



The Need for Maritime Activities Monitoring in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The maritime sector in Nigeria is associated with sharp practices, operational inefficiencies, issues of transparency in daily activities and unpredictability. This may cause harm and destroys both lives and properties. As a result, this study investigated the need for maritime activities monitoring in Nigeria. It was an exploratory research method and questionnaire was adopted in data collection. 250 respondents were selected using random sampling method. The data collected was descriptively analyzed using frequency and percentages. The result of the study revealed that monitoring maritime activities will to ensure effective compliance by ship-owners and crew alike, prevent influx of sub-standard vessels into the Nigerian waters, minimized pollution of the marine environment; as well as to ensure sustainable safe, secured shipping, cleaner oceans and enhanced maritime capacity in line with the best global practices. Other findings in this study revealed that the effect of the maritime security challenges on maritime sector include: Failure to comply with regulations has contributed to pollution of Nigerian waterways; maritime security challenges causes loss of revenue; maritime security challenges hinders the growth of the sub-sector of the economy, and maritime security challenges affects the GDP of the nation as the negative effect on productivities, will affect consumption. Finally, the result of the study revealed the following impact of maritime security surveillance on safety of sea business operation to include: reduces illicit maritime activities, ensures the viability of commercial trade which will enhance economic development potential, and improves the prospects for emerging open-markets countries. Based on this result, the study recommends adequate monitoring of maritime activities using both human and machine assisted measures and keeping records for future decision making.

Keywords: Maritime, Activities, Monitoring

Introduction

Maritime transportation is significant to trade and commerce, as it aids in the generation of revenue and boosts economic activities, as well as provide job opportunities and enhance industrial growth. Apart from these, it develops international relations and ensures a peaceful co-existence globally, which is essential to the nation's economy (Lloyd et al., 2020). The maritime industry includes related activities such as shipping, port activities, underwater resources, fishing, ship construction and maintenance, towage and underwater resources. However, all of the aforementioned is threatened by the existence of piracy and maritime militancy and their activities such as vessels hijacking, kidnapping for ransom, robbery, poaching, and attacks on ships and offshore facilities, usually prevalent in the waters of the Niger Delta and Lagos (Toakodi,2014).

Over theyears, there has been improved safety and security in the maritime domain; however, there is still a need for enhanced security in the industry, due to the high level of piracy, illegal bunkering and corruption prevalent in the country. Despite the intervention of the military, loopholes still exist in the system. In the Niger delta, there is a high level of natural oil, which makes crude oil exportation the country's major source of revenue. However, the inability to circulate the income derived from the oil has contributed to increased oil exploitation, sea robbery, and illegal bunkering. It was in view of these illegal and disturbing activities and in the bid to enhance safety that Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) liaised with the Nigerian Air force for the provision of air tactical support against illicit ship operations, which seems to have not totally achieved its aim. Thus the objective of this study is to examine the essential of maritime activities monitoring in Nigeria.

Statement of research problem

The maritime sector in Nigeria is associated with sharp practices, operational inefficiencies, issues of transparency in daily activities and unpredictability. The marine port environment is exposed to various kinds of pressures from shipping and port activities, which tends to affect the various components of the maritime sector. In spite of efforts to improve the sector, factors such as weak regulatory frameworks, inadequate resources, non-compliance to policies and insufficient capacity militate against effective operations (Akinoyemi, 2016). The increasing number of seaports and shipping activities in the marine environment are at a risk of being threatened by invasive species, toxic emissions, piracy, oil pollution, amongst others (Ijabiyi, 2019). The financing of the maritime industry can be described as capital intensive, yet it is central to the increasing participation of the private sector participation in the maritime industry. The stunted growth experienced in the maritime sector has been attributed to inadequate financing, leading

to inefficiency in the management of maritime industry services, and hindering investments in maritime infrastructure, and limiting effective service delivery. It therefore becomes important to examine the essential of maritime activities monitoring in Nigeria.

Research objectives

The study was specifically set to;

1. Identify the needs for maritime activities monitoring in Nigeria.
2. Examine the effect of the maritime security challenges on maritime sector.
3. Investigate the impact of maritime security surveillance on safety of sea business operation.
- 4.

Research questions

1. What are the needs for maritime activities monitoring in Nigeria?
2. What is the effect of the maritime security challenges on maritime sector?
3. What is the impact of maritime security surveillance on safety of sea business operation?

Methodology

Exploratory research method was adopted in conducting this study. Using purposive sampling method, the Apapaport in Lagos state was selected as the place of study, given that it is the largest port in the country, and the center for most maritime activities. The population of the study comprised of port workers and ship owners from which 250 respondents were selected using random sampling method. The instrument used in gathering data was questionnaire which was designed using a likert scale format. The questionnaires were distributed to the respondents with the aid of research assistants engaged for such purpose. The data collected was descriptively analyzed using frequency and percentages.

Data presentation, analysis and discussion

RQ1: What are the needs for maritime activities monitoring in Nigeria?

Table 1: The needs for maritime activities monitoring in Nigeria

ITEM	strongly agree/ agree	UN	Disagree Strongly Disagree	Percentage in agreement	Mean In agreement
Maritime activities monitoring will ensure effective compliance by ship-owners and crew alike	220	18	12	88.0	4.4
Maritime activities monitoring will prevent influx of sub-standard vessels into the Nigerian waters	247	1	2	98.8	4.94
Maritime activities monitoring will minimized pollution of the marine environment	199	20	31	79.6	3.98
Maritime activities monitoring will ensure sustainable safe, secured shipping, cleaner oceans and enhanced maritime capacity in line with the best global practices	242	2	7	96.8	4.84
Average				90.8	4.54

Field survey, 2021

The result presented in the table above with an average of 90.8% in agreement to all the items in the table, the following are recognized as the needs for monitoring maritime activities: to ensure effective compliance by ship-owners and crew alike, prevent influx of sub-standard vessels into the Nigerian waters, minimized pollution of the marine environment; as well as to ensure sustainable safe, secured shipping, cleaner oceans and enhanced maritime capacity in line with the best global practices. The result of this study is in support of that carried out by Ijabiyi(2019) who shared similar result.

RQ2: What is the effect of the maritime security challenges on maritime sector?**Table 2: The effect of the maritime security challenges on maritime sector**

ITEM	strongly agreed/ agree	UN	Disagree Strongly Disagree	Percentage in agreement	Mean In agreement
Failure to comply with regulations has contributed to pollution of Nigerian waterways.	242	4	4	96.8	4.84
Maritime security challenges causes loss of revenue	239	9	2	95.6	4.78
Maritime security challenges hinders the growth of the sub-sector of the economy	238	12	0	95.2	4.76
Maritime security challenges affects the GDP of the nation as the negative effect on productivities, will affect consumption	240	7	3	96.0	4.8
Average				95.9	4.79

Field Survey, 2021

With an average of 95.9% in agreement and a mean score of 4.79, all the items in the table above were supported as the effect of the maritime security challenges on maritime sector: Failure to comply with regulations has contributed to pollution of Nigerian waterways; maritime security challenges causes loss of revenue; maritime security challenges hinders the growth of the sub-sector of the economy, and maritime security challenges affects the GDP of the nation as the negative effect on productivities, will affect consumption. The result supports Akinyemi (2016) whose study also identified similar factors as the effect of maritime sector security in Nigeria.

RQ3: What is the impact of maritime security surveillance on safety of sea business operation?**Table 3: The impact of maritime security surveillance on safety of sea business operation**

ITEM	strongly agreed/agree	UN	Disagree Strongly Disagree	Percentage in agreement	Mean In agreement
Maritime security reduces illicit maritime activities	240	4	6	96.0	4.8
Maritime security ensures the viability of commercial trade which will enhance economic development potential	237	9	4	94.8	4.7
Maritime security improves the prospects for emerging open-markets countries.	248	2	0	99.2	4.96
Average				96.67	4.82

Field Survey, 2021

With a high average mean score of 4.82, and a 96.67% in agreement to the items in the table, the following are the impact of maritime security surveillance on safety of sea business operation: maritime security reduces illicit maritime activities, maritime security ensures the viability of commercial trade which will enhance economic development potential, and maritime security improves the prospects for emerging open-markets countries. The result of this study supports the outcome of an earlier study by Akinyemi (2016) who also found maritime security surveillance as essential for the safety of sea business operation.

Conclusions and recommendations

The maritime sector in Nigeria is associated with sharp practices, operational inefficiencies, issues of transparency in daily activities and unpredictability. The marine port environment is exposed to various kinds of pressures from shipping and port activities, which tends to affect the various components of the maritime sector. In spite of efforts to improve the sector, factors such as weak regulatory frameworks, inadequate resources, non-compliance to policies and insufficient capacity militate against effective operations (Akinyemi, 2016). This study therefore investigated the needs for maritime activities monitoring and the result indicates that monitoring will ensure effective compliance by ship-owners and crew alike, prevent influx of sub-standard vessels into the Nigerian waters, minimized pollution of the marine environment; as well as to ensure sustainable safe, secured

shipping, cleaner oceans and enhanced maritime capacity in line with the best global practices. Other findings in this study revealed that the effect of the maritime security challenges on maritime sector include: Failure to comply with regulations has contributed to pollution of Nigerian waterways; maritime security challenges causes loss of revenue; maritime security challenges hinders the growth of the sub-sector of the economy, and maritime security challenges affects the GDP of the nation as the negative effect on productivities, will affect consumption. The result supports Akinyemi (2016) whose study also identified similar factors as the effect of maritime sector security in Nigeria. Finally, the result of the study revealed the following impact of maritime security surveillance on safety of sea business operation to include: reduces illicit maritime activities, ensures the viability of commercial trade which will enhance economic development potential, and improves the prospects for emerging open-markets countries. Based on this result, the study recommends adequate monitoring of maritime activities using both human and machine assisted measures and keeping records for future decision making.

References

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Appendix-1

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Dear Respondent,

I am carrying out a study on “Essential of Maritime activities monitoring in Nigeria.”, and you have been chosen to be part of the study. This questionnaire is only for academic purposes. Kindly select the response which applies to you and all information will be kept confidential

Instructions: Please tick (√) as appropriate where

SA = Strongly Agree (SA), A = Agree, Un, Undecided, (UN), D = Disagree (D), SD = Strongly Disagree (SD)

Key: Strongly agree (5), Agree (4), Undecided (3) Disagree (2), and strongly disagree (1).

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	UN	D	SD
RQ1	What are the needs for maritime activities monitoring in Nigeria?					
1	Maritime activities monitoring will ensure effective compliance by ship-owners and crew alike					
2	Maritime activities monitoring will prevent influx of sub-standard vessels into the Nigerian waters					
3	Maritime activities monitoring will minimized pollution of the marine environment					
4	Maritime activities monitoring will ensure sustainable safe, secured shipping, cleaner oceans and enhanced maritime capacity in line with the best global practices					
RQ2	What is the effect of these maritime security challenges on maritime sector?					
5	Failure to comply with regulations has contributed to pollution of Nigerian waterways.					
6	Maritime security challenges causes loss of revenue					
7	Maritime security challenges hinders the growth of the sub-sector of the economy					
8	Maritime security challenges affects the GDP of the nation as the negative effect on productivities, will affect consumption					
RQ3	What is the impact of maritime security surveillance on safety of sea business operation?					
9	Maritime security reduces illicit maritime activities					
10	Maritime security ensures the viability of commercial trade which will enhance economic development potential					
11	Maritime security improves the prospects for emerging open-markets countries.					