



Information Fusion Centre

Colombo - Sri Lanka


IFC Monthly Reports

March 2023

 Naval Headquarters, Colombo, Sri Lanka

 ifc@navy.lk

 www.ifccolombo.org

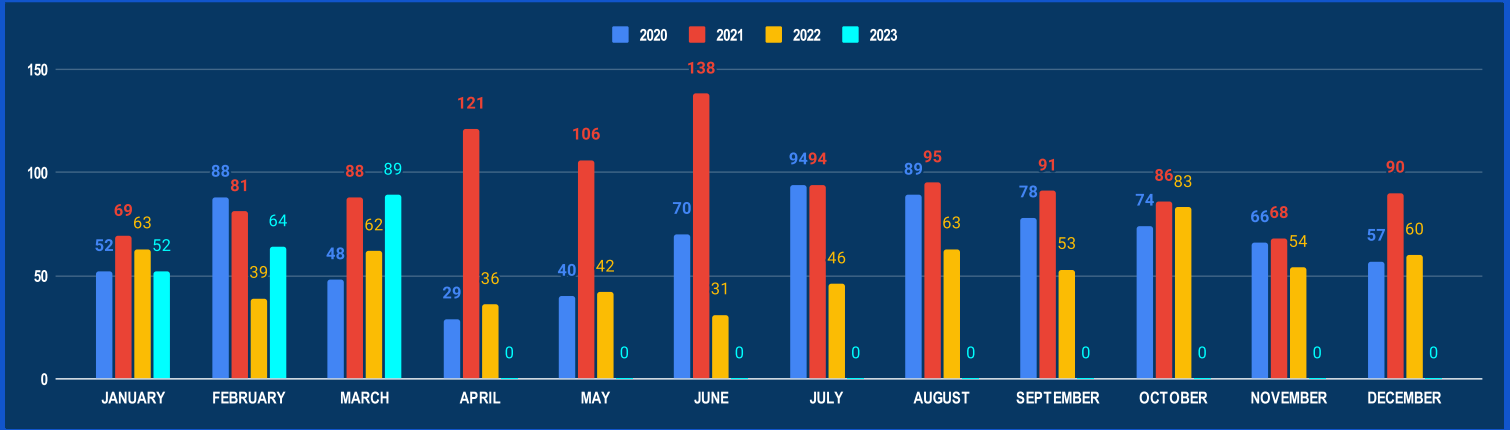
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MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



REPORTED INCIDENTS MARCH 2023

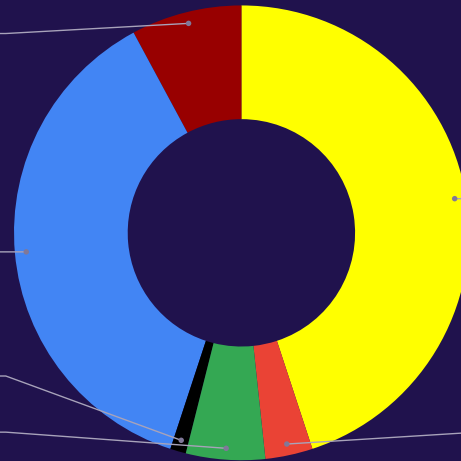
INCIDENT TYPE	MAR 2023	TOTAL 2023	MAR 2022
IUU Fishing	40	73	15
Drug Smuggling	3	9	2
Contraband Smuggling	5	13	9
Human Smuggling	1	1	0
Maritime Incident	33	86	28
Poaching	7	23	8
Explosive and Firearms	0	0	0

Poaching
7.9%

Maritime Incident
37.1%

Human Smuggling
1.1%

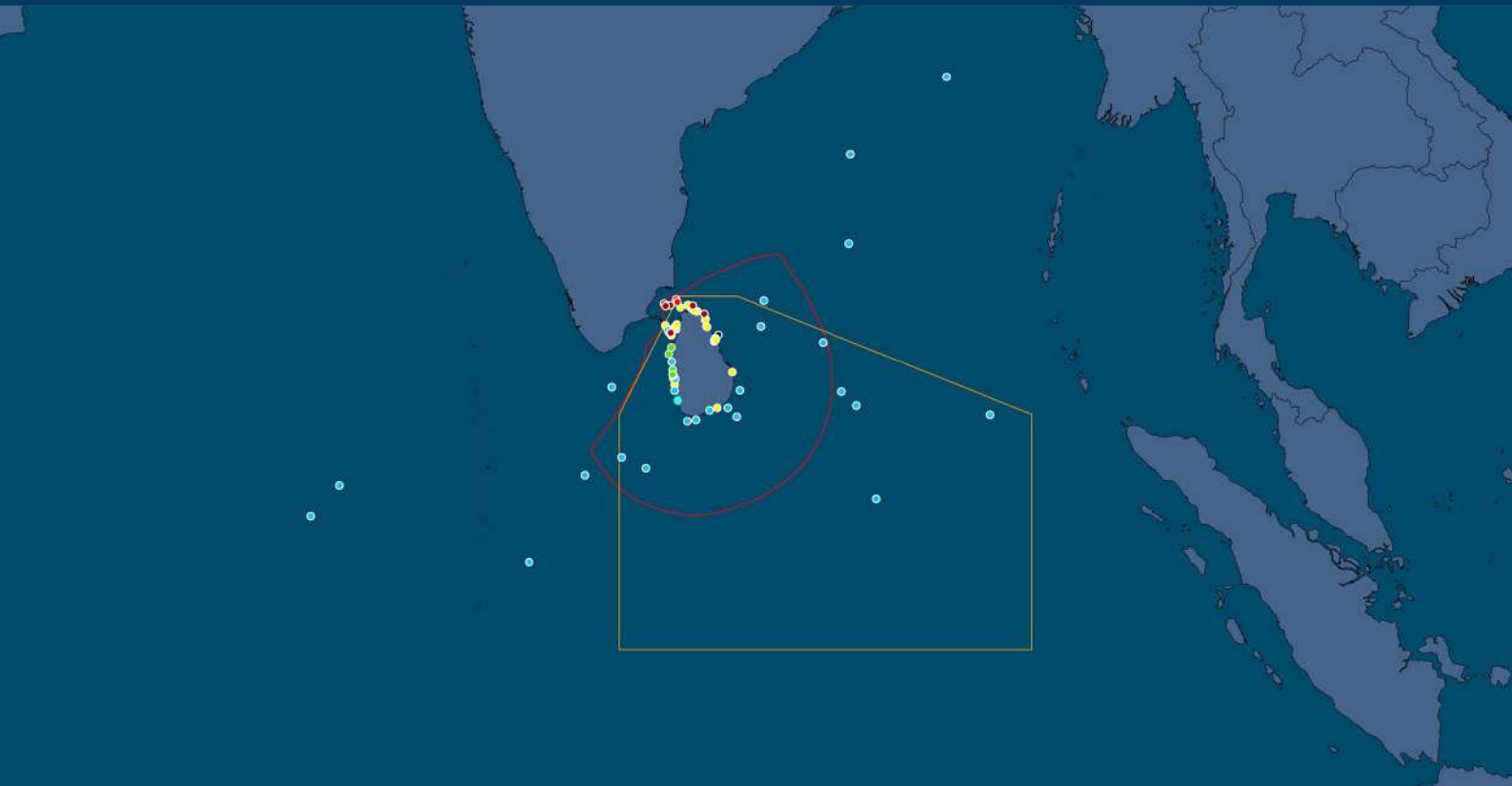
Contraband Smuggling
5.6%



IUU Fishing
44.9%

Drug Smuggling
3.4%

MARITIME INCIDENTS MARCH 2023



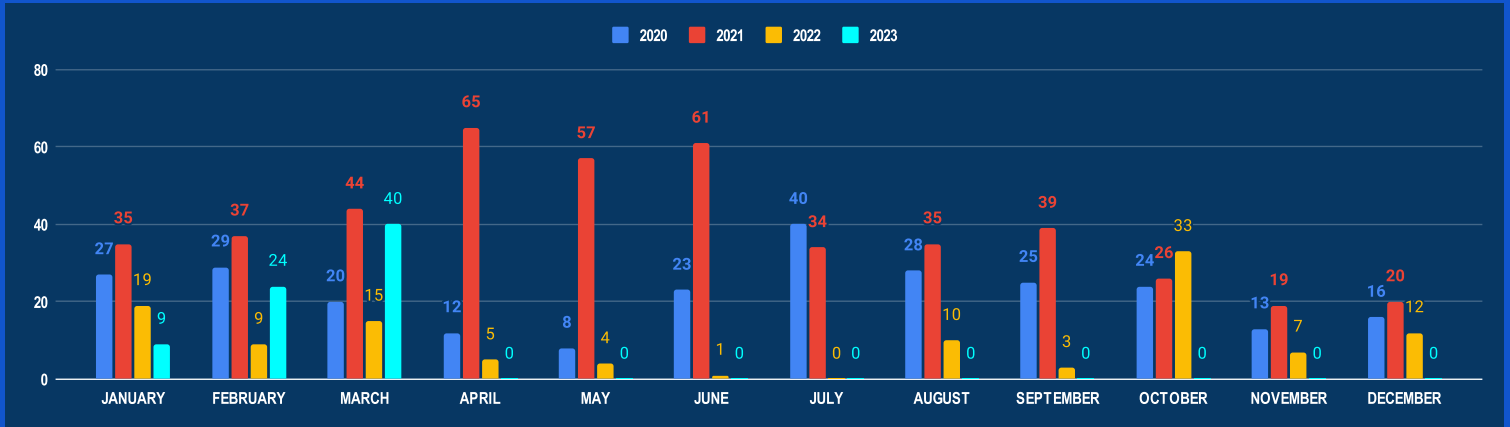


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP MARCH 2023

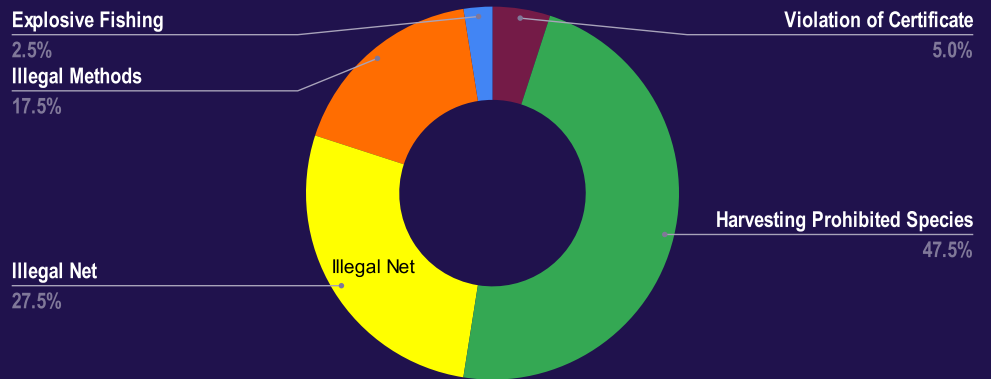
IUU FISHING INCIDENTS - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF IUU FISHING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



REPORTED INCIDENTS MARCH 2023

INCIDENT TYPE	MAR 2023	TOTAL 2023	MAR 2022
Violation of Certificate Conditions	2	4	0
Harvesting Prohibited Species	19	38	8
Illegal Net	11	14	7
Illegal Methods	7	16	0
Explosive Fishing	1	1	0



IUU FISHING INCIDENTS MARCH 2023



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

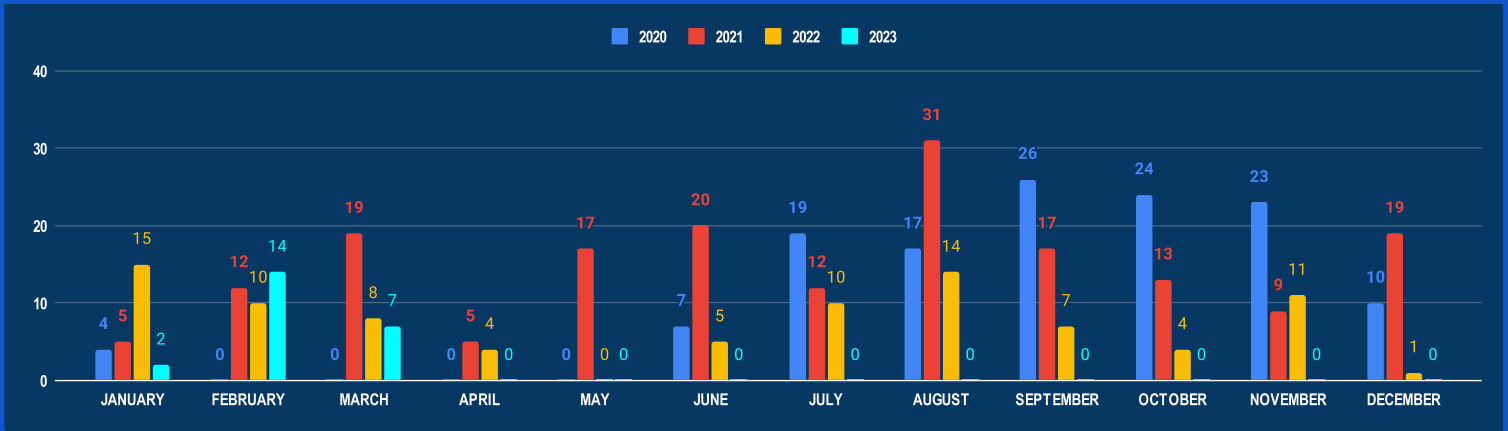


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP MARCH 2023

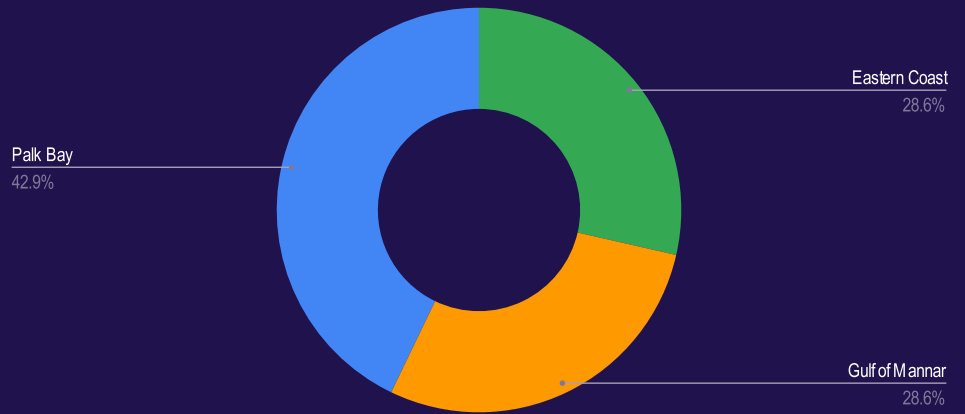
POACHING INCIDENTS - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF POACHING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)

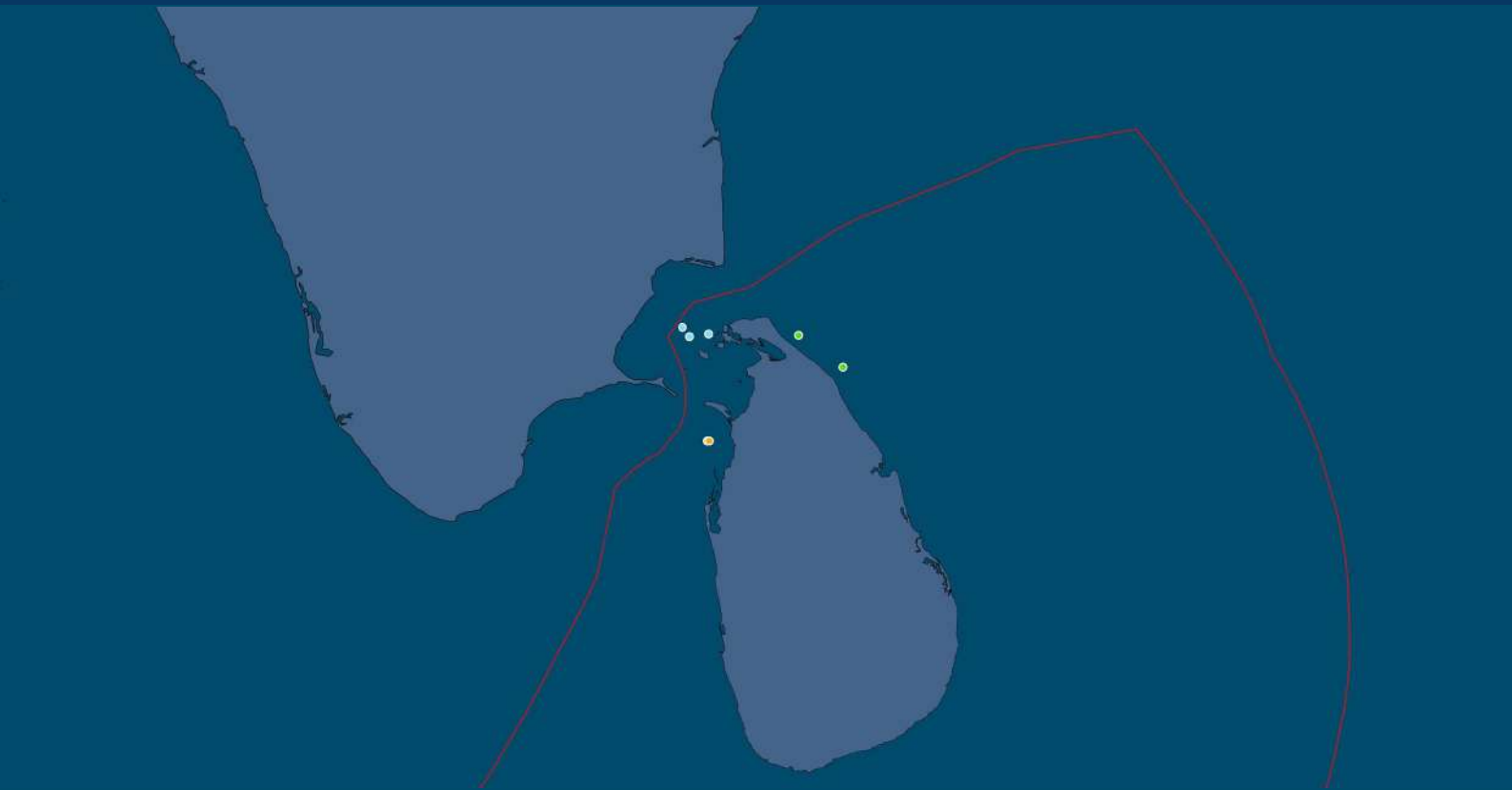


REPORTED INCIDENTS MARCH 2023

	MAR 2023	TOTAL 2023	MAR 2022
Eastern Coast	2	4	0
Palk Strait	0	3	2
Gulf of Mannar	2	4	1
Palk Bay	3	12	5
Other	0	0	2



POACHING INCIDENTS MARCH 2023



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

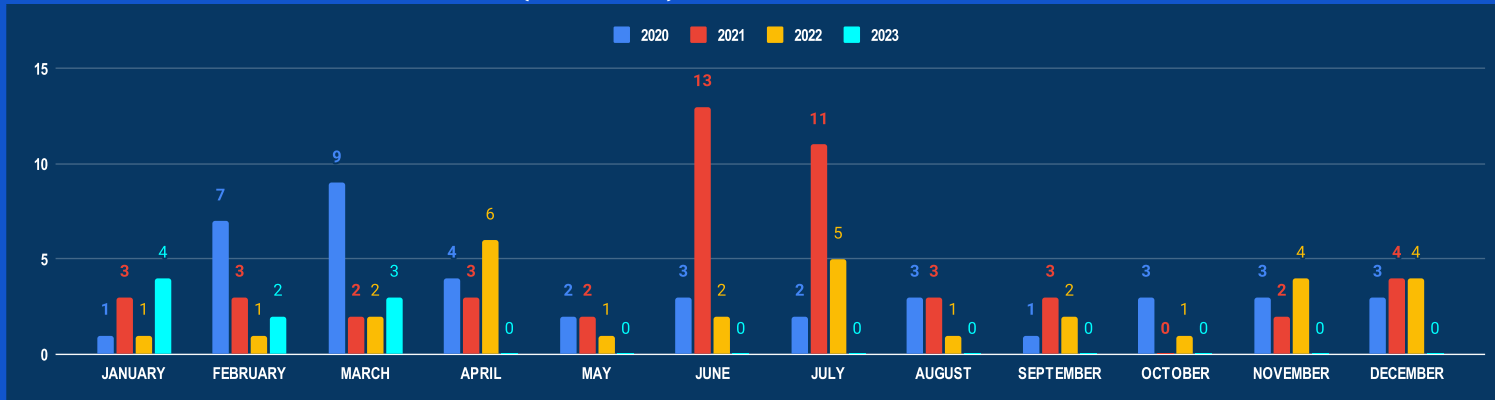


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP MARCH 2023

DRUG SMUGGLING - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF DRUG SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



REPORTED INCIDENTS MARCH 2023

Drug Type	MAR 2023	TOTAL 2023	MAR 2022
Heroin	0	1	0
Kerala cannabis	3	8	2
Ice	0	0	0
Tablets	0	0	0
Hashish	0	0	0
Local cannabis	0	0	0



Kerala cannabis
100.0%

DRUG SMUGGLING INCIDENT MARCH 2023



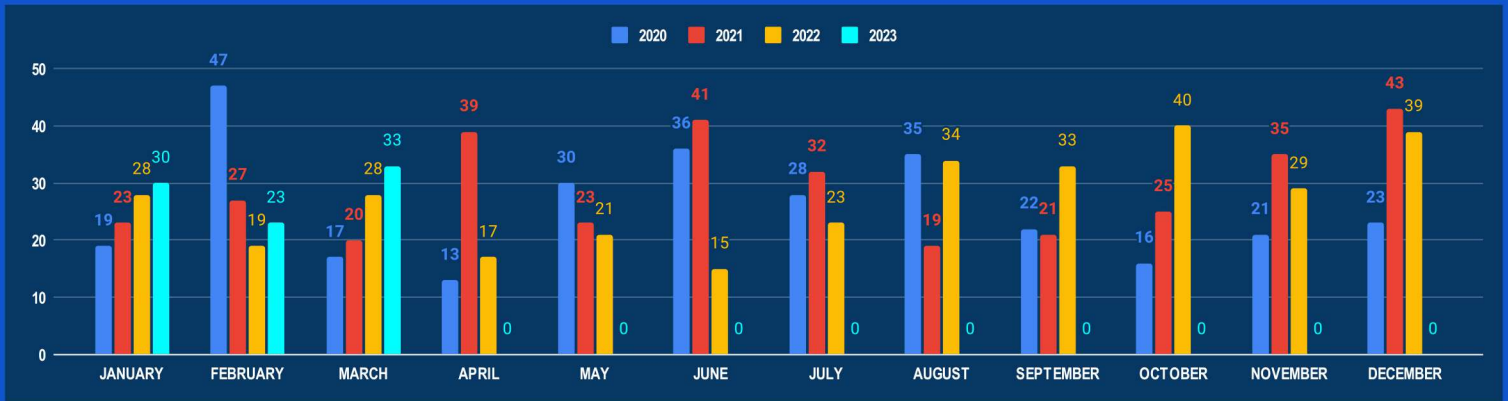


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP MARCH 2023

MARITIME INCIDENT - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF MARITIME INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



REPORTED INCIDENTS MARCH 2023

INCIDENT TYPE	MAR 2023	TOTAL 2023	MAR 2022
Technical Failure	15	43	8
Fire onboard	0	0	0
EPIRB Alert	11	25	7
Man Over Board	0	1	1
Arrival Overdue	0	0	2
Capsized	0	0	0
Ground	0	1	0
Death	3	3	0
Patient onboard	2	6	8
Collision	0	0	1
No Communication	2	5	0
Other Incident	0	2	1

No Communication

6.1%

Patient onboard

6.1%

Death

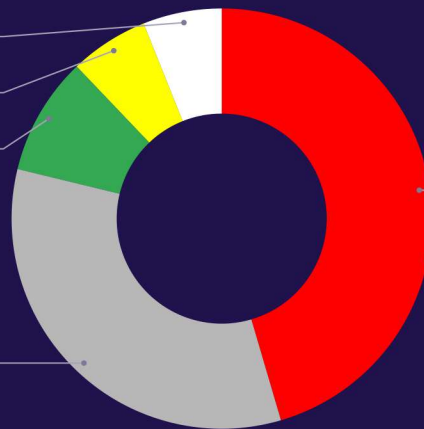
9.1%

EPIRB Alert

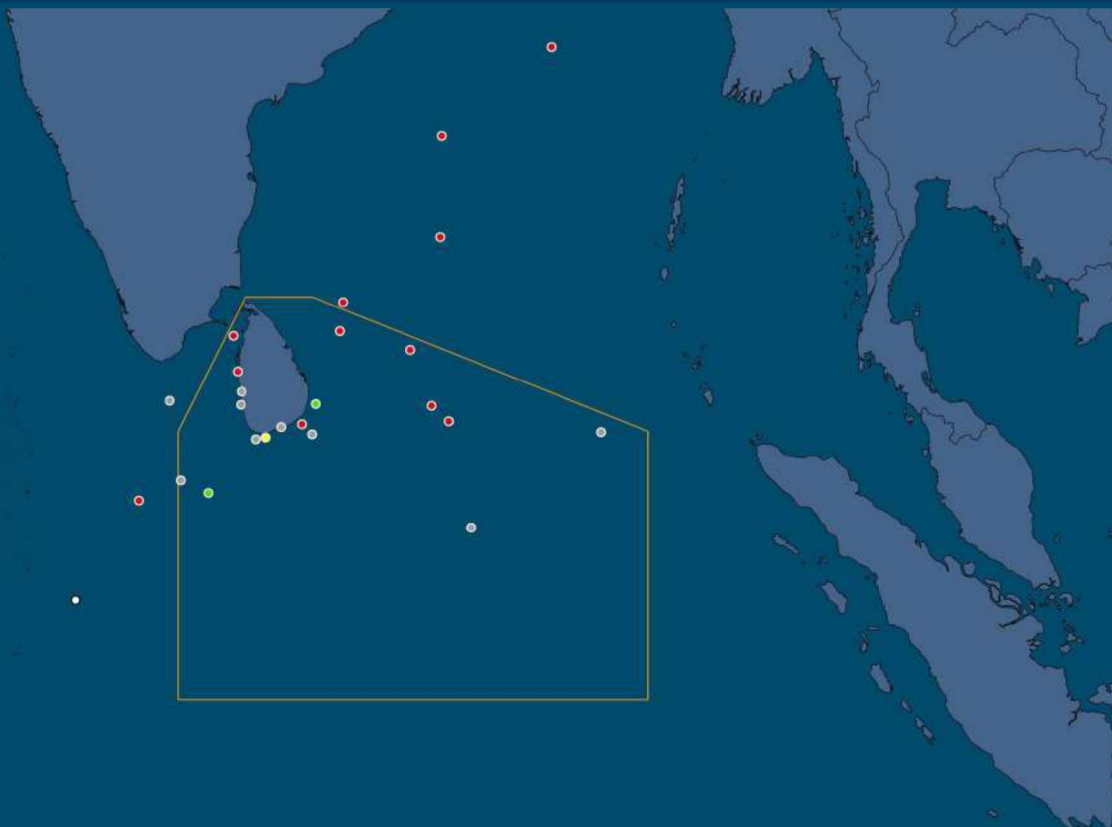
33.3%

Technical Failure

45.5%



MARITIME INCIDENT MARCH 2023



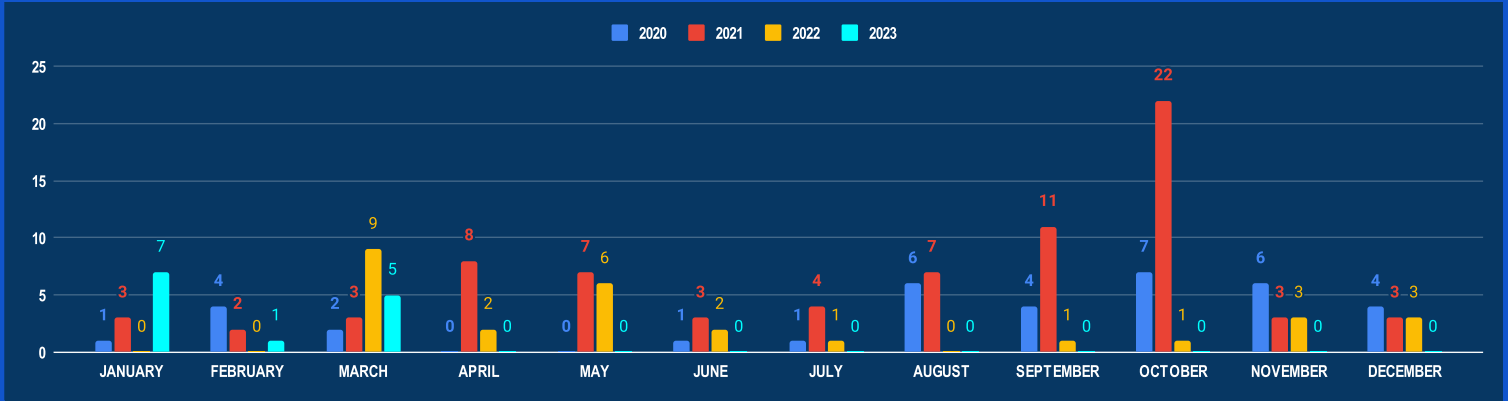


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP MARCH 2023

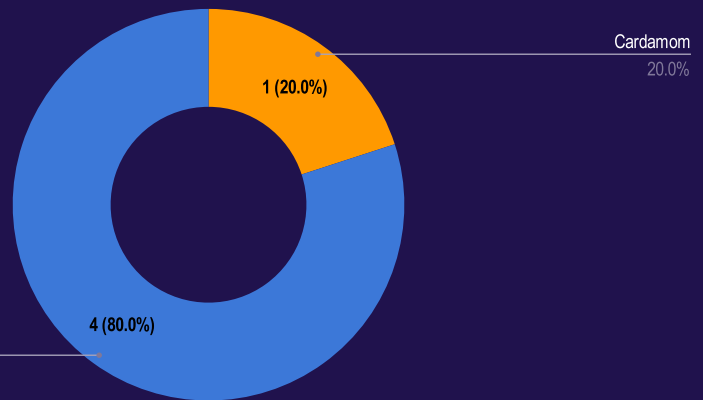
CONTRABAND SMUGGLING - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF CONTRABAND SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)

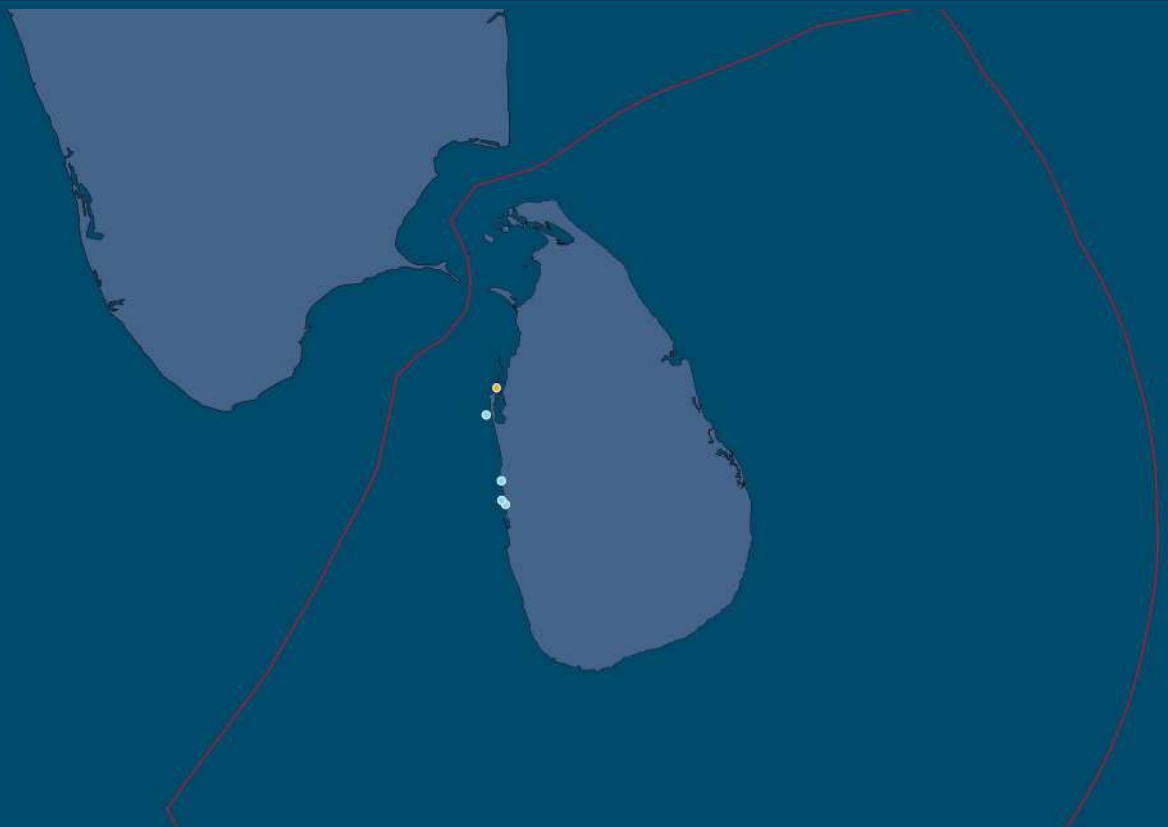


REPORTED INCIDENTS MARCH 2023

INCIDENT TYPE	MAR 2023	TOTAL 2023	MAR 2022
Cardamom	1	1	2
Glyphosate	0	0	0
Gold	0	0	0
Kendu leaves	4	10	4
Other	0	0	2
Turmeric	0	2	1



CONTRABAND SMUGGLING INCIDENT MARCH 2023



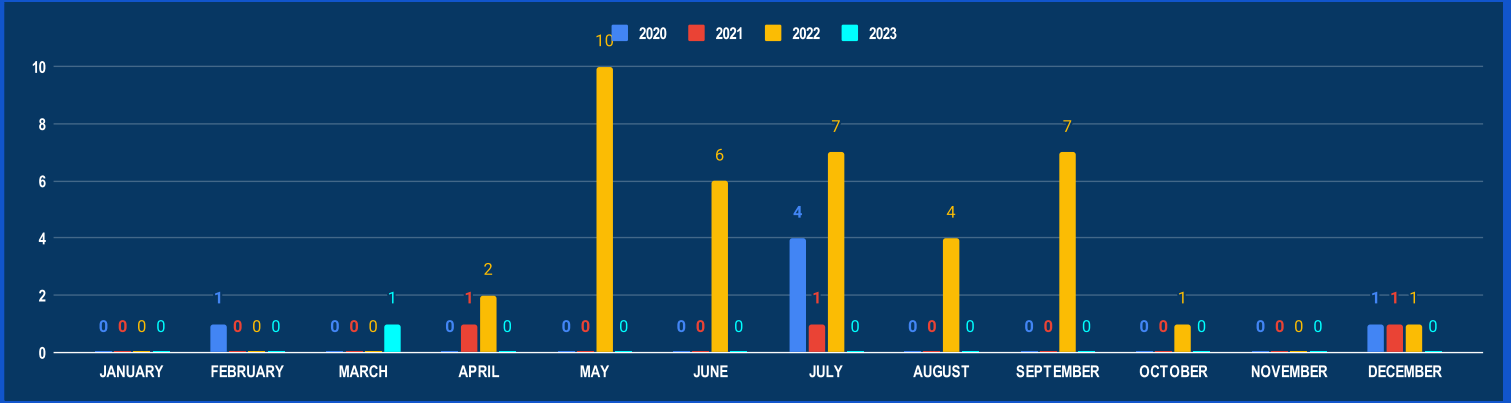


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP MARCH 2023

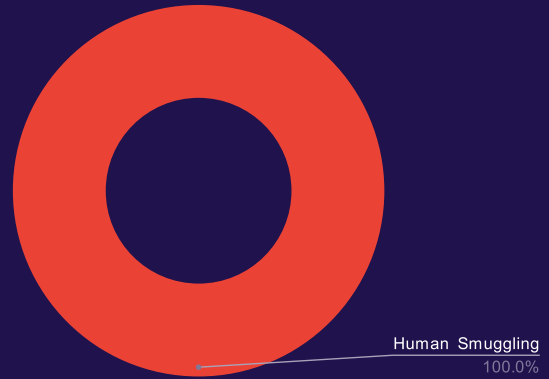
HUMAN SMUGGLING - IFC AOI

NUMBER OF HUMAN SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)

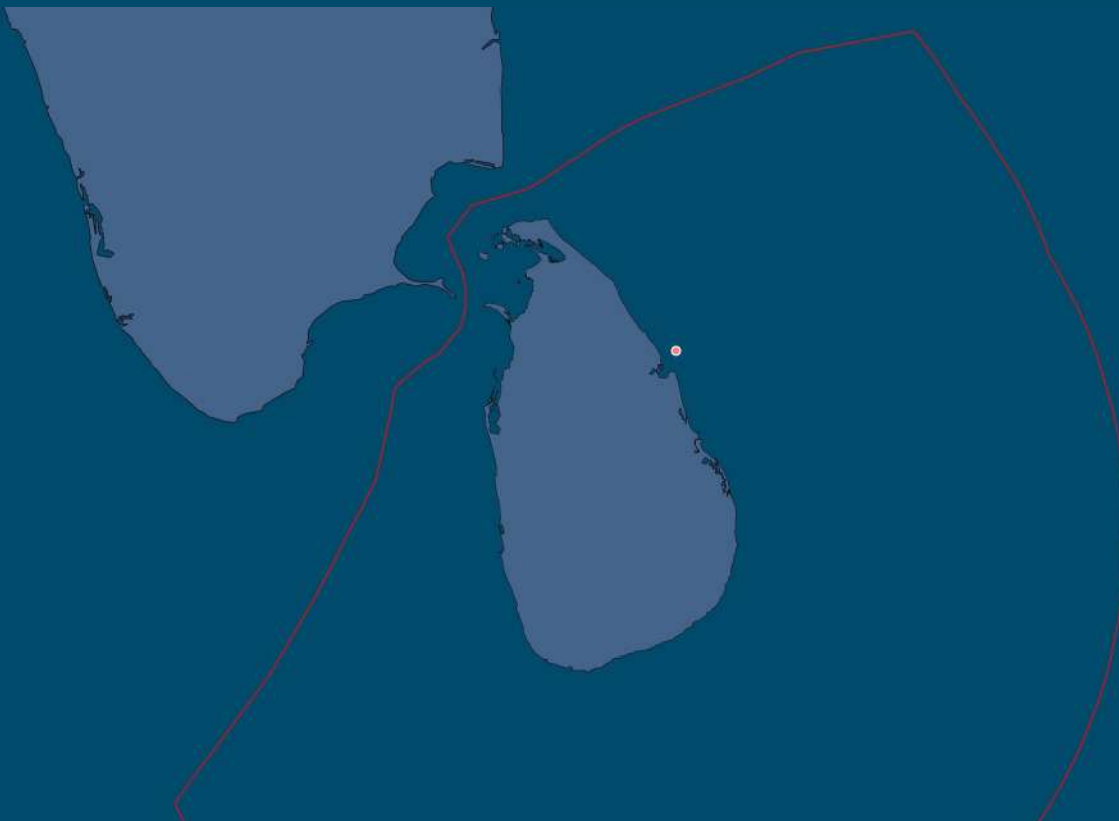


REPORTED INCIDENTS MARCH 2023

INCIDENT TYPE	MAR 2023	TOTAL 2023	MAR 2022
Human Smuggling	1	1	0



HUMAN SMUGGLING INCIDENT MARCH 2023



EVENTS

01. 02nd March 2023

Navy brings distressed foreign pleasure craft in southern seas to Port of Hambantota for repairs

Sri Lanka Navy, in coordination with the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Colombo, rendered assistance to bring ashore a non-motorised pleasure craft in distress off the southern coast on 02nd March 2023. The pleasure craft 'Little Donkey' belongs to New Zealand was on a marine research as it ran into a defect in its pedal based rowing system. Accordingly, the craft with 02 foreign crew members aboard were safely towed to the Port of Hambantota to fix the issue.

MRCC Colombo, established at the Navy Headquarters, remains ever alert and coordinates proceedings when responding to maritime distresses faced by naval and fishing communities in the Search and Rescue Region (SRR) of Sri Lanka.

Reportedly, the pleasure craft with 02 crew members has developed a defect in its pedal based rowing system whilst crossing the Bay of Bengal from Thailand, to collect high quality microbiological samples for DNA analysis, to support some research work. The craft was in distress in the SRR of Sri Lanka off the southern coast, when a distress message was disseminated to MRCC Colombo by the local agents on 02nd March, requesting the towing assistance from the Sri Lanka Navy to bring the craft ashore for repairs.

At the directives of Commander of the Navy, Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera, the Navy rushed a Fast Attack Craft P 483 of the 04th Fast Attack Flotilla in the Southern Naval Command to the sea area where the craft was in distress. Subsequently, P 483 set about towing the beleaguered craft with 02 crew members to the Port of Hambantota for much-needed repairs by the dark hours of 02nd March.





02. 03rd March 2023

A consignment of smuggled goods apprehended in Kalpitiya

The Navy seized two (02) dinghies with a consignment of contraband goods believed to have smuggled by sea, during a special search operation conducted in the beach area of Mohoththuwarem, Kalpitiya on the evening of 03rd March 2023.

The Navy often conducts patrols and search operation in coastal and sea areas of the island, to ward off the influx of contraband via sea routes.

The naval establishment SLNS Vijaya in the Northwestern Naval Command made this apprehension during a special search operation carried out in the coastal waters of Mohoththuwarem on 03rd March. Accordingly, the naval personnel engaged in this operation searched 02 suspicious dinghies at the beach and recovered a consignment of contraband goods believed to have smuggled by sea. Among the seized items were; 15 kg of dried sea cucumber, 01 kg of cardamom, 14 kg of dried cashew, 10 kg of rice, 248 kg of sugar, 100 kg of wheat flour, 03 kg of dried fish, 270 packs of coffee, 680 packs of cosmetic products and 2930 soap bars.

The 02 dinghies and contraband goods seized in this operation were handed over to the Customs Preventive Office – Katunayake for onward action.



03. 07th March 2023

Navy takes hold of smuggled stock of Kendu leaves in Norochcholai

The Sri Lanka Navy took hold of a smuggled consignment of Kendu leaves weighing about 400kg (wet weight), during a special operation carried out in the sea area of Alankuda in Norochcholai, Kalpitiya on the morning of 07th March 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 and a wide range of illegal activities take place in the coastal and sea areas around the island. Engaged in a search operation, the Inshore Patrol Craft P 220 attached to SLNS Vijaya in the Northwestern Naval Command took hold of 08 suspicious packages adrift in Alankuda sea area on the morning of 07th March. Accordingly, the Navy retrieved those packages and found that the packages had been stuffed with Kendu leaves weighing about 400kg (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.



04. 10th March 2023

Navy seizes Kerala cannabis worth over Rs. 41 Mn street value in Madagal, Jaffna

A foot patrol conducted by the Navy in the beach area of Madagal in Jaffna led to the seizure of over 126kg of Kerala cannabis on the night of 10th March 2023.

The Navy conducts regular search operations in the coastal areas around the country to prevent a wide range of illegal activities. In this regard, the Coastal Observation Points of the Navy plays a vital role, remaining ever alert to nefarious activities stemming from the coastal areas. In a similar effort, SLNS Agbo in the Northern Naval Command made this apprehension in the beach area of Madagal in the dark hours of 10th March. During the foot patrol, naval personnel took hold of 04 suspicious sacks at the beach and recovered 55 packages of Kerala cannabis in them. Accordingly, the seized stock of Kerala cannabis weighed about 126kg and 800g.

Meanwhile, the gross street value of the stock of Kerala cannabis is believed to be over Rs. 41 million. It is also believed that smugglers might have left behind the stock at the beach, due to constant naval search operations in the area. The seized narcotic substance has been kept in the naval custody until it is produced for onward legal action.



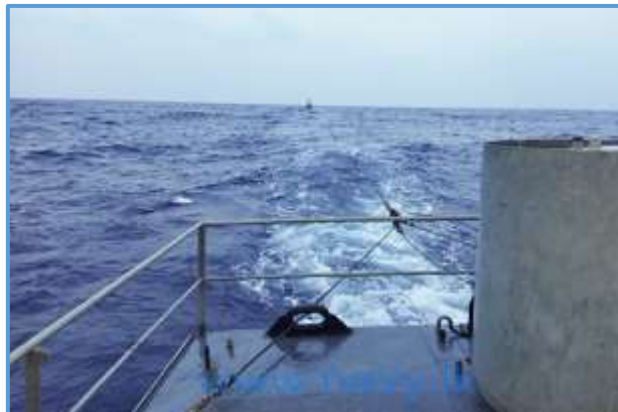
05. 10th March 2023

Navy renders towing assistance to distressed local fishing trawler in eastern seas

The Sri Lanka Navy rendered towing assistance to a distressed local multiday fishing trawler in eastern seas and guided it safely to the Cod Bay Fisheries Harbour today (10th March 2023). In coordination with the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Colombo established at the Navy Headquarters, this SAR operation was mounted to rescue 06 fishermen on the fishing trawler which was in distress, due to a mechanical failure, about 54 nautical miles (about 100km) off the eastern coast.

The fishing trawler (Uvindu Putha 03 Reg. No. IMUL-A-0792 -TLE) was reported to have left the Cod Bay Fisheries Harbour, Trincomalee on 05th March with 06 fishermen. As the fishing trawler was in distress about 54 nautical miles (about 100 km) off the eastern coast, due to a mechanical failure caused by seawater seeping into the multi-day fishing trawler, a distress call was disseminated to MRCC Colombo through the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, requesting assistance.

In response to the request for assistance, the Navy rushed SLNS Ranadheera attached to the Eastern Naval Command to rescue the fishing trawler and its fishermen, at the directives of Commander of the Navy, Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera. Having reached the sea area where the fishing trawler was in distress, the Navy guided the defected trawler with 06 fishermen to the Cod Bay Fisheries Harbour on 10th March.



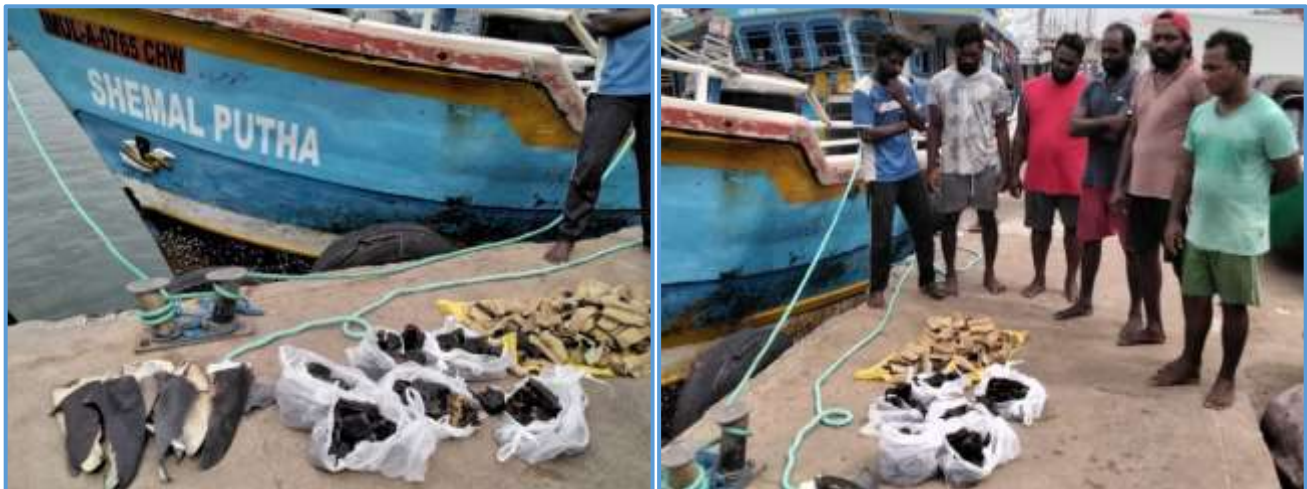
06. 10th March 2023

Sri Lanka Coast Guard arrested persons with illegally harvested dried shark fish, shark fins, Dolphin flesh and shark flesh

Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel deployed at Negombo Fishery Harbour for fishery monitoring and regulating duties arrested six persons in possession of illegally harvested dried shark fins, dried shark fish, shark flesh and Dolphin flesh on 10th March 2023 during arrival inspections after fishing.

The apprehension was made during the unloading of fish catch and found 15.25 kg of dried Shark fish, 3.5kg of shark fins, 14.4kg of Dolphin flesh, 32 kg of Common Thresher Shark flesh and 27kg of Oceanic Whitetip Shark flesh hidden inside the boat. Retaining, transshipping, selling, or landing the 'parts of any shark species' and marine mammals is an offence under order number 4 of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources act 1996 No 2.

The arrested persons with apprehended items were handed over to the Negombo Fisheries Inspector for further investigation.



07. 12th March 2023

Navy seizes 02 poaching trawlers in Sri Lankan waters

The Sri Lanka Navy conducted a special operation to chase away Indian poaching trawlers from Sri Lankan waters on morning 12th March 2023. The operation led to the seizure of 02 Indian trawlers with 16 Indian nationals poaching in Sri Lankan waters northeast of Veththalakeni and off the Analativu Island.

The Navy continues to conduct regular patrols and operations in Sri Lankan waters to curb illegal fishing practices of foreign fishing trawlers.

As an extension of these operations, the Northern Naval Command deployed Fast Attack Craft of the 04th Fast Attack Flotilla to chase away a cluster of Indian poaching trawlers, having spotted they were engaging in illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters northeast of Veththalakeni and off the Analativu Island. In this operation, the Navy held 02 Indian poaching trawlers with 16 Indian fishers continuing to remain in Sri Lankan waters.

The seized trawlers together with 16 Indian fishermen were brought to the Kankesanthurai Harbour and they were handed over to the Mailadi Fisheries Inspector for onward legal proceedings.





08. 12th March 2023

Navy seizes multiday fishing trawler suspected of involvement in human smuggling in eastern seas

The Sri Lanka Navy took hold of a multiday fishing trawler, suspected of involvement in human smuggling, in the wee hours of 12th March 2023. The apprehension was made in the eastern seas off Nilaveli, Trincomalee and the Navy also nabbed 03 suspects aboard in this operation.

The Navy conducts regular patrols and search operations in the coastal and sea areas of the island to prevent a wide range of illegal activities taking place via sea routes. As an extension of these efforts, this special search operation was conducted in the eastern seas off Nilaveli on 12th March, deploying the Fast Attack Craft P 4444 of the 04th Fast Attack Flotilla in the Eastern Naval Command. In this search operation, a suspicious multiday fishing trawler in the sea area was searched and the fishing trawler, with 03 suspects aboard, was seized on suspicion of involvement in human smuggling.

The suspects held in this search operation were identified as residents of Wennappuwa and China Bay, Trincomalee. Meanwhile, the suspects and the multiday fishing trawler were handed over to the Harbour Police of Trincomalee for legal proceedings. Onward investigations into the incident are being carried out by the Navy and the Police.



09. 13th March 2023

Sri Lanka Coast Guard arrested persons with 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 eleven persons possessing illegally harvested dried shark fins and dried shark fish on 13th March 2023 during arrival inspections after fishing.

The apprehension was made during the unloading of fish catch and found 13.8 kg of dried Shark fins and 111.05kg of dried shark fish hidden inside the boat. The arrested persons with apprehended items were handed over to the Negombo and Dikovita Fisheries Inspectors for further investigation.



10. 13th March 2023

Navy apprehends 08 persons for illegal harvesting of sea cucumber in Mannar

The Navy apprehended 08 persons for illegal harvesting of sea cucumber in the sea areas of Silawathura and Vankalai of Mannar, during separate operations carried out in the early hours of 13th March 2023. The special operations also led to seize 814 illegally harvested sea cucumbers, diving gear and 02 dinghies.

The Navy conducts regular operations in the coastal and sea areas of the island in order to suppress illegal fishing activities performed by people with scant regard towards responsible fishing practices. In a similar effort, the Inshore Patrol Craft P 155 attached to SLNS Vijaya in the Northwestern Naval Command apprehended 03 persons who engaged in night diving without valid license to harvest sea cucumber in Silawathura sea area on 13th March. In this operation, the Navy also took hold of 580 sea cucumbers, diving gear and a dinghy.

On the same day, the Naval Detachment Vankalai of SLNS Pussadewa in the North Central Naval Command apprehended 05 individuals for harvesting sea cucumber illegally, during a special search operation conducted off Vankalai. The Navy also seized 234 illegally harvested sea cucumbers and a dinghy used for this illegal act.

The individuals apprehended during these separate operations were identified as residents of Kalpitiya and Vankalai, from 33 to 54 years of age. The suspects along with their equipment and sea cucumber were handed over to the Fisheries Inspectors of Kalpitiya and Mannar for onward legal action.



11. 16th March 2023

Navy apprehends 02 persons for engaging in light-coarse fishing in Mullaitivu seas

A coordinated operation conducted by the Navy and the Office of Assistant Director of Fisheries (ADF) in Mullaitivu led to the apprehension of 02 persons who engaged in light-coarse fishing off Alampil, Mullaitivu in the dark hours of 16th March 2023. During the operation, the Navy also seized 02 dinghies and unauthorized fishing gear used for this illegal act.

The Navy conducts regular operations in the coastal and sea areas of the island in order to suppress illegal fishing activities performed by people with scant regard towards responsible fishing practices. The operation was carried out off Alampil on 16th March by the Naval detachment Nayaru of SLNS Gotabaya in the Eastern Naval Command in coordination with the Office of ADF in Mullaitivu. In this operation, the Navy held 02 persons for engaging in light-coarse fishing and seized 02 dinghies and fishing gear belonging to them.

The persons apprehended in this operation are residents of Kalpitiya area. The suspects along with their fishing equipment and dinghies were handed over to the ADF in Mullaitivu for onward legal action.



12. 21st March 2023

Navy apprehends 05 persons for engaging in light-coarse fishing in northern waters

The Navy apprehended 05 persons who engaged in light-coarse fishing, during a search operation conducted off Chundikulam, Jaffna in the wee hours of 21st March 2023. The Navy also seized 03 dinghies and fishing gear used for this illegal fishing practice.

The Navy conducts regular operations in the coastal and sea areas of the island in order to suppress illegal fishing activities performed by people with scant regard towards responsible fishing practices. In a similar operation conducted utilizing craft of the Navy Marines belonging to Naval Detachment Chundikulam in the Northern Naval Command, these 05 persons along with 03 dinghies and fishing gear were taken into naval custody, for engaging in light-coarse fishing.

The persons apprehended in this operation are residents of Mullaitivu area, from 17 to 25 years of age. The suspects along with their fishing equipment and dinghies were handed over to the Office of Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Jaffna for onward legal action.



13. 22nd March 2023

Smuggled consignment of Kendu leaves seized off Wennappuwa

A special search operation conducted by the Navy in the sea area of Wennappuwa led to the seizure of over 379kg (wet weight) of Kendu leaves in the wee hours of 22nd March 2023. The consignment of Kendu leaves, which is suspected to have been smuggled via sea, was adrift in waters when it was recovered by the Navy.

The Navy conducts regular search operations in coastal and sea areas of the island to prevent nefarious activities being carried out via sea routes. As an extension of these efforts, the search operation was carried out by a team of Special Boat Squadron stationed at Naval Detachment Negombo belonging to SLNS Kelani, in the Western Naval Command. Accordingly, the search operation, conducted in the early hours of today, led to the recovery of 12 suspicious sacks which were adrift in the sea area of Wennappuwa. The sacks had been stuffed with smuggled Kendu leaves weighing about 379kg and 300g (wet weight).

It is believed that smugglers might have thrown them overboard due to regular operations of the Navy in the area. Meanwhile, the seized consignment of Kendu leaves was handed over to the Customs Preventive Office, Katunayake for onward legal proceedings.



14. 22nd March 2023

A person held for engaging in illegal fishing in eastern waters

A coordinated operation conducted by the Navy and the Office of Mullaitivu Fisheries Inspector in Thuduwa area, Pulmoddai on 22nd March 2023 led to the apprehension of a suspect engaged in illegal fishing without valid pass. Along with the suspect, a dinghy and fishing equipment used for the illegal act were also taken into custody.

The Navy conducts regular operations in the coastal and sea areas of the island in order to suppress illegal fishing activities performed by people with scant regard towards responsible fishing practices. In a similar operation, naval personnel attached to SLNS Ranweli and officials of the Office of Mullaitivu Fisheries Inspector nabbed the suspect who was engaging in illegal fishing in Thuduwa area.

The suspect held in the operation is a resident of Mullaitivu, aged 28. Meanwhile, the suspect along with the dinghy and fishing gear was handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Mullaitivu for onward legal action.



15. 22nd March 2023

Navy seizes 02 poaching trawlers in northern waters

The Sri Lanka Navy conducted a special operation to chase away Indian poaching trawlers from Sri Lankan waters on morning 23rd March 2023. The operation led to the seizure of 02 Indian trawlers with 12 Indian nationals poaching in Sri Lankan waters off Analaitivu and Kovilan, Jaffna.

The Navy continues to conduct regular patrols and operations in Sri Lankan waters to curb illegal fishing practices of foreign fishing trawlers.

As an extension of these operations, the Northern Naval Command deployed Fast Attack Craft of the 04th Fast Attack Flotilla to chase away a cluster of Indian poaching trawlers, having spotted they were engaging in illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters off Analaitivu and Kovilan. In this operation, the Navy held 02 Indian poaching trawlers with 12 Indian fishermen continuing to remain in Sri Lankan waters.

The seized trawlers together with 12 Indian fishermen were brought to the Kankesanthurai harbour and handed over to the Mailadi Fisheries Inspector for onward legal proceedings.



16. 24th March 2023

Coast Guard seizes stock of kendu leaves being smuggled by sea

Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel attached to Coast Guard Station Chilaw arrested Five (05) personnel along with a consignment of 633 Kg and 650 g of Kendu Leaves packed in 22 white polythene sacks being smuggled into the island. It was arrested during a special search operation conducted in the beach area of Iranawila - Chilaw on 24th March 2023. Additionally, while carrying out the raid, the SLCG managed to apprehend two Fibre Glass Dinghies (FGDs), a Freezer Lorry, and a motorcycle which were being used for this illicit operation.

The arrest was done based on information provided by the Sri Lanka Coast Guard intelligence unit and the arrested personnel with apprehended items handed over to the Customs Sub Preventive Office, Katunayake for onward legal actions.



17. 25th March 2023

Sri Lanka Coast Guard arrested persons 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 six persons possessing illegally harvested dried shark fins and shark fish on 25th

March 2023 during arrival inspections after fishing.

The Sri Lanka Coast Guard made the apprehension while the fish catch was being unloaded from the boat. Upon inspection, they discovered 14 kg of dried Shark fish and 2.7kg of dried shark fins hidden on board. The arrested persons with apprehended items were handed over to the Dikovita Fisheries Inspector for further investigation.



18. 24th & 26th March 2023

Sri Lanka Coast Guard arrested fishermen while engaging in illegal fishing practices

On 24th and 26th March 2023, fishermen and fishing gear were apprehended by Sri Lanka Coast Guard craft CG 209 and CG 210 while carrying out a patrol in Upparu and Back Bay areas in Trincomalee. 21 fishermen were caught attempting illegal fishing activities using purse seine nets in the area and the operation resulted in the arrest of three Fibre Glass Dinghies with Out Board Motors (OBMs), 03 purse seine nets, and 65 litres of kerosene.

The arrested person with apprehended items was handed over to Fisheries Inspector Cod Bay and ADF Trincomalee for further investigations.



19. 26th March 2023

Sri Lanka Coast Guard arrested one dinghy with a fisherman while engaging in illegal night diving practices

On 26th March 2023, a fisherman and diving equipment were apprehended by Sri Lanka Coast Guard Personnel from Coast Guard Station Kirinda. The fisherman was caught attempting illegal night diving practices in the "Nidangala" beach area near to Kirinda. Additionally, the operation resulted in the arrest of one Fibre Glass Dinghy with an Out Board Motor (OBM), 30 air cylinders, five kerosene cans (totalling 140 litres), and one shrimp trap.

Night diving practices in Sri Lankan waters are prohibited under the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources act 1996 No 2 and part II of extraordinary gazette number 2115/8 dated 18th March 2019. The arrested person with apprehended items was handed over to Fisheries Inspector Kirinda for further investigations.



20. 27th March 2023

Navy apprehends a person in Mannar seas for transferring dried sea cucumber illegally

The Sri Lanka Navy apprehended a person for illegal transferring of dried sea cucumber, during a special operation conducted in the lagoon of Palleimunai, Mannar on 27th March 2023. The operation also led to the seizure of about 230kg of dried sea cucumber, diving equipment and a dinghy.

The Navy conducts regular operations in the coastal and sea areas around the island, with a view to preventing illegal fishing activities. As an extension of these efforts, SLNS Gajaba in the North Central Naval Command conducted this search operation in the lagoon of Palleimunai on 27th March and nabbed the person who was illegally transferring dried sea cucumber. The Navy also held about 230kg of dried sea cucumber, diving equipment and a dinghy along with the suspect.

The suspect held in the operation is a 52 year old resident of Mannar. The accused together with the stock of sea cucumber and other equipment was handed over to the Fisher Inspector of Mannar for onward legal action.



21. 27th March 2023

The Sri Lanka Coast Guard apprehended individuals who were in possession of illegally harvested fish catch

Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel deployed at Dikovita Fishery Harbour for fishery monitoring and regulating duties arrested six persons possessing illegally harvested dried shark fins, shark fish and dried Dolphin fish on 28th March 2023 during arrival inspections.

The Sri Lanka Coast Guard made the apprehension while the fish catch was being unloaded from the boat. Upon inspection, they discovered 8.656 kg of dried Shark fish, 1.16kg of dried shark fins and 3.26kg of dried Dolphin fish hidden on board. The arrested persons with apprehended items were handed over to the Dikovita Fisheries Inspector for further investigation.



22. 28th March 2023

Navy takes hold of Kerala cannabis worth over Rs. 54 million gross street value in Madagal, Jaffna

The Navy took hold of over 165kg of Kerala cannabis, during a special operation mounted in the beach and sea areas of Madagal in the dark hours of 28th March 2023.

The Coastal Observation Points of the Navy keep a round-the-clock vigil in the coastal areas of the island with a view to prevent nefarious activities taking place via sea routes. As an extension of these efforts, SLNS Agbo in the Northern Naval Command seized a consignment of Kerala cannabis, during a foot patrol conducted in the beach area of Madagal on 28th March. Accordingly, naval personnel recovered 08 suspicious sacks left behind at the beach and the sacks had been stuffed with 71 packages of Kerala cannabis weighing about 150kg and 390g.

Meanwhile, a special search operation conducted off Madagal on the same day by SLNS Agbo led to the apprehension of a suspicious sack adrift in Madagal sea area. The retrieved sack was full of 07 parcels which had been stuffed with about 15kg and 05g of Kerala cannabis.

It is suspected that smugglers may have abandoned the consignment of Kerala cannabis without being able to fetch them into the country, due to constant naval operations. The gross street value of seized Kerala cannabis is believed to be over Rs. 54 million of gross street value.



23. 30th March 2023

Navy nabs 03 persons in Mannar seas for transferring 12700 sea cucumbers without licence

A search operation conducted by the Navy in the sea area of Mannar Sand Dunes on 30th March 2023, led to apprehend 03 suspects for transferring 12700 sea cucumbers by a dinghy without valid licence. The Navy also seized diving gear and a dinghy used for this illegal act.

The Navy continues to conduct regular operations in the coastal and sea areas of the island with a view to curb illegal fishing practices. In a similar operation conducted in the sea area of Mannar Sand Dunes, SLNS Thammanna in the North Central Naval Area spotted a dinghy and searched it on suspicion. As a result, the Navy held 03 suspects for transferring 12700 sea cucumbers without valid licence. Along with the suspects, diving gear and the dinghy used for this illegal act were also taken into naval custody.

The suspects held in this operation were identified as residents of Mannar, from 21 to 32 years of age. The suspects along with their belongings and 12700 sea cucumbers were handed over to the Mannar Fisheries Inspector for onward legal proceedings.

