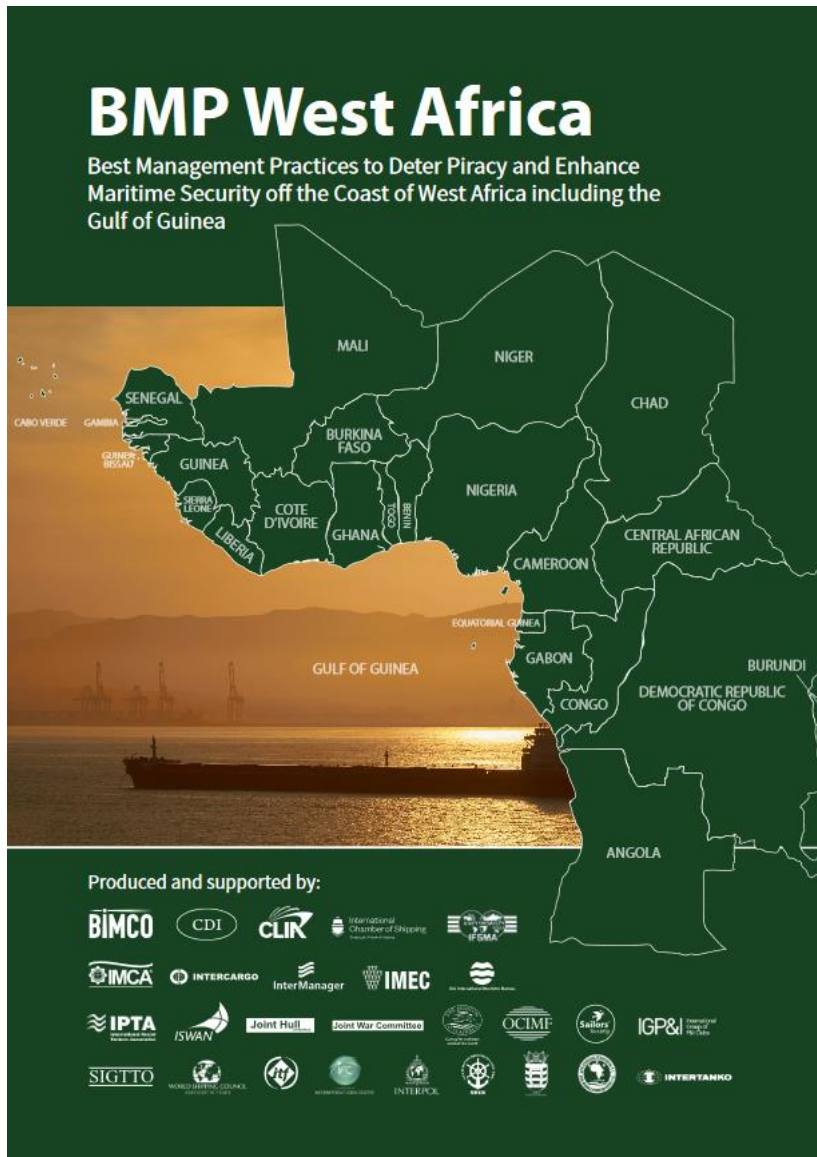


# BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTISES WEST AFRICA



Industry organisations, supported by government and military organisations, have worked together to produce a new publication **“Best Management Practises West Africa”**.

This document will help maritime companies and mariners to risk assess voyages and detect/deter/delay external threats to their safety during their presence in West Africa including the Gulf of Guinea.

You can download this document in this following address:

<https://www.ocimf.org/publications/books/bmp-west-africa.aspx>



# MDAT-GoG Monthly Report 03/2020 March

## OVERVIEW

The MDAT-GOG has been in operation since 20 June 16. It is a virtual reporting mechanism supporting the interregional architecture defined by the Yaounde Code of Conduct. The primary output from the MDAT-GoG is to contribute by maintaining coherent maritime situational awareness in the central and western African Maritime Space, with the ability to inform and support industry, contributing to the safety and security of the Mariner in the regional maritime domain. All vessels are encouraged to report to the MDAT-GoG using the existing reporting formats. The information supplied by vessels will be treated as commercially confidential.

All details can be found on [SHOM Chart 8801CSD](#) or [UKHO Chart Q6114](#), 30 June 2016, to allow vessels to report when their vessel will be transiting the revised Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA), also described on both security charts with the MDAT-GOG, using the email address [watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org](mailto:watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org). Phone number is monitored permanently (+33 (0)298 22 88 88).

Any queries regarding ADVISORY NOTICES ring: +33 (0)298 22 88 88, for further information. ADVISORIES are not classified as Maritime Security Events and have not been verified by MDAT-GoG. This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the region. MDAT-GoG is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting.

Masters are encouraged to comply with [Global Counter Piracy Guidance](#) and with [Best Management Practices West Africa \(BMP WA\)](#) during their presence in Voluntary Reporting Area.

17 events have been reported to MDAT-GoG for March 2020, Serials 24/20 to 41/20.

Fair winds and following seas!

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- [Monthly Statistics](#)
- [Map of Incident](#)
- [Details of Incident](#)
- [Maritime Criminal Activity Report](#)

## CLASSIFICATIONS

**Hijack:** Vessel taken by attacker, no longer under the control of the Master.

**Attack:** Use of weapons by assailants at vessel or boarding with intent to take-control of the vessel.

**Boarding:** Assailants board a vessel with intention to take control of the vessel.

**Suspicious approach:** Close approach with unknown-

**Robbery:** Theft realized in territorial waters with threat/violence to crew.

**Theft:** Theft realized in territorial waters with no violence.

**Sighting and Irregular activity:** All suspicious information with no proof of intent to board the vessel.

## CONTACT US

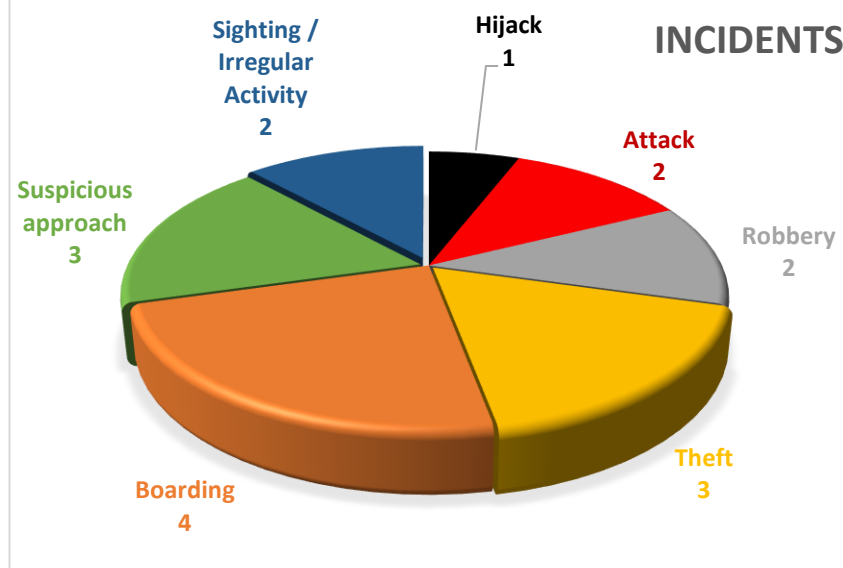
[watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org](mailto:watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org)

Emergency: +33 298 22 88 88

Exercise: +33 298 22 13 02

Phones and mail are monitored 24/7. Both French and English are spoken.

## MONTHLY STATISTICS: MARCH 2020

[Back to main page](#)**INCIDENTS reported**

- Hijack: 1
- Attack: 2
- Boarding: 4
- Susp. approach: 3
- Robbery: 2
- Theft: 3
- Sighting – Irr. activity: 2
- False alarm: 0

**NOTICES**

Any queries regarding these Advisory Notices, contact us for further information. ADVISORIES are not classified as Maritime Security Events and have not been verified by MDAT-GoG. This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the region. MDAT-GoG is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting.

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ADVISORIES:	Date of issue	Classification and comments
8 issued		

001	05/03/20	Suspicious Approach
002	06/03/20	Boarding
002 Update 1	06/03/20	Boarding
003	25/03/20	Sighting
004	25/03/20	Suspicious Approach
005	27/03/20	Attack
005 Amend 1	27/03/20	Attack
006	31/03/20	Irregular Activity/ Sighting

WARNINGS	Date of issue	Classification and comments
8 issued		

001	05/03/20	Boarding
001 Update 1	06/03/20	Boarding
002	20/03/20	Attack
002 Update 1	20/03/20	Attempt Boarding
003	22/03/20	Attack
003 Update 1	22/03/20	Attack
004	25/03/20	Attack
004 Update 1	25/03/20	Attack

**DRILL EXERCISE**

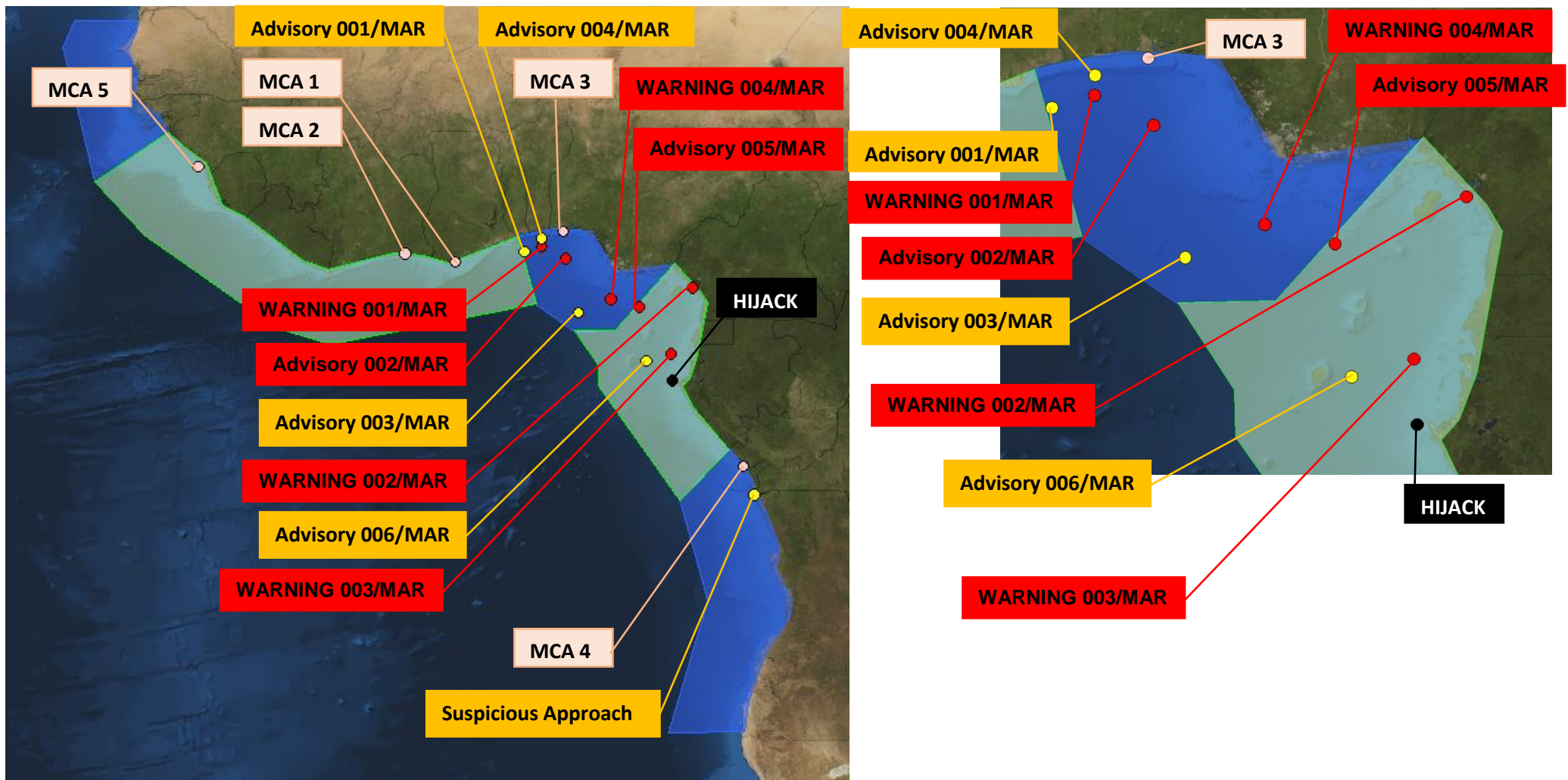
5 issued

Date

Company

001	11/03/20	BP SHIPPING LTD
002	12/03/20	COSCO Shipping Asphalt Hainan
003	23/03/20	MAERSK A/S
004	25/03/20	PONANT
005	26/03/20	Thome Ship Management Pte Ltd

## MAP OF INCIDENTS

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HIJACK
ATTACK-BOARDING
SIGHTING - IRREGULAR ACT. - SUSPICIOUS APPROACH
THEFT - ROBBERY
SEARCH AND RESCUE - MISC

MCA : MARITIME CRIME ACTIVITY

## DETAIL OF INCIDENTS

[Back to the Map](#)**Advisory 001/MAR**

Incident 25/20

<b><u>Category</u></b> <b><u>Date</u></b>	Suspicious Approach 05 Mar. 20	<b><u>Status of Incident</u></b> <b><u>Time (UTC)</u></b>	Failed 07:46
<b><u>Position</u></b>	05°21'45N - 001°31'48E	<b><u>Bearing / Range</u></b>	162/48NM off Lome, TOGO
<b><u>Status of Vessel</u></b>	En Route	<b><u>Weather during the Attack</u></b>	SW 3/2 Partly Clouded

**Description:** An MV (**NAME WITHHELD**) has reported being approached in position 05°21'45N - 001°31'48E (162/48NM off Lome, TOGO) at 0746UTC on the 05<sup>th</sup> March 2020 by one skiff with 9-10 POB.

**Duration of Attack:** Approximately 11 minutes.

**Method Of Approach:** High speed (20-25knts) with at first a parallel course to MV and then approach directly.

**Type of Vessel used:** Craft with black and white colour with at least 9 people on board.

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** Nil.

**Incident reported to:**  
MDAT, Area F and AREA E.

**MDAT Reference:** [Advisory 001/MAR](#) and [Weekly 20-10](#).

**INCIDENT CLOSED**



## DETAIL OF INCIDENTS

[Back to the Map](#)**Warning 001/MAR**

Incident 26/20

<b><u>Category</u></b> <b><u>Date</u></b>	Boarding 05 Mar. 20	<b><u>Status of Incident</u></b> <b><u>Time (UTC)</u></b>	Successful 12:45
<b><u>Position</u></b>	05°36.13N – 002°20.38E	<b><u>Bearing / Range</u></b>	188/45NM off Cotonou, BENIN
<b><u>Status of Vessel</u></b>	En Route	<b><u>Weather during the Attack</u></b>	Rain, Calm sea

**Description:** An MV (**NAME WITHHELD**) was boarded by 6-8 attackers in position 05°36.13N - 002°20.38E). A Beninese Patrol boat (**NAME WITHHELD**) was dispatched by local authorities in order to assist and secure the MV.

**Duration of Attack:** Approximately 10 hours.

**Method Of Approach:** Not stated.

**Type of Vessel used:** Not stated.

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** Information withheld

**Incident reported to:**  
MDAT, Area F and AREA E.

**MDAT Reference:** [Warning 001/MAR and Weekly 20-10.](#)

**INCIDENT CLOSED**

## DETAIL OF INCIDENTS

[Back to the Map](#)**Advisory 002/MAR**

Incident 27/20

<b><u>Category Date</u></b>	Boarding 05 Mar. 20	<b><u>Status of Incident Time (UTC)</u></b>	Successful 18:27
<b><u>Position</u></b>	05°04N – 003°28'36E	<b><u>Bearing / Range</u></b>	180/79NM off Lagos, NIGERIA
<b><u>Status of Vessel</u></b>	En Route	<b><u>Weather during the Attack</u></b>	CLEAR, E/4 1.0M/0.5M

**Description:** An MV (**NAME WITHHELD**) has launched a SSAS distress alert on the 05<sup>th</sup> March at 1827UTC regarding a piracy attack. A skiff with 5 to 6 attackers boarded the MV and the crew mustered inside the citadel. A Nigerian Navy Ship was dispatched to investigate. All crew and ship were reported safe.

**Duration of Attack:** Approximately 15 hours.

**Method Of Approach:** Aggressive with the use of weapons against the MV.

**Type of Vessel used:** One craft.

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** Gunshot impact and cash stolen.

**Incident reported to:**  
MDAT, Area F and AREA E.

**MDAT Reference:** [Advisory 002/MAR](#) and [Weekly 20-10](#).

**INCIDENT CLOSED**

## DETAIL OF INCIDENTS

[Back to the Map](#)**Suspicious Approach**

Incident 29/20

<b><u>Category</u></b> <b><u>Date</u></b>	Suspicious Approach 15 Mar. 20	<b><u>Status of Incident</u></b> <b><u>Time (UTC)</u></b>	Successful 16:05
<b><u>Position</u></b>	06°04'32S – 012°18'26E	<b><u>Bearing / Range</u></b>	327/4NM off Soyo, ANGOLA
<b><u>Status of Vessel</u></b>	At Anchorage	<b><u>Weather during the Attack</u></b>	Not stated

**Description:** On 15<sup>th</sup> March at 1605UTC, in position 06°04'32S - 012°18'26E, while at anchorage, a supply vessel was approached by two skiffs with 4 and 6 persons on board. The alarm was raised and SSAS activated. Noticing the vessel's alerting, the skiffs changed their course to Congo River. The port authorities were informed and a patrol boat was dispatched to the area. Vessel and crew were reported safe.

**Duration of Attack:** Approximately 25 minutes.

**Method Of Approach:** Not stated.

**Type of Vessel used:** Two skiffs.

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** Nil.

**Incident reported to:**  
MDAT, Port authorities.

**MDAT Reference:** [Weekly 20-12.](#)

**INCIDENT CLOSED**



## DETAIL OF INCIDENTS

[Back to the Map](#)**WARNING 002/MAR**

Incident 32/20

<b><u>Category</u></b> <b><u>Date</u></b>	Boarding 19 Mar. 20	<b><u>Status of Incident</u></b> <b><u>Time (UTC)</u></b>	Failed 22:24
<b><u>Position</u></b>	03°40N – 009°25E	<b><u>Bearing / Range</u></b>	217/22NM off Douala, CAMEROON
<b><u>Status of Vessel</u></b>	At Anchorage	<b><u>Weather during the Attack</u></b>	WIND -14Knt SEA 1.5m, Rain

**Description:** On 19<sup>th</sup> March at 2224UTC, in position 03°40N – 009°25E, an MV (**NAME WITHHELD**) had been attacked by 8 armed people in a boat. Pirates fled after shots was fired between them and the security team. Ship and crew were reported safe

**Duration of Attack:** Approximately 15-20 minutes.

**Method Of Approach:** Aggressive with use of weapons.

**Type of Vessel used:** One wooden boat.

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** Gunshots impacts.

**Incident reported to:**  
MDAT, Area D.

**MDAT Reference:** [Warning 002/MAR and Weekly 20-12.](#)

**INCIDENT CLOSED**

## DETAIL OF INCIDENTS

[Back to the Map](#)**WARNING 003/MAR**

Incident 34/20

<b><u>Category</u></b> <b><u>Date</u></b>	Boarding 22 Mar. 20	<b><u>Status of Incident</u></b> <b><u>Time (UTC)</u></b>	Successful 07:26
<b><u>Position</u></b>	00°33'36N – 008°25'11E	<b><u>Bearing / Range</u></b>	280/62 off Libreville, GABON
<b><u>Status of Vessel</u></b>	En Route	<b><u>Weather during the Attack</u></b>	Not stated

**Description:** On the 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 0726UTC, in position 00°33'36N - 008°25'11E, an unknown number of attackers have boarded an MV (**NAME WITHHELD**).

**Duration of Attack:** Not stated.

**Method Of Approach:** Not stated.

**Type of Vessel used:** Not stated.

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** Information withheld

**Incident reported to:**  
MDAT, MOC LIBREVILLE, Area D.

**MDAT Reference:** [Warning 003/MAR](#) and [Weekly 20-13](#).

**INVESTIGATION IN PROGRESS**

## DETAIL OF INCIDENTS

[Back to the Map](#)**HIJACK**

Incident 35/20

<b><u>Category</u></b>	Hijack	<b><u>Status of Incident</u></b>	Successful
<b><u>Date</u></b>	21 Mar. 20	<b><u>Time (UTC)</u></b>	05:00
<b><u>Position</u></b>	00°42S -008°28'37E	<b><u>Bearing / Range</u></b>	270/22NM off Port Gentil, GABON
<b><u>Status of Vessel</u></b>	En Route	<b><u>Weather during the Attack</u></b>	Not stated

**Description:** On the 21<sup>st</sup> March, at approximately 0500UTC, at 22NM off Port Gentil inside Gabonese TTW (approx. position: 00°42S - 008°28'37E), an MV (**NAME WITHHELD**) was attacked by an unknown number of attackers while transiting between Bata to Annobon. The MV (**NAME WITHHELD**) was later hijacked and headed towards Nigeria. The MV (**NAME WITHHELD**) was released on 23<sup>rd</sup> March in position 03°53'7N - 006°50'56E.

**Duration of Attack:** Not stated.

**Method Of Approach:** Not stated.

**Type of Vessel used:** Not stated.

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** Information withheld

**Incident reported to:**  
MDAT, Area D.

**MDAT Reference:** [Weekly 20-13.](#)

**INVESTIGATION IN PROGRESS**

## DETAIL OF INCIDENTS

[Back to the Map](#)**Warning 004/MAR**

Incident 36/20

<b><u>Category</u></b>	Attack	<b><u>Status of Incident</u></b>	Failed
<b><u>Date</u></b>	25 Mar. 20	<b><u>Time (UTC)</u></b>	10:06
<b><u>Position</u></b>	03°08N – 005°35E	<b><u>Bearing / Range</u></b>	208/79NM off Brass, NIGERIA
<b><u>Status of Vessel</u></b>	En Route	<b><u>Weather during the Attack</u></b>	Not stated

**Description:** On the 25<sup>th</sup> March, at 1006UTC, an MV (**NAME WITHHELD**) was attacked by one skiff with 7 persons on board in position 03°08N- 005°35E. The MV (**NAME WITHHELD**) has adopted evasive manoeuvres and a security ship from AGBAMI FIELD came for assistance. The MV and crew were reported safe.

**Duration of Attack:** Not stated.

**Method Of Approach:** Not stated.

**Type of Vessel used:** Not stated.

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** Not Stated.

**Incident reported to:**  
MDAT, Area E.

**MDAT Reference:** [Warning 004/MAR and Weekly 20-13.](#)

**INCIDENT CLOSED**

## DETAIL OF INCIDENTS

[Back to the Map](#)**Advisory 003/MAR**

Incident 37/20

<b><u>Category</u></b> <b><u>Date</u></b>	Sighting 25 Mar. 20	<b><u>Status of Incident</u></b> <b><u>Time (UTC)</u></b>	Failed 16:00
<b><u>Position</u></b>	02°30N – 004°04E	<b><u>Bearing / Range</u></b>	232/180NM off Brass, NIGERIA
<b><u>Status of Vessel</u></b>	En Route	<b><u>Weather during the Attack</u></b>	Clear/ BF 4 W /Sea Moderate / light sea waves

**Description:** On the 25<sup>th</sup> March, at 1600UTC, in position 02°30N - 004°04E, an MV (**NAME WITHHELD**) has reported to be followed by an unknown craft when her security ship leaved her escort. The security ship came back and the following skiff turned back.

**Duration of Attack:** Approximately 30 minutes.

**Method Of Approach:** Not stated.

**Type of Vessel used:** Black color hull boat.

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** Nil.

**Incident reported to:**  
MDAT, Area E.

**MDAT Reference:** [Advisory 003/MAR](#) and [Weekly 20-13](#).

**INCIDENT CLOSED**

## DETAIL OF INCIDENTS

[Back to the Map](#)**Advisory 004/MAR**

Incident 38/20

<b><u>Category</u></b> <b><u>Date</u></b>	Suspicious Approach 26 Mar. 20	<b><u>Status of Incident</u></b> <b><u>Time (UTC)</u></b>	Successful 08:20
<b><u>Position</u></b>	05°59'8N – 002°21'2E	<b><u>Bearing / Range</u></b>	193/22 off Cotonou, BENIN
<b><u>Status of Vessel</u></b>	En Route	<b><u>Weather during the Attack</u></b>	Calm

**Description:** On the 26<sup>th</sup> March at 0820UTC, in position 05°59'8N - 002°21'2E, an MT (**NAME WITHHELD**) has been approached by a skiff with 4 to 5 POB. After executing evasive manoeuvres, the MT (**NAME WITHHELD**) noticed that the skiff aborted its approach. Vessel and crew were reported safe.

**Duration of Attack:** Approximately 30 minutes.

**Method Of Approach:** Not stated.

**Type of Vessel used:** White/Orange craft

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** Nil.

**Incident reported to:**  
MDAT, Area E.

**MDAT Reference:** [Advisory 004/MAR](#) and [Weekly 20-13](#).

**INCIDENT CLOSED**



## DETAIL OF INCIDENTS

[Back to the Map](#)**Advisory 005/MAR**

Incident 40/20

<b><u>Category</u></b>	Attack	<b><u>Status of Incident</u></b>	Failed
<b><u>Date</u></b>	27 Mar. 20	<b><u>Time (UTC)</u></b>	17:00
<b><u>Position</u></b>	02°45'36N – 006°55'18E	<b><u>Bearing / Range</u></b>	188/100NM off Bonny, NIGERIA

<b><u>Status of Vessel</u></b>	En Route	<b><u>Weather during the Attack</u></b>	Not Stated
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**Description:** On the 27<sup>th</sup> March at 1700UTC, in position 02°45'36"N - 006°55'18"E, an MV (**NAME WITHHELD**) has been attacked by a skiff with 8 to 10 POB. While the vessel was executing evasive manoeuvres, the attackers opened fire on the MV (**NAME WITHHELD**). They aborted after 15 minutes of attack and headed East. Vessel and crew were reported safe.

**Duration of Attack:** Approximately 15 minutes.

**Method Of Approach:** Not stated.

**Type of Vessel used:** 10 meters long skiff.

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** Not stated.

**Incident reported to:**

MDAT, Area E.

**MDAT Reference:** [Advisory 005/MAR](#) and [Weekly 20-14](#).

**INCIDENT CLOSED**

## DETAIL OF INCIDENTS

[Back to the Map](#)**Advisory 006/MAR**

Incident 41/20

<b><u>Category</u></b> <b><u>Date</u></b>	Sighting 31 Mar. 20	<b><u>Status of Incident</u></b> <b><u>Time (UTC)</u></b>	Not concerned 09:48
<b><u>Position</u></b>	00°13'18N – 007°14'30E	<b><u>Bearing / Range</u></b>	97/32NM off Ana Chaves, STP
<b><u>Status of Vessel</u></b>	En Route	<b><u>Weather during the Attack</u></b>	Not Stated

**Description:** On the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 at 0948UTC, in position 00°13'18N - 007°14'30E, an MV reported a large number of skiffs with 2-3 persons on board.

**Duration of Attack:** Approximately 15 minutes.

**Method Of Approach:** Not stated.

**Type of Vessel used:** 10 meters long skiff.

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** Not stated.

**Incident reported to:**  
MDAT, Area E.

**MDAT Reference:** [Advisory 006/MAR](#) and [Weekly 20-14](#).

**INCIDENT CLOSED**

## MARITIME CRIMINAL ACTIVITY REPORT

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## MARITIME CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

## Maritime Crime Activity 01: Theft

Event 024/20

**GHANA, Takoradi**

**Description:** On 04<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 0330UTC, two intruders tried to board an MV (**NAME WITHHELD**) while she was at anchorage. They were spotted by the officer on watch who raised the alarm. The intruders fled away on small wooden boat manned by two other men. Ship and crew were reported safe. During the same night and time, two other MV (**NAMES WITHHELD**) reported theft on their board.

**Method Of Approach:** use of a wooden boat.

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** One outboard engine.

**MDAT-GOG Reference:** Weekly 20-10.

## Maritime Crime Activity 02: Robbery

Event 028/20

**COTE D'IVOIRE, ABIDJAN**

**Description:** On the 07<sup>th</sup> March at 0150UTC, while at Abidjan Anchorage, an intruder was found on board on a MV (**NAME WITHHELD**). The alarm was raised and the port authority informed. The intruder fled away. Ship and Crew were reported safe.

**Method Of Approach:** Manual canoe without engine.

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** One mobile phone.

**MDAT-GOG Reference:** Weekly 20-11.

## MARITIME CRIMINAL ACTIVITY REPORT

[Back to the Map](#)

## MARITIME CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

## Maritime Crime Activity 03: Theft

Event 031/20

**NIGERIA, Lagos**

**Description:** On the 19<sup>th</sup> March at 0045UTC, in position 06°18'48N - 003°21'18E, an intruder was found on the deck by the antipiracy round. The security team member used warning shots and the alarm on board was raised that caused the intruder to flee. A Nigerian Navy patrol was dispatched on the scene. Ship (**NAME WITHHELD**) and crew were reported safe.

**Method Of Approach:** use of a dhow.

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** 12.2 cubic meter of cargo unleaded gasoline.

**MDAT-GOG Reference:** Weekly 20-12.

## Maritime Crime Activity 04: Theft

Event 033/20

**REPUBLIC OF CONGO, Pointe Noire**

**Description:** On the 20<sup>th</sup> March between 0130 and 0530UTC, a MV (**NAME WITHHELD**) was robbed while at Pointe Noire Anchorage (position 04°43'09S - 011°46'22E).

**Method Of Approach:** The intruders boarded the MV by the anchor chain.

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** One mooring rope, paint cans and Thinner cans stolen.

**MDAT-GOG Reference:** Weekly 20-13.

## MARITIME CRIMINAL ACTIVITY REPORT

[Back to the Map](#)

## MARITIME CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

## Maritime Crime Activity 05: Robbery

Event 039/20

**GUINEA, Conakry**

**Description:** On the 27<sup>th</sup> March, at 0230UTC, while in anchorage at Conakry, a robbery occurred on board of an MV (**NAME WITHHELD**).

**Method Of Approach:** wooden skiff.

**Consequences for Crew/Ship/Cargo:** Cash and property stolen.

**MDAT-GOG Reference:** Weekly 20-13.