



# Information Fusion Centre

Colombo - Sri Lanka

## IFC Monthly Report

August 2023

 Naval Headquarters, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka

 ifc@navy.lk

 [www.ifccolombo.org](http://www.ifccolombo.org)

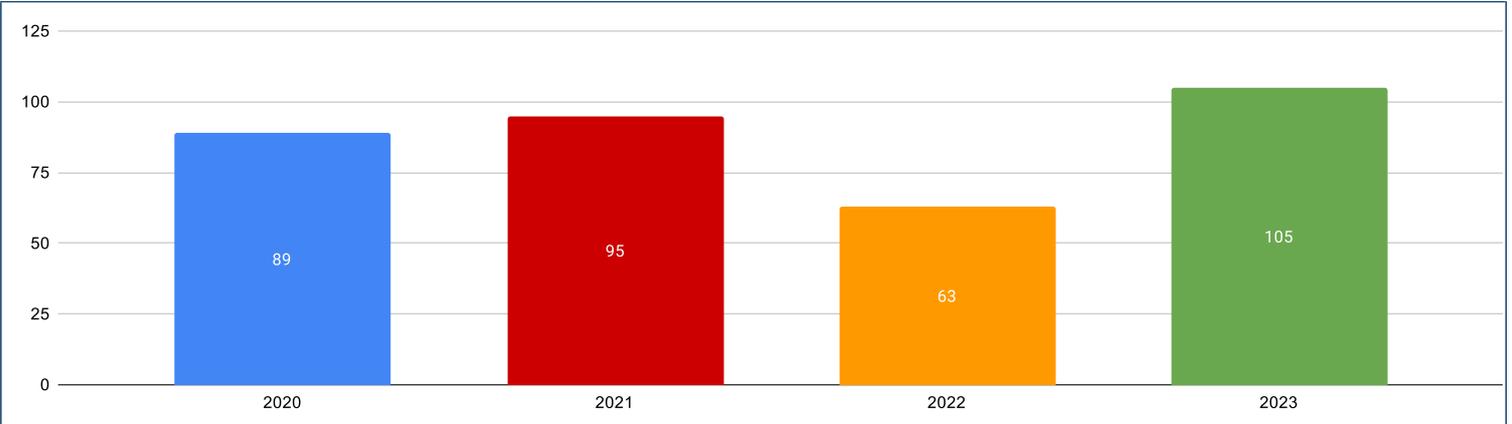
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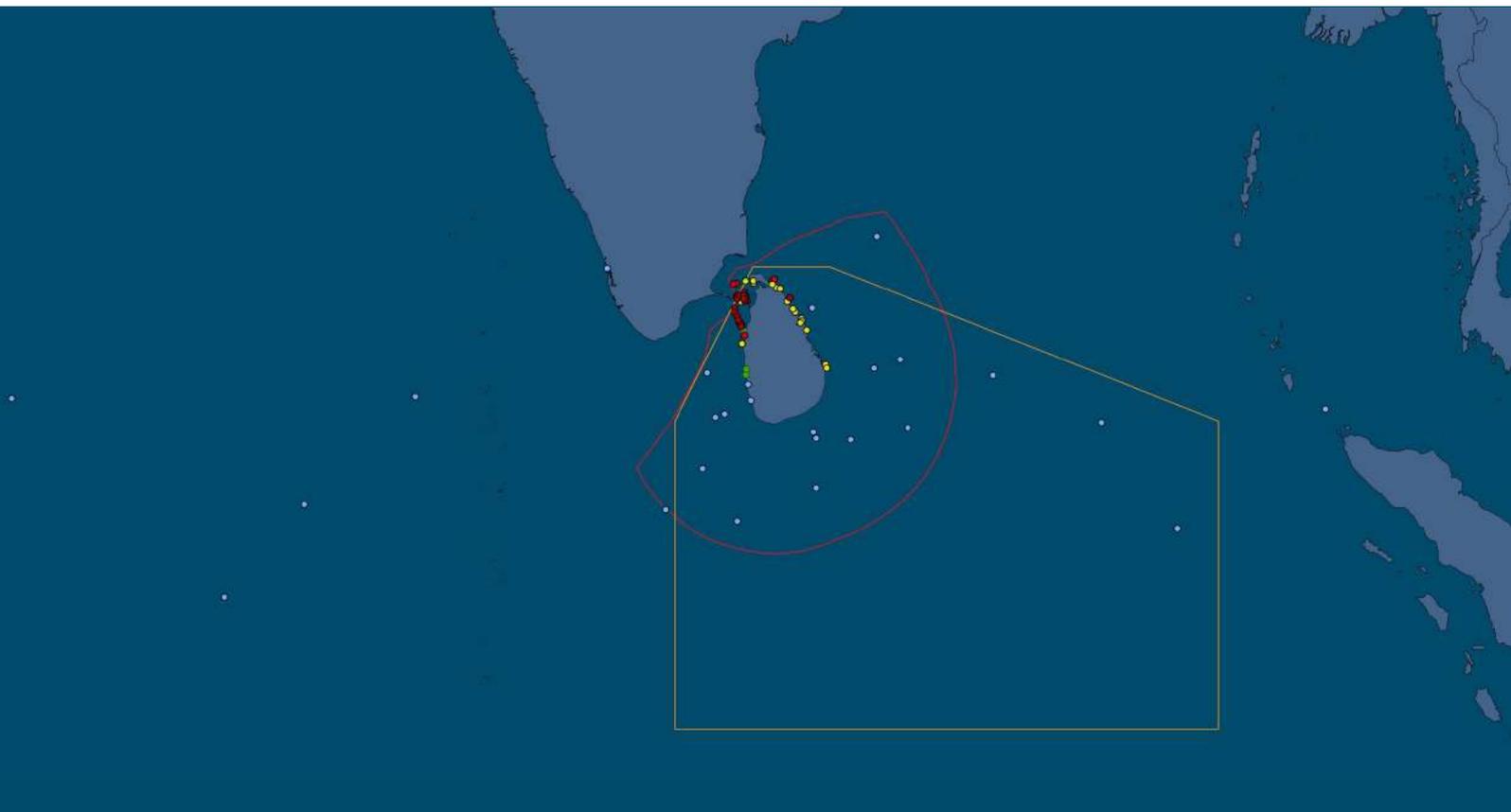
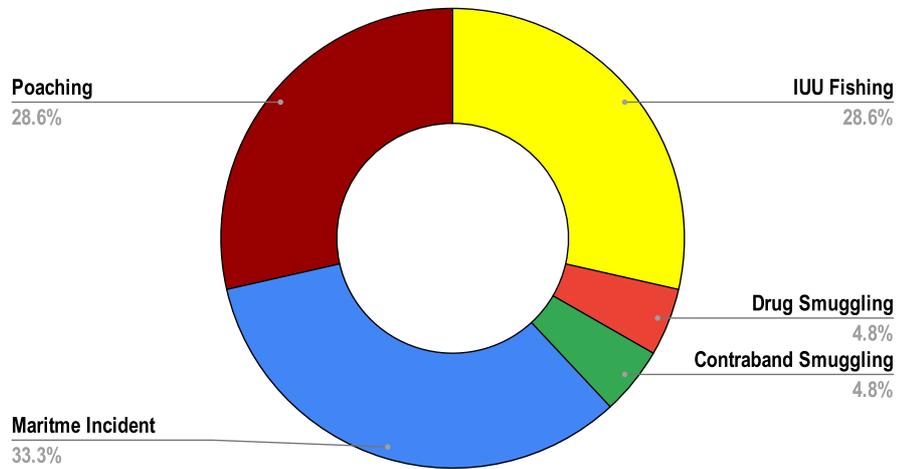
### OVERVIEW

#### MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



#### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

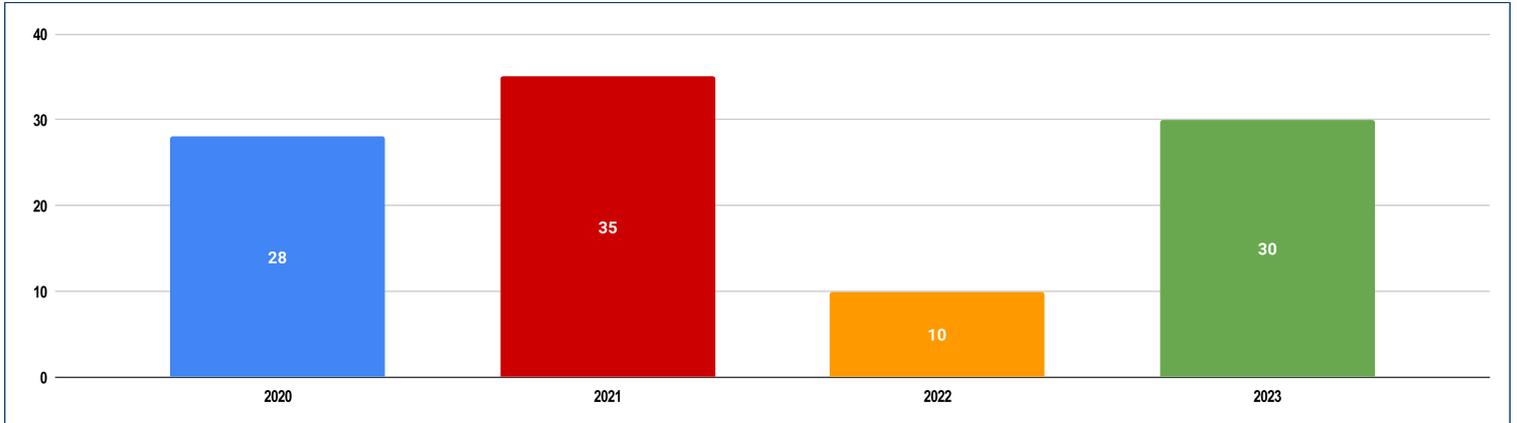
INCIDENT TYPE	AUG 2020	AUG 2021	AUG 2022	AUG 2023
IUU Fishing	28	35	10	30
Drug Smuggling	3	3	1	5
Contraband Smuggling	6	7	0	5
Human Smuggling	0	0	4	0
Maritime Incident	35	19	34	35
Poaching	17	31	14	30
Explosive and Firearms	0	0	0	0





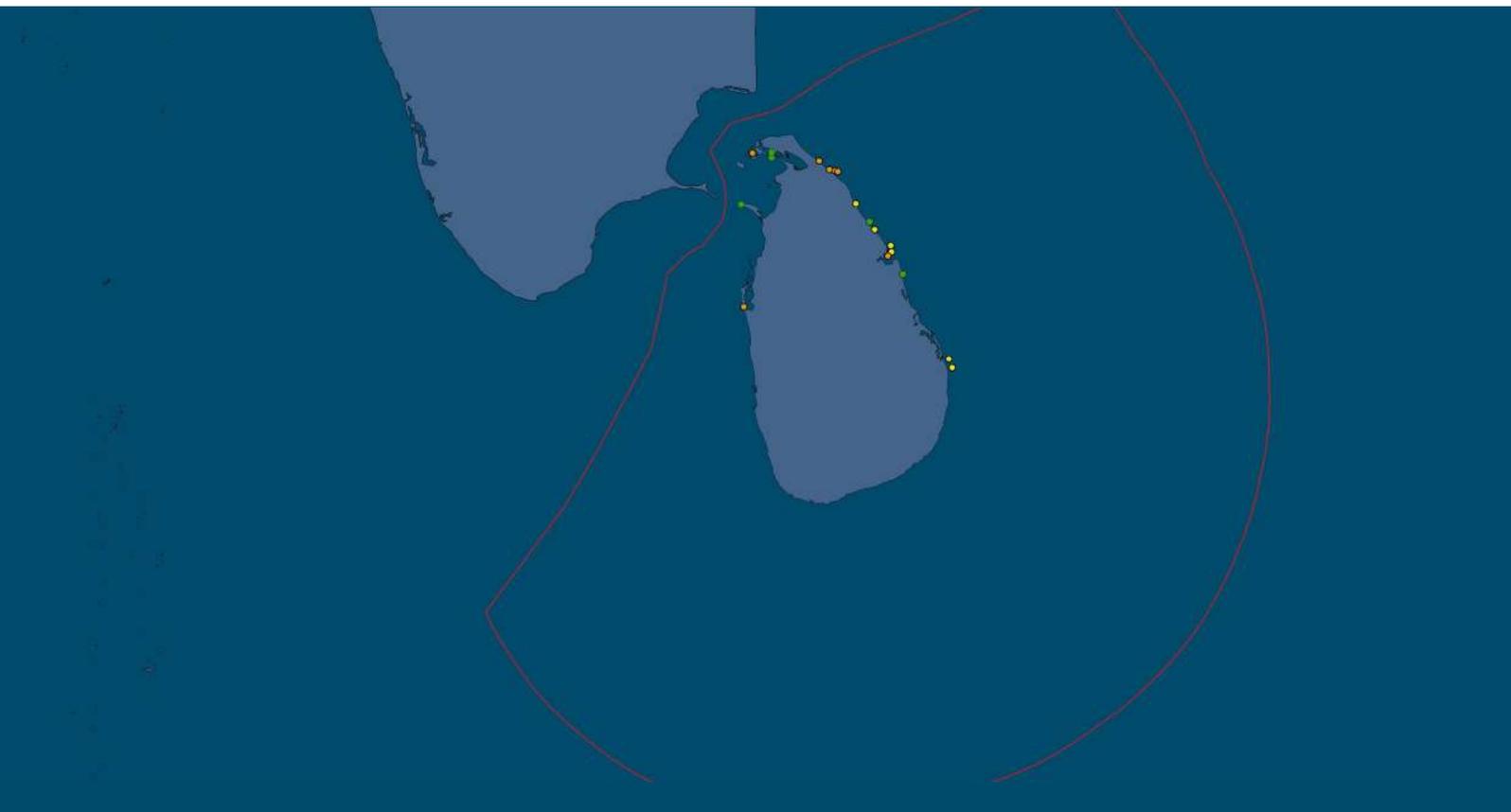
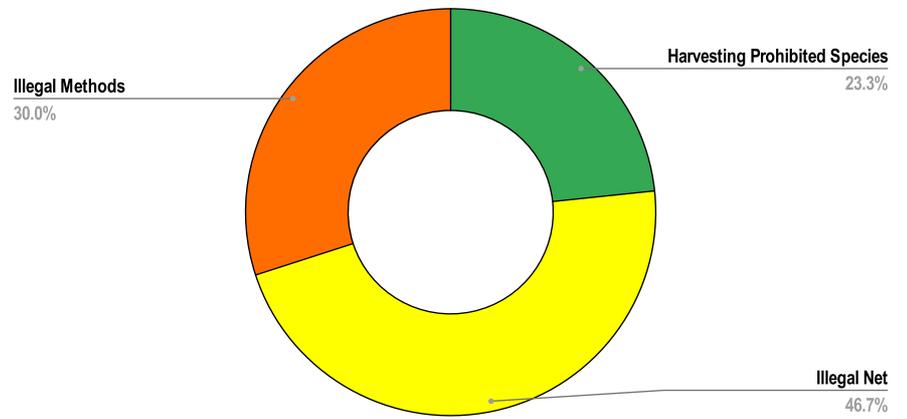
### IUU FISHING

#### MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



#### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

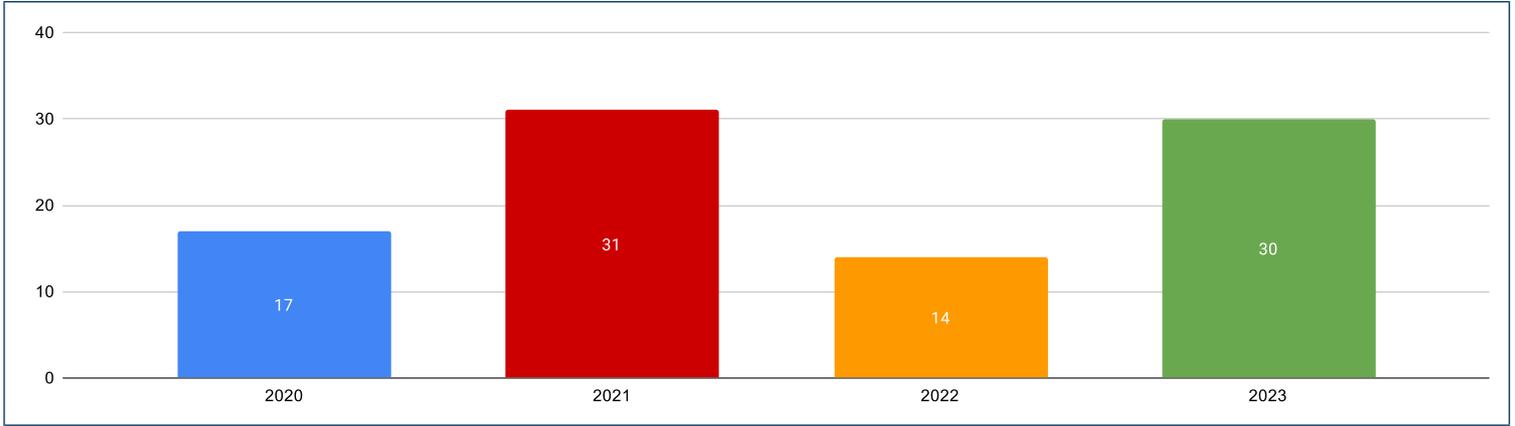
INCIDENT TYPE	AUG 2020	AUG 2021	AUG 2022	AUG 2023
Violation of Certificate Conditions	5	4	0	0
Harvesting Prohibited Species	1	6	1	7
Illegal Net	16	21	3	14
Illegal Methods	6	4	6	9
Explosive Fishing	0	0	0	0





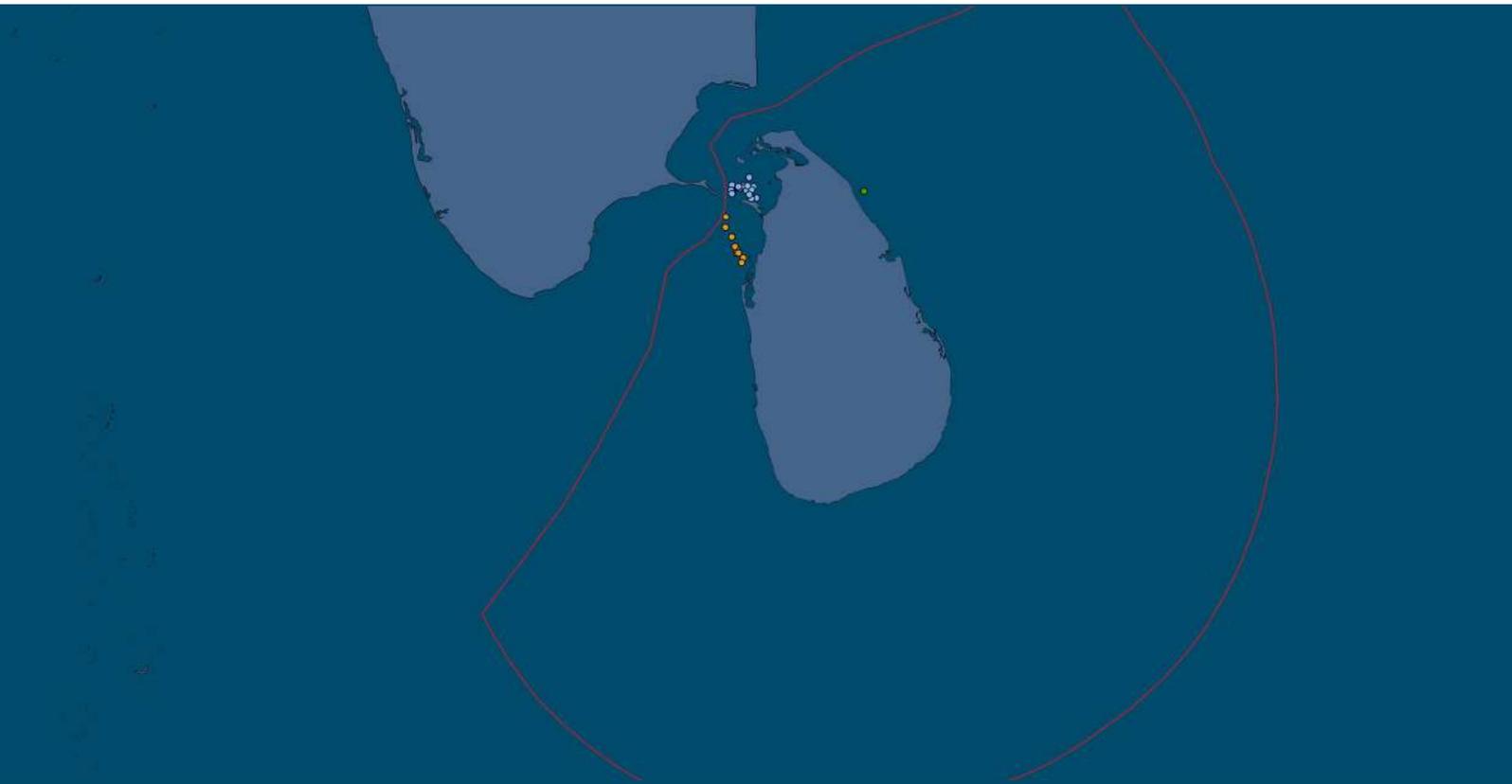
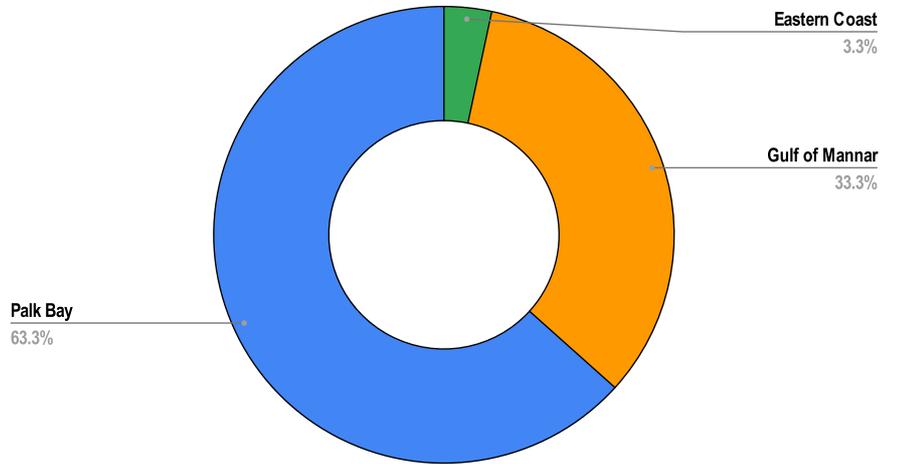
### POACHING

#### MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



#### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	AUG 2020	AUG 2021	AUG 2022	AUG 2023
Eastern Coast	1	7	3	1
Palk Strait	0	6	1	0
Gulf of Mannar	8	11	2	10
Palk Bay	8	7	8	19
Other	0	0	0	0



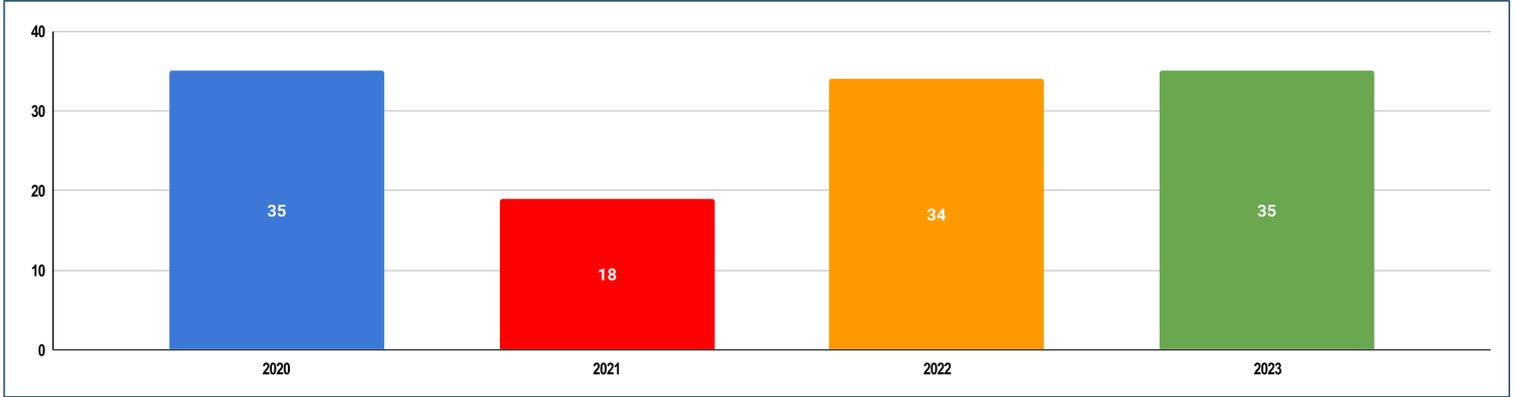


# IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

## MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP AUGUST 2023

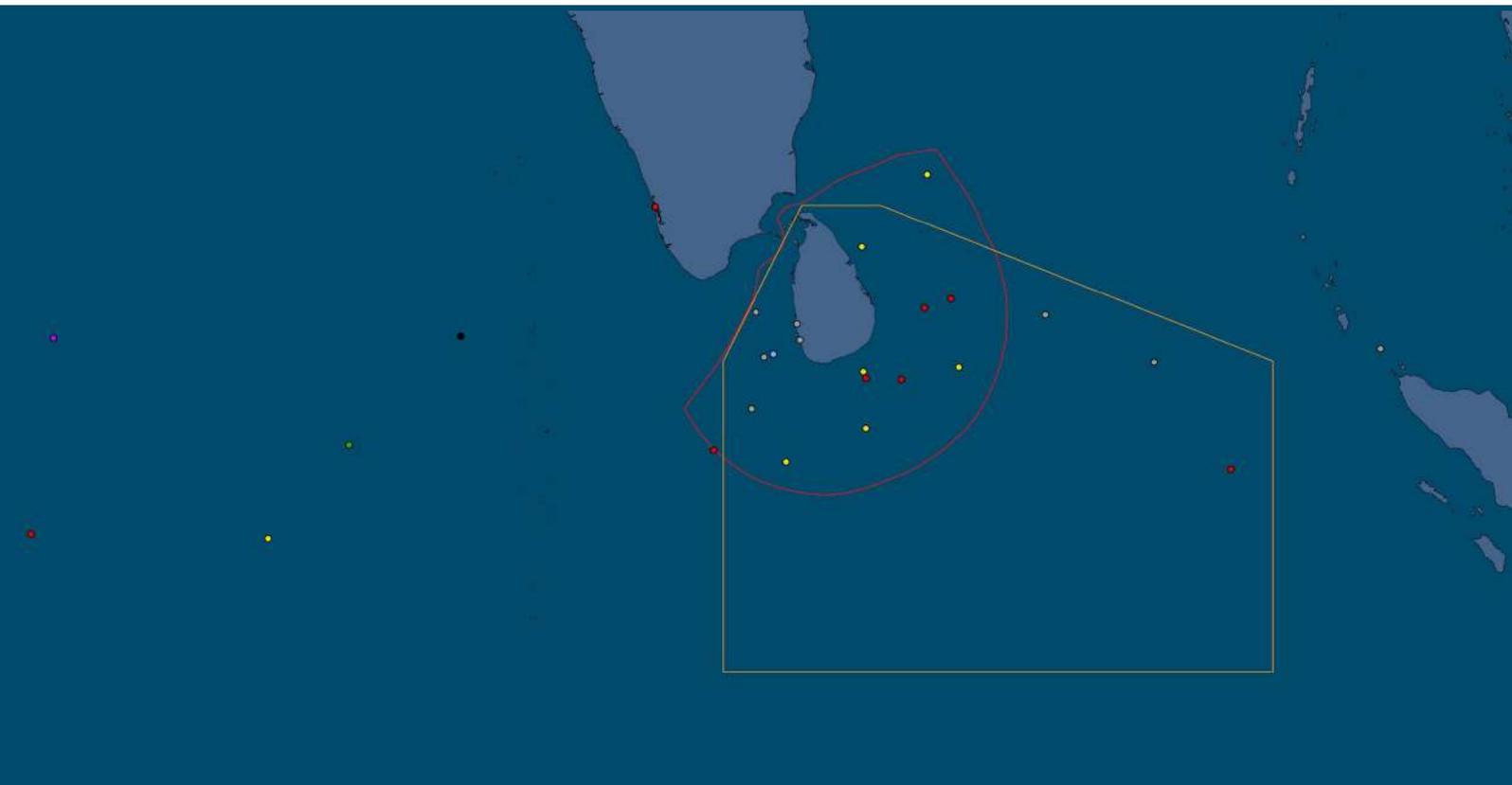
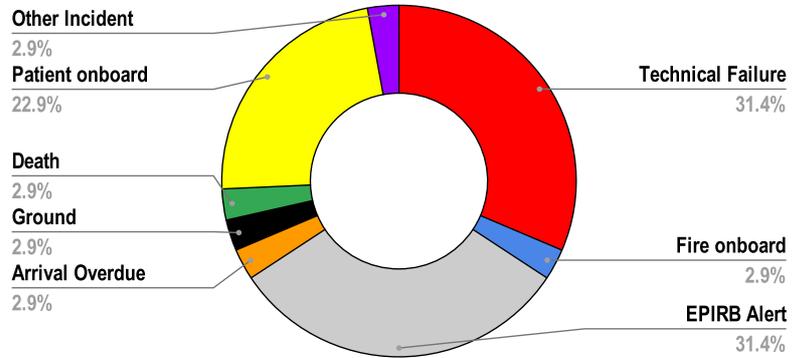
### MARITIME INCIDENTS

#### MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



#### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	AUG 2020	AUG 2021	AUG 2022	AUG 2023
Technical Failure	17	2	15	11
Fire onboard	0	0	0	1
EPIRB Alert	2	8	10	11
Man Over Board	0	0	0	0
Arrival Overdue	3	1	1	1
Capsized	1	1	0	0
Ground	1	0	0	1
Death	2	0	1	1
Patient onboard	6	4	4	8
Collision	0	1	1	0
No Communication	1	0	0	0
Other Incident	2	1	2	1



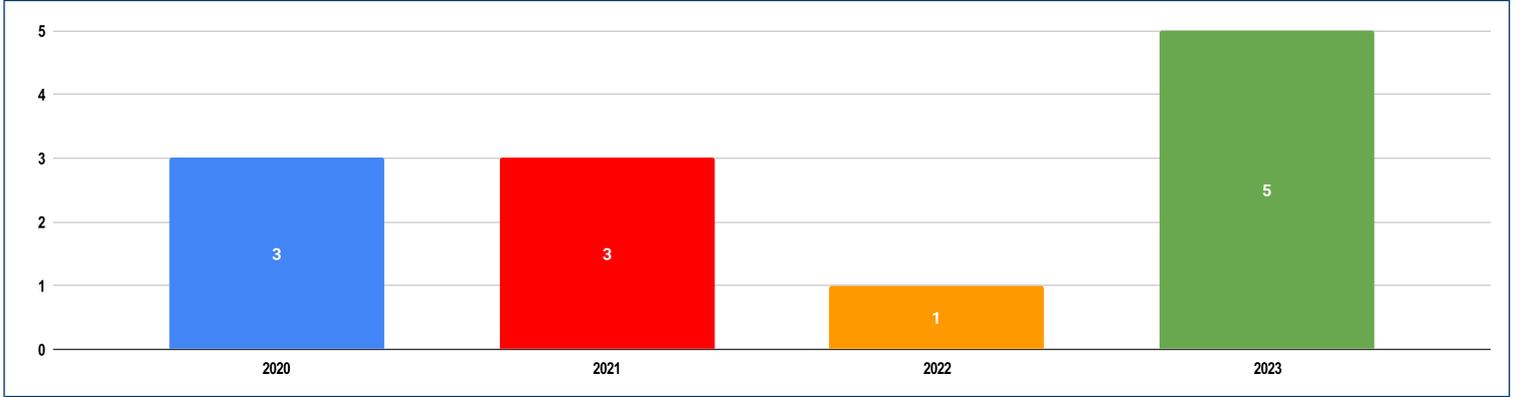


# IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

## MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP AUGUST 2023

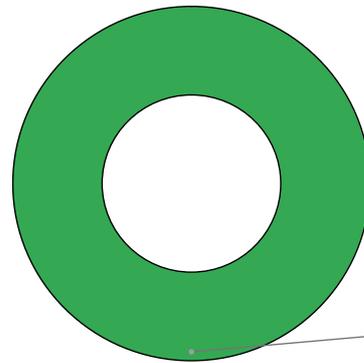
### DRUG SMUGGLING

#### MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)

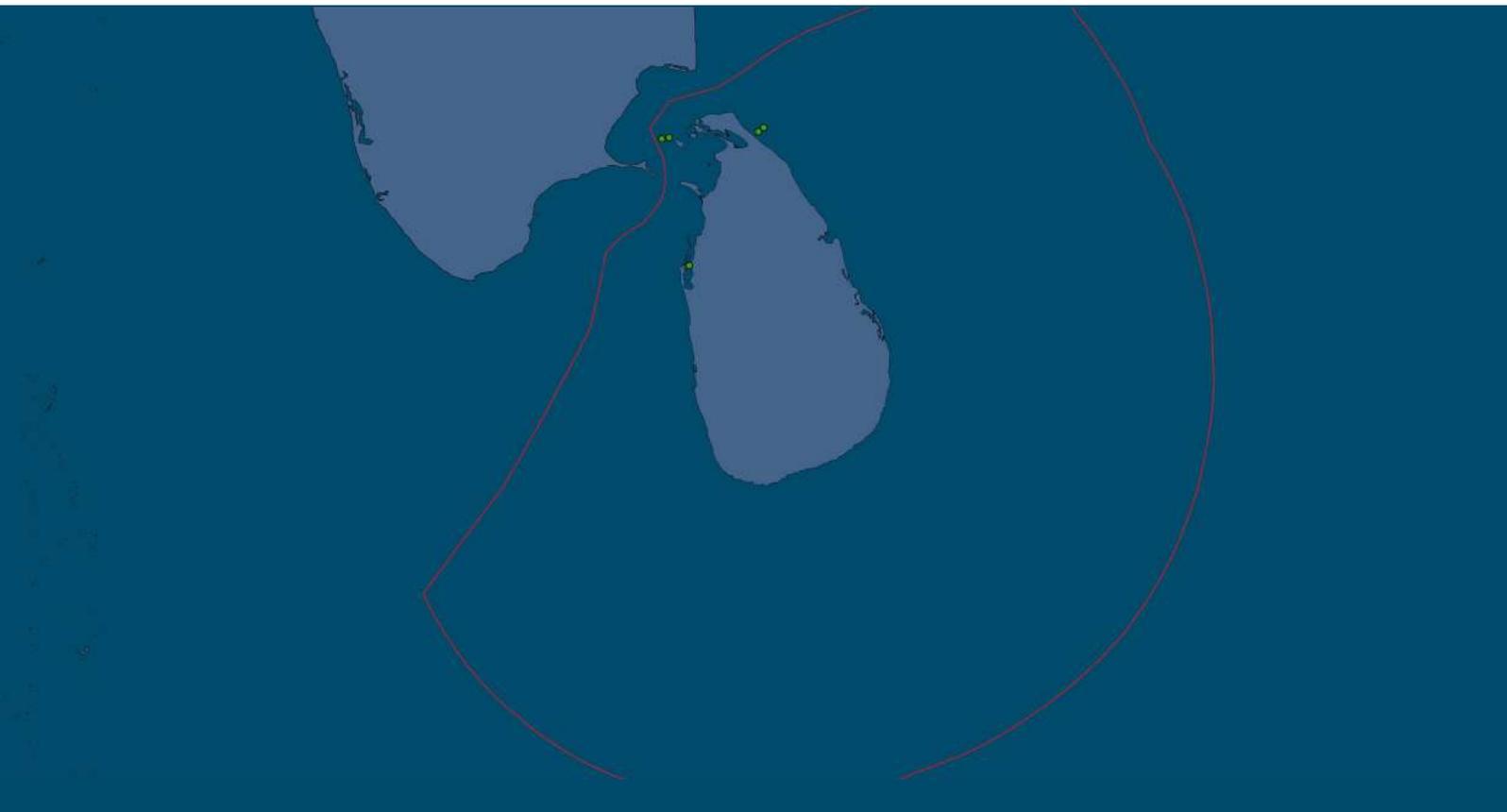


#### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

Drug Type	AUG 2020	AUG 2021	AUG 2022	AUG 2023
Heroin	1	1	0	0
Kerala cannabis	2	2	1	5
Ice	0	0	0	0
Tablets	0	0	0	0
Hashish	0	0	0	0
Local cannabis	0	0	0	0



Kerala cannabis  
100.0%



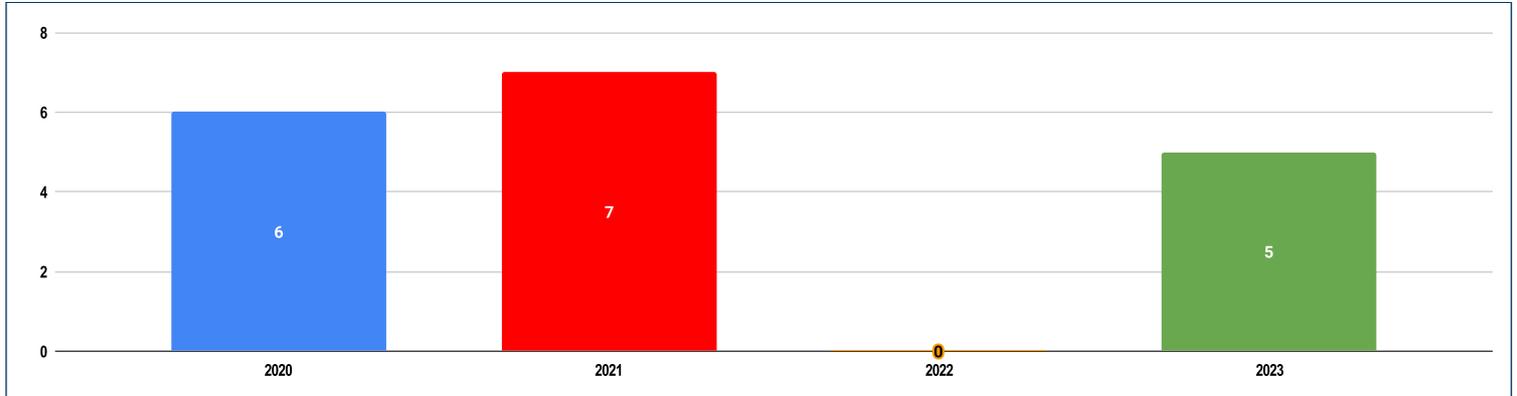


# IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

## MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP AUGUST 2023

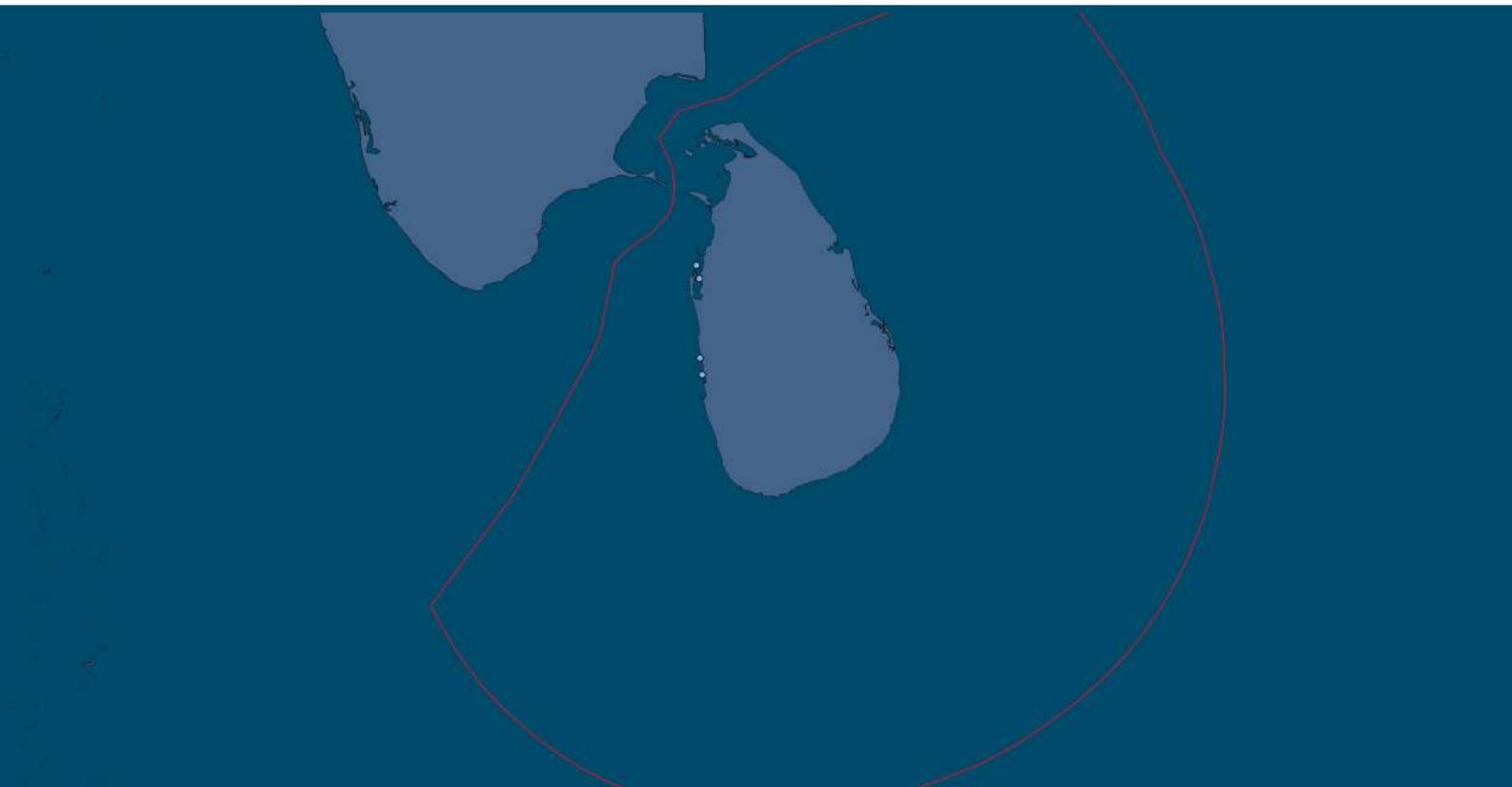
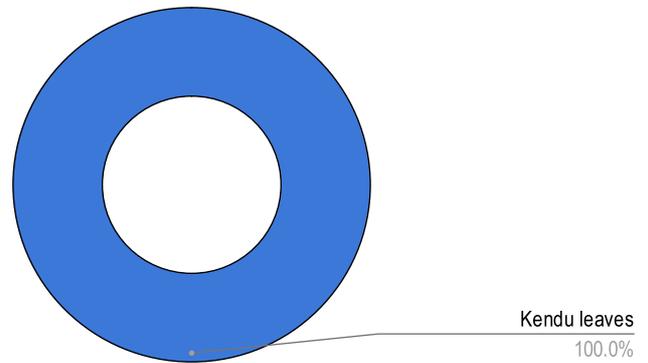
### CONTRABAND SMUGGLING

#### MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



#### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	AUG 2020	AUG 2021	AUG 2022	AUG 2023
Cardamom	1	0	0	0
Glyphosate	0	0	0	0
Gold	1	0	0	0
Kendu leaves	0	0	0	5
Other	0	0	0	0
Turmeric	4	7	0	0



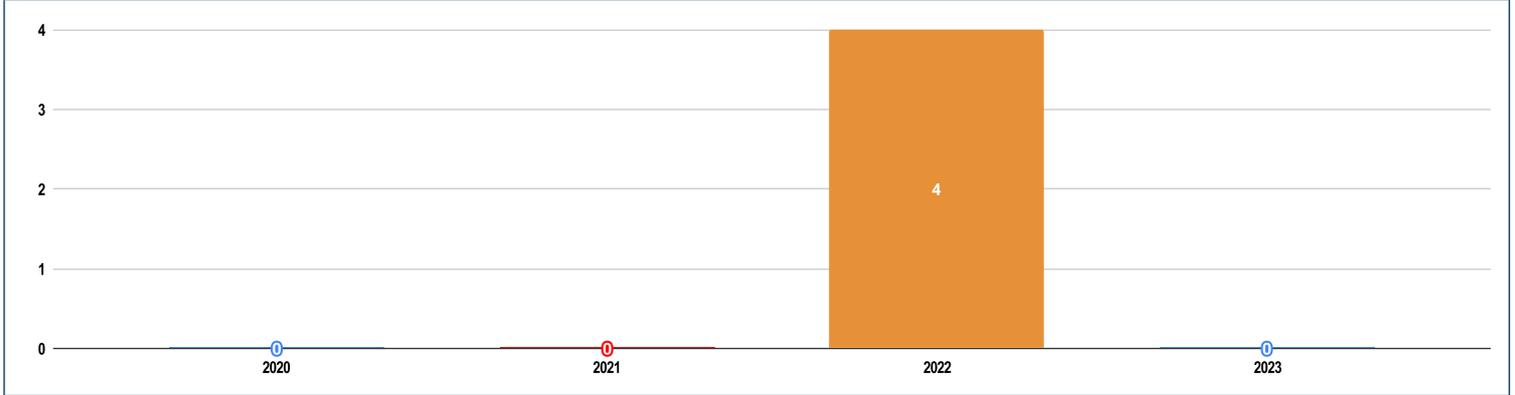


# IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

## MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP AUGUST 2023

### HUMAN SMUGGLING

#### MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



#### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	AUG 2020	AUG 2021	AUG 2022	AUG 2023
Human Smuggling	0	0	4	0



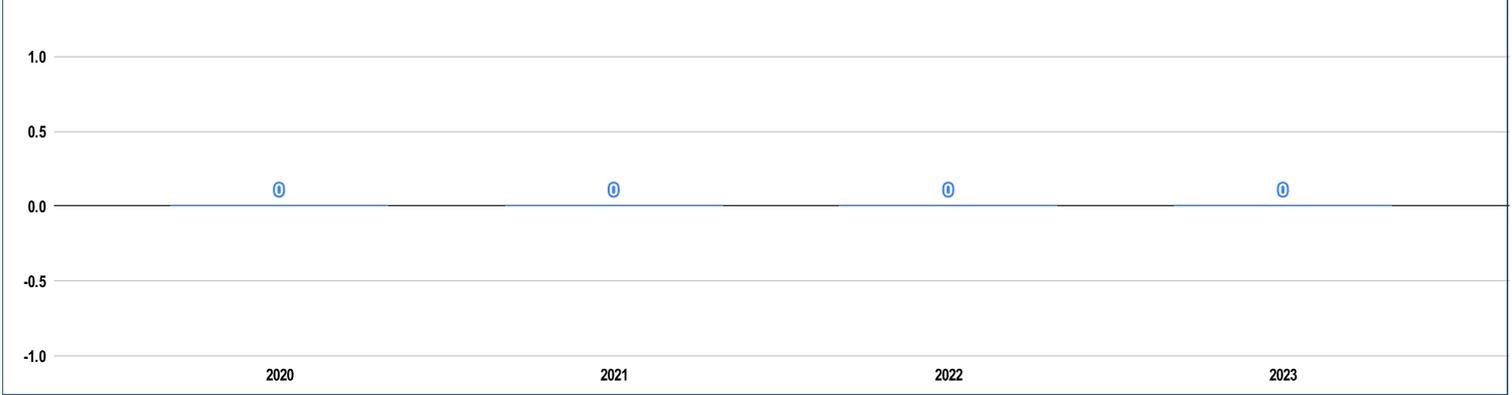


# IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

## MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP AUGUST 2023

### EXPLOSIVE AND FIREARMS

#### MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



#### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	AUG 2020	AUG 2021	AUG 2022	AUG 2023
Water Gel Sticks	0	0	0	0



## EVENTS

### 01. 04<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### **Navy apprehends 10 persons engaged in illegal fishing in Trincomalee**

The Navy apprehended 10 individuals on 03<sup>rd</sup> and 04<sup>th</sup> August 2023 in Nilaweli and Lankapatuna in Trincomalee, while they were engaging in illegal fishing activities. During these search operations, the Navy also held illegally caught fish, 116 illegally harvested sea cucumbers, 03 dinghies and diving gear.

The Navy conducts regular operations in the coastal and sea areas around the island in order to suppress illegal fishing activities. As an extension of these efforts, SLNS Vijayaba in the Eastern Naval Command carried out a special search operation in the sea area of Nilaweli in the dark hours of 03<sup>rd</sup> August. During this operation naval personnel searched an individual remaining at the beach for his suspicious behaviour and found a stock of fish caught by using explosives at night. Accordingly, the person and illegally caught fish were taken into naval custody.

In addition, SLNS Lankapatuna in the wee hours of 04<sup>th</sup> August searched a group of people remaining at Lankapatuna beach area. The search led to the apprehension of 09 persons for their involvement in night diving to catch sea cucumbers. Further, the Navy also held 116 illegally caught sea cucumbers, 03 dinghies and diving gear.

The apprehended persons, ranging in age from 24 to 48, were from the areas of Thambalagamuwa and China Bay. The apprehended persons along with illegally caught fish and sea cucumbers and other items were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Trincomalee for onward legal action.



## 02. 07<sup>th</sup> August 2023

### Navy takes hold of poaching trawler in Sri Lankan waters

The Sri Lanka Navy conducted a special operation to chase away Indian poaching trawlers from Sri Lankan waters this morning (07<sup>th</sup> August 2023). The operation led to the seizure of an Indian trawler (01) with ten (10) Indian nationals poaching in island waters off Alampil in Mullaitivu.

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

In a similar operation, the Eastern 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 off Alampil in Mullaitivu this morning. In this operation, the Navy held an Indian poaching trawler that continued to remain in island waters, with 10 Indian fishers aboard.

The poaching trawler together with 10 Indian fishermen was brought to the port of Trincomalee and they will be handed over to the Assistant Directorate of Fisheries-Trincomalee through the Sri Lanka Coast Guard, for onward legal proceedings.

Including the poaching trawler held this operation, the Sri Lanka Navy has seized 14 Indian poaching trawlers and apprehended 93 Indian fishermen thus far in 2023. Following these apprehensions, the poaching trawlers and fishermen have been handed over to relevant authorities for legal action. Taking into account the consequences of these practices on the livelihood of local fishermen and ocean resources of the country, the Navy continues to remain vigilant and conduct operations in Sri Lankan waters.



### 03. 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### **Navy apprehends 04 suspects with approx. 551kg of smuggled Kendu leaves in Kalpitiya lagoon**

The Navy apprehended 04 suspects with a stock of smuggled Kendu leaves weighing about 551kg (wet weight) during a search operation conducted off the Mattathivu island in Kalpitiya lagoon on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The operation also led to the seizure of 02 dinghies used to smuggle the contraband items.

The Navy remains ever alert and conducts regular patrols and search operations in the coastal areas of the island to prevent a wide range of illegal activities taking place via sea routes.

As an extension of these efforts, the search operation was conducted by SLNS Vijaya in the Northwestern Naval Command off the Mattathivu island on 11<sup>th</sup> August. In this operation, naval personnel searched 02 dinghies on suspicion and recovered the contraband items from them. The dinghies had been loaded with 21 sacks, stuffed with approx. 551kg (wet weight) of Kendu leaves. Accordingly, the contraband items, 02 dinghies and 04 suspects aboard were taken into the naval custody.

The suspects held in this search operation were identified as residents of Kalpitiya, from 17 to 27 years of age. The 04 suspects together with the stock of Kendu leaves and 02 dinghies were handed over to the Customs Preventive Office in Katunayake for onward legal proceedings.



## A suspect with Kerala cannabis valued at over Rs. 43 Mn street value held in northern waters

A special search operation conducted by the Navy off Uduththurei, Jaffna in the dark hours of 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023 led to the apprehension of a suspect (01) with over 130kg (wet weight) of Kerala cannabis being smuggled by a dinghy.

The Sri Lanka Navy remains vigilant and actively carries out operations to curb illegal activities in island waters and coastal zones. As an extension of these efforts, Naval Deployment Veththalakerni in the Northern Naval Command conducted a search operation off Uduththurei and inspected a dinghy in the sea area on suspicion. The search led to the recovery of about 130kg and 600g (wet weight) of Kerala cannabis in 61 parcels which had been stuffed in 03 sacks. Accordingly, Kerala cannabis, the dinghy and a suspect in connection to the incident were taken into naval custody.

Meanwhile, the gross street value of the seized Kerala cannabis is believed to be over Rs. 43 million.

The suspect held in the operation is a resident of Uduththurei in Jaffna, aged 44. The suspect along with Kerala cannabis and the dinghy was handed over to the Maruthankerny Police for onward legal action.



## 05. 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023

### Navy apprehends 02 suspects with 99kg of smuggled Kendu leaves in Puttalam Lagoon

A search operation conducted by the Sri Lanka Navy off the Mattathivu Island in Puttalam Lagoon in the dark hours of 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023 led to the apprehension of 02 suspects with about 99kg (wet weight) of smuggled Kendu leaves being smuggled by a dinghy.

The search operation was carried out by SLNS Vijaya in the Northwestern Naval Command off the Mattathivu Island in the dark hours of 21<sup>st</sup> August. During the operation, naval personnel spotted a dinghy speeding off towards the shore and searched the dinghy on suspicion. The search of the dinghy led to the recovery of 03 parcels which had been stuffed with Kendu leaves weighing about 99kg (wet weight). The Navy also held 02 suspects in connection to the act of smuggling.

The suspects held in this operation are residents of Kalpitiya and Puttalam, aged 23 and 25. The accused along with Kendu leaves and the dinghy were handed over to the Customs Preventive Office in Katunayake for onward legal action.

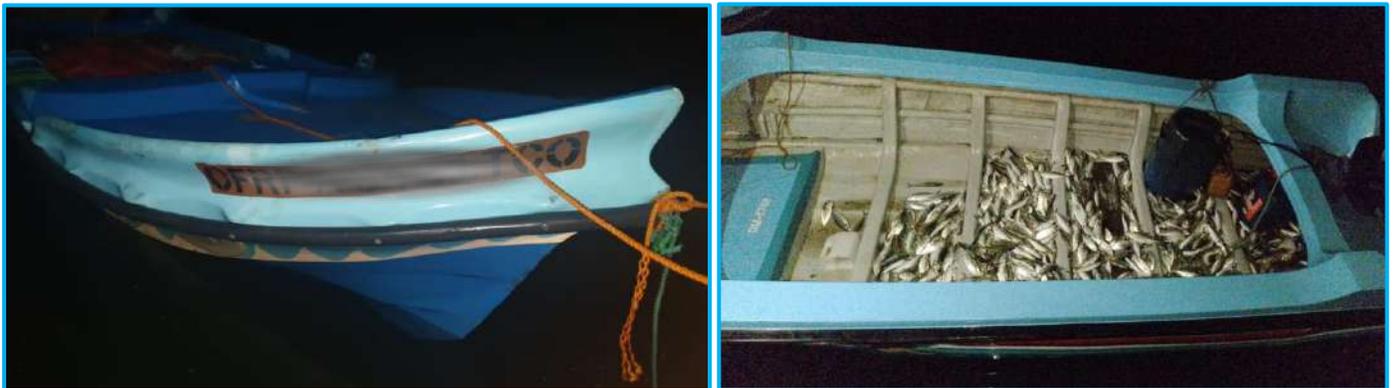


## Navy nabs 08 persons for engaging in illegal fishing in Trincomalee

The Sri Lanka Navy apprehended 08 persons for engaging in illegal fishing using unauthorized nets, during a search operation conducted off Kallarawa, Trincomalee on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023. The operation also led to the seizure of 02 dinghies and unauthorized fishing gear used for this illegal act.

The Navy conducts regular operations in the sea and coastal areas belonging to the island, with a view to prevent wide ranging illegal fishing practices. In a similar operation, SLNS Walagamba in the Eastern Naval Command made this apprehension off Kallarawa on the evening of 21<sup>st</sup> August. Accordingly, 08 persons involved in fishing using unauthorized fishing nets were held by the Navy. Further, 02 dinghies and unauthorized fishing gear in their possession were also taken into naval custody.

The apprehended individuals are residents of Poduwakattu area, from 20 to 44 years of age. The 08 suspects together with their belongings were handed over to the Kuchchaveli Fisheries Inspector for onward legal action.



## 07. 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023

### Navy seizes about 2447kg of smuggled Kendu leaves

Separate operations conducted by the Sri Lanka Navy in Puttalam, Palaviya, Chilaw and Negombo areas on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 led to the seizure and recovery of about 2447kg (wet weight) of smuggled Kendu leaves. During these operations, 01 suspect and 01 lorry in connection to these illegal acts were also taken into custody.

The Sri Lanka Navy conducts regular search operations and patrols in the coastal and sea areas of the island, with a view to prevent the influx of contraband into the island.

In continuation of these efforts, SLNS Thambapanni in the Northwestern Naval Command joined hands with the Sri Lanka Coast Guard and Puttalam STF to carry out a combined search operation in Maikkulam beach area, Chilaw in the dark hours of 22<sup>nd</sup> August. After searching a suspicious lorry parked at the beach, the raiding party recovered 46 sacks of Kendu leaves, weighing about 1460kg, made ready to be smuggled by the vehicle. Moreover, the lorry and a suspect in connection to the incident were also held during this operation.

Meanwhile, SLNS Kelani in the Western Naval Command recovered about 650kg (wet weight) of Kendu leaves, left behind by smugglers, during a search operation conducted in the beach and sea area of Kammala in Negombo on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. The consignment of Kendu leaves was in the form of sacks and packages when they were retrieved by naval personnel. In the same vein, SLNS Thambapanni found approx. 337kg (wet weight) of Kendu leaves in 10 packages from the Sinnapadu and Periyapadu beach areas of Puttalam, during separate operations carried out on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

The suspect held in Maikkulam of Chilaw has been identified as a resident of the same locality, aged 51. The suspect along with the lorry and approx. 1460kg of Kendu leaves was handed over to the Excise Station, Puttalam for onward action. Meanwhile, the consignment of Kendu leaves (about 650kg) held in Kammala, Negombo was handed over to the Katunayake Customs Preventive Office. Further, the stock of Kendu leaves (about 337kg) held in Puttalam has been kept in the naval custody until it is handed over to authorities for onward legal proceedings.



## Navy recovers Kerala cannabis worth over Rs. 27 Mn gross street value in Northern waters

The Sri Lanka Navy took hold of over 83kg (wet weight) of Kerala cannabis adrift in waters, during a patrol conducted in the sea area of Delft, Jaffna on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023.

The Navy keeps a round-the-clock vigil in the coastal and sea areas of the island with a view to preventing nefarious activities taking place via sea routes.

As an extension of these operations, SLNS Ranawickrama in the Northern Naval Command carried out a patrol in the sea area of Delft on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and recovered 22 suspicious packages adrift in waters. The sacks contained about 83kg and 200g (wet weight) of Kerala cannabis. It is suspected that smugglers might have abandoned the consignment of Kerala cannabis being unable to fetch them into the country, due to constant naval operations.

Meanwhile, the gross street value of seized Kerala cannabis is believed to be over Rs. 27 million. The stock of Kerala cannabis has been kept in the safe custody of the Navy until it is produced for onward legal action.



## 09. 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023

### **Navy apprehends 15 persons for engaging in illegal fishing in northern and eastern waters**

Special operations conducted by the Navy off Lankapatuna, Kuchchaveli, Trincomalee and Chalai sea areas on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023, led to the apprehension of 15 persons who were using unauthorized fishing nets to catch fish and engaging in light-coarse fishing. During these operations, the Navy also held 06 dinghies and unauthorized fishing gear used for these illegal acts.

The Navy carries out regular operations in the coastal and sea areas around the island, with a view to prevent illegal fishing practices which threaten the sustainability of fish populations, undermine legitimate fishing industries, and damage marine ecosystems.

As an extension of these efforts, the establishments of Naval Dockyard and SLNS Lankapatuna in the Eastern Naval Command carried out search operations off Lankapatuna and Trincomalee on 25<sup>th</sup> August. In the same vein, SLNS Walagamba mounted a search operation off Kuchchaveli and Naval Detachment Veththalakerniv off Chalai, Jaffna on 26<sup>th</sup> August. The operations led to the apprehension of 15 persons for using unauthorized fishing nets to catch fish and engaging in light-coarse fishing. In these separate operations, the Navy also held 05 dinghies and unauthorized fishing equipment.

The persons held in these operations were identified as residents of Trincomalee, Echchalampaththu, Kuchchaveli and Pudukudirippu, from 17 to 38 years of age. The apprehended persons together with their belongings were handed over to the Trincomalee, Cod Bay, Kuchchaveli and Jaffna Fisheries Inspectors for onward legal action.



## 10. 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023

### **Navy takes hold of smuggled consignment of Kendu leaves in Negombo**

The Sri Lanka Navy took hold of about 440kg of smuggled Kendu leaves and a dinghy (01) during a special operation carried out in Pitipana Lagoon area in Negombo on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

The special operation was mounted by SLNS Kelani in the Western Naval Command in Pitipana Lagoon area on 29<sup>th</sup> August. The search operation led to the seizure of about 440kg and 900g of Kendu leaves in 15 packages in a dinghy which was searched by the Navy on suspicion.

Meanwhile, the consignment of Kendu leaves and the dinghy held by the Navy in this operation will be handed over to the Customs Preventive Office, Katunayake for onward legal action.



## 11. 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023

### Sri Lanka Coast Guard Apprehended A Fishing Vessel With Illegally Harvested Cut Shark Fins

Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel deployed at Galle Fishery Harbour for fishery monitoring and regulating duties apprehended a Multiday fishing vessel along with 07 fishermen in possession of illegally harvest cut shark fins on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

The apprehension was made while conducting an extended search onboard in the trawler and found 850g of dried cut shark fins and dried shark (without fins) 10.7kg hidden inside the boat when they returned after fishing.

The arrested persons with apprehended items were handed over to the fishery inspector of Galle Harbour for legal action.



## Indian Customs arrest two including a Sri Lankan smuggling gold from Mannar

Sept 02, Colombo: Indian Customs officials of Ramanathanpuram district on the 31<sup>st</sup> have arrested two persons who transported 14.8 kg of gold biscuits worth around 200 million rupees from Mannar by a boat.

The mechanic of the fishing boat that transported this stock of gold biscuits from Mannar to India has also been arrested and one of the other two arrested is a resident of Mannar and the other is a resident of Tamil Nadu.

The Indian media reported that a motorcycle suspected to be carrying the gold biscuits after reaching the shore came to the shore and fled after realizing that the gold biscuits on the boat had been seized.

After receiving a tip-off about the stock of gold biscuits, the Customs officials arrested the suspects at Kalimankundu beach near Geesalkarai, Ramanathanpuram.

Steps have been taken to produce the two arrested suspects and the boat mechanic to the Ramanathanpuram court.

