

CRESMAO MONTHLY BULLETIN MAY 2023

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MONTHLY BULLETIN CRESMAO

CONTENTS

ITEM **Title Page Content Page Events Reporting Events Synthesis Events Synthesis Summary** Maritime Information of Interest **CRESMAO** Recommendations **Proposed Monthly Reading List** National and Zonal Centres Contacts

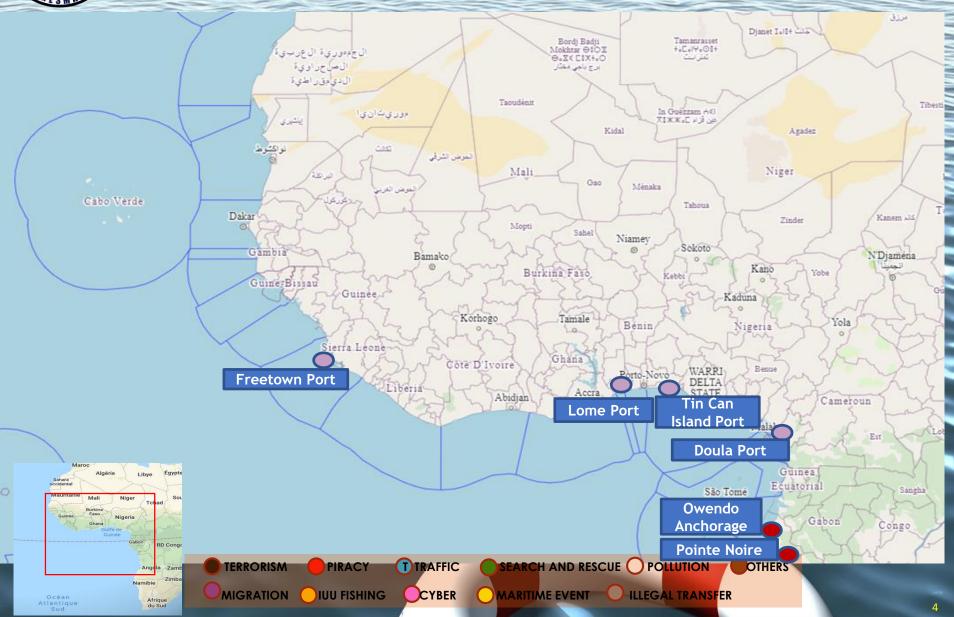


MONTHLY BULLETIN CRESMAO EVENTS REPORTING

Categories	Types of Incidents	Incidents by Zones		
		E	F	G
TERRORISM	TERRORISM			
PIRACY/ ARMED ROBBERY	HIJACKING			
	KIDNAPPING			
	ARMED BOARDING			
	FIRING UPON			
	ROBBERY/ATTEMPT ROBBERY			
	ATTEMPT BOARDING			
	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH			
ILLICIT TRAFFIC	HUMAN			
	DRUG			
	WEAPONS/AMUNITIONS			
	SMUGGLING			
I.U.U FISHING	INDUSTRIAL FISHING			
	CRAFT FISHING			
POLLUTION	ALL TYPES OF POLLUTION			
ILLICIT MIGRATION	ORGANIZED MIGRATION			
	STOWAWAYS	2	1	
ILLEGAL TRANSFER OF PETROLEUM	ILLEGAL BUNKERING			
PRODUCTS	OIL ROBBERY			
CYBER CRIMINALITY	CYBER THREATS, RISKS & VULNERABILITIES			
RELEASE OF HOSTAGES	SHIPWRECK			
	COLLISION			
	GROUNDING			
	COMMON DAMMAGE			
SEARCH AND RESCUE	SEARCH AND RESCUE			
	ASSISTANCE AND TOWING			
	MEN OVERBOARD			
	SANITARY EVACUATION			
OTHERS	VESSELS OF INTEREST (VOIs)			2

MONTHLY BULLETIN CRESMAO EVENTS REPORTING (CONTD)

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MONTHLY BULLETIN CRESMAO

EVENTS SYNTHESIS

TERRORISM				
NOTHING TO REPORT				
PIRACY/ARMED ROBBERY				
NOTHING TO REPORT				
ILLICIT TRAFFICKING				
NOTHING TO REPORT				
I.U.U. FISHING				
NOTHING TO REPORT				
POLLUTION				
NOTHING TO REPORT				
ILLICIT MIGRATION				

STOWAWAY INCIDENTS ABOARD BULK CARRIERS ERNEST VINBERG AND ST GEORGE

On 9 May 23, CRESMAO received information of the discovery of a Cameroonian stowaway onboard the Liberian BULK CARRIER ERNEST VINBERG, IMO 9707649, enroute to Sierra Leonean Port in Freetown. The stowaway boarded the vessel at Doula Port, Cameroun and was turned over to Sierra Leonean authorities. Similarly, on 12 May 2023, CRESMAO received another report of a stowaway incident on a marshall island flagged Bulk Carrier ST GEORGE, IMO 9500663. Two Nigerian stowaways reportedly boarded the vessel in Lome Port and were discovered by the crew who reported the incident and ensured that they disembarked in the same port.





MONTHLY BULLETIN CRESMAO

EVENTS SYNTHESIS (CONT'D)

ILLICIT MIGRATION (contd)

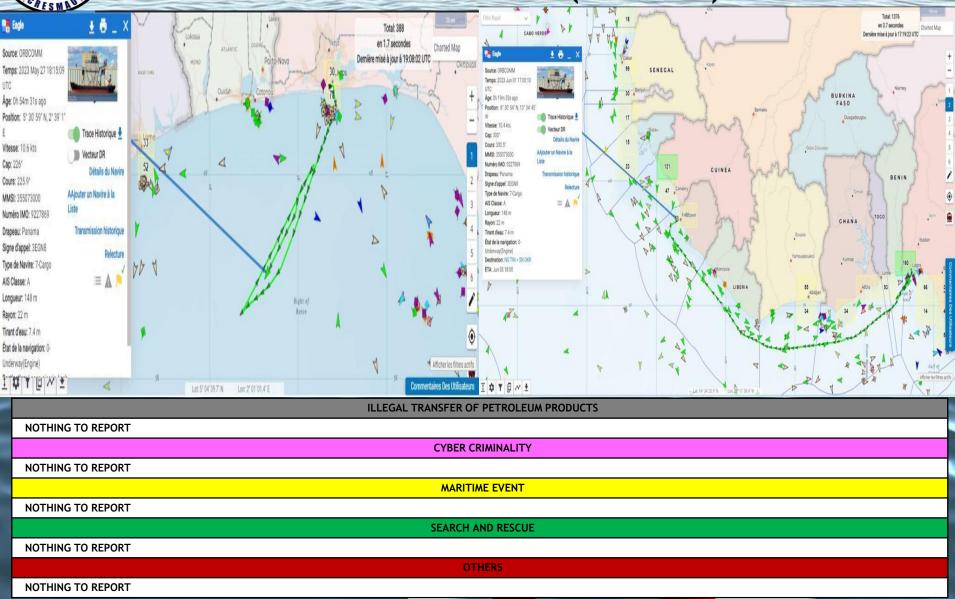
ALLEGED STOWAWAY INCIDENT ABOARD BULK CARRIER EAGLE IN TIN CAN PORT

At about 1430 (GMT+1) on 27 May 23, the Western Regional Control Centre (WRCC) of Falcon Eye (FE) Alignment informed CRESMAO that a Panamanian-flagged Bulk Carrier, MV EAGLE, IMO Number 9227869, reported a stowaway incident, after departing Tin Can Island. The vessel berthed at Berth 1A, Terminal A at Tin Can Port to conduct a shipping operation from 17 - 26 May 23. After casting off and enroute to Dakar, Senegal in the morning of 27 May 23, the merchant ship while within the EEZ of the Republic of Benin, allegedly discovered 2 Nigerian stowaways onboard. After the report was received by WRCC, an RV position, about 0.5nmiles off Lagos FWB, was promulgated for retrieval of the alleged stowaways by NNS BEECROFT Task Force (TF) stationed at Tarkwa Bay. Around 1505 the same day, about 23nmiles from Lagos FWB, the vessel altered reciprocal course, prompting WRCC to question its intentions, which the Master could not clearly explain. Thereafter, the vessel stopped responding to radio calls and changed her voyage details from Lagos Anchorage to Dakar. Efforts were also made to contact the vessel's local agent, Ocean Glory Commodities Nigeria Limited, which proved abortive as all contact lines failed to connect.



MONTHLY BULLETIN CRESMAO EVENTS SYNTHESIS (CONT'D)

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MONTHLY BULLETIN CRESMAO COMMENTS

The high number of stowaways discovered to have boarded vessels on international voyage from ports within the GoG/ECOWAS Maritime Domain (EMD) in the month of May 2023 could have occurred as a result of lapses in ISPS Code measures, expected to have been emplaced in ships and ports as well. If ships and ports strictly adhere to provisions of the ISPS Codes without compromise from port workers, ships agents and crew members onboard, authorised access to ships at anchorages and those berthed in port facilities within the GoG would hardly occur. Such measures in addition to proper adherence to BMP WA would ensure the security and safety of vessels within the GoG to further reinforce anti-piracy and anti-sea robbery measures emplaced by GoG countries, the Yaoundé Architecture for Maritime security (YAMS) and international partner navies and organisations. The unauthorised access of the stowaways to the ships could have been accomplished through connivance with actors at the ship-port interface, without the Captain's consent. This could explain the various Captains' resolve to hand discovered stowaways to relevant maritime security agencies. However, the reported case of the suspected stowaways on MV EAGLE BULKER is being investigated by the relevant authorities in Nigeria and Senegal. To curtail rising stowaway incidents in the EMD/GoG there is the for ships and ports to strictly adhere to provisions of the ISPS Code while ships on international voyage, transiting/operating in the GoG need to adhere to BMP WA at all times to boost maritime security within the region.



MONTHLY BULLETIN CRESMAO EVENT SYTHESIS SUMMARY

The ECOWAS Maritime Domain remained relatively calm with no record of piracy incident during the month under review. However the recorded stowaway incident unravels the continuous quest for illegal migration from the region for greener pastures elsewhere. While current antipiracy and anti-armed robbery at sea efforts within the ECOWAS Maritime Domain (EMD)/GoG region needs to be sustained, it is necessary to also focus on emplacing appropriate maritime security measures to curb illegal migration and other illicit maritime crimes. While equal attention could be given to fighting anti-piracy/armed robbery at sea and other related maritime crimes, it does not however suggest that states relax current efforts to combat piracy/armed robbery at sea to avoid a reversal of gains achieved so far. Authorities are also encouraged to tighten security at ports and anchorages to deter criminals operating therein.

CRESMAO advises ships to continuously adopt additional safety measures, maintain extravigilance at all times and adhere to BMP WA measures, especially when operating and/or transiting the GoG, due to the unpredictable maritime security situation in the region. Government agencies and relevant maritime security and safety stakeholders of the region are also advised to maintain high security alertness around ports/anchorages and be ready to respond to incidences at short notice. CRESMAO, MMCCs, national MOCs and member states' navies will continue to leverage MDA tools and capacities to ensure a safer regional maritime space. Additionally, ships and other relevant agencies in the Region are encouraged to share information on any activities at sea which will greatly help to ensure a safer regional maritime domain.



GHANA ARMED FORCES COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE VISIT TO THE CENTRE

On Tuesday 02 May 23, a delegation of the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College (GAFCSC), consisting of staff and students, led by a Chief Instructor, Colonel ET DOKE, visited CRESMAO.

Related link: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/cresmao-yams-43b035230_maritimeabrsecurity-maritimeabrcooperation-activity-7061297303650758656-OMkD?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop





RELEASE OF KIDNAPPED HOSTAGES OF MT MONJASA REFORMER AND MV GREBE BULKER

On 8 May 23, CRESMAO received information on the safe release of the 6 crew members kidnapped from Liberian-flagged oil tanker MT MONJASA REFORMER, while operating about 140 nmiles west of Pointe-Noire, Congo, and taken hostage on 25 March 2023. Similarly, the Centre on 21 May 23, also received information on the safe release of 03 crew members kidnapped from Marshall Island-flagged MV GREBE BULKER, while anchored in Owendo inner anchorage, Gabon and taken hostage on 2 May 2023.





MONTHLY BULLETIN CRESMAO COMMENTS

The six (06) crew kidnapped from MT MONJASA REFORMER were held hostage for about 5 weeks while the three (03) from MV GREBE BULKER were held for 19 days before their release and repatriation back to their home countries to reunite with their families. While there was no clear information on payment of ransom for release of the hostages, investigation revealed that ransoms were probably paid before the release of the hostages, in line with known piracy/kidnapping for ransom payment modus operandi. For merchant ships and businesses, Maritime/Marine Security Insurance (MSI) provides protection for vessels embarked on international voyages, especially those sailing in troubled waters like the GoG. While MT MONJASA REFORMER was involved in bunkering activities with other vessels at sea, which exposes it to piracy attacks and hijacks, MV GREBE BULKER was at Owena inner anchorage, which is expected to be secured in line with the ISPS Code. In both situations, both vessels may have relaxed their BMP WA security measures which made them vulnerable to piracy attacks, hijack and the kidnapping of their crew. Investigations revealed that pirates gangs in the GoG work with informants that provide information about vessels movements and accessibility which are facilitated by possibly compromised agents/crew members who could slacken BMP WA measures. Possibly, such connivance/arrangements are made between sponsors/informants to pirates gangs prior to attacks which brings to fore the need for owners/managers of vessels to ensure proper vetting and vetting after care of onboard emplovees serving port agents/crew vessels. Insurance as companies/owners/managers of vessels need to ensure that crew serving on their vessels properly adhere to BMP WA at all times.



THIRD COURSE ON MARITIME SECURITY AT ATLANTIC CENTRE PORTUGAL

From 8 - 12 May 2023, CRESMAO joined INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION CENTRE, CRESMAC, and participants from 23 Atlantic countries for the 3rd Course on Maritime Security which was held at the Atlantic Centre located at Air Base No 4, Terceira Island Azores, Portugal.

<u>Related link: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/cresmao-yams-43b035230_maritimeabrsecurity-capacityabrbuilding-atlantic-activity-7071404546861801472-izYm?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop</u>





NIGERIAN NAVY PRESIDENTIAL FLEET REVIEW 2023

The Nigerian Navy (NN) held series of activities from 19 - 22 May 2023, comprising a maritime discourse and bilateral talks, culminating in the Presidential Fleet Review 2023, with the theme "Fleet Readiness for National Prosperity", in honour of the outgone President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, at Naval Dockyard Lagos in Nigeria. On Monday, 22 May 2023, the former President reviewed 16 ships and 6 helicopters (hels) of the NN's recapitalized fleet, in addition to three (03) foreign warships, one each from Spain, Brazil and Ghana, which took part in the ceremony. There was also a combined air show by hels of the NN air arm and six (06) super Tucano fighter jets of the Nigerian Airforce as well as a Maritime Interdiction Operation (MIO) demonstration by the NN Special Boat Service (NNSBS) in demonstration of the country's maritime security capacity in the GoG region.





MEETING OF HEADS OF NAVIES AND COAST GUARDS OF GULF OF GUINEA NATIONS

On Monday 22 May 23, the meeting of Heads of Navies and Coast Guards (HNCGs) of the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) coastal nations took place at Naval Dockyard Limited, Victoria Island, Lagos. The Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC), Ambassador Rebecca Amuge Otengo and other invited Heads/Representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the GoG - ECCAS and GGC, attended the meeting. The high point of the meeting was the signing of the Communiqué by 11 out of the 19 HNCGs in the region, for the establishment of a Combined Maritime Task Force (CMTF) GoG, a novel initiative to collectively poll maritime assets and resources to combat maritime crimes bedeviling the region by a coalition of willing member states of the GoG.





MONTHLY BULLETIN CRESMAO COMMENTS

The multi-lateral meeting of the HNCGs of sovereign coastal states of GoG countries is a novel initiative that provided the opportunity for brainstorming to proffer a way forward for a robust collective initiative for combating maritime crimes in the region. It is also worth mentioning that the CMTF whose membership voluntary, is a coalition of willing member states within the GoG region, who have undertaken to contribute troops and assets to the Task Force. Recall that navies and CGs of GoG coastal countries are vested with lead maritime security roles, encompassing territorial defence and policing responsibilities of their respective countries' Territorial Waters (TWs), Contiguous Zones (CZs) and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). The experiences of regional navies and CGs working independently created gaps, which transnational criminal groups and organisations leveraged to commit crimes. Hence, the novel initiative of working together to engender better cooperation, collaboration, interoperability and unity of efforts would minimize such gaps and improve maritime security and safety within the region. The positive expectations of collective security led to the signing of the communiqué for the establishment of the Combine Maritime Task Force for the GoG (CMTF-GoG). The CMTF-GoG would facilitate the polling together of maritime patrol assets and resources by GoG coastal states to collectively combat maritime crimes in the region. It would enable the collective mobilization of a stronger, united, and regional Maritime Security Force (MSF) under a centralized command and control structure for ease of deployment to combat maritime crimes and facilitate the prosecution of suspects at national levels, under relevant national laws of sovereign member states. This would close the existing response gaps in the region.



SPANISH AMBASSADOR & ESPS AUDAZ CREW VISIT TO THE CENTRE

On Monday 22 May 21, the Spanish Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, His Excellency Mr Rafael Soriano led a delegation from Spanish Offshore Patrol Vessel ESPS AUDAZ on a courtesy visit to the Centre.

Related link: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/cresmao-yams-43b035230_maritimeabrsecurity- maritimeabrcooperationabrcollaboration-activity-7069107974832541696-Mvjs?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop





NIGERIAN ARMY COLLEGE OF LOGISTICS AND MANAGEMENT VISIT TO THE CENTRE

On 23 May 2023, a delegation of the Nigerian Army College of Logistics and Management, consisting staff and students, led by the Deputy Commandant, Brigadier General AJ Aliyu paid a courtesy visit to CRESMAO.

<u>Related link:</u> <u>https://www.linkedin.com/posts/cresmao-yams-43b035230_maritimeabrsecurity-maritimeabrcooperation-activity-7069119789805264896-50VG?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop</u>





MONTHLY BULLETIN CRESMAO

MARITIME INFORMATION OF INTEREST (CONTD)

<u>A MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YAOUNDÉ MARITIME</u> SECURITY AND SAFETY ARCHITECTURE

Since its establishment in 2013, the Yaoundé Architecture for Maritime Security and Safety has advanced the objectives of combating transnational crimes such as piracy, illegal trafficking, illegal fishing and marine pollution among others. It has also strengthened regional maritime security cooperation to promote safety at sea and foster sustainable development of various maritime activities in the region. In recent times, significant progresses have been attained through various collaborations between member countries and partners as follows:

- Establishment of a regional information sharing mechanism and facilitating the coordination of maritime security operations.
- Conducting joint patrols with projections to conduct table top exercises for capacity building
 of maritime security forces, to improve surveillance functions within territorial, zonal and
 regional waters.
- Continuously raising awareness among local and international players, encompassing fishermen, sailors and port operators, of the associated maritime security and safety risks with recommendations of best practices to adopt.

The results achieved have contributed considerably to the drastic reduction in piracy incidents within the region. However, some major challenges still exist. The first is the existence of large ungoverned maritime spaces in the GoG region due to lack of policing capabilities and capacities by several GoG countries.



Another challenge is the **existing surveillance gaps** along the more than 6,000 km length of coastline, stretching from Senegal/bordering Cabo Verde to Angola, which impedes effective combat of illicit maritime activities. Another major challenge is the **lack of dedicated financial and specialized technical resources**.

Such challenges requires strengthening regional Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) & surveillance capabilities, improved communication systems & stepping-up bottom-up information sharing mechanisms within the architecture. It also requires sustainable financing for Implementing maritime security and safety initiatives for acquisition of modern equipment and staff training. Although the architecture has benefited from the support of numerous partners, it is however essential to mobilize more sustainable financial resources on long-term basis. The issue of self-financing remain one of the major desires to be achieved.

Additionally, coordination between the various agencies and institutions involved in maritime safety remains a major challenge, especially at national level. The setting up of integrated **national Maritime Operations Centres (MOCs)**, as enunciated in the spirit of the architecture, with **representatives of all the administrations involved in State Action at Sea (AEM)**, will make it possible to meet the major challenge of sharing information and collecting data.

Lastly, it is hoped that the states in the region will agree to work together on a common strategy.



MONTHLY BULLETIN CRESMAO CRESMAO RECOMMANDATIONS

1. All Maritime Operators must be informed of the potential risks associated with navigating and transiting the GoG. The main threats are linked to maritime piracy. The main objectives of these pirates are to kidnap crew members for ransom and rob ships in ports and anchorages. Additionally, illegal migration, IUU Fishing and drug trafficking also poses a significant threat to economic activities in the Region.

2. Maritime Company Security Officers (MCSOs), Captains and Ship Security Officers (SSOs) should ensure that ships adopt BMP WA when transiting or operating within the GoG region. Outside the directives of the SSOs and specific orders of Shipping Companies, it is highly recommended to apply the general measures recommended by the BMP West Africa, the BMP5 and its annex dedicated to the GoG.

3. Maritime operators are requested to report as soon as possible any maritime event or incident that may be of interest to regional, zonal and national Maritime Security Centres (MSCs). These Centres ensure wide and rapid re-distribution of information received to mariners operating within various Areas of Interest (AOIs).

4. CRESMAO distributes monthly Bulletins in order to provide information on general threats but also on specific risks identified or assumed. Specific alert bulletins are issued regularly. These documents are intended to be widely shared.



MONTHLY BULLETIN CRESMAO PROPOSED MONTHLY READING LIST

WOMEN IN MARITIME CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS GENDER EQUALITY INITIATIVES Source: https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/Pages/WhatsNew-1892.aspx

AU LAMENTS SEA BLINDNESS, LACK OF MARITIME LAW IN COASTAL COUNTRIES Source: <u>https://guardian.ng/business-services/au-laments-sea-blindness-lack-of-maritime-law-</u> in-coastal-countries/amp/

AN APOLOGY TO THE NIGERIAN NAVY BY OWNERS OF HEROIC IDUN Source: <u>https://lloydslist.maritimeintelligence.informa.com/LL1145045/An-apology-to-the-Nigerian-Navy-by-owners-of-Heroic-Idun</u>

INDEPENDENT EXPERTS GROUP MEETING ON THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY ACT RELATING TO THE COOPERATION ON THE SUPPRESSION OF ILLICIT MARITIME ACTIVITIES IN ECOWAS Source: <u>https://maritimafrica.com/en/independent-experts-group-meeting-on-the-draftsupplementary-act-relating-to-the-cooperation-on-the-suppression-of-illicit-maritimeactivities-in-ecowas/</u>

FG COMMISSIONS MARITIME SECURITY BOATS

Source: https://shipsandports.com.ng/fg-commissions-maritime-security-boats/



WEEKLY BULLETIN CRESMAO

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