



# MDAT – GoG

## Quarterly Report 02-17

### April – June 2017

#### INCIDENT DISPOSITION

#### IN THIS ISSUE

## 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 their vessels when 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 (+33 298 22 88 88).

After several months of existence, it has been assessed useful to publish a Quarterly Report which would summarize all the events previously reported within the past Weekly reports or received later. We hope this could provide some helpful general overview concerning the events we have to face.

**22 events have been reported to MDAT-GoG this quarter.**

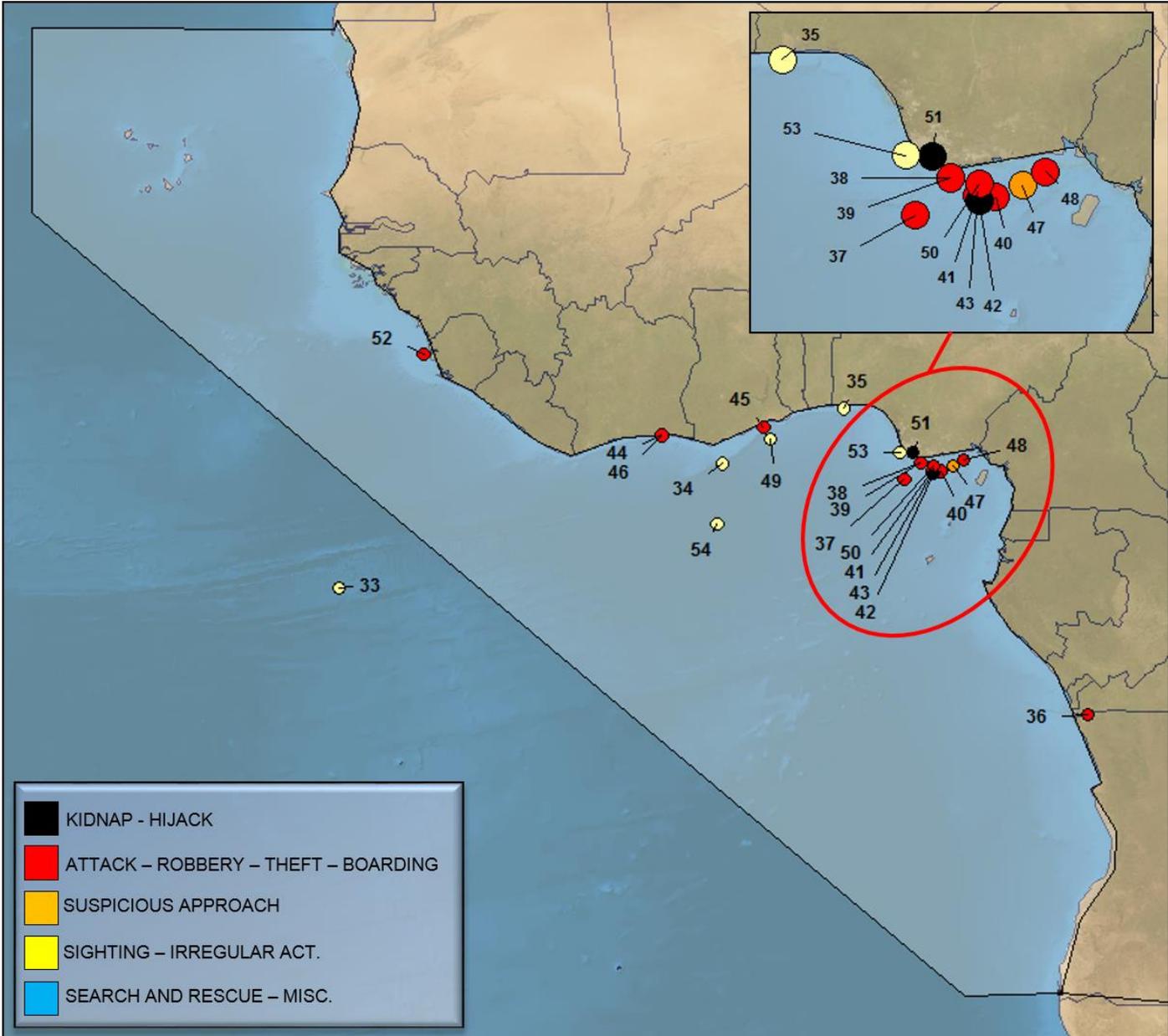
#### Classification criterias

- Sighting and Irregular activity: All suspicious information with no proof of intent to board the vessel.
- Suspicious approach: Close approach with intent to board the vessel.
- Attempted boarding: **Actual** attempt to board a vessel.
- Boarding: Assailants board a vessel.
- Theft: Theft realized in territorial waters with no violence.
- Robbery: Theft realized in territorial waters with threat/violence to crew.
- Attack: Use of weapons by assailants at vessel.
- Kidnap: Crew taken off vessel by force.
- Hijack: Vessel taken by attacker, no longer under the control of the Master.

#### ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

[Naval Oceanic and Hydrographic Service \(SHOM\)](#)  
[Best Management Practice \(BMP\)](#)  
[United Kingdom Hydrographic Office \(UKHO\)](#)  
[IMB Live Piracy Reports](#)

CHART OF EVENTS



## DETAIL OF EVENTS



**054/17 – SIGHTING - On 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017, in position: 01°38.00N – 001°50.00W**

At around 15:30Zhrs, a merchant vessel adrift spotted a suspicious craft. The vessel, who looked like a trawler, was green hulled with white accommodation. Suspicious vessel approached at a distance of 4NM and moved away after the merchant vessel blew horn and manoeuvred.

**MDAT-GoG comment:** Suspicious vessel AIS was turned on and never approached at least than 4NM. Even if the fact that some trawlers are used as mother vessel, MDAT-GoG had not enough information to classify this event as suspicious.



**053/17 – SIGHTING - On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017, in position: 04°31.00N – 005°26.00E**

At an unknown hour, a merchant vessel, a merchant vessel was approached by a suspicious vessel with 5 persons on board. Security crafts around the position were warned and closed the merchant vessel. Suspicious vessel then fled.

**MDAT-GoG comment:** MDAT-GoG did not have enough information concerning this incident, so did not issue an advisory.



**052/17 – THEFT - On 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017, in position: 08°26.33N – 013°28.16W**

At around 02:00Zhrs, a merchant vessel anchored off Freetown (Sierra Leone) was boarded by thieves. Ship's properties were reported stolen by crew.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 22-17)*



**051/17 – KIDNAP - On 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017, in position: 04°30.00N – 005°55.00E**

At about 21:40Zhrs, a 10 meter long vessel was attacked. Criminals kidnapped crewmembers and escaped using double engine speedboats. The speedboats later capsized and some members of the crew may have died. Only one hostage survived.

*This event was reported to MDAT-GoG two days after it took place. It concerned a small vessel inland with no IMO.*

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 22-17)*



**050/17 – ATTACK - On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017, in position: 03°59.00N – 006°46.00E**

At around 11:20Zhrs, a merchant vessel was attacked while anchored off Port Harcourt, Nigeria. The vessel contacted the Nigerian Navy for assistance. Vessel was finally safe and berthed in Bonny, NIGERIA.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 20-17, Warning 001/MAY/2017 and Update Warning 001/MAY/2017)*



**049/17 – SIGHTING - On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017, in position: 05°02.00N – 000°17.00E**

At around 13:30Zhrs, a merchant vessel sighted a small boat with 6 persons approaching her on port side at a speed of 7.5knots. At a distance of 4NM the boat increased its speed, altered course away and increased its speed. Suspicious craft then headed towards a tanker and, most likely, boarded her. Tanker set adrift for a short time and then proceeded to shore.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 20-17)*



**048/17 – BOARDING - On 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017, in position: 04°13.00N – 007°58.00E**

At around 20:00Zhrs, (QUA IBOE TERMINAL, EXXON oilfield, 10 nm North/West from OFON platform), a merchant vessel was boarded by two speed boats each manned with 6 to 8 pirates. As they sighted the speedboats, the crewmembers raised the alarm and retreated to the citadel for 2 hours. No casualties or kidnappings were reported. The attackers fled as another merchant vessel arrived in support of the attacked vessel.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 20-17 and Advisory 004/MAY/2017)*



**047/17 – SUSPICIOUS APPROACH - On 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017, in position: 03°58.13N – 007°33.49E**

At around 02:24Zhrs, at Yoho, Nigeria customary anchorage. A merchant vessel was approached by two skiffs with 8 or 9 persons at a distance of 2 meters. Suspicious craft approached vessel's stern and proceeded to starboard side. Crew were alerted and did all actions required. Terminal security patrol boat was informed. Terminal security patrol boat arrived after about 15 min, patrolled surrounding area without any findings.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 20-17)*



**046/17 – IRREGULAR ACTIVITY - On 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017, in position: 05°10.52N – 004°04.44W**

At around 00:30Zhrs, (Abidjan anchorage), the crew on board a Merchant vessel at anchor observed a suspicious boat (unlit) approaching from the stern with 7 POB. The boat came alongside the port quarter. The crew were alerted and the alarm sounded, water jets were activated on the ship sides. The boat was cast-off and circled the MV closely before moving away. Abidjan port control was informed on VHF Ch.12.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 19-17 and Advisory 003/MAY/17)*

**045/17 – BOARDING ATTEMPT - On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017, in position: 05°32.00N – 000°01.00E**

At around 09:20Zhrs, duty crew on board a merchant vessel spotted two persons climbing the port anchor chain. A fishing boat with 2 other persons loitered in the vicinity. Once the alarm was raised, the climbers pretended to be fishermen trying to remove their fishing net. Incident was reported to Tema Port Control, Ghana.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 18-17, Advisory 002/MAY/17)*

**044/17 – THEFT - On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017, in position: 05°12.00N – 004°02.30W**

At around 00:45Zhrs, the security patrol on board a merchant vessel detected suspicious movements on the forecastle. After rising the alarm, one thief jumped over board and reached a wooden boat with 3 POB. One mooring rope was stolen.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 18-17, Advisory 001/MAY/17)*

**043/17 – ATTACK - On 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017, in position: 03°46.00N – 006°44.00E**

At around 18:00Zhrs, a merchant vessel was attacked by two inflatable skiffs which looked like Special Forces crafts. The merchant vessel was leaving Bonny Terminal and her escort vessel had departed. 5 to 10 shots were fired at the accommodation area. Merchant vessel increased speed, altered course and took defensive action (VHF16 alarm, use of water spray, barbed wire). No casualties were reported. The attackers did not board the vessel.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 18-17, Warning 006/APR/17)*

**042/17 – HIJACK - On 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017, in position: 03°41.30N – 006°46.55E**

At around 07:55Zhrs, a merchant vessel was attacked whilst she was leaving Nigeria. Two skiffs manned by 7 to 8 persons reached the vessel at high speed (30 knots) and pirates managed to board. The crew retreated to the citadel during the attack. In the early afternoon, two units of the Nigerian Navy reached the position of the attack. After a few hours, the Nigerian Navy managed to get on board. No casualties were reported. The vessel continued her passage to Onne, escorted by a Nigerian Navy ship.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 18-17, Warning 005/APR/17 and Warning 005/APR/17 update)*

**041/17 – ATTACK - On 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017, in position: 03°50.30N – 006°45.54E**

At around 04:14Zhrs, a merchant vessel was attacked whilst she was proceeding to Bonny Pilot Station, Nigeria, approximately 30nm from the coast. Shots were fired at her but she managed to escape by increasing her speed. No damage or casualties were reported. As the attack ended, the

vessel proceeded to Nigeria escorted by the Nigerian Navy.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 18-17 and Warning 003/APR/17)*

**040/17 – ATTACK - On 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017, in position: 03°45.00N – 007°04.00E**

At around 18:50Zhrs, a merchant vessel leaving Nigeria was approached by four fast boats. Shots were fired against the vessel who managed to escape by increasing her speed. No damage or casualties were reported. The ship resumed her course, leaving the area.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 18-17 and Warning 004/APR/17)*

**039/17 – ATTACK - On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017, in position: 04°06.00N – 006°15.00E**

At around 09:35Zhrs in position, a merchant vessel was attacked by pirates. Crew went into citadel and remained safe.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 16-17)*

**038/17 – KIDNAP - On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017, in position: 04°06.00N – 006°15.00E**

At around 09:35Zhrs, a merchant vessel was boarded by pirates. Eight men were kidnapped and one man injured.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 16-17 and Warning 002/APR/17)*

**037/17 – ATTACK FAILED - On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017, in position: 03°25.00N – 005°36.00E**

At around 0900Z, a merchant vessel was attacked 220°/40NM from Brass, Nigeria. A small craft with 8 POB fired on the MV. Armed security team fired upon pirates and the attack was aborted.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 16-17 and Warning 001/APR/17)*

**036/17 – ROBBERY THEFT - On 07<sup>th</sup> April 2017, in position: 06°00.00S – 012°52.00E**

Between 01:00Zhrs and 03:00Zhrs, a merchant vessel was boarded by 6 men. Once the alarm was raised, the thieves left the vessel, taking ships stores with them.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 15-17)*

**035/17 – IRREGULAR ACTIVITY - On 04<sup>th</sup> April 2017, in position: 06°16.14N – 003°11.58E**

At around 03:35Zhrs, a duty team on board a merchant vessel spotted what they believed to be a person (movement) on the forecastle deck area.

The alarm was raised and assistance requested from the Nigerian Navy. After investigation, nobody was found on board and nothing was reported stolen.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 14-17)*



**034/17 – SIGHTING - On 01<sup>st</sup> April 2017, in position: 04°04.00N – 001°36.00W**

At around 20:35Zhrs, a vessel was followed and approached up to 0.5 Nm. Effective anti-piracy reactions were immediately taken by crew. The darkness didn't allow any clear identification of the following vessel.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 14-17)*



**033/17 – IRREGULAR ACTIVITY - On 01<sup>st</sup> April 2017, in position: 00°56.00S – 016°49.00W**

At around 19:00Zhrs, as she was about to enter the VRA, a merchant vessel was contacted on the phone by a man pretending to be the ships agent. He tried to gain information relating to the vessels planned track within the VRA and pretended that this was needed in order to create a convoy in VRA to escort merchant ships up to a meeting point 150Nm off Bonny, Nigeria. No information was given by the vessel.

*(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 14-17)*

## QUARTERLY EVENTS

- (1) Hijack:**  
3 incidents to report.
- (2) Boarded – Boarding attempt:**  
2 incidents to report.
- (3) Attack:**  
6 incidents to report.
- (4) Robbery – Sea theft:**  
3 incidents to report.
- (5) Suspicious approach:**  
1 incident to report.
- (6) Sighting – Irregular activity:**  
7 incidents to report.

## WARNINGS and ADVISORIES

8 Warnings and 4 advisories have been issued this quarterly.

SERIAL	DATE	SUMMARY
WARNING 001/MAY/17 UPDATE	18/05/2017	ATTACK
WARNING 001/MAY/17	17/05/2017	ATTACK
ADVISORY 004/MAY/17	13/05/2017	BOARDING
ADVISORY 003/MAY/17	06/05/2017	IRREGULAR ACTIVITY
ADVISORY 002/MAY/17	02/05/2017	ATTEMPTED BOARDING
ADVISORY 001/MAY/17	01/05/2017	THEFT
WARNING 006/APR/17	29/04/2017	ATTACK
WARNING 005/APR/17	29/04/2017	HIJACK
WARNING 004/APR/17	29/04/2017	ATTACK
WARNING 003/APR/17	29/04/2017	ATTACK
WARNING 002/APR/17	20/04/2017	KIDNAP
WARNING 001/APR/17	19/04/2017	ATTACK FAILED

## CONTACT

Contact the MDAT-GoG:  
 E-mail: [watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org](mailto:watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org)  
 Phone : +33 (0) 2 98 22 88 88 (emergency)  
 Phone : +33 (0) 2 98 22 13 02 (exercise)

## NOTES

Any queries regarding these Advisory Notices ring: 0033 298 22 88 88 only, for further information. ADVISORIES are not Classified as a 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.