



Legend

- **13 Jul 2019.** Underway, **Gulf of Guinea.** Armed attackers kidnapped 10 crew members from general cargo vessel.
- **15 Aug 2019.** Douala Anchorage, **Cameroon.** Armed attackers kidnapped 9 crew members from bulk carrier.
- **15 Aug 2019.** Douala Anchorage, **Cameroon.** Armed attackers kidnapped 8 crew members from general cargo ship.
- **13 Sep 2019.** Idenao, **Cameroon.** Attackers kidnapped 2 crew members from fishing vessel.
- **2 Nov 2019.** Underway, IVO Southeast Cotonou, **Benin.** Armed attackers kidnapped 9 crew members from bulk carrier.
- **11 Nov 2019.** Underway, Bonny to Onne, **Nigeria.** Ten armed attackers kidnapped 2 Immigration Officers.
- **20 Nov 2019.** Underway, IVO Malabo, **Equatorial Guinea.** Attackers kidnapped 7 crew members from offshore supply ship.
- **3 Dec 2019.** Underway, **Gulf of Guinea.** Attackers kidnapped 19 crew members from crude oil tanker.

The recent kidnapping of 19 crew members from crude oil tanker *Nave Constellation* has once again focussed attention on the kidnapping of seafarers in the region.

According to the International Maritime Bureau Piracy Reporting Centre (IMB PRC), the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) accounts for over 80% of crew kidnappings globally. Over the past year there appears to have been a shift by criminals towards kidnapping crews rather than stealing cargoes. So far this year the number of seafarers kidnapped in the GoG region is more than double the global total of seafarers kidnapped in 2018.

Maritime security authorities stress that due to the variety of ships that have been attacked for kidnap, all seafarers are at risk in the region. Seafarers have been taken both from vessels at anchor and those underway, some in inshore or coastal waters, and some far out at sea. From the reported incidents in the second half of 2019 shown on the adjacent map, it can be seen that the waters in the east of the GoG bordering Nigeria and Cameroon have the highest concentrations of kidnapping incidents.

Seafarers who need to operate in the GoG should follow industry advice, plan ahead, and conduct drills prior to entering the region. It is also recommended to register vessels movements with appropriate voluntary reporting schemes. In order to understand patterns of attacks, and to warn other mariners, it is essential that vessels report actual or attempted incidents, as well as suspicious activity in the region.

The *'Guidelines for Owners, Operators and Masters for protection against piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea region (Version 3, June 2018)'* provide significant information and guidance about operating in this region.

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