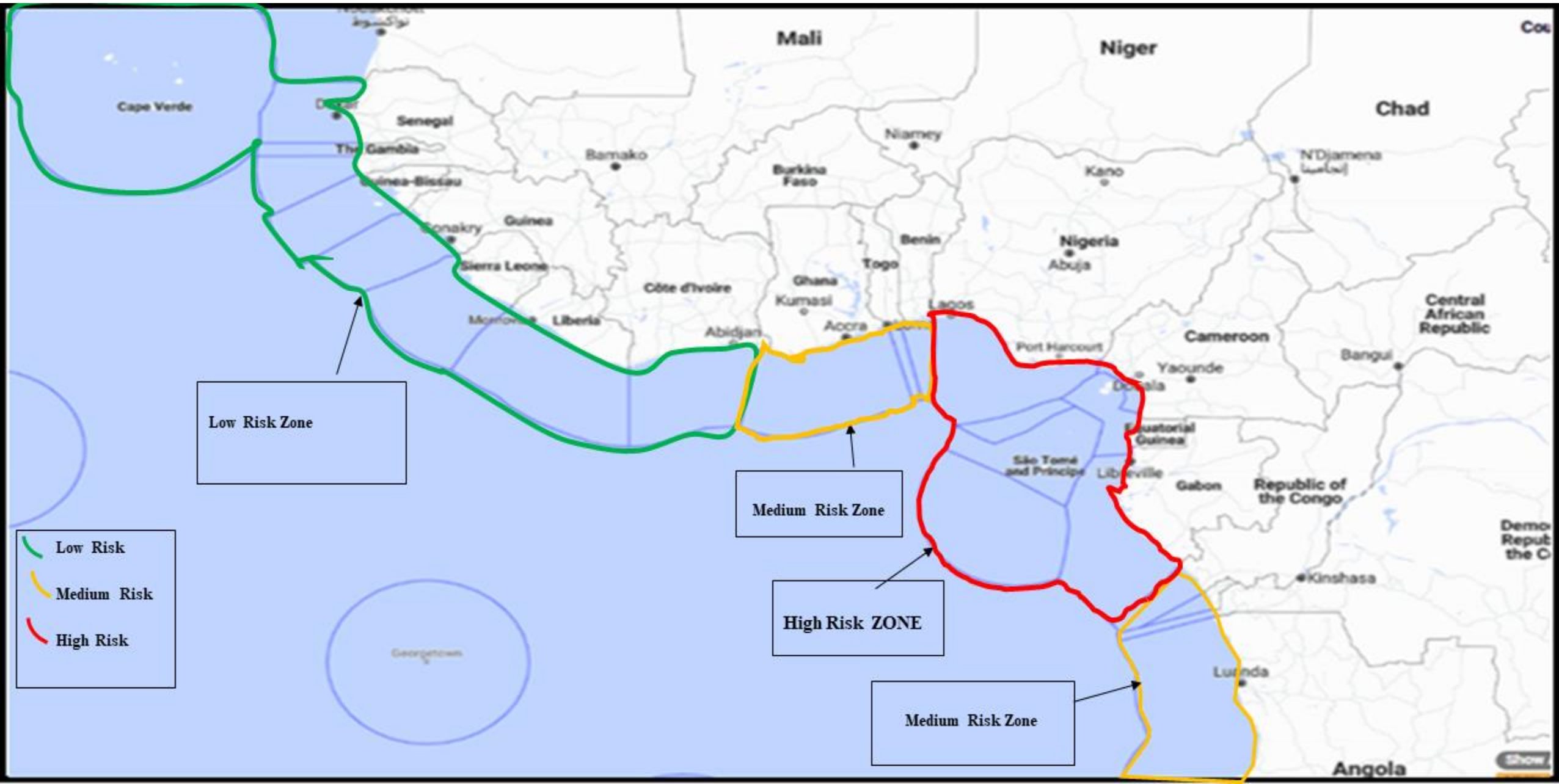


FORCAST FOR THE COMING WEEK

- 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



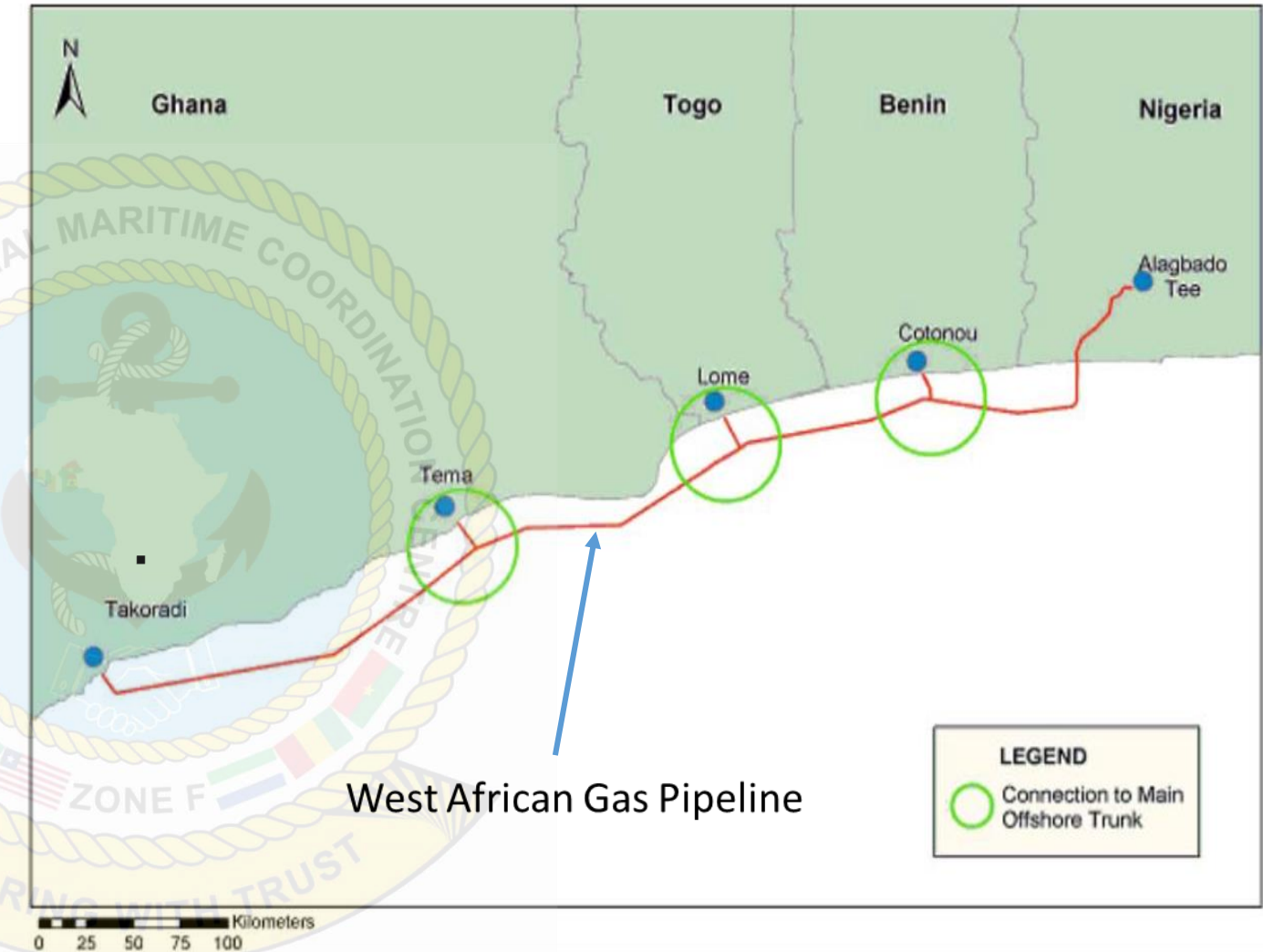
NOTICES

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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