



Information Fusion Centre

Colombo - Sri Lanka

IFC Monthly Reports

December 2022



Naval Headquarters, Colombo, Sri Lanka



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www.ifccolombo.org



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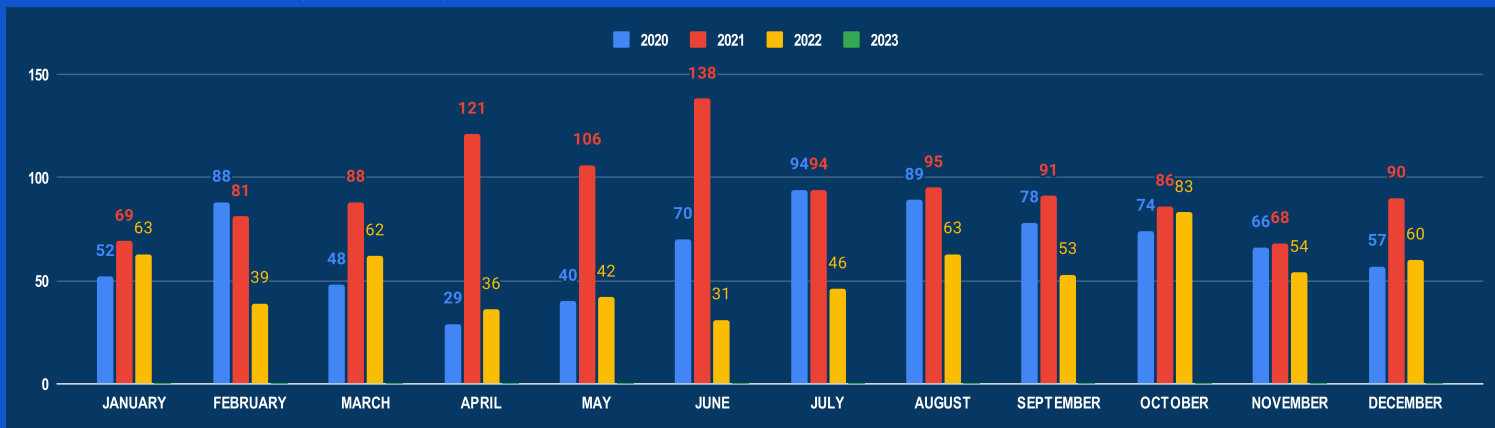


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP DECEMBER 2022

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS (2020-2022)



REPORTED INCIDENTS DECEMBER 2022

INCIDENT TYPE	DEC 2022	TOTAL 2022	DEC 2021
IUU Fishing	12	118	20
Drug Smuggling	4	30	4
Contraband Smuggling	3	28	3
Human Smuggling	1	38	1
Maritime Incident	39	326	43
Poaching	1	89	19
Explosive and Firearms	0	3	0

Poaching

1.7%

IUU Fishing

20.0%

Drug Smuggling

6.7%

Contraband Smuggling

5.0%

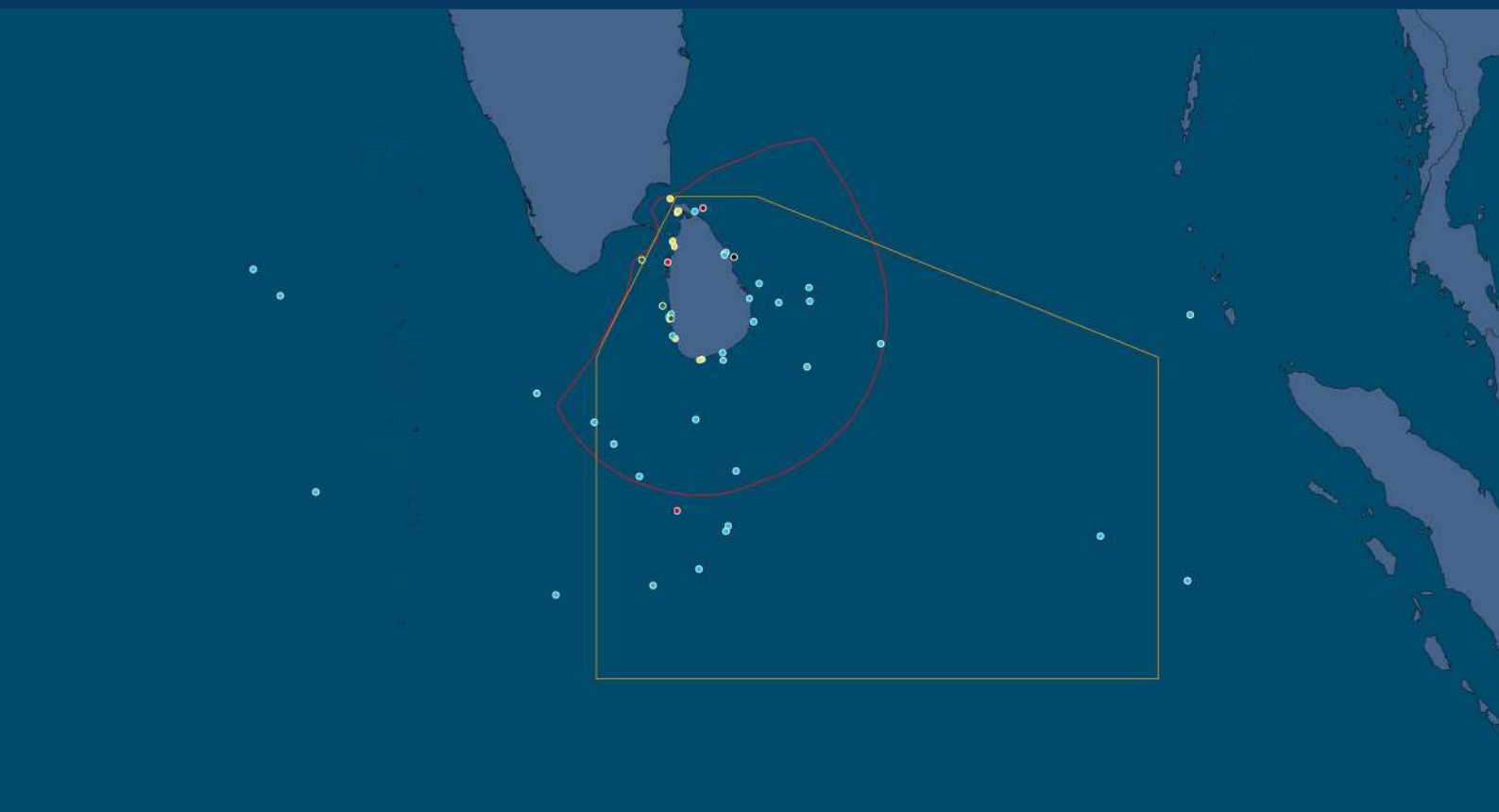
Human Smuggling

1.7%

Maritime Incident

65.0%

MARITIME INCIDENTS DECEMBER 2022



■ IUU Fishing
 ■ Drug Smuggling
 ■ Contraband Smuggling
 ■ Human Smuggling
 ■ Maritime Incident
 ■ Poaching

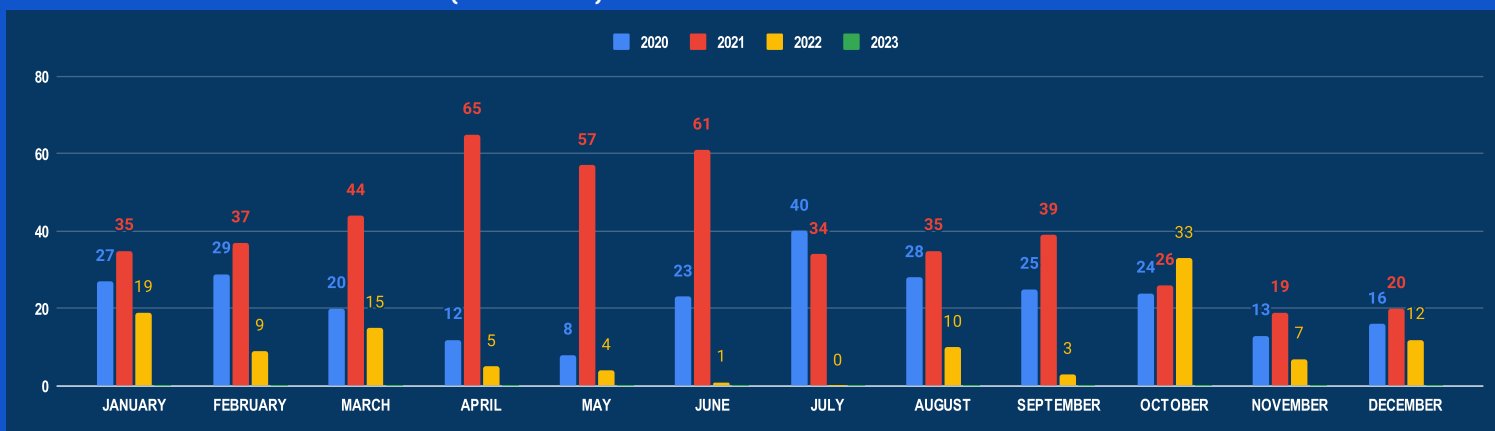


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP DECEMBER 2022

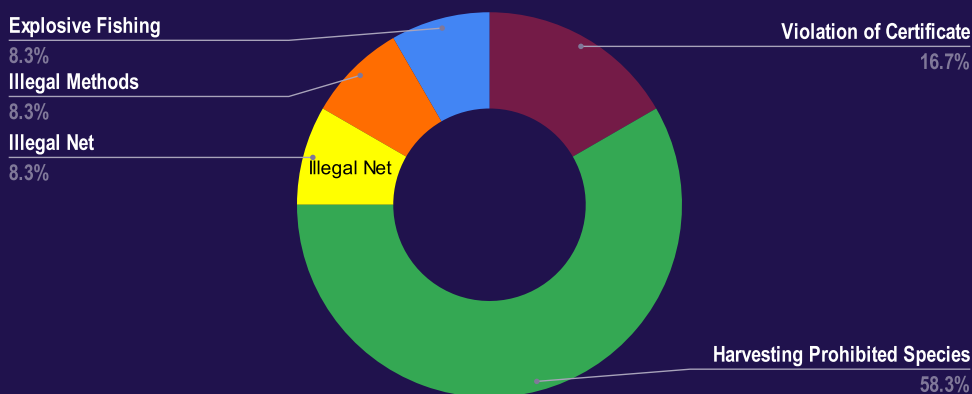
IUU FISHING INCIDENTS - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF IUU FISHING INCIDENTS (2020-2022)

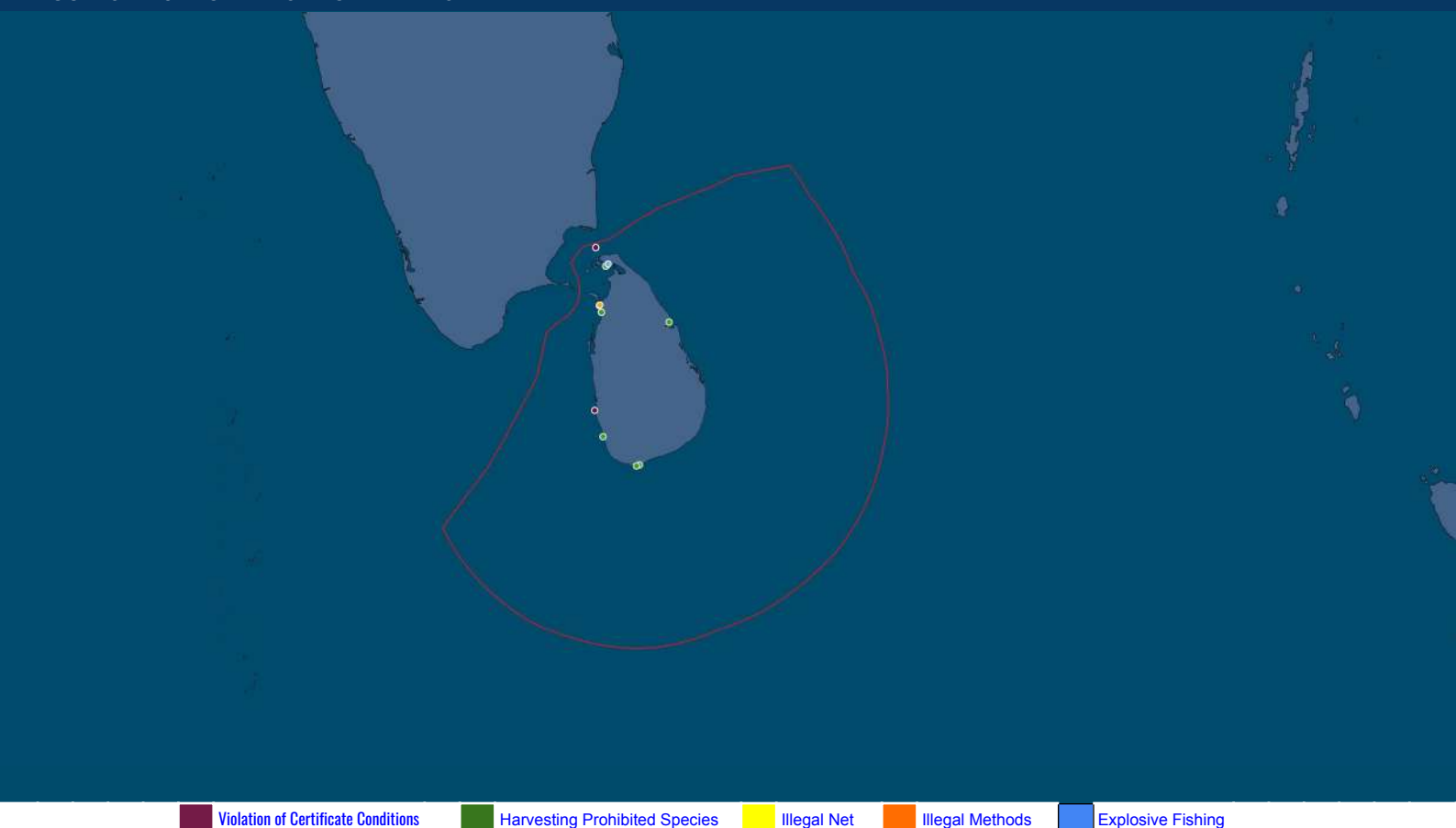


REPORTED INCIDENTS DECEMBER 2022

INCIDENT TYPE	DEC 2022	TOTAL 2022	DEC 2021
Violation of Certificate Conditions	2	9	7
Harvesting Prohibited Species	7	40	5
Illegal Net	1	41	7
Illegal Methods	1	22	1
Explosive Fishing	1	6	0



IUU FISHING INCIDENTS DECEMBER 2022



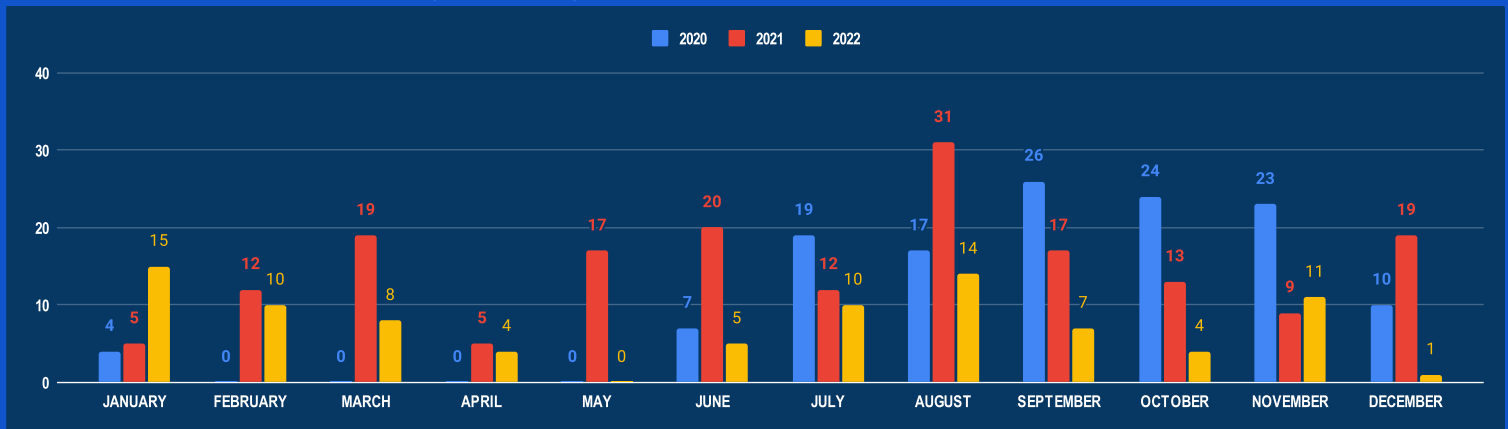


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP DECEMBER 2022

POACHING INCIDENTS - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF POACHING INCIDENTS (2020-2022)

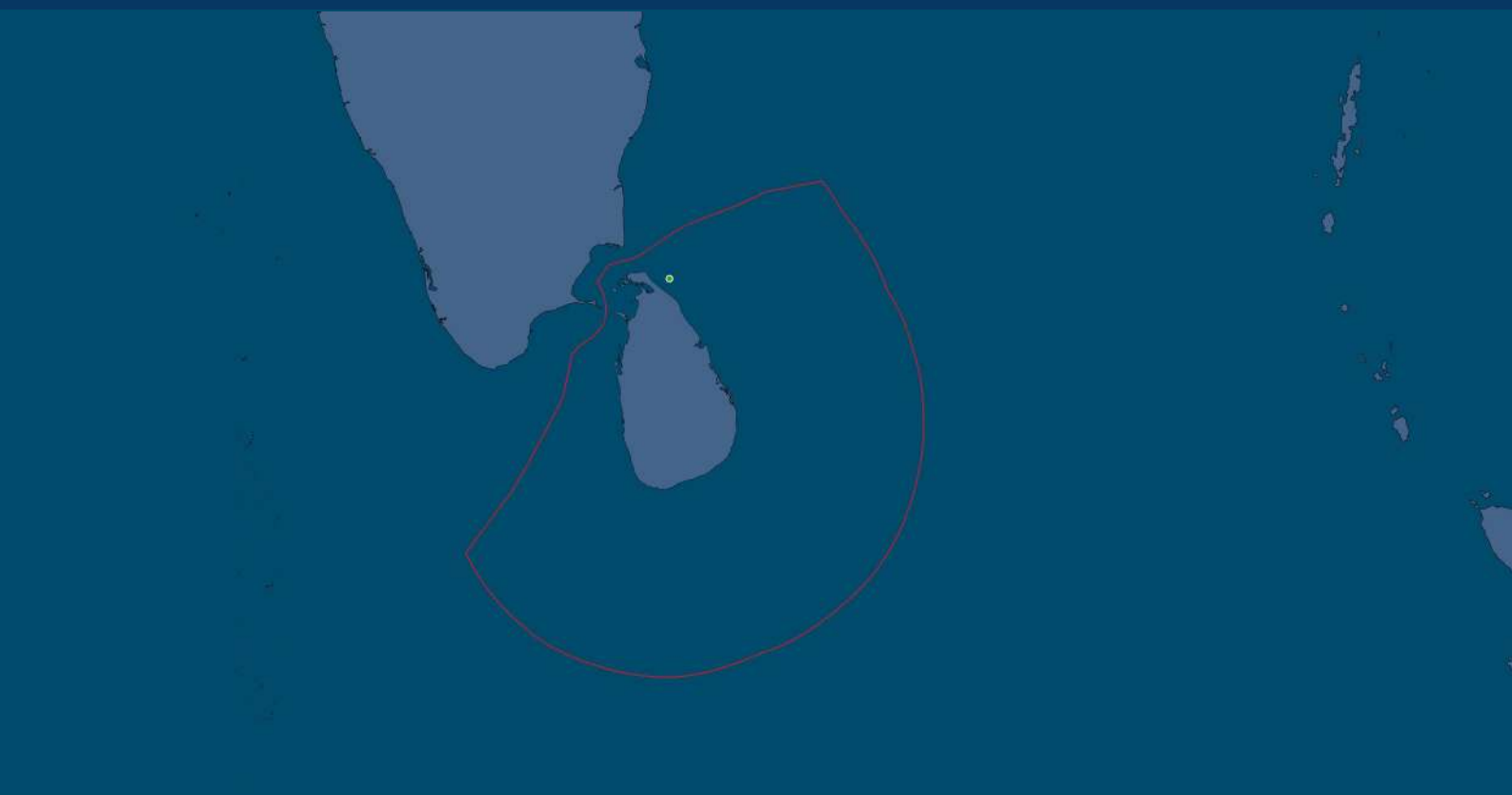


REPORTED INCIDENTS DECEMBER 2022

	DEC 2022	TOTAL 2022	DEC 2021
Eastern Coast	1	10	2
Palk Strait	0	16	2
Gulf of Mannar	0	10	4
Palk Bay	0	52	10
Other	0	11	0



POACHING INCIDENTS DECEMBER 2022



■ Eastern Coast
 ■ Palk Strait
 ■ Gulf of Mannar
 ■ Palk Bay
 ■ Other

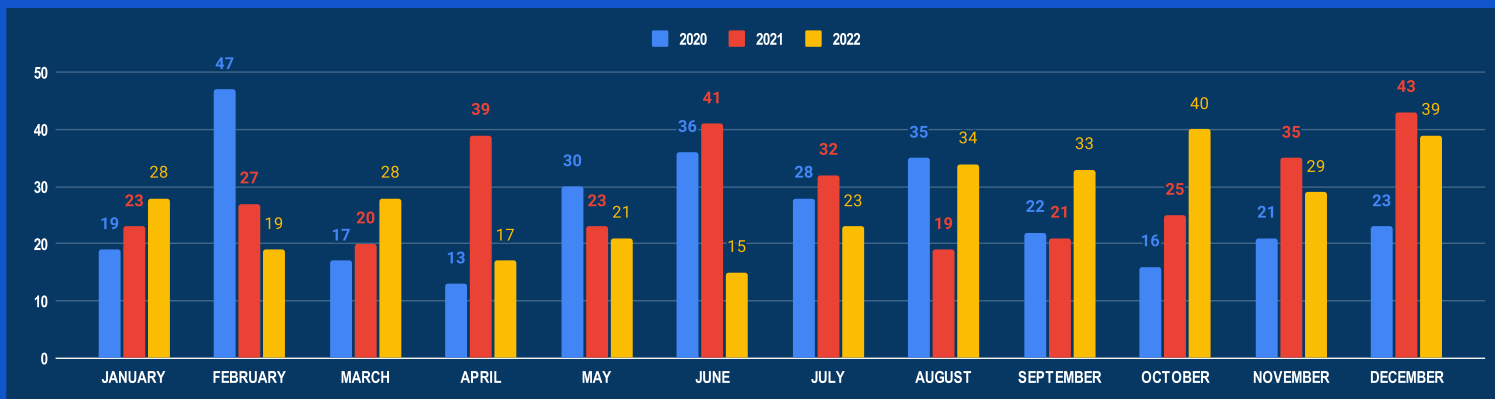


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP DECEMBER 2022

MARITIME INCIDENT - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF MARITIME INCIDENTS (2020-2022)



REPORTED INCIDENTS DECEMBER 2022

INCIDENT TYPE	DEC 2022	TOTAL 2022	DEC 2021
Technical Failure	9	130	13
Fire onboard	0	1	1
EPIRB Alert	14	85	14
Man Over Boat	2	12	0
Arrival Overdue	1	16	4
Capsized	2	6	1
Ground	2	8	0
Death	1	5	0
Patient onboard	3	42	7
Collision	1	3	2
No Communication	2	10	1
Other Incident	2	8	0

Other Incident

5.1%
No Communication
5.1%
Collision
2.6%
Patient onboard
7.7%
Ground
5.1%
Capsized
5.1%
Man Over Boat
5.1%

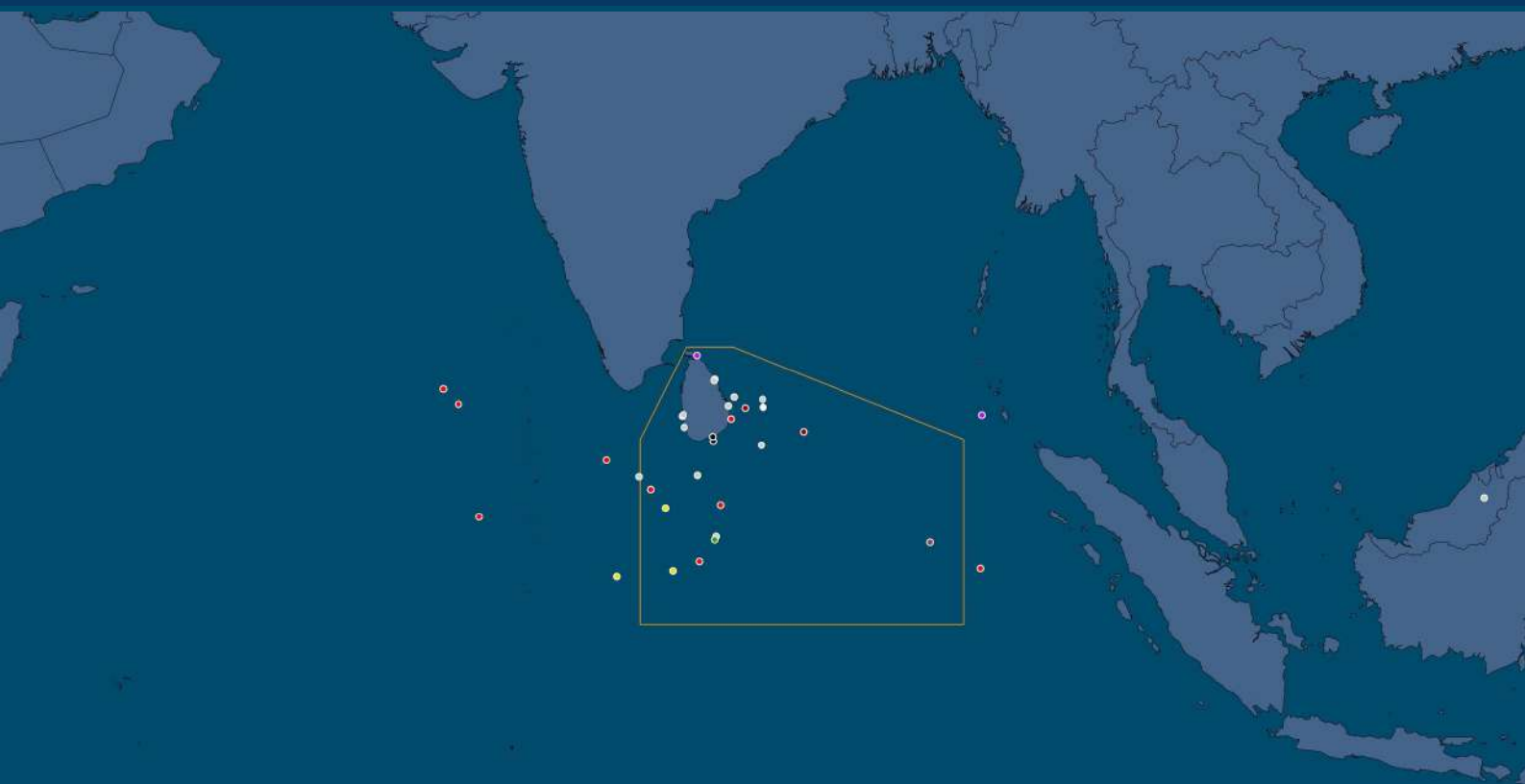
Technical Failure

23.1%

EPIRB Alert

35.9%

MARITIME INCIDENT DECEMBER 2022



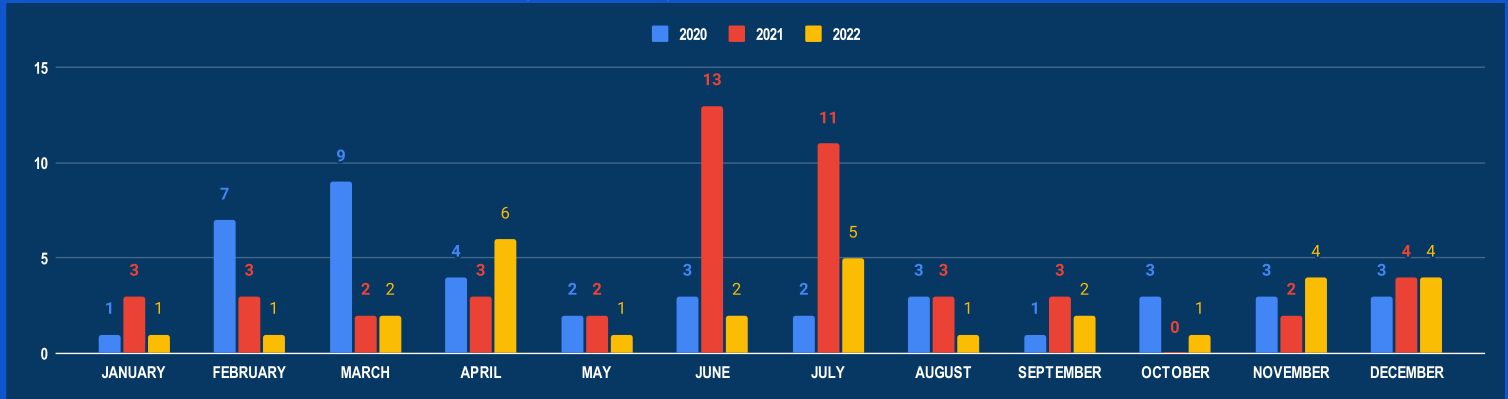


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP DECEMBER 2022

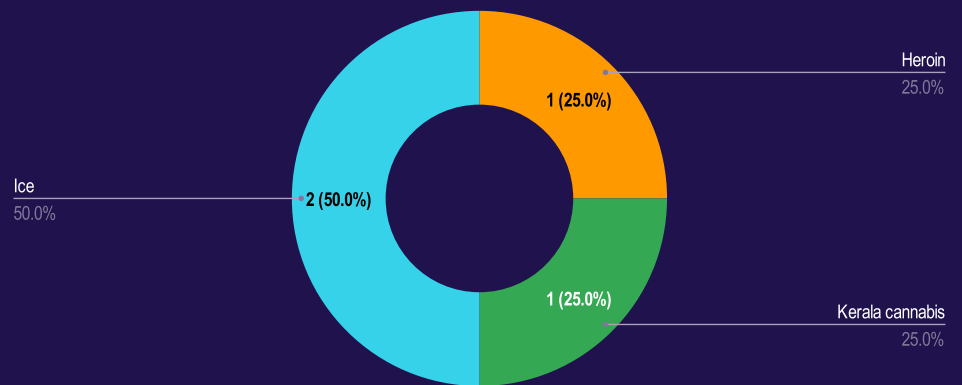
DRUG SMUGGLING - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF DRUG SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2022)

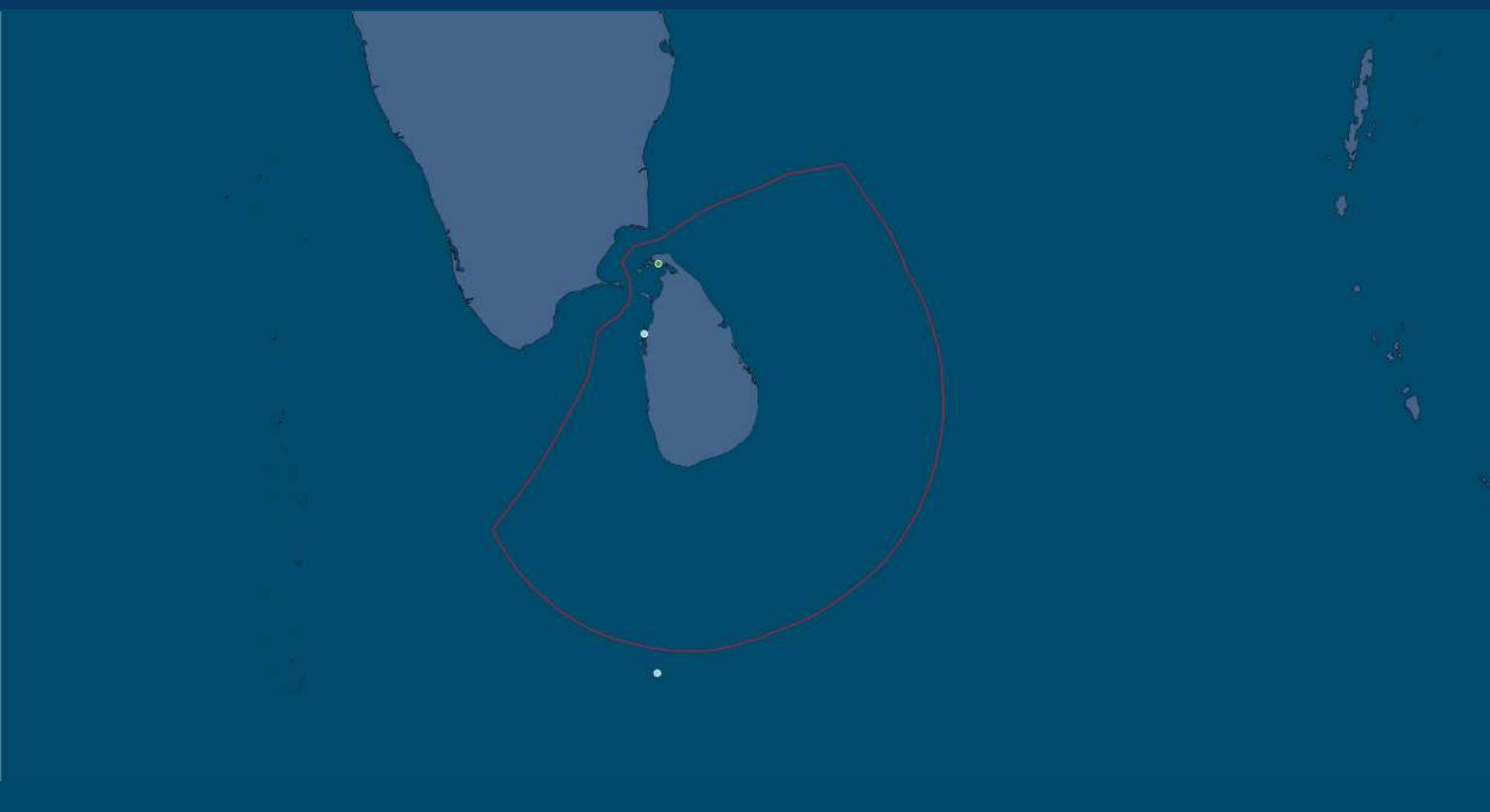


REPORTED INCIDENTS DECEMBER 2022

Drug Type	DEC 2022	TOTAL 2022	DEC 2021
Heroin	1	4	1
Kerala cannabis	1	17	3
Ice	2	5	0
Tablets	0	2	0
Hashish	0	1	0
Local cannabis	0	1	0



DRUG SMUGGLING INCIDENT DECEMBER 2022



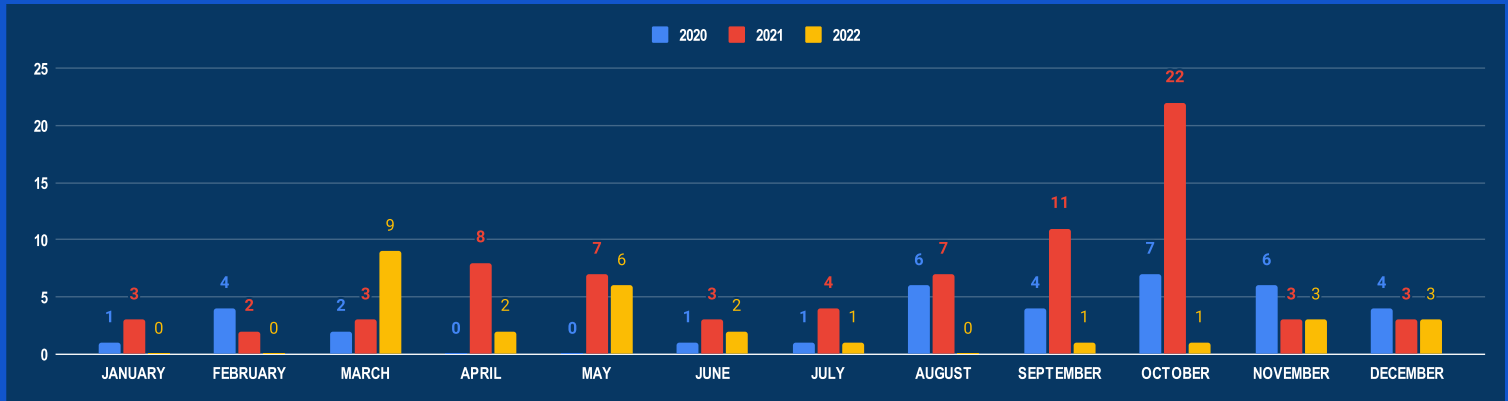


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP DECEMBER 2022

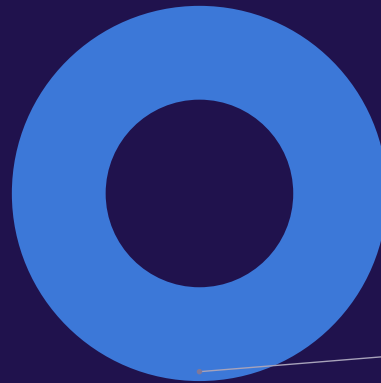
CONTRABAND SMUGGLING - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF CONTRABAND SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2022)



REPORTED INCIDENTS DECEMBER 2022

INCIDENT TYPE	DEC 2022	TOTAL 2022	DEC 2021
Cardamom	0	2	0
Glyphosate	0	0	1
Gold	0	2	0
Kendu leaves	3	12	2
Other	0	11	0
Turmeric	0	1	0



Kendu leaves
100.0%

CONTRABAND SMUGGLING INCIDENT DECEMBER 2022



Cardamom Glyphosate Gold Kendu leaves Turmeric Other

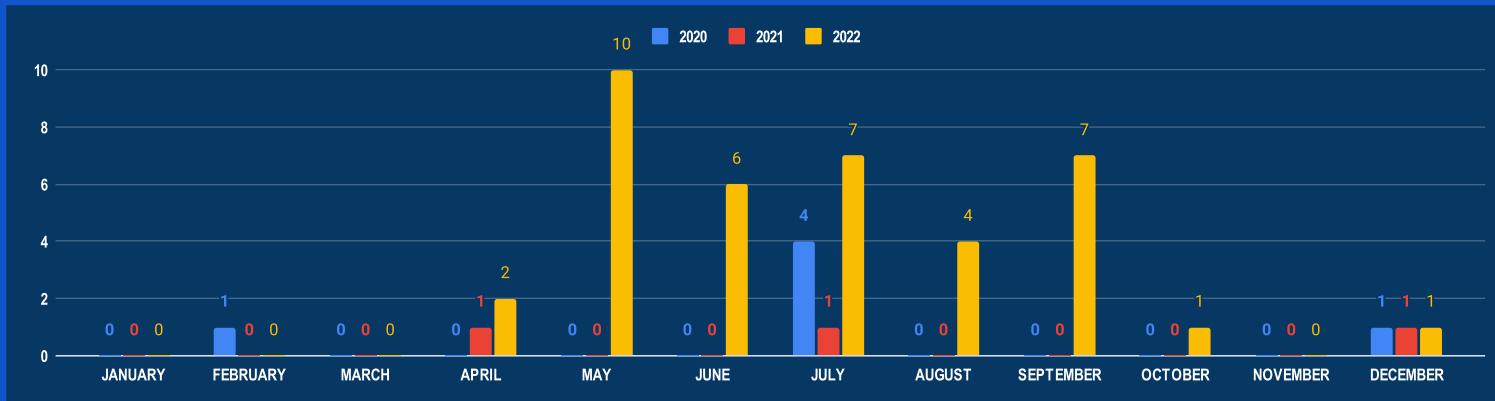


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP DECEMBER 2022

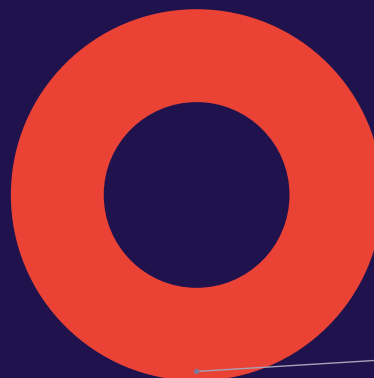
HUMAN SMUGGLING - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF HUMAN SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2022)



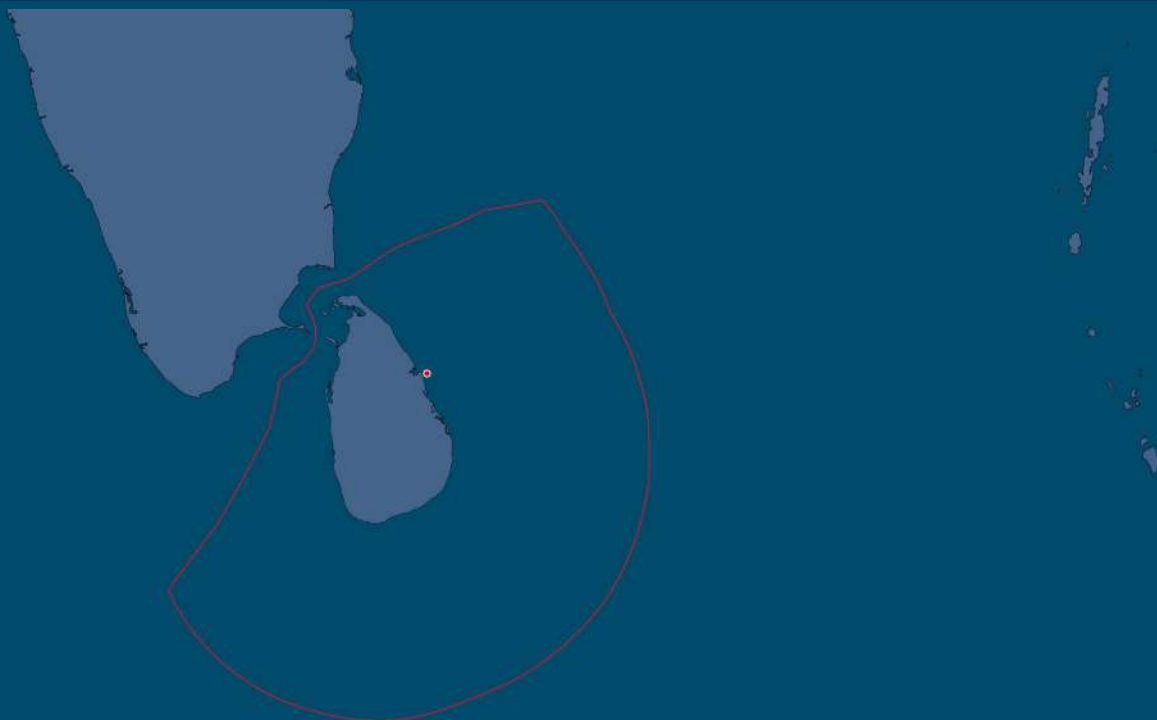
REPORTED INCIDENTS DECEMBER 2022

INCIDENT TYPE	DEC 2022	TOTAL 2022	DEC 2021
Human Smuggling	1	38	0



Human Smuggling
100.0%

HUMAN SMUGGLING INCIDENT DECEMBER 2022



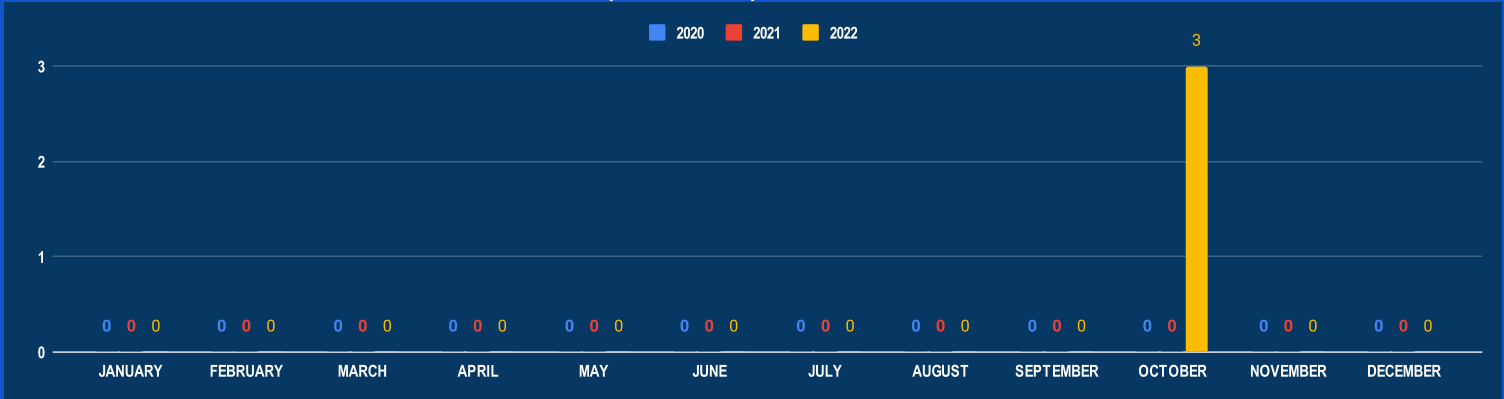


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP DECEMBER 2022

EXPLOSIVE AND FIREARMS - IFC AOI

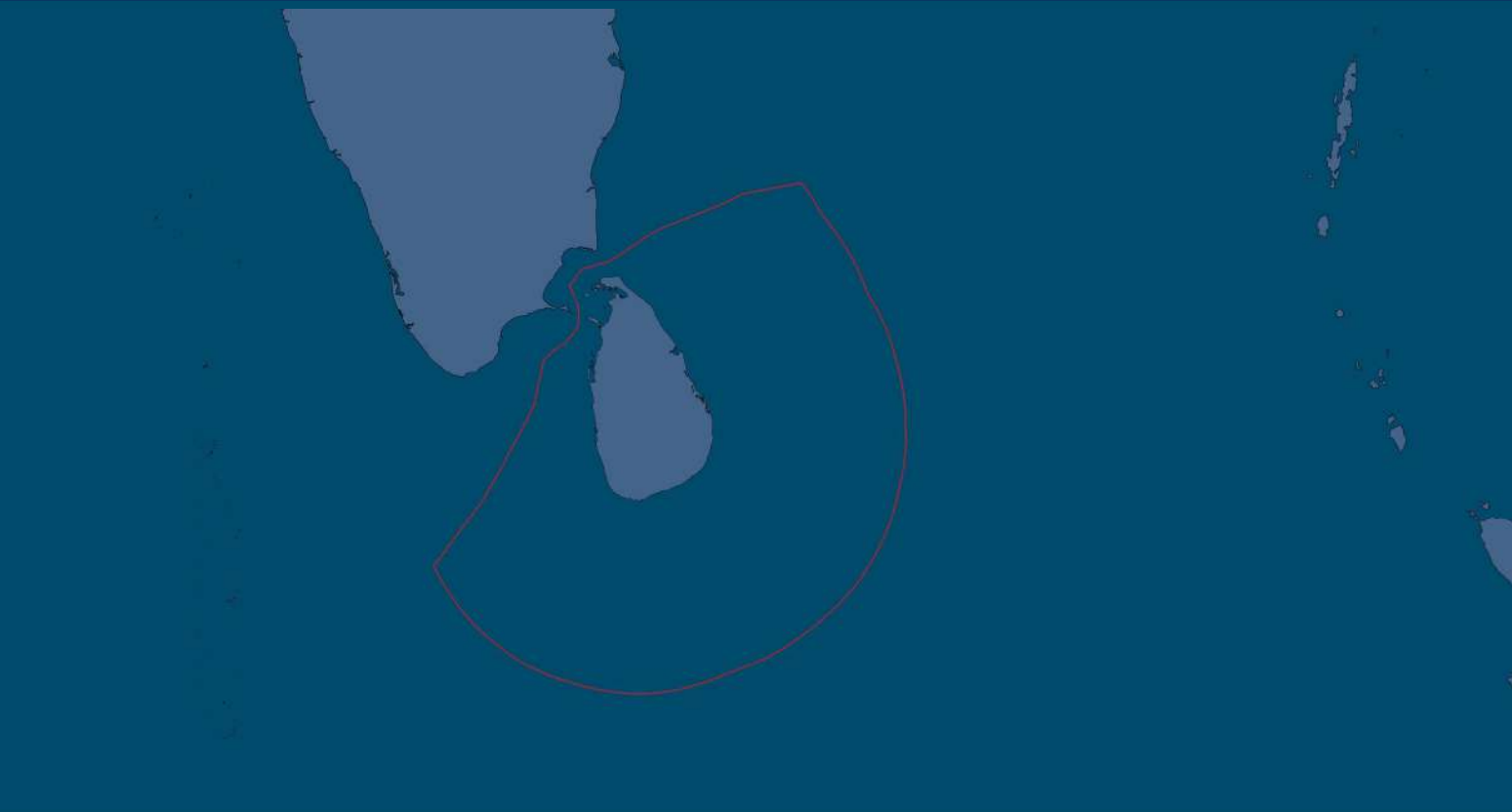
NUMBER OF EXPLOSIVE AND FIREARMS INCIDENTS (2020-2022)



REPORTED INCIDENTS DECEMBER 2022

INCIDENT TYPE	DEC 2022	TOTAL 2022	DEC 2021
Water Gel Sticks	0	3	0

EXPLOSIVE AND FIREARMS INCIDENT DECEMBER 2022



EVENTS

01. 05th December 2022

Navy apprehends 20 illegal immigrants off Trincomalee

Sri Lanka Navy took hold of a local multi-day fishing trawler carrying 20 illegal immigrants to a foreign country, during a special operation conducted in the seas east of the Foul Point, Trincomalee in the wee hours of 05th December 2022.

The Navy conducts regular patrols and search operations in the sea and coastal areas of the island in order to prevent illegal migration attempts being made via sea routes. In a similar effort, the Fast Attack Craft P 474 of the 04th Fast Attack Flotilla (FAF 4) attached to the Eastern Naval Command was deployed in this operation, after having spotted a suspicious local fishing trawler in the seas east of the Foul Point today. Accordingly, the fishing trawler carrying 20 persons, who were suspected to be attempting to illegally migrate from the island, were held by the Navy. Among the apprehended individuals were 16 males, including 06 persons involved in this racket and 01 female over 18 years of age and 03 other individuals below 18 years.

The apprehended persons have been identified as residents of Kalawanchikudi, Batticoloa, Muthur, Jaffna and Negombo area and they will be handed over to the Harbour Police, Trincomalee for onward legal proceedings.



02. 05th December 2022

Navy intercepts 02 Indian fishing trawlers carrying over 4000kg of Kendu Leaves in North Western waters

A Naval patrol conducted in Sri Lanka's waters North West of the island on the night of 05th December 2022 led to the interception of 02 Indian fishing trawlers carrying over 4000 kg of Kendu Leaves. The Navy also took hold of 08 Indian nationals involved in this illegal act, along with the large consignment of contraband.

The Navy conducts regular patrols and search operations in coastal and sea areas of the island to prevent wide-ranging nefarious acts stemming via sea routes. In a similar effort, SLNS Suranimila attached to the Western Naval Command intercepted 02 suspicious Indian fishing trawlers in Sri Lanka's waters, during a patrol conducted off the Kudiramalai Point on the night of 05th December. The fishing trawlers had been loaded with 128 packages which were stuffed with Kendu Leaves weighing over 4000 kg. Further, the Navy also held 08 Indian nationals involved in this act of smuggling.

The seized Indian trawlers (02), the consignment of Kendu Leaves and the 08 Indian nationals are being brought ashore and they will be handed over to relevant authorities for onward legal proceedings.



03. 05th December 2022

Sri Lanka Coast Guard apprehended a fishing vessel with illegally harvested died shark fins

Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel deployed at Dondra Fishery Harbour for fishery monitoring and regulating duties apprehended a Multiday Fishing Trawler along with 06 fishermen in possession of illegally harvested Shark fins on 05th December 2022.

The apprehension was made during the arrival inspection of the Fishing Trawler after fishing and found 2.5kg of dried Shark fins hidden inside the boat. The arrested persons with apprehended items were handed over to the Dondra Fisheries Inspector for further investigation.



04. 06th December 2022

Sri Lanka Coast Guard apprehended a fishing vessel with illegally harvested dried shark fins

Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel deployed at Suduwella fishery harbour for fishery monitoring and regulating duties apprehended a Multiday Fishing Vessel along with 05 fishermen in possession of illegally harvested Shark fins on 06th December 2022.

The apprehension was made while conducting arrival formalities of the multi-day Fishing Trawler and found 01kg of dried Shark fins hidden inside the boat when they returned after fishing..The arrested persons with apprehended items were handed over to the Fishery Inspector of Suduwella for further legal action.



Sri Lanka Coast Guard apprehended a fishing vessel with illegally harvested dried shark fish

Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel deployed at Beruwala fishery harbour for fishery monitoring and regulating duties apprehended a multiday fishing vessel along with seven fishermen in possession of illegally harvested dried shark fish on 08th December 2022. The apprehension was made while conducting an onboard inspection in a multiday fishing trawler and found approximately 58.45kg of dried Shark fish hidden inside the boat when they returned after fishing.

The arrested persons with apprehended items were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector, Beruwala for onward legal action.



Navy rescues 04 fishermen including one trapped in capsized trawler in south-eastern waters

In a dedicated search and rescue operation, Sri Lanka Navy rescued 04 fishermen, including a fisher trapped inside a multiday fishing trawler for 04 days, as their trawler was in distress in south-eastern waters, and rushed them to the Kalmunai Hospital for treatment today (11 December 2022). Reportedly, the fishing trawler had capsized about 46 nautical miles (85km) off the Sangaman Kanda Point, following adverse weather.

The fishing trawler “Himsara” (Reg. No. IMUL-A-0101-TLE) left the Trincomalee fisheries harbour on 26th November 2022, with 05 fishermen. On receipt of information of the distress to the Navy Headquarters, the Navy launched this search and rescue operation at the directives of Commander of the Navy, Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne, to retrieve the fishers from the watery grave.

After confirming about the developments through the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources by the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Colombo, the Navy sent SLNS Ranarisi patrolling in south-eastern waters for the rescue of fishermen. Accordingly, naval personnel with the assistance of a local fishing trawler in the area rescued 03 fishermen from the capsized trawler. Based on information revealed by the rescues, the Navy carried out a diving operation to locate 02 other fishers who were missing since the night of 07th December. After a strenuous effort, the Navy retrieved a fisherman trapped in the engine room for 04 days and brought him ashore aboard SLNS Ranarisi, administering him first aid. Accordingly, the final rescuee who was in critical condition along with 03 other fishermen were brought ashore promptly and they were rushed to the Base Hospital – Kalmunai for medical attention today (11 December).



Navy's Good Samaritans rescue 03 fishermen from capsized trawler in southern waters

In a dedicated search and rescue operation mounted on 13th December 2022, Sri Lanka Navy rescued 03 fishermen from a distressed trawler in southern waters. The rescuees were brought ashore and admitted to the District General Hospital, Hambantota. Reportedly, their fishing trawler had capsized about 180 nautical miles (333km) off Dondra Point, following adverse weather.

The fishing trawler (Reg. No. IMUL-A-0539-TLE) left the Galle Fisheries Harbour on 22nd November 2022, with 06 fishermen. On receipt of information of the distress to the Navy Headquarters, the Navy launched this dedicated search and rescue operation at the directives of Commander of the Navy, Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne, to retrieve the fishers from the unfortunate turn of events.

Upon confirmation about the developments, through the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, by the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Colombo at Navy Headquarters, the Navy sent off the Fast Attack Craft P 436, attached to the Southern Naval Command, patrolling in southern waters, for the rescue of fishermen. Accordingly, naval personnel with the assistance of a local fishing trawler in the sea area rescued 03 fishermen from the capsized trawler.

Based on information revealed by the rescuees, the Navy carried out further search in the area to locate the other 03 missing fishermen. In this operation, the Navy managed to recover a corpse adrift in the sea area. The rescued fishermen confirmed that the corpse was not that of a fisherman from the ill-fated trawler. Incidentally, the Navy carried the corpse along with the rescued 03 fishermen to the Port of Hambantota on the night of 13th December. The rescued fishermen were subsequently rushed to the District General Hospital, Hambantota for medical attention. Meanwhile, the corpse was also handed over to the hospital for onward proceedings.



08. 14th December 2022

Local trawler with crystal methamphetamine and heroin worth over Rs 4586 Mn gross street value and suspects held by Navy in southern waters brought to Colombo Harbour

A special operation conducted by the Navy in coordination with the State Intelligence Service and Police Narcotic Bureau in the seas about 229 nautical miles (424km) off Dondra led to the interception of 02 local fishing trawlers and apprehension of a large consignment of narcotic drugs with 08 suspects on 14th December 2022. The haul of illegal drugs included over 128kg and 327g of crystal methamphetamine (Ice) and 106kg and 474g of heroin (with their packages). In the same vein, SLNS Samudura also held another local fishing trawler with 06 suspects arrived to replenish fuel to the drug-carrying trawler. The consignment of drugs and the suspects were brought to the Colombo Harbour by the Navy this morning (18th December).

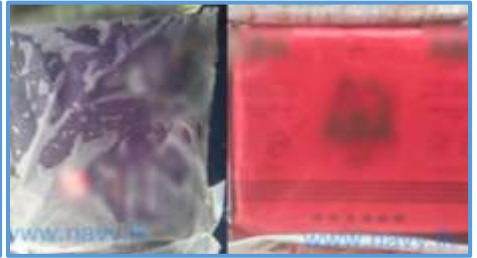
The apprehension was made by SLNS Samudura, after a long surveillance operation on high seas off the southern coast. The coordinated operation has led to the interception of a suspicious local multi-day fishing trawler which was in the seas about 229 nautical miles (424km) off Dondra. During subsequent search of the trawler, 124kg and 327g (including packages) of crystal methamphetamine in 94 packages and 106kg 474g (including packages) of heroin in 98 packages were held in 13 sacks, along with 08 suspects on 14th December.

Meanwhile, the Navy also took hold of another local multi-day fishing trawler with 06 suspects at sea, arrived on the scene to replenish fuel to the trawler which was held earlier.

The gross street value of the consignment of drugs seized by the Navy during this operation is believed to be over Rs 4586.755 million.

The suspects held in the operation have been identified as residents of Tangalle, Nakulugamuwa, Kosgoda and Balapitiya and they are from 29 to 59 years of age. They will be handed over to the Police Narcotic Bureau for onward legal action.





Navy apprehends suspect with Kerala Cannabis worth over Rs. 60 million in gross street value in Northern waters

Sri Lanka Navy intercepted a dinghy which was carrying Kerala Cannabis weighing over 181kg (wet weight), during a special operation conducted in the sea area off Guru Nagar, Jaffna in the wee hours of today (15th December 2022). The operation also led to the apprehension of a suspect (01) in connection to the incident.

Sri Lanka Navy regularly conducts search operations and patrols in island's waters to ward off illegal activities taking place via sea routes.

In a similar effort, a suspicious dinghy was intercepted by SLNS Welusumana in the Northern Naval Command, during a special operation mounted off Guru Nagar today. The operation led to the recovery of about 181kg and 900g of Kerala Cannabis in 04 packages. Further, the dinghy used for the illegal activity and a suspect aboard were also held in this operation.

The gross street value of seized stock of Kerala cannabis is believed to be more than Rs. 60 million.

The suspect held in this operation is a resident of Pasoor in Jaffna, aged 36. The suspect along with Kerala Cannabis and the dinghy handed over to the Jaffna Police for onward legal action.



Navy comes to the aid of 104 distressed Myanmar nationals in Sri Lanka's waters

Sri Lanka Navy rendered assistance to rescue 104 distressed Myanmar nationals aboard a passenger craft in Sri Lanka's waters about 3.5 nautical miles north of Veththalakerni this morning (18th December 2022). The distressed craft is reported to have trespassed into island's territorial waters last night (17th December), following a mechanical failure while it was carrying these people from Myanmar to Indonesia.

Upon receipt of the distress call by the Operations Room of the Northern Naval Command, the Navy on 17th December rushed SLNS Udara as well as Fast Attack Craft P 411 and P497 of the 04th Fast Attack Flotilla attached to the Northern Naval Command for the rescue of these distressed people, to the sea area where the incident was reported.

In rough sea condition, the Navy made a strenuous effort and rescued those 104 Myanmar nationals who were aboard the non-operational craft and the group of people was brought to the Kankasanthurai Harbour and looked into their basic requirements. Meanwhile, the group of people handed over to relevant authorities for onward action.





Sri Lanka Coast Guard apprehended a fishing vessel with illegally harvested dried shark fins and fish

Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel deployed at Codbay Fishery Harbour for fishery monitoring and regulating duties apprehended a Multiday Fishing Vessel along with six fishermen in possession of illegally harvested dried Shark fins and fish on 19th December 2022.

The apprehension was made while conducting an onboard inspection in Multiday Fishing Trawler and found 15 Nos of dried Shark fins (approx 900g) and dried Shark fish (approx. 48Kg) hidden inside the engine room when they returned after fishing. The arrested persons with apprehended items were handed over to the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Trincomalee for onward legal actions.



12. 20th December 2022

Sri Lanka Coast Guard Arrested a fishing vessel with illegally harvested shark flesh

Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel deployed at Beruwala Fishery Harbour for fishery monitoring and regulating duties apprehended a Multiday Fishing Vessel along with two fishermen in possession of illegally harvested Shark flesh on 20th December 2022.

The apprehension was made based on the information provided by the Coast Guard personnel. During the onboard inspection, Coast Guard personnel found Common Thresher Shark flesh without fins (approx. 23 Kg 800g) and Oceanic Whitetip Shark flesh without fins (approx. 16 Kg 300g) hidden inside the Fishing Vessel when they returned after fishing. The arrested persons with apprehended items were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Beruwala for onward legal action.



Navy seizes poaching trawler in Sri Lankan waters

Sri Lanka Navy conducted a special operation to chase away Indian poaching trawlers from Sri Lankan waters this morning (21st December 2022). The operation has led to the seizure of an Indian trawler (01) with 12 Indian nationals poaching in Sri Lankan waters northeast of Veththalakerni.

Sri Lanka Navy continues to conduct regular patrols and operations in Sri Lankan waters to curb illegal fishing practices of foreign fishing trawlers.

In a similar operation, the Northern Naval Command deployed a Fast Attack Craft of the 04th Fast Attack Flotilla to chase away a cluster of Indian poaching trawlers, after having spotted they were engaging in illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters northeast of Veththalakerni this morning. In this operation, the Navy held an Indian poaching trawler that continued to remain in Sri Lankan waters, with 12 Indian fishers.

The seized trawler together with 12 Indian fishermen is being brought to the Kankesanthurai Fisheries Harbour and handed over to the Mailadi Fisheries Inspector for onward legal proceedings.



Navy recovers commercial explosive cache from Udayapuram Beach

A search operation conducted by the Navy in Udayapuram Beach area in Jaffna led to the recovery of an explosive cache this morning (22nd December 2022). Among the recovered items were 22 Water Gel Sticks - a type of commercial explosive and 07 detonators.

The Navy stays ever alert and conducts regular search operations to prevent illegal fishing practices carried out using explosives, as such activities deal a heavy blow to the marine ecosystem. In a similar effort, SLNS Welusumana in the Northern Naval Command made this recovery, after a search operation carried out in Udayapuram Beach area today. The 22 Water Gel Sticks and 07 detonators had been concealed in a fishing net laying at the beach. Accordingly, the items were taken into naval custody.

It is believed that these explosive items have been hidden at the beach, to be used for illegal fishing. They were handed over to the Special Task Force-Jaffna for onward legal proceedings.



Navy takes hold of smuggled stock of Kendu leaves in Kalpitiya sea area

Sri Lanka Navy took hold of a smuggled consignment of Kendu leaves weighing about 150 kg (wet weight), during a patrol carried out in Lunuwila sea area of Kalpitiya on 28th December 2022. The consignment was adrift in the sea area when it was spotted by the Navy.

The recovery of the stock was made by SLNS Suranimila, attached to the Western Naval Command, patrolling in the sea area of Lunuwila on the morning of 28th December. Accordingly, the Navy retrieved 03 suspicious packages adrift at sea and found that the packages were stuffed with Kendu leaves weighing about 150kg (wet weight).

It is believed that the smugglers may have left this stock of Kendu leaves in the sea area due to constant naval operations. Meanwhile, the contraband item has been kept in the naval custody until it is produced for onward legal proceedings.

