

WEEKLY MARITIME INCIDENT UPDATE

Information Fusion Center-Colombo

+34.23



Information Fusion Center
Colombo
Sri Lanka

Week 12

From 2026.03.23 TO 2026.03.29



SUMMARY OF THE WEEK 12

Executive Summary

Global Maritime Incidents

• Maritime incident	:-	11
• Piracy and Armed Robbery	:-	02
• Smuggling	:-	02
• IUU Fishing	:-	03
• Narcotics	:-	02
• Irregular Human Migration	:-	02
• Maritime Environment Pollution	:-	00
• Other Incidents	:-	01

Total Maritime Incidents 23

Global Weather Incident

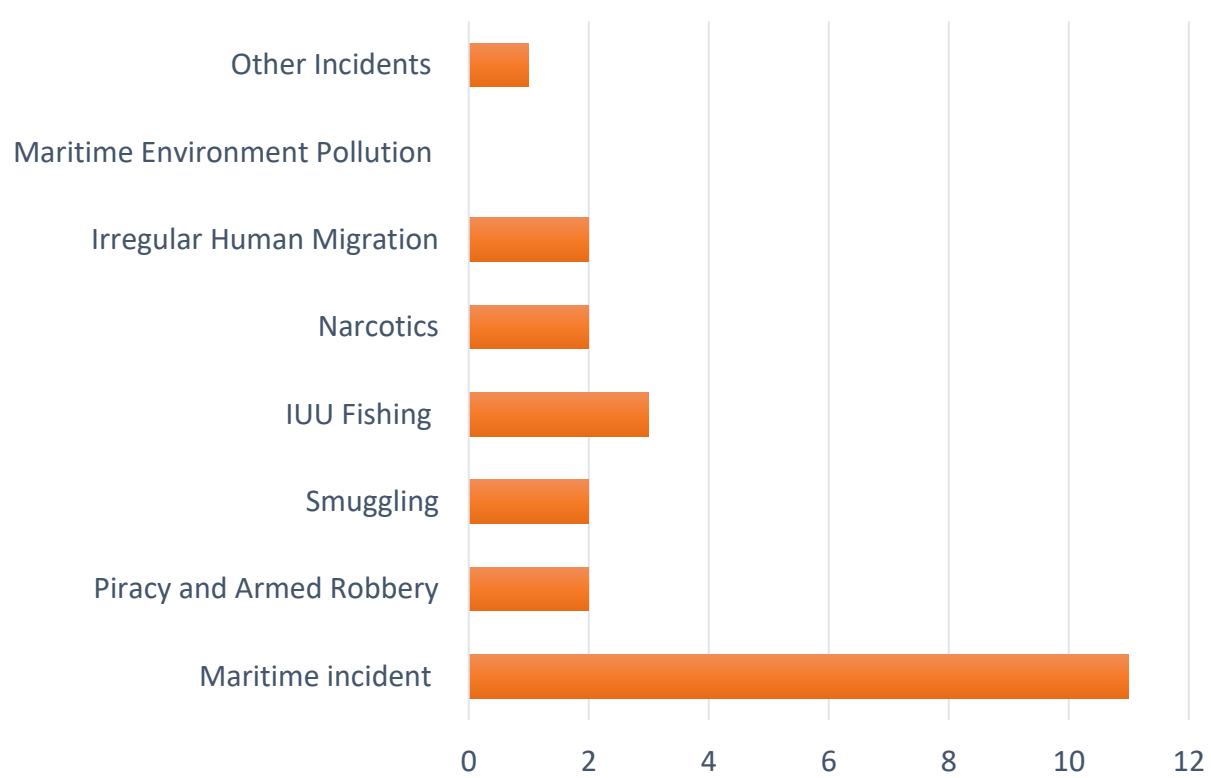
• Tropical Cyclone	:-	02
• Earthquake	:-	05

Total Weather Incidents 07

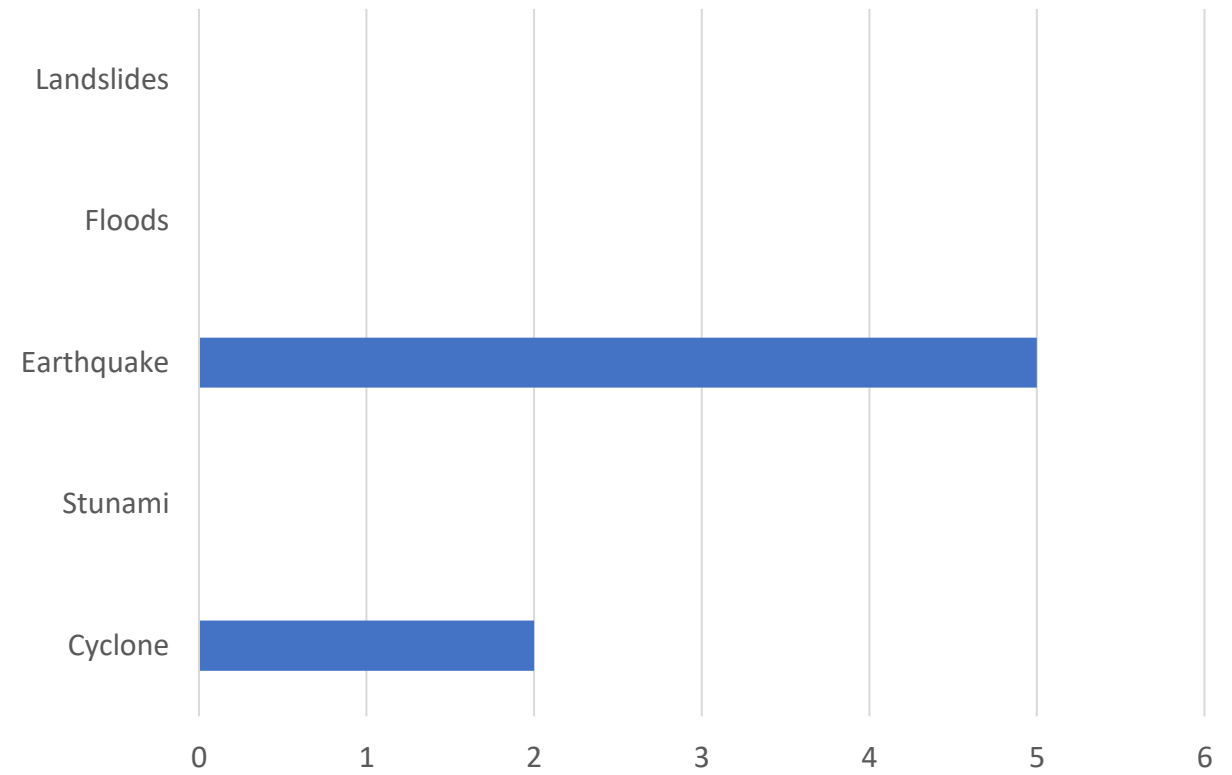


STATISTICS

Maritime Incidents

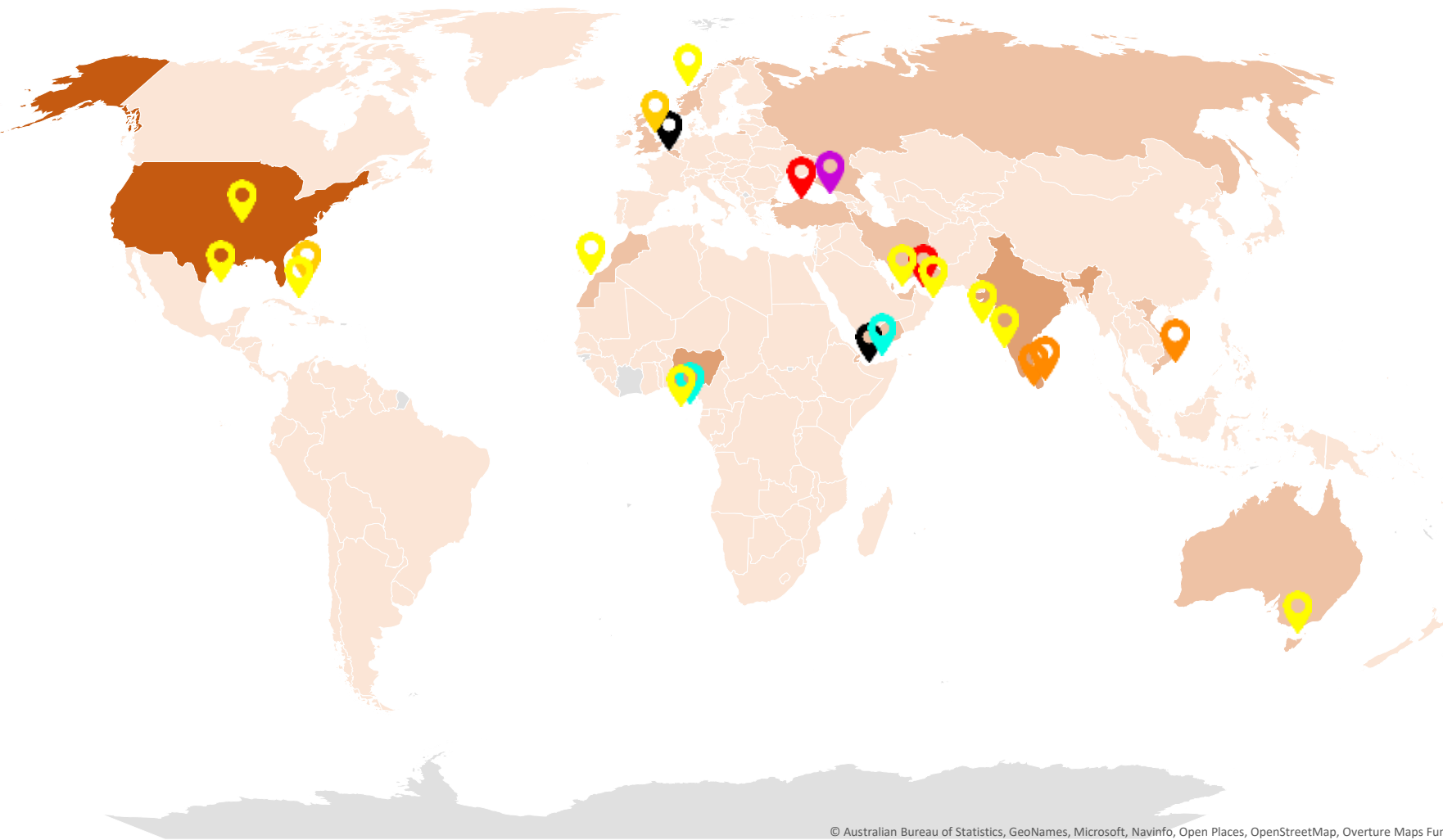


Weather Incidents





STRATEGIC OVERVIEW



CATEGORY	NO
Maritime Incidents	11
Piracy & Armed Robbery	02
Smuggling	02
IUU Fishing	03
Narcotic	02
Irregular Human Migration	02
Maritime Environment Pollution	00
Other	01

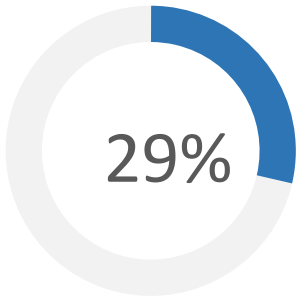
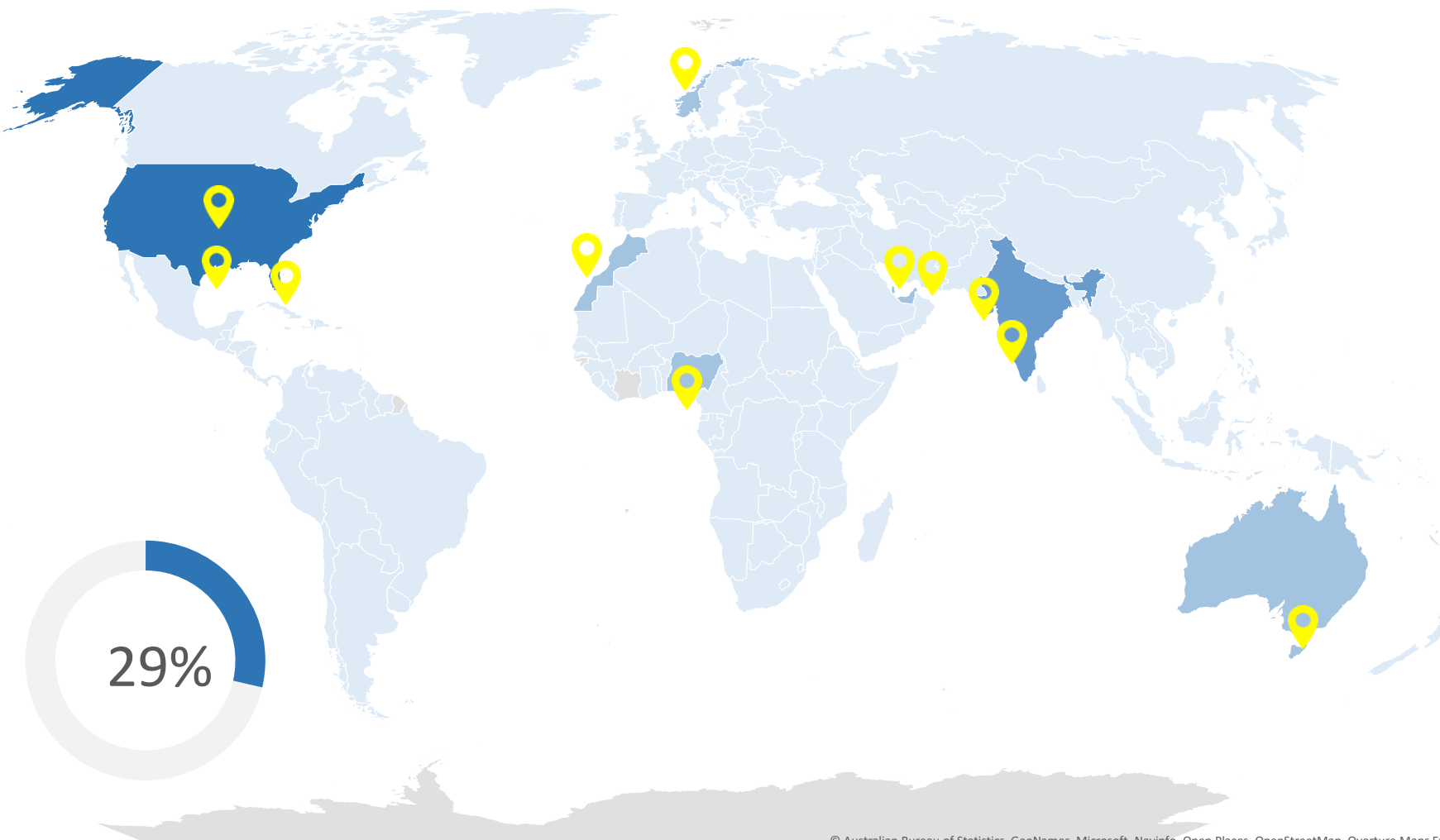
Total Incidents

23

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MARITIME INCIDENTS



COUNTRY /REGION	NO
Australia	01
India	02
Morocco	01
Nigeria	01
Norway	01
Qatar	01
United Arab Emirates	01
United States	03

Total Incidents

11

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MARITIME INCIDENTS

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.21	Australia	Off Tasmania	Search and Rescue (SAR)	Boat	The Trio were wearing life jackets, but the body of a 36-year-old was found on the eastern side of Robbins Island, according to police.
2026.03.21	India	Mundra Port	Collisions	Name: MSC ALEXANDRA Type: Cargo - Hazard A (Major) IMO: 9461374	The trio were wearing life jackets, but the body of a 36-year-old was found on the eastern side of Robbins Island, according to police.
2026.03.22	Qatar	Territorial Waters	Search and Rescue (SAR)	-	The Ministry of Interior is conducting search and rescue operations in the country's territorial waters after a reported helicopter crash, according to the Ministry of Defense.
2026.03.22	United Arab Emirates	Coast of Sharjah	Fire/Folding/Explosion	Bulk carrier	The incident underscores rising security risks for maritime trade in the UAE coastal waters, especially the Strait of Hormuz, a key area for global shipping. Recent years have seen multiple similar attacks amid escalating tensions in the Middle East, primarily targeting international vessels and prompting concerns over the safety of regional maritime routes
2026.03.24	Nigeria	Bayelsa State.	Collisions	Patrol boat and Wooden boat	The Nigerian Navy has launched a search-and-rescue operation following a collision between a Tantita patrol boat and a wooden market boat along the Ogboinbiri waterways in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.
2026.03.23	USA	Arthur Port	Fire/Folding/Explosion	-	An explosion and fire occurred at Valero's refinery in Port Arthur, Texas, on 23 March 26, prompting local authorities to issue a shelter-in-place advisory for nearby residents. There were no reported casualties.

- Source -: <https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/world-news-search-and-rescue-operations-underway-after-helicopter-crash-in-territorial-waters-in-qatar-7363635.html/amp>
- Source -: <https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/massive-explosion-near-sharjah-sends-shockwaves-through-uae-waters-crew-safe-authorities-issue-urgent-warning/>
- Source -: <https://www.9news.com.au/national/tasmania-montagu-four-people-missing-fishing-trip/368fb49a-8211-460e-a932-7add80ae227b>
- Source -: <https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/maritime-news/14/accidents/2026/12/85/cargo-vessel-allides-with-jetty-after-mooring-lines-snap-ami>
- Source -: <https://www.tvcnews.tv/navy-rescues-seven-after-boat-collision-in-bayelsa/>
- Source -: <https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/maritime-news/14/accidents/2026/12/88/explosion-and-fire-strike-valeros-large-refinery-in-port-art>





MARITIME INCIDENTS

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.23	USA	Myers Beach.	Capsizing /Sinking	Boat	The Lee County Sheriff's Office is handling the investigation into the flipped boat. The boat remains in the water and is visible from the Gateway Villas.
2026.03.23	USA	Mississippi River	Collisions	Name- African Buzzard Flag- Bahamas Name- Pac Dubhe Flag- Singapore	The Coast Guard reported no injuries to crew members or environmental impact from the collision and confirmed that the Mississippi River is open for inland traffic.
2026.03.24	Norway	West of the Halten Bank	Grounding/Standi ng Collisions	Name- LMZ Pluto Flag- Marshall Islands	On the night of 26 March, the Norwegian Coast Guard vessel KV Jarl arrived to assist a drifting vessel, which, according to Hans Petter Mortensholm, the Director of Environmental Preparedness, posed a risk of drifting northwards toward an offshore oil installation.
2026.03.25	Morocco	Coast Of Dakhla	Search and Rescue (SAR)	Trawler Miss Dakar 2	Naval and air units are engaged in the operation, and an investigation is underway to ascertain the details of the maritime accident.
2026.03.26	India	Kapu coast in Udupi.	Capsizing /Sinking	Fishing Vessel	The local boat overturned due to an impact, resulting in two fishermen being thrown into the sea. One has been rescued, while search operations continue for the missing fisherman.

Source -: https://www.winknews.com/news/lee/deputies-rescue-11-people-from-flipped-pontoon-boat-in-fort-myers-beach-2-injuries-reported/article_f6c76480-79f5-44bd-b200-7da21ac95025.html
 Source -: <https://www.mangaloretoday.com/main/Udupi-Fisherman-missing-after-boat-capsizes-in-alleged-Tamil-Nadu-vessel-collision.html>
 Source -: <https://www.theweek.in/news/maritime/2026/03/26/us-coast-guard-responds-after-freighter-bulk-carrier-collision-in-mississippi-river-all-you-need-to-know.amp.html>
 Source -: <https://en.yabiladi.com/articles/details/191047/five-fishermen-missing-dakhla-after.html>
 Source -: <https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/maritime-news/14/accidents/2026/12799/bulk-carrier-adrift-in-norwegian-sea-as-authorities-prepare->

PIRACY & ARMED ROBBERY



COUNTRY /REGION		NO
	Iran	01
	Turkey	01

Total Incidents

02

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PIRACY & ARMED ROBBERY

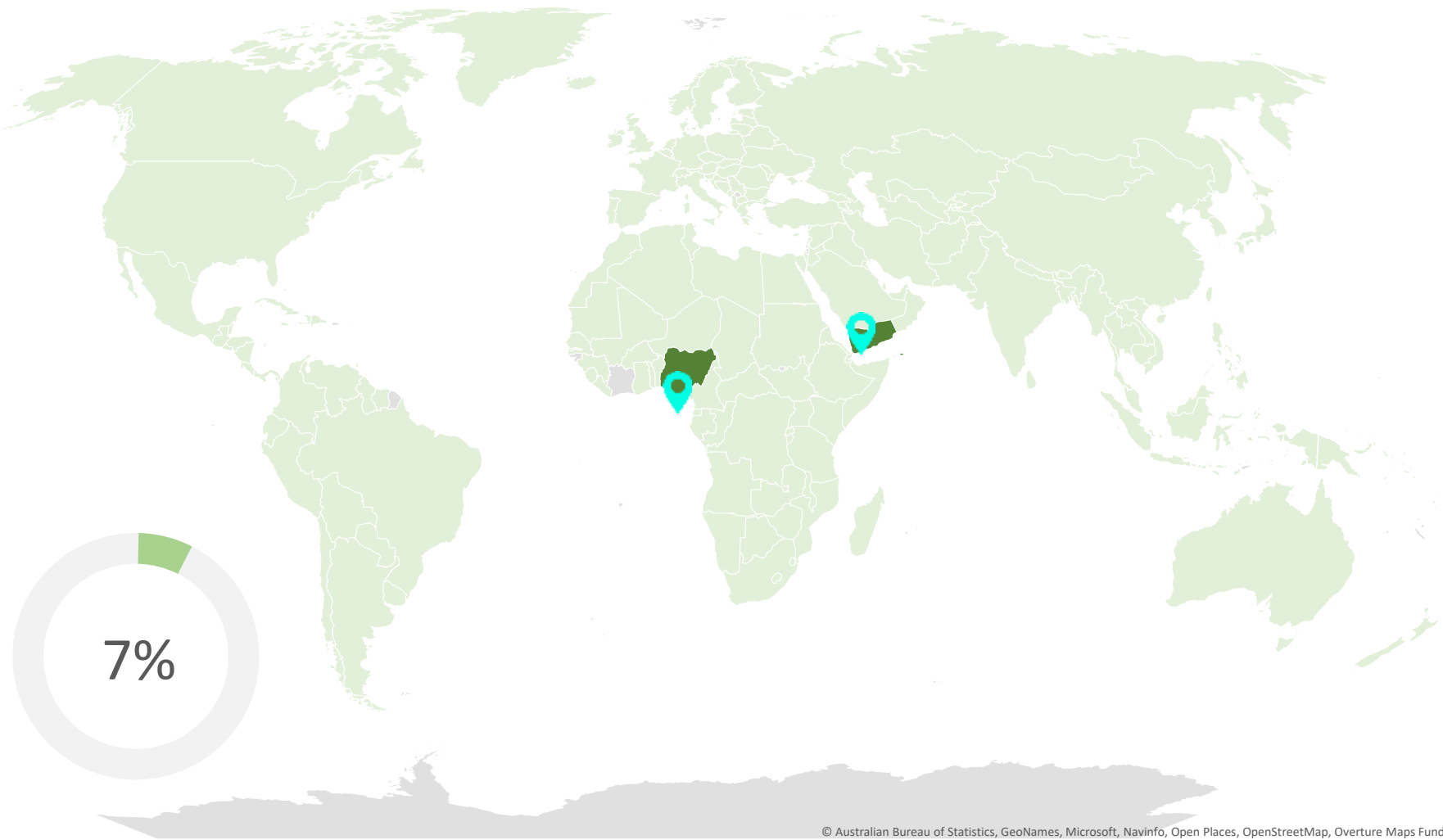
INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.26	Turkey	Black Sea	Assault violations	Name – Altura Type – Tanker Flag - Sierra Leone	The oil tanker 'Altura' was struck by a drone approximately 15 nautical miles off Istanbul's Bosphorus strait, but all 27 crew members are safe.
2026.03.27	Iran	Strait of Hormuz	Assault violations	Thai-flagged cargo vessel	Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman Panidone Pachimsawat announced that an Omani-Iranian rescue team has arrived at the vessel and is actively trying to find the missing sailors, whose condition remains unknown.

Source -: <https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/turkey-oil-tanker-russian-crude-hit-black-sea-crew-unharmed-iran-war-2887300-2026-03-26>

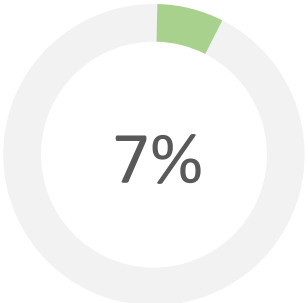
Source -: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-03-27/iran-hit-thai-ship-drifts-ashore-in-hormuz-crew-still-missing>



SMUGGLING



COUNTRY /REGION		NO
	Nigeria	01
	Yemen	01



Total Incidents

02

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SMUGGLING

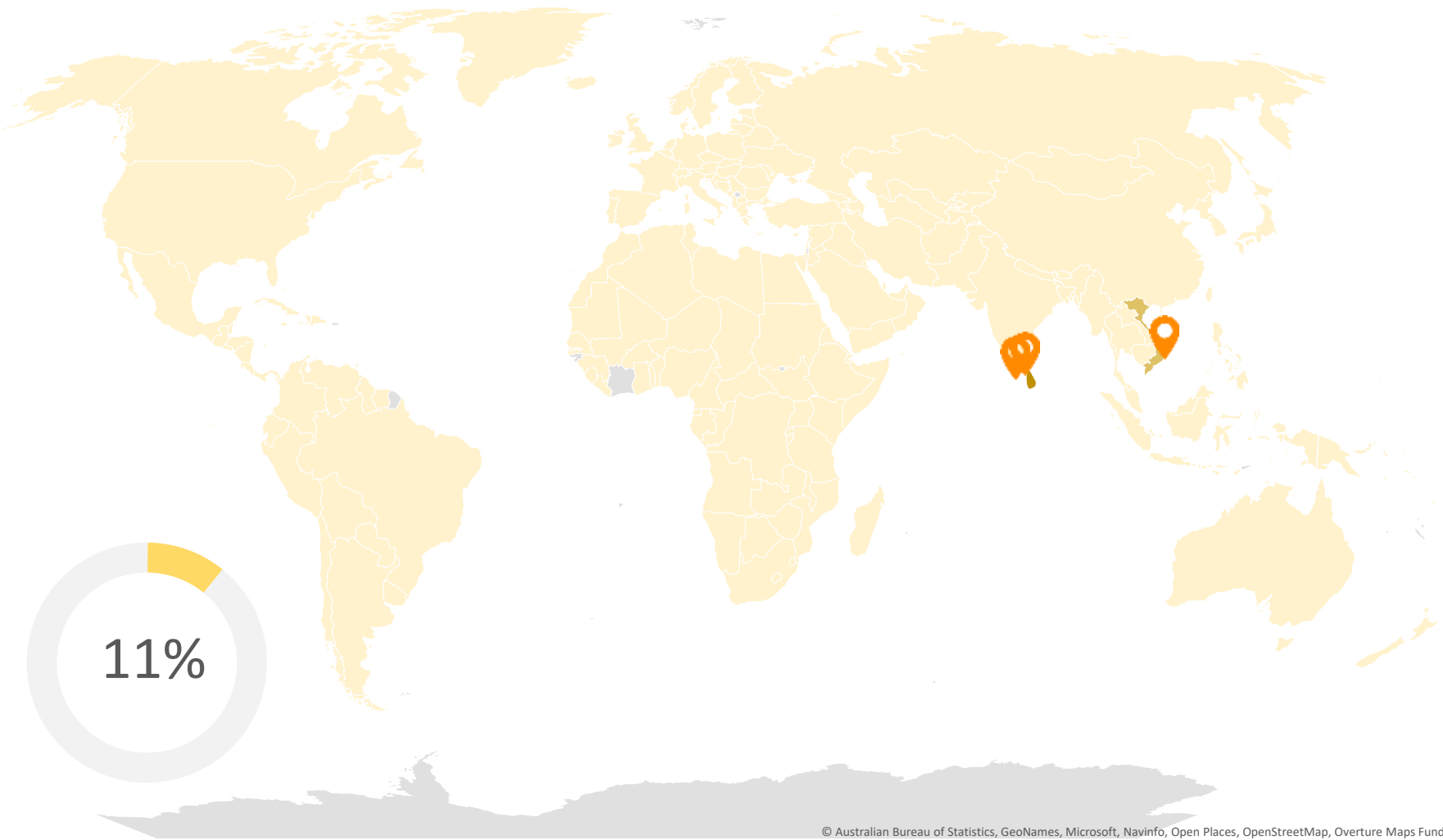
INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.23	Nigeria	Rivers State	Contraband /Goods smuggling	-	A subsequent search led to the discovery of 423 sacks of suspected illegally refined AGO, each containing 106 litres, bringing the total haul to approximately 44,000 litres.
2026.03.25	Yemen	Near Bab al-Mandab	Contraband /Goods smuggling		The vessel departed from Bandar Abbas on 12 Mar 26, en route to Al-Salif port in the Al-Hudaydah Governorate, controlled by Houthi forces.

Source -: <https://www.tvcnews.tv/navy-nabs-eight-oil-thieves-in-rivers-seizes-44000-litres-of-diesel/>

Source -: https://www.marineinsight.com/southern-giants-forces-seize-iran-linked-smuggling-vessel-near-bab-al-mandab-arrest-10-crew/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=southern-giants-forces-seize-iran-linked-smuggling-vessel-near-bab-al-mandab-arrest-10-crew



IUU FISHING



	COUNTRY /REGION	NO
	Sri Lanka	02
	Vietnam	01

Total Incidents

03

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IUU FISHING

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03. 03 to 18	Sri Lanka	Island's waters	Illegal fishing apparatus /Illegal Methods	Fishing Boat	The apprehended individuals and unauthorized items were transferred to relevant authorities including the Iluppukadawai Police Special Task Force, Fisheries Inspectors in multiple locations, and the Coast Guard in Galle.
2026.03.20	Sri Lanka	Mannar	Illegal fishing apparatus /Illegal Methods	-	The apprehended suspects, aged 21 to 43 and residents of Mannar, along with the sea cucumbers, dinghy, and diving gear, were handed over to the Assistant Directorate of Fisheries in Mannar for investigation and legal proceedings.
2026.03.22	Vietnam	Halong Bay	Illegal Methods	One Fishing Boat	Authorities have drawn up a report and impounded the vessel for further handling in line with regulations.

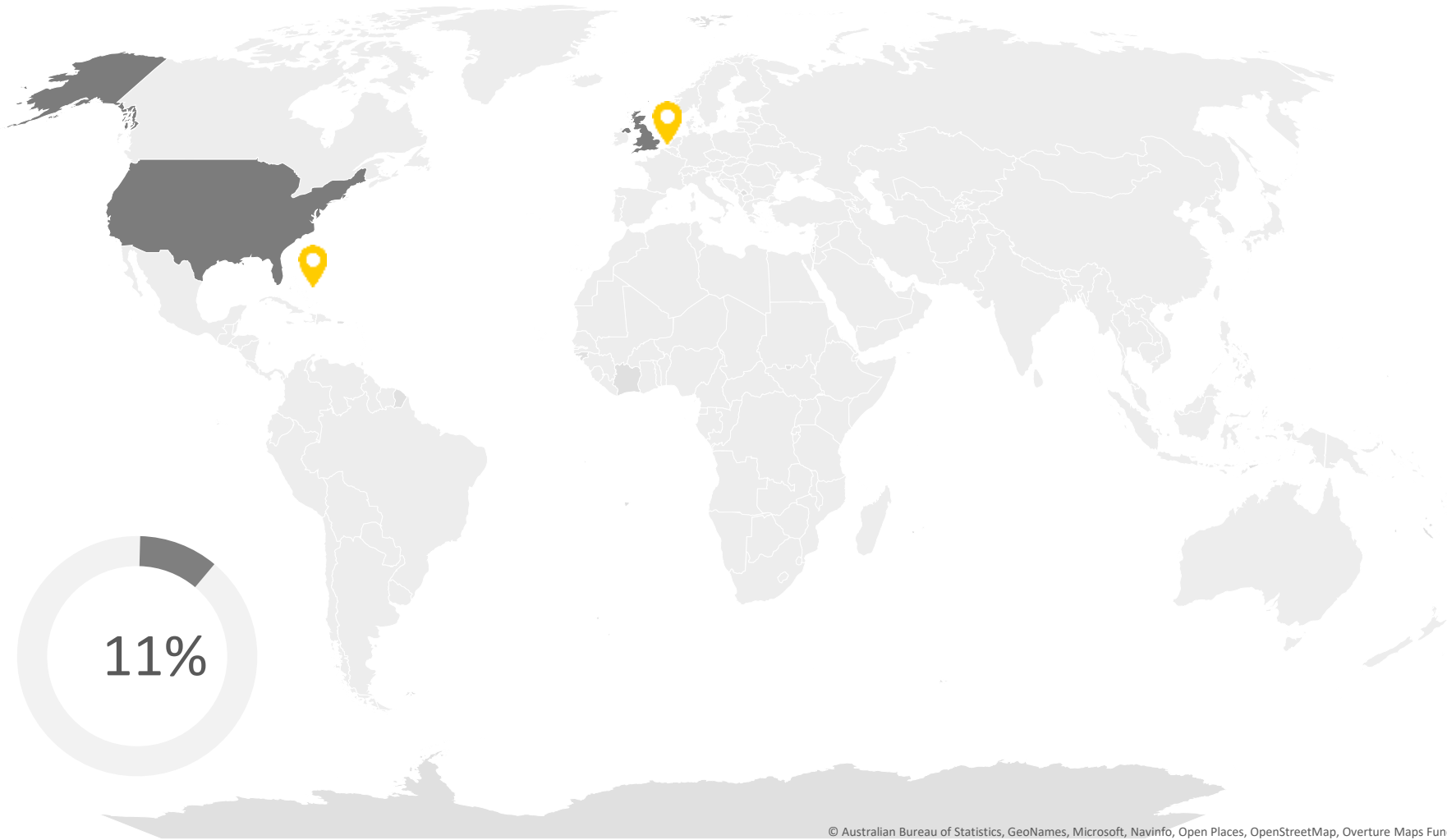
Source -: <https://news.navy.lk/operation-news/2026/03/20/202603201600/>



Source -: <https://news.navy.lk/operation-news/2026/03/23/202603231430/>

Source -: <https://dtinews.dantri.com.vn/vietnam-today/illegal-squid-fishing-boat-with-passengers-stopped-in-halong-bay-20260324193507601.htm>



NARCOTIC



COUNTRY /REGION	NO
 United Kingdom	01
 United States	01

Total Incidents

02

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NARCOTIC

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.23	USA	Puerto Rico	Sea based Drugs Trafficking /crystal methamphetamine/cocaine	One Boat	At the end of last year, CBP said its officers seized almost 1,000 pounds of cocaine from a cargo trailer, also in San Juan.
2026.03.25	United Kingdom	London Gateway Port	Seizure of narcotics	-	Authorities are investigating an undisclosed vessel connected to drug cartels to determine the final destination of the consignment.

Source -: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/police-find-12-million-cocaine-smuggling-boat-puerto-rico/>
Source -: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/police-intercept-110m-cocaine-at-london-gateway-port>



IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION



	COUNTRY /REGION	NO
	Belgium	01
	Djibouti	01

Total Incidents

02

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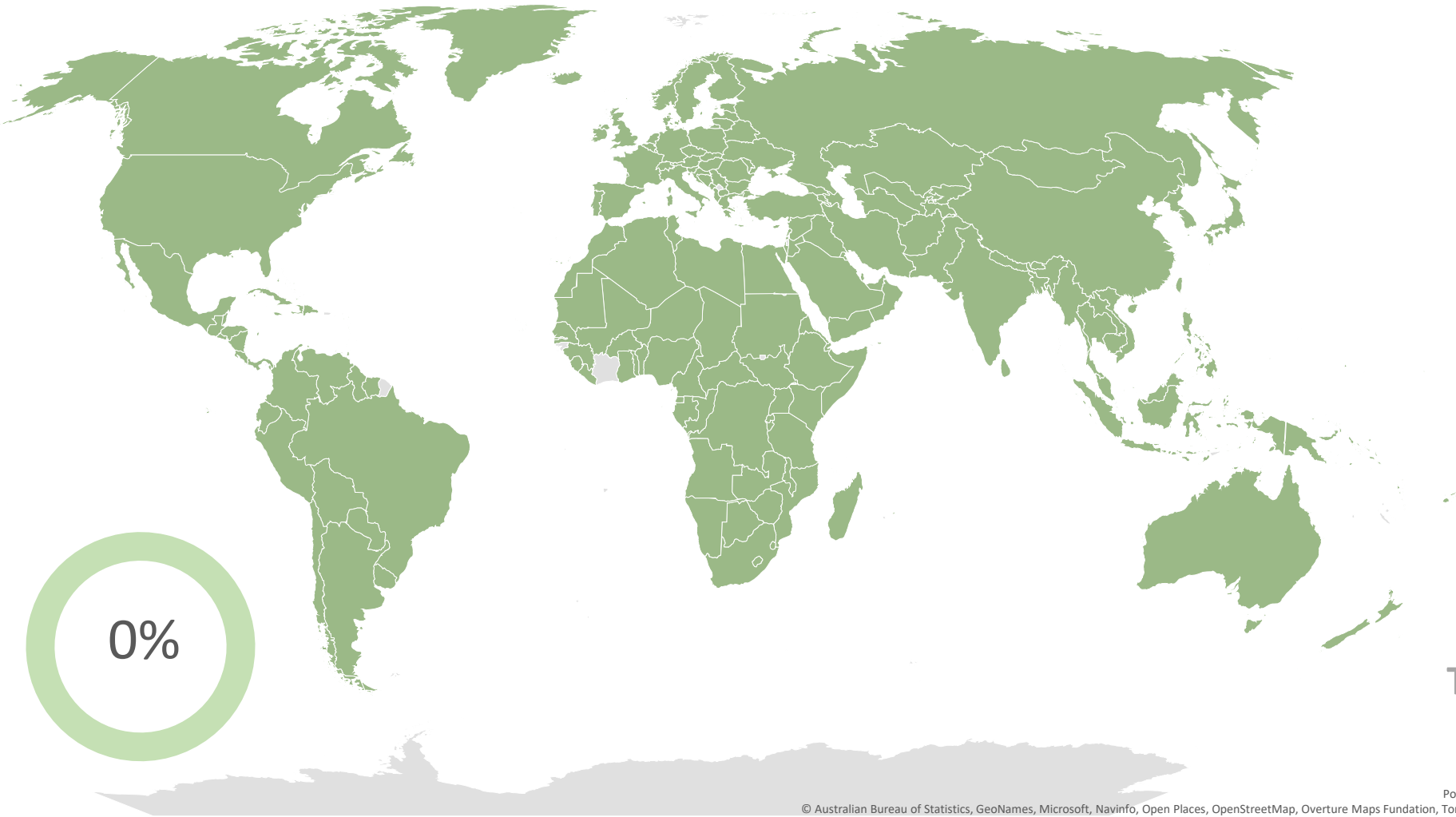
IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.20	Belgium	English Channel	Failed Broader crossing	One Boat	Government figures show 522 migrants arrived in nine boats across the Channel between 18 and 20 March.
2026.03.27	Djibouti	Near Bab al-Mandab	Illegal Migrants boats capsizing	Migrant Boat	The tragedy is part of a series of shipwrecks between the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, leading to the deaths of thousands of migrants escaping conflict and poverty in hopes of reaching wealthy Gulf Arab nations.

Source -: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cq59epqy8d4o>

Source -: <https://www.euronews.com/2026/03/27/at-least-nine-dead-and-45-missing-after-migrant-boat-sinks-off-djibouti-iom-says>

MARITIME ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION



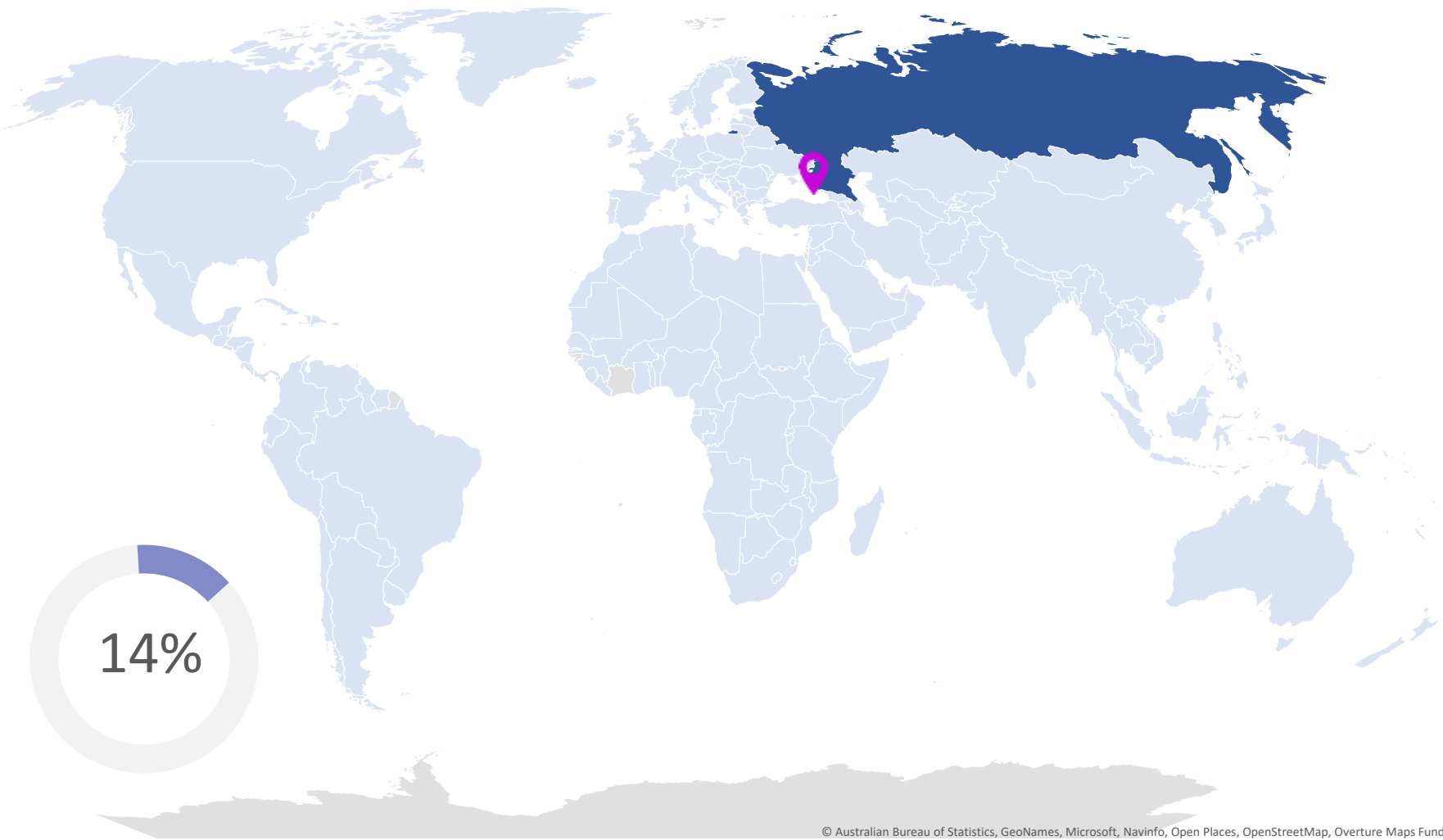
Total Incidents

0

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OTHER



	COUNTRY /REGION	NO
	Russia	01

Total Incidents

01

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OTHER

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.23	Russia	Primorsk Port	Other Military /Coastguard activities	Name - PRIMORSK	Ukraine's military confirmed the strike on an oil terminal at Primorsk, as part of its ongoing attacks on Russia's ports, oil terminals, and infrastructure to weaken the Russian war economy..

Source -: <https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/maritime-news/15/maritime-security/2026/12789/russias-primorsk-port-targeted-by-drones-exports-suspended>



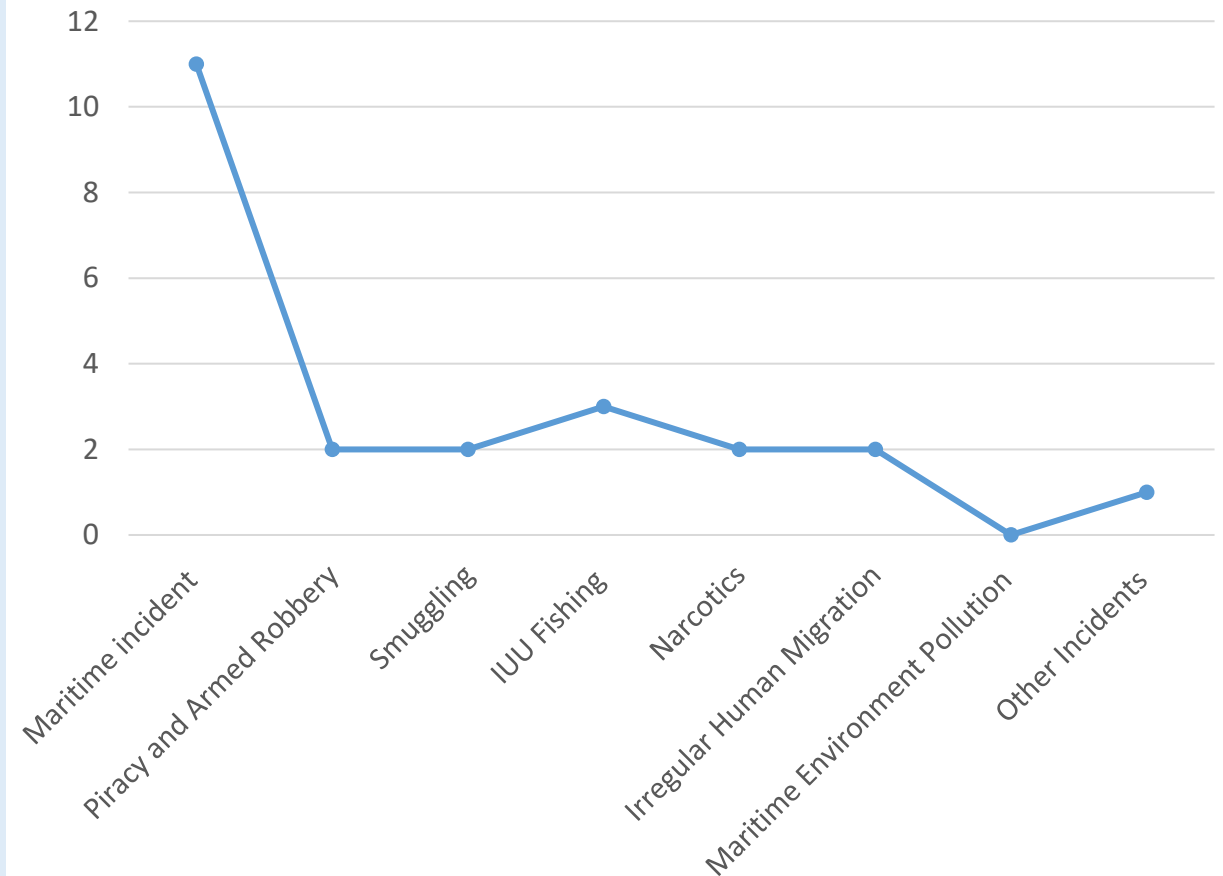
WEEKLY ANALYSIS

During the week, 37 maritime incidents were recorded globally, reflecting a combination of maritime safety issues and security-related threats. Among these, 10 maritime incidents involved vessel capsizing, grounding, collisions, fires, and search and rescue (SAR) operations. Additionally, 8 piracy and armed robbery incidents, 6 smuggling cases, 2 illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing incidents, 3 narcotics-related cases, and 2 irregular human migration incidents were reported. Five other incidents were associated with military or maritime security activities linked to regional geopolitical tensions. Significant incidents included maritime operations related to the Iran-US tensions, such as Iranian mine-laying activities in the Strait of Hormuz, and Sri Lanka's search and rescue operations for distressed vessels in the region. One maritime environmental pollution incident was reported involving an oil spill off Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka.

Recommendations:

To strengthen maritime security, it is essential to enhance maritime domain awareness through improved surveillance systems, AIS monitoring, and intelligence sharing among regional partners. Increased naval and coast guard patrols in high-risk areas will help deter piracy and maritime attacks. Furthermore, improving vessel safety standards, crew training, and emergency response capabilities, including coordinated search and rescue operations, will reduce maritime accidents and strengthen overall maritime operational safety.

Maritime Incidents





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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