

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

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES REPORT**

**APRIL 2023**

**MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY REPORT FOR APRIL 2023**

OVERVIEW

1. Maritime Zone F remains relatively safe and secured. Notwithstanding, there was one piracy incident 307NM (outside the EEZ) of Cote D’Ivoire. On the 10th of April, the Singapore flagged chemical tanker SUCCESS 9 was attacked by unknown perpetrators about 307 NM south of Abidjan, Ivory Coast. On the 15 of April, MT SUCCESS 9 was sighted 30NM south of Abidjan’s Port and was escorted by the patrol boats CA FADIKA and CF SEKONGO of the Ivorian Navy with the support of the FALCON 50 to the inner harbor of the port.

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.

(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 on a regular routine, do host high profile guests and other stakeholders who have interest in knowing how the centre works to safeguard and secure its AoR. On the 14 of April 2023, the Chinese Defence Attaché paid a courtesy on Director Oboumou, head of Zone F and on 19th April, Mikkel Ørum Andersen, Program Officer / Centre for Stabilisation Institute for Strategy & War Studies, Royal Danish Defence College visited the Centre. The purpose of the visits were to introduce the new Chinese Defence Attaché and to discuss the conduct of a one-day seminar aimed at building collaboration among maritime stakeholders and its international partners within Ghana respectively.

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 enforce 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.

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 enforce 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 | 1 | 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 |
| Search and Rescue | Men Overboard | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 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 | Nil |
| Others | Loss of Contact | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

PIRACY THREAT ASSESSMENT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2023

4. The piracy risk assessment for MAY 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 MAY 2023

5. Illegal fishing assessment for MAY 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 MAY 2023

6. Illegal transfers’ assessment for MAY 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 enhance ship security on-board and 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, weapon and human 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.

*3 MAY 2023*