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Piracy Incidents in the Gulf of Guinea

JRC Monthly Report – December 2013

Klaas Deves

2013



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Abstract

This is the final monthly report produced by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) as part of the Pilot Project on Piracy, Maritime Awareness and Risks – Gulf of Guinea (PMAR-GoG) which ended in December 2013.

In future, it is intended that the production and distribution of this monthly report will be taken over by the International Chamber of Commerce - International Maritime Bureau (ICC-IMB).

This monthly report contains the latest information on piracy incidents in the Gulf of Guinea region (December 2013).

The term "piracy" in this report also covers acts of armed robbery at sea. The term "incidents" in this report always refers to reported incidents.

The piracy incident data within this report were provided to the JRC by the ICC-IMB, however the piracy incident data were completed with data from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) as well.

The monthly report is one way to share information on piracy incidents in the Gulf of Guinea region and aims to contribute to regional maritime capacity building.

The monthly report was an output of the PMAR-GoG Pilot Project, carried out by the JRC of the European Commission on behalf of EuropeAid.

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Piracy Incidents

This section provides information on piracy incidents which have occurred during December 2013 in the Gulf of Guinea region.

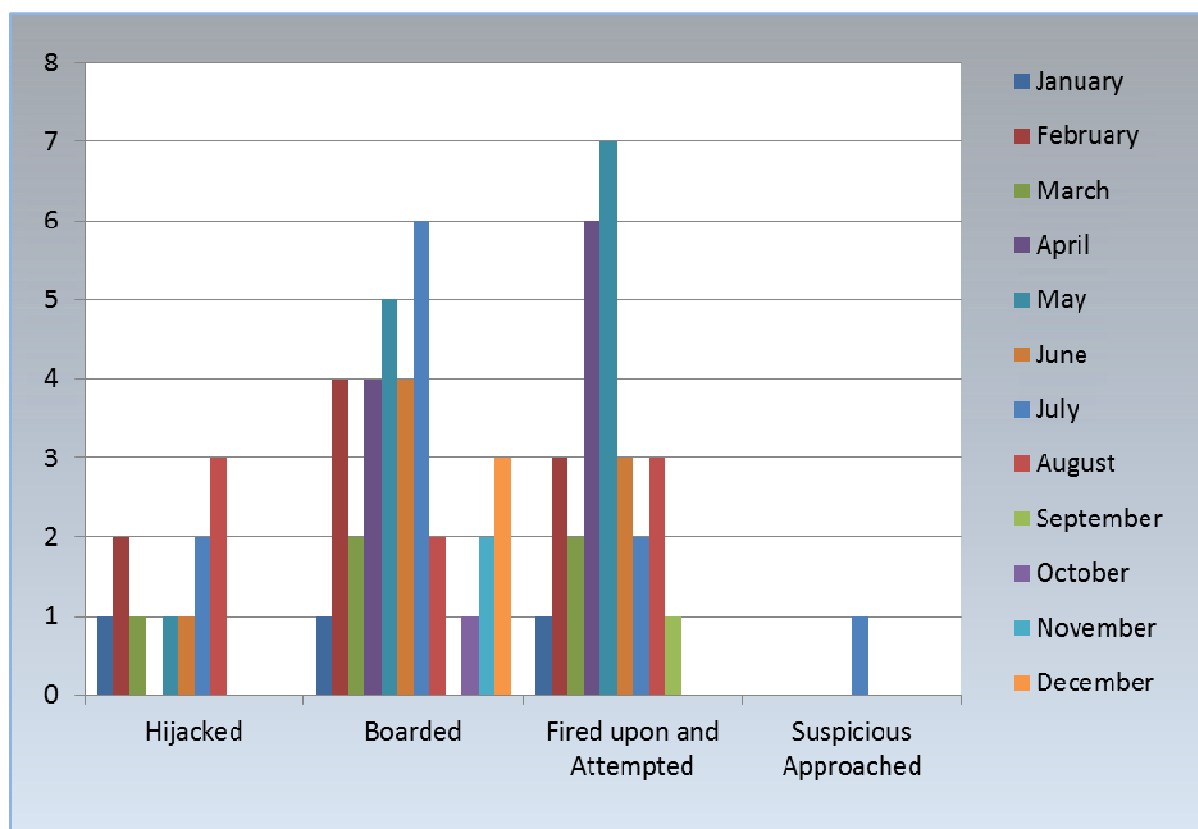
There were three piracy incidents during this period:

Category	NO.
Hijacked	0
Boarded	3
Fired upon and Attempted	0
Suspicious Approached	0
Total	3

Piracy incidents during December 2013 compared with the other months this year:

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Hijacked	1	2	1	0	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	11
Boarded	1	4	2	4	5	4	6	2	0	1	2	3	34
Fired upon/Attempted	1	3	2	6	7	3	2	3	1	0	0	0	28
Suspicious Approached	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	3	9	5	10	13	8	11	8	1	1	2	3	74

Comparative chart of piracy incidents that have occurred this year:



Location of incidents by country

This section provides information on the location of piracy incidents by country which have occurred during December 2013 in the Gulf of Guinea region.

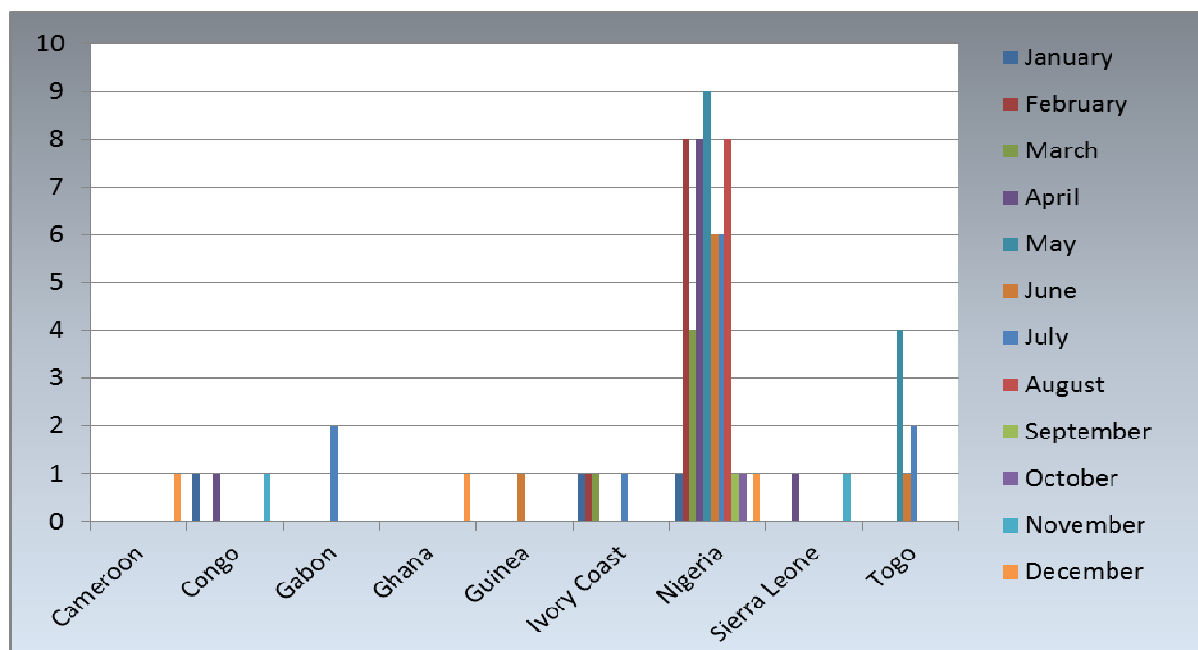
Location of piracy incidents by country during this period:

Category	Hijacked	Boarded	Fired upon/ Attempted	Suspicious Approached
Cameroon	0	1	0	0
Nigeria	0	1	0	0
Ghana	0	1	0	0

Country of piracy incidents during December 2013 compared with the other months this year:

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Cameroon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Congo	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Gabon	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ghana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ivory Coast	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Nigeria	1	8	4	8	9	6	6	8	1	1	0	1	53
Sierra Leone	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Togo	0	0	0	0	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	7
Total	3	9	5	10	13	8	11	8	1	1	2	3	74

Comparative chart of the location of piracy incidents by country that have occurred this year:



Location of incidents by zone

This section provides information on the location of piracy incidents by zone which have occurred during December 2013 in the Gulf of Guinea region, either in the ECOWAS¹ Zone (the Nigerian waters and westwards) or in the ECCAS² Zone (the Cameroonian waters and southwards).

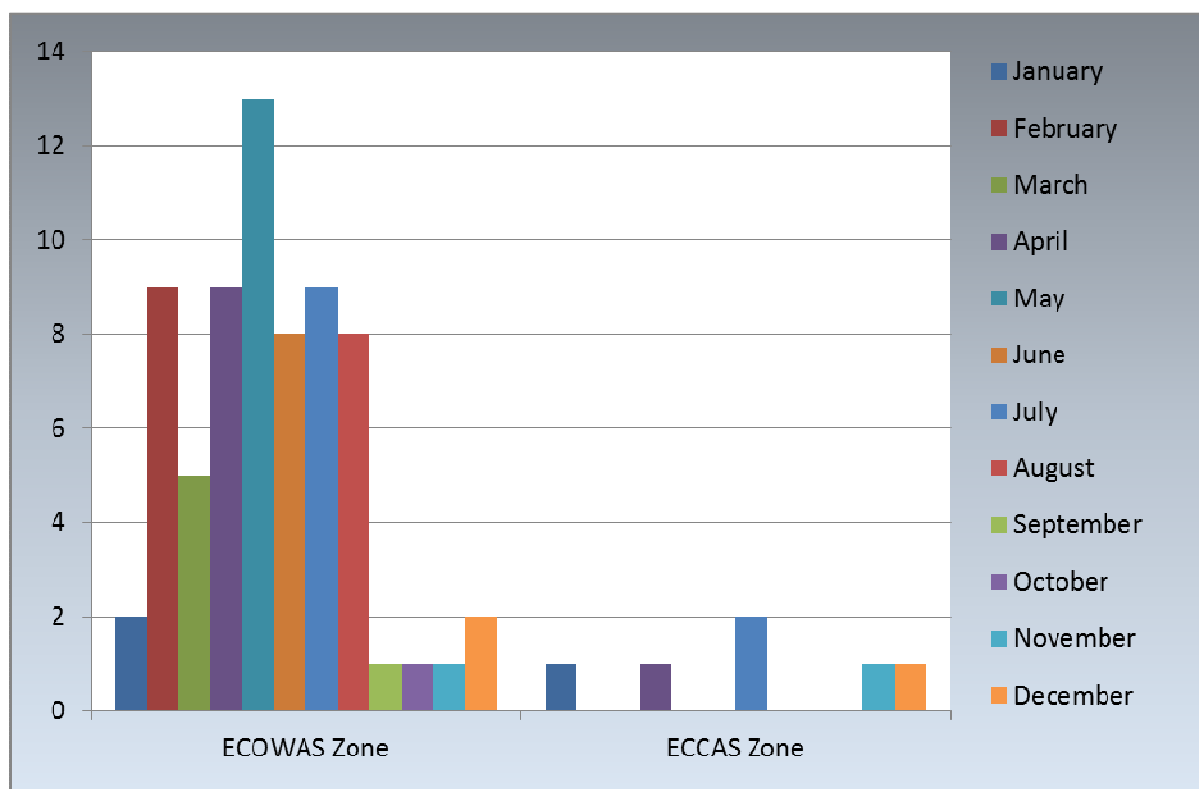
Location of piracy incidents by zone during this period:

Category	Hijacked	Boarded	Fired upon/ Attempted	Suspicious Approached
ECOWAS Zone	0	2	0	0
ECCAS Zone	0	1	0	0

Location of piracy incidents by zone in December 2013 compared with the other months this year:

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
ECOWAS Zone	2	9	5	9	13	8	9	8	1	1	1	2	68
ECCAS Zone	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	6
Total	3	9	5	10	13	8	11	8	1	1	2	3	74

Comparative chart of the location of piracy incidents by zone that have occurred this year:



¹ Economic Community of West African States. Current members are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. Landlocked states were not taken into account.

² Economic Community of Central African States. Current members are: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tomé e Príncipe. Landlocked states were not taken into account.

Location of incidents by area

This section provides information on the location of piracy incidents by area which have occurred during December 2013 in the Gulf of Guinea region, either in port area, in territorial waters or in international waters.

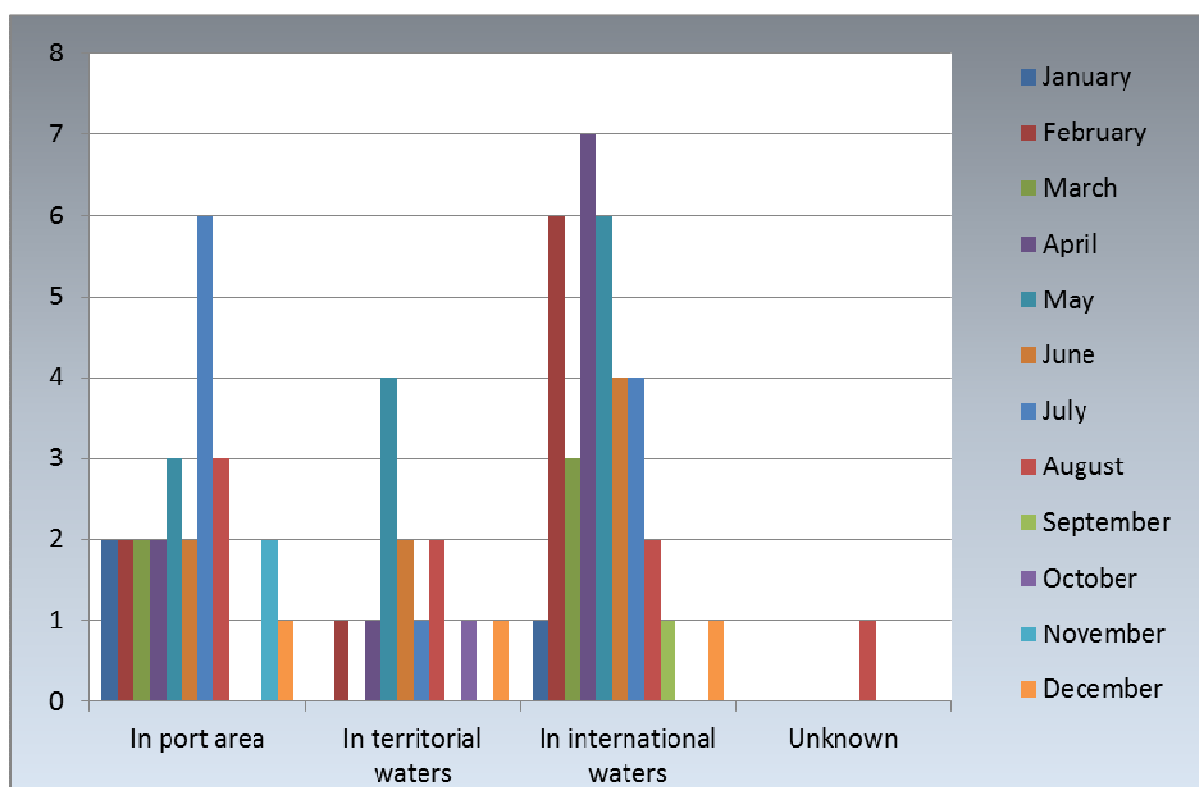
Location of piracy incidents by area during this period:

Category	Hijacked	Boarded	Fired upon/ Attempted	Suspicious Approached
In port area	0	1	0	0
In territorial waters	0	1	0	0
In international waters	0	1	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0

Location of piracy incidents by area in December 2013 compared with the other months this year:

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
In port area	2	2	2	2	3	2	6	3	0	0	2	1	25
Territorial area	0	1	0	1	4	2	1	2	0	1	0	1	13
International area	1	6	3	7	6	4	4	2	1	0	0	1	35
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	3	9	5	10	13	8	11	8	1	1	2	3	74

Comparative chart of the location of piracy incidents by area that have occurred this year:



Incidents by type of ship

This section provides information on the type of ship of the piracy incidents which have occurred in December 2013 in the Gulf of Guinea region, either solid cargo³, liquid cargo⁴, service ship⁵ or other ship⁶.

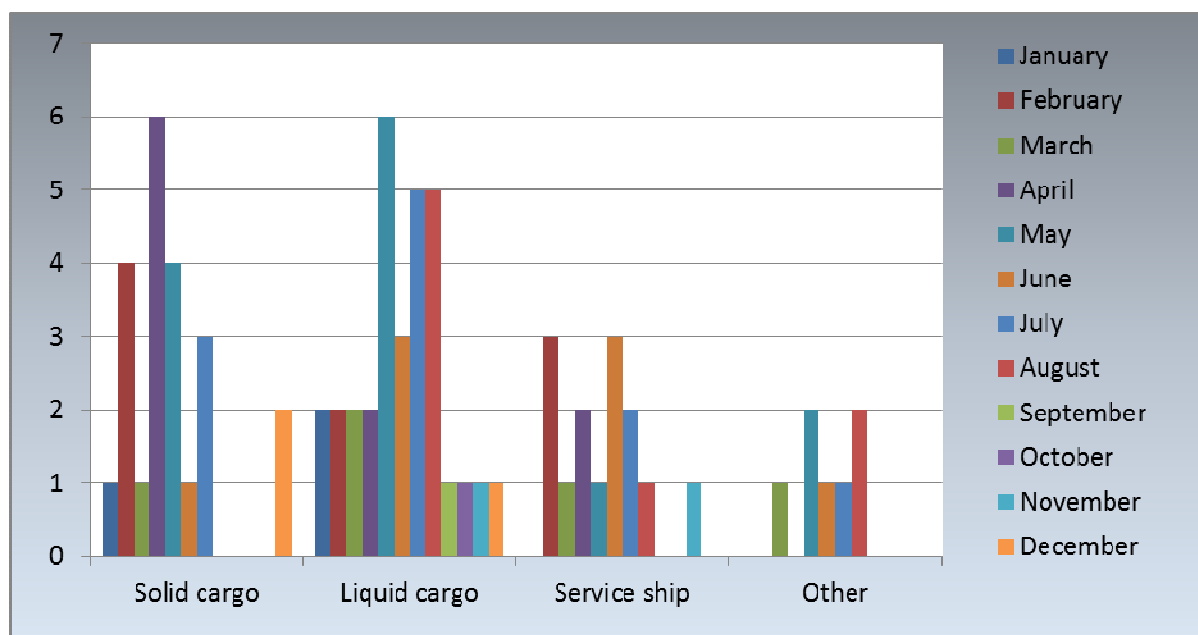
Piracy incidents by type of ship during this period:

Category	Hijacked	Boarded	Fired upon/ Attempted	Suspicious Approached
Solid cargo	0	2	0	0
Liquid cargo	0	1	0	0
Service ship	0	0	0	0
Other ship	0	0	0	0

Piracy incidents by type of ship in December 2013 compared with the other months this year:

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Solid cargo	1	4	1	6	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	22
Liquid cargo	2	2	2	2	6	3	5	5	1	1	1	1	31
Service ship	0	3	1	2	1	3	2	1	0	0	1	0	14
Other ship	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	7
Total	3	9	5	10	13	8	11	8	1	1	2	3	74

Comparative chart of the type of ship of the piracy incidents that have occurred this year:



³ e.g. general cargo, bulk carrier, refrigerated cargo

⁴ e.g. oil tanker, liquefied gas tanker, chemical tanker

⁵ e.g. offshore supply ship, tug (towing/pushing), dredger

⁶ e.g. passenger ship, fishing vessel, recreational craft

Incidents by time of day

This section provides information on the time of day of piracy incidents which have occurred in December 2013 in the Gulf of Guinea region, either in daylight, in darkness or in twilight (either before sunrise or after sunset).

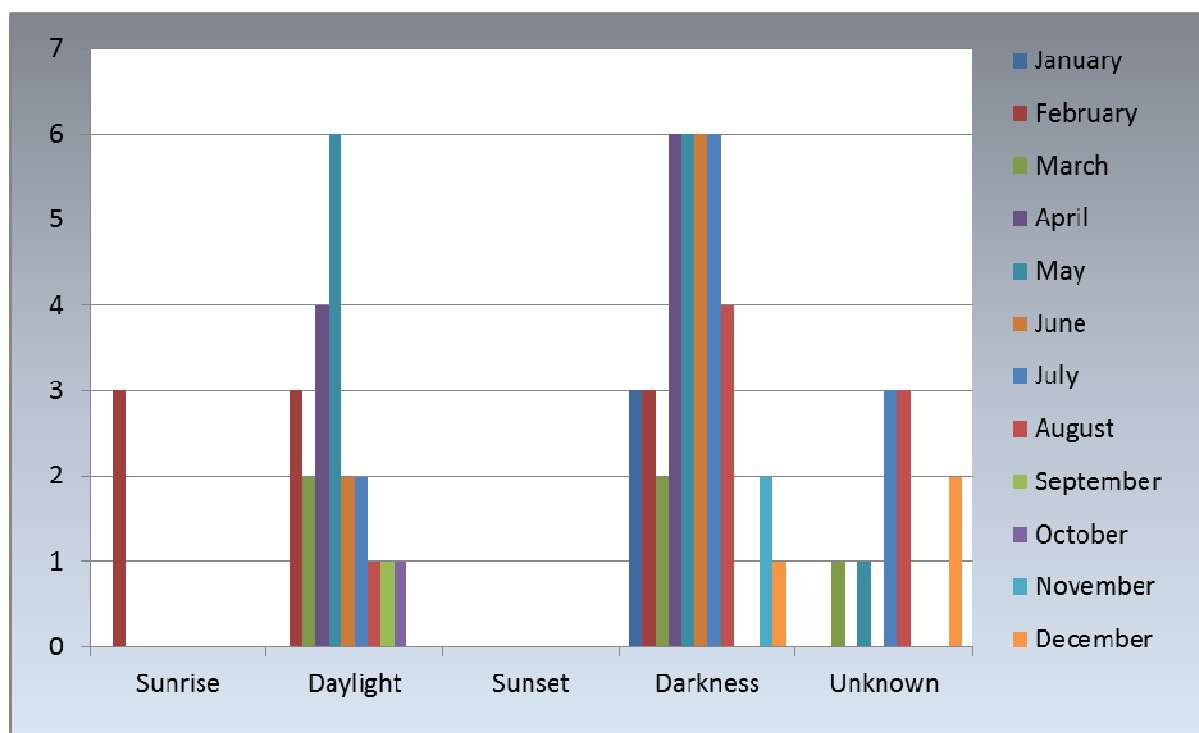
Piracy incidents by time of day during this period:

Category	Hijacked	Boarded	Fired upon/ Attempted	Suspicious Approached
Sunrise	0	0	0	0
Daylight	0	0	0	0
Sunset	0	0	0	0
Darkness	0	1	0	0
Unknown	0	2	0	0

Piracy incidents by time of day in December 2013 compared with the other months this year:

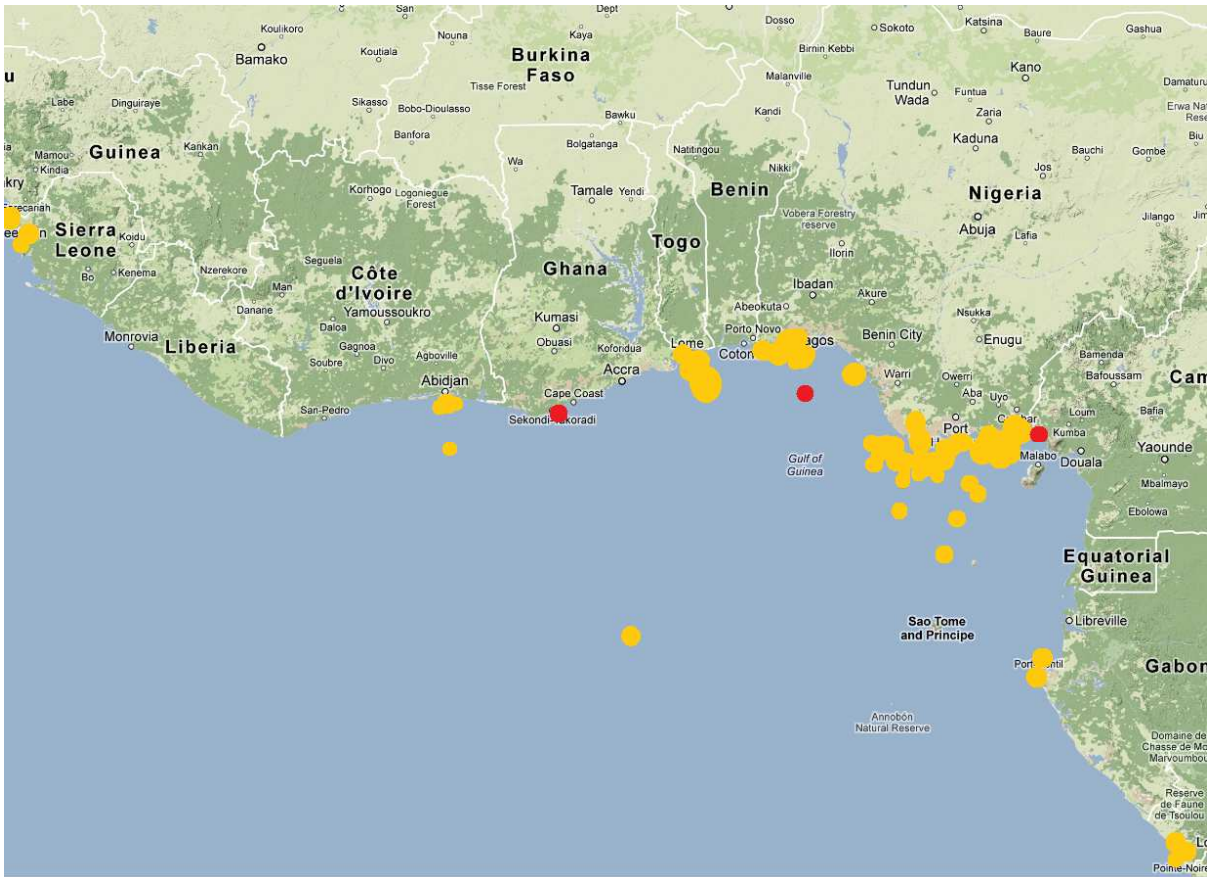
Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Sunrise	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Daylight	0	3	2	4	6	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	22
Sunset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Darkness	3	3	2	6	6	6	6	4	0	0	2	1	39
Unknown	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	0	0	2	10
Total	3	9	5	10	13	8	11	8	1	1	2	3	74

Comparative chart of the time of day of the piracy incidents that have occurred this year:



Incidents geographical coordinates

This section provides the disposition of piracy incidents which have occurred in December 2013 (the red dots), compared with the disposition of piracy incidents during the other months this year (the yellow dots).



Country	Date	lat-d	lat-m	lat-s	lat n s	long-d	long-m	long-s	long e w
Cameroon	3 Dec	4	20	0	N	8	45	0	E
Nigeria	16 Dec	5	12	0	N	3	18	0	E
Ghana	31 Dec	4	53	0	N	1	41	0	W

Incidents description

This section provides the description of piracy incidents which have occurred in December 2013 in the Gulf of Guinea region.

Cameroon

On 3 December 2013, pirates boarded a coastal cargo vessel approximately 10 nm off the Cameroon coast. Two speedboats with eight pirates in each boat attacked the vessel and briefly board the vessel before a security team of Cameroon soldiers engaged the robbers in a firefight which forced the pirates to flee the ship. Several pirates were killed during the firefight. [NGA⁷]

Nigeria

On 16 December 2013, heavily armed pirates boarded a chemical tanker, kidnapped two crew members, stole crew personal belongings and escaped. Further report awaited. [ICC-IMB]

Ghana

On 31 December 2013, three robbers boarded an anchored general cargo vessel. When spotted by the security watch on deck, the robbers immediately escaped. No items stolen. All crew safe. [ICC-IMB]

⁷ National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

Summary of 2013

This section provides a summary of piracy incidents which have occurred in the full year 2013 in the Gulf of Guinea region. It comes from the piracy incident data collected, analysed and distributed by JRC during the year. Most of the piracy incident data were provided to the JRC by the International Chamber of Commerce - International Maritime Bureau (ICC-IMB); occasionally the piracy incident data were completed with data from other sources.

During 2013 the reported incidents of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea region *increased* in number: 74 in 2013 vs. 62 in 2012 (+ 19 %), however over the past few months in 2013 the number of reported incidents has significantly *decreased*. This is mainly due to the drop of incidents in Nigerian waters having 50 incidents in the first eight months of 2013 (Jan-Aug) and only 3 in the remaining four months of 2013 (Sep-Dec).

Hopefully this trend will continue in 2014 however it does not mean the Gulf of Guinea area is safe now; the ICC-IMB stated in their annual report of 2013: "Generally, all waters in Nigeria remain risky. Vessels are advised to be vigilant, as many attacks may have gone unreported. Past attacks also reported at / off Port Harcourt and Calabar".

Next to the Nigerian waters, port areas in the Gulf of Guinea remain a concern, and the ports of Cotonou (Benin) and Lomé (Togo) are specifically mentioned by the ICC-IMB in their annual report of 2013. For more detailed numbers on the location and types of the piracy incidents in 2013 vs. 2012, see the figure below.

PIRACY ATTACKS			Full year 2013	Full year 2012
1	Number of incidents		74	62
2	Types of incidents			
	2.1	Hijacked	11	10
	2.2	Boarded	34	33
	2.3	Fired Upon and Attempted	28	19
	2.4	Suspicious Approached	1	0
3	Location of incidents by zone			
	3.1	ECOWAS	68	55
	3.2	ECCAS	6	7
4	Location of incidents by area			
	4.1	In port area	25	26
	4.2	In territorial waters	13	11
	4.3	In international waters	35	25
	4.4	Unknown	1	0

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