

DAILY MARITIME INCIDENT UPDATE

Information Fusion Center-Colombo



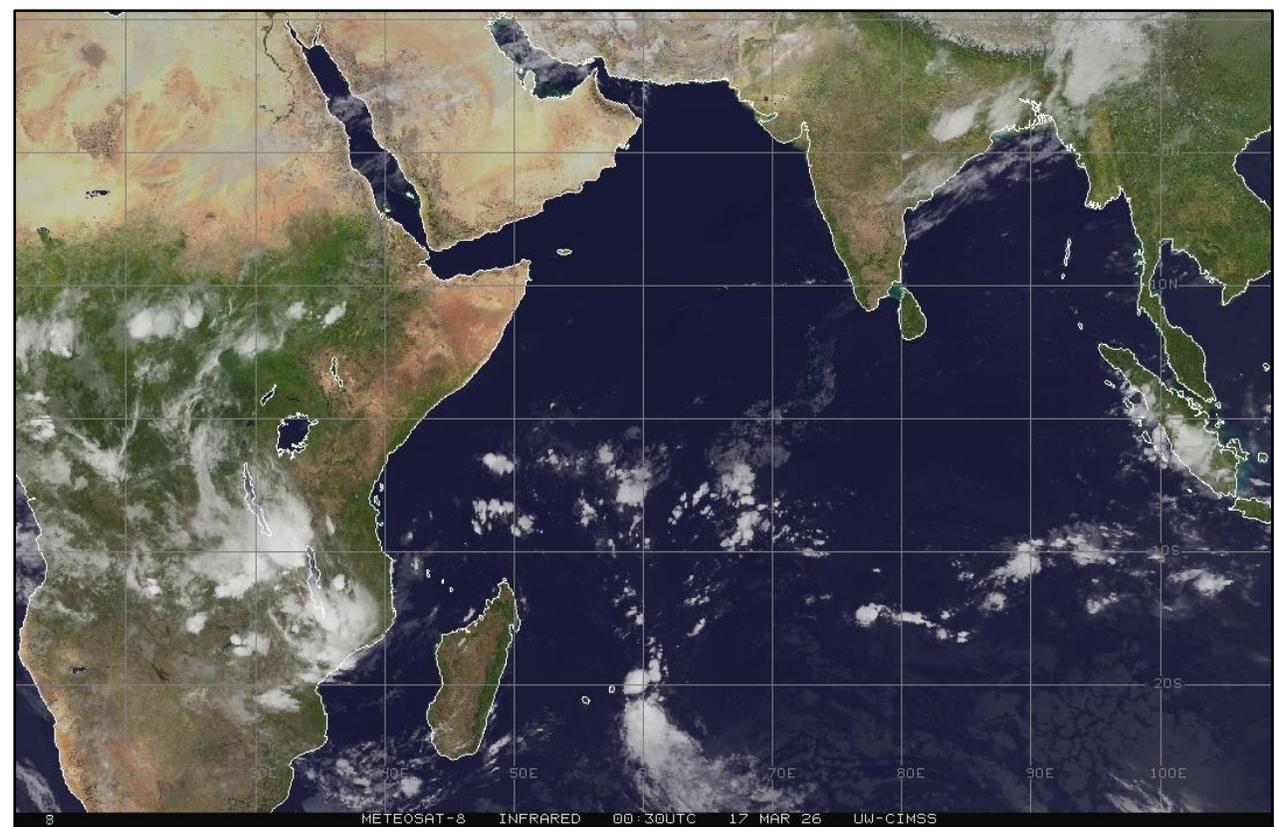
Information Fusion Center
Colombo
Sri Lanka

Date 2026.03.17

WEATHER FORECAST



Weather Forecast for next 24 hrs



FLEET FORECAST

Fleet Forecast for Area - E

Issued by the National Meteorological Center, Department of Meteorology Sri Lanka.

Valid period: 2026.03.17/0600UTC to 2026.03.17/1400UTC

Issued at 0000UTC on 2026.03.17

To: CBO Radio/Fisheries/SL Navy/CBO Port/Coast Guard

Shear line is approximately along : 06S 60E, 03S 70E, 02S 80E, 01S 90E, EQ 100E

ITCZ is approximately along : 09S 60E, 07S 70E, 13S 80E, 12S 90E, 12S 100E

Weather:

OCNL Showers / T'Showers in sections : 40, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85

SCT Showers / T'Showers in sections : 10, 15, 45

ISOL Showers / T'Showers in sections : 05, 25, 30, 35

Mainly fair weather elsewhere

Winds:

North of Shear line:

NE'ly or VRB / (05-15)kts: Gusting up to 20 kts in section 15

In-between Shear line and ITCZ:

NW'ly to W'ly or VRB / (05-15)kts.

South of ITCZ:

SE'ly/ (10-20)kts: Gusting up to 25 kts in section 80

Seas:

Moderate, fairly rough at times in sections: 80

Moderate in sections : 15, 85

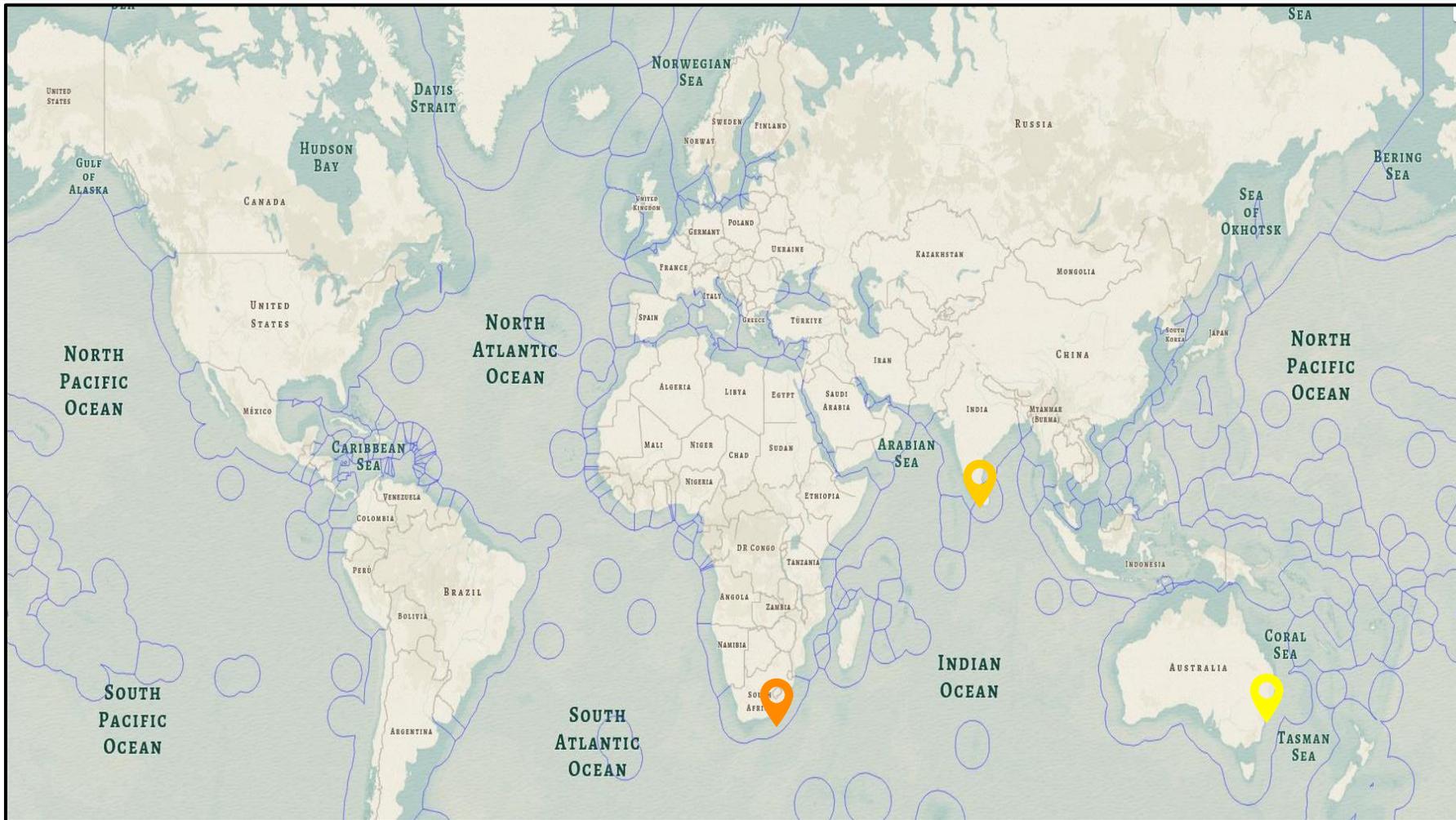
Slight to Moderate elsewhere.

NOTE: Seas can be temporarily very rough during thundershowers.

- Source: 1. <https://meteo.gov.lk> 2. <https://www.srilankaview.com/weather.htm>



SUMMERY (MARITIME INCIDENT)



| CATEGORY | NO |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Maritime Incidents | 01 |
| Piracy & Armed Robbery | NIL |
| Smuggling | NIL |
| IUU Fishing | 01 |
| Narcotic | 01 |
| Irregular Human Migration | NIL |
| Marine Environment Pollution | NIL |
| Other | NIL |
| Total Incidents | 03 |

MARITIME INCIDENTS



16 Mar/ Boat burns in Broken Bay/ Australia

| INCIDENT DATE | COUNTRY/REGION | LOCATION | SUB CATEGORIES | VESSEL DETAILS | ADDITIONAL DETAILS |
|---------------|----------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 2026.03.16 | Australia | Broken Bay | Fire/Folding/Explosion | luxury motor cruiser boat | A nearby vessel rescued four people, two men and two women, as flames engulfed the scene. |

A large luxury motor cruiser sank after catching fire near West Head, posing a risk of a fuel spill. At around 1345 PM on 16 Mar 26, NSW Police Marine Area Command, NSW Ambulance, and NSW Rural Fire Service responded to reports of the 18m motor cruiser ablaze in Broken Bay, near Lion Island.



Source -: <https://www.northernbeachesadvocate.com.au/2026/03/16/boat-burns-in-broken-bay/>

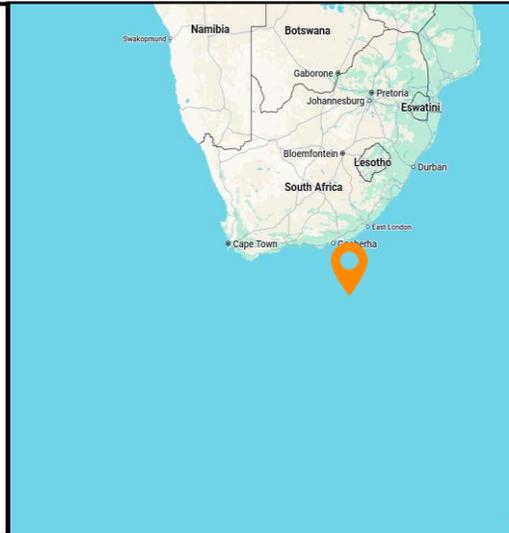
IUU FISHING



16 Mar/ Authorities fine four Chinese fishing vessels over illegal entry/ South Africa

| INCIDENT DATE | COUNTRY/REGION | LOCATION | SUB CATEGORIES | VESSEL DETAILS | ADDITIONAL DETAILS |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------|---|
| 2026.03.16 | South Africa | South African territorial waters | Poaching /Maritime boundary violations | fishing vessel | Investigations by DFFE found that the vessels had entered South African territorial waters during the consideration of the OPL request. |

Four Chinese-flagged fishing vessels were intercepted and fined for illegally entering South Africa's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and territorial waters. The vessels sought permission for "innocent passage" on 23 Feb 26 to exit by 03 Mar 26. However, their subsequent request for Off-Port Limits (OPL) authorization was rejected by the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) due to insufficient justification and documentation.



Source -: <https://defenceweb.co.za/border-security-2/south-african-authorities-intercept-fine-chinese-fishing-vessels-over-illegal-entry/>

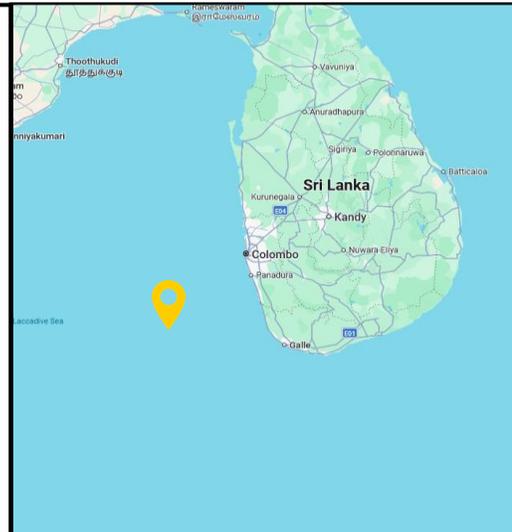
NARCOTIC



16 Mar/ Navy's successful high-seas bust nets over 133kg haul of heroin/ Sri Lanka

| INCIDENT DATE | COUNTRY/REGION | LOCATION | SUB CATEGORIES | VESSEL DETAILS | ADDITIONAL DETAILS |
|---------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 2026.03.16 | Sri Lanka | High Seas South Of Sri Lanka | Seizure of narcotics | local multi-day fishing trawler | In 2025, naval operations seized narcotics valued over Rs. 75 billion, while operations in 2026 have already seized over Rs. 20 billion worth of drugs. |

During a recent operation south of Sri Lanka, the Navy intercepted a fishing trawler and arrested five suspects connected to drug smuggling. The Police Narcotic Bureau confirmed the seizure of over 133 kilograms of heroin during an inspection at the Dickowita fisheries harbor.



Source -: <https://news.navy.lk/operation-news/2026/03/16/202603161730/>



Information Fusion Center Colombo Sri Lanka

DISCLAIMER

The information in this report has been sourced from various internal and external parties, including international and local stakeholders, maritime agencies, and open sources. The report analyzes incidents to identify trends and discrepancies, aiming to improve the safety and security of mariners and seafarers. While efforts have been made to ensure data accuracy, users should exercise due diligence. Some incident locations may be approximate. IFC-Colombo requests stakeholders' cooperation in reporting incidents for more accurate analysis of maritime threats. The views expressed in this report do not reflect those of the Sri Lanka Navy or Government of Sri Lanka.

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