Tanker fired on in Gulf of Guinea

By admin On December 14, 2022 In Cargo, Insurance Marine News, Keep, Marine Hull, Marine Liability, Political Risk, Credit & Finance

Greek Suezmax tanker **Maran Poseidon** (IMO 9402926) was reportedly fired upon by pirates in Gulf of Guinea early on December 12th local time when it was 95nm west-south-west of Kribi, Cameroon.

The tanker was understood to be en route from Kribi Oil Terminal to Wilhelmshaven, Germany, in load.

Early reports indicated that a fast boat approached tanker, fired several shots, but then fled after the attacked vessel took evasive action. The crew were said to be safe and the tanker was continuing its voyage.

Several shots were reported fired toward the tanker, but the skiff never came closer than about 200 metres. Security analysts Dryad Global noted that this was the first incident in this location since a vessel was fired upon 20 nautical miles offshore of Bata in January 2022.

It has not been confirmed officially that the vessel was the Maran Poseidon, although the location of the vessel at the time makes it the most likely vessel involved. AIS data showed that the 158,000 dwt tanker departed the terminal off Cameroon on December 11th.

The cooperation centre maintained between the UK Royal Navy and the French Navy, the Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade – Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG) issued two alerts on December 12 to vessels operating in the area.

They reported that a skiff approached a tanker underway approximately 100 miles west of Equatorial Guinea. Shots were fired from the small boat but they did not attempt to board the tanker. Approximately four hours later MDAT-GoG was reporting the incident was over and the crew was safe.

This incident comes just over two weeks after MDAT-GoG reported that a South Korean-owned tanker was boarded south of Cote d'Ivoire. The crew was detained while the pirate stole some of the vessel's cargo and they also severely damaged the ship's equipment.

In that incident the Italian Navy assisted the vessel and stood by till a tow could be arranged back to Abidjan after the pirates left the vessel.

With the tanker attacked on December 12th being fully laden, there is a possibility that the target was the cargo rather than the crew.

The December 12th incident was the fourth in the past 30 days in the Gulf of Guinea according to MDAT-GoG's tracking.

On November 15th an unidentified vessel was boarded about 50 miles off Shebro Island in Sierra Leone. The crew and vessel were reported safe. The following day three men were spotted aboard another vessel in the Takoradi anchorage off Ghana. MDAT-GoG reported the intruders threatened the crew before leaving the vessel.

2010-built, Greece-flagged, 80,028 gt Maran Poseidon is owned by Maran Poseidon Ene care of Maran Tankers management Inc of Athens, Greece. It is entered with Gard P&I on behalf of Maran Poseidon Special Maritime Enterprise and for Hull with Gard as claims leader on behalf of Angelicoussis Shipping Group Ltd. As of December 11th (last AIS) it was en route from Kome Kribi I, Cameroon, to Wilhelmshaven, Germany, in the Gulf of Guinea.