

GULF OF GUINEA

QUARTERLY MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2022

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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 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 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 subparagraphs 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 Persons or Property onboard such Ships, within a States jurisdiction over such offences.

Hijack

Vessels are taken by attackers, and are 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 taking control of the vessel.

Robbery

Theft is realised in territorial waters with threats or violence to the crew.

Theft

Theft is realised in territorial waters with no violence.

Suspicious Approach

All other unexplained activity in close proximity to an unknown vessel.

Illegal Unreported Unregulated Fishing.

Illegal fishing conducted by national or foreign vessels in contravention of laws and regulations. Fishing is 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 is conducted by vessels without nationality. Fishing in areas or for fish stocks in relation to which there are no applicable conservation or management measures. And, were not expressly permitted, transshipment of fish at sea, often to avoid landing and reporting catch.

Maritime Migration.

Stowaway: A person who hides on a ship, aircraft, or other vehicles. Someone who hides on a ship or aircraft to travel without having to pay.

Illicit 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.

OVERVIEW

1. The MMCC Zone F was established to monitor maritime Zone F as part of measures to reduce growing crime in the Maritime Zone F and by extension the Gulf of Guinea (GoG). The establishment of the Centre became necessary following efforts by National, Regional and International partners to deal with growing acts of piracy, Illegal Unregulated Unreported fishing, drug trafficking and other related transnational organised crimes in the GoG.
2. The activities conducted by the Centre are as follows:
 - a. Monitoring and tracking of vessels and maritime events.
 - b. Collection, analysis and presentations of statistical trends.
 - c. Information Sharing.
 - d. Facilitation of Maritime Operation Planning Activities.
 - e. Participation and coordination of multinational maritime exercises.
3. The services provided by the Centre include:
 - a. Training and capacity development.
 - b. Collaboration and cooperation with maritime stakeholders.
 - c. Provision of maritime security reports and assessments
 - c. Advisory for decision-making.
4. This quarterly report provides an appreciation of maritime activities and the maritime security situation within Maritime Zone F. Maritime Zone F generally remained safe and secured however piracy and armed robbery-related incidents were recorded in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Ghana. Aside from the piracy incidents, IUU, drug trafficking and search and rescue incidents was also were also observed across the zone.

ACTIVITIES

5. The MMCC Zone F and its member states undertook various activities during the last quarter. The activities conducted during the period are outlined below:

MMCC ZONE F

6. The Centre monitored, tracked vessels, and observed suspicious activities within Zone F AoR.

7. The MMCC Zone F shared maritime information with maritime law enforcement agencies and other relevant stakeholders and coordinated response activities at sea.

8. Personnel from the MMCC Zone F participated in the weekly training on YARIS. The training focused on how to navigate and use the YARIS platform.

9. The Centre hosted Rear Admiral Chase Patrick, the Director, of Maritime Headquarters US Naval Forces Europe-Africa, and US 6TH FLEET. He was given a brief on the activities of the Centre, after which he interacted with the staff.

GHANA MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

10. Ghana Navy and other maritime agencies used the MDA tools available to monitor and track vessel activity in Ghanaian waters.

11. Patrols were conducted to dominate Ghana's AoR and enforce maritime regulations.

12. Personnel from the Ghana navy participated in the MOPW. The workshop was held from 18 to 24 August 2022 in Accra. The workshop aimed to equip participants with the requisite knowledge in planning maritime operations at the tactical level.

COTE D'IVOIRE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

13. The Cote d'Ivoire Navy conducted patrols to dominate its AoR and enforced maritime regulations.

14. Escort of a merchant ship was also conducted during the quarter.

15. A maritime tactical exercise was conducted with the Brazilian frigate during the period.

LIBERIA MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

16. The Liberian Coast Guard conducted rigorous patrols to dominate its AoR and enforced maritime regulations.

17. Conducted fisheries law enforcement patrols and Search and Rescue activities over the period.

SIERRA LEONE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

18. The Sierra Leone Joint Operations Centre monitored and coordinated activities within their AoR, including monitoring fisheries activities.

19. Patrols were conducted to dominate the AoR and enforce maritime regulations, including IUU fishing.

20. Sierra Leonean Navy conducted SAR on Saturday, 27 Aug 22, along the coast of Freetown. The SAR resulted from heavy downpours leading to flooding in some communities along the coast of Freetown. Several people were rescued, and properties were recovered. Several others, however, got drowned.

GUINEA MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

21. The Guinean Navy conducted patrols to dominate AoR and enforce maritime regulations, including IUU fishing.

22. The Egyptian flag fishing vessel FADH ALESLAM (MMSI: 622109601), suspected to be engaged in IUU fishing in Guinean waters, was boarded after three days of tracking and monitoring. The fishing vessel, which crossed from Sierra Leonean waters and slipped into Guinea waters at night, was escorted to Conakry port for further investigation.

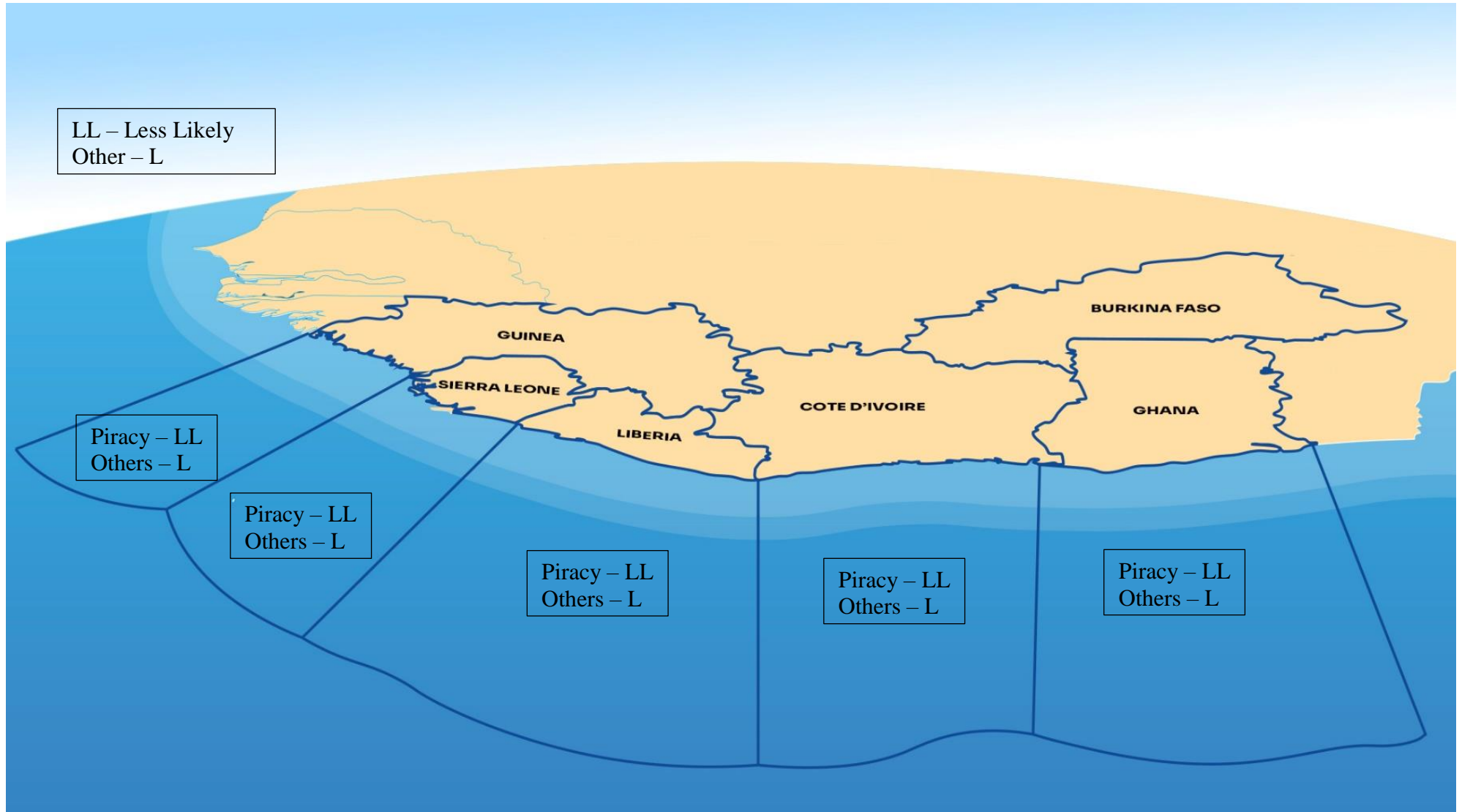
MARITIME SECURITY SITUATION (JULY-SEPTEMBER 2022)

RECORD OF MARITIME INCIDENTS

Category	Type of Incidents	No Incident in the Recorded				
		Ghana	Cote d'Ivoire	Liberia	Guinea	Sierra Leone
Terrorism	Terrorism					
Piracy/Armed Robbery	Hijacking					
	Kidnapping					
	Armed Robbery				1	
	Fired Upon					
	Theft	1				
	Boarding					
Illicit Trafficking	Human					
	Drug					
	Weapons/Ammunitions					
	Smuggling				1	
IUU Fishing	Industrial Fishing				1	
	Craft Fishing					
Pollution						
Illicit Migration	Organised 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				3	
	Collision				1	
Others	Loss of Contact				1	

RISK AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT



ZONAL ASSESSMENT

Frequency (3=More Frequent, 2=Frequent, 1=Less Frequent, 0=Not Frequent)

Vulnerability (3=HighlyVulnerable, 2=Vulnerable, 1=Less Vulnerable, 0=Not Vulnerable)

Threat	Frequency of Occurrence	Vulnerability	Total	Remarks
Piracy	0	2	2	
Armed Robbery	2	2	4	More Effort Required
IUU	2	2	4	More Effort Required
Drug Trafficking	0	2	2	
Illegal Transfers	1	2	3	
Cyber Crime				
Others	1	1	2	

ASSESSMENT FOR MEMBER STATES

Vulnerability to Piracy and Armed Robbery (3=HighlyVulnerable, 2=Vulnerable, 1=Less Vulnerable, 0=Not Vulnerable)

Country/ Incident Type	Port	Anchorage	EEZ	Remarks
Ghana	0	2	0	
Cote d'Ivoire	0	0	0	
Liberia	0	0	0	
Sierra Leone	0	1	0	
Guinea	0	2	1	

Vulnerability to Other Maritime Threats (3=HighlyVulnerable, 2=Vulnerable, 1=Less Vulnerable, 0=Not Vulnerable)

Country/ Incident Type	IUU	Drug Trafficking	Illegal Transfers	Cyber Crime	Others
Ghana	2	2	2	0	1
Cote d'Ivoire	1	0	0	0	1
Liberia	1	0	0	0	1
Sierra Leone	1	0	0	0	1
Guinea	2	2	1	0	1

Comments

23. Maritime Zone F has remained safe and secured despite the periodic record of maritime incidents. The Zone is vulnerable to Armed Robbery in anchorages in Ghana and Guinea. It is also vulnerable to IUU fishing. More efforts are therefore required to deal with the vulnerabilities during the last quarter.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

24. The MMCC Zone F wish to acknowledge the continuous support and cooperation from all member states' MOCs. Specifically, we appreciate them for their prompt response and information sharing relating to shipping safety and security as well as the safety of mariners in Zone F and across the region. The continued cooperation has contributed to ensuring vital maritime trade and fishing activities continued amidst the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. Additionally, we wish to sincerely appreciate our International partners and the private maritime industry for their continued collaboration.

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