

DAILY MARITIME INCIDENT UPDATE

Information Fusion Center-Colombo



Information Fusion Center
Colombo
Sri Lanka

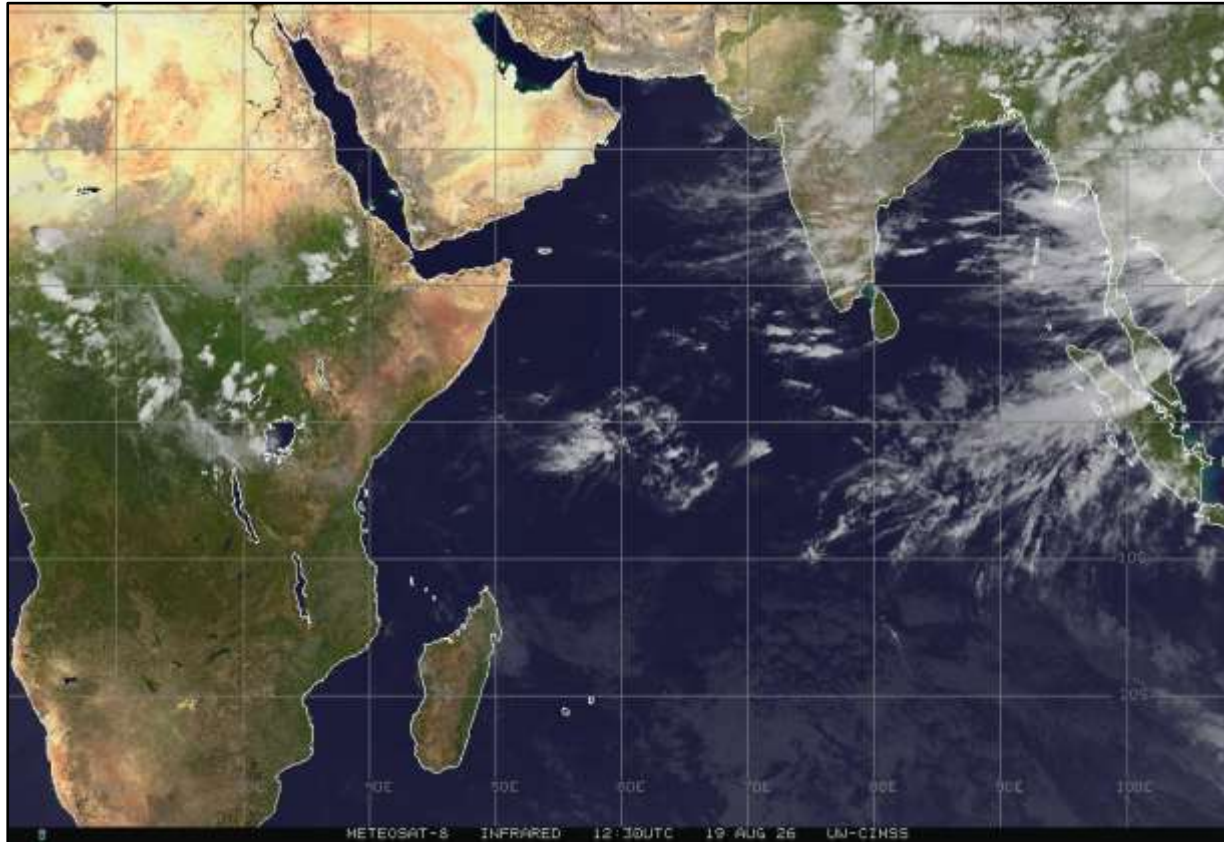
Date 2026.08.20

IFC -Colombo

WEATHER FORECAST



Weather Forecast for Next 24 hrs



FLEET FORECAST

Fleet Forecast for Area - E

Issued by the National Meteorological Center, Department of Meteorology Sri Lanka.

Valid period: 2026.08.20/1400UTC to 2026.08.21/0600UTC

Issued at 1200UTC on 2026.08.20

To: CBO Radio/Fisheries/SL Navy/CBO Port/Coast Guard

Shear line is approximately along: 02N 60E, 03N 70E, 01S 80E, 01N 90E, 06N 100E

Weather:

OCNL Showers / T'Showers in sections: 05, 25, 30, 40, 50, 70.

SCT Showers / T'Showers in sections : 10, 15, 20, 35, 45, 85.

ISOL Showers / T'Showers elsewhere.

Winds:

North of Shear line:

West of 70E : SW'ly to W'ly / (10-15) kts.

in between 70E to 77E : W'ly to NW'ly / (10-15) kts.

East of 77E : SW'ly / (10-20) kts; gusting up to (25-30) kts in sections 05, 10 and 15.

South of Shear line:

SE'ly / (10-20) kts; gusting up to 25 kts in sections 60, 80.

Seas:

Fairly rough, rough at times in sections : 05, 10, 15.

Moderate, fairly rough at times in sections : 60, 80.

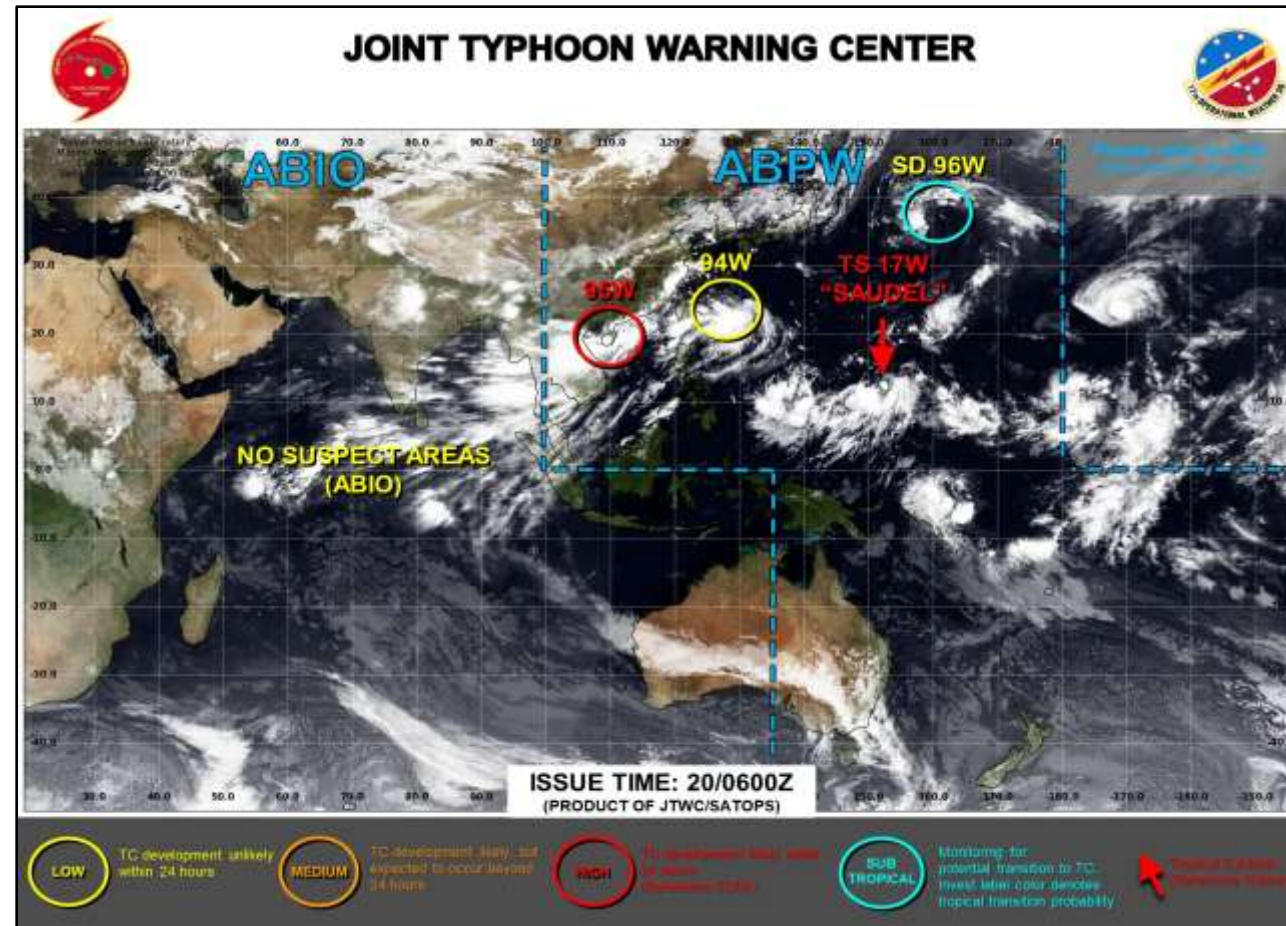
Moderate in sections : 30, 40, 45, 65, 70, 85.

Slight to moderate elsewhere.

NOTE: Seas can be temporarily very rough during thundershowers.

• Source: 1. <https://meteo.gov.lk> 2. <https://www.srilankaview.com/weather.htm>

CYCLONE



- Source: <https://www.metoc.dcn.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html>



TROPICAL CYCLONE "SAUDEL"



SUMMARY (MARITIME INCIDENT)



CATEGORY	NO
 Maritime Incidents	03
 Piracy & Armed Robbery	01
 Smuggling	01
 IUU Fishing	01
 Narcotic	NIL
 Irregular Human Migration	NIL
 Marine Environment Pollution	01
 Other	NIL
Total Incidents	07

MARITIME INCIDENTS



20 Aug/ SpaceX's Starship Towed to Christmas Island After Floating 24 Days in Indian Ocean/ Australia

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.08.20	Australia	Christmas Island	Mechanical breakdown/Engine Failure /No Communication	Starship	The company reported that its recovery team successfully guided the large spacecraft to a site near Christmas Island in the eastern Indian Ocean for a thorough inspection before planning its transportation back to Texas.

SpaceX has towed its Starship spacecraft to waters near Christmas Island after it floated in the Indian Ocean for almost 24 days. Engineers will assess the vehicle's exposure to seawater as the company considers towing it back to Texas. This recovery follows a splashdown during a recent test mission.



Source -: <https://www.indiatoday.in/science/story/spacexs-starship-towed-to-christmas-island-after-floating-24-days-in-indian-ocean-2974691-2026-08-19>

MARITIME INCIDENTS



18 Aug/ US Flagged Heavy Lift Ship SLNC York Evacuated After Pacific Flooding/ Japan

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.08.18	Japan	Pacific Ocean	Search and Rescue (SAR)	Name-SLNC York Flag -USA Type -Cargo	All crew members were reported safe and uninjured and were transferred to the LPG tanker Pacific Yantai. Schuyler Line reported that SLNC York remained stable after the evacuation, with plans for a support vessel to aid in returning the ship to port.

The crew of the SLNC York, a U.S.-flagged heavy-lift vessel, was evacuated after flooding disabled the ship during its Pacific voyage from Hawaii to Japan on 18 Aug 26. Emergency teams are securing the vessel and arranging assistance to port after attempts by the crew and technical personnel to control the flooding.



Source -: <https://breakbulk.news/us-flagged-heavy-lift-ship-slnc-york-evacuated-after-pacific-flooding/>

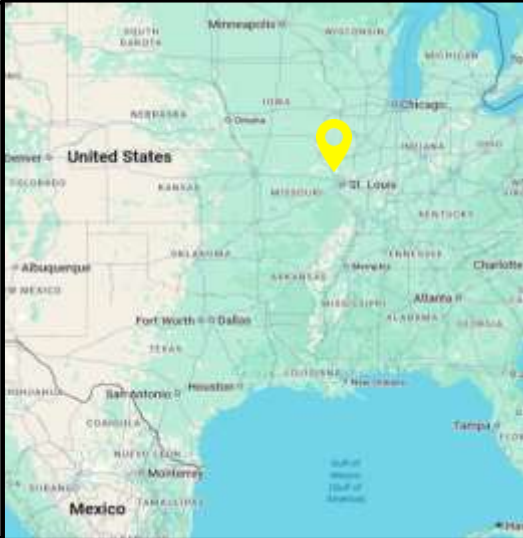
MARITIME INCIDENTS



17 Aug/ Carnival Cruise Ship Makes Emergency Manoeuvre in Mississippi River to Avoid Collision With Cargo Ship/ USA

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.08.17	USA	Mississippi River	Collisions	Name-Carnival Valor Flag -Panama Type -Passenger	The incident on the last night of a 5-day round-trip from New Orleans caused pool water to flood passenger dining areas, leading to widespread panic among guests. This occurred when the captain made an abrupt right turn to avoid a powerless cargo ship in the vessel's path.

A normal evening aboard the Carnival Valor turned terrifying on 17 Aug 26 when the cruise ship executed an emergency maneuver on the Mississippi River to avoid a collision with a broken-down cargo ship, resulting in a severe list of the vessel.



Source -: <https://www.marineinsight.com/cruise-ship-makes-emergency-maneuver-in-mississippi-river-to-avoid-potential-collision/>

PIRACY & ARMED ROBBERY



20 Aug/ Tanker Seized by Armed Men off Yemen and Diverted Toward Somalia/ Yemen

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.08.20	Yemen	off the coast of Yemen	Armed Robbery	-	The incident highlights increased security risks for commercial shipping in Yemen, the Gulf of Aden, and the broader Red Sea region, a crucial route for international trade. Authorities and maritime operators are actively monitoring the situation to determine the circumstances surrounding the vessel and its crew.

A tanker was boarded by six armed men off the coast of Yemen and diverted toward Somalia, as reported by the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO). The incident occurred 136 nautical miles east of Mukalla in the Gulf of Aden, with the tanker initially traveling west and approached by an unauthorized vessel. UKMTO did not disclose details about the attackers or the safety of the tanker and its crew.



Source -: <https://news.az/news/tanker-seized-by-armed-men-off-yemen-and-diverted-toward-somalia>

SMUGGLING



18 Aug/Australia, China Team Up to Arrest Over 60 Tobacco Smugglers / Southeast Asia

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.08.18	Southeast Asia	Primarily Sydney, Australia; shipments originated from China	Contraband /Goods smuggling	-	Australian Border Force and China Customs identified 112 suspicious tobacco shipments, with 91 containers containing illicit products. Originating from China and destined for Sydney, the smuggled items were hidden among legitimate goods like LED lamps and printers. Chinese authorities traced the supply chain to Southeast Asia and arrested 60 suspects, estimating approximately US\$65 million in unpaid duties from the intercepted tobacco.

The Australian Border Force (ABF) collaborated with China's Anti-Smuggling Bureau to dismantle a significant international tobacco smuggling network. This operation involved the identification of 112 containers, 91 of which contained smuggled tobacco worth around US\$65 million, primarily cigarettes manufactured in Southeast Asia. The cargo was disguised with legitimate items like LED lamps. Subsequently, 60 suspects were arrested in China. Since Jul 25, their joint efforts have led to the seizure of about 90 million cigarettes, one million vape cartridges, and 11 tonnes of loose tobacco before entering the Australian market.



Source -: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/australia-china-team-up-to-arrest-over-60-tobacco-smugglers>

IUU FISHING



19 Aug/ Acoustic Monitoring Reveals Scale of Destructive Bomb-Fishing off Sulawesi/ Indonesia

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.08.19	Indonesia	Off Sulawesi	Destructive Fishing practices	-	Bomb blasts create significant underwater shock waves detectable over long distances. Military-grade hydrophones can sense large blasts from hundreds to thousands of nautical miles away. Additionally, basic devices can identify bomb fishing within approximately nine nautical miles in reef habitats, according to research by UCL doctoral student Ben Williams.

Artisanal fishing is regarded as sustainable and beneficial for coastal communities, but practices like dynamite fishing can degrade reefs significantly. Research from University College London found that bomb fishing, which creates long-lasting debris fields, is more prevalent than previously thought, with an average of one blast per hour observed in a specific Indonesian reef area.



Source -: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/acoustic-monitoring-reveals-scale-of-destructive-bomb-fishing-off-sulawesi>

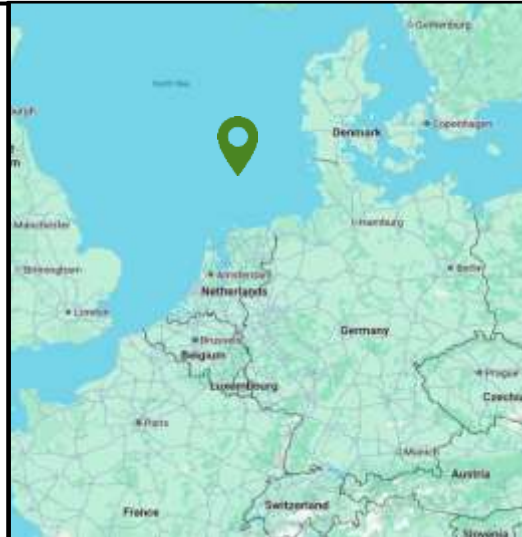
MARINE ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION



19 Aug/ Rusting Sea Munitions Are a Toxic Time Bomb/ Germany

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUB CATEGORIES	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.08.19	Germany	Off Northern Coast	Illegal sewage discharge	-	Beneath Germany's northern coast, significant amounts of rusting bombs and weapons contribute to an estimated 1.6 million metric tons of conventional munitions in the North Sea and Baltic Sea, remnants from two world wars and weapon disposal after 1945.

Some weapons, including mines and unexploded bombs, now pose environmental hazards due to the corrosion of discarded munitions from WWII. Toxicologist Edmund Maser from Kiel University highlights that harmful compounds, including carcinogenic trinitrotoluene (TNT), leach into marine ecosystems, impacting both marine and human life. Research by Jörn Scharsack from Germany's Thünen Institute indicates the presence of TNT in dab fish, underscoring the environmental threat posed by these remnants of warfare.



Source -: <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-sea-munitions-toxic-pollution/a-78419545>



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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