



**ECOWAS MULTINATIONAL MARITIME COORDINATION
CENTRE (MMCC) ZONE F**

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
AUGUST 2022**

MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2022

OVERVIEW

1. Maritime Zone F remained safe and secured and did not record any piracy or armed robbery-related incident during the month under review. Despite the calmness, the Guinean Navy intercepted and arrested an Egyptian-flagged fishing vessel for engaging in illegal fishing.
2. Aside from the maritime incident recorded, Ghana hosted the 2022 edition of the Maritime Operation Planning Workshop (MOPW). Also, Weekly YARIS training commenced for staff of the MMCC Zone F during the month under review.

ACTIVITIES

3. The MMCC Zone F and its member states undertook various activities during the month under review. The activities conducted during the period are outlined below:

- a. MMCC Zone F. The MMCC Zone F undertook activities that included monitoring vessels, sharing maritime information, participating in training seminars and hosting delegates.

- (1) Monitoring of Vessels. The Centre monitored, tracked vessels, and observed suspicious activities within Zone F AoR.

- (2) Sharing of Maritime Information. The MMCC Zone F shared maritime information with maritime law enforcement agencies and other relevant stakeholders and coordinated response activities at sea.

- (3) Participation in Training Seminars. 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.

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

- b. Ghana Navy. The Ghana Navy conducted the following activities:

- (1) Monitoring. Ghana Navy and other maritime agencies used the MDA tools available to monitor and track vessel activity in Ghanaian waters.

- (2) Patrols. Patrols were conducted to dominate Ghana's AoR and enforce maritime regulations.

- (3) Training. 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.

- c. Cote d'Ivoire Navy. The Cote d'Ivoire Navy conducted patrols to dominate its AoR and enforced maritime regulations.
- d. Liberia Coast Guard. The Liberian Coast Guard undertook the following activities:
- (1) Patrols. Conducted rigorous patrols to dominate its AoR and enforced maritime regulations.
 - (2) Fisheries Law Enforcement Patrols. Conducted fisheries law enforcement patrols and Search and Rescue activities over the period.
- e. Sierra Leone Navy. The Sierra Leone Navy conducted the following activities.
- (1) Fisheries Monitoring and Surveillance. The Sierra Leone Joint Operations Centre monitored and coordinated activities within their AoR, including monitoring fisheries activities.
 - (2) Patrols. Patrols were conducted to dominate the AoR and enforce maritime regulations, including IUU fishing.
 - (3) Search and Rescue. 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.
- f. Guinea Navy. The Guinean Navy conducted patrols and boarding
- (1) Patrols. Patrols were conducted to dominate AoR and enforce maritime regulations, including IUU fishing.
 - (2) Boarding. 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 INCIDENTS RECORDED

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					
	Fired Upon					
	Robbery/Attempt Robbery					
	Attempt Boarding					
	Boarding					1
	Theft					
	Suspicious Approach					
Illicit Trafficking	Human					
	Drug					
	Weapons/Ammunitions					
	Smuggling					
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	
Others	Loss of Contact				1	
Total					5	1

PIRACY THREAT ASSESSMENT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2022

4. The piracy risk assessment for September 2022 is as follows:
 - a. The threat of pirate attacks in Maritime Zone F is likely for July 2022 since Pirate Action Groups (PAGs) are likely to launch periodic surprise attacks.
 - b. Attack on fishing vessels operating in Maritime Zone F remains likely following the history of these events.
 - c. Maritime Zone F is expected to be relatively safe. However, the possibility of unauthorised boarding and theft within ports/anchorages, especially the Takoradi and Conakry anchorage areas, remains likely.

ILLEGAL FISHING THREAT ASSESSMENT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2022

5. Illegal fishing assessment for September 2022 is as follows:
 - a. Illegal fishing will persist since coastal states within Maritime Zone F are not able to implement measures to deal with the situation adequately
 - b. Both local and foreign vessels will conduct activities at the blind sides of maritime law enforcement agencies.

ILLEGAL TRANSFERS THREAT ASSESSMENT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2022

6. Illegal transfers assessment for September 2022 is as follows:
 - a. The likelihood of illegal transfers, including drugs, oil and other contraband goods, remains likely following their history of occurrence.
 - b. Both local and foreign vessels may engage in these activities without being spotted by maritime law enforcement agencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. The following are recommended:
 - a. All vessels transiting the Maritime Zone F, the sea area from Guinea to Ghana, are advised to remain vigilant, maintain a sharp lookout, apply the BMP West Africa, and report any suspicious activities to the relevant authorities.
 - b. Vessels within ports and anchorages, especially Takoradi and Conakry ports/anchorages, are advised to remain vigilant and rotate crew on watch regularly, especially at night, to prevent petty theft and robberies.
 - c. Vessels are advised to desist from loitering around or drifting unnecessarily offshore to prevent them from being vulnerable to pirate attacks.

d. Coastal law enforcement agencies are encouraged to monitor maritime activities such as IUU, marine pollution, Stowaways, illegal ship-to-ship transfers and drug and weapon trafficking.

9. The MMCC Zone F maintains a 24-hour operations centre. Shipowners and maritime stakeholders can contact the Centre via hotlines at +233 547976523/+233 302736804 or via email at zonefmmcc@gmail.com/zonefmoc@gmail.com to access or report any incidents. The information received from vessels, shipping agents, Company Security Officers (CSOs) and other partners is treated with the utmost confidentiality and shared promptly on a need-to-know basis to coordinate responses.

13 September 2022