



# Information Fusion Centre

Colombo - Sri Lanka

## IFC Monthly Report

May 2025



Naval Headquarters, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka



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



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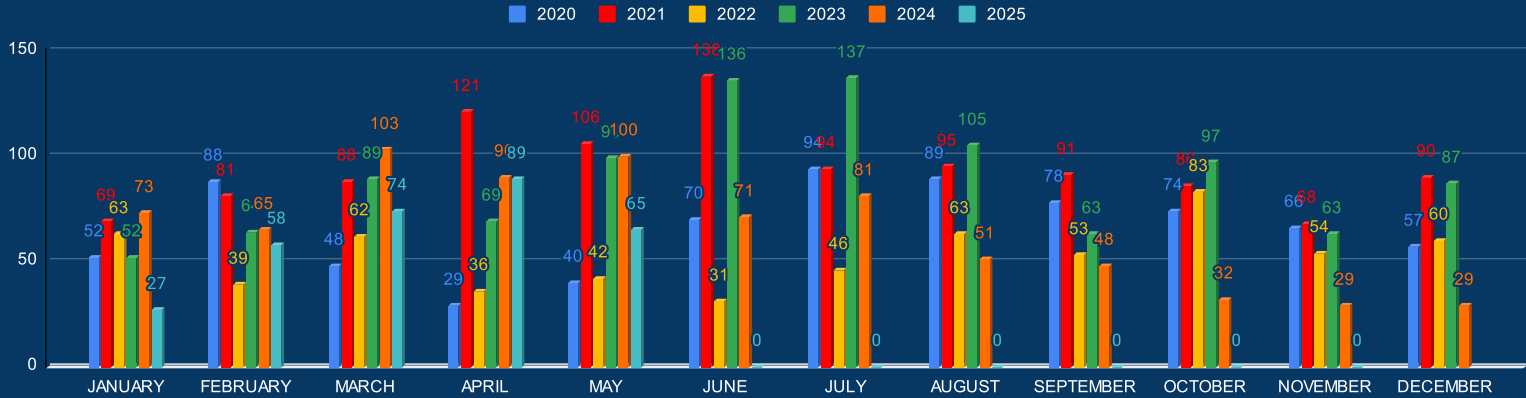


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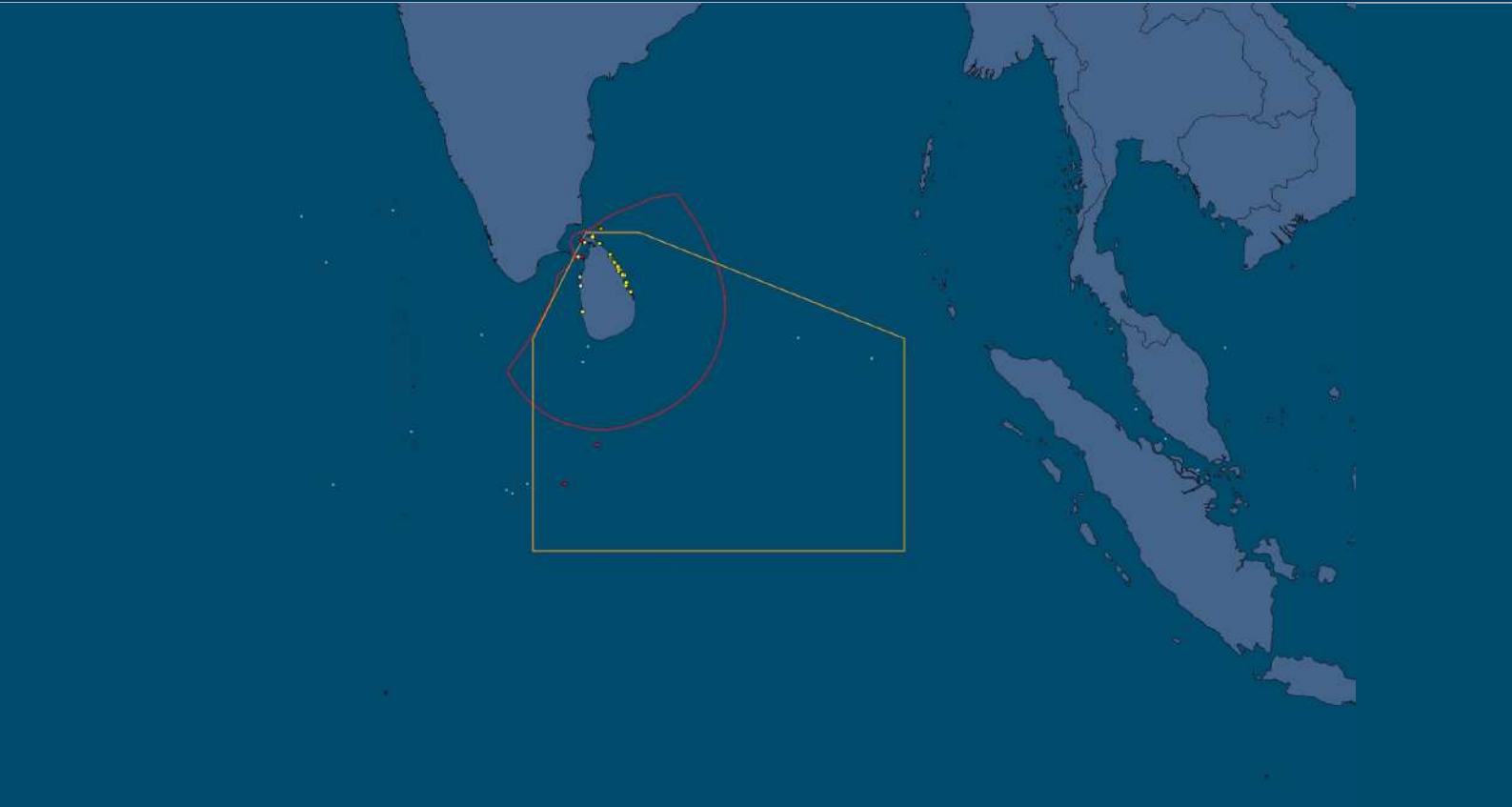
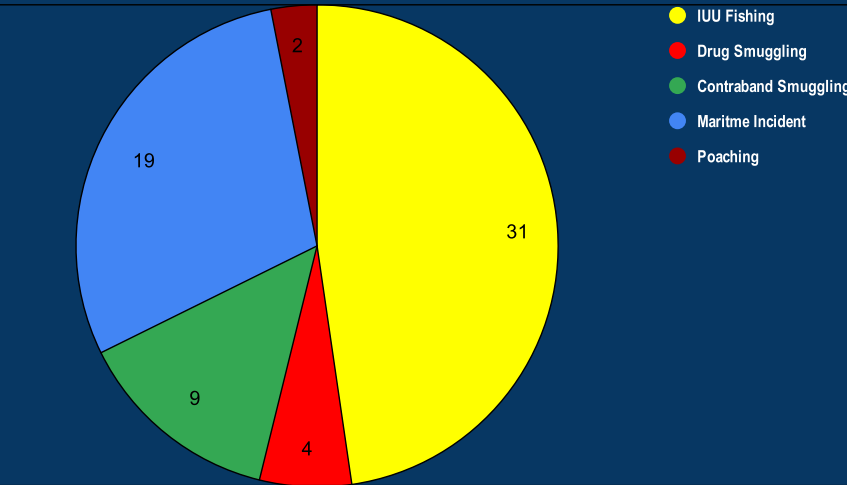
OVERVIEW

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2025)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

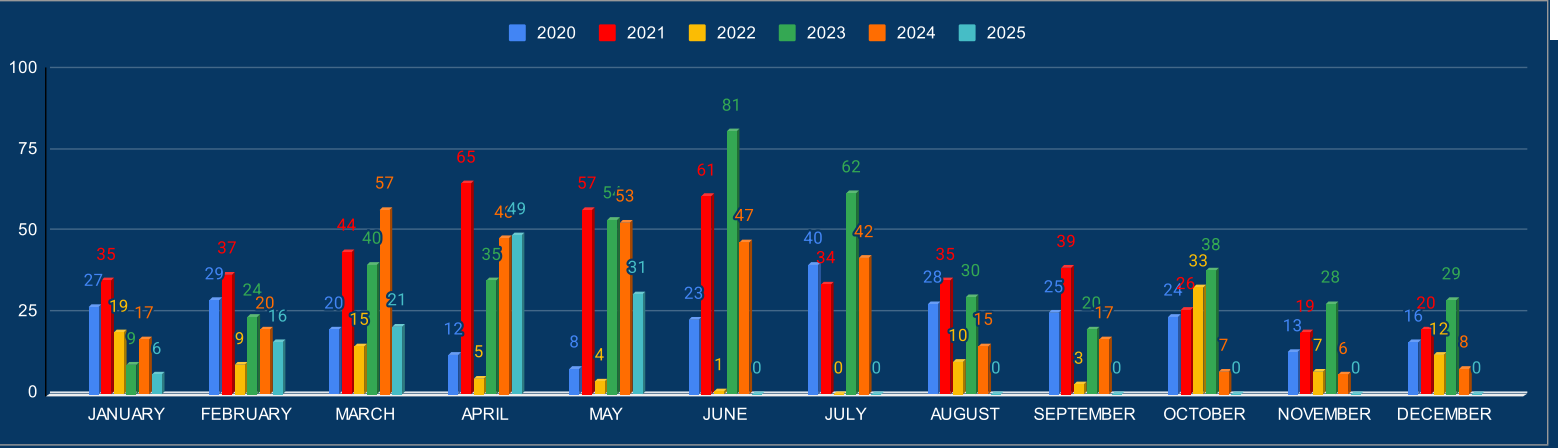
INCIDENT TYPE	MAY 2022	MAY 2023	MAY 2024	MAY 2025
IUU Fishing	4	54	53	31
Drug Smuggling	1	2	0	4
Contraband Smuggling	6	2	2	9
Human Smuggling	10	1	0	0
Maritime Incident	21	37	44	19
Poaching	0	2	1	2
Explosive and Firearms	0	1	0	0





IUU FISHING

NUMBER OF IUU FISHING INCIDENTS (2020-2025)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	MAY 2022	MAY 2023	MAY 2024	MAY 2025
Violation of Certificate Conditions	0	3	2	0
Harvesting Prohibited Species	1	4	11	2
Illegal Net	1	25	8	25
Illegal Methods	1	21	28	1
Explosive Fishing	1	1	4	3

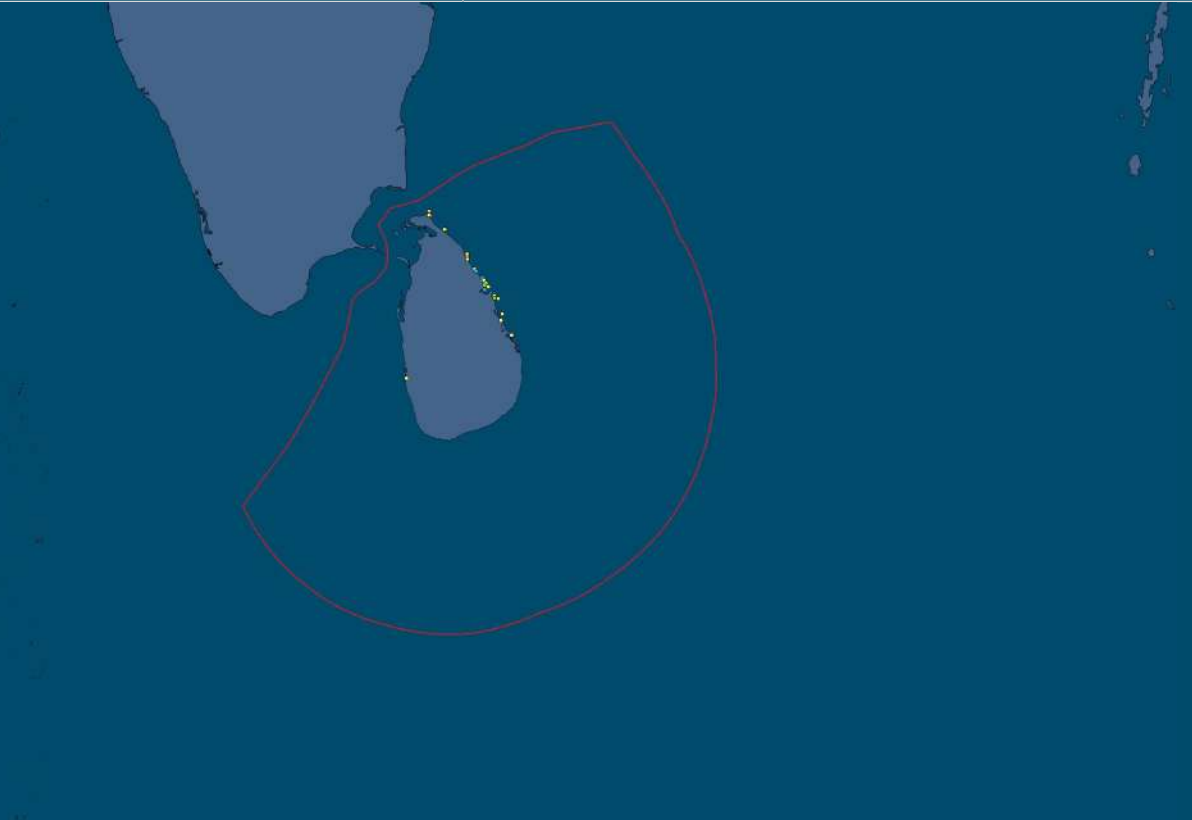
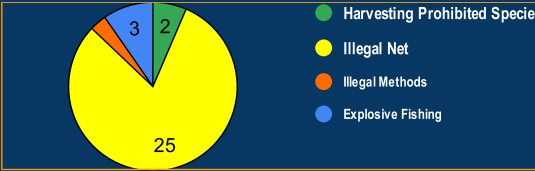
IUU FISHING – MAY 2025 SUMMARY

Statistics:

- A total of 31 incidents were reported in comparison to May 2024, reflecting a decrease of 22.
- No incidents were reported for violation of certification conditions, marking a decrease of 2.
- Harvesting of prohibited species accounted for 2 incidents, a reduction of 9.
- The use of illegal nets saw a notable increase, with 25 incidents reported—17 more than in May 2024.
- Only 1 incident involving illegal methods was recorded, indicating a sharp decrease of 27.
- Meanwhile, 3 incidents of explosive fishing were reported, showing a decrease of 1 compared to May 2024.

Comments:

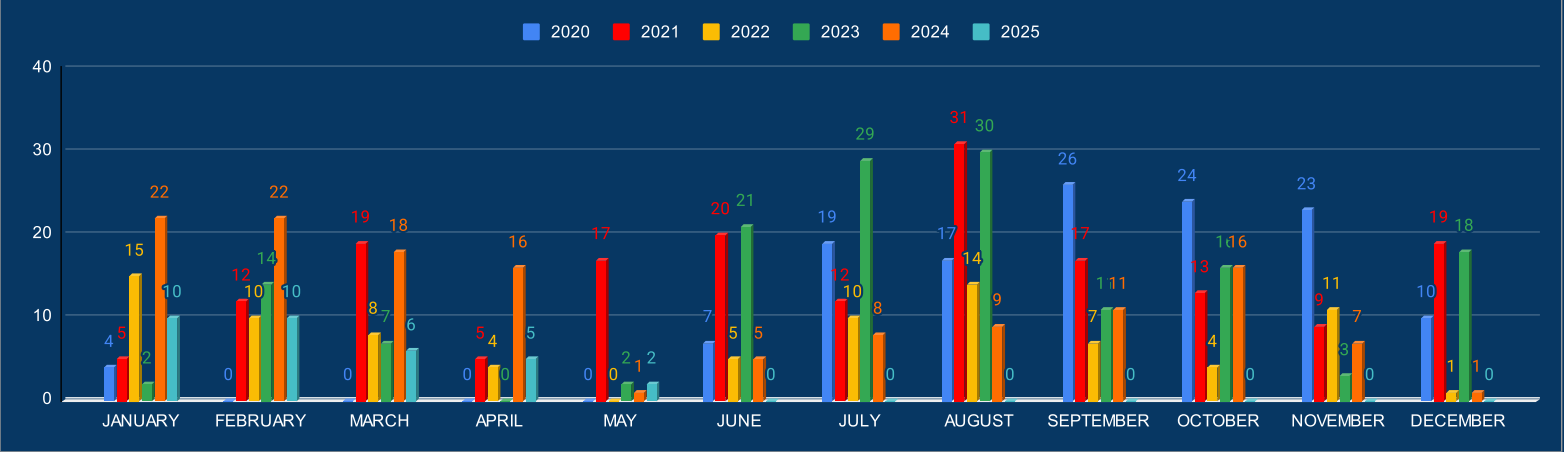
- Compared to May 2024, the use of illegal nets has increased, while incidents involving illegal methods and the harvesting of prohibited species have decreased.
- Notably, No incidents of violation of certificate conditions was reported in may 2025. Whereas such cases were reported in may 2024.





POACHING

NUMBER OF POACHING INCIDENTS (2020-2025)

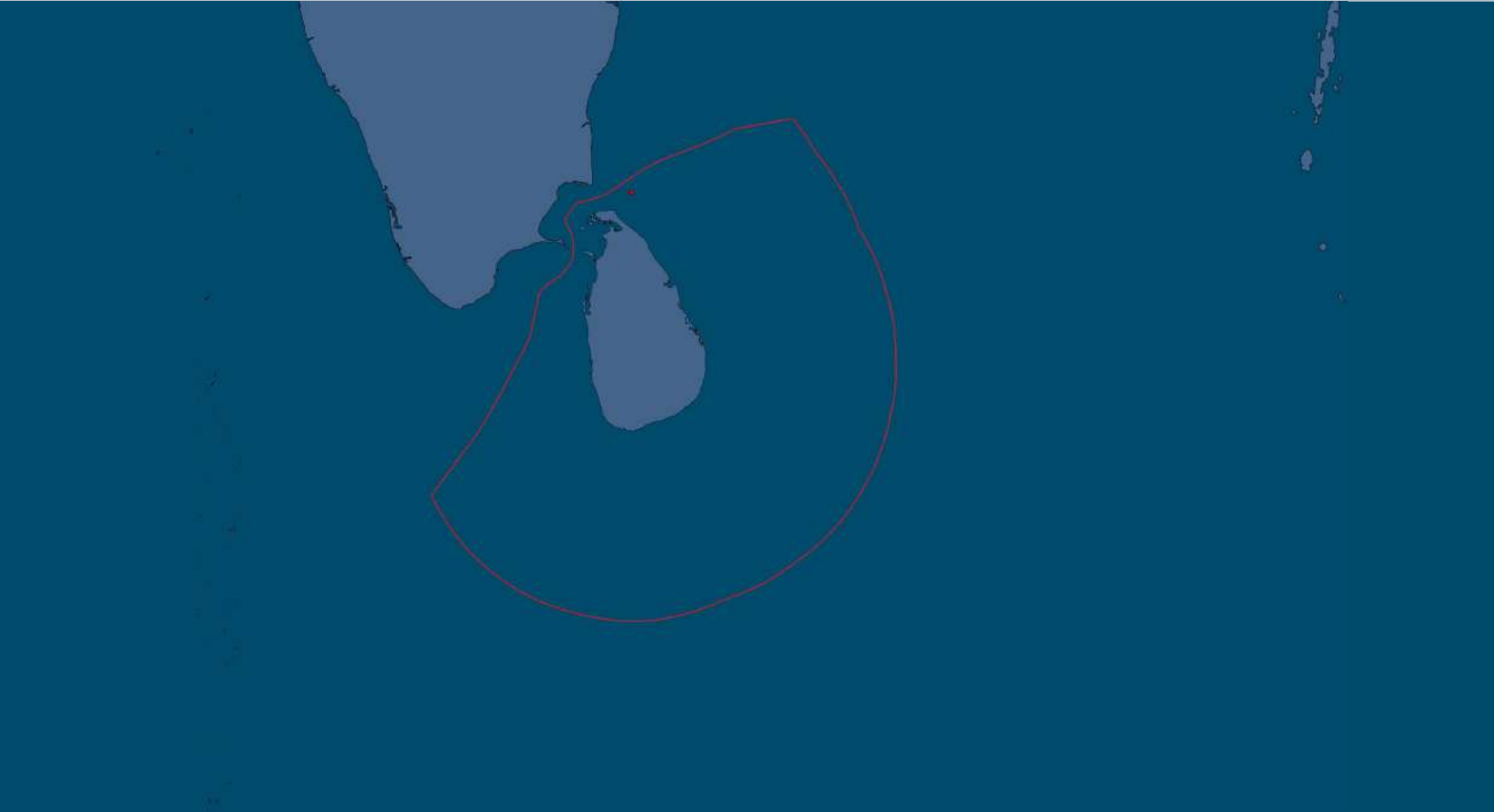
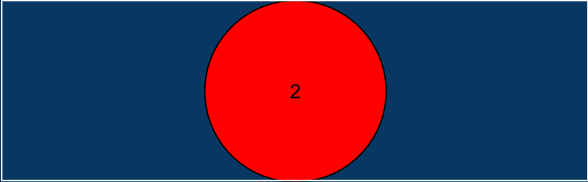


INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	MAY 2022	MAY 2023	MAY 2024	MAY 2025
Eastern Coast	0	0	0	0
Palk Strait	0	0	1	2
Gulf of Mannar	0	1	0	0
Palk Bay	0	1	0	0
Others	4	0	0	0

POACHING INCIDENTS – MAY 2025 SUMMARY

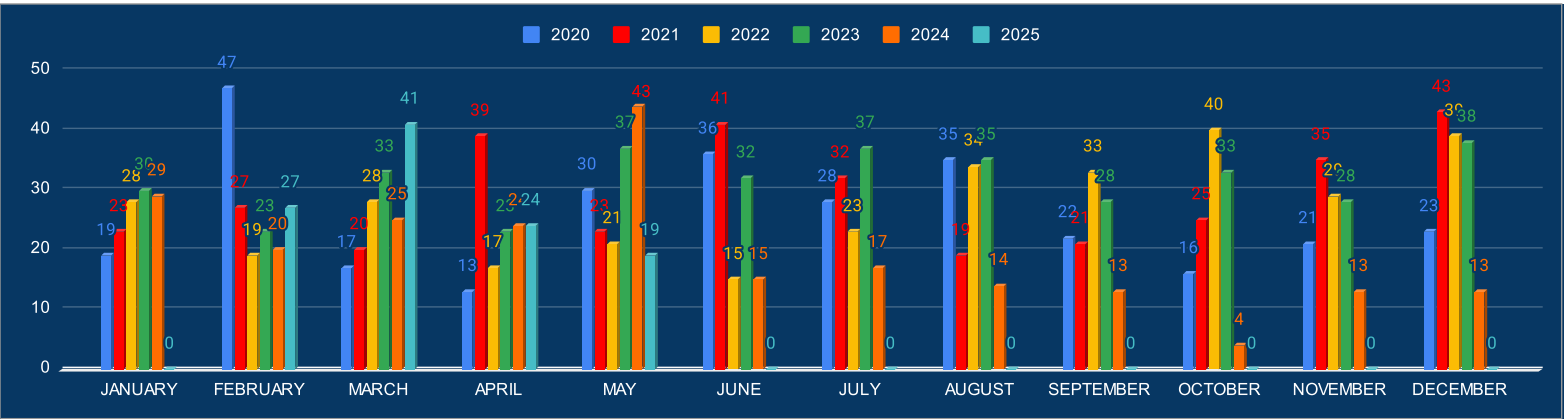
- Statistics:
- A total of 2 incidents were reported in the Palk Strait, reflecting an increase of 1 incident compared to May 2024.
- Comments:
- No incidents were reported in the Gulf of Mannar, Eastern Coast, Palk Bay, and other areas, same as May 2024.





MARITIME INCIDENTS

NUMBER OF MARITIME INCIDENTS (2020-2025)

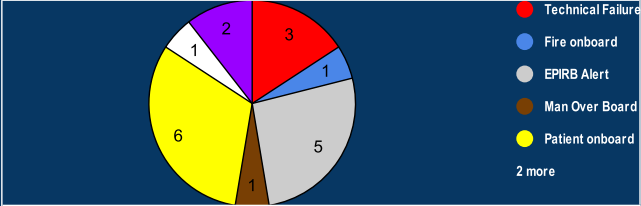


INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	MAY 2022	MAY 2023	MAY 2024	MAY 2025
Technical Failure	18	9	20	3
Fire onboard	0	0	0	1
EPIRB Alert	1	12	12	5
Man Over Board	0	0	0	1
Arrival Overdue	0	1	1	0
Capsized	0	2	1	0
Ground	0	0	0	0
Death	0	2	1	0
Patient onboard	2	5	3	6
Collision	0	0	0	0
No Communication	0	4	4	1
Other Incident	0	1	1	2

MARITIME INCIDENTS –MAY 2025 SUMMARY

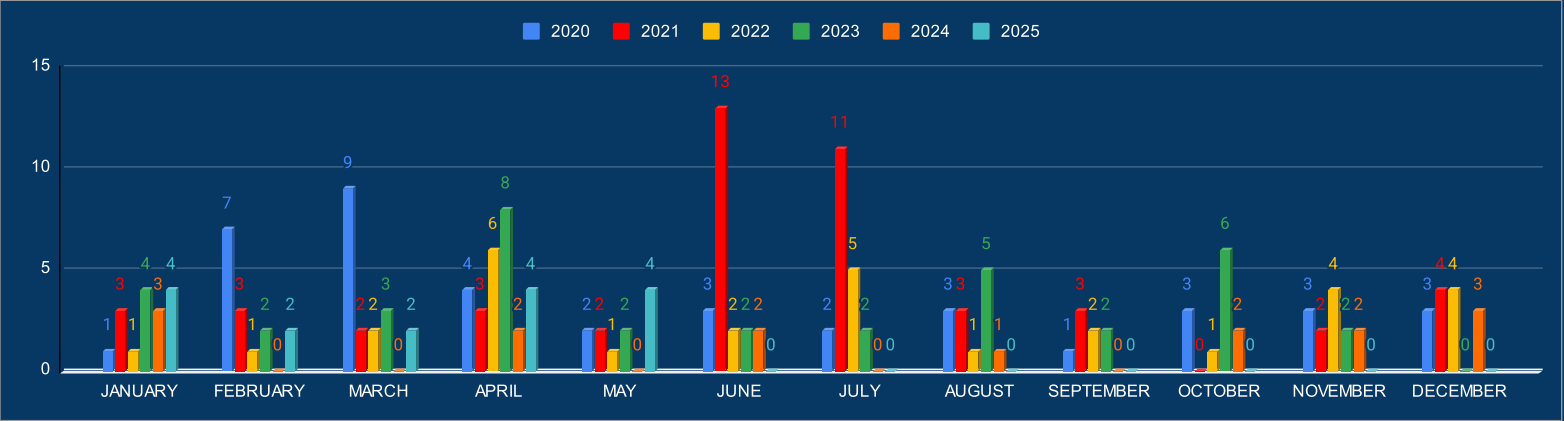
- Statistics:
- A total of 19 maritime incidents were reported in May 2025, reflecting a decrease of 24 compared to May 2024.
  - Among these, six incidents involved patients onboard, marking an increase of three, while no deaths were reported—a decrease of one from the previous year.
  - The reported incidents also included five EPIRB activations and one case categorized under fire onboard, man overboard, or no communication.
  - No incidents were reported under arrival overdue, grounding, capsizing, or collision.
- Comments
- The total number of incidents has slightly decreased compared to last year, with a noticeable rise in patient onboard cases. It is reassuring to note that no serious incidents, such as deaths, capsizing, or collisions, were reported.





DRUG SMUGGLING

NUMBER OF DRUG SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2025)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

Drug Type	MAY 2022	MAY 2023	MAY 2024	MAY 2025
Heroin	0	1	0	1
Kerala cannabis	1	0	0	0
Ice	0	0	0	1
Tablets	0	0	0	0
Hashish	0	1	0	0
Local cannabis	0	0	0	2

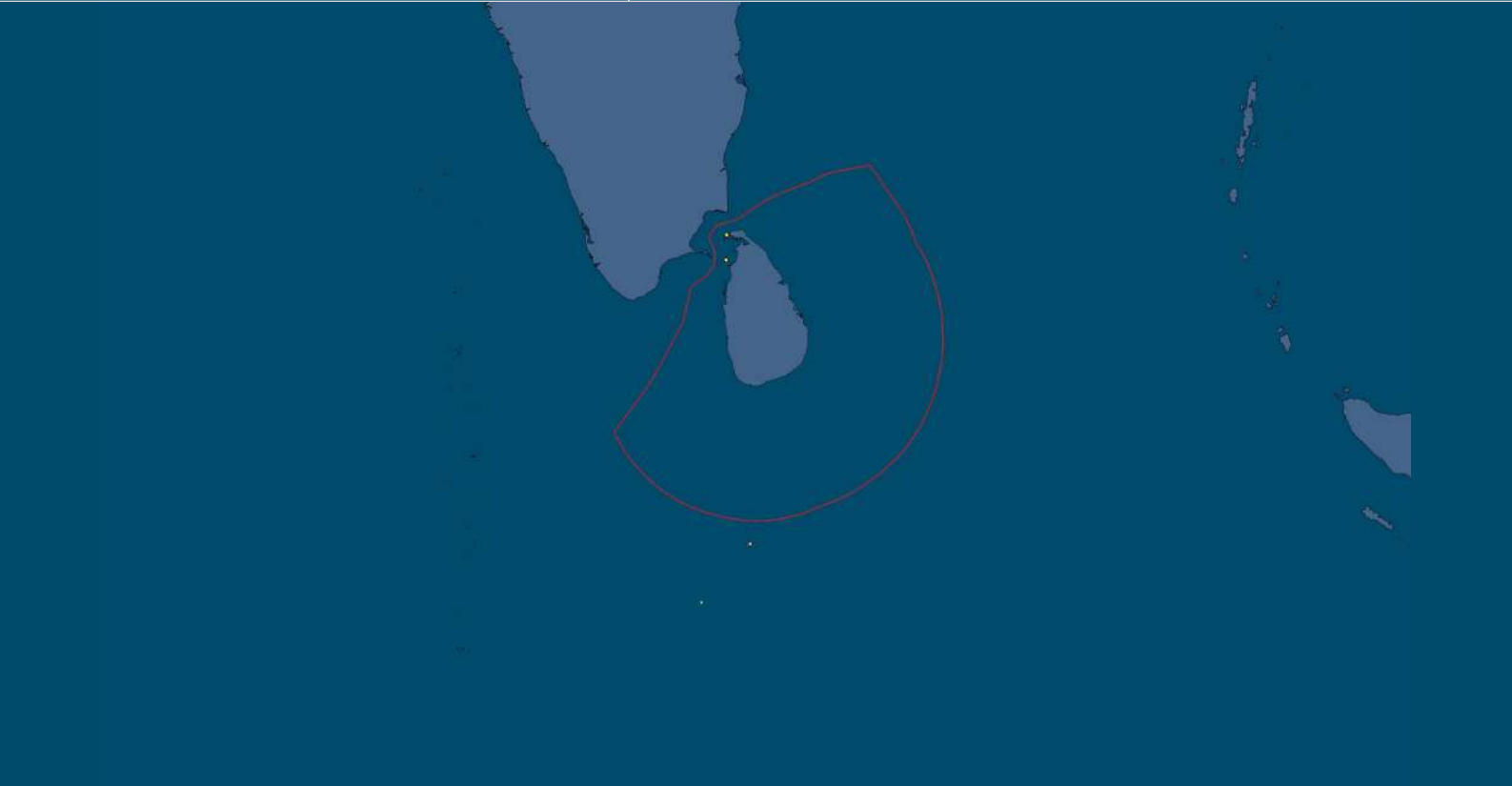
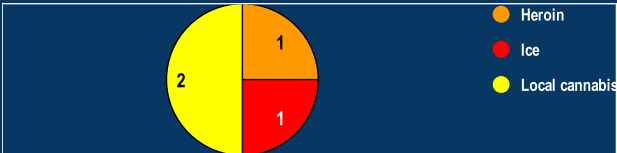
DRUG SMUGGLING INCIDENTS – MAY 2025 SUMMARY

Statistics:

- Four incidents of drug smuggling were reported in May 2025, marking an increase of four compared to May 2024.

Comments:

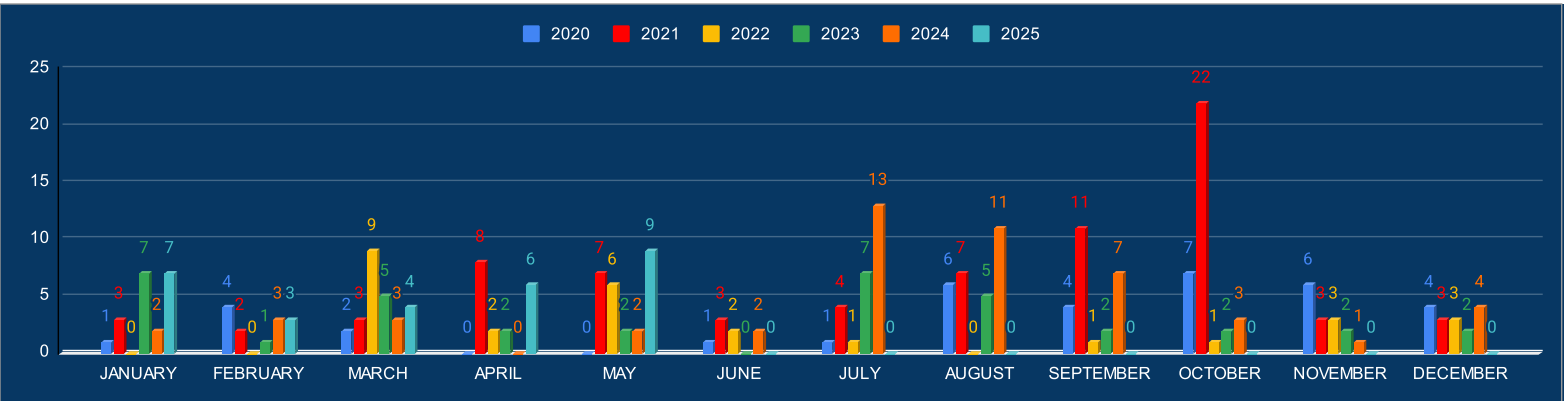
- These incidents involved local cannabis, ICE, and heroin, indicating a broader range of narcotics compared to the previous year.





CONTRABAND SMUGGLING

NUMBER OF CONTRABAND SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2025)

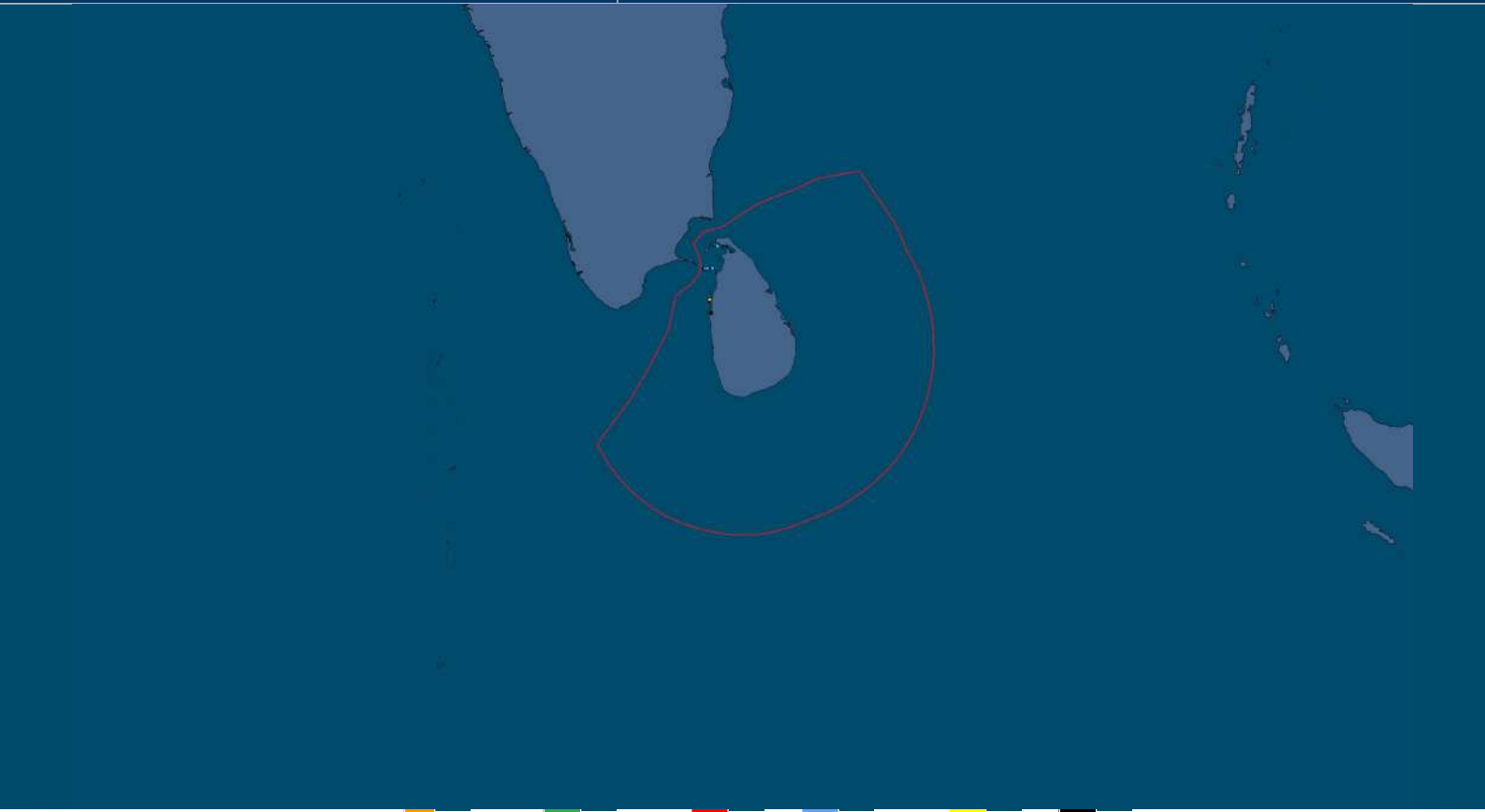
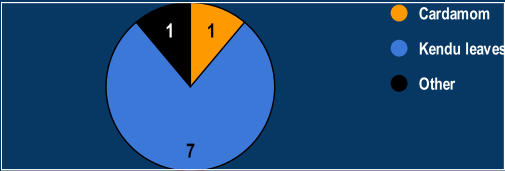


INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	MAY 2022	MAY 2023	MAY 2024	MAY 2025
Cardamom	0	0	0	1
Glyphosate	0	0	0	0
Gold	1	0	0	0
Kendu leaves	1	2	2	7
Other	4	0	0	1
Turmeric	0	0	0	0

CONTRABAND SMUGGLING INCIDENTS – MAY 2025 SUMMARY

- Statistics:
- Nine incidents of contraband smuggling were reported in May 2025, marking an increase of seven compared to May 2024.
  - Among these, one incident involved cardamom, while seven incidents were related to kenda leaves.
  - No incidents were reported involving glyphosate, gold, or turmeric.
- Comments:
- The focus of smuggling appears to have shifted toward agricultural products, with cardamom and kendu leaves being the most frequently smuggled items, indicating a rising trend.
  - This aligns with the seasonal pattern, as kendu leaf smuggling typically peaks around this time each year.



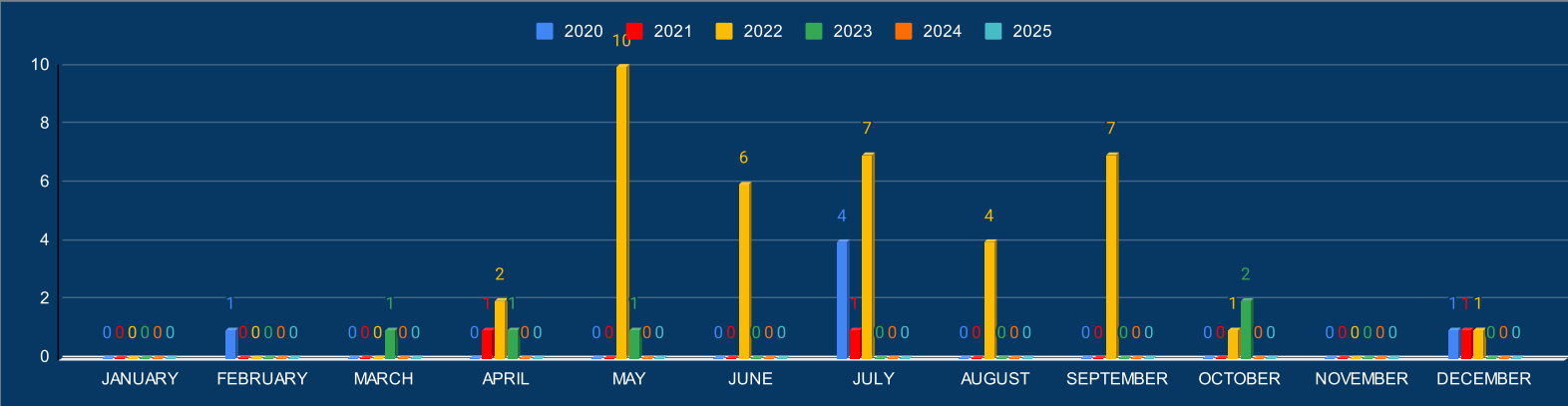


# IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

## MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP MAY 2025

### HUMAN SMUGGLING

NUMBER OF HUMAN SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2025)



#### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	MAY 2022	MAY 2023	MAY 2024	MAY 2025
Human Smuggling	10	1	0	0

#### HUMAN SMUGGLING INCIDENTS – MAY 2025 SUMMARY

NO INCIDENTS





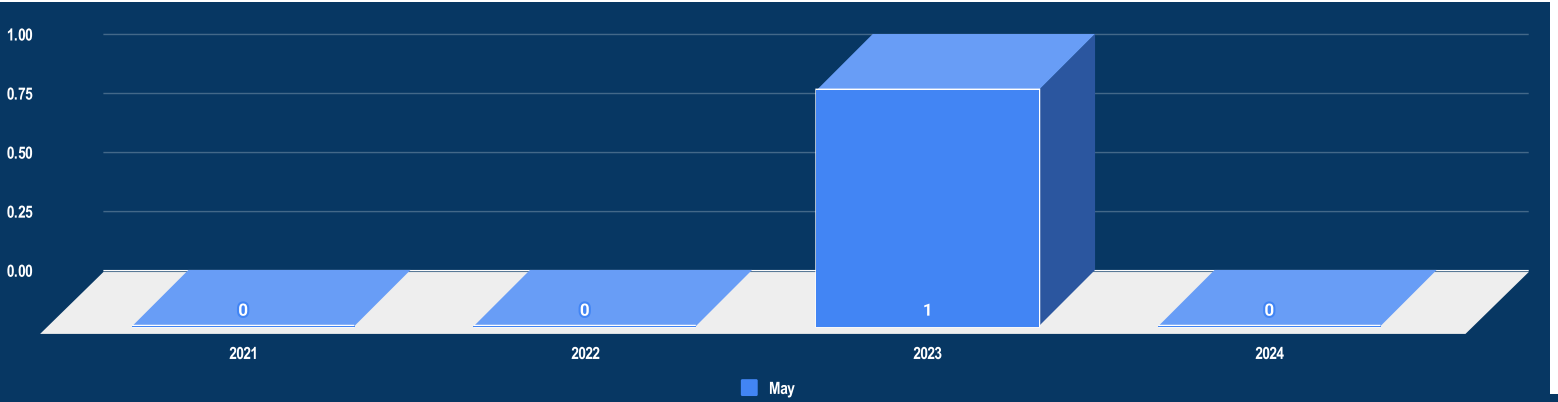


# IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

## MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP MAY 2025

### EXPLOSIVE AND FIREARMS

NUMBER OF EXPLOSIVE & FIREARMS INCIDENTS (2020-2025)



#### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	MAY 2022	MAY 2023	MAY 2024	MAY 2025
Water Gel Sticks	0	1	0	0

#### EXPLOSIVE AND FIREARMS INCIDENTS – MAY 2025 SUMMARY

NO INCIDENTS





# IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – MAY 2025

### **Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing:**

Compared to May 2024, the use of illegal nets has increased, while incidents involving illegal methods and the harvesting of prohibited species have decreased. Notably, no incidents of explosive fishing or violation of certification conditions were reported in May 2025, whereas such cases were recorded in May 2024.

**Poaching:** A total of 2 incidents were reported in the Palk Strait, reflecting an increase of 1 incident compared to May 2024.

**Maritime Incidents:** The total number of incidents has slightly decreased compared to last year, with a noticeable rise in patient onboard cases. It is reassuring to note that no serious incidents, such as deaths, capsizing, or collisions, were reported.

**Drug Smuggling:** Four incidents of drug smuggling were reported in May 2025, marking an increase of four compared to May 2024. These incidents involved local cannabis, ICE, and heroin, indicating a broader range of narcotics compared to the previous year.

**Contraband Smuggling:** The focus of smuggling appears to have shifted toward agricultural products, with cardamom and kendu leaves being the most frequently smuggled items, indicating a rising trend. This aligns with the seasonal pattern, as kendu leaf smuggling typically peaks around this time each year.

**Human Smuggling:** No incidents of human smuggling were reported in May 2025, maintaining stability in this category.

**Explosive and Firearms Smuggling:** No incidents of explosive and firearms smuggling were reported in May 2025, maintaining stability in this category.

**Overall Analysis:** In May 2025, maritime security trends revealed a mixed picture across various categories. While the overall number of incidents slightly declined compared to May 2024, certain areas saw notable increases. Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing remains a concern, particularly with a rise in the use of illegal nets. However, positive signs emerged with a decrease in incidents related to illegal methods, harvesting of prohibited species, and the absence of explosive fishing or certification violations. Similarly, maritime safety showed improvement, with no reports of deaths, capsizing, or collisions, despite a slight rise in patient onboard cases. Poaching activity in the Palk Strait rose modestly, with two incidents reported—one more than the previous year.

Smuggling activities reflected shifting patterns, especially toward agricultural contraband. Nine contraband smuggling cases were reported, primarily involving kendu leaves and cardamom, which aligns with seasonal trends. Drug smuggling incidents increased to four, involving local cannabis, ICE, and heroin, indicating a broader narcotics footprint compared to 2024. Encouragingly, no incidents of human smuggling or explosive and firearms smuggling were reported in May 2025.