

DAILY MARITIME INCIDENT UPDATE

Information Fusion Center-Colombo



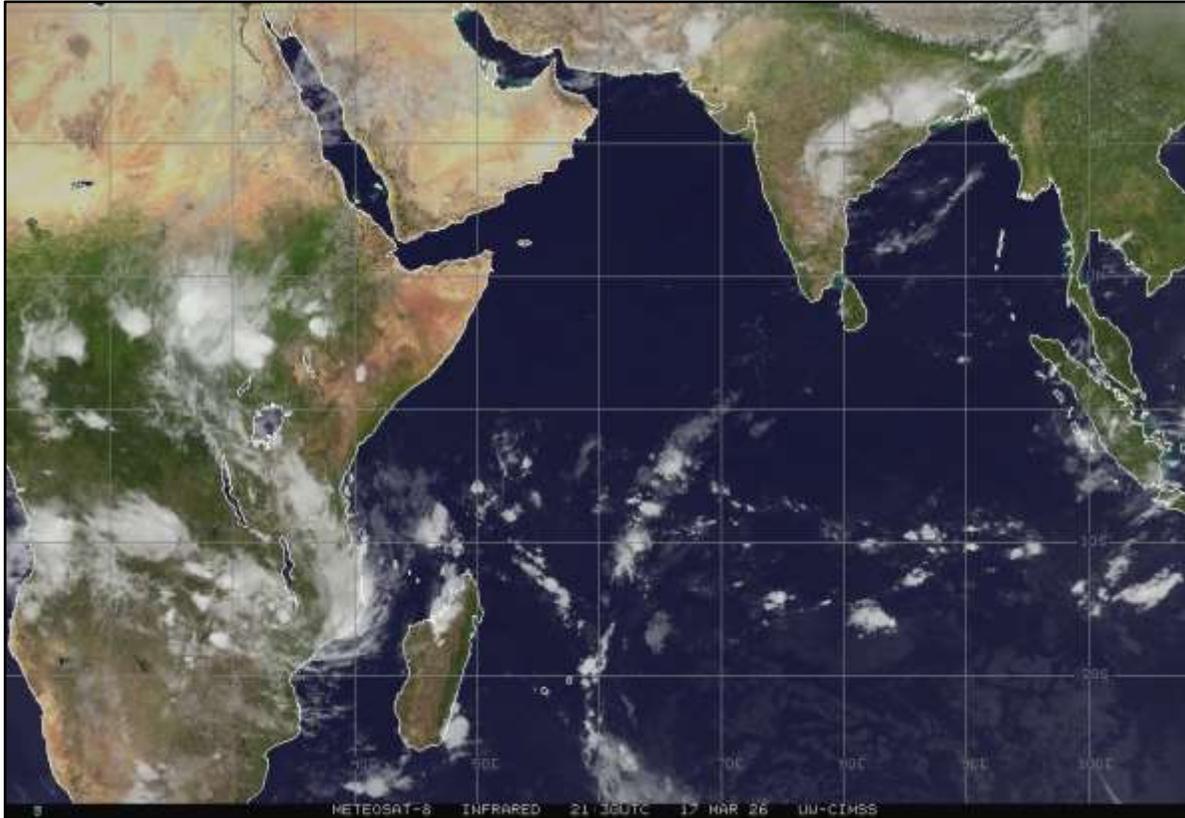
Information Fusion Center
Colombo
Sri Lanka

Date 2026.03.18

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: 2026.03.18/0600UTC to 2026.03.18/1400UTC

Issued at 0000UTC on 2026.03.18

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

Shear line is approximately along : 06S 60E, 07S 70E, 05S 80E, 05S 90E, 04S 100E

ITCZ is approximately along : 11S 60E, 10S 70E, 13S 80E, 11S 90E, 12S 100E

Weather:

OCNL Showers / T'Showers in sections : 40, 45, 60, 80, 85

SCT Showers / T'Showers in sections : 10, 15, 25, 35, 65, 70, 75

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

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:

SW'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.

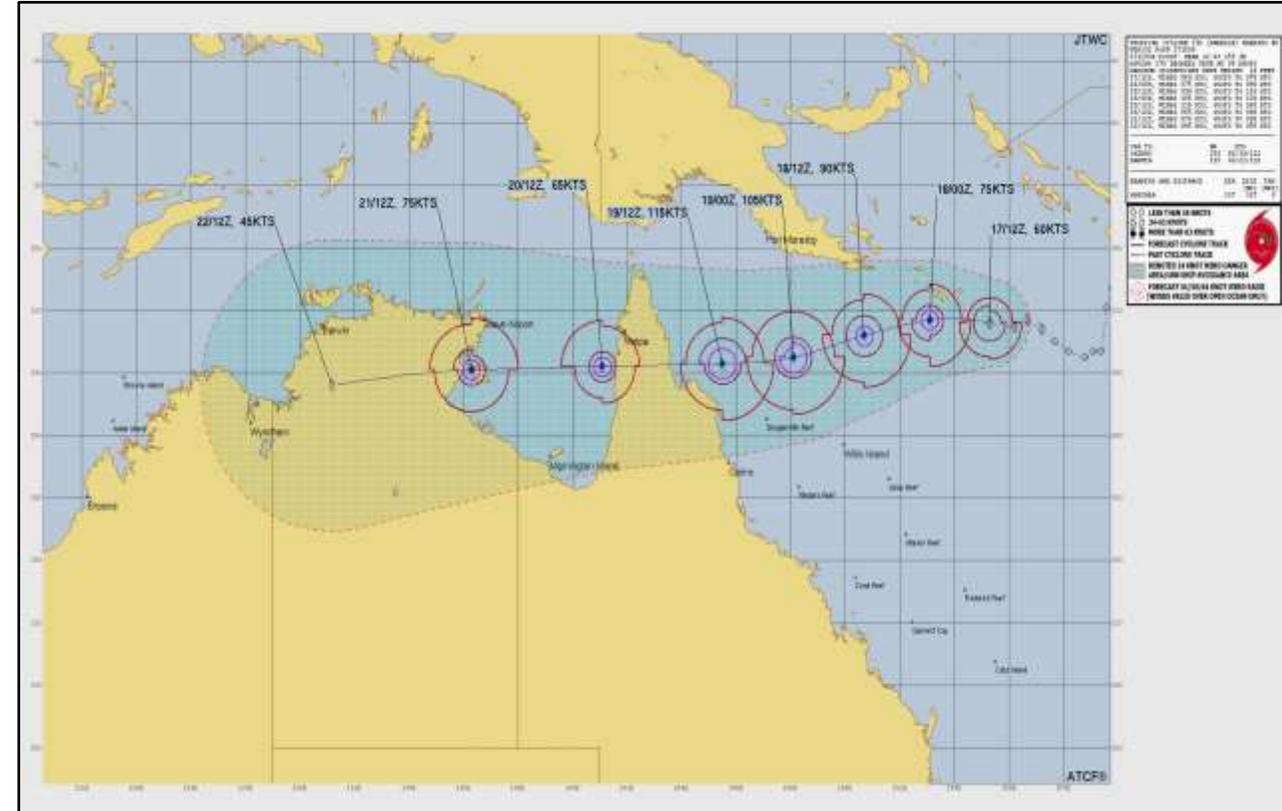
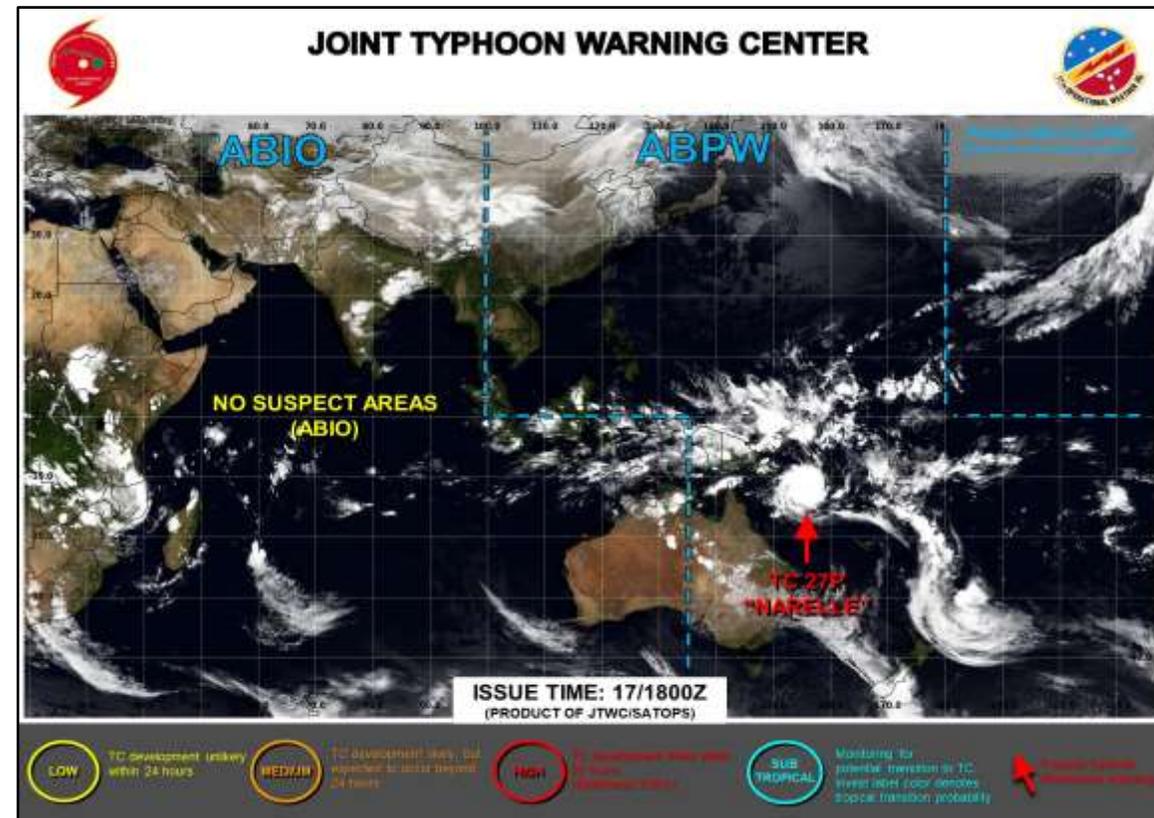
NOTE: Seas can be temporarily very rough during thundershowers.

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

CYCLONE

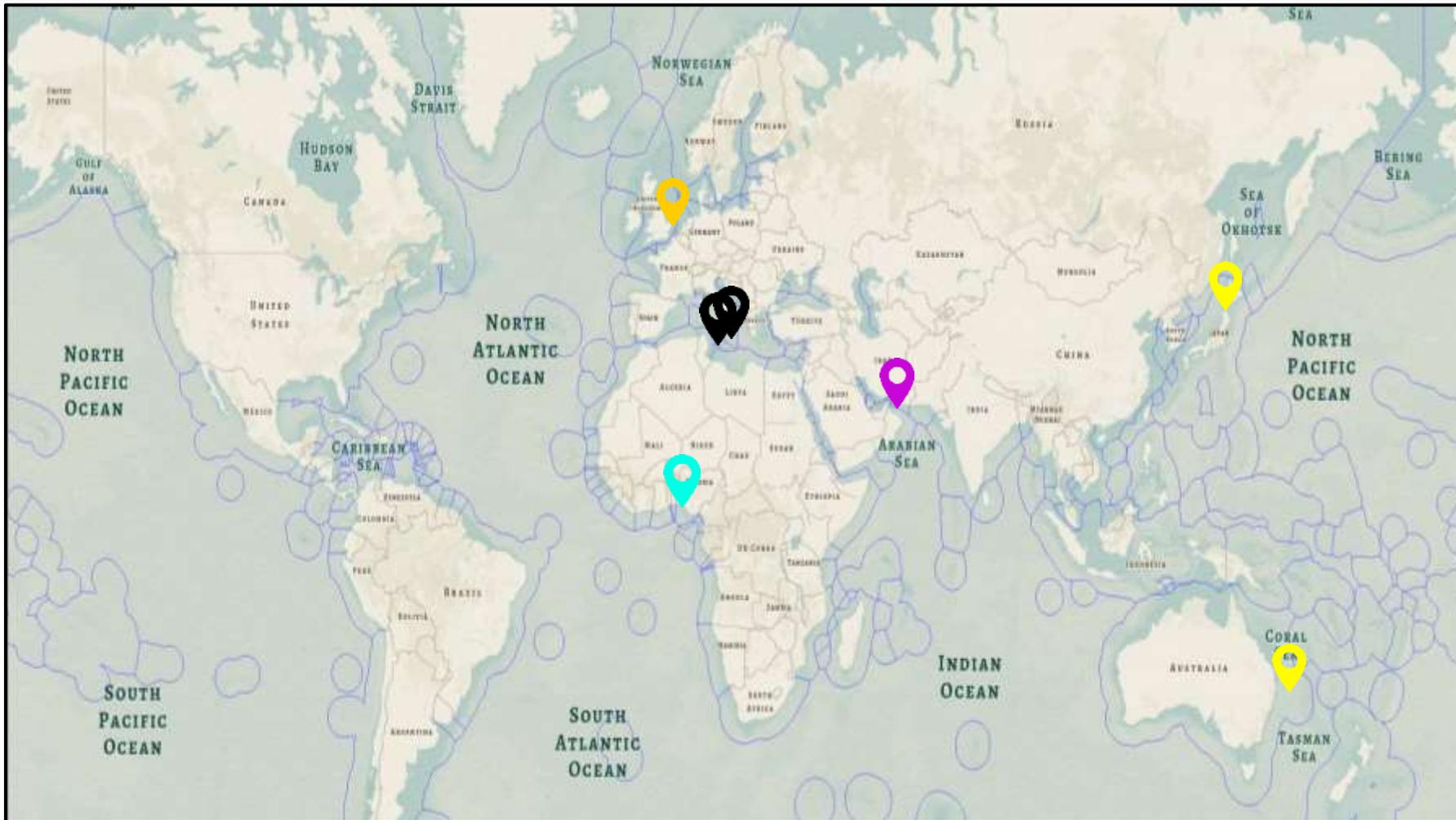


Tropical Cyclone



• Source: <https://www.metoc.dc3n.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html>

SUMMARY (MARITIME INCIDENT)



CATEGORY	NO
 Maritime Incidents	02
 Piracy & Armed Robbery	NIL
 Smuggling	01
 IUU Fishing	NIL
 Narcotic	01
 Irregular Human Migration	02
 Marine Environment Pollution	NIL
 Other	01
Total Incidents	07

MARITIME INCIDENTS



17 Mar/ Five fishermen rescued after 10 hours on sinking boat off Gold Coast /Australia

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.17	Australia	50 km off Gold Coast	Search and Rescue	Fishing vessel	The crew say their close call won't stop them from getting back out on the water but there will be some changes to the boat.

A group of five men was rescued off the Gold Coast after spending 10 hours on a sinking boat the Big Shot trawler 50 km offshore. Water flooded the engine room prompting them to manually bail water using buckets. They called for help and a Life Flight helicopter monitored the situation while NSW water police towed the boat back as night approached. The men returned to land exhausted, realizing it took them three hours to reach shore with concerns about potential seawater damage to the boat's motor.



Source -: <https://7news.com.au/news/five-fishermen-rescued-after-10-hours-on-sinking-boat-off-gold-coast-queensland-c-21975633>

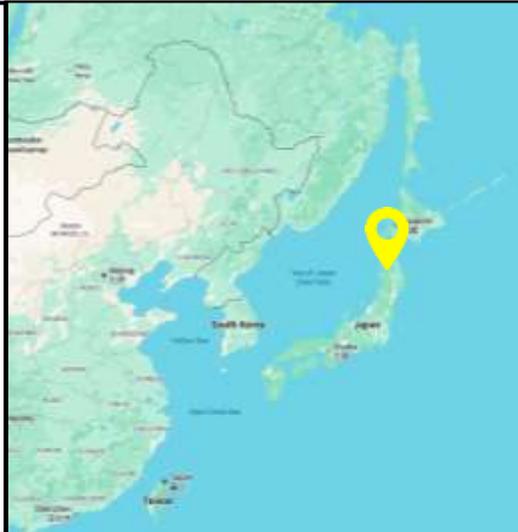
MARITIME INCIDENTS



17 Mar/ 4 Die after Cargo Ship, Collided with Fishing Boat / Japan

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.17	Japan	Off Aomori	Collisions	Fishing vessel & Cargo Ship	Six crew members of the cargo ship were unharmed, and the coast guard office is investigating the cause of the accident.

Four people died in a collision between a cargo ship and a fishing boat off Aomori, Japan, early Tuesday. The incident occurred near Misawa fishing port, where the fishing boat capsized. Of the 13 people on board the fishing boat, four were found unconscious and later pronounced dead, while the nine others were rescued without major injuries. All were wearing life jackets.



Source -: <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yj2026031700297/>

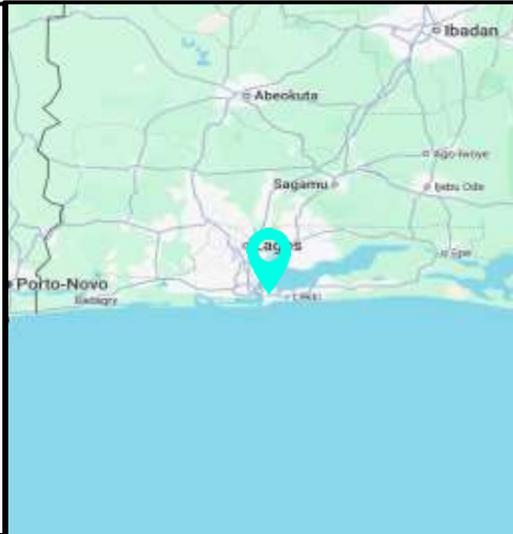
SMUGGLING



15 Mar/ Smugglers Lose N3.39bn Codeine Cargo to Customs /Nigeria

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.15	Nigeria	Apapa Port	Contraband /Goods smuggling	-	The consignment was in 3,398 cartons carefully concealed in household utensils it had a duty value of N3.39bn Oshoba said.

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) Apapa Command has seized 3,398 cartons of codeine syrup worth N3.39 billion at Apapa Port Lagos. The interception reported by Public Relations Officer Isa Sulaiman occurred on 15 Mar 26 as part of a follow-up operation. This seizure follows a warning by Comptroller-General Bashir Adeniyi against criminal activities at the port highlighting the NCS's commitment to cracking down on smuggling and enforcing regulations at Nigeria's busiest port.



Source -: <https://thewhistler.ng/smugglers-lose-n3-39bn-codeine-cargo-to-customs/>

NARCOTIC



15 Mar/ Dutch Catch Smugglers Throwing Drugs into the North Sea from Containership /Netherlands

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.15	Netherlands	Coast of Zeeland province	Sea based Drugs Trafficking /cocaine	Cargo ship	The Amsterdam Public Prosecution Service is leading the investigation. It was withholding further information pending the outcome of the investigation.

A drug intervention team in the Netherlands apprehended five smugglers on 15 Mar 26 while they were discarding narcotics into the North Sea from a containership off the Zeeland coast. The suspects aged 34 to 61 were using the "Drop-off method" to transfer the bundled drugs to smaller boats for transport to shore.



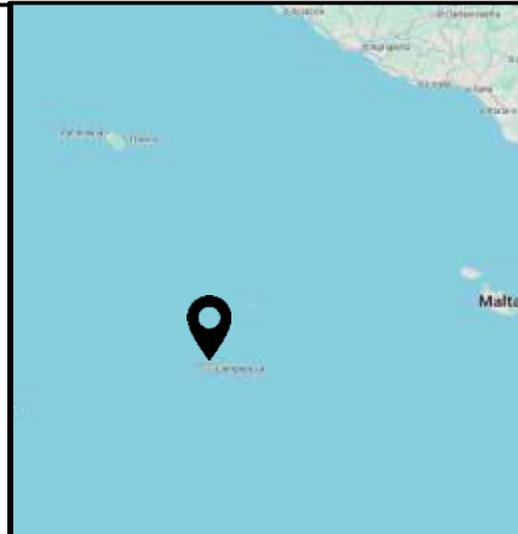
Source -: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/dutch-catch-smugglers-throwing-drugs-into-the-north-sea-from-containership>



15 Mar/ Child missing after migrant boat sinks near island off Lampedusa /Italia

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.15	Italia	island of Lampedusa	Illegal Migrants boats sinks	One Boat	Sixty-four people were rescued, while a 2-year-old boy from Sierra Leone remains missing.

Sixty four migrants were rescued at sea near Lampedusa Italy after a boat sank in the Mediterranean. However a child from Sierra Leone is still missing. The rescued include 14 women and 10 minors, who had also fallen overboard. Despite ongoing searches no trace of the child has been found and the mother is currently on Lampedusa with the other survivors. Pope Leo XIV is scheduled to visit the island in July.



© Bruno Theverini/AP Photo/picture alliance

Source -: <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/70375/child-missing-after-migrant-boat-sinks-near-italys-lampedusa>

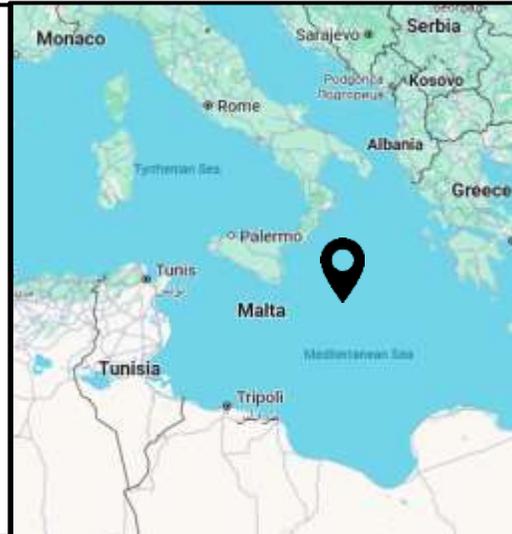
IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION



13 Mar/ More than 50 African migrants rescued from boat in central Mediterranean /Italia

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.13	Italia	Mediterranean Sea	Overcrowded vessels	One Boat	The groups are heading to Civitavecchia in Italy, several days' sail from the rescue site, on board the NGO's Life Support ship.

More than 50 migrants including nine children were rescued from an overcrowded boat in the central Mediterranean by the Italian NGO Emergency on Friday evening. This followed an earlier rescue of 41 migrants in international waters within the Libyan Search and Rescue zone. The rescued individuals hailed from various countries including Nigeria Guinea-Bissau Biafra Senegal South Sudan Guinea The Gambia and Sudan reflecting the ongoing efforts of individuals from Africa and beyond to reach the European Union in search of a better life.



Source -: <https://www.africanews.com/2026/03/15/more-than-50-african-migrants-rescued-from-boat-in-central-mediterranean/>

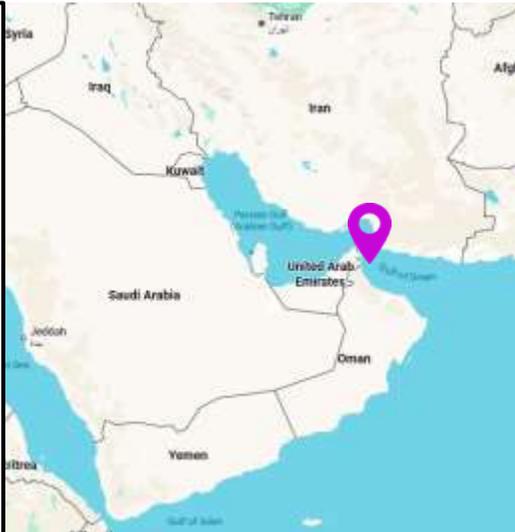
OTHER



16 Mar/ Tanker Targeted Off UAE Coast/ UAE

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.16	UAE	Off Fujairah	Other Military /Coastguard activities	-	The attack occurs during increased tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, with Iran associated with various recent maritime incidents related to its conflict with the United States and Israel.

On 16 March 26 the UKMTO Centre reported that the captain of a tanker was struck by an unknown projectile off Fujairah, UAE, while at anchor. The incident took place 23 nm east of Fujairah, with no significant damage or pollution and all crew members reported safe. Authorities are investigating and have advised vessels to navigate the area with caution.



Source :- <https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/maritime-news/15/maritime-security/2026/12774/tanker-targeted-off-uae-coast-all-crew-reported-safe>



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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