



Information Fusion Centre

Colombo - Sri Lanka

IFC Monthly Report

October 2023



Naval Headquarters, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka



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www.ifccolombo.org



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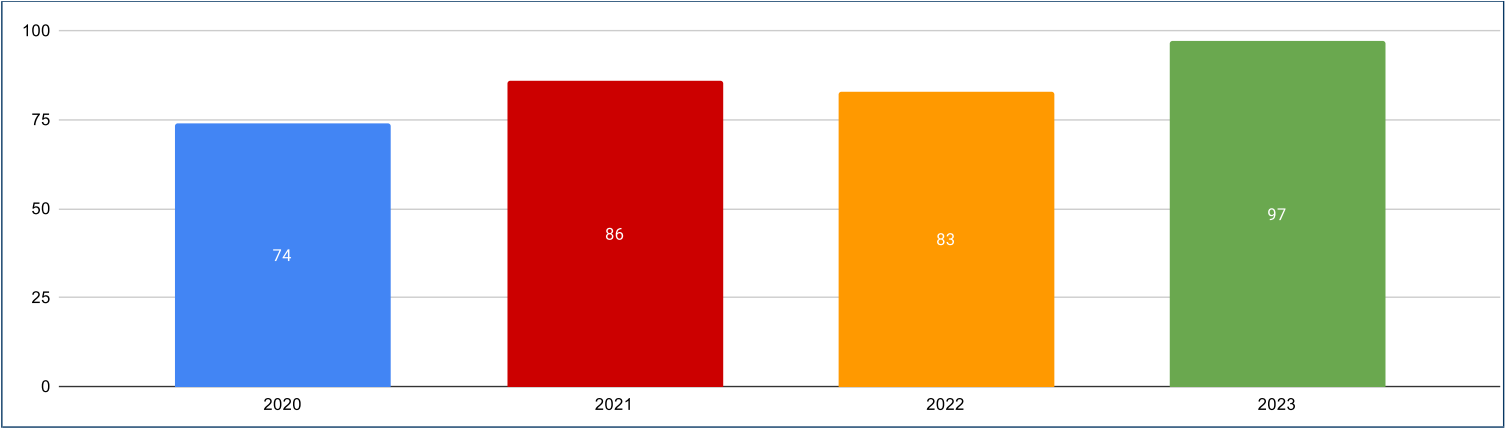


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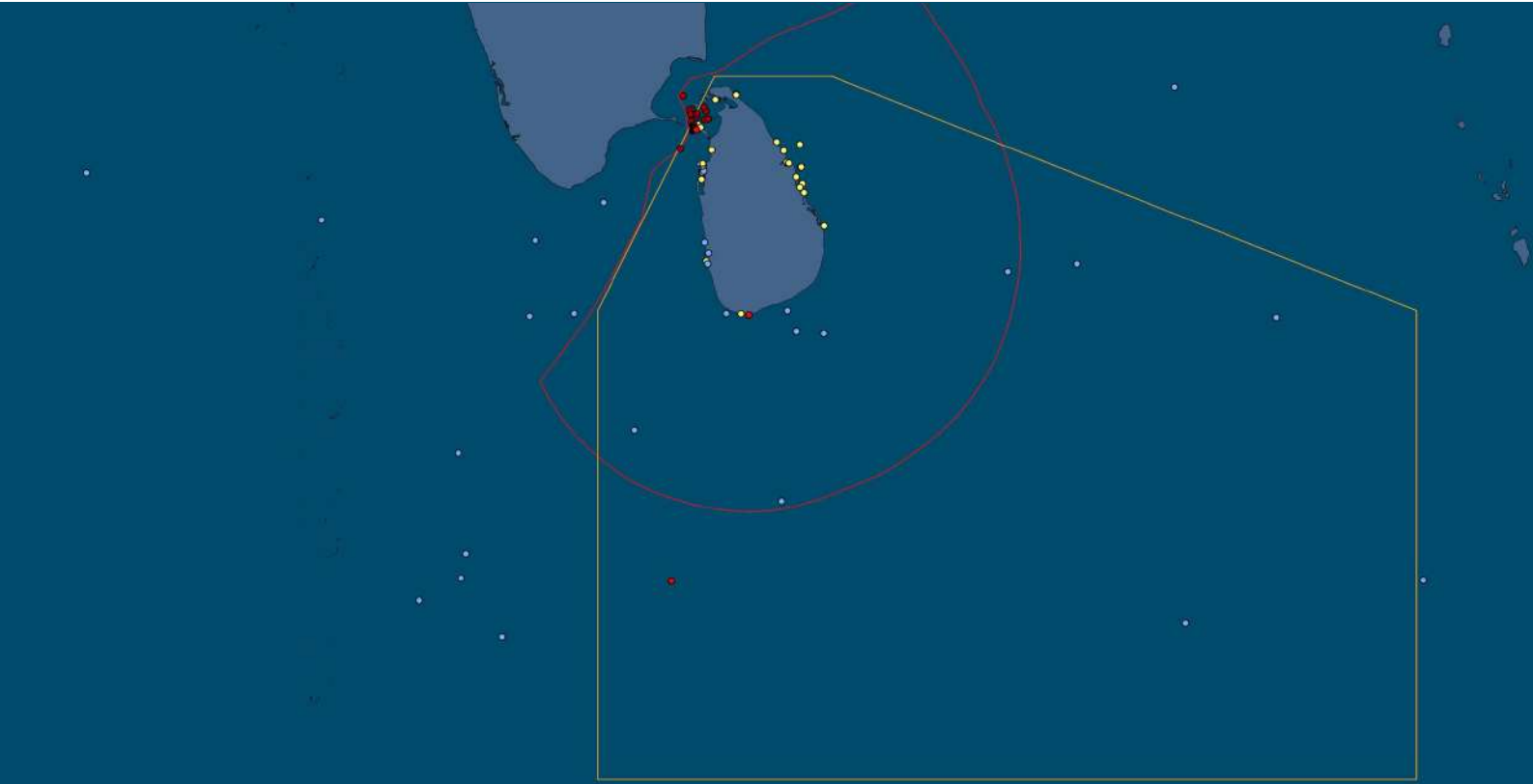
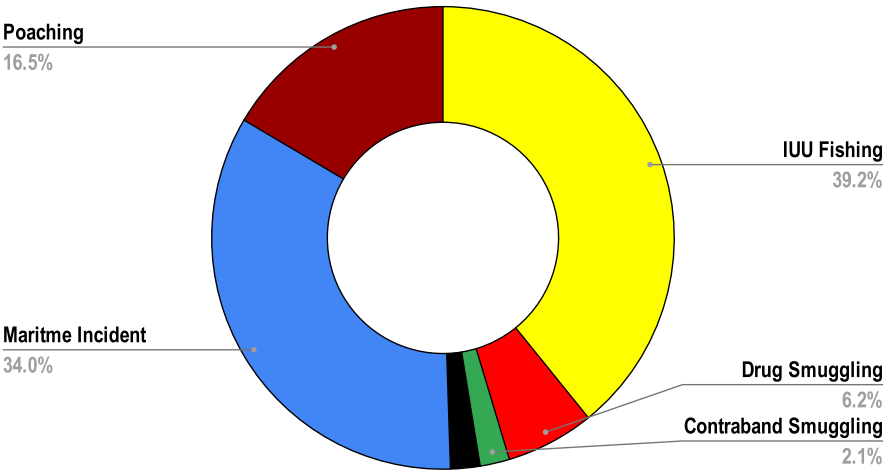
OVERVIEW

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

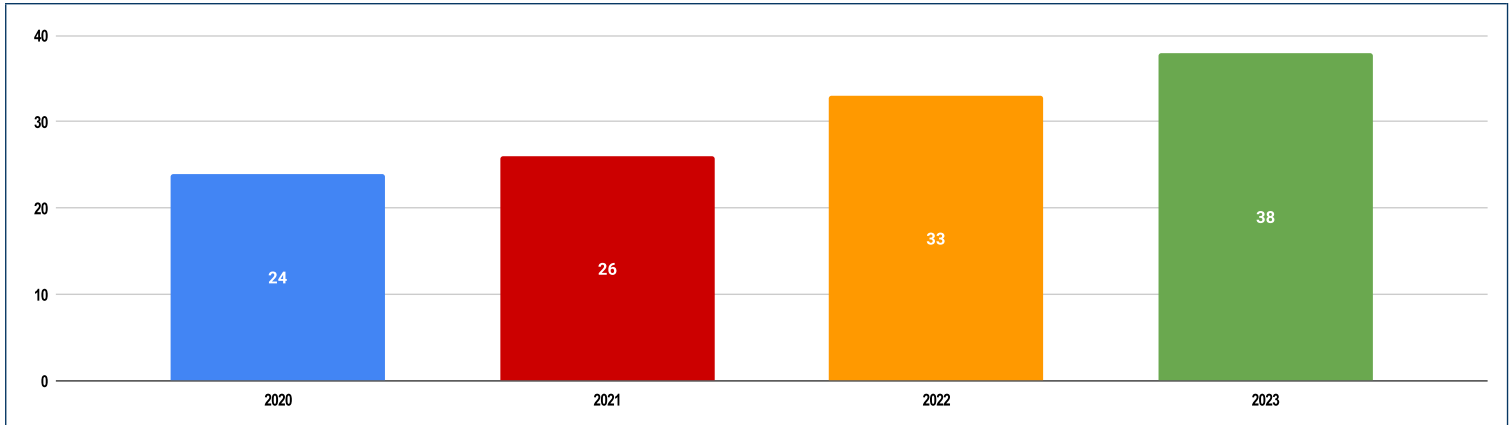
INCIDENT TYPE	OCT 2020	OCT 2021	OCT 2022	OCT 2023
IUU Fishing	24	26	33	38
Drug Smuggling	3	0	1	6
Contraband Smuggling	7	22	1	2
Human Smuggling	0	0	1	2
Maritime Incident	16	25	40	33
Poaching	24	13	4	16
Explosive and Firearms	0	0	3	0





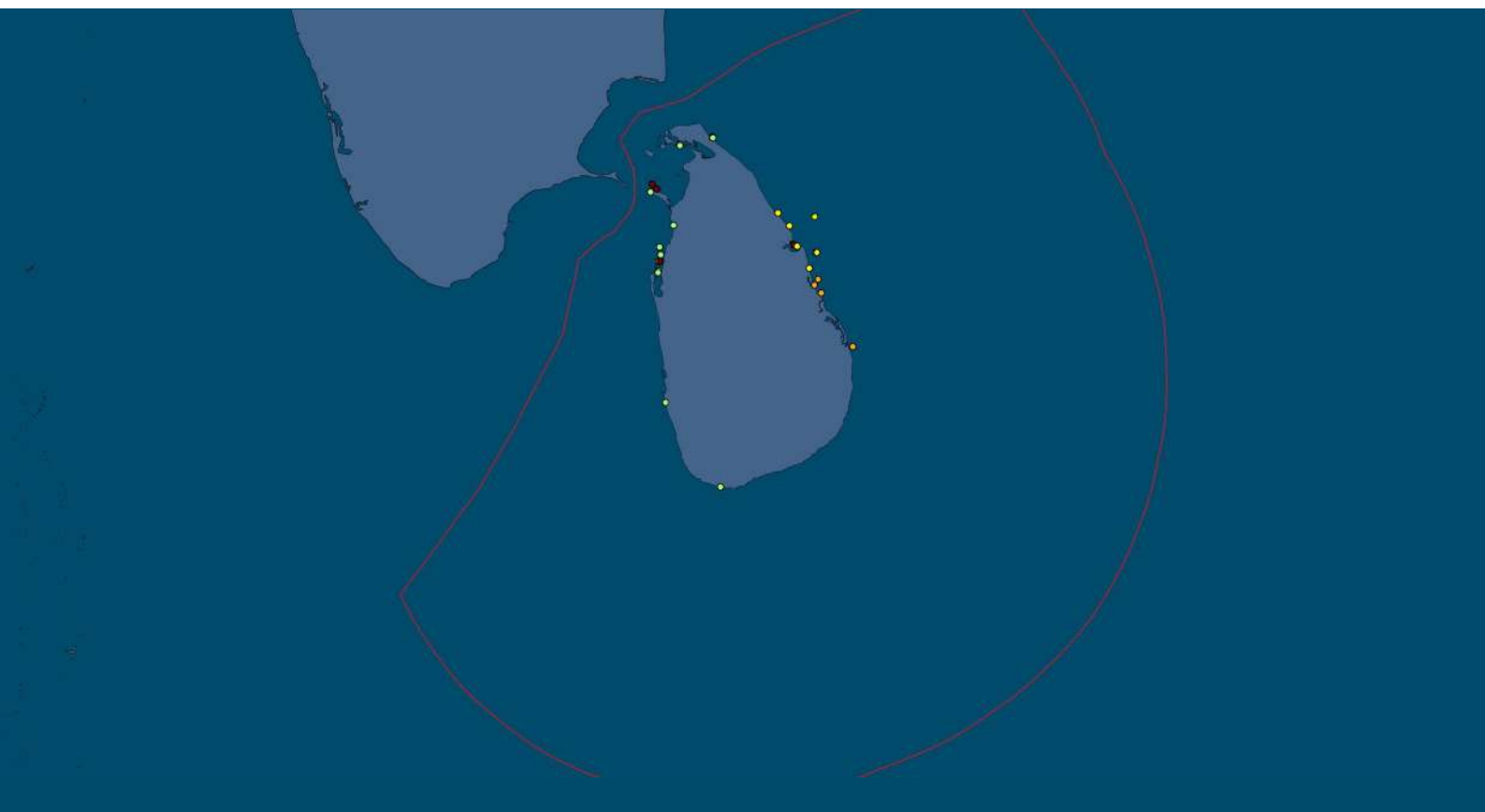
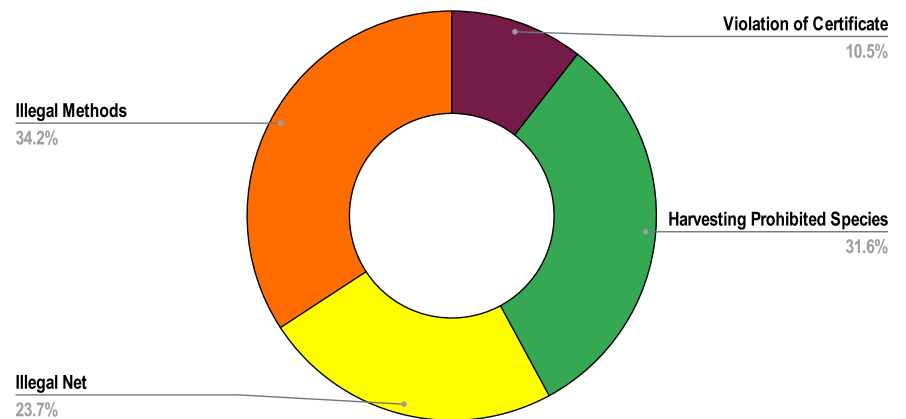
IUU FISHING

NUMBER OF IUU FISHING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	OCT 2020	OCT 2021	OCT 2022	OCT 2023
Violation of Certificate Conditions	0	2	3	4
Harvesting Prohibited Species	0	6	6	12
Illegal Net	15	14	13	9
Illegal Methods	8	3	8	13
Explosive Fishing	1	1	3	0



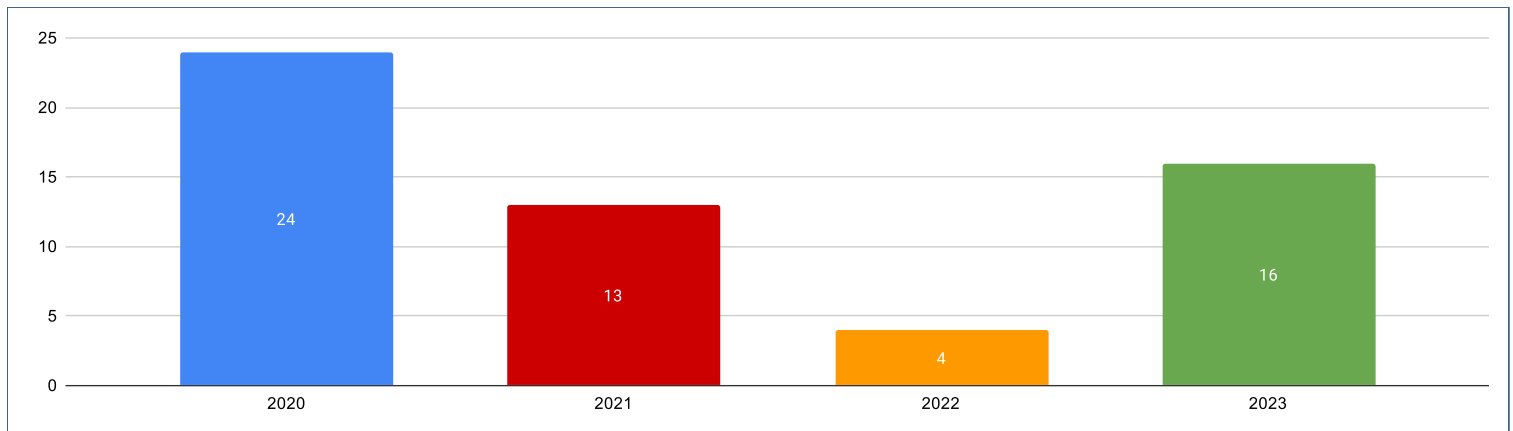


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP OCTOBER 2023

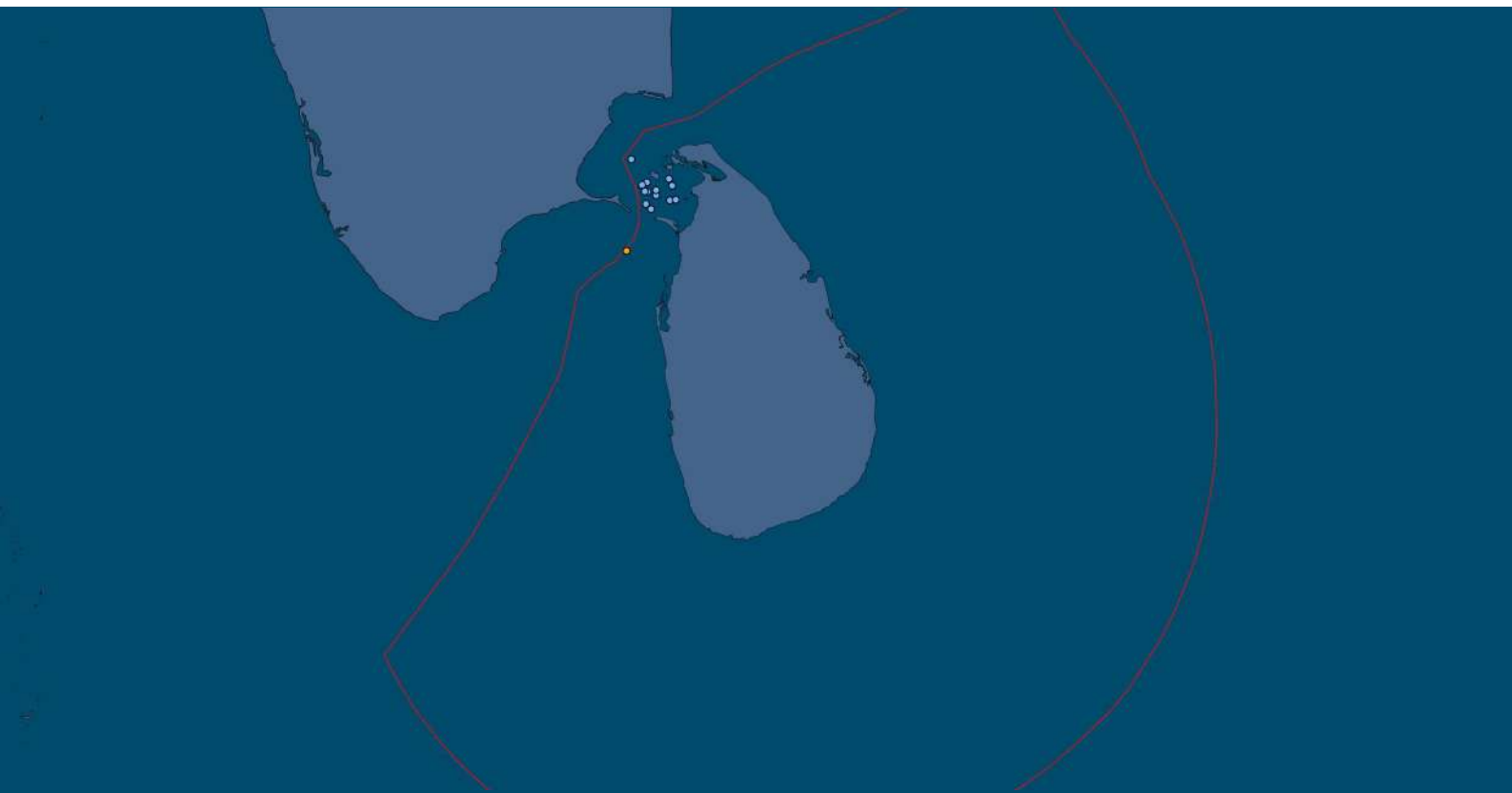
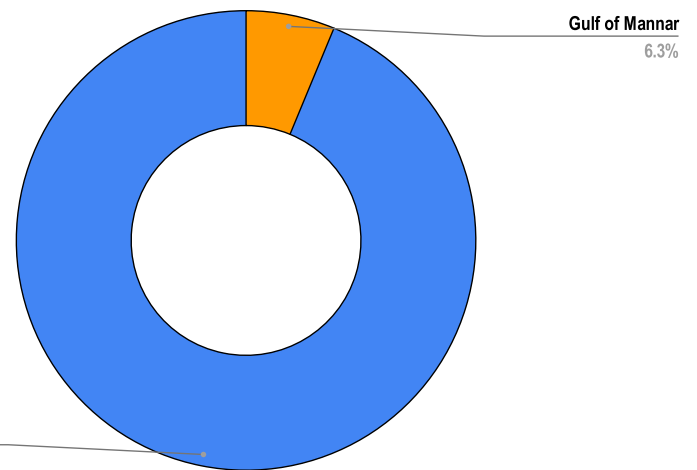
POACHING

NUMBER OF POACHING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	OCT 2020	OCT 2021	OCT 2022	OCT 2023
Eastern Coast	11	4	0	0
Palk Strait	1	2	0	0
Gulf of Mannar	8	3	0	1
Palk Bay	4	4	4	15
Other	0	1	0	0



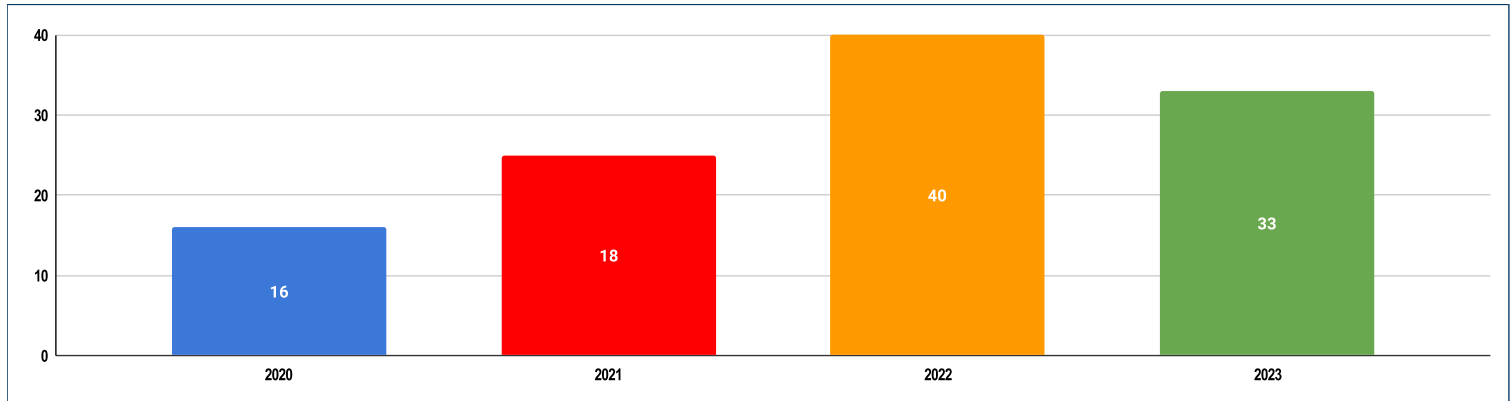


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP OCTOBER 2023

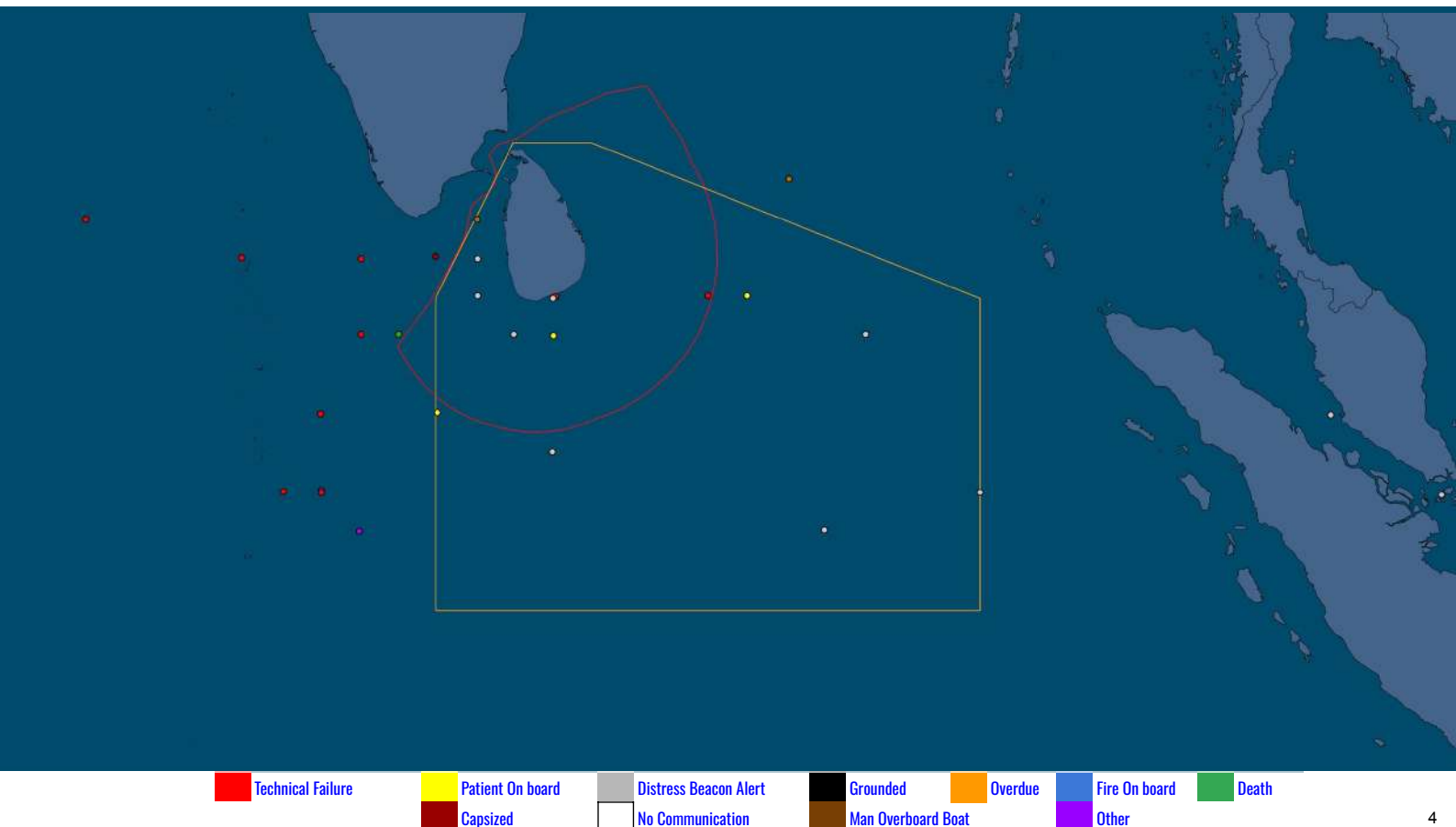
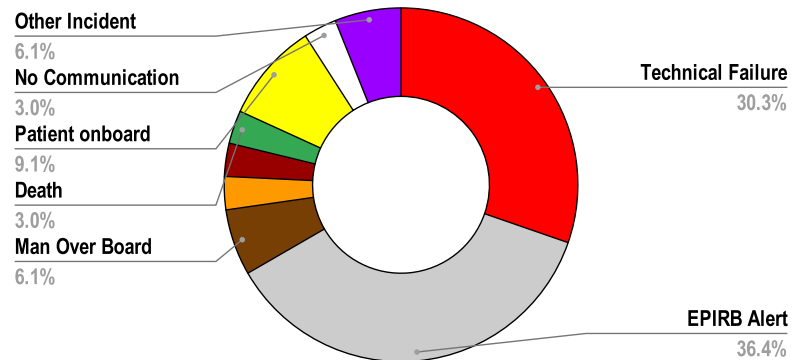
MARITIME INCIDENTS

NUMBER OF MARITIME INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

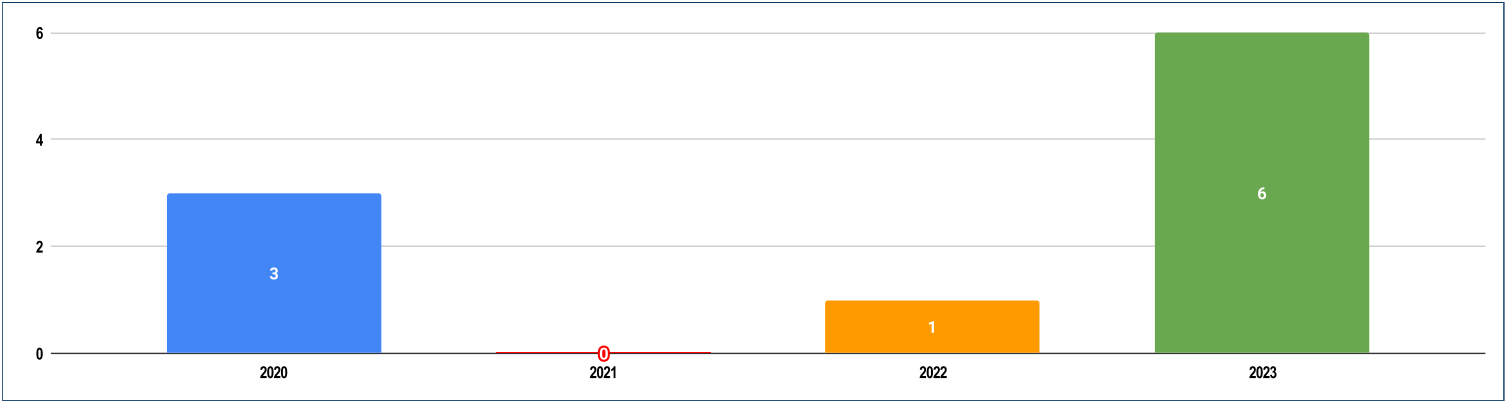
INCIDENT TYPE	OCT 2020	OCT 2021	OCT 2022	OCT 2023
Technical Failure	6	3	12	10
Fire onboard	0	1	0	0
EPIRB Alert	2	10	11	12
Man Over Board	0	0	0	2
Arrival Overdue	1	2	0	1
Capsized	1	5	0	1
Ground	0	0	0	0
Death	0	0	1	1
Patient onboard	3	1	10	3
Collision	0	1	0	0
No Communication	0	0	3	1
Other Incident	1	1	1	2





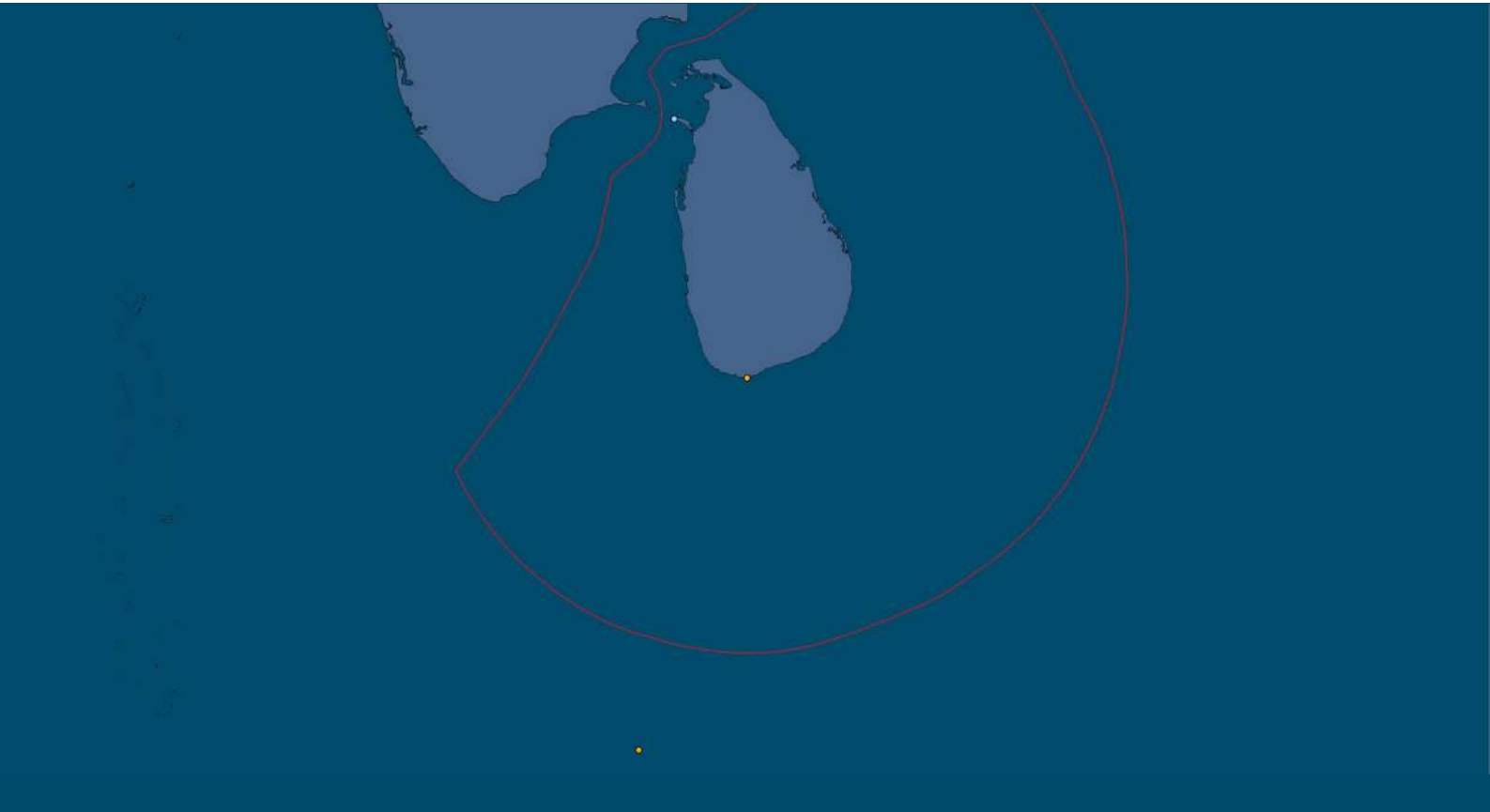
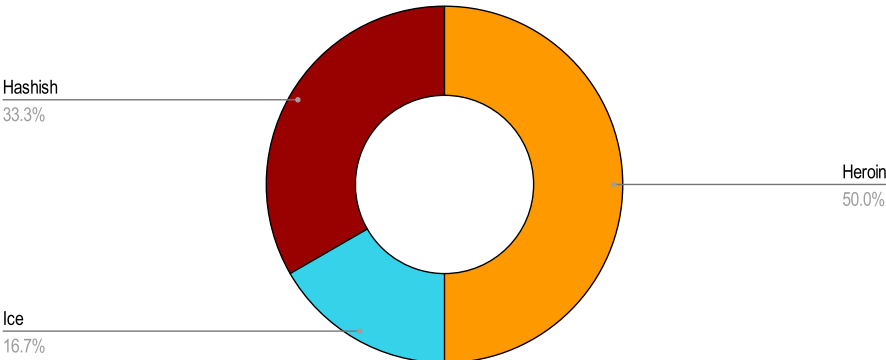
DRUG SMUGGLING

NUMBER OF DRUG SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

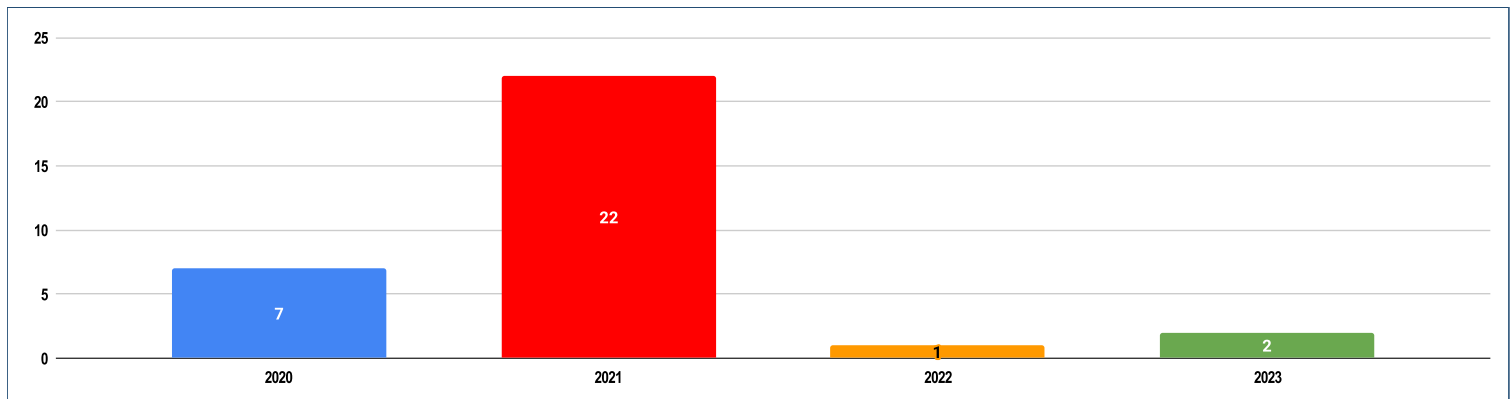
Drug Type	OCT 2020	OCT 2021	OCT 2022	OCT 2023
Heroin	0	0	0	3
Kerala cannabis	3	0	0	0
Ice	0	0	0	1
Tablets	0	0	0	0
Hashish	0	0	0	2
Local cannabis	0	0	1	0





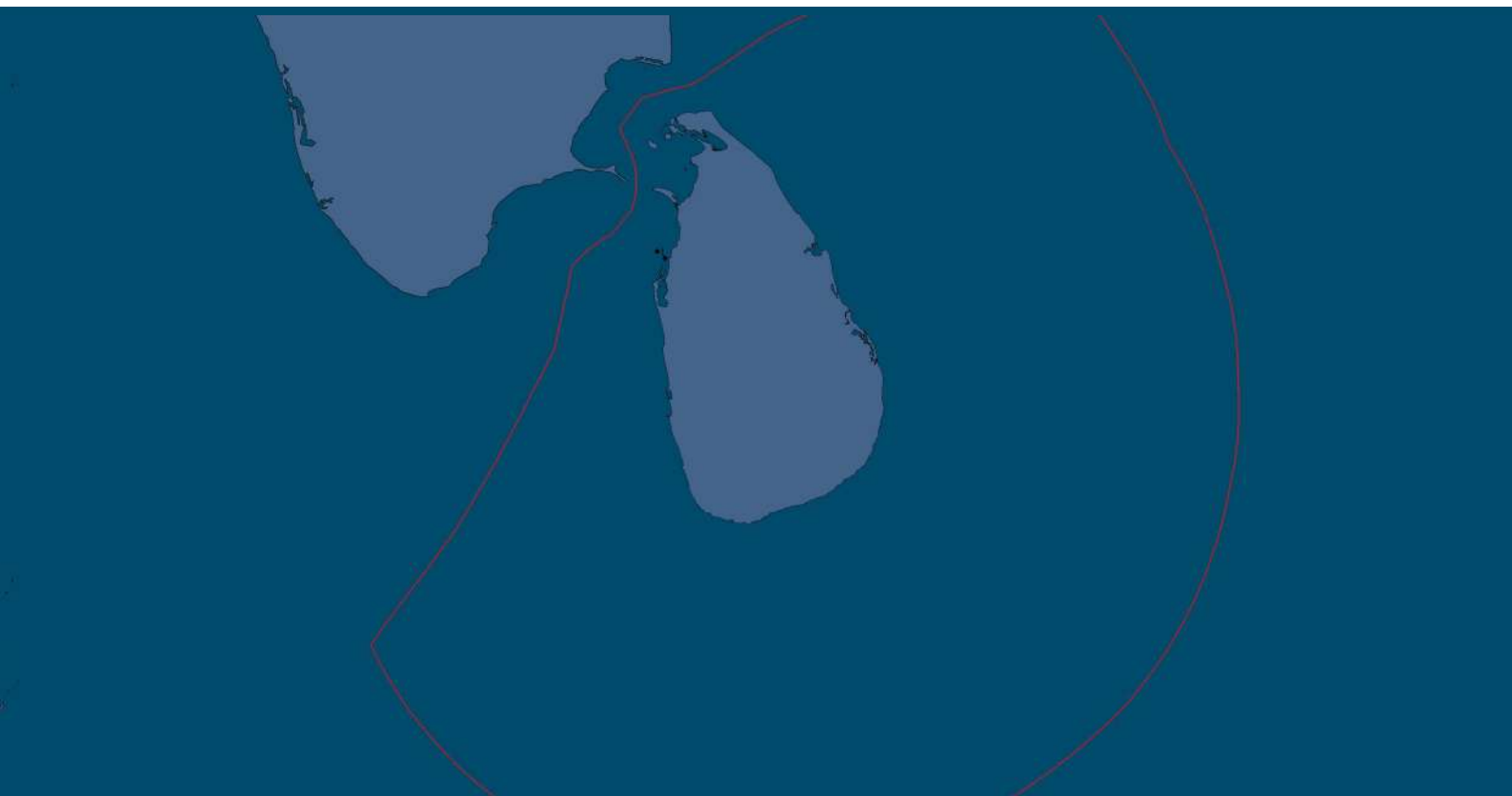
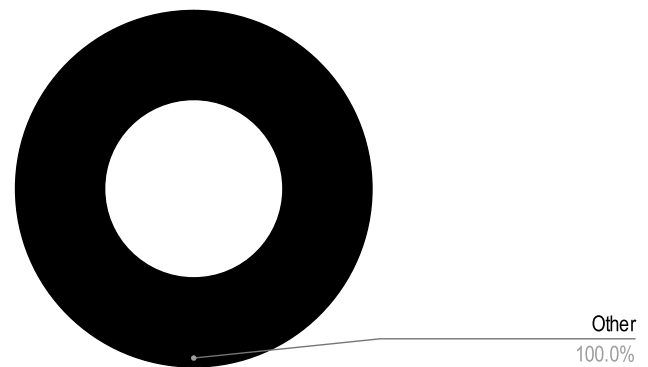
CONTRABAND SMUGGLING

NUMBER OF CONTRABAND SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

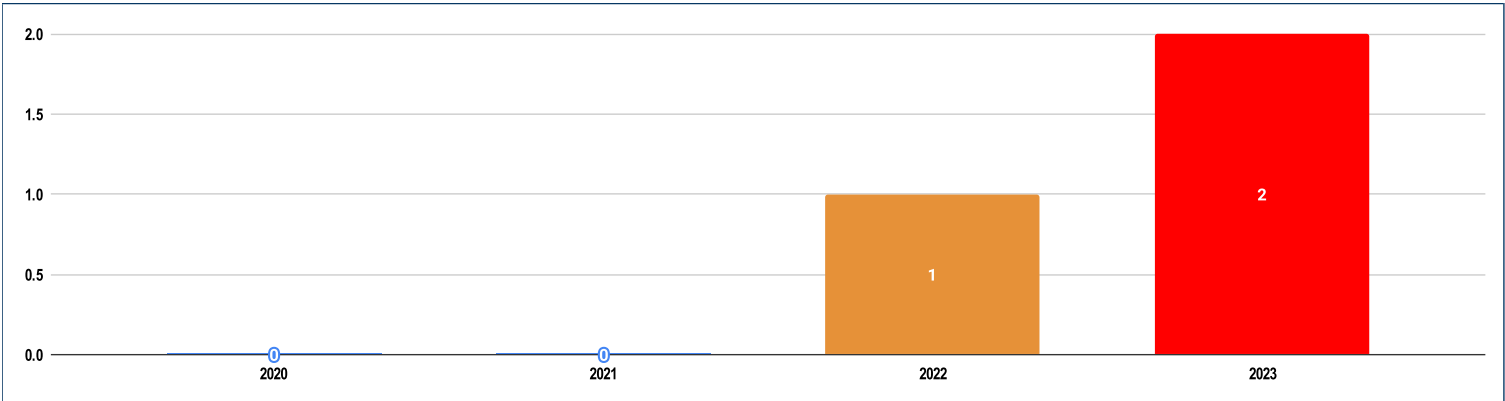
INCIDENT TYPE	OCT 2020	OCT 2021	OCT 2022	OCT 2023
Cardamom	0	1	0	0
Glyphosate	0	0	0	0
Gold	0	0	0	0
Kendu leaves	0	0	1	0
Other	0	0	0	2
Turmeric	7	20	0	0





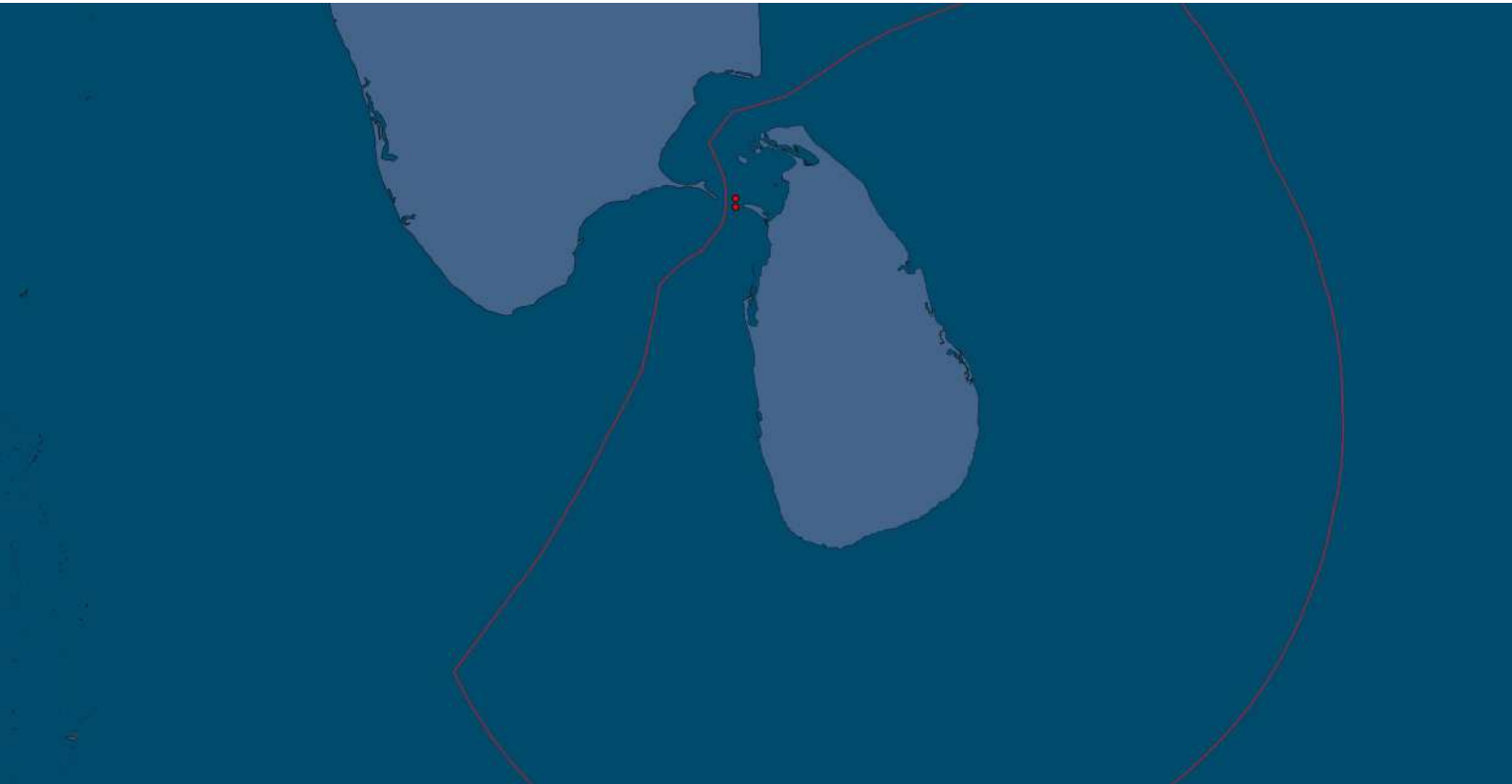
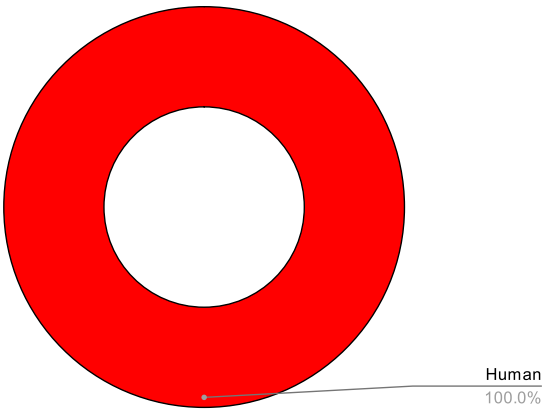
HUMAN SMUGGLING

NUMBER OF HUMAN SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	OCT 2020	OCT 2021	OCT 2022	OCT 2023
Human Smuggling	0	0	1	2



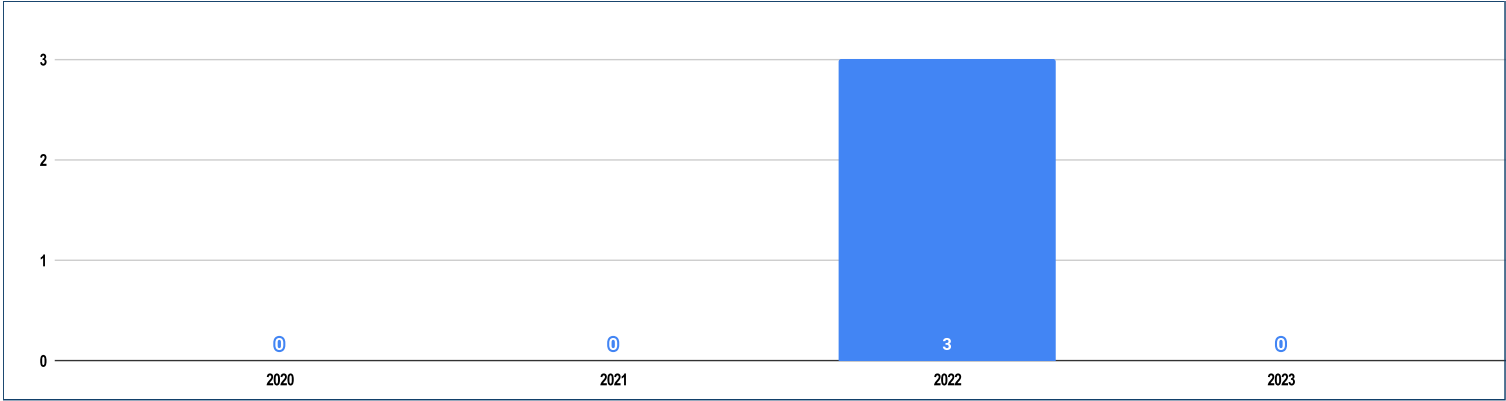


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP OCTOBER 2023

EXPLOSIVE AND FIREARMS

NUMBER OF EXPLOSIVE & FIREARMS INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	OCT 2020	OCT 2021	OCT 2022	OCT 2023
Water Gel Sticks	0	0	3	0



EVENTS

01. 03rd October 2023

Navy apprehends 07 persons for engaging in illegal fishing

The Sri Lanka Navy apprehended 07 persons for engaging in illegal fishing, during separate operations conducted off the Norway Island, Trincomalee and in Erakkandi on 02nd October 2023. The operations also led to the apprehension of 01 dinghy, 01 lorry and unauthorized fishing gear.

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 stock. In continuation of these efforts, SLNS Parakumba in the Eastern Naval Command carried out a search operation on the night of 02nd October off the Norway Island and nabbed 06 individuals for fishing with unauthorized nets. During this operation, 01 dinghy and unauthorized fishing gear used for this illegal act were also taken into the naval custody.

Meanwhile, SLNS Vijayaba belonging to the same Naval Command apprehended a suspect (01) with about 105 kg of fish, killed using explosives, while being transported by a lorry, during a search operation mounted in Erakkandi area, in the dark hours of 02nd October.

The individuals apprehended during these operations are residents of Wellemnal, Kinniya and Erakkandi areas, from 23 to 47 years of age. The 06 persons and their belongings apprehended off the Norway Island were handed over to the Muthur Fisheries Inspector and the suspect along with the lorry held in Erakkandi was handed over to the Trincomalee Fisheries Inspector for onward legal action.



Navy apprehends 15 persons for engaging in illegal fishing in Trincomalee

The Navy apprehended 15 persons for engaging in illegal fishing, during separate operations conducted off the Bolder Point, in Walaithottam beach area and off the Norway Island in Trincomalee on 03rd and 04th October 2023. The operations also led to the apprehension of 04 dinghies and unauthorized fishing gear used for these illegal fishing practices.

Accordingly, SLNS Walagamba belonging to the Eastern Naval Command apprehended 07 persons for using unauthorized nets to catch fish, during a search operation carried out off the Bolder Point on 03rd October. During this operation, the naval personnel also took into custody 02 dinghies and unauthorized fishing gear used by those individuals.

On the same day, SLNS Lankapatuna nabbed another person in Walaithottam beach area, as the person was getting ready to engage in illegal fishing with unauthorized fishing equipment. A dinghy and unauthorized fishing equipment in his possession were also held by the Navy.

Meanwhile, SLNS Mahaweli in the Eastern Naval Command also held 07 more persons for using banned fishing gear and practicing light-coarse fishing off the Norway Island on 04th October. The operations also led to the apprehension of 01 dinghy and unauthorized fishing gear used by those individuals.

The persons held in these operations are residents of Kinniya and Poduwakattu areas, from 20 to 47 years of age. The individuals, dinghies and fishing gear held off the Bolder Point, in Walaithottam and off the Norway Island were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Kuchchaweli, Assistant Directorate of Fisheries, Trincomalee and Fisheries Inspector of Cod Bay for onward legal action.



Navy apprehends 24 persons for engaging in illegal fishing

The Navy apprehended 24 persons who engaged in illegal fishing practices, during special operations conducted in the Sallimunai beach area, Trincomalee, sea and beach areas of Vakarei and off Nagar Kovil, Jaffna on 05th and 06th October 2023. The operations also led to the seizure of 09 dinghies, 01 cab, diving equipment and unauthorized fishing gear.

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 the fish stock.

Accordingly, SLNS Walagamba and SLNS Ranweli in the Eastern Naval Command carried out a search operation in the beach area of Sallimunai on 05th October and nabbed 02 persons who were preparing fish, caught by explosives, for transportation. The operation also led to the apprehension of a cab used for the illegal act.

Meanwhile, SLNS Kashyapa belonging to the same Naval Command carried out a coordinated search operation with the Office of Fisheries Inspector, Vakarei and apprehended 13 persons in the beach and sea areas of Vakarei for catching fish by means of illegal light-coarse method on 05th and 06th October. The operation also led to the seizure of 06 dinghies and unauthorized fishing gear.

In the same vein, Naval Deployment Veththalakerni in the Northern Naval Command held 09 persons along with 03 dinghies, diving gear and illegal fishing equipment, for engaging in fishing without valid license off Nagar Kovil on 05th October.

The individuals held in these operations are residents of Kalpitiya, Panichchankerni and Mannar, from 22 to 50 years of age. The 24 persons along with the dinghies and other unauthorized fishing and diving gear held were handed over to the Kuchchaveli and Vakarei Fisheries Inspectors and Jaffna Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Department for onward legal proceedings.



Navy recovers narcotic substances valued at Rs. 94 Mn in Talaimannar

A special search operation mounted by the Sri Lanka Navy in the beach area of Urumalei, Talaimannar today (16th October 2023) led to the recovery of over 04 kg of Crystal Methamphetamine (ICE), about 01 kg of heroin and over 05 kg of hashish concealed in a dinghy.

To curb unlawful activities such as drug trafficking within Sri Lanka's maritime and coastal zones, the Navy is conducting vigilant and constant operations.

In a similar effort, SLNS Thammanna in the North Central Naval Command conducted a search operation in the Urumalei beach area in the wee hours of today (16th October) and searched a suspicious dinghy at the beach. The search led to the recovery of four packages of Crystal Methamphetamine weighing about 04 kg and 194 g, a parcel of heroin weighing around 01 kg and 034g and five packages of hashish weighing about 05 kg and 254 g. Thus, the consignment of narcotic substances and the dinghy was taken into the naval custody.

Meanwhile, the gross street value of the stock of narcotic drugs is believed to be over Rs. 94 million.

The assortment of drugs and the dinghy held by the Navy in this operation were handed over to the Police Narcotics Bureau, Mannar for onward legal action.



Sri Lanka Coast Guard Apprehends Four Fishermen with Illegally Captured 60 Kg Whale Shark

Negombo, Sri Lanka – In a swift operation, personnel from the Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) attached to a fishing monitoring point in Negombo have apprehended four fishermen who were found with an illegally captured 60 kg whale shark onboard the fishing vessel "BIYANI" during arrival formalities on 19th October 2023.

The interception of the whale shark poaching incident took place as the SLCG continued their relentless efforts to curb illegal fishing activities in Sri Lankan waters. The suspects were taken into custody and the apprehended items were handed over to the local Fisheries Inspector (FI) in Negombo for further legal action.



Navy apprehends 05 persons for engaging in illegal fishing in lagoons of Kalpitiya and Puttalam

The Navy apprehended 05 persons who engaged in illegal fishing practices, during special operations conducted in the lagoon areas of Uchchamuni in Kalpitiya and Serakkuliya in Puttalam on 20th and 21st October 2023. The operations also led to the seizure of 02 dinghies, 740 sea cucumbers as well as diving equipment and unauthorized fishing gear.

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 the fish stock.

Accordingly, SLNS Vijaya in the Northwestern Naval Command carried out separate search operations in Uchchamuni and Serakkuliya lagoon areas on 20th and 21st October and searched 02 suspicious dinghies. The search operations led to the apprehension of 05 persons along with 740 sea cucumbers, 02 dinghies, diving equipment and unauthorized fishing gear, as they were engaging in night diving without valid passes and fishing sans lawful license.

0The individuals held in these operations were residents of Kalpitiya, from 27 to 38 years of age. The 05 persons along with the dinghies, sea cucumbers and other unauthorized fishing and diving gear held were handed over to the Kalpitiya Fisheries Inspector and Puttalam Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Department for onward legal proceedings.



Navy apprehends 04 persons suspected of involvement in human smuggling in Talaimannar

The Sri Lanka Navy took hold of 02 dinghies and 04 individuals aboard, suspected of their involvement in human smuggling, during a search carried out in Sand Dunes 3, Talaimannar on 21st October 2023.

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

As an extension of these efforts, this special search operation was conducted by SLNS Thammanna and SLNS Gajaba in the North Central Naval Command, deploying Inshore Patrol Craft in Sand Dunes 3. In this search operation, naval personnel intercepted 02 dinghies in the sea area, on suspicion. As 04 individuals aboard those dinghies were remaining in the area without valid license and suspected of involvement in human smuggling, from a foreign country to Sri Lanka, they were taken into the naval custody.

The suspects held in this search operation were identified as residents of Pesalei, Mannar, from 28 to 45 years of age. Meanwhile, the suspects and dinghies were handed over to the Talaimannar Police and Mannar Fisheries Inspector for onward legal action.



Navy seizes local multiday fishing trawler with over 212kg of heroin and crystal methamphetamine valued over Rs. 4000 Mn on high seas west of Galle

Based on information derived from a coordinated intelligence operation conducted by the Sri Lanka Navy and Police Narcotic Bureau, a drug-carrying local multiday fishing trawler was intercepted by SLCG Samudraraksha. The intercepted local multiday fishing trawler was escorted to the Dondra fisheries harbour, where the careful search with the Sri Lanka Coast Guard, over 212kg (including packages) of heroin and crystal methamphetamine (ICE) were recovered from the trawler this morning (22nd October 2023). The special operation mounted about 91 nautical miles (about 168km) off west of Galle, also led to the apprehension of suspects aboard. The Commander of the Navy, Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera, arrived at the Dondra fisheries harbour this morning to personally inspect the seized consignment of narcotics.

To realize the national aspiration of eliminating the drug menace in Sri Lanka, the Navy collaborates closely with the country's law enforcement agencies, conducting regular operations in island waters with constant vigil.

During this dedicated operation led by the SL Navy and Police Narcotic Bureau, the Sri Lanka Coast Guard Ship Samudraraksha intercepted the local fishing trawler on suspicion about 91 nautical miles (about 168 km) off west of Galle in the evening of 20th October. Subsequently, the suspicious trawler was escorted to the Dondra fisheries harbour for further search.

Upon being brought ashore, the suspicious trawler underwent thorough search this morning (22nd October) where 160 packages of heroin, weighing about 180 kg and 800 g (including packages), and 28 parcels of crystal methamphetamine, weighing around 31 kg and 550 g (including packages), contained in 12 sacks were recovered. Moreover, the drug-carrying fishing trawler and suspects aboard were also taken into custody.

Meanwhile, the street value of the seized consignment of drugs weighing around 212 kg and 350 g held in this operation is believed to be over Rs. 4000 million.

The suspects apprehended in this operation were identified as residents of Dondra and Koottegoda areas from 26 to 53 years of age. The suspects along with the stock of narcotic drugs and the fishing trawler were handed over to the Police Narcotic Bureau for onward legal action.

At the directives of the President, Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe and under the guidance of the Secretary of Defence General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd), the Navy has effectively conducted several successful drug raids by coordinating intelligence services, aligning them towards a shared objective. It is in this backdrop, the Navy continues its relentless efforts, under the able leadership of the Commander of the Navy, Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera who is also the Chairman of the Presidential Task Force to Combat the Use of Poisonous and Dangerous Drugs.

Including the latest seizure, the Sri Lanka Navy has held drugs with a gross street value of over Rs. 15,160 million during operations mounted in 2023. Sri Lanka Navy is committed to coordinating with other law enforcement authorities, to carry out anti-drug operations of this nature in order to foil drug smuggling attempts being made in the guise of fishing.



Sri Lanka Coast Guard apprehends illegally harvested shark fins

Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) personnel deployed at Mirissa Fishery Harbour arrested six fishermen whilst possessing illegally harvested shark fins on 22nd October 2023.

A Sri Lankan fishing trawler was arrested by Sri Lanka Navy's Fast Attack Craft due to suspicious activities at sea and handed over to Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel who were attached to Mirissa Fishing Monitoring Point to inspect for illegal materials. Upon inspection, it was found 51 pieces (800 g) of dried Shark fins and 24kg of dried shark (without fins). The arrested persons with apprehended items were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector - Mirissa for further investigation.

Arrest was made with the provisions of retaining, transshipping, selling, or landing any parts of a shark species is considered an offense under order number 4 of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act 1996 No. 2.



Navy intercepts local multiday fishing trawler with over 219 kg of heroin valued over Rs. 4500 Mn on high seas

Based on intelligence information received from the State Intelligence Service, the Sri Lanka Navy mounted a special operation and intercepted a drug-carrying local multiday fishing trawler on high seas about 292 nautical miles (about 540 km) south of Dondra, by deploying SLNS Vijayabahu. The intercepted local multiday fishing trawler with over 219 kg (including packages) of heroin and 05 suspects aboard were escorted this morning (24th October 2023) to the port of Colombo. The Senior Adviser to the President on National Security and Chief of the Presidential Staff, Mr. Sagala Ratnayaka and the Commander of the Navy, Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera, arrived at the port of Colombo this morning to personally inspect the seized consignment of narcotics.

During this dedicated operation led by the Navy, upon receipt of intelligence information to Naval Intelligence through State Intelligence Service, SLNS Vijayabahu intercepted the local fishing trawler on suspicion, about 292 nautical miles (about 540 km) south of Dondra in the dark hours of 19th October. Subsequent search revealed that the trawler was smuggling 09 sacks of narcotics, suspected to be heroin.

Upon being brought ashore, the suspicious trawler underwent thorough search this morning (24th October), where 200 packages of heroin, weighing around 219 kg and 634 g (including packages), contained in 09 sacks were seized by authorities. Moreover, the drug-carrying fishing trawler and suspects aboard were also taken into custody.

Meanwhile, the street value of the seized consignment of drugs weighing around 219 kg and 634 g held in this operation is believed to be over Rs. 4500 million.

The suspects apprehended in this operation were identified as residents of Kudawella, Tissamaharama, Koottagoda and Mamadala areas, from 30 to 48 years of age. The suspects along with the stock of narcotic drugs and the fishing trawler were handed over to the Police Narcotic Bureau for onward legal action.

Meanwhile, the Commander of the Navy paid a visit to SLNS Vijayabahu today (24th October) and spoke to the naval personnel involved in the recent drug seizure. He commended the crew for their unwavering commitment to the success of this anti-drug mission.

At the directives of the President, Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe and under the guidance of the Secretary of Defence General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd), the Navy has effectively conducted several successful drug raids by coordinating intelligence services, aligning them towards a shared objective. It is in this backdrop, the Navy continues its relentless efforts, under the able leadership of the Commander of the Navy, Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera who is also the Chairman of the Presidential Task Force to Combat the Use of Poisonous and Dangerous Drugs. Sri Lanka Navy is committed to coordinating with other law enforcement authorities, to carry out anti-drug operations of this nature, in order to foil drug smuggling attempts being made in the guise of fishing. Thus, the Navy urges the fishing community to refrain from aiding or abetting such smuggling activities.



Navy nabs 07 persons for illegal night diving and transporting sea cucumber without license

The Sri Lanka Navy conducted separate operations in the Urumalai beach area of Talaimannar and at the Mandaitivu T Junction roadblock in Jaffna on 25th and 26th October 2023. The operations led to the apprehension of 07 persons for their involvement in night diving and transporting sea cucumber without valid licence. During these operations, the Navy also held 620 sea cucumbers, 01 dinghy and 01 three-wheeler.

A search operation carried out in the Urumalai beach area on the night of 25th October by SLNS Thammanna in the North Central Naval Command led to the apprehension of 05 individuals for their involvement in illegal night diving, whilst searching a suspicious dinghy at the beach. In addition, naval personnel also held 120 illegally harvested sea cucumbers, the dinghy and diving gear used for this illegal act.

Meanwhile, SLNS Welusumana in the Northern Naval Command intercepted a suspicious three-wheeler at the Mandaitivu T Junction roadblock on the evening of 26th October and recovered 500 sea cucumbers being transported without valid licence. Incidentally, 02 persons in the vehicle, the three-wheeler and sea cucumbers were taken into the naval custody.

The suspects held in these operations were identified as residents of Talaimannar and Jaffna, from 18 to 43 years of age. The suspects, dinghy, three-wheeler and diving gear were handed over to the Mannar Fisheries Inspector and Kayts Police for onward legal action.



Navy takes hold of 05 poaching trawlers in Sri Lankan waters

The Sri Lanka Navy conducted special operations to chase away Indian poaching trawlers from Sri Lankan waters in the evening of 28th October 2023 and this morning (29th October 2023). The separate operations led to the seizure of 05 Indian trawlers with 37 Indian fishermen poaching in Sri Lankan waters off Mannar as well as near the Delft Island, Jaffna.

The Navy remains committed to conducting routine patrols and operations within Sri Lankan waters to deter the unlawful fishing activities of foreign trawlers. This effort is driven by an understanding of the impact of such practices on the livelihoods of local fishermen and the marine resources of the country.

In similar operations, the North Central Naval Command and Northern Naval Command deployed its Fast Attack Craft, Inshore Patrol Craft and small craft to chase away a cluster of Indian poaching trawlers, after having spotted they were engaging in illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters on 28th October 2023 and this morning (29th October 2023).

In these operations, the North Central Naval Command held 03 Indian poaching trawlers that continued to remain in island waters off Mannar, with 23 Indian fishers aboard. In the same vein the Northern Naval Command apprehended 02 Indian poaching trawlers with 14 Indian fishermen who were poaching near the Delft Island.

The apprehended Indian fishermen (37) and the poaching trawlers (05) were brought to the Talaimannar Pier and Kankasanthurai harbour and they will be handed over to the Talaimannar and Jaffna Fisheries Inspectors for onward legal action.

Including the poaching trawlers held in this operation, the Sri Lanka Navy has seized 27 Indian poaching trawlers and apprehended 174 Indian fishermen thus far in 2023. Following these apprehensions, the poaching trawlers and fishermen have been handed over to relevant authorities for legal action.

