



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

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
FEBRUARY 2023**

MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2023

OVERVIEW

1. Maritime Zone F remained safe and secured despite recording a Search and Rescue incident in Sierra Leone.

ACTIVITIES

2. 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 monitored vessel activities in its AoR and shared maritime information with stakeholders. It also participated in Exercise OBANGAME EXPRESS (OE23), from 23 January to 04 February 2023. This exercise is conducted annually within the GoG Member States and designed to enhance regional cooperation, maritime domain awareness, information sharing among others to counter illicit activities at sea within the region.

(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 among maritime law enforcement agencies and other relevant stakeholders as well as coordinated response activities at sea.

(3) **Hosting of Delegations.** The Centre hosted a number of delegations including Mr. Irchard Razaaly, the Ambassador of EU to Ghana who presented additional equipment to the Center on the 1 February. The purpose of donating the equipment to the Centre is to strengthen maritime security and safety in the Zone. On 13 February 2023, some crew members of the ITS FOSCARI (an Italian vessel that was part of the OBANGAME Express 23) visited the Centre for a familiarization tour. Also, students from the Regional Maritime University on a course on Maritime Affairs and Security sponsored by SWAIMS visited the Centre on the 15 February 2023.

b. **Ghana Maritime Law Enforcement Authorities.** Ghana's Maritime Law Enforcement Authorities conducted the following activities:

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

(2) **Patrols.** Patrols were conducted to dominate Ghana's AoR and enforce maritime, fisheries regulations and the protection of critical national infrastructures.

c. **Cote d'Ivoire Maritime Law Enforcement Authorities.** The Cote d'Ivoire Navy conducted patrols to dominate its AoR and enforced maritime regulations.

- d. Liberia Maritime Law Enforcement Authorities. 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. The Liberian Coast Guard conducted fisheries law enforcement patrols and Search over the period.
- e. Sierra Leone Maritime Law Enforcement Authorities. 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 fishing activities.
 - (2) Patrols. Patrols were conducted to dominate the AoR and enforce maritime regulations, including IUU fishing. One of such resulted in the loss of 3 maritime law enforcement personnel at sea who were rescued by some Liberian Fishermen at sea. They were hospitalised in Monrovia and provided with health care.
- f. Guinea Maritime Law Enforcement Authorities. The Guinean Navy conducted the following:
- (1) Monitoring. Maritime prefecture, Guinea Navy and other maritime agencies used the MDA tools available to monitor and track vessel activities in the Guinean waters.
 - (2) Patrols. Patrols were conducted to dominate Guinea's AoR and enforce maritime regulations.
 - (3) Enforced Regulations on Illegal Ship to Ship Activities. Guinean Maritime Law Enforcement Authorities conducted patrols to dominate its AoR and enforced maritime regulations.

MARITIME INCIDENTS RECORDED

Category	Type of Incidents	No Incident in the Recorded				
		Ghana	Cote d'Ivoire	Liberia	Guinea	Sierra Leone
Terrorism	Terrorism	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Piracy/Armed Robbery	Hijacking	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Kidnapping	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Armed Robbery	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Fired Upon	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Boarding	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Theft	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Illicit Trafficking	Human	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Drug	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Weapons/Ammunitions	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Smuggling	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
IUU Fishing	Industrial Fishing	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Craft Fishing	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pollution		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Illicit Migration	Organised Migration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Stowaways	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Illegal Transfer	Illegal Bunkering	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Oil Robbery	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cyber Criminality		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Maritime Accident	Shipwreck	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Collision	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Sinking	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Damage	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Men Overboard	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Search and Rescue	Assistance and Towing	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Sanitary Evacuation	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Capsizing	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Rescue at sea	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Others	Loss of Contact	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PIRACY THREAT ASSESSMENT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2023

4. The piracy risk assessment for March 2023 is as follows:
 - a. The threat of pirate attacks is likely in Maritime Zone F.
 - 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 MARCH 2023

5. Illegal fishing assessment for March 2023 is as follows:
 - a. Illegal fishing will persist due to the coastal states weak legal regimes for enforcement to deal with the situations and their inability to adequately implement measures.
 - b. The conduct of activities at the blind sides of maritime law enforcement agencies by both local and foreign vessels is likely to continue.

ILLEGAL TRANSFERS THREAT ASSESSMENT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2023

6. Illegal transfers' assessment for March 2023 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 within 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 at 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's attacks.

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

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.

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