

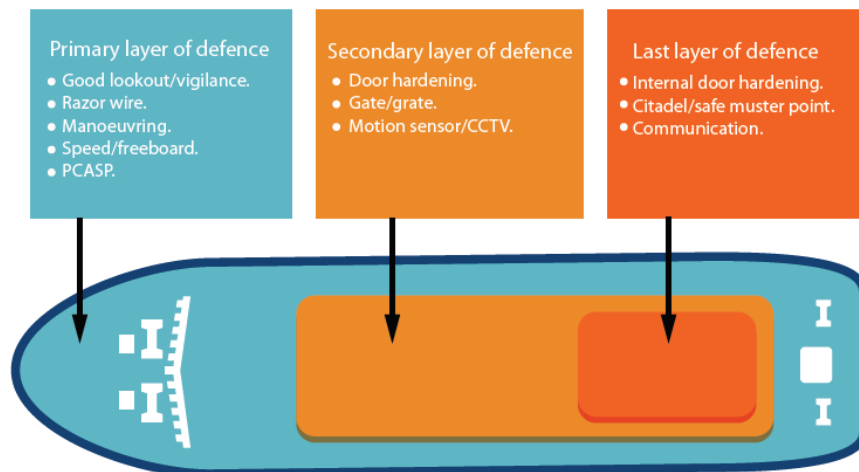
ISPS  
Technical Notice  
No. **13/2020**  
Dated: 01.04.2020

**SUBJECT:**  
**BMP West Africa:**  
New publication offers updated maritime security guidance for mariners operating off West Africa and the Gulf of Guinea

**Industry organisations**, supported by government and military organisations, have worked together to produce a new publication that will help mariners detect, deter and delay external threats to their safety. **Best Management Practices to Enhance Maritime Security for Vessels & Mariners Operating Off the Coast of West Africa** including the Gulf of Guinea (**BMP WA**) consolidates and enhances existing guidance for specific threats in this region.

The publication is free to download from [www.maritimelobalsecurity.org](http://www.maritimelobalsecurity.org), which also includes links to other maritime security information useful to mariners.

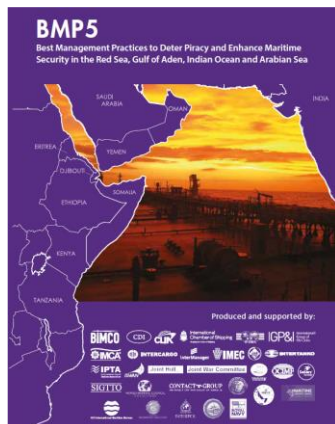
The publication highlights, among others, the need of a **Vessel Hardening Plan**, which can ensure vessels are prepared for operations in areas of increased threat and out to be considered as part of the voyage preparation. The implementation of ship protection measures that should be identified during the voyage planning process and clearly marked on the VHP.



Despite overall **piracy incidents** declining in **2019**, there was an alarming increase in crew kidnappings across the Gulf of Guinea, according to the International Chamber of Commerce's International Maritime Bureau's (IMB) annual piracy report released in January.

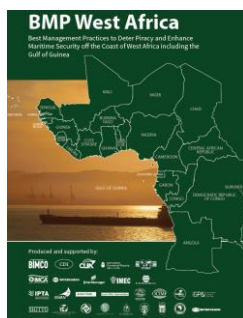
In **2019**, **IMB's Piracy Reporting Centre** received 162 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships worldwide, in comparison to 201 reported incidents in 2018. The incidents included four hijacked vessels, 11 vessels fired upon, 17 attempted attacks and 130 vessels boarded.

The number of crew kidnapped in the Gulf of Guinea increased more than 50 percent from 78 in 2018 to 121 in 2019. This equates to over 90 percent of global kidnappings reported at sea with 64 crew members kidnapped across six separate incidents in the last quarter of 2019 alone. The region accounted for 64 incidents including all four vessel hijackings that occurred in 2019, as well as 10 out of 11 vessels that reported coming under fire.



In June 2018, [the 5th edition of the piracy-specific Best Management Practice \(BMP5\)](#) was published compiling a useful and comprehensive guidance which introduces effective measures for the protection of crew, vessels and cargo while transiting the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. The new edition **superseded BMP4**.

### Explore more here:



#### Links

1. [5th edition of the piracy-specific Best Management Practice \(BMP5\)\(ver.5\)](#)
2. [BMP West Africa](#) (v1) Mar. 2020)