

2018 Annual Report



MRCC - COLOMBO

MARITIME RESCUE CO-ORDINATION CENTRE - COLOMBO

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MARITIME RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRE COLOMBO

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

MRCC Colombo in brief

1. Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) being the responsible authority for conducting maritime Search And Rescue (SAR) operations in Sri Lankan SAR region which is 27 times of its land mass, Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Colombo is manned round the clock by trained staff at Naval Head Quarters Operations Room under supervision of Director General Operations (DGO) and Director Naval Operations (DNO) to assist vessels in distress by all possible means.

2. During the year 2018, 275 distress incidents were reported to MRCC-Colombo and all the incidents have been handled swiftly by the staff of MRCC Colombo with proven standard operation procedure. Among those incidents, 221 incidents were related to the Sri Lankan Fishing Vessels (SLFV) which is 80% from the total of 275 incidents reported to MRCC. 23 Merchant vessels were assisted by the MRCC Colombo during year 2018. Strenuous effort made by the MRCC Colombo was rewarded with saving lives of 466 seafarers during the year 2018.

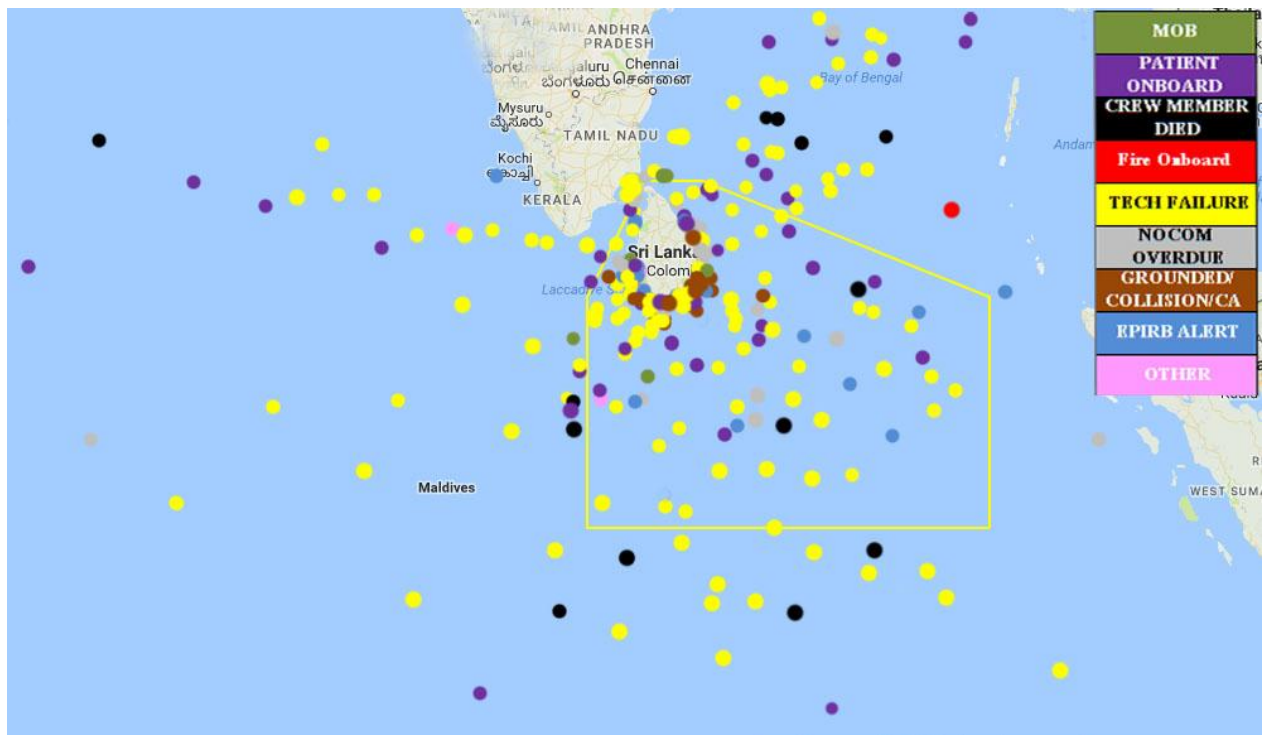


Diagram – I: Maritime distress incidents reported to MRCC-Colombo –Year 2018

Operation Procedure of MRCC Colombo

3. On receipt of distress alerts to MRCC, following procedure is adopted to ensure prompt and precise response to the distress incidents. Collaborative operations with adjacent MRCCs have synergized the effort made by the MRCC Colombo.
4. As the initial step, each incident reporting to MRCC Colombo is recorded in a log sheet which will be the checklist for the MRCC Operations. All relevant details relating to the maritime distress will be collected and all possible means to coordinate SAR operation will be discussed at the MRCC Operations room. Up on verification best course of action will be triggered to ensure safety of the life at sea.
5. With continuous monitoring of the operation, updates of the locations relating to distress vessels will be shared with adjacent MRCCs and the E-Broadcast facility will be utilized to inform Merchant Vessels (MV) operate in same area to provide possible SAR assistance. Drift model simulation will be utilized to predict the drift of the sea surface. Derived information will be shared with the SAR units to strengthen the SAR operation. These updates will include meteorological details pertaining to the interested sea area as well.
6. On completion of every SAR operation records will be maintained with sequence of events and the feed backs from the survivors to improve the future SAR operations. Repots will be generated monthly/ annually and disseminated among entities involving/assisting SAR operations.
7. Operation procedure of the MRCC Colombo is scrutinized as a flowchart below;

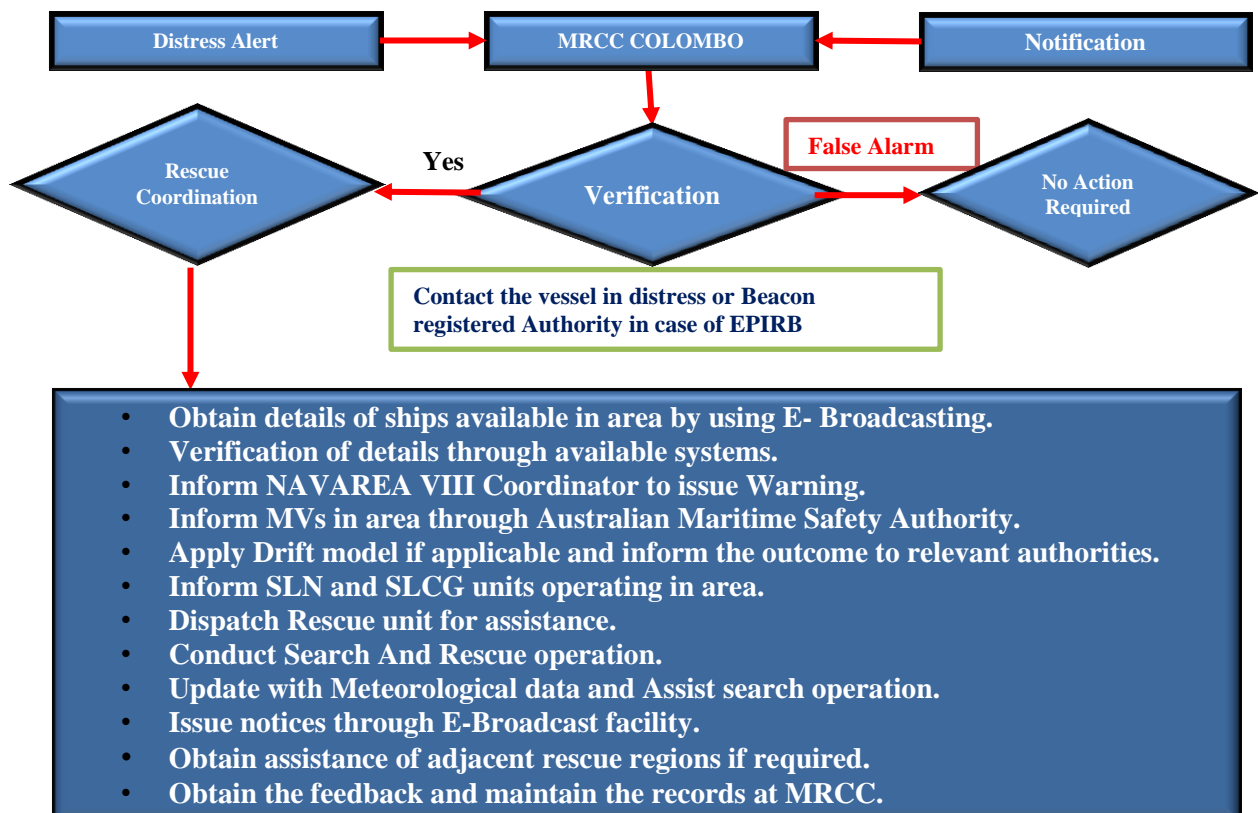


Diagram – II: Action Plan of MRCC Operations

Logs/ Registers Maintained at MRCC Colombo.

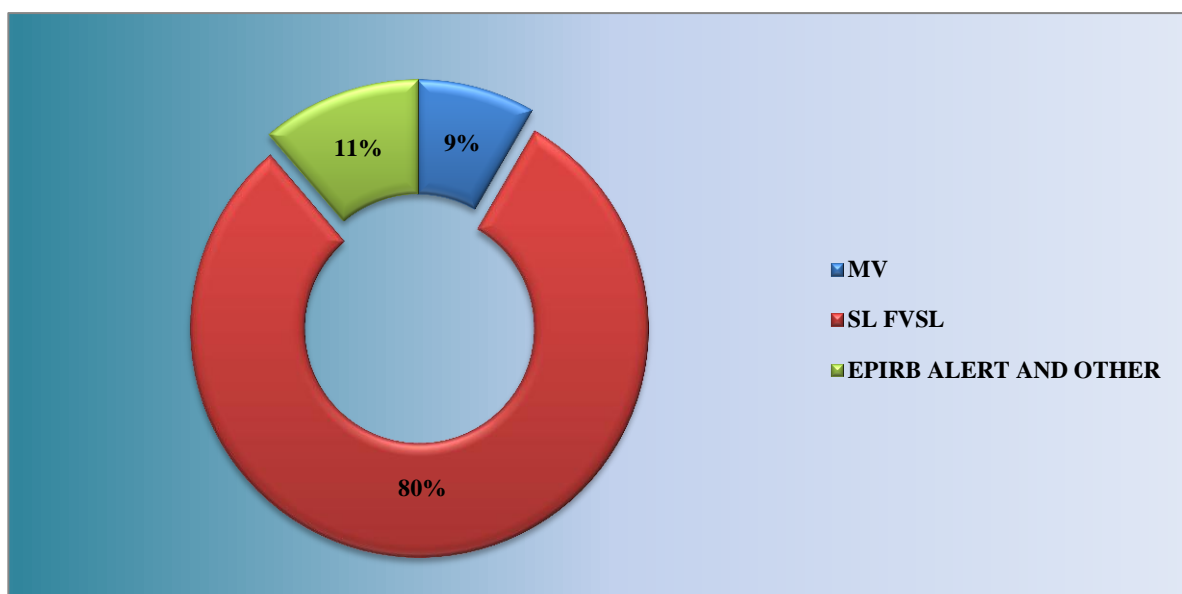
8. Following logs are maintained at the MRCC.
- MRCC Register – List of incidents reported to MRCC Colombo.
 - MRCC Log – Detailed report on incidents reported.
 - MRCC Diary – Daily update of all events until the completion of SAR operation.

Analysis of Incidents Reported to MRCC During 2018

9. Types of Platforms Reported in Distress During Year 2018

Categorization of distressed reported according to the platform is as follows.

- Merchant Vessels - 23
- Sri Lankan Fishing Vessels - 221
- EPIRB alert and other - 31



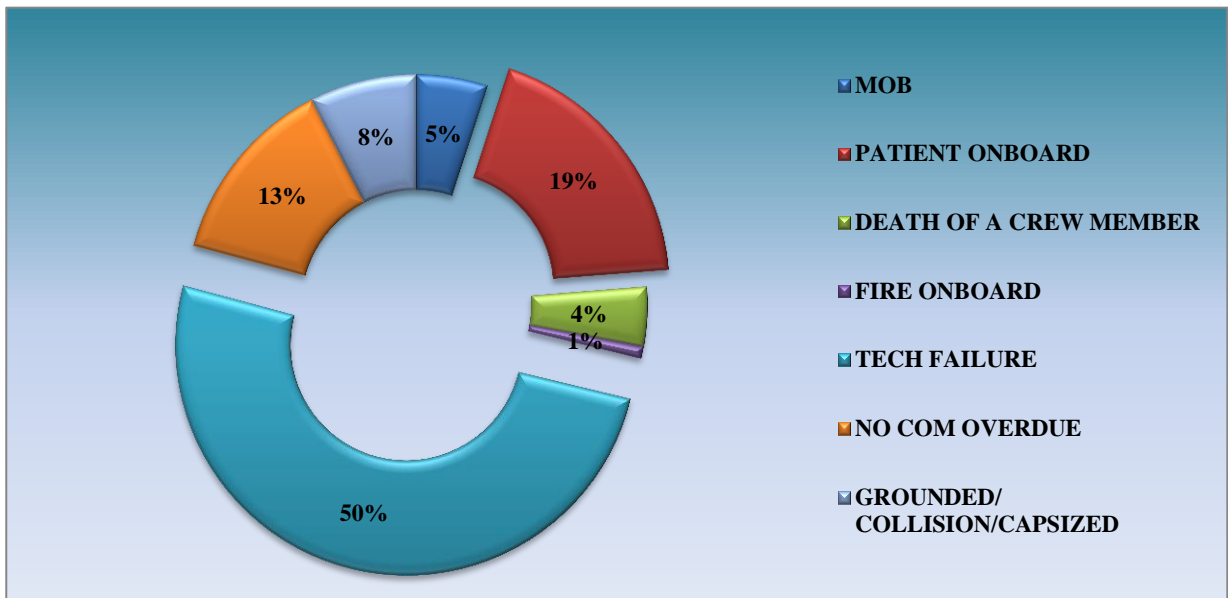
Graph – I: Types of platforms reported in distress

10. According to the reports in Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, approximately 5000 Sri Lankan Multiday fishing vessels are sailing in international waters, hence it is obvious that 80% of assistance had been provided to Sri Lankan fishing vessels. 23 merchant Vessels were assisted by the MRCC Colombo with the help of the Sri Lanka Navy as an island situated in one of busiest sea line of communication in the world.

11. Types Of Incidents Reported During Year 2018

Types of the incident reported to the MRCC Colombo are as follows.

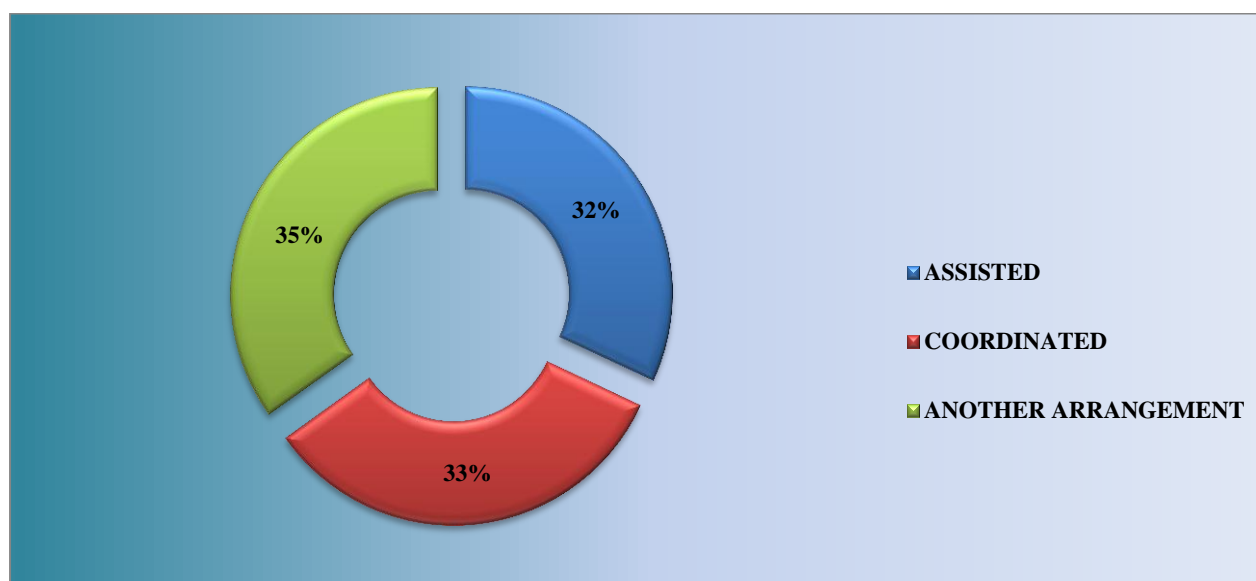
- Fishing vessels drifting due to engine failure - 121
- Fishing vessels ceased communication or overdue - 32
- Patients onboard and required medical assistance - 45
- Grounding, Collision and Capsizing of vessels - 18
- Fire on board - 2
- Man over Board - 12
- Death of a crew member - 10



Graph –II: Types of Incidents Reported During 2018

12. 50% of the distress incidents reported to MRCC Colombo are pertaining to the technical failures of the vessels where MRCC Colombo assisted those vessels in different capacities varying from towing assistance to providing technical specialists with spares to rectify defects. Every incident reporting to MRCC Colombo are either handled with the support from the Sri Lanka Navy by dispatching naval platforms to render assistance or handled with coordination of the Nav Area Coordinator.

Assistance Rendered by the MRCC Colombo



Graph – III: Action taken by MRCC Colombo

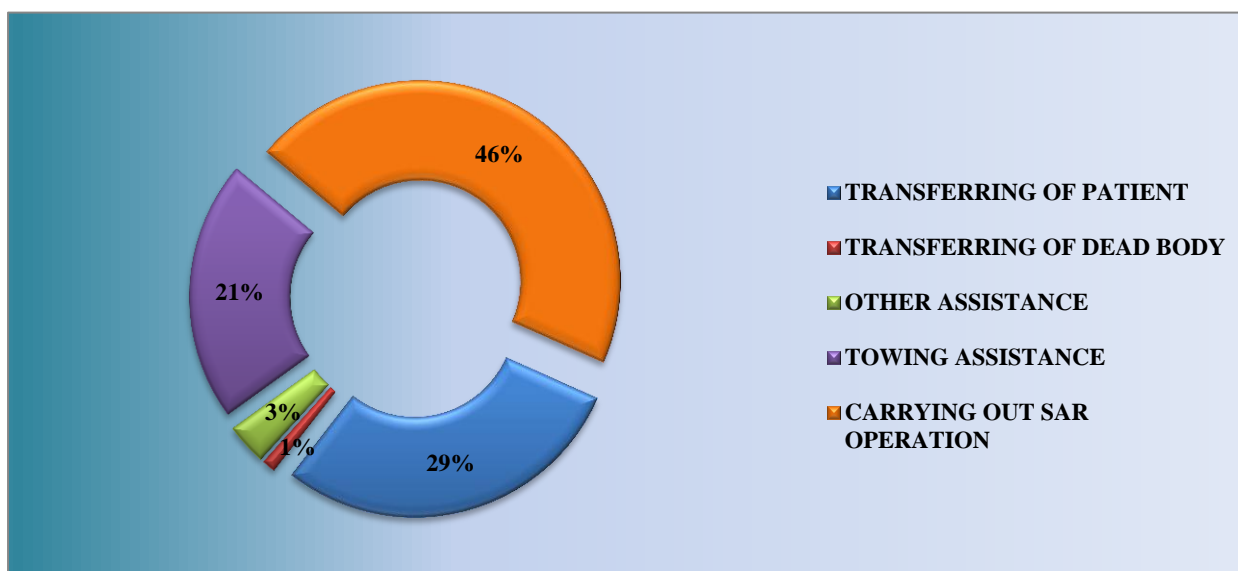
13. MRCC Colombo addressed maritime distress incidents by directly deploying naval assets at various capacities in 77 incidents which is 32% from total incidents reported during the year 2018, to make sure Sri Lankan SAR region is safe to the seafarers, whilst commended several times by the International entities for the tireless effort.

14. 80 incidents reported to MRCC Colombo which is 33% from the total have been coordinated in liaison with NAV AREA VIII coordinator by informing MVs in area to provide SAR assistance.

15. Through verification it was probed that for 84 incidents reported to MRCC-Colombo, direct assistance by deploying SLN assets are not required as crew onboard were able to rectify the engine failures or towing arrangements were initiated by the owners. In such incidents owners of the distressed fishing vessels were provided with real time details of the fishing vessels operating in the same area with the help of maritime domain awareness systems available at MRCC Colombo.

16. Out of 77 incidents that MRCC Colombo directly involved by rendering assistance, 29% were involved in transferring of patients onboard vessels. Expeditious respond on such kinds of incidents brought complacency to the MRCC Colombo and assistance were rendered by SLN up until admitting those patients to the hospitals.

Direct assistance rendered by deploying naval assets	Number of Incidents
Transferring of Patient onboard	26
Transferring of Dead body	01
Carrying out SAR Operation	41
Towing assistance	19
Other Assistance	03

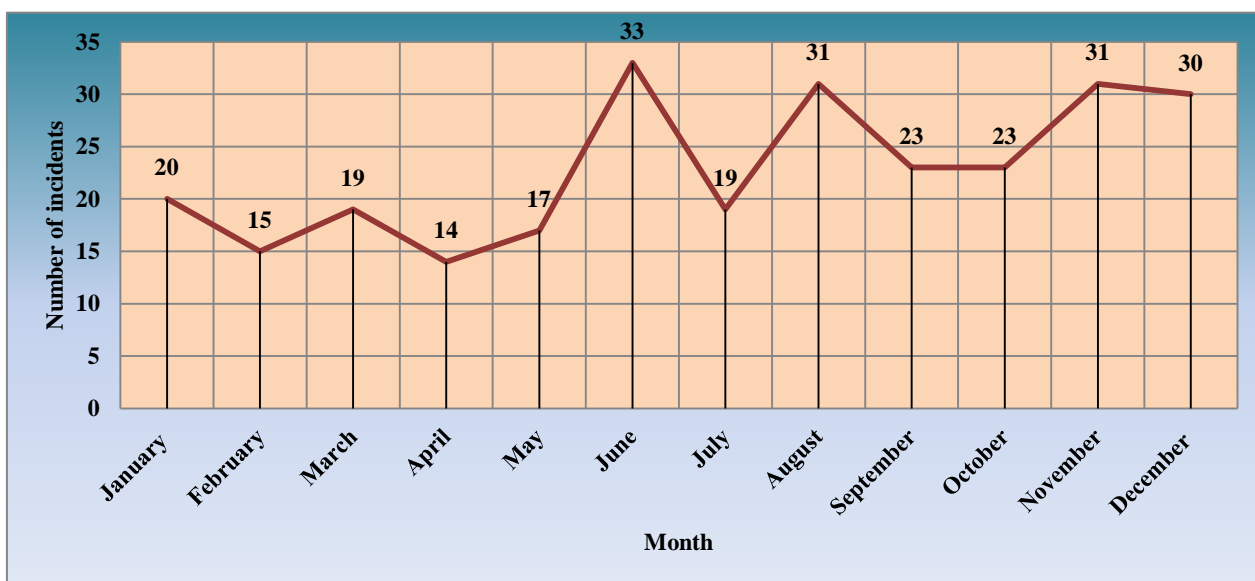


Graph – IV: Direct Assistance Rendered by Deploying Naval Craft

Number of Incidents Reported to MRCC Colombo

17. Naval units engaged in patrol and the units in naval harbours are directed to carry out these SAR operations. Limited platforms with SLN are utilized for these operation in a way where maximum number of stranders out at sea are served. Summary of the SAR operations conducted by SLN utilizing naval assets and coordinated with adjacent MRCCs are as follows;

Sr No	Month	Number of incidents reported	Number of incidents assisted and coordinated by the Navy	No of lives saved
01	January	20	16	39
02	February	15	12	23
03	March	19	14	43
04	April	14	10	37
05	May	17	08	21
06	June	33	21	38
07	July	19	08	29
08	August	31	18	40
09	September	23	14	45
10	October	23	11	51
11	November	31	15	52
12	December	30	10	48
Total		275	157	466



Graph – V: Incidents Reported Monthly During 2018

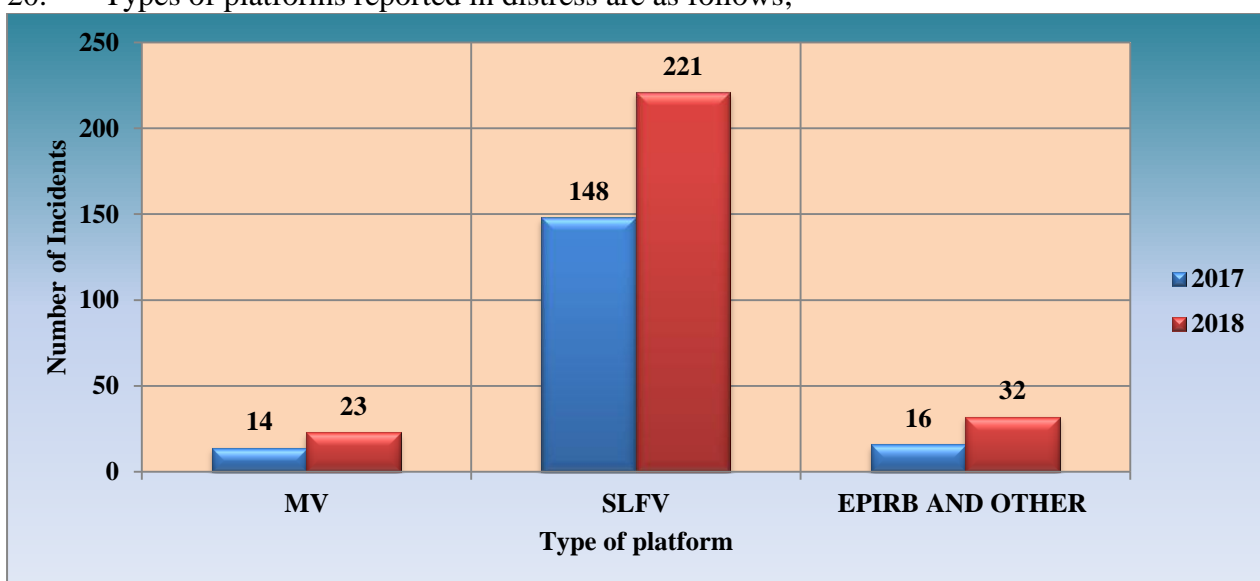
18. As per the analysis average of 23 incidents per month were reported to the MRCC Colombo during the year 2018.

Details of EPIRB Alerts Received

19. EPIRB alerts generated by the vessels operated in Sri Lankan SAR Region are forwarded to MRCC Colombo through the Air Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) Rathmalana to provide the required assistance. Staff of the MRCC Colombo verifies the reports directly from the subjected vessel or by contacting relevant authorities with the help of MDA systems available at MRCC Colombo. 32 Number of EPIRB alerts were reported to MRCC Colombo for the year 2018 and all of the alerts were either false alerts or alerts generated during exercises.

Comprehensive Analysis with Year 2017

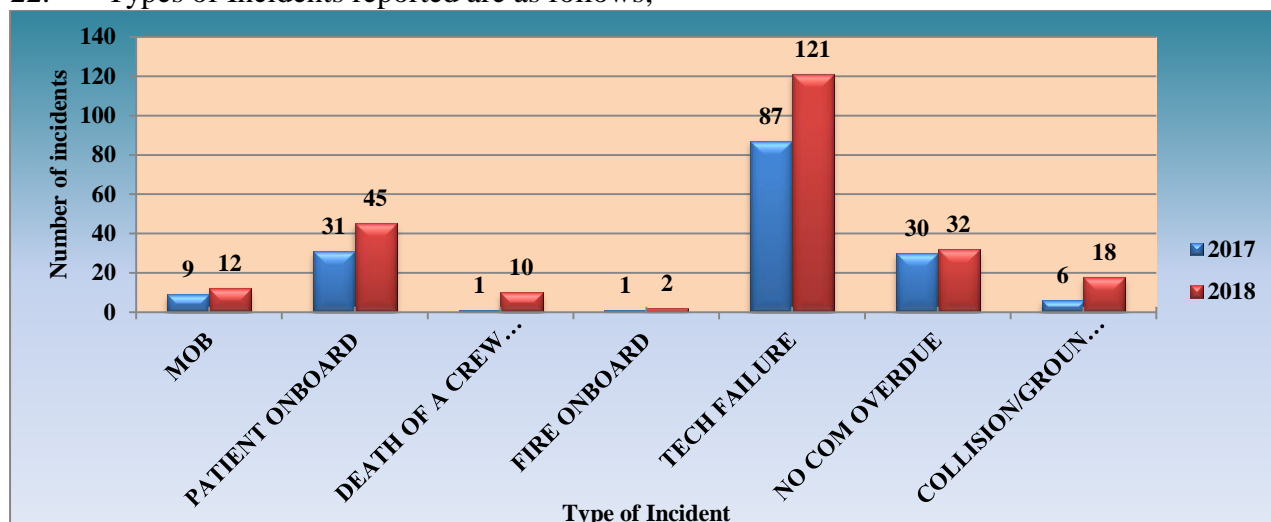
20. Types of platforms reported in distress are as follows;



Graph – VI: Comparison of platforms

21. Number of platforms reported in distress during the year 2018 has increased by 96 incidents comparing to the year 2017.

22. Types of Incidents reported are as follows;



Graph – VII: Comparison of Type of incidents

23. As per the analysis based on the type of distress incidents, number of all the types of incidents reported in year 2018 are higher than 2017. Drastic increase is observed in the incidents relating to technical failures of vessels, sick crew members onboard and grounding/colliding of fishing vessels with merchant vessels.

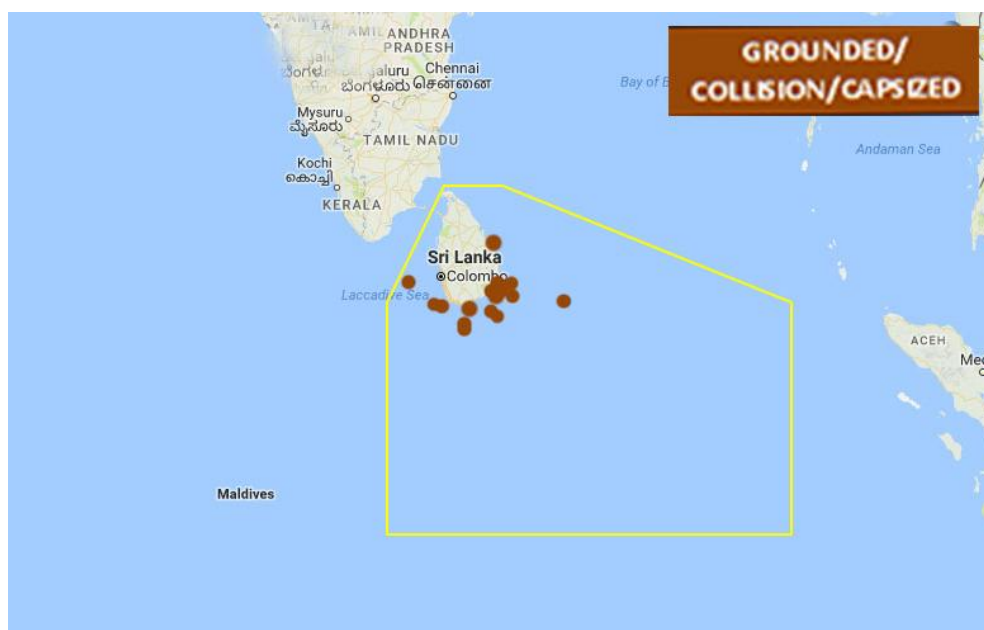
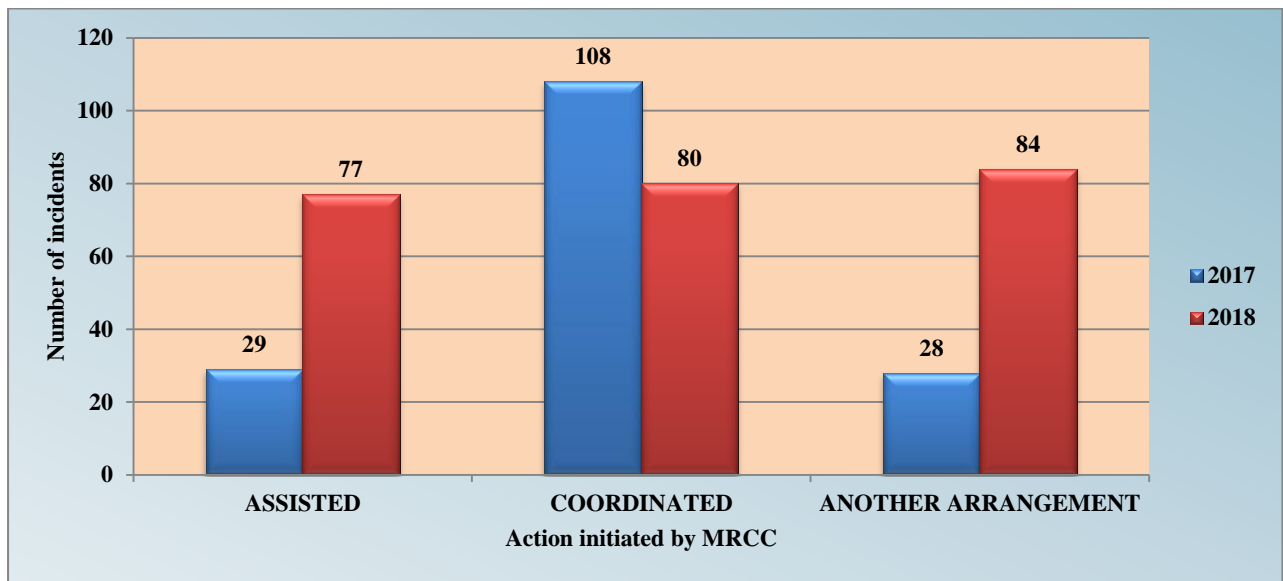


Diagram – III: Grounding/Collision of fishing vessels during year 2018

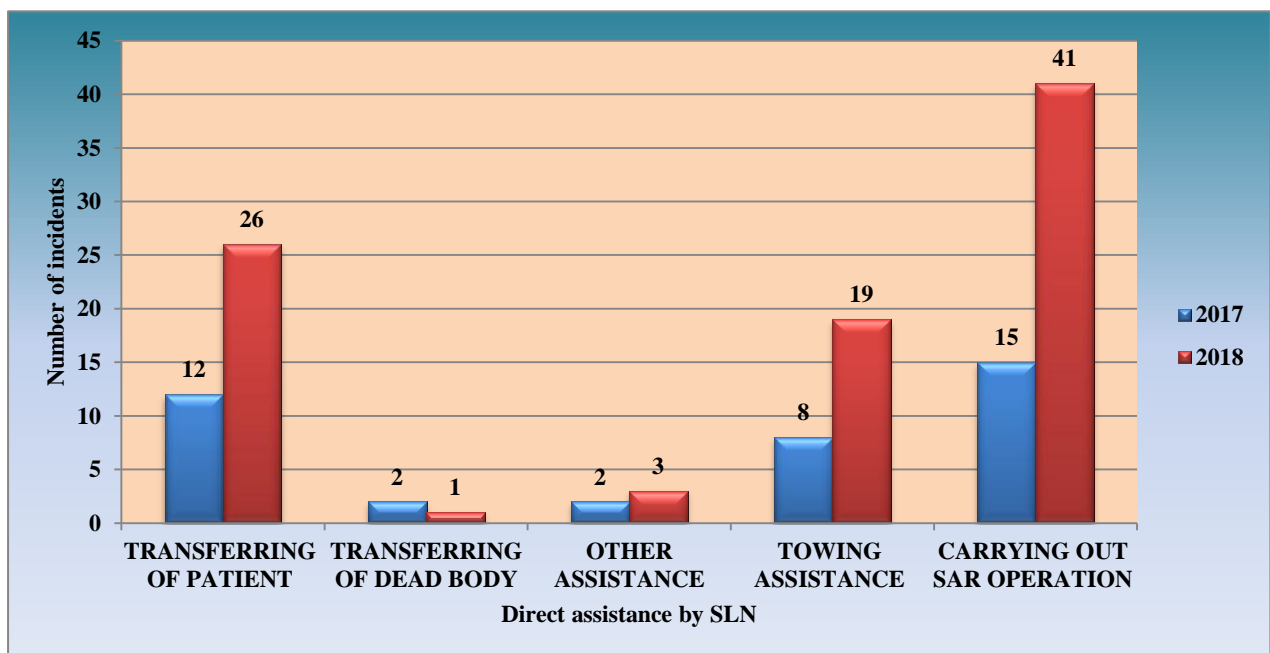
24. All of the reported incidents relating collisions of fishing vessel have taken place in dark hours, where fishermen had not paid attention to the merchant vessels operating in the area. When concerning the sea areas, it is clearly observed that most of the collisions have taken place in the Traffic Separation Scheme demarcated in the Southern seas of Sri Lanka, which is one of the busiest sea lines of communication in the world.

25. Assistance rendered by the MRCC Colombo is as follows;



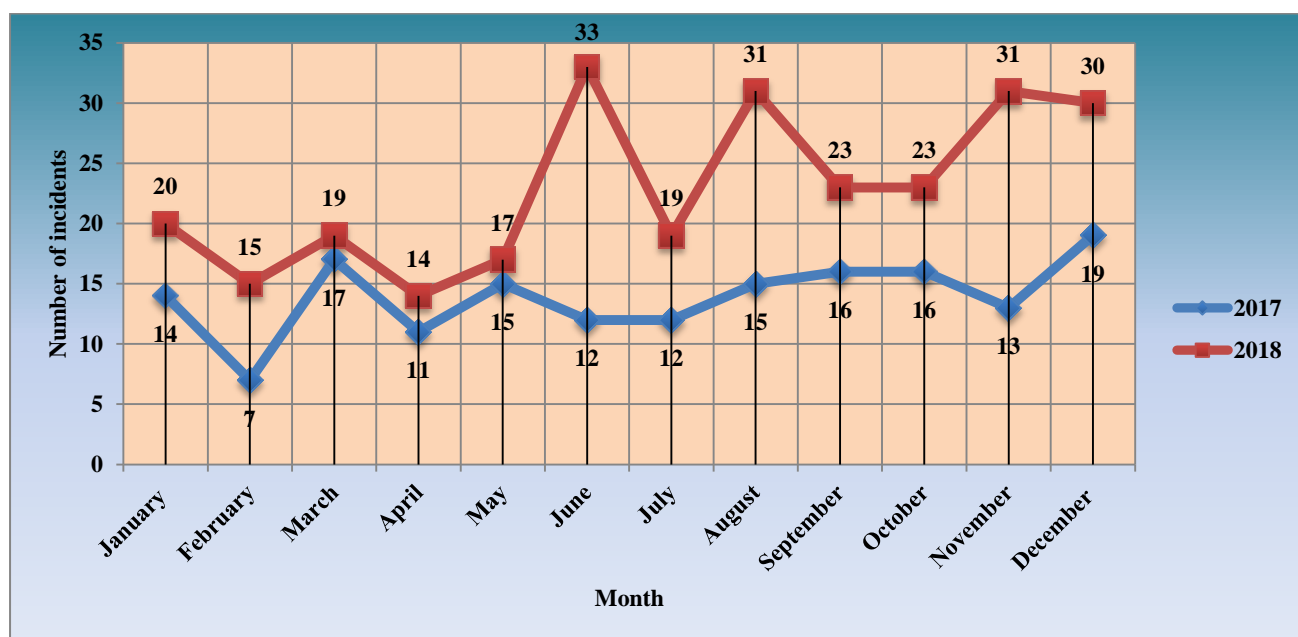
Graph – VIII: comparison of the actions initiated by MRCC

26. Direct assistance rendered by deploying naval craft is as follows;



Graph – IX: comparison of incidents assisted by SLN

27. Number of distress incidents reported to MRCC Colombo is as follows;



Graph – X: comparison of incidents reported to MRCC

28. Monthly average of 13 incidents were reported to MRCC Colombo during year 2017 and for the year 2018 average number of incidents reported per month was 23.

Total Cost Incurred by SLN During the Year 2018

29. Cost Summary of the activities for above period is as follows;

Sr No	Month	Number of incidents reported	Number of incidents assisted and coordinated by the SL Navy	No of lives saved	Cost incurred (Rs)
01	January	20	16	39	18,355,353.16
02	February	15	12	23	1,487,095.23
03	March	19	14	43	30,950,410.64
04	April	14	10	37	9,729,864.67
05	May	17	08	21	-
06	June	33	21	38	45,086,673.31
07	July	19	08	29	35,037,455.37
08	August	31	18	40	41,987,021.99
09	September	23	14	45	26,770,300.37
10	October	23	11	51	13,056,239.16
11	November	31	15	52	18,399,852.54
12	December	30	10	48	418,510.45
Total		275	157	466	241,278,776.89

Conclusion

30. Sri Lanka navy being the responsible authority for conducting maritime Search and Rescue operations in Sri Lanka SAR region which is 27 times of its land mass, MRCC Colombo is manned around the clock to assist all distressed vessels in all possible means.

31. 275 numbers of incidents reported during the year 2018 and all incidents have been handled swiftly by the staff of MRCC Colombo. 157 numbers of incidents out of them were assisted and coordinated by Sri Lanka Navy. Strenuous effort made by the MRCC Colombo was rewarded with saving lives of 466 seafarers during the year 2018. 32 numbers of EPIRB alerts were reported to MRCC Colombo for the year 2018 and all of the alerts were either false alerts or alerts generated during exercises. Number of platforms reported in distress during the year 2018 has increased by 96 incidents comparing to the year 2017. As per the analysis based on the type of distress incidents, number of all the types of incidents reported in year 2018 were higher than 2017. Monthly average of 13 incidents were reported to MRCC Colombo during year 2017 and for the year 2018 average number of incidents reported per month was 23.

32. Every incident reporting to MRCC Colombo are either handled with the support from the Sri Lanka Navy by dispatching naval platforms to render assistance or handled with coordination of the Nav Area Coordinator by the staff of MRCC Colombo with proven standard operation procedures.