



Information Fusion Centre

Colombo - Sri Lanka


IFC Monthly Reports


February 2023

 Naval Headquarters, Colombo, Sri Lanka

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 www.ifccolombo.org

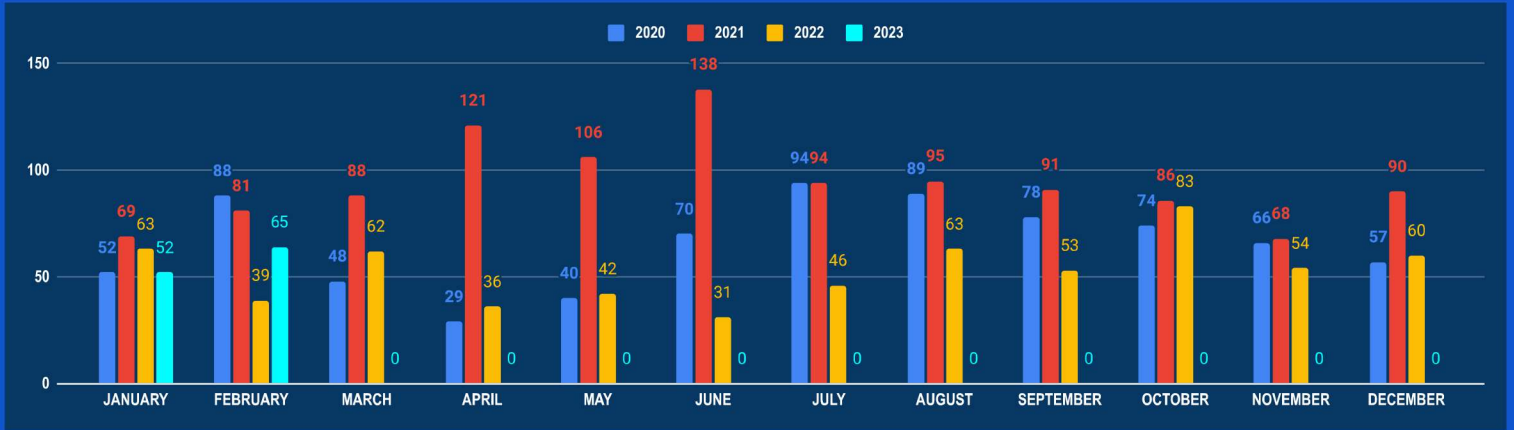
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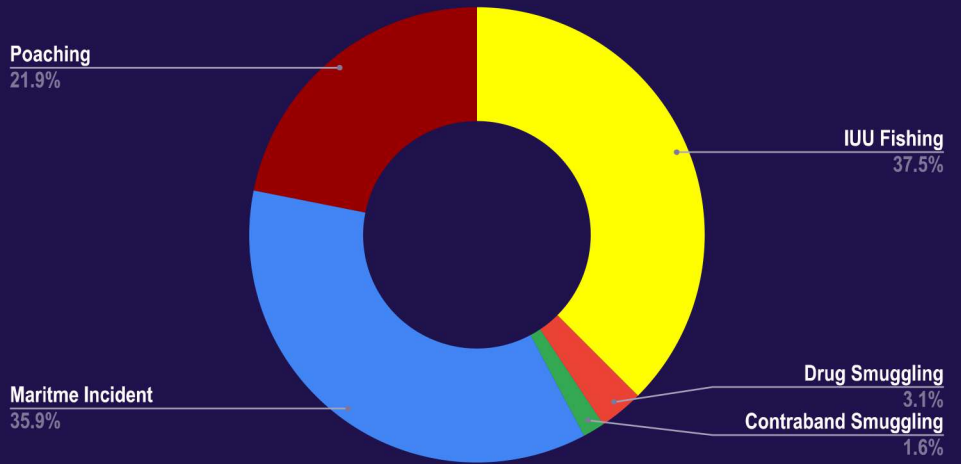
MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS (2020-2023)

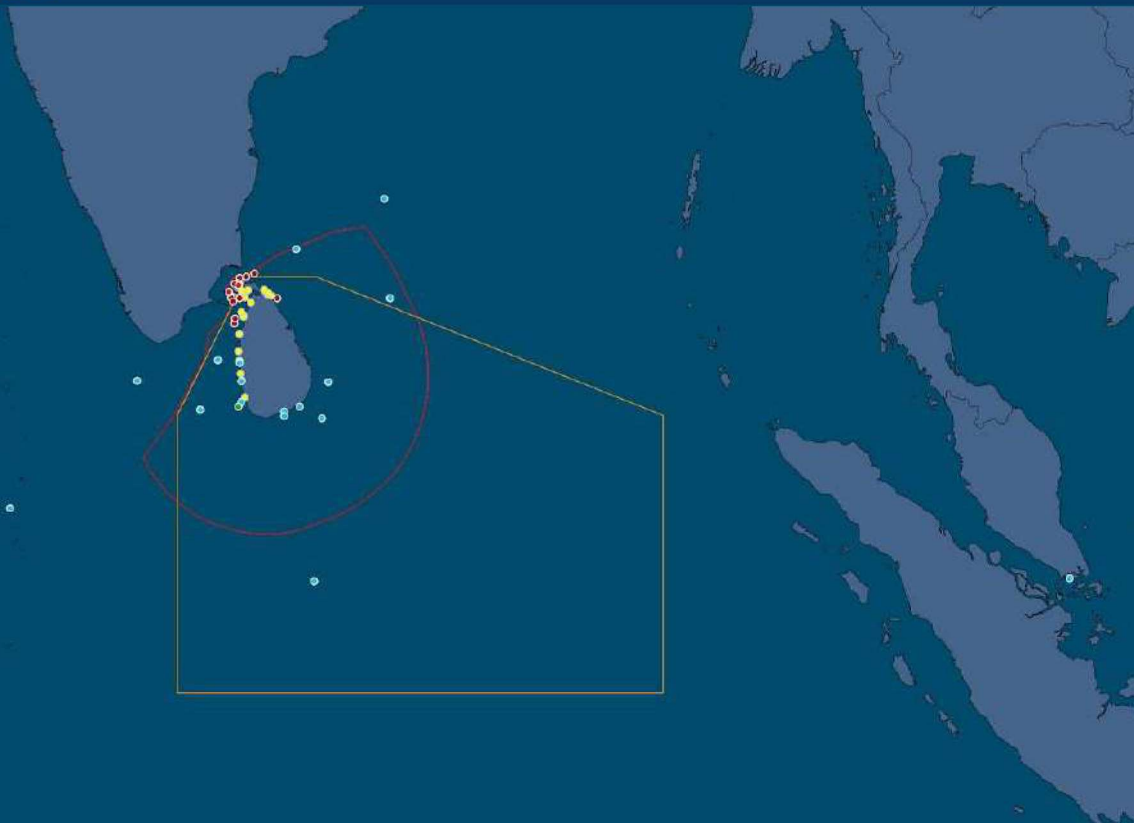


REPORTED INCIDENTS FEBRUARY 2023

INCIDENT TYPE	FEB 2023	TOTAL 2023	FEB 2022
IUU Fishing	25	33	9
Drug Smuggling	2	6	1
Contraband Smuggling	1	8	0
Human Smuggling	0	0	0
Maritime Incident	23	53	19
Poaching	14	16	10
Explosive and Firearms	0	0	0



MARITIME INCIDENTS FEBRUARY 2023



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

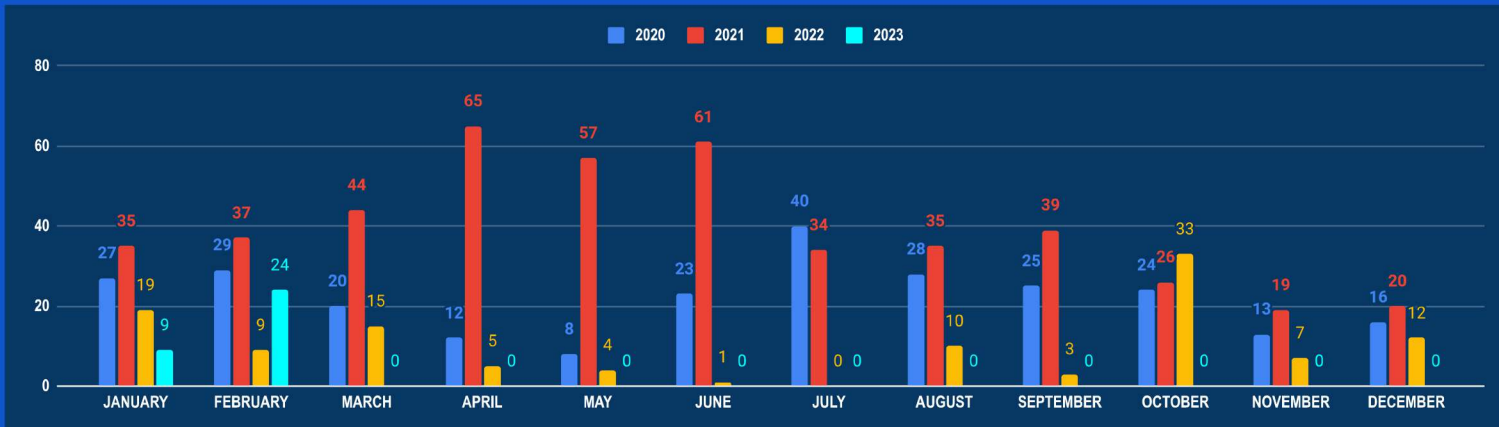


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP FEBRUARY 2023

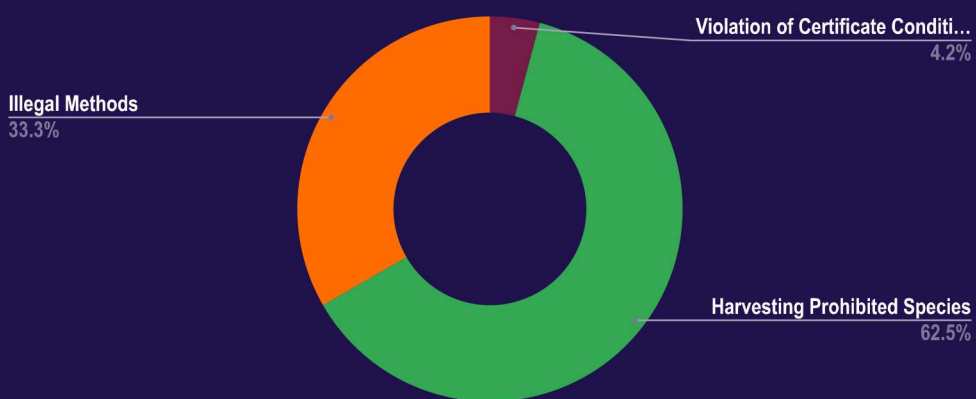
IUU FISHING INCIDENTS - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF IUU FISHING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



REPORTED INCIDENTS FEBRUARY 2023

INCIDENT TYPE	FEB 2023	TOTAL 2023	FEB 2022
Violation of Certificate Conditions	1	2	3
Harvesting Prohibited Species	16	19	6
Illegal Net	0	3	0
Illegal Methods	8	9	0
Explosive Fishing	0	0	0



IUU FISHING INCIDENTS FEBRUARY 2023



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

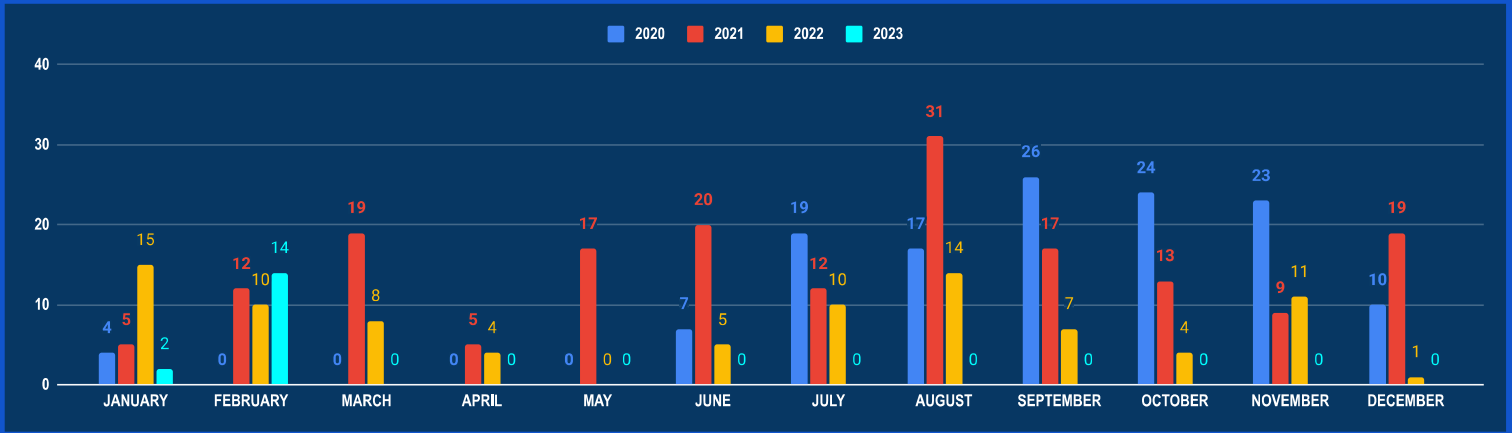


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP FEBRUARY 2023

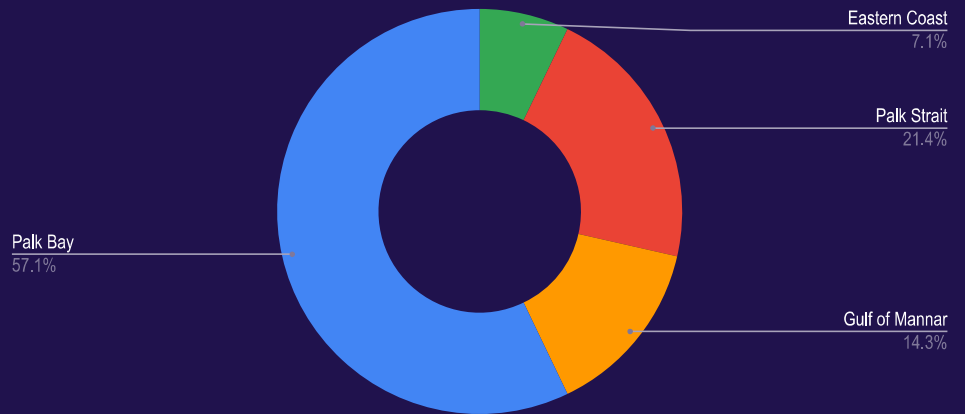
POACHING INCIDENTS - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF POACHING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)

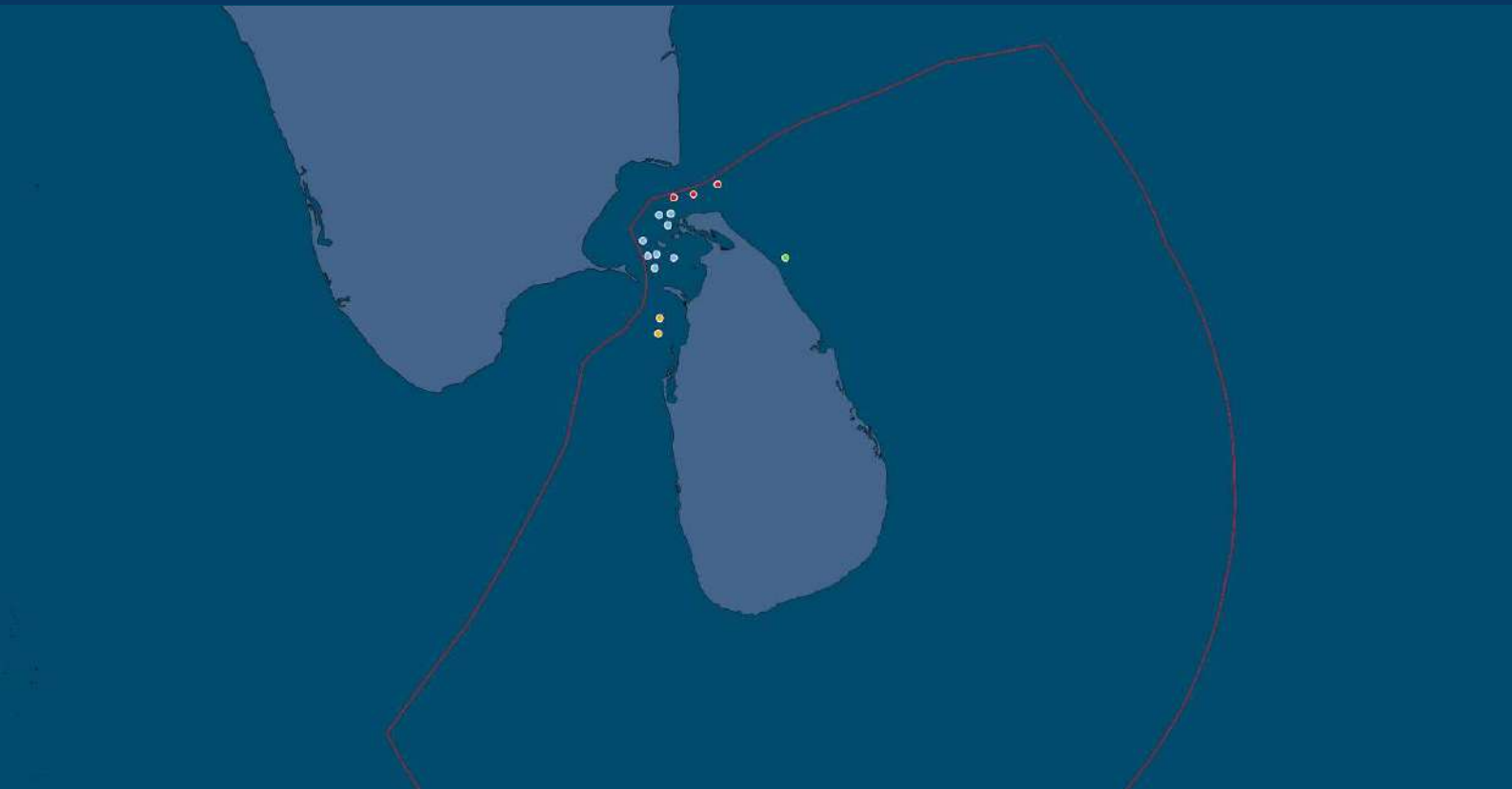


REPORTED INCIDENTS FEBRUARY 2023

	FEB 2023	TOTAL 2023	FEB 2022
Eastern Coast	1	2	0
Palk Strait	3	3	2
Gulf of Mannar	2	2	1
Palk Bay	8	9	7
Other	0	0	0



POACHING INCIDENTS FEBRUARY 2023



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

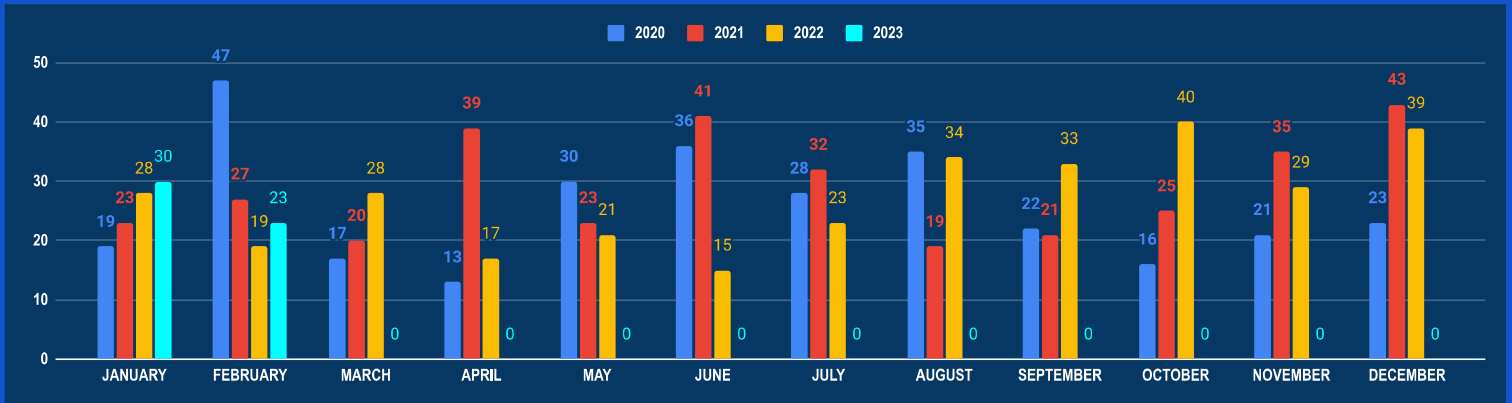


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP FEBRUARY 2023

MARITIME INCIDENT - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF MARITIME INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



REPORTED INCIDENTS FEBRUARY 2023

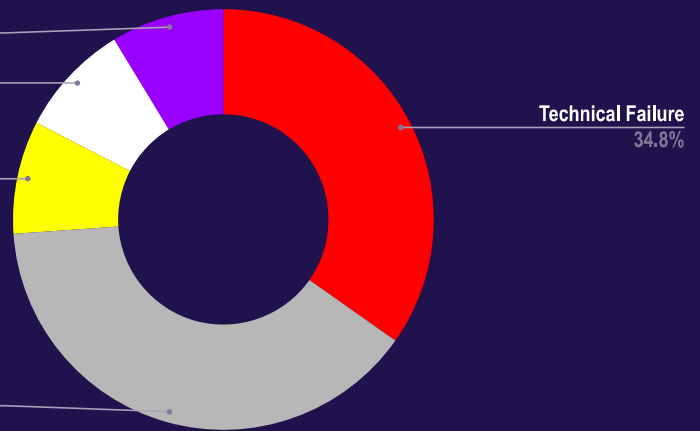
INCIDENT TYPE	FEB 2023	TOTAL 2023	FEB 2022
Technical Failure	8	28	3
Fire onboard	0	0	1
EPIRB Alert	9	14	4
Man Over Boat	0	1	1
Arrival Overdue	0	0	2
Capsized	0	0	1
Ground	0	1	4
Death	0	0	0
Patient onboard	2	4	3
Collision	0	0	0
No Communication	2	3	0
Other Incident	2	2	0

Other Incident

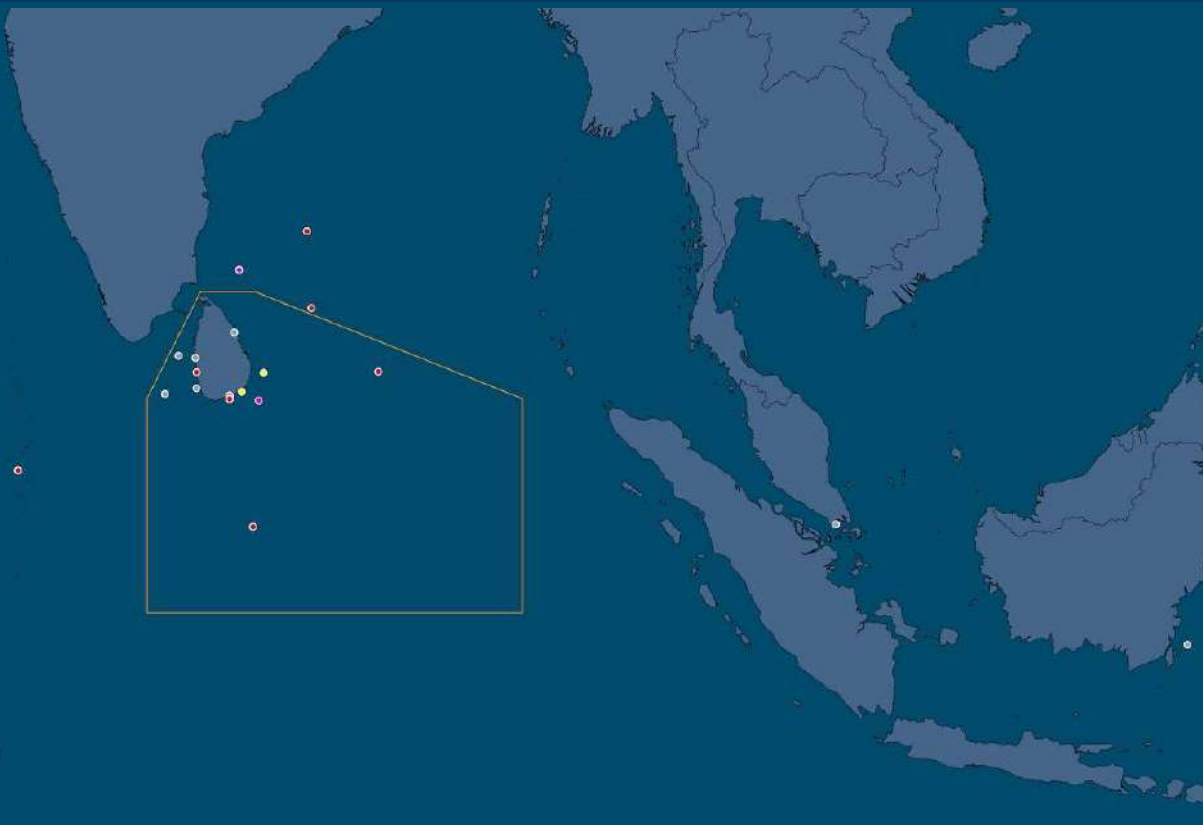
8.7%
No Communication
8.7%

Patient onboard
8.7%

EPIRB Alert
39.1%



MARITIME INCIDENT FEBRUARY 2023



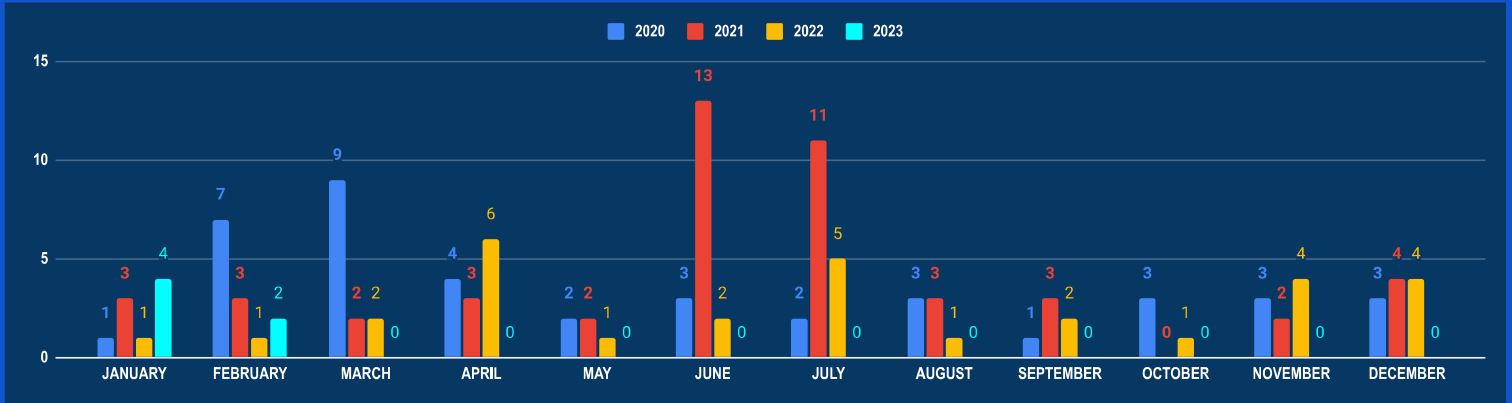


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP FEBRUARY 2023

DRUG SMUGGLING - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF DRUG SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)

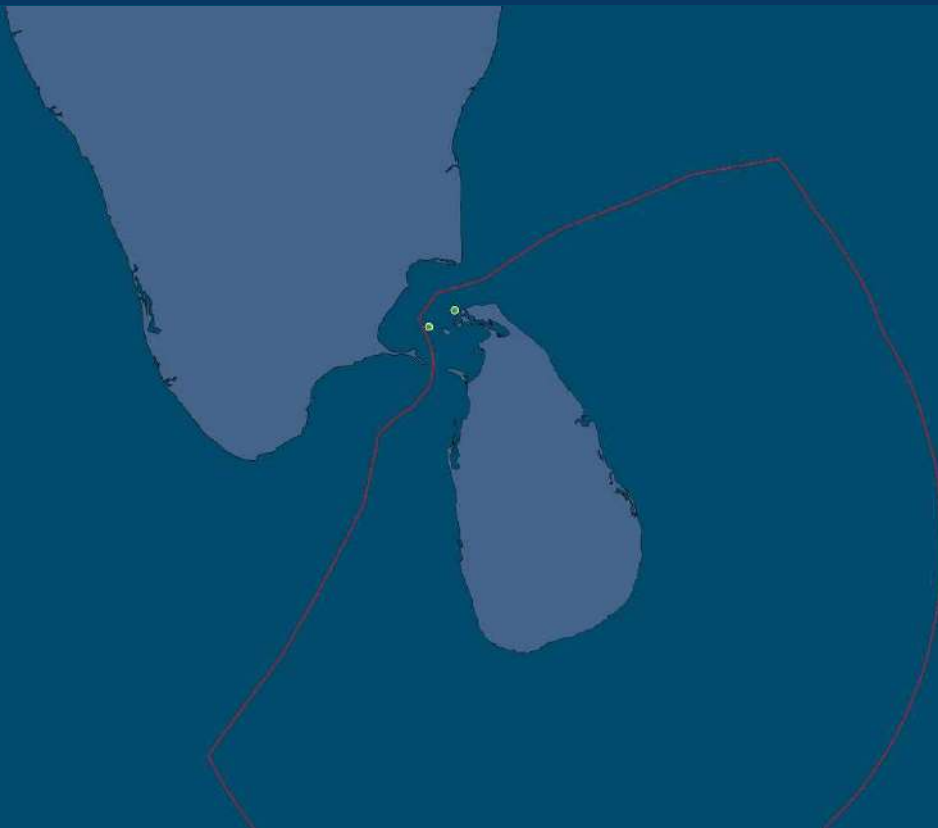


REPORTED INCIDENTS FEBRUARY 2023

Drug Type	FEB 2023	TOTAL 2023	FEB 2022
Heroin	0	1	0
Kerala cannabis	2	5	1
Ice	0	0	0
Tablets	0	0	0
Hashish	0	0	0
Local cannabis	0	0	0



DRUG SMUGGLING INCIDENT FEBRUARY 2023



Heroin Ice Kerala Cannabis Hashish Other Local cannabis

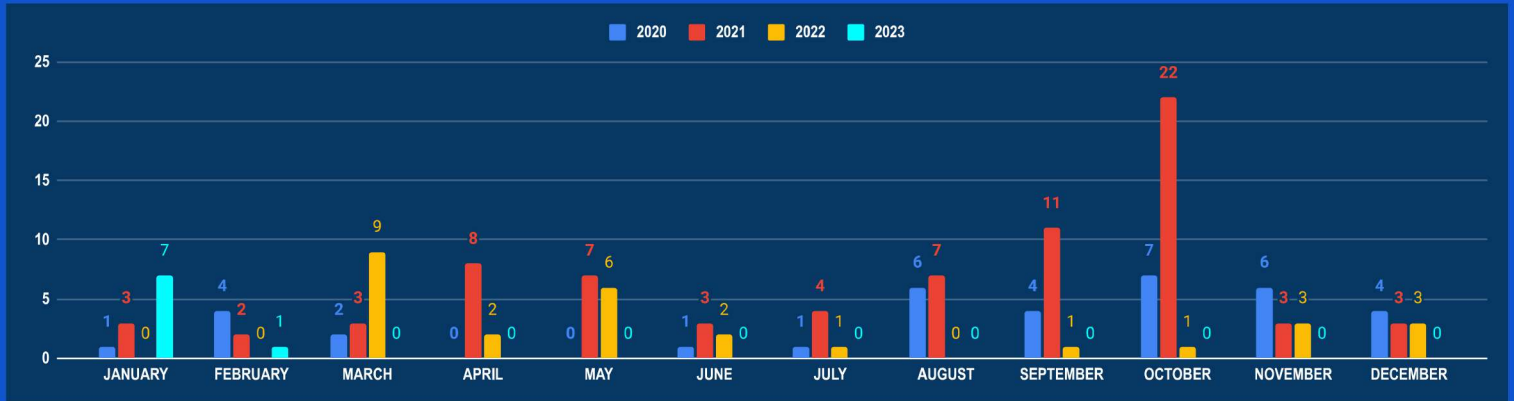


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP FEBRUARY 2023

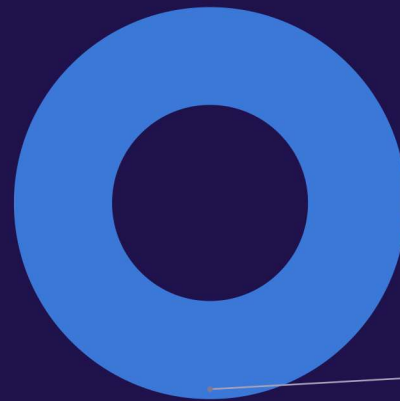
CONTRABAND SMUGGLING - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF CONTRABAND SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



REPORTED INCIDENTS FEBRUARY 2023

INCIDENT TYPE	FEB 2023	TOTAL 2023	FEB 2022
Cardamom	0	0	0
Glyphosate	0	0	0
Gold	0	0	0
Kendu leaves	1	6	0
Other	0	0	0
Turmeric	0	2	0



CONTRABAND SMUGGLING INCIDENT FEBRUARY 2023



■ Cardamom
 ■ Glyphosate
 ■ Gold
 ■ Kendu leaves
 ■ Turmeric
 ■ Other

EVENTS

01. 02nd February 2023

Navy rescues 04 distressed fishermen in eastern seas

During a rescue operation carried out off Lankapatuna in Trincomalee today (02nd February 2023), Sri Lanka Navy rescued 04 fishermen in distress, as their fishing trawler had collided against a reef in the sea area.

The local fishing trawler (IMUL-A-0048-TLE) is reported to have left the Cod Bay Fisheries Harbour on 24th January with 04 fishermen and it had collided against a reef off Lankapatuna, due to adverse weather. Upon receipt of the distress call by the naval establishment SLNS Lankapatuna in the Eastern Naval Command, a dinghy was rushed to the scene by this morning to rescue the fishermen. Having reached the location swiftly, the Navy managed to rescue those 04 distressed fishermen and brought them ashore safely.

The Navy will continue to play a crucial role in protecting fishing and maritime communities who face similar unfortunate incidents in the Search and Rescue Region of Sri Lanka.



02. 04th February 2023

Navy nabs 03 persons for illegal harvesting of sea cucumber in Kalpitiya

The Navy apprehended 03 persons for illegal harvesting of sea cucumber, during a special operation conducted off Ippantivu, Kalpitiya on 04th February 2023. The operation has also led to the seizure of 17 conch shells, diving gear, 01 dinghy and about 671 sea cucumbers.

Sri Lanka Navy conducts regular operations to prevent illegal fishing practices in island waters and coastal areas of the country. As an extension of these efforts, this operation was mounted by SLNS Vijaya off Ippantivu on the morning of 04th February. Accordingly, the Navy apprehended 03 persons who were illegally harvesting sea cucumber and seized 17 conch shells, diving gear, 01 dinghy and about 671 sea cucumbers.

The apprehended persons were identified as residents of Kalpitiya area, from 26 to 54 years of age. The 03 suspects along with seized items were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Kalpitiya for onward legal proceedings.



03. 11th February 2023

Navy renders assistance for safe release of whales stranded on Kudawa Beach, Kalpitiya

Sri Lanka Navy sprang into action today (11th February 2023) to save a pod of whales beached on Kudawa in Kalpitiya and guide them back to the ocean.

The Naval Establishment SLNS Vijaya in the Northwestern Naval Command spotted about 14 whales stranded on Kudawa Beach this morning. Having quickly deployed to the scene to assess the situation and provide assistance, the Navy coordinated with the Department of Wildlife Conservation and residents of the area and successfully guided the whales back into the deeper waters of the ocean.

Meanwhile, the Department of Wildlife Conservation confirmed that 03 whales have unfortunately died. The pod of whales is believed to be Short-Finned Pilot Whales.



04. 12th February 2023

Sri Lanka Coast Guard arrested a person with illegally harvested dried shark fish and shark fins

Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel deployed at Dikovita Fishery Harbour for fishery monitoring and regulating duties arrested a person in possession of illegally harvested Shark fins and shark fish on 12th February 2023 based on the information provided by Dikovita Coast Guard intelligent staff.

The apprehension was made during the unloading of fish catch and found 41 kg of dried Shark fish and 9.8 kg of dried shark fins hidden inside the boat.

The arrested person with apprehended items was handed over to the Dikovita Fisheries Inspector for further investigation.



Navy apprehends 53 persons for engaging in illegal fishing

The Navy apprehended 53 persons for engaging in illegal fishing, during separate operations carried out in Achchanakulam of Mannar, Pungudutivu of Jaffna, Narivilkulam of Mannar, seas off the Palaitivu Island, Kalmunai Point and northeast of the island from 09th to 15th February 2022. Along with the suspects, 13 dinghies, 01 fishing trawler, fishing gear, illegally caught fish, sea cucumber and conch shells were taken into naval custody.

The Sri Lanka Navy conducts regular operations in the coastal and sea areas of the country to prevent illegal fishing practices. As an extension of these efforts, SLNS Pussadewa in the North Central Naval Command nabbed 03 persons who were catching ornamental fish without licence in Achchanakulam sea area in Mannar on 09th February. The search operation also led to the seizure of about 325 ornamental fish, a dinghy as well as diving and fishing gear used for this illegal act.

Meanwhile, SLNS Gotaimbara in the Northern Naval Command apprehended a person (01) for illegally harvesting sea cucumber without valid licence off Punkudutivu in Jaffna, during a special search carried out on 10th February. The Navy also took into custody about 119 illegally harvested sea cucumbers and a dinghy (01) in this search operation.

On 11th February, SLNS Pussadewa in the North Central Naval Command apprehended 08 individuals for harvesting sea cucumber illegally off Narivilkulam, Mannar on 11th February. The special search operation also led to the apprehension of about 78 illegally harvested sea cucumbers, a dinghy (01) as well as fishing and diving equipment.

In another two separate search operations mounted off the Palaitivu Island in Jaffna on 13th February, SLNS Kanchadewa in the Northern Naval Command apprehended 06 persons who were harvesting sea cucumber by illegal means. The naval personnel engaged in these operations also held about 163 illegally harvested sea cucumbers, 57 conch shells, 02 dinghies, diving gear and fishing equipment.

Meanwhile, SLNS Welusumana in the Northern Naval Command carried out a special search operation off the Kalmunai Point, Jaffna on 14th February and apprehended 24 individuals for illegal harvesting of sea cucumber. During the operation, about 509 illegally harvested sea cucumbers, 03 dinghies, 01 fishing trawler, diving gear and fishing equipment were also taken into naval custody.

In addition, the Naval Deployment Vettalakeni in the Northern Naval Command conducted special search operations in the sea area northeast of the island on 14th and 15th February and apprehended 11 persons for engaging in fishing by means of unauthorized fishing gear. The operation also led to the seizure of 05 dinghies and fishing gear used for this illegal act.

The suspects apprehended in these operations along with illegally caught fish, sea cucumber and conch shells as well as their fishing and diving gear were handed over to fisheries inspectors in respective areas for onward legal action.



Navy renders assistance to bring ashore ill fisherman for treatment

The Sri Lanka Navy brought ashore a fisherman, who fell ill while at sea, and rushed him to the hospital for treatment on the night of 17th February 2023. The fisherman who was aboard a local multiday fishing trawler in seas about 5.3 nautical miles (about 09 km) east of Hambantota had suddenly fallen ill and was in need of medical attention.

The multiday fishing trawler 'MAKSEEN 8' (IMUL-A-1058 TLE) was on a fishing voyage having left the Tangalle Fisheries Harbour on 17th February 2023 with 06 fishermen. Meanwhile, the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, disseminated the distress of this ill fisherman, who was aboard the trawler off Hambantota, to the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Colombo at Navy Headquarters and requested assistance to transfer him ashore.

In response to a request for assistance, the Sri Lanka Navy sent out the Inshore Patrol craft P 227 attached to SLNS Kawanthissa in the Southern Naval Command, to bring the ill fisherman promptly. Having taken over the patient to the Inshore Patrol Craft about 5.3 nautical miles (about 09 km) east of Hambantota amidst rough sea condition, he was brought to the Port of Hambantota while administering first aid. Subsequently, the patient was rushed to the General Hospital, Hambantota for further treatment on the night of 17th February.

The Navy stays prepared to respond to eventualities of this nature, with a view to assist maritime and fishing communities in distress in Sri Lanka's Search and Rescue Region.



07. 16th & 17th February 2023

Sri Lanka Coast Guard arrested illegally harvested dried shark fish and shark fins

Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel deployed at Negombo and Dikovita Fishery Harbours for fishery monitoring and regulating duties arrested 06 fishermen with multiday trawler on 16th February and 05 fishermen with multiday trawler on 17th February 2023 who possessed illegally harvested 51 kg shark fish and 1 Kg, 950 g shark fins respectively.

The apprehension was made during the unloading of fish catch and found 51 kg of dried Shark fish and 1.950 kg of dried shark fins hidden inside the boat. The arrested personnel with apprehended items were handed over to the Negombo and Dikovita Fisheries Inspectors for further investigation



Navy takes hold of smuggled stock of Kendu leaves in Poruthota sea area, Negombo

The Sri Lanka Navy took hold of a smuggled consignment of Kendu leaves weighing about 535kg (wet weight), during a special operation carried out in the sea area of Poruthota, Negombo on 18th February 2023. The consignment was adrift in the sea area when it was spotted by the Navy.

The Navy conducts regular search operations to thwart smuggling activities take place in the coastal and sea areas around the island. Engaged in a search operation, SLNS Kelani in the Western Naval Command spotted 18 suspicious packages adrift in Poruthota sea area on 18th February. Accordingly, the Navy retrieved those packages and found that the packages were stuffed with Kendu leaves weighing about 535kg (wet weight).

It is believed that the smugglers may have left this stock of Kendu leaves in the sea area due to constant naval operations. Meanwhile, the stock of contraband was handed over to the Customs Preventive Office in Katunayake for onward legal proceedings.



09. 19th February 2023

Kerala cannabis worth over Rs. 42 Mn. gross street value seized in northern waters

The Sri Lanka Navy seized over 128kg (wet weight) of Kerala cannabis, during a patrol carried out off the Karainagar Island in Jaffna on 19th February 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 routes.

As an extension of constant naval search operations and patrols, SLNS Edithara II attached to the Northern Naval Command took hold of 03 traveling bags adrift at sea, whilst patrolling the sea area off the Karainagar Island on 19th February. The suspicious traveling bags contained 42 packages which had been stuffed with Kerala cannabis weighing about 128kg and 065g (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. 42 million.



10. 22nd February 2023

Kerala cannabis worth over Rs. 14 Mn. gross street value seized in northern waters

The Sri Lanka Navy seized over 44 kg (wet weight) of Kerala cannabis, during a patrol carried out off the Delft Island in Jaffna on 20th February 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 routes.

As an extension of constant naval search operations and patrols, SLNS Ranawickrama attached to the Northern Naval Command took hold of traveling bag adrift at sea, whilst patrolling the sea area off the Delft Island on 20th February. The suspicious traveling bag contained 14 packages which had been stuffed with Kerala cannabis weighing about 44 kg and 202 g (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. 14 million.



11. 22nd & 23rd February 2023

Navy apprehends 15 persons for engaging in illegal fishing in northern waters

The Sri Lanka Navy apprehended 13 persons for illegal harvesting of sea cucumber and 02 individuals for engaging in light coarse fishing, during separate search operations carried out off the Mandaitivu Island and in the sea area off Veththalakerni in Jaffna on the night of 22nd February and early hours of today (23rd February 2023). The operations also led to the seizure of fishing gear used for these illegal acts. Upon apprehension, the individuals and their fishing gear were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Jaffna for onward legal action.

The Navy conducts regular operations in the coastal and sea areas around the island with a view to prevent illegal fishing practices. In a similar effort, the Naval Deployment Veththalakerni carried out a special operation off Veththalakerni on the night of 22nd February upon detection of a dinghy using light beams. Accordingly, naval personnel apprehended 02 persons and the dinghy for engaging in light coarse fishing in the sea area.

In another special search operation conducted off the Mandaitivu Island on the morning of 23rd February, SLNS Welusumana nabbed 13 persons for illegal harvesting of sea cucumber. During the operation, 789 illegally harvested sea cucumbers, 04 crafts and fishing gear were also taken into naval custody.

The persons held in these operations were identified as residents of Mannar and Jaffna areas. The 15 suspects, their crafts, sea cucumbers and other belongings were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Jaffna for onward legal action.

