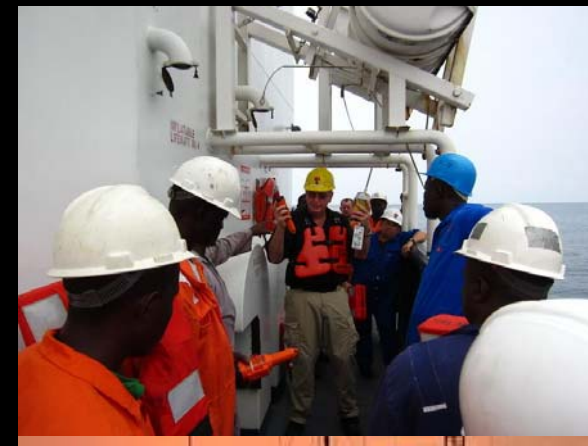


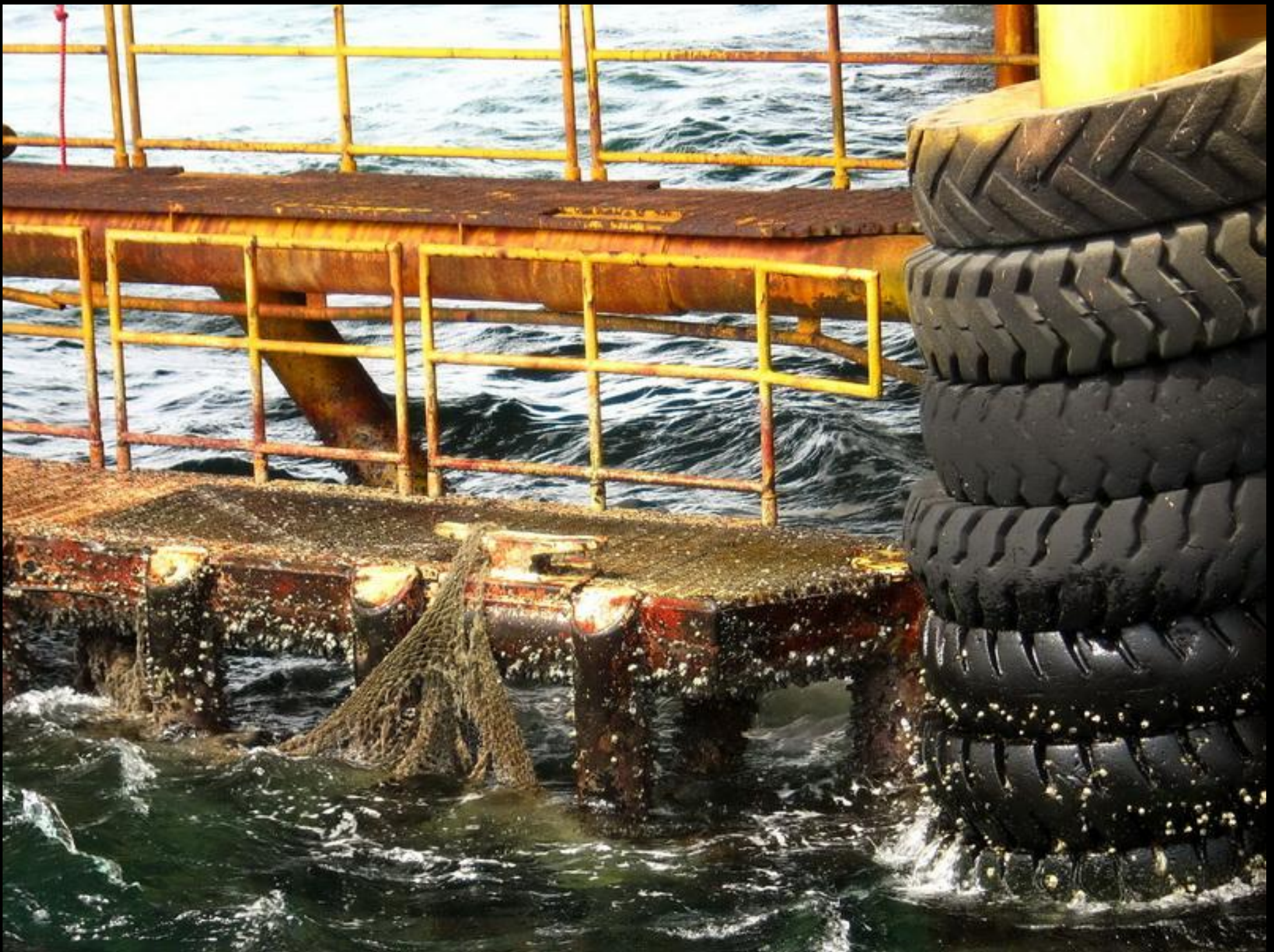
Capt. Daley's Sea Stories

Bourgeois Tide (3) Pecten Mokoko Field Slings, Docks & Logs

25 January 2011



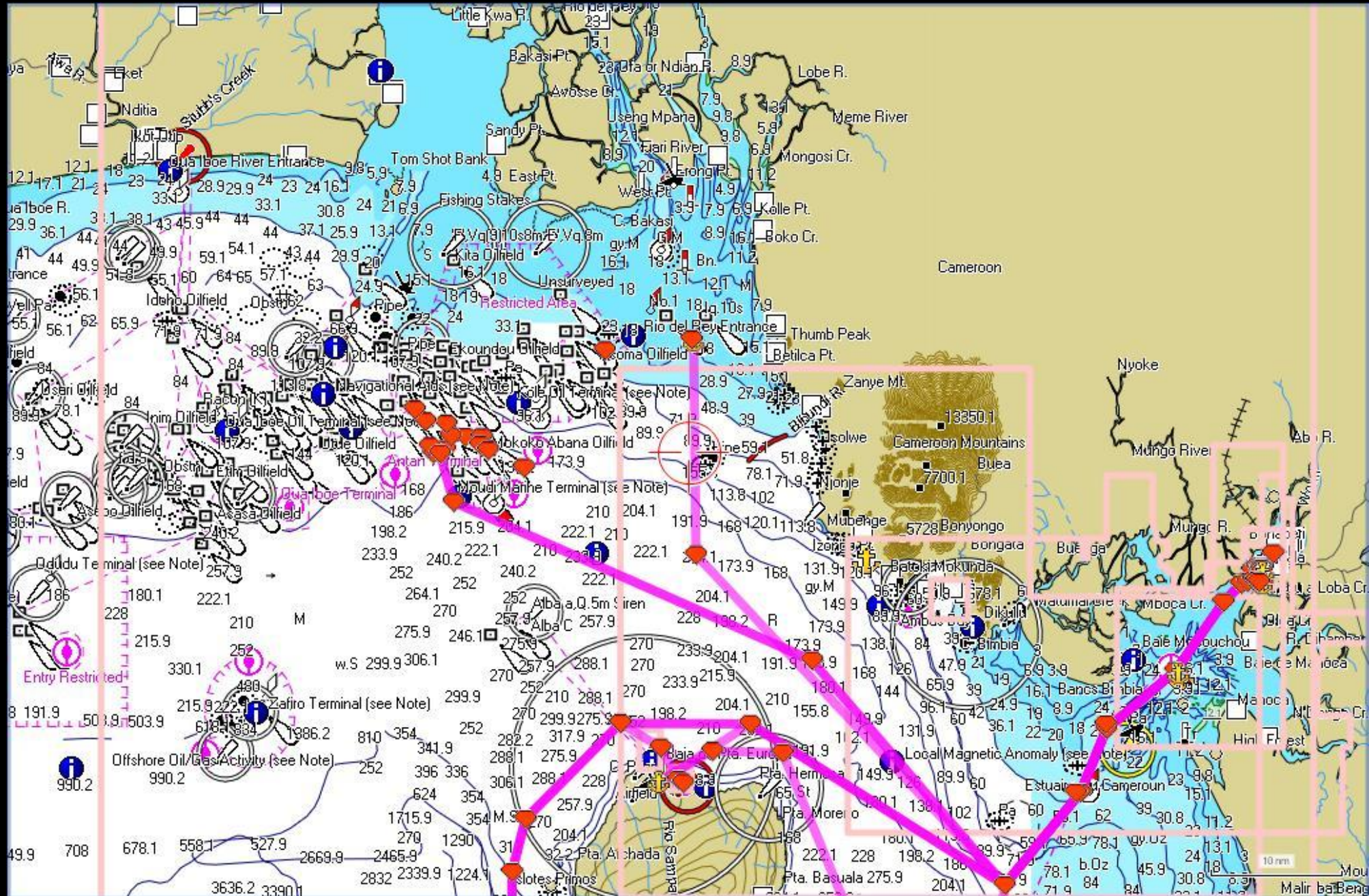
An engine on the Pagenturm threw a piston. The Bourgeois Tide filled in for the remaining three weeks of the Pecten Mokokmo Field contract. The field, although in Cameroon waters is located North of the island Bioko, Equatorial Guinea and just south and on the border of Nigeria. We were on heightened pirate watch the entire time. There was pirate activity 7 miles from us while we were in the field.



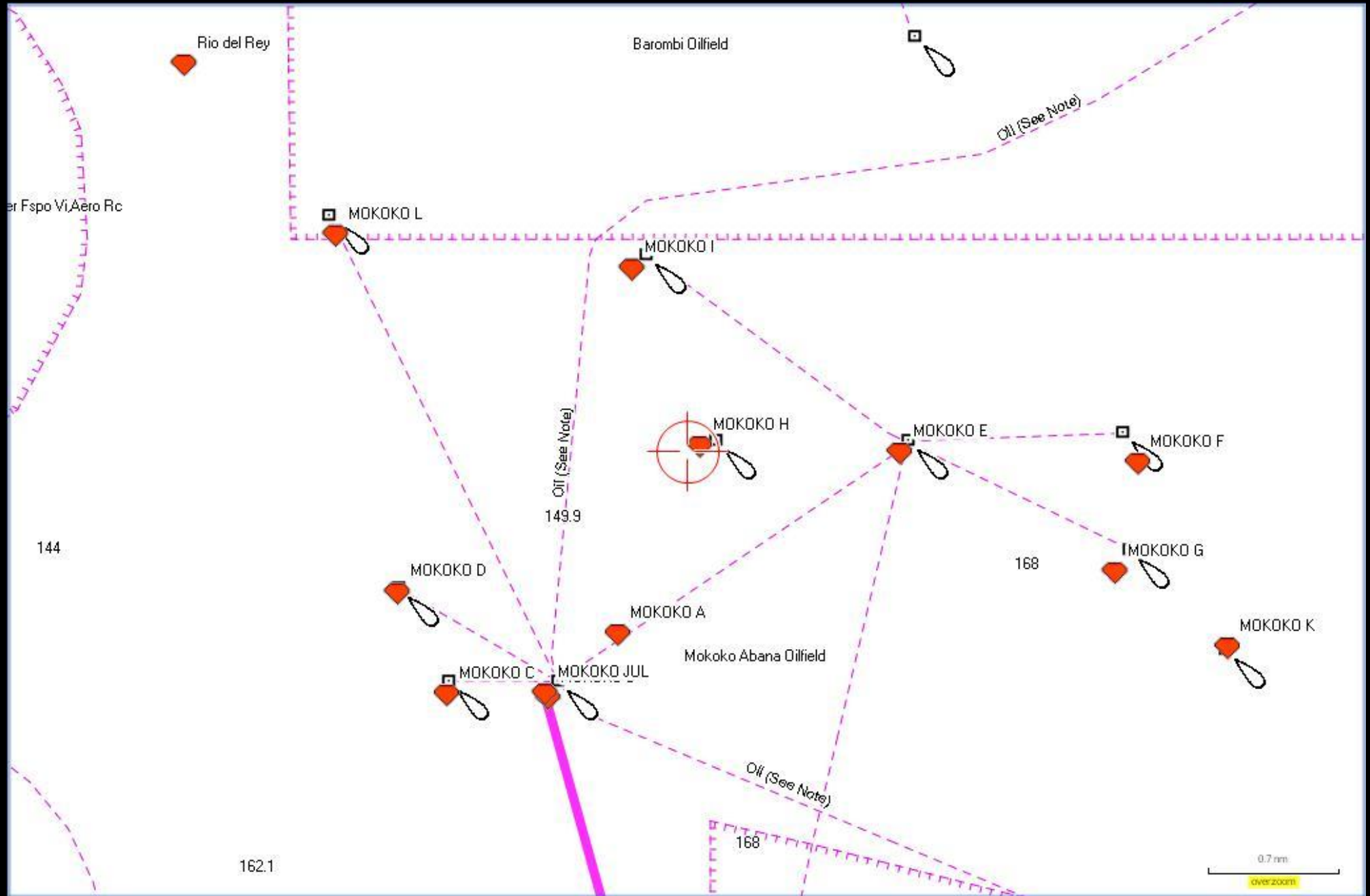
An old boat dock, no longer in use, provided an interesting subject for this photo. Notice the fishing nets caught on the dock.



Mate Alex is from Ukraine. We have to watch him. He likes to drink from public water bottles and put used spoons into public food containers. Sometimes, being captain is like have many three year olds to manage.



A chartlet of the area shows the Mokoko Field as the red diamonds furthest left and up. The land north of Mokoko is Nigeria. The island south is Bioko, Equatorial Guinea. The red circle is Malabo, EG. The purple line to the right is our route up the Wouri River to Douala, Cameroon. The Diamond in the center (north) is the BGP (Chinese) project in shallow water. The Gulf of Guinea in this area resembles the Gulf of Mexico with platforms everywhere!



This Chartlet shows the 12 platforms in the Mokoko Field and the Rio del Rey, living accommodations barge for the military guards. The dashed lines are oil pipelines. We worked each of the platforms several times in our short three week contract.



At 1624 tons, Bourgeois Tide is a large vessel, way too big for this small quay. As you can see, we have to ballast up just to have enough water to enter this area. At low tide we sit on bottom.



I would not want to be in a small canoe and see this monster coming right at me!



Remember the logs you saw waiting for shipment in a previous sea story? Some are shipped out by towing them in the water to their destination. Some are placed on barges and some are placed on ships.



The Pecten Base is in the background. I think the building in the middle is a bus stop, though I never saw a bus. Notice the woman carrying her wares on her head.



I was very surprised to see many of their slings in such poor shape. These slings must be replaced.



The Yokohama Buoys are indestructible, almost. It would be interesting to know how this fender was so badly damaged.



Here is a good shot of the Rio del Rey, the accommodations barge for the BIR, the military guards. We are pressed up against two Yokohamas on the side of the barge so their small crane can reach the cargo.



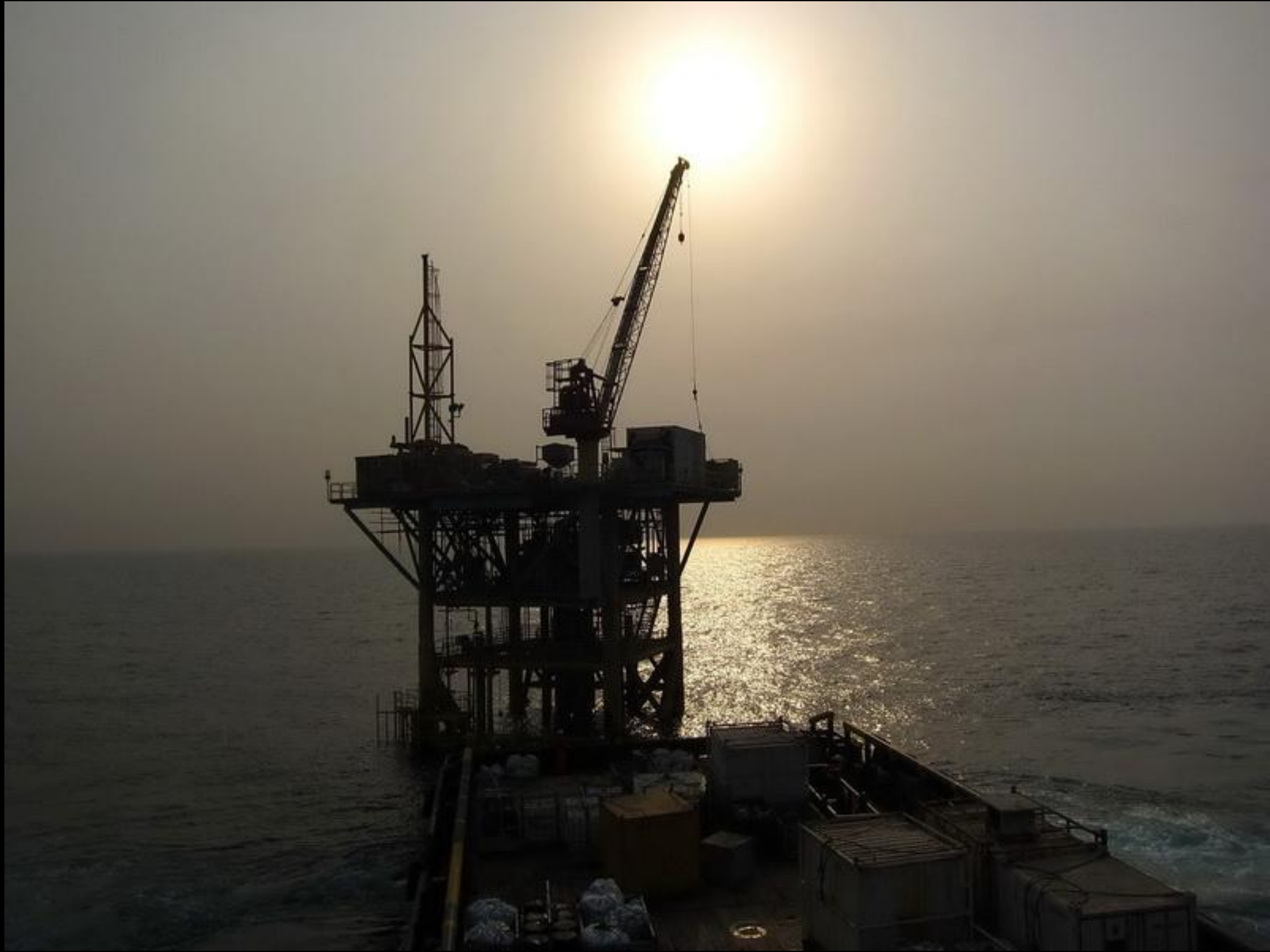
A surprise visit by our Area Manager, Frank Gibone provided an opportunity for him to witness our drills and to receive some instruction on handling Z-Drive boats.



Check this out. Clutch is disengaged. Engine RPM's are in idle. Prop RPM's are pegged. If you don't believe in Gremlins and bad juju, here is proof positive they exist.



Moudi is the offshore tanker loading facility. Production is pumped from the platforms to this permanently anchored tanker waiting to be loaded into other tankers for transport to market.



Platform Kilo is backlit by the morning sun on this foggy morning.