



Information Fusion Centre

Colombo - Sri Lanka


IFC Monthly Reports

January 2023

 Naval Headquarters, Colombo, Sri Lanka

 ifc@navy.lk

 www.ifccolombo.org

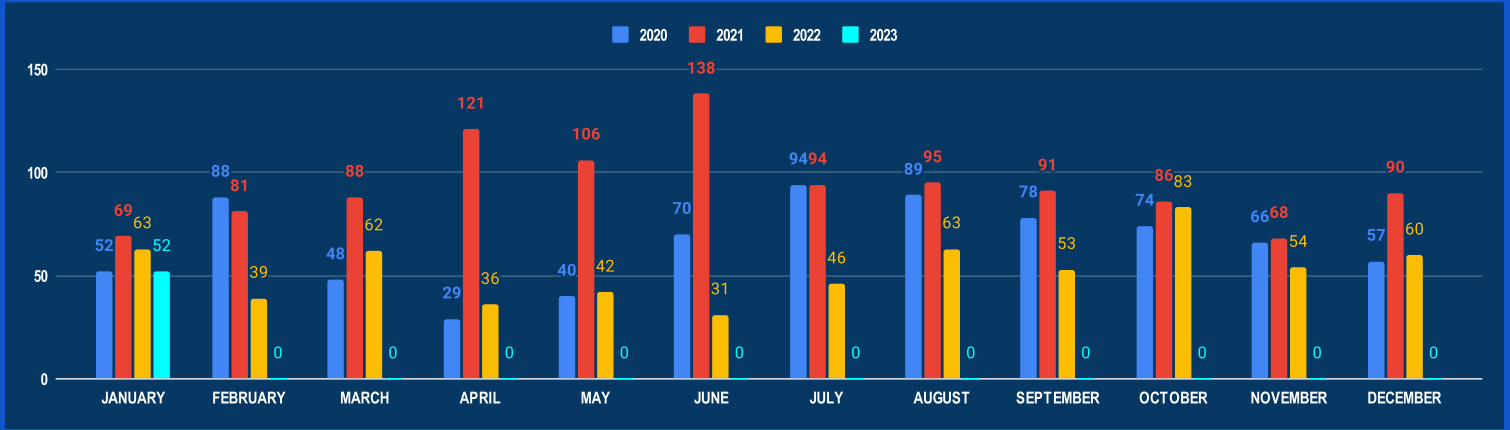
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MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



REPORTED INCIDENTS JANUARY 2023

INCIDENT TYPE	JAN 2023	TOTAL 2023	JAN 2022
IUU Fishing	9	9	19
Drug Smuggling	4	4	1
Contraband Smuggling	7	7	0
Human Smuggling	0	0	0
Maritime Incident	30	30	28
Poaching	2	2	15
Explosive and Firearms	0	0	0

Poaching

3.8%

IUU Fishing

17.3%

Drug Smuggling

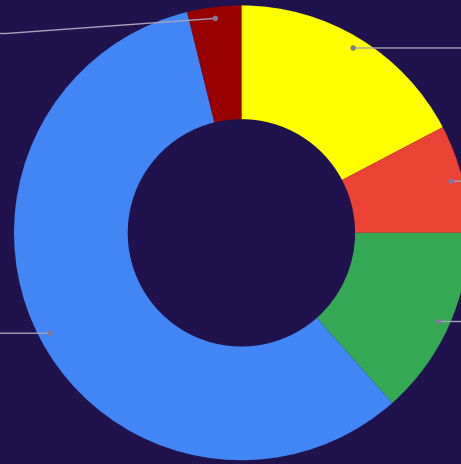
7.7%

Contraband Smuggling

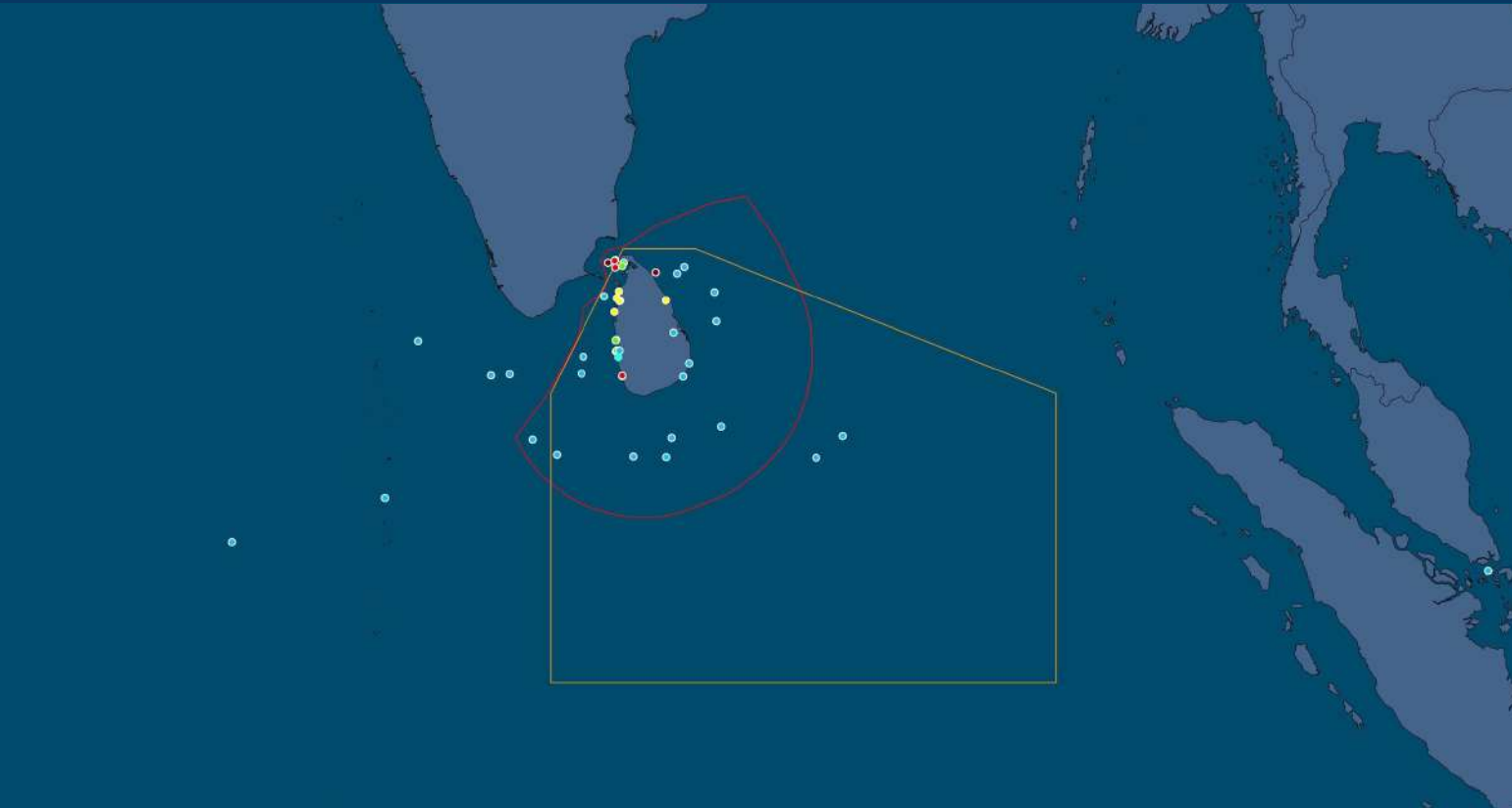
13.5%

Maritime Incident

57.7%



MARITIME INCIDENTS JANUARY 2023



■ IUU Fishing
 ■ Drug Smuggling
 ■ Contraband Smuggling
 ■ Human Smuggling
 ■ Maritime Incident
 ■ Poaching

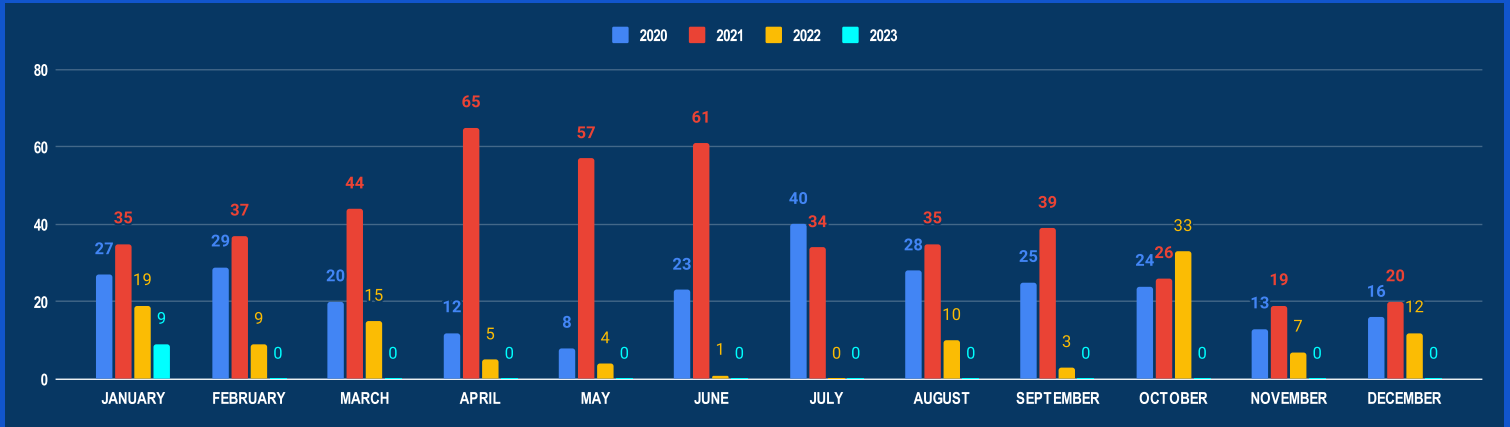


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JANUARY 2023

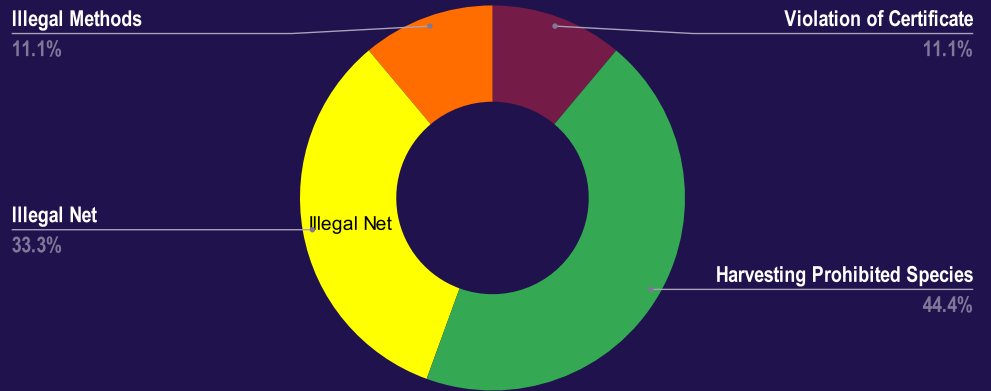
IUU FISHING INCIDENTS - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF IUU FISHING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



REPORTED INCIDENTS JANUARY 2023

INCIDENT TYPE	JAN 2023	TOTAL 2023	JAN 2022
Violation of Certificate Conditions	1	1	0
Harvesting Prohibited Species	4	4	8
Illegal Net	3	3	10
Illegal Methods	1	1	0
Explosive Fishing	0	0	1



IUU FISHING INCIDENTS JANUARY 2023



■ Violation of Certificate Conditions
 ■ Harvesting Prohibited Species
 ■ Illegal Net
 ■ Illegal Methods
 ■ Explosive Fishing

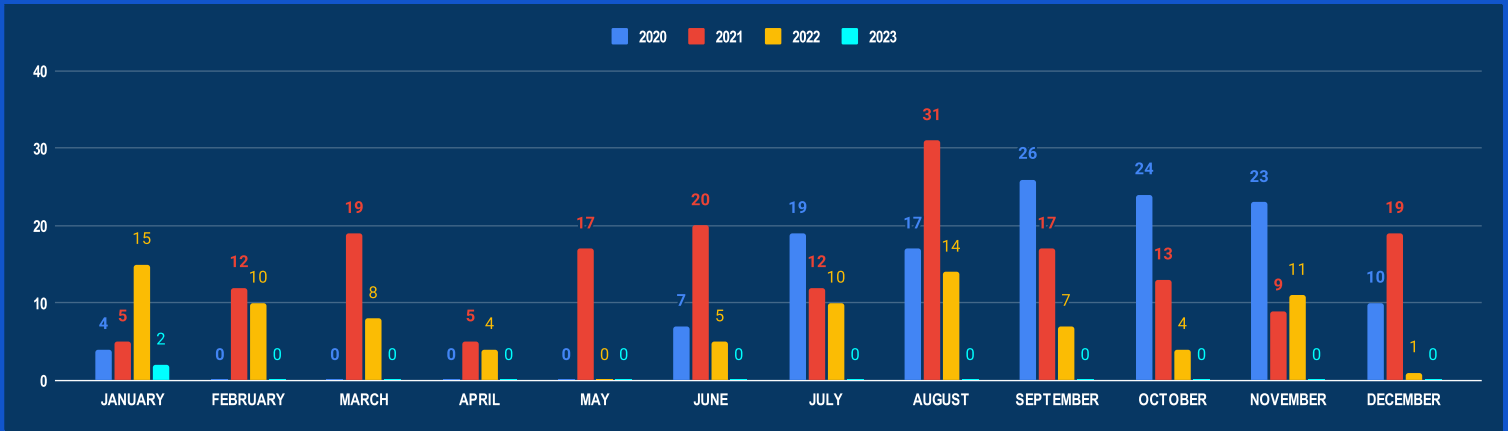


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JANUARY 2023

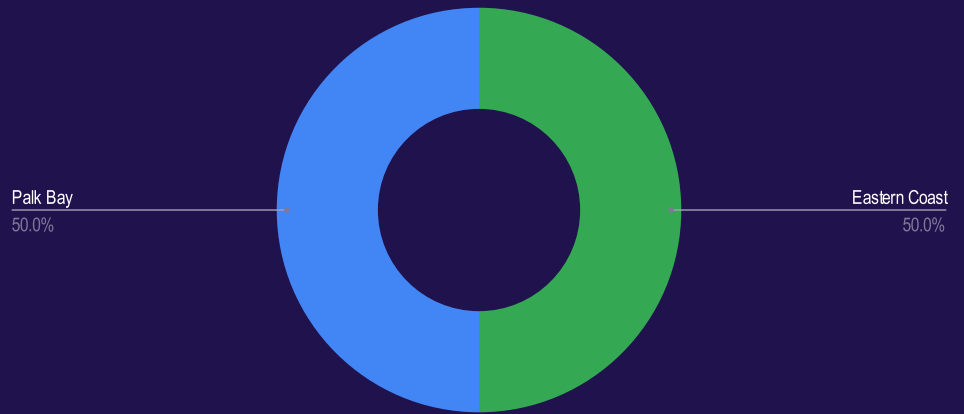
POACHING INCIDENTS - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF POACHING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)

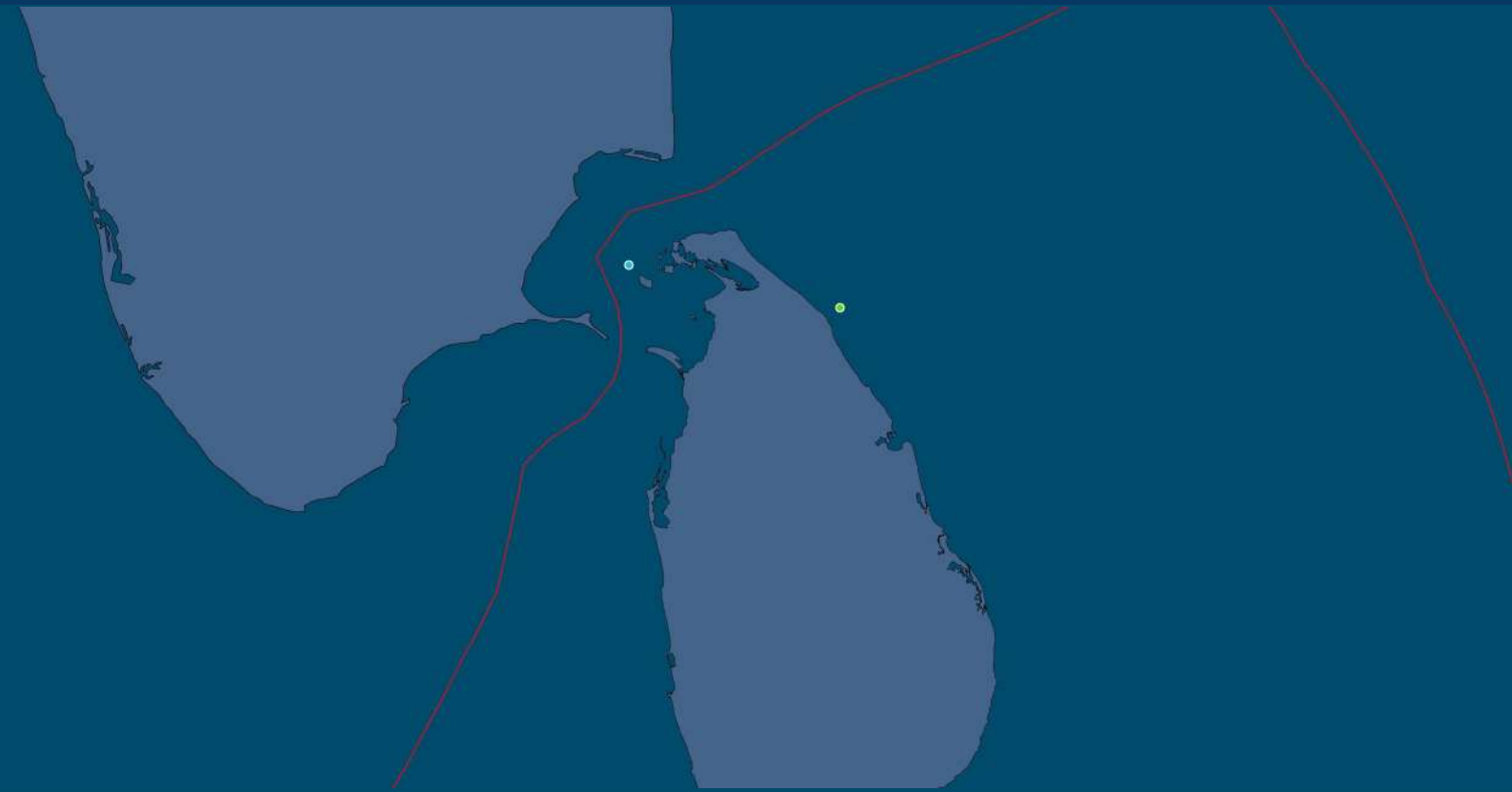


REPORTED INCIDENTS JANUARY 2023

	JAN 2023	TOTAL 2023	JAN 2022
Eastern Coast	1	1	1
Palk Strait	0	0	6
Gulf of Mannar	0	0	1
Palk Bay	1	1	6
Other	0	0	0



POACHING INCIDENTS JANUARY 2023



■ Eastern Coast
 ■ Palk Strait
 ■ Gulf of Mannar
 ■ Palk Bay
 ■ Other

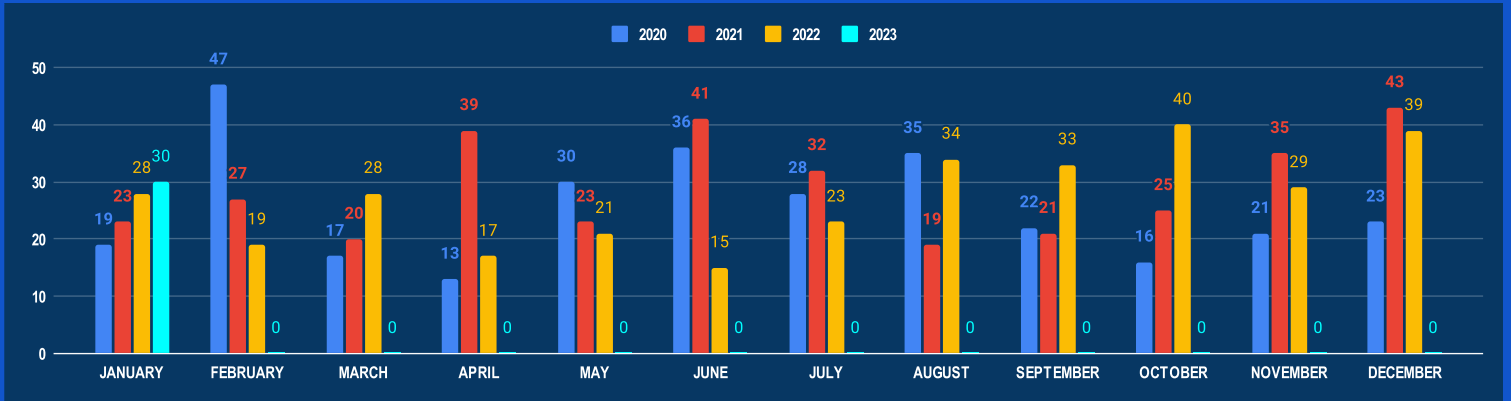


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JANUARY 2023

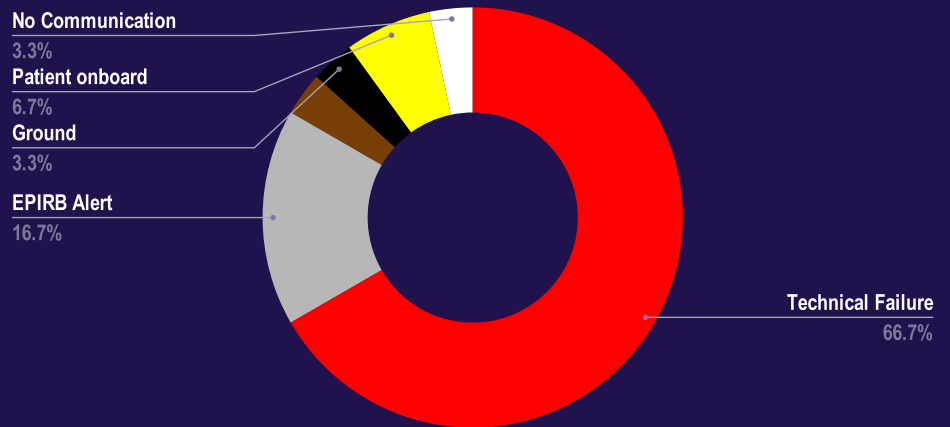
MARITIME INCIDENT - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF MARITIME INCIDENTS (2020-2023)

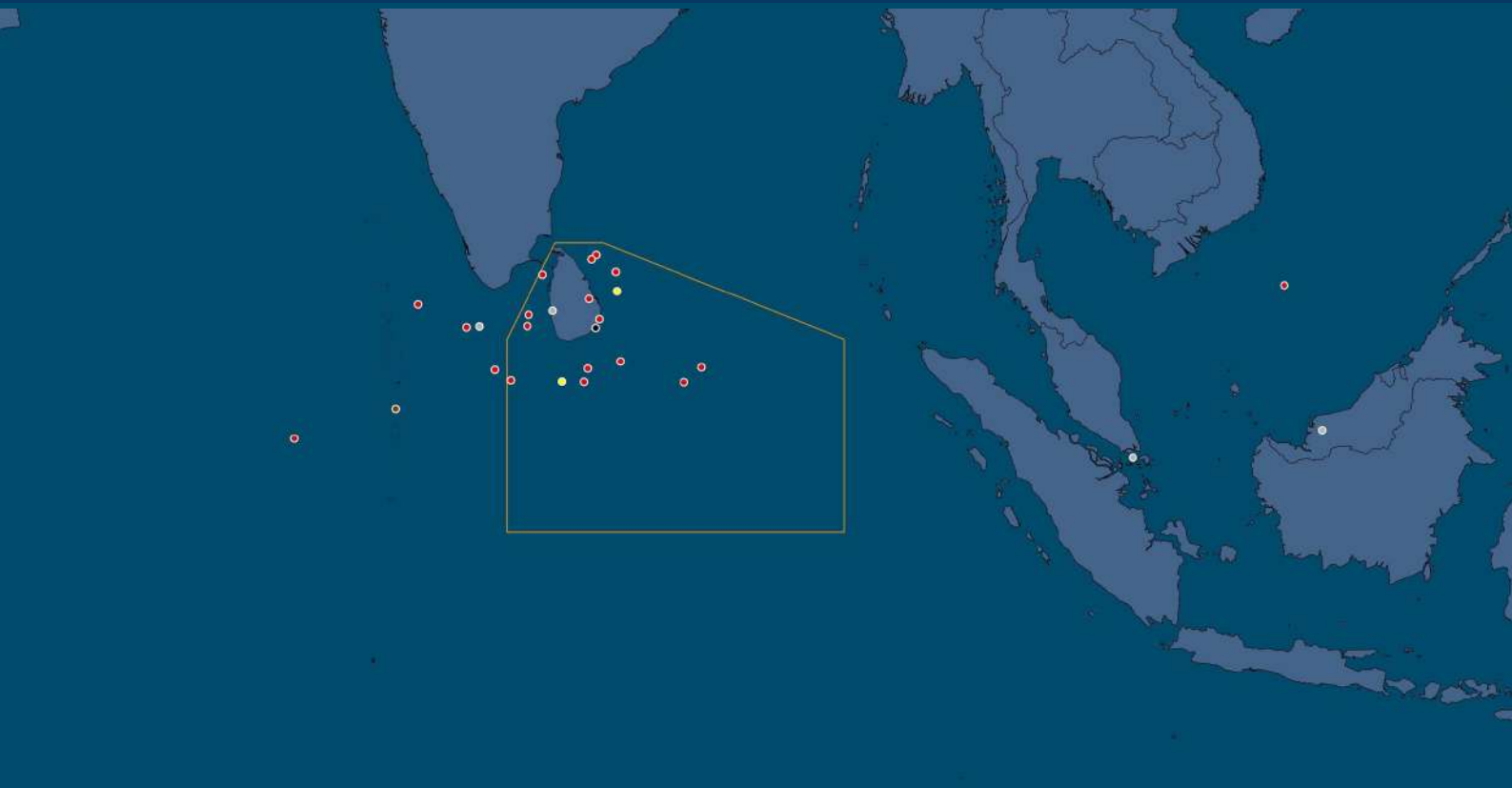


REPORTED INCIDENTS JANUARY 2023

INCIDENT TYPE	JAN 2023	TOTAL 2023	JAN 2022
Technical Failure	20	20	11
Fire onboard	0	0	0
EPIRB Alert	5	5	8
Man Over Boat	1	1	1
Arrival Overdue	0	0	3
Capsized	0	0	2
Ground	1	1	0
Death	0	0	0
Patient onboard	2	2	3
Collision	0	0	0
No Communication	1	1	0
Other Incident	0	0	0



MARITIME INCIDENT JANUARY 2023



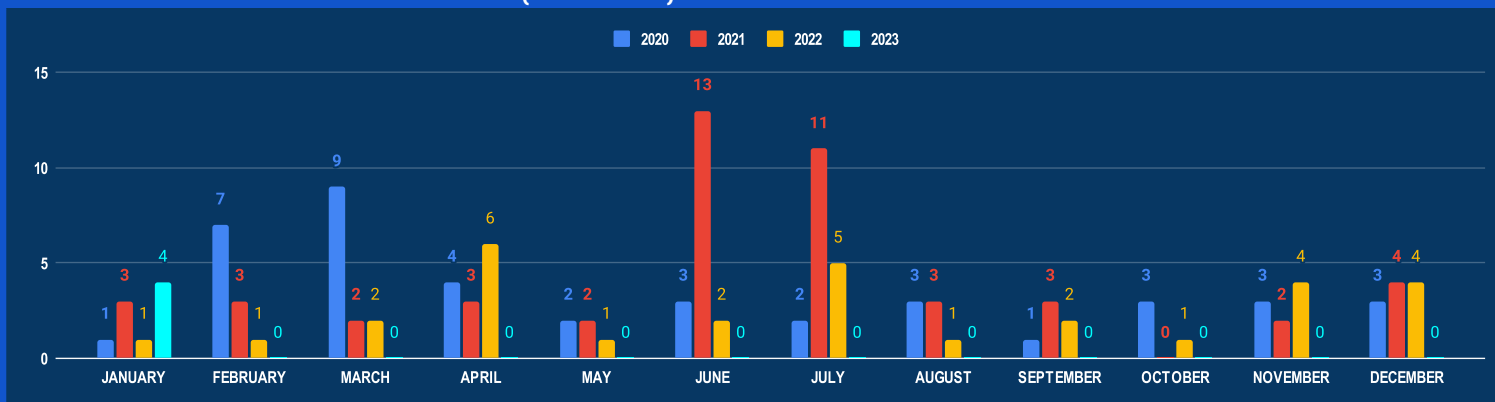


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JANUARY 2023

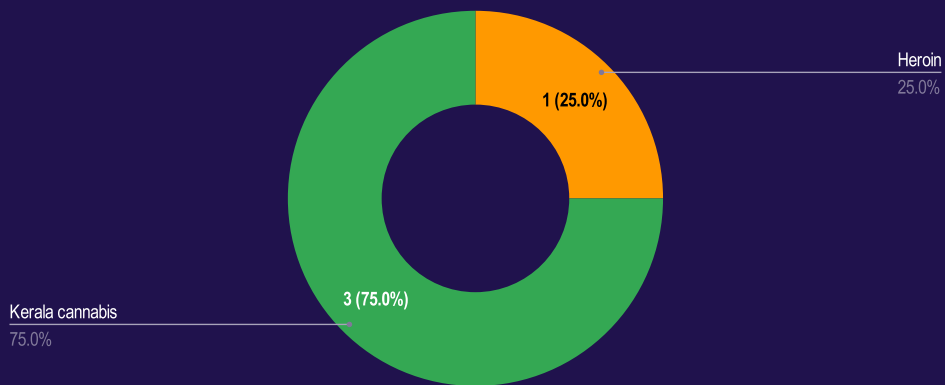
DRUG SMUGGLING - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF DRUG SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)

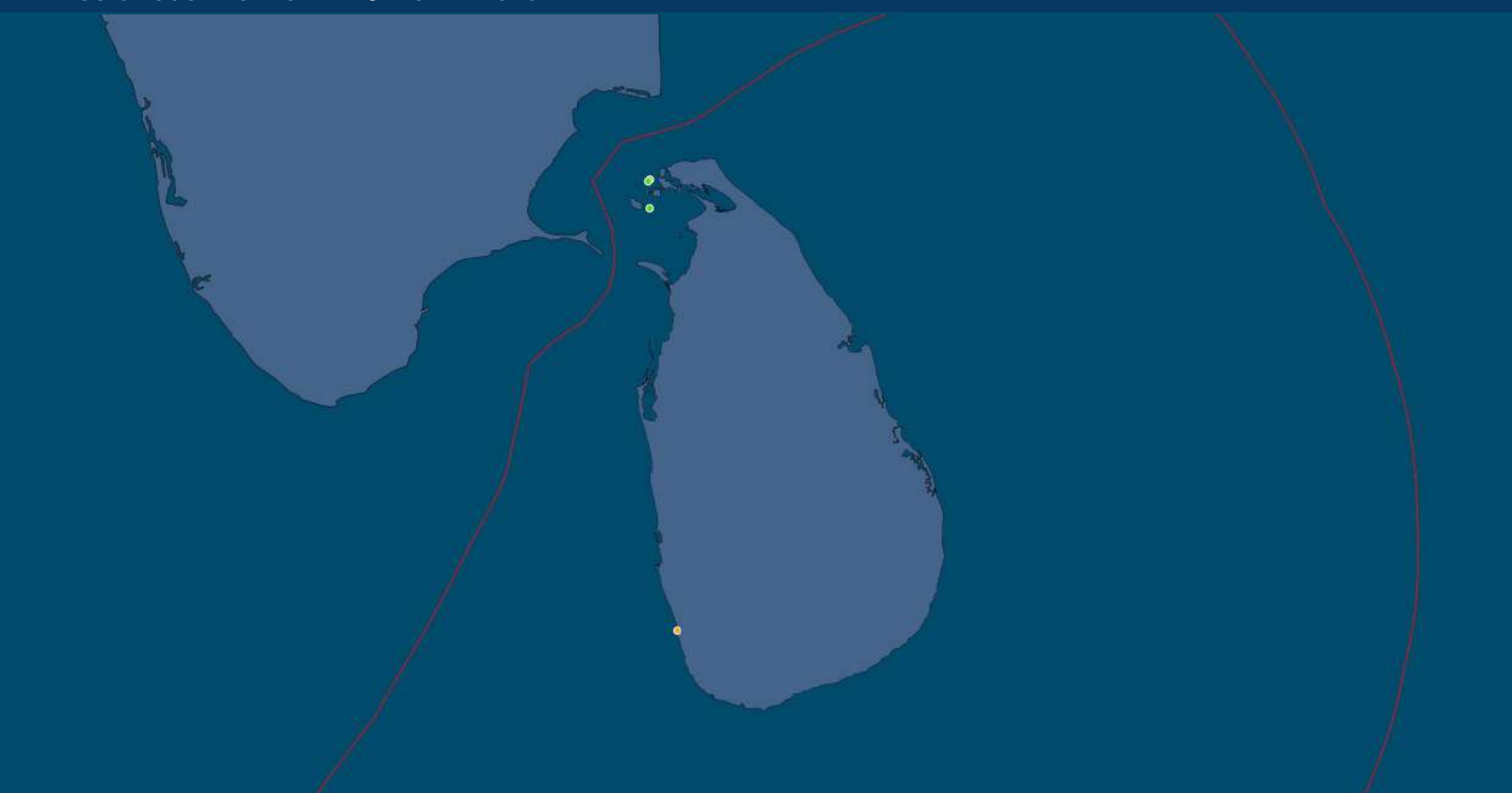


REPORTED INCIDENTS JANUARY 2023

Drug Type	JAN 2023	TOTAL 2023	JAN 2022
Heroin	1	1	1
Kerala cannabis	3	3	0
Ice	0	0	0
Tablets	0	0	0
Hashish	0	0	0
Local cannabis	0	0	0



DRUG SMUGGLING INCIDENT JANUARY 2023



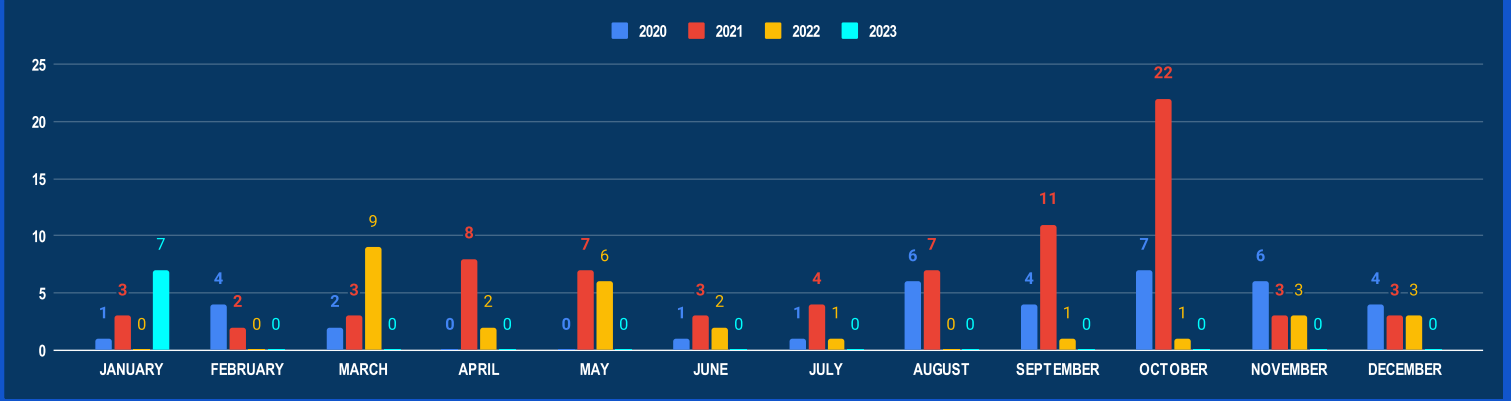


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JANUARY 2023

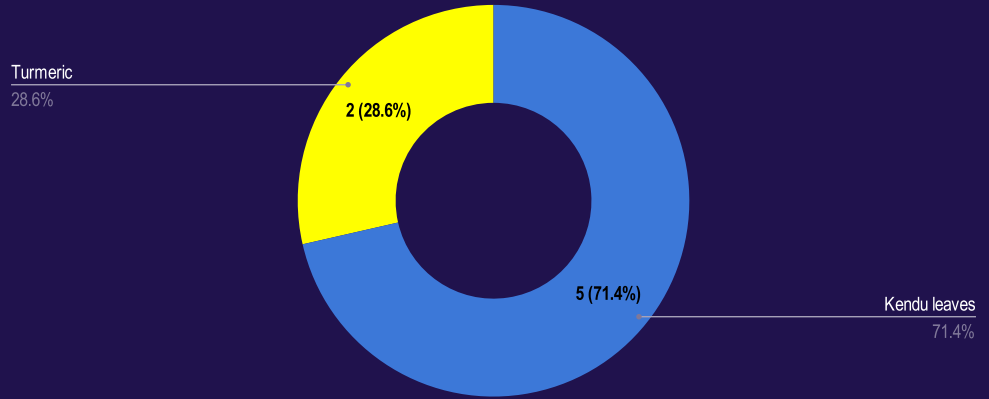
CONTRABAND SMUGGLING - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF CONTRABAND SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)

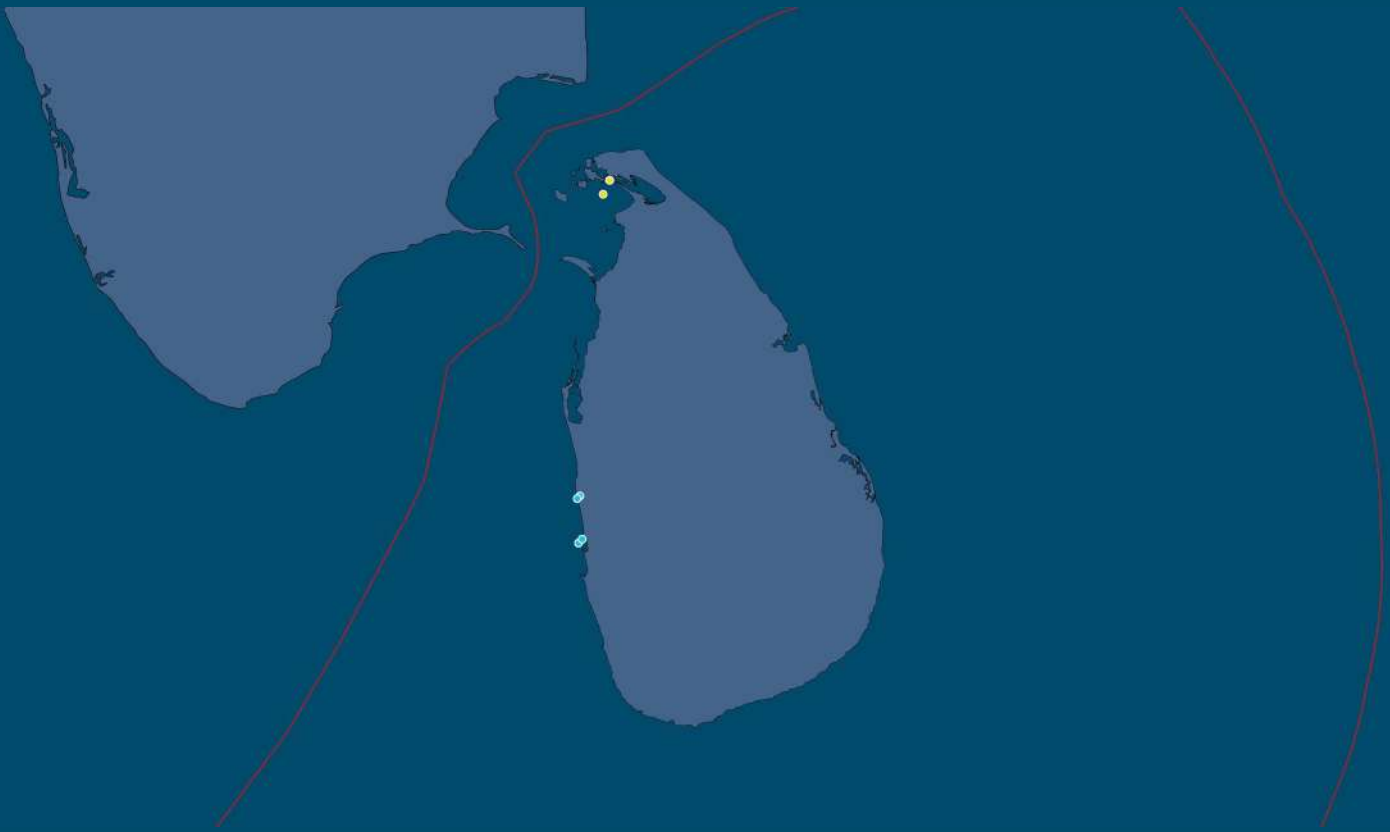


REPORTED INCIDENTS JANUARY 2023

INCIDENT TYPE	JAN 2023	TOTAL 2023	JAN 2022
Cardamom	0	0	0
Glyphosate	0	0	0
Gold	0	0	0
Kendu leaves	5	5	0
Other	0	0	0
Turmeric	2	2	0



CONTRABAND SMUGGLING INCIDENT JANUARY 2023



EVENTS

01. 05th January 2023

Navy nabs 09 persons for illegal harvesting of sea cucumber in Mannar

The Navy apprehended 09 persons for illegal harvesting of sea cucumber during a special operation conducted off Achchankulam, Mannar in the wee hours of 05th January 2023. The operation also led to the seizure of diving gears, 01 dinghy and 168 illegally harvested sea cucumbers.

Sri Lanka Navy conducts constant operations in coastal and sea areas around the island to prevent various forms of illegal fishing activities. In a similar effort, this apprehension was made by SLNS Pussadewa, during a special operation mounted off Achchankulam on 05th January. Accordingly, naval personnel took hold of 09 persons engaged in illegal harvesting of sea cucumber with their diving gears, 01 dinghy and 168 sea cucumbers.

The apprehended persons were identified as residents of Vankalai in Mannar, from 25 to 58 years of age. The persons and their belongings held in this operation were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Mannar for onward legal proceedings.



02. 05th January 2023

Sri Lanka Coast Guard apprehended two fishing vessels with illegally harvested dried shark fish and shark fins

Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel deployed at Negombo and Beruwala fishery harbour for fishery monitoring and regulating duties arrested two multiday fishing trawlers along with 14 fishermen in possession of illegally harvested shark fins and shark fish on 05th January 2023.

The apprehension was made during the arrival inspection of the fishing trawlers after fishing and found 54kg of dried shark fish and 4.79kg of dried shark fins hidden inside the boat. The arrested persons with apprehended items were handed over to the Beruwala and Negombo Fisheries Inspectors for further investigation.



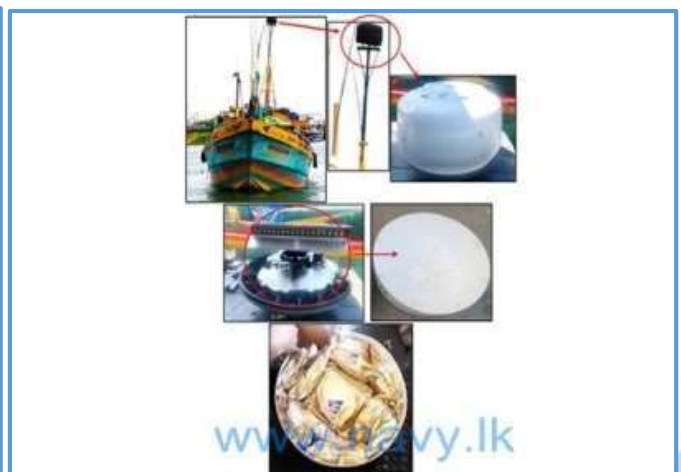
03. 05th & 16th January 2023

Navy apprehends 10 suspects with 02 local fishing trawlers suspected to have smuggled narcotics

Sri Lanka Navy apprehended 10 suspects with 02 local fishing trawlers which were suspected to have smuggled narcotics into the island. The suspects and the fishing trawlers were escorted to the Port of Colombo on 16th January 2023. The apprehension was made based on information revealed by the suspects of a local fishing trawler which was held during a special operation carried out by the Navy in waters west of Beruwala on 05th January. The same operation also led to the seizure of 23kg and 235g (including packages) of heroin smuggled by those suspects.

In order to curb illegal activities, including the smuggling of drugs via sea routes, Sri Lanka Navy conducts regular patrols and operations in the coastal and beach areas of the island. According to a coordinated operation carried out by the Navy together with other intelligence services, it has been revealed that a number of local multi-day fishing trawlers are involved in the smuggling of drugs into Sri Lanka. During the apprehension made by SLNS Wickrama II on 05th January off Beruwala, 22 packages of heroin weighing 23kg and 235g (including packages) were recovered from the suspicious trawler (Reg. No. IMUL-A-1610-MTR Kingfisher - 6). Along with the consignment of narcotics, 05 suspects and the drug-carrying trawler were also taken into custody.

Based on information revealed by the suspects apprehended in that operation, two (02) more local multi-day fishing trawlers (Reg. No. IMUL-A-1888-MTR Kingfisher - 8 and IMUL-A-2029-MTR Kingfisher - 3) suspected of smuggling drugs to Sri Lanka were intercepted off the western coast by SLNS Gajabahu on 07th and 08th January. During interrogation, the suspects aboard those trawlers admitted that they had thrown the stocks of narcotics overboard with the presence of the Navy. The interrogation also revealed that drug traffickers have developed a new strategy in which they remove inside components of the multi-day fishing trawlers' Radar domes and conceal drugs within. Fishing trawlers and 10 suspects were handed over to the Police Narcotic Bureau for onward legal proceedings.





04. 18th January 2023

A smuggled consignment of kendu leaves seized in Chilaw Lagoon

A search operation carried out by the Sri Lanka Navy led to the apprehension of 03 dinghies loaded with over 2468kg (wet weight) of smuggled kendu leaves in the lagoon area of Chilaw on 18th January 2023. During the operation, 03 suspects in connection to the incident were also apprehended.

Sri Lanka Navy and Coast Guard conduct regular search operations and patrols in the coastal areas of the island, with a view to prevent the influx of contraband into the island. Based on information, the combined operation was carried out by the intelligence staff of the Coast Guard Station Chilaw, intelligence staff of the Western Naval Command and naval personnel attached to the Coast Guard Station Chilaw on 18th January. In this operation, 03 suspicious dinghies heading landward via the Chilaw Lagoon were searched at the Thoduwawa Bridge, Chilaw and the consignment of smuggled kendu leaves was seized. The kendu leaves had been stuffed in 76 sacks and they weighed about 2468kg and 640g (wet weight).

The suspects held in this operation were identified as residents of Pitipana, Negombo aged 29 and 42. The accused together with the items of contraband handed over to the Excise Department Office, Madampe for onward legal action.



05. 19th January 2023

Navy takes hold of over 989kg of smuggled dried turmeric in northern waters

Sri Lanka Navy seized about 989kg (wet weight) of dried turmeric, during separate search operations carried out off Gurunagar and Mandaitivu, Jaffna on the night of 19th January 2023. The search operations also led to the apprehension of 04 suspects in connection to the rackets.

The Navy remains ever alert and conducts patrols and search operations in the coastal areas of the island to prevent the influx of contraband. As an extension of these efforts, the Inshore Patrol Craft deployed by SLNS Kanchadewa in the Northern Naval Command had spotted a suspicious dinghy off the Mandaitivu Island on 19th January. During search of the dinghy, the Navy managed to find about 496kg and 054g (wet weight) of dried turmeric (in 14 sacks) being smuggled and apprehension of 02 suspects with the dinghy used for the illegal act. Further, naval personnel also retrieved about 48kg and 030g (wet weight) of dried turmeric (in 01 sack) thrown overboard by the suspects.

Meanwhile, the Navy Marines attached to SLNS Welusumana also searched a suspicious dinghy off Gurunagar in the dark hours of 19th January. The search has led to the seizure of 12 sacks stuffed with smuggled dried turmeric, weighing about 445kg and 800g (wet weight). The Navy also apprehended 02 suspects involved in the illegal act and the dinghy used for the same purpose.

The suspects apprehended in these search operations were identified as residents of Mannar and they are from 33 to 51 years of age. The accused together with the stock of dried turmeric (weighing about 989kg and 884g in wet weight) and 02 dinghies handed over to the office of Jaffna Customs for onward legal proceedings.



06. 20th January 2023

Sri Lanka Coast Guard apprehended a fishing vessel with illegally harvested shark fins and fish

Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel deployed at Beruwala fishery harbour for fishery monitoring and regulating duties apprehended a multiday fishing vessel along with six fishermen in possession of illegally harvested shark fins and fish on 20th January 2023.

The apprehension was made while conducting an onboard inspection in multiday fishing vessel and found 130 Nos of shark fins (approx 21 Kg 250g), 02 Nos common thresher shark fish (approx 62 Kg 100g) and 07 Nos Oceanic whitetip shark fish (approx. 127Kg 850g) hidden inside the fishing vessel when they returned after fishing.

The arrested persons with apprehended items were handed over to the Fishery Inspector, Beruwala for onward legal actions.



07. 24th January 2023

Navy seizes over 1105kg of smuggled kendu leaves in Dungalpitiya Lagoon area, Negombo

A special search operation conducted by the Navy in Dungalpitiya Lagoon area of Negombo on 24th January 2023 led to the seizure of over 1105 kg of smuggled kendu leaves. In addition, the Navy also nabbed 02 suspects and apprehended 02 dinghies used for the act of smuggling.

Based on information received by the Navy, SLNS Kelani in the Western Naval Command and Sri Lanka Coast Guard searched a suspicious house near Dungalpitiya Lagoon and recovered about 1105 kg 700g of smuggled kendu leaves from the house on the morning of 24th January. Thus, the consignment of kendu leaves, stuffed in 35 sacks, 02 dinghies used for the racket and 02 suspects in connection to the incident were taken into custody.

The suspects were identified as residents of Negombo, aged 42 and 44. The accused along with the stock of kendu leaves and dinghies were handed over to the Customs Preventive Office in Katunayake for onward legal proceedings.



08. 24th January 2023

Kerala cannabis worth over Rs. 20 Mn. seized in Analathivu, Jaffna

Sri Lanka Navy and Police seized over 60kg (wet weight) of kerala cannabis, during a combined search operation carried out in the beach area of the Analathivu Island in Jaffna on 24th January 2023.

The Navy keeps a watchful eye on the coastal and sea areas around the island, with a view to curb a wide range of illegal activities carried out by smugglers via sea.

As an extension of constant naval search operations and patrols, SLNS Elara in the Northern Naval Command, in coordination with Kayts Police, took hold of this stock of kerala cannabis which had been washed ashore. The consignment of narcotic substance was in 25 packages stuffed in 02 sacks and they weighed about 60kg and 652g (wet weight).

It is believed that the smugglers might have left behind the consignment being unable to fetch them ashore, as a result of constant naval search operations in the area. The gross street value of the stock of kerala cannabis is believed to be over Rs. 20 million.

Meanwhile, the stock of kerala cannabis was handed over to the Kayts Police for onward legal proceedings.



Navy apprehends 03 suspects with kerala cannabis worth more than Rs. 16 Mn gross street value in northern waters

The Navy seized more than 49kg (wet weight) of kerala cannabis, during a special search operation carried out off the Delft Island in Jaffna on 25th January 2023. The operation also led to the apprehension of 03 suspects along with a dingy in connection to the illegal act.

During the search of the dinghy, the Navy managed to seize about 20kg and 900g (wet weight) of kerala cannabis in 09 packages which had been contained in a sack. Meanwhile, 03 suspects involved in the racket and the dinghy used for smuggling of illegal drugs were also taken into naval custody.

In addition, the Navy deployed SLNS Ranavijaya attached to the Northern Naval Command to search the same sea area, where naval personnel recovered another sack adrift in waters. The sack had been left behind by the suspects as a result of the presence of the Navy, and there were 11 packages of kerala cannabis weighing around 29kg (wet weight).

The gross street value of the stock of kerala cannabis seized in this operation is believed to be over Rs. 16 million.

The apprehended suspects who are from 25 to 42 years of age, are residents of Mandaitivu and Thalayadi in Jaffna. The suspects together with the stock of kerala cannabis and the dinghy handed over to the Delft Police for onward legal action.



10. 26th January 2023

Navy seizes over 1447kg of smuggled kendu leaves in Negombo

Sri Lanka Navy took hold of over 1447kg of smuggled kendu leaves, during a special operation carried out in the lagoon and sea area of Negombo on 26th January 2023.

Two (02) Fast Attack Craft of the 04th Fast Attack Flotilla in the Western Naval Command retrieved 21 suspicious sacks adrift in waters, whilst patrolling off Negombo on 26th January. The sacks were stuffed with kendu leaves which weighed around 1026kg and 770g (wet weight). It is suspected that the smugglers might have abandoned the stock of contraband due to constant naval operations in the area.

Meanwhile, SLNS Kelani in the Western Naval Command mounted another search operation in the lagoon area of Pitipana in Negombo on 26th January, upon receipt of information to the Navy. The search operation led to the recovery of about 420kg and 900g (wet weight) of kendu leaves in 13 sacks which had been concealed in a dinghy at the lagoon.

The consignment of kendu leaves (1447kg and 670g) and the dinghy seized by the Navy were subsequently handed over to the Customs Preventive Office in Katunayake for onward legal action.



11. 28th January 2023

Kerala cannabis worth approx. Rs. 4 million gross street value seized on Analaitivu Island

A combined operation carried out by the Navy and Police in the beach area of the Analaitivu Island led to the seizure of over 12kg of kerala cannabis on 28th January 2023.

The special operation was conducted by SLNS Elara in the Northern Naval Command with the assistants of Kayts Police in Analaitivu on 28th January. The search operation has led to the recovery of six (06) packages of kerala cannabis concealed in the beach area and the consignment of narcotics weighed about 12 kg and 110g.

It is suspected that the smugglers might have hidden the consignment of illegal drugs at the beach, being unable to take them away due to constant naval operations. The gross street value of this stock of kerala cannabis is believed to be about Rs. 4 million.

The stock of kerala cannabis held in this operation was handed over to the Kayts Police for onward legal action.



12. 30th January 2023

Sri Lanka Coast Guard apprehended two fishing vessels with illegally harvested dried shark fins and shark fish

Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel deployed at Dikovita fishery harbour for fishery monitoring and regulating duties apprehended two multiday fishing vessels along with 14 fishermen in possession of illegally harvested dried shark fins and shark fish on 30th January 2023.

The apprehension was made while conducting an onboard inspection in multiday fishing trawlers and found 10.9kg dried shark fish and 2.4kg dried shark fins hidden inside the boats when they returned after fishing. The arrested persons with apprehended items were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Dikovita for further legal action.

