



Information Fusion Centre

Colombo - Sri Lanka


IFC Monthly Report

April 2023

 Naval Headquarters, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka

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 www.ifccolombo.org

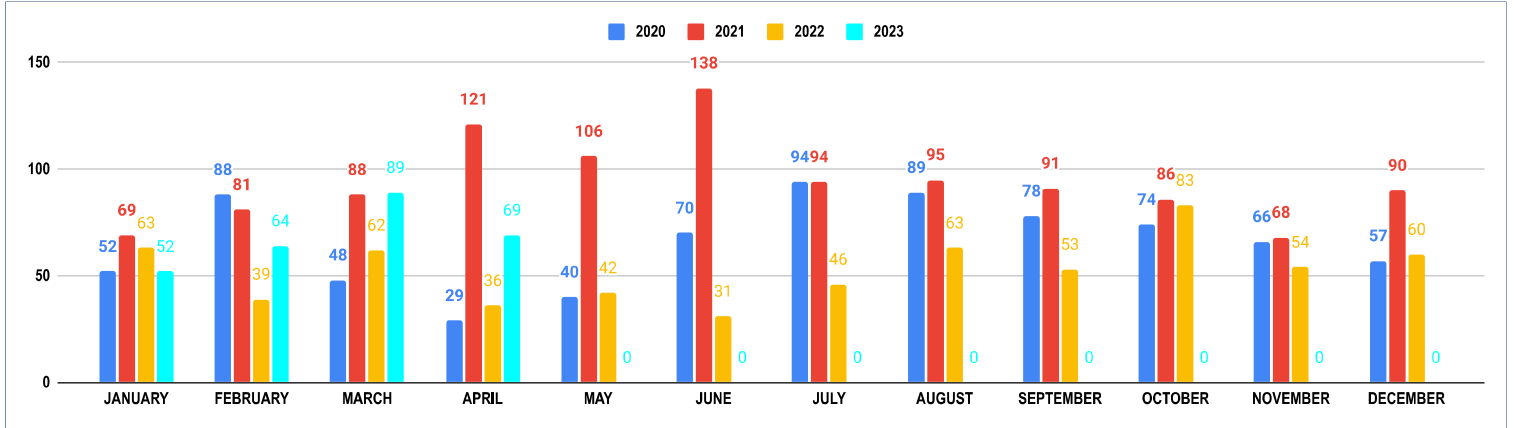
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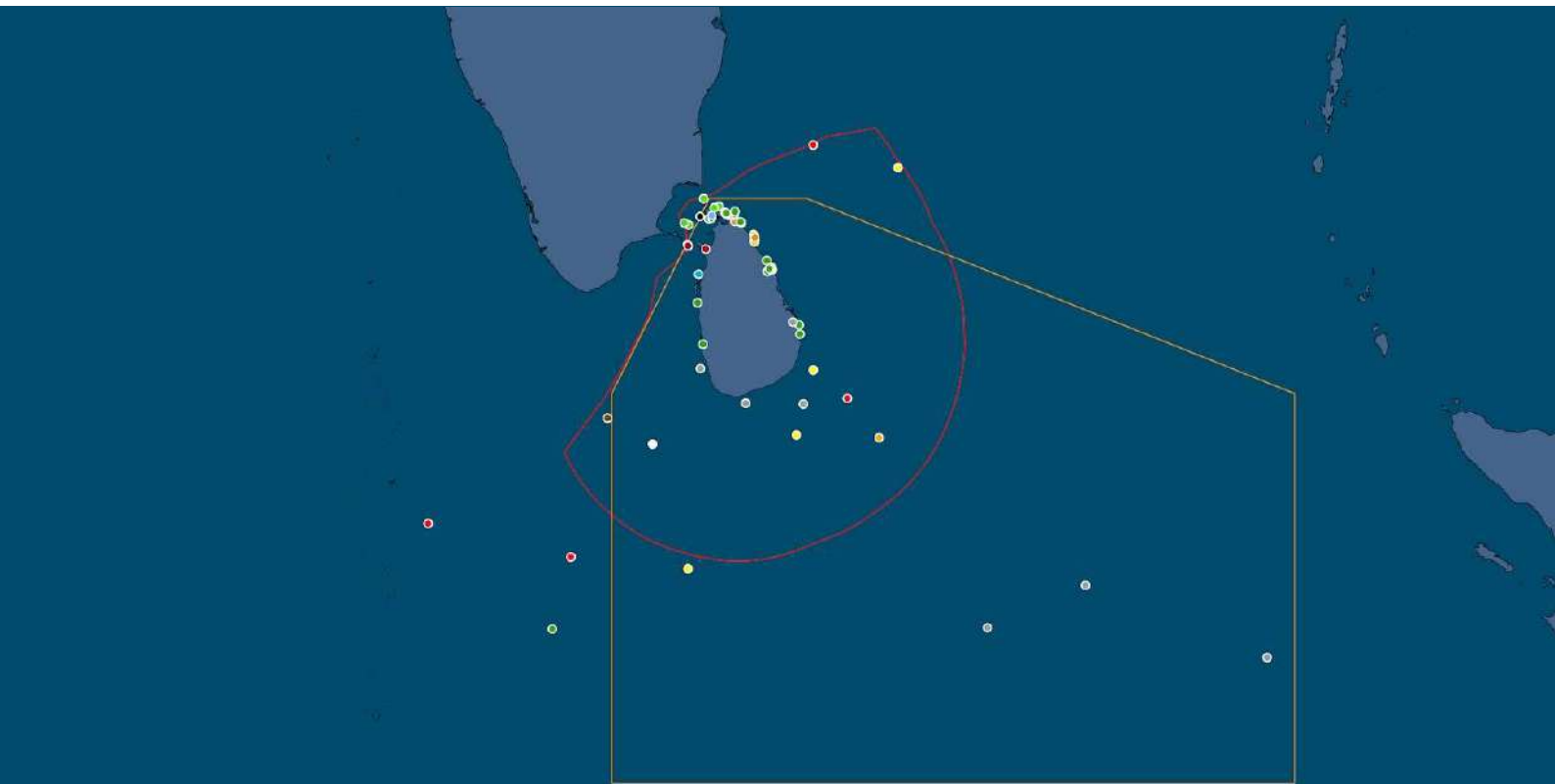
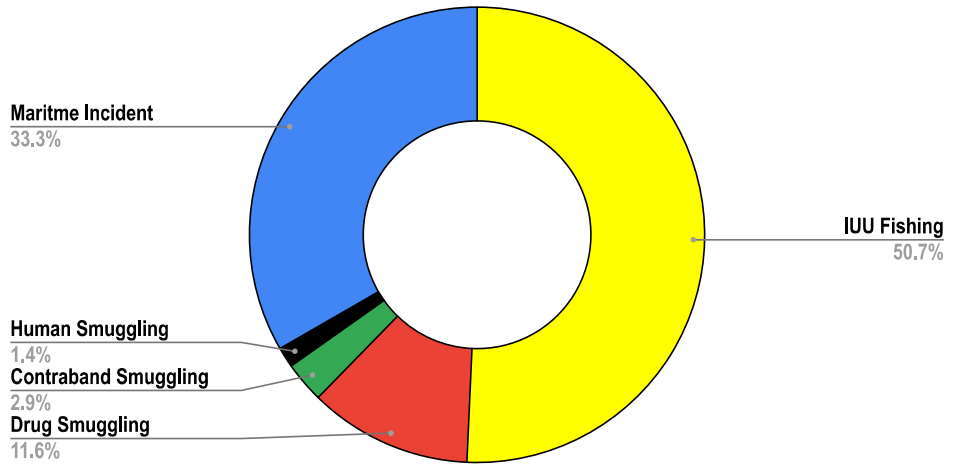
OVERVIEW

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

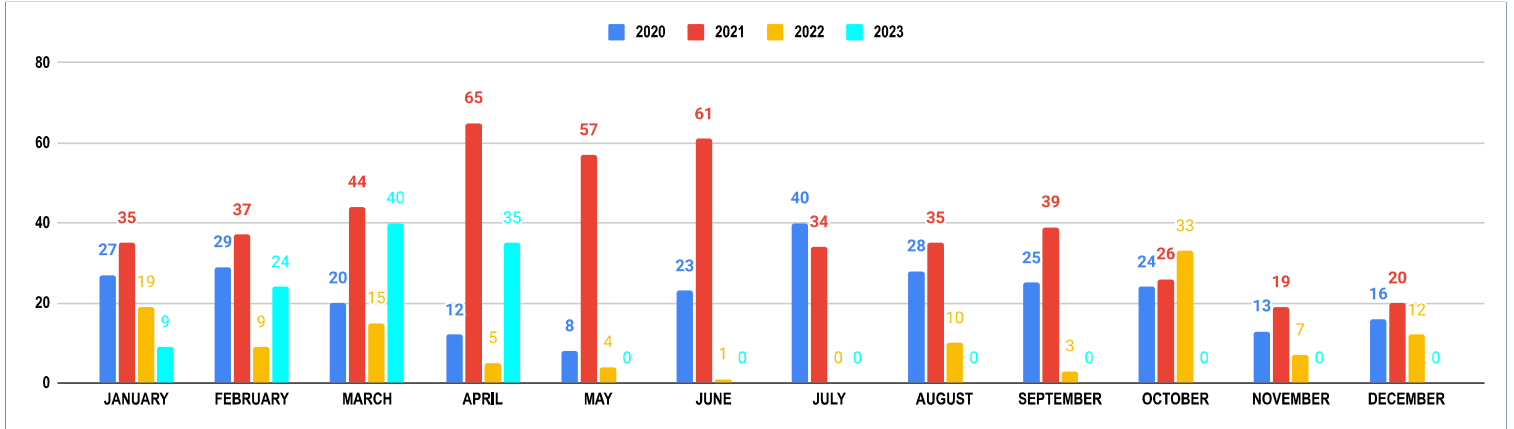
INCIDENT TYPE	APR 2022	APR 2023	TOTAL 2023
IUU Fishing	5	35	108
Drug Smuggling	6	8	17
Contraband Smuggling	2	2	15
Human Smuggling	2	1	2
Maritime Incident	17	23	109
Poaching	4	0	23
Explosive and Firearms	0	0	0





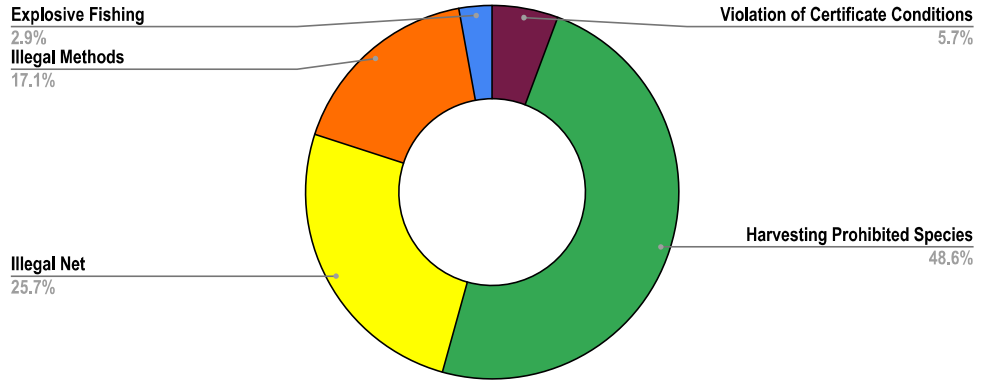
IUU FISHING

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

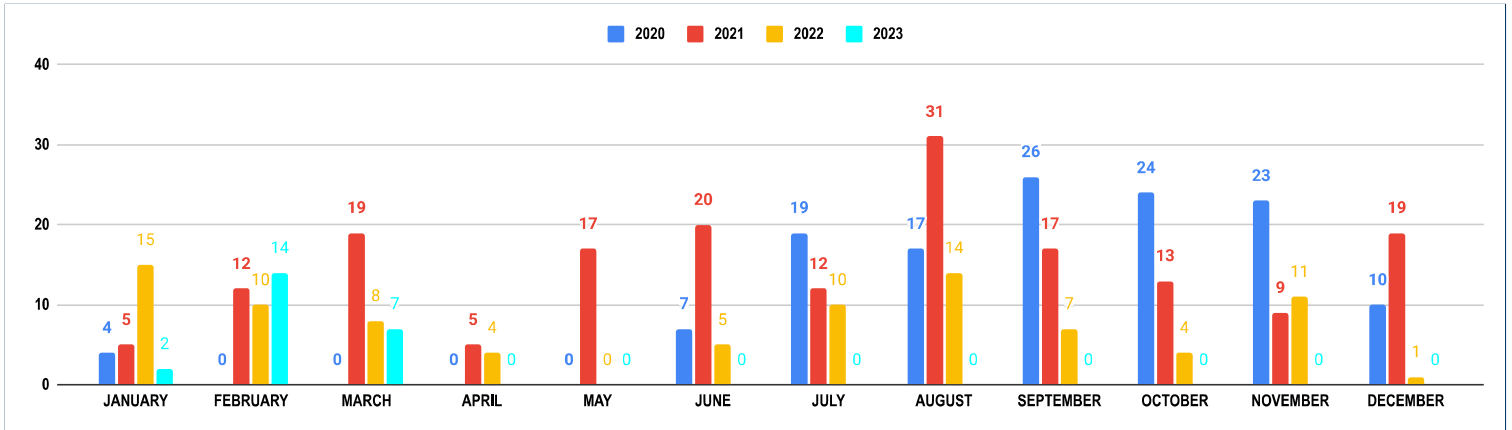
INCIDENT TYPE	APR 2022	APR 2023	TOTAL 2023
Violation of Certificate Conditions	1	2	6
Harvesting Prohibited Species	0	17	55
Illegal Net	0	9	23
Illegal Methods	4	6	22
Explosive Fishing	0	1	2





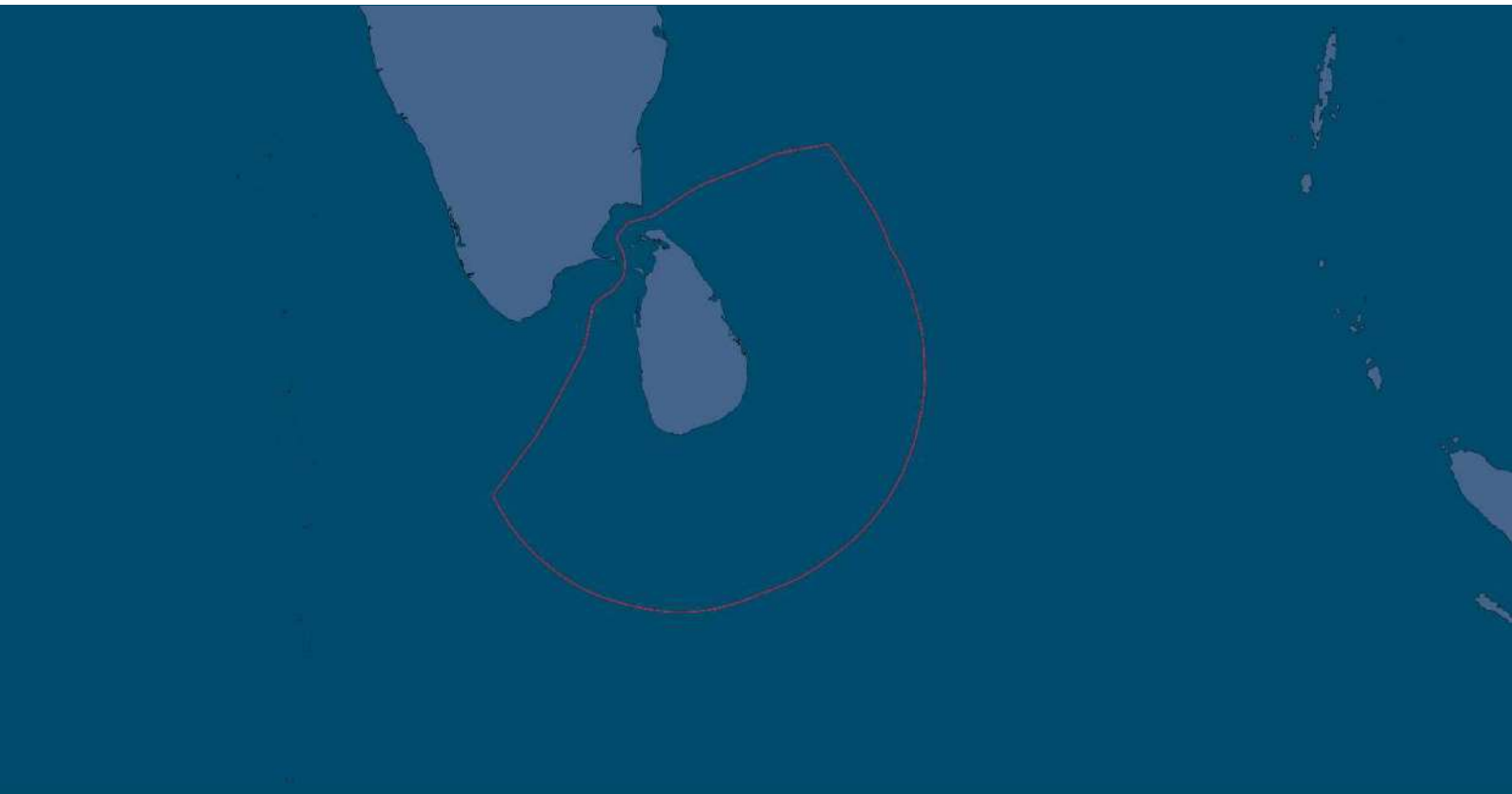
POACHING

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

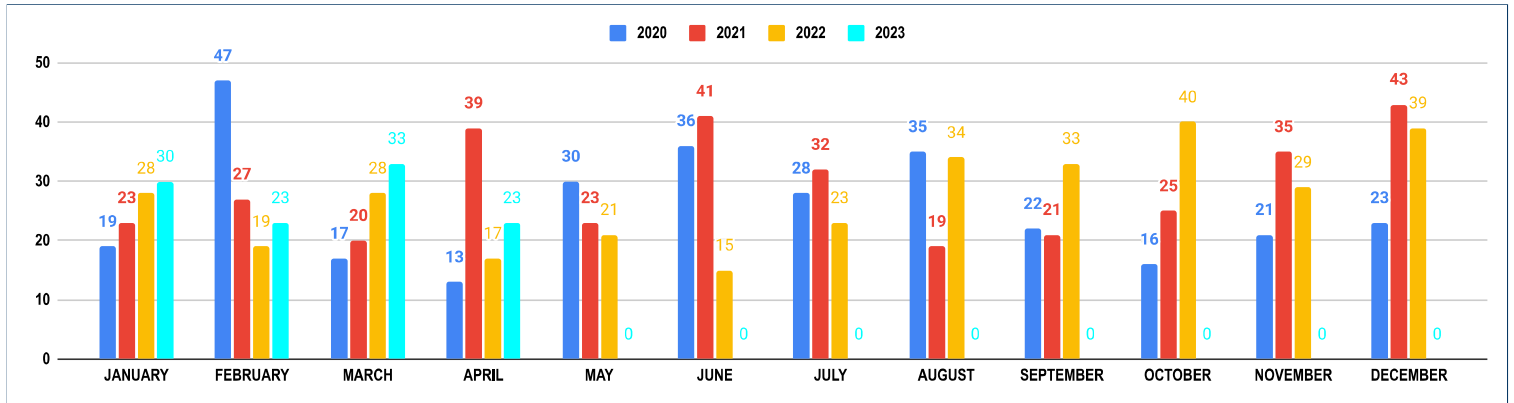
INCIDENT TYPE	APR 2022	APR 2023	TOTAL 2023
Eastern Coast	0	0	4
Palk Strait	0	0	3
Gulf of Mannar	1	0	4
Palk Bay	3	0	12
Other	2	0	1





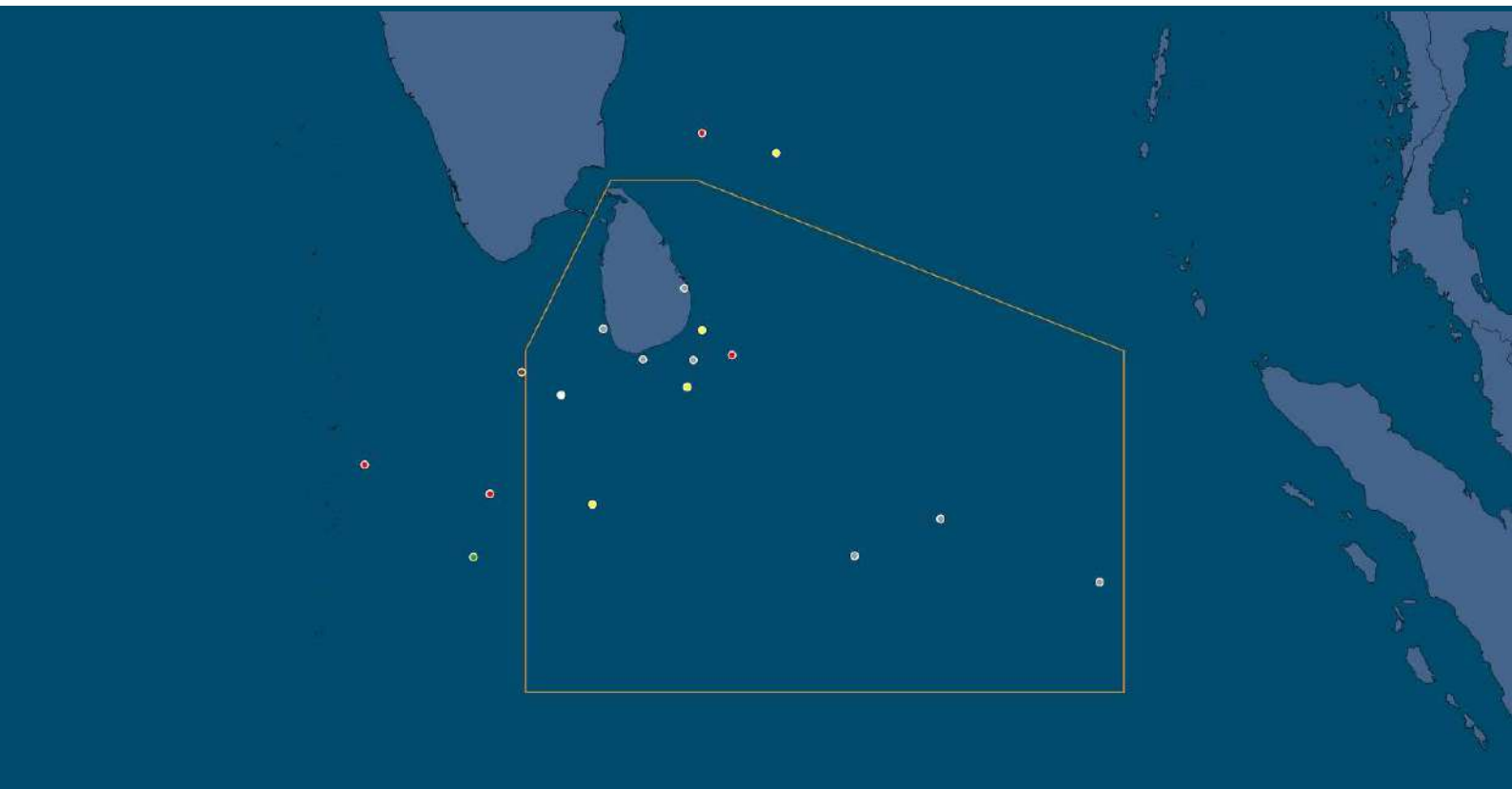
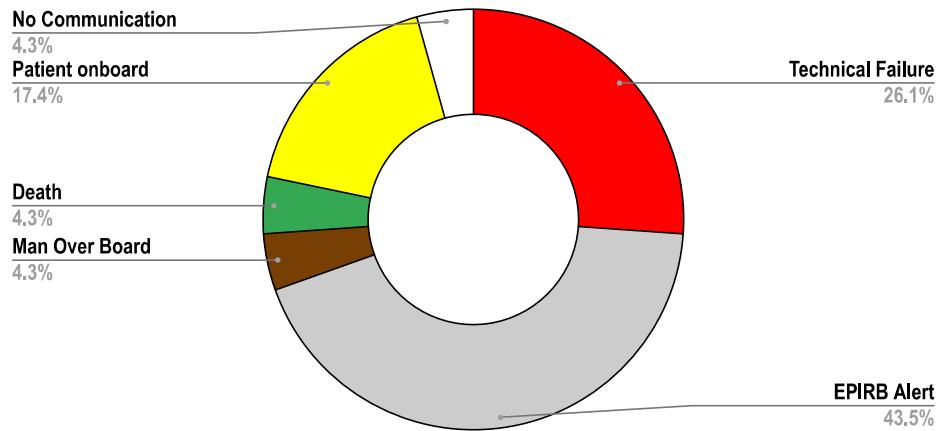
MARITIME INCIDENTS

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

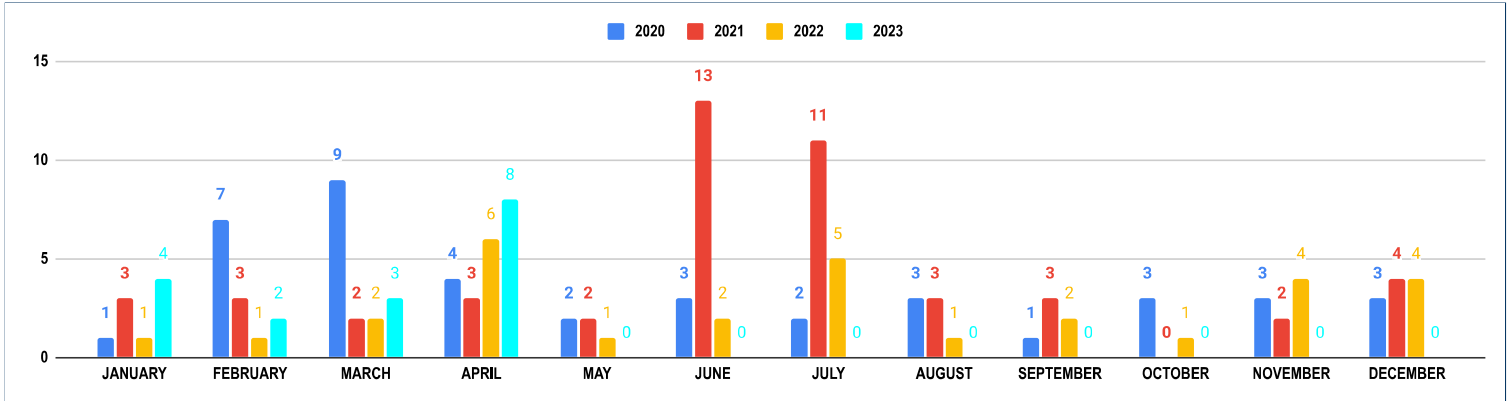
INCIDENT TYPE	APR 2022	APR 2023	TOTAL 2023
Technical Failure	7	6	49
Fire onboard	0	0	0
EPIRB Alert	6	10	35
Man Over Board	0	1	1
Arrival Overdue	0	0	0
Capsized	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	1
Death	1	1	4
Patient onboard	0	4	10
Collision	0	0	0
No Communication	1	1	6
Other Incident	0	0	2





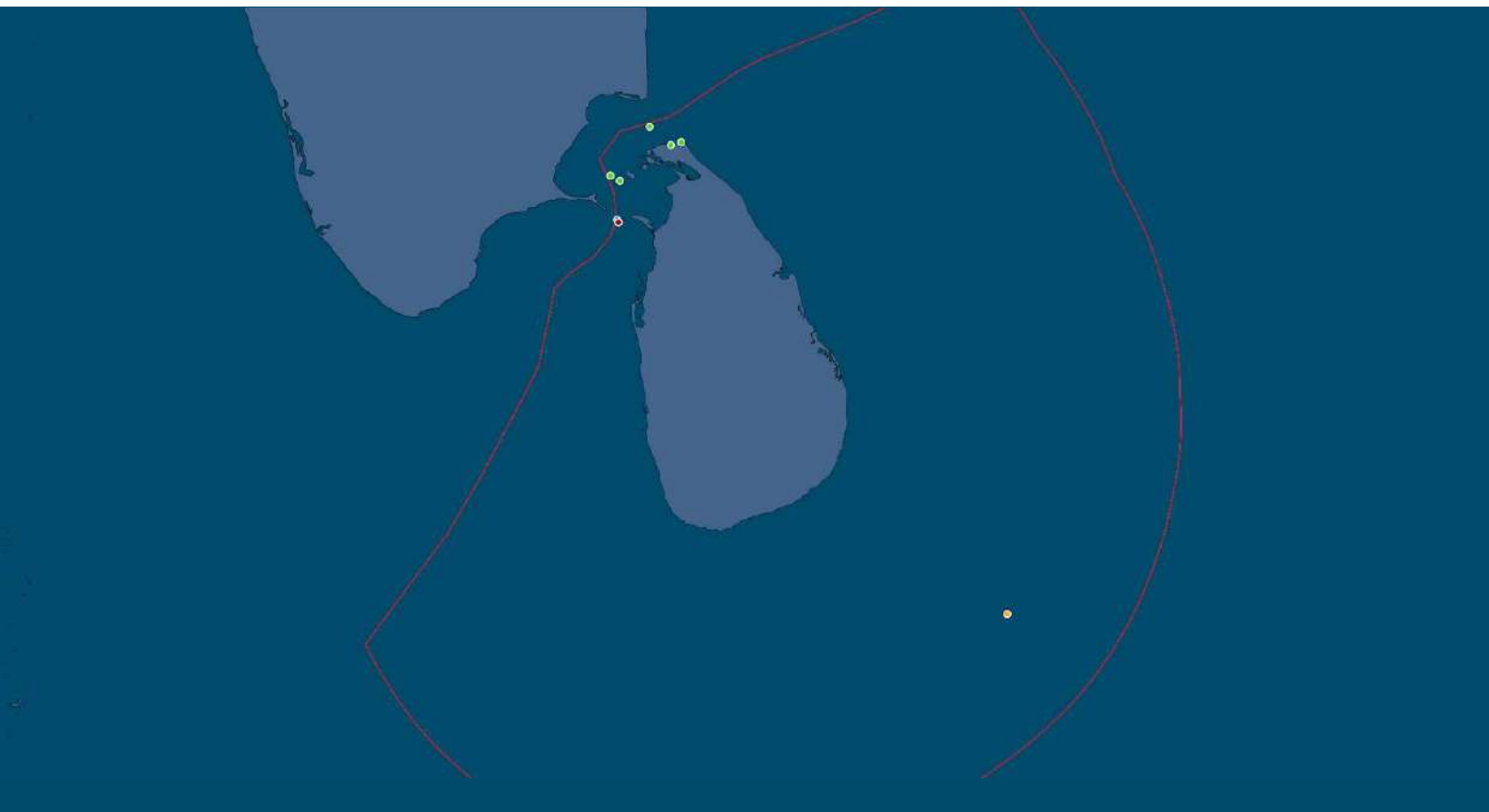
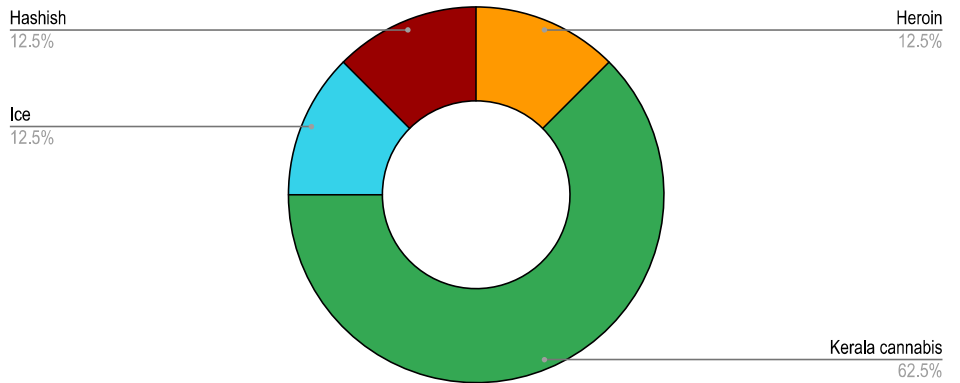
DRUG SMUGGLING

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

Drug Type	APR 2022	APR 2023	TOTAL 2023
Heroin	1	1	2
Kerala cannabis	2	5	13
Ice	3	1	1
Tablets	0	0	0
Hashish	0	1	1
Local cannabis	0	0	0



● Heroin
 ● Ice
 ● Kerala Cannabis
 ● Hashish
 ● Tablets
 ● Local cannabis

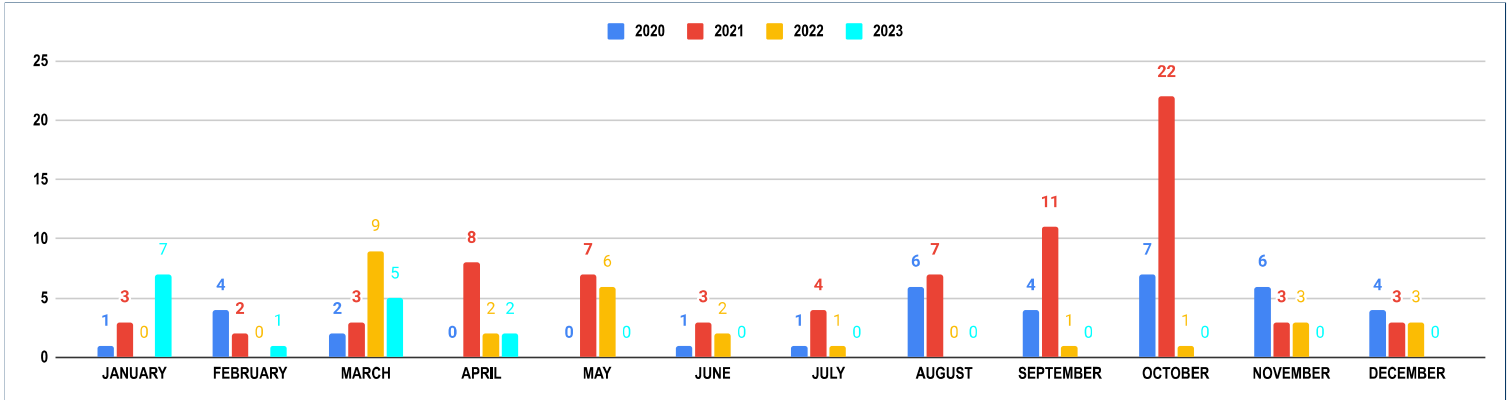


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP APRIL 2023

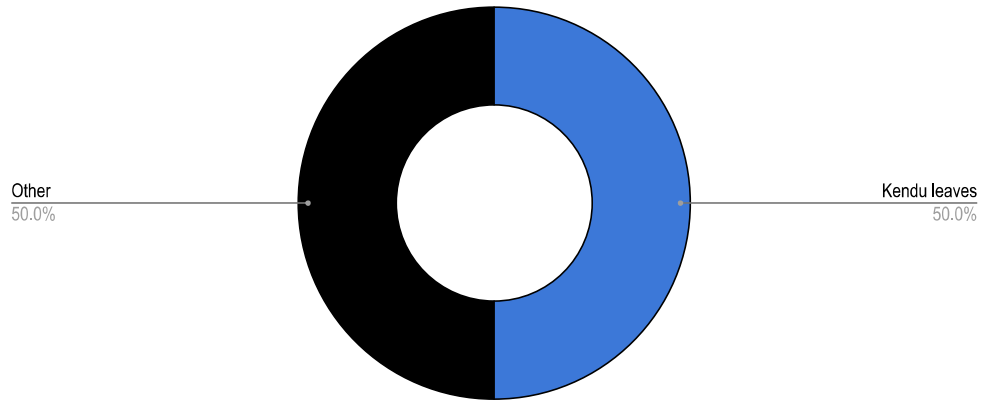
CONTRABAND SMUGGLING

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	APR 2022	APR 2023	TOTAL 2023
Cardamom	0	0	1
Glyphosate	0	0	0
Gold	0	0	0
Kendu leaves	0	1	11
Other	2	1	1
Turmeric	0	0	2

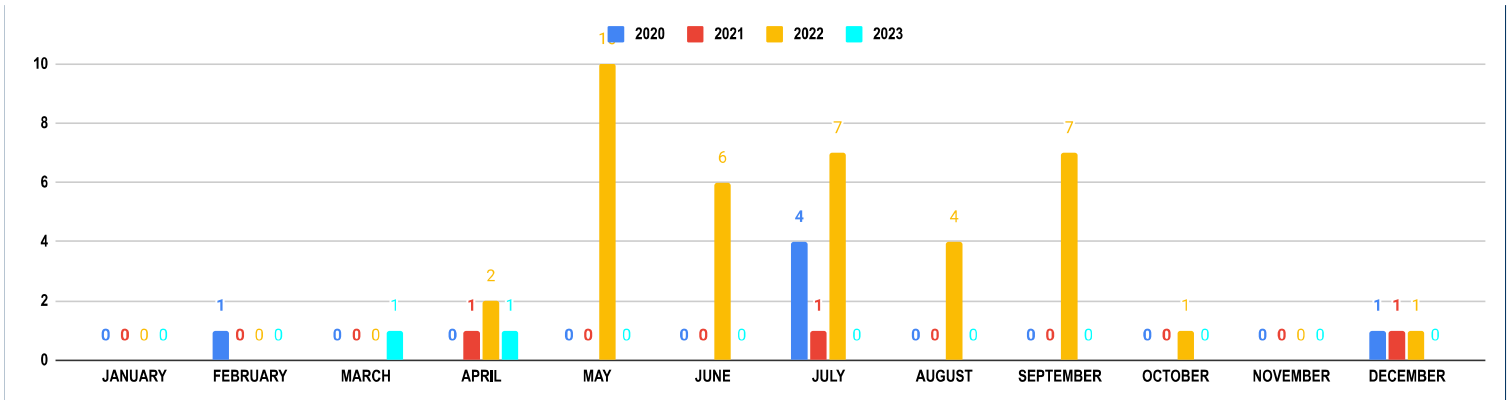


■ Cardamom
 ■ Glyphosate
 ■ Gold
 ■ Kendu leaves
 ■ Turmeric
 ■ Other



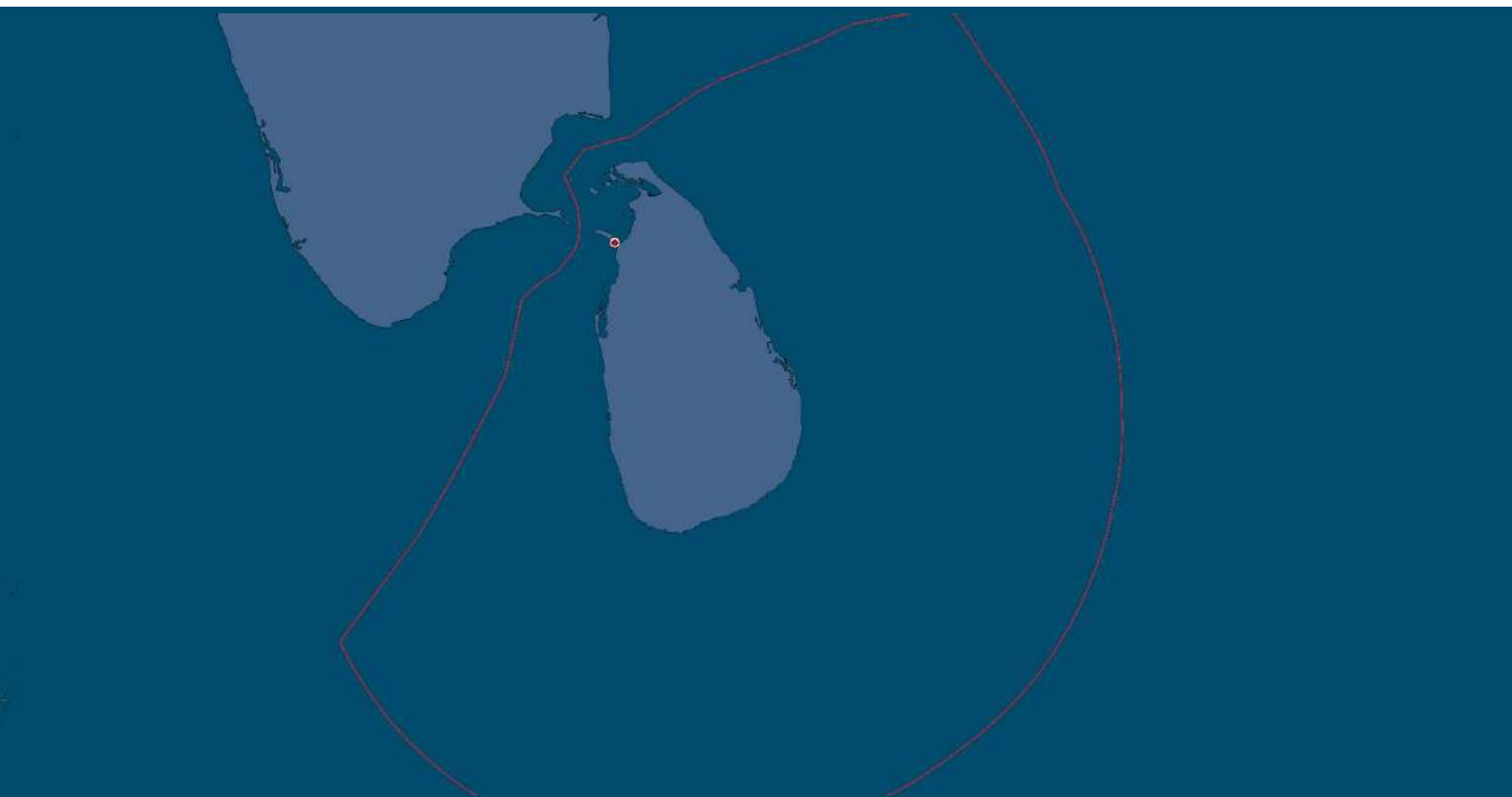
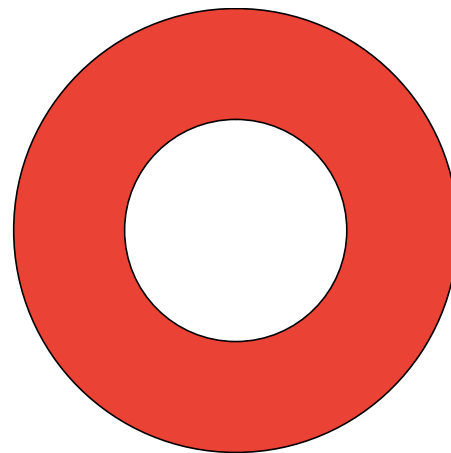
HUMAN SMUGGLING

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	APR 2022	APR 2023	TOTAL 2023
Human Smuggling	0	1	2



Human Smuggling

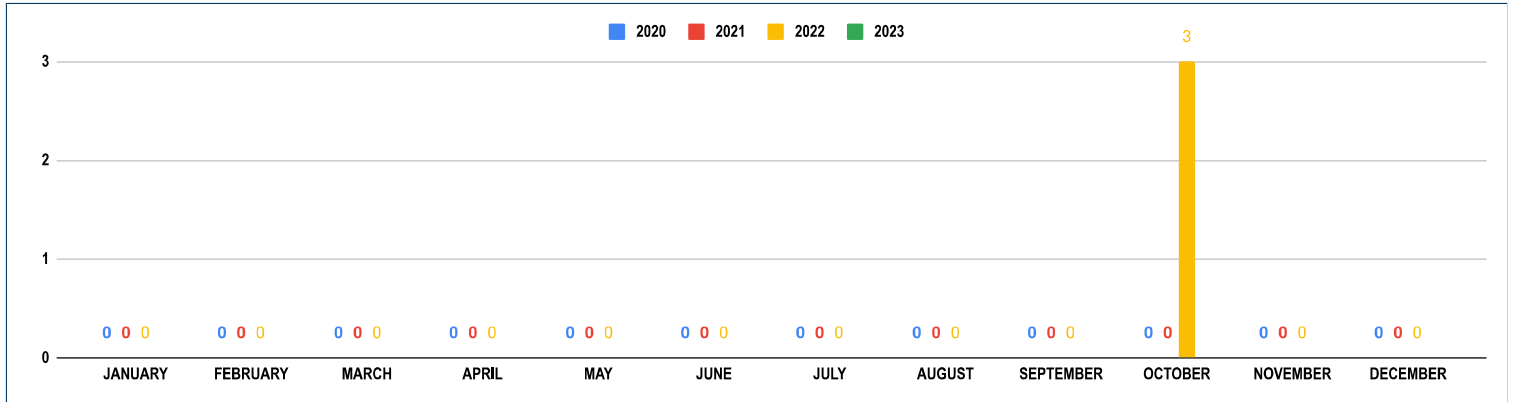


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP APRIL 2023

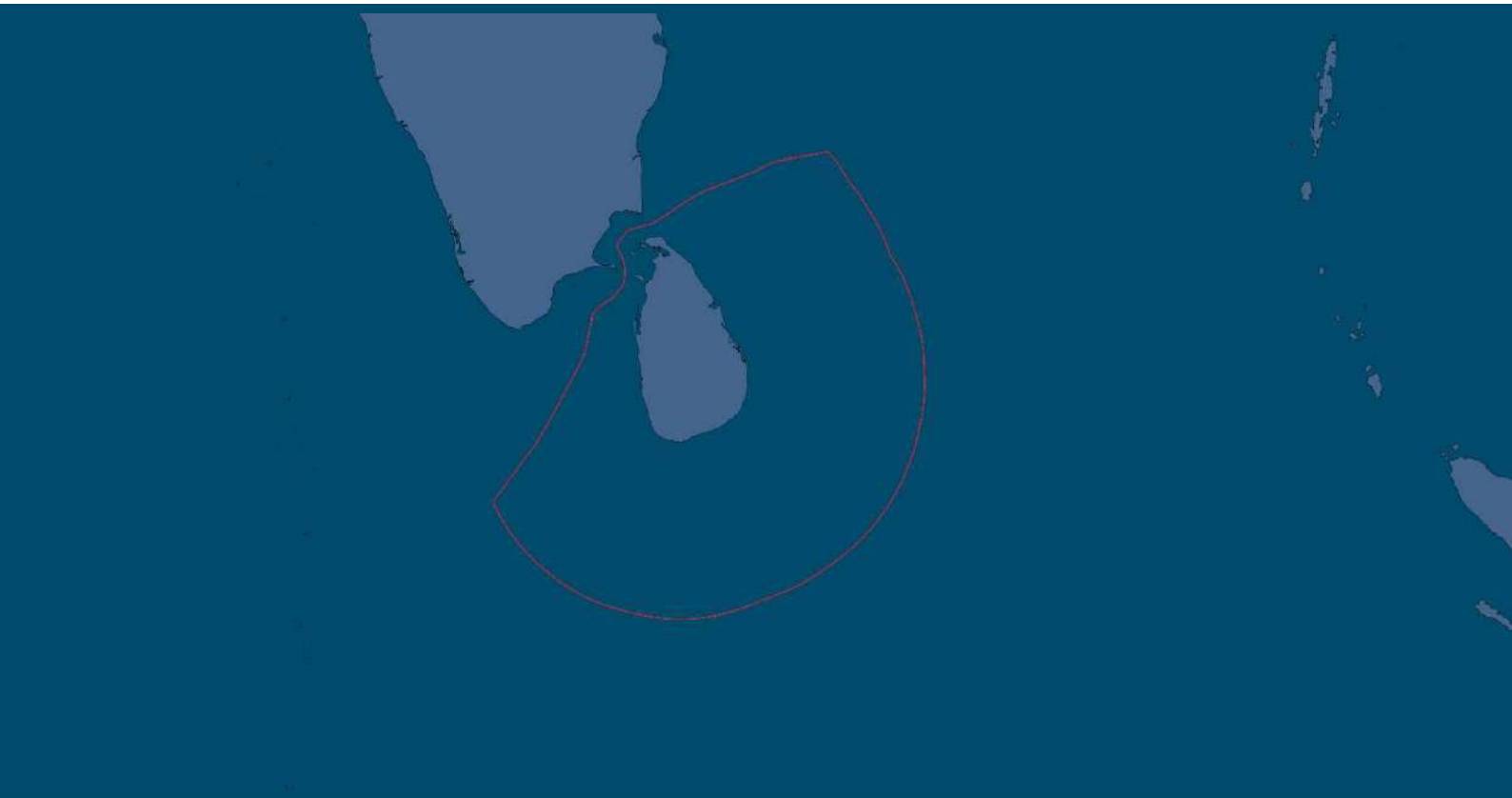
EXPLOSIVE AND FIREARMS

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	APR 2022	APR 2023	TOTAL 2023
Water Gel Sticks	0	0	0



EVENTS

01. 02nd April 2023

Navy recovers Rs. 67.5 million worth Crystal Methamphetamine from Talaimannar seas

In a special search operation conducted in the Sand Dune Sea area of Talaimannar on 02nd April 2023, the Sri Lanka Navy recovered over 04kg (wet weight) of Crystal Methamphetamine, also known as ICE, adrift in waters.

Committed to keeping island waters safe and free from drug trafficking, the Navy conducts regular operations to prevent such nefarious activities via sea. The special operation was mounted by SLNS Thammanna in the North Central Naval Command in the Sand Dune Sea area today. The naval personnel engaged in this operation recovered a suspicious sack adrift in waters and the drugs weighing about 04kg and 500g (wet weight) were found in 04 packages which had been stuffed in the sack.

The Navy suspects that the smugglers might have abandoned the drugs, unable to fetch them ashore, due to constant naval operations in the area. The gross street value of drugs is believed to be over Rs. 67.5 million. The seized packages of Crystal Methamphetamine have been kept in the naval custody until they are handed over to authorities for onward legal action.



02. 02nd April 2023

Navy nabs 02 suspects with Kerala cannabis worth over Rs. 141 Mn in northern waters

The Sri Lanka Navy intercepted a suspicious dinghy, during a special search operation conducted off Kankasanthurai, Jaffna in the dark hours of 02nd April 2023. The operation led to the apprehension of 02 suspects and the dinghy loaded with over 428kg of Kerala cannabis. The seized narcotic substance was brought to the Kankasanthurai harbour where Commander of the Navy Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera was present to inspect them this morning (03rd April).

As per the directives of the Commander of the Navy Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera, the Navy has stepped up its surveillance operations and patrols in the sea and coastal areas belonging to the island. Accordingly the Navy throws its full weight behind anti-drug operations to prevent the influx of narcotic substance into the island.

As an extension of these efforts, the P 423 Fast Attack Craft of the 04th Fast Attack Flotilla, attached to the Northern Naval Command, carried out this search operation off Kankasanthurai on 02nd April. During the operation, the Navy intercepted a suspicious dinghy and found 195 packs of Kerala cannabis weighing about 428kg and 900g. The packages of Kerala cannabis had been contained in 13 sacks. The operation also led to the apprehension of 02 suspects in connection to the incident.

The suspects along with the consignment of Kerala cannabis were brought to the Kankasanthurai harbour this morning (03rd April). The Commander of the Navy was also present at the harbour to inspect the seized consignment of narcotics. Speaking on the occasion, he appreciated the efforts of the naval personnel who involved in this operation.

Meanwhile, the gross street value of the seized stock of Kerala cannabis is believed to be over Rs. 141 million.

The suspects held in this operation were identified as residents of the Analathivu Island, aged 33 and 37. The 02 suspect along with Kerala cannabis and the dinghy were handed over to the Kankasanthurai Police for onward legal action.



Navy apprehends 17 persons for harvesting sea cucumber illegally in northern waters

The Sri Lanka Navy apprehended 17 persons for illegal harvesting of sea cucumber, during separate operations conducted off Nagar Kovil and in the beach area of Kudairippu in Jaffna on 03rd April 2023. The operations also led to the seizure of 3005 illegally harvested sea cucumbers, diving gear and 06 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. As a continuation of these operations, Navy Marines attached to the Naval Deployment Veththalakerni in the Northern Naval Command carried out a special operation off Nagar Kovil and searched suspicious dinghies in the sea area in the afternoon of 03rd April. The search led to the apprehension of 12 individuals engaged in illegal harvesting of sea cucumber. The Navy also held 1305 sea cucumbers, diving gear and 04 dinghies used for this illegal act.

Meanwhile, Navy Marines attached to the Naval Deployment Veththalakerni mounted a similar search operation in the dark hours on the same day and apprehended 05 more individuals with 1700 sea cucumbers in the beach area of Kudairippu. During this operation, the Navy also seized diving gear and 02 dinghies.

The individuals held during these operations are residents of Jaffna, Nagar Kovil, Wellamunai, Weerawennai, and Mannar, aged from 20 to 53. Meanwhile, the suspects along with their belongings and the stock of sea cucumber were handed over to the Fisheries Inspectors of Jaffna and Thalayadi for onward legal action.



Three (03) suspects with Kerala cannabis worth over Rs. 93 Mn. apprehended in northern waters

A special operation carried out by the Sri Lanka Navy and Coast Guard in the sea area west of the Delft Island, Jaffna in the wee hours of 04th April 2023 led to the apprehension of 03 suspects and a dinghy loaded with over 283 kg (wet weight) of Kerala cannabis.

The Navy in coordination with the Coast Guard conducts regular patrols and search operations in the coastal and sea areas around the island, with a view to prevent the influx of drugs into the country.

Accordingly, the Patrol Craft CG 402 of the Coast Guard, attached to the Northern Naval Command, had been deployed in this special operation carried out off the Delft Island on 04th April. As a result, a suspicious dinghy was intercepted in the sea area and 06 sacks of Kerala cannabis were found from the dinghy. The sacks contained 76 parcels of the narcotic substance weighing about 283kg and 700g (wet weight). Moreover, 03 suspects in connection to the incident and the dinghy used to smuggle Kerala cannabis were also taken into the custody.

The street value of Kerala cannabis held in this operation is believed to be over Rs. 93 million.

The suspects nabbed in the operation are residents of Pesalai in Mannar, who are between 19 and 51 years of age. The suspects along with the stock of Kerala cannabis and the dinghy were handed over to the Delft Police for onward legal action.



Navy intercepts foreign dhow carrying hashish worth over Rs. 92 Mn in Talaimannar seas

During a special search operation carried out in the sea area of Sand Dunes, Talaimannar on 05th April 2023, the Navy intercepted a foreign dhow carrying approx. 92kg of hashish. The operation also led to the apprehension of 03 foreign suspects in connection to the illegal act.

The Navy remains constantly vigilant and conducts regular operations to prevent the influx of drugs into the country. As an extension of these efforts, the special operation was carried out by Sri Lanka Navy Marines attached to SLNS Thammanna in the North Central Naval Command, in the sea area of Sand Dunes today. Accordingly, a suspicious foreign dhow in the sea area was intercepted and the narcotic drugs were found from the dhow. Thus, the Navy took hold of the stock of hashish that weighed about 92kg. The drugs were in 95 packages which had been found in 03 sacks concealed in the dhow. Along with the drugs, 03 foreign suspects in connection to the incident and the drug-carrying dhow were also taken into custody.

The gross street value of the stock of hashish is believed to be over Rs. 92 million.

The suspects together with drugs and the dhow were handed over to the Talaimannar Police for onward legal proceedings.



06. 08th April 2023

Sri Lanka Coast Guard and navy arrested illegally harvested sea cucumbers

Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel attached to Coast Guard Station (CGS) Oluvil arrested four persons along with illegally harvested Sea Cucumbers combined with Sri Lanka Navy on 08th April 2023 at Akkaraipattu sea area. The apprehension was made based on naval intelligence and arrests include 8.05kg of the Conch shell, 3.03kg of Sea Cucumbers and 02 Fibre Glass Dinghies.

The arrested person with apprehended items was handed over to Fishery Officer Akkaraipattu for further investigations.



Navy takes hold of Kerala cannabis worth over Rs. 44 million in northern waters

A special search operation conducted by the Navy off Valvettithurai, Jaffna in the dark hours of 09th April 2023 led to the recovery of more than 134kg (wet weight) of Kerala cannabis adrift in waters.

The Navy keeps a round-the-clock vigil in the coastal and sea areas of the island with a view to prevent nefarious activities taking place via sea routes.

As an extension of these operations, an Inshore Patrol Craft attached to SLNS Uththara in the Northern Naval Command carried out the search in the sea area of Valvettithurai on 09th April and recovered 04 suspicious sacks adrift in waters. The sacks contained about 134kg and 300g (wet weight) of Kerala cannabis which had been stuffed in 58 parcels.

It is suspected that smugglers might have abandoned the consignment of Kerala cannabis being unable to fetch them into the country, due to constant naval operations. Meanwhile, the gross street value of seized Kerala cannabis is believed to be over Rs. 44 million.

The stock of Kerala cannabis handed over to relevant authorities for onward legal action.



Sri Lanka Coast Guard apprehended illegally harvested shark fins

Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) personnel deployed at Dikovita Fishery Harbour for fishery monitoring and regulating duties arrested six persons possessing illegally harvested dried shark fins on 10th April 2023 during arrival inspections.

The SLCG made the apprehension while the fish catch was being unloaded from the boat. Upon inspection, they discovered 1.7 kg of dried Shark fins hidden on board. The arrested persons with apprehended items were handed over to the Dikovita Fisheries Inspector for further investigation.



Navy busts smuggling ring: 03 suspects and Kerala cannabis worth over Rs. 20 Mn held in northern waters

The Navy intercepted an Indian dhow carrying over 62kg of Kerala cannabis and apprehended 03 suspects, during a special operation conducted in the Sri Lankan waters west of the Delft Island, Jaffna in the dark hours of 15th April 2023.

The Sri Lanka Navy conducts regular patrols and search operations in the coastal and sea areas around the island, with a view to preventing the influx of drugs into the island.

As an extension of these efforts, the Fast Attack Craft P 411 of the 04th Fast Attack Flotilla, attached to the Northern Naval Command conducted this search operation in island waters off the Delft Island in the dark hours of 15th April and spotted a suspicious Indian dhow in the sea area. Upon search of the suspicious dhow, the Navy recovered 02 sacks of Kerala cannabis which were in 23 packages weighing about 62kg and 400g. The operation also led to the apprehension of 03 suspects in connection to the incident.

The gross street value of the seized stock of Kerala cannabis is believed to be over Rs. 20 million.

The 03 suspects along with the stock of Kerala cannabis and the Indian dhow were handed over to the Delft Police for onward legal action.



Navy intercepts fishing trawler carrying over 179 kg of heroin with street value of over Rs. 3593 Mn, apprehends 06 suspects in southern seas

In a coordinated operation conducted out by the Sri Lanka Navy and Sri Lanka Coast Guard, based on information of the State Intelligence Service, a local multi-day fishing trawler carrying about 179 kg and 654g (including packages) of heroin was intercepted about 132 nautical miles (about 244km) off the Little Basses, Hambantota on 15th April 2023. The operation, carried out by the Sri Lanka Coast Guard Ship 'Samudraraksha', also resulted in the apprehension of six (06) suspects. This morning (17th April), the consignment of narcotic drugs and the suspects were brought to the Galle harbour where Commander of the Navy Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera was present to inspect them.

Based on information received from a combined intelligence operation led by the Naval Intelligence, the State Intelligence Service, and the Police Narcotic Bureau, the Sri Lanka Coast Guard Ship 'Samudraraksha' was deployed for this special operation off the Little Basses, south of Sri Lanka. In this operation a local multi-day fishing trawler in the sea area, about 132 nautical miles (about 244km) off the Little Basses, was searched on suspicion and a consignment of heroin was recovered from the trawler. Accordingly, about 179kg and 654g (including packages) of heroin were found in 160 packs which were in 08 sacks. Thus, the consignment of drugs, the fishing trawler and 06 suspects who were onboard were taken into custody.

The gross street value of the consignment of drugs seized during this operation is believed to be over Rs. 3593 million.

The suspects held in the operation have been identified as residents of Nakulugamuwa, Kudawella, Netolpitiya, and Trincomalee, who are from 25 to 32 years of age. They will be handed over to the Police Narcotic Bureau for onward legal action.



11. 16th & 17th April 2023

Navy apprehends 12 persons for engaging in illegal fishing in northern waters

Separate operations conducted by the Navy in the sea areas of Mamunai and Chundikulam, Jaffna on 16th and 17th April 2023 led to the apprehension of 12 persons engaged in illegal night diving and light-coarse fishing. During the operations, the Navy also seized 03 dinghies and unauthorized fishing gear used for these illegal acts.

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. As an extension of these efforts, the Naval Detachment Mamunai belonging to the Veththalakerni Naval Deployment in the Northern Naval Command deployed naval craft and conducted a special operation off Mamunai on 16th April. The operation led to the apprehension of 04 persons engaged in illegal diving activities to catch fish and seizure of 01 dinghy and unauthorized fishing gear.

Meanwhile, a group of Navy Marines attached to Naval Detachment Chundikulam of the Naval Deployment Veththalakerni also carried out a special operation off Chundikulam on 17th April. During the operation, naval personnel nabbed 08 persons along with 02 dinghies and fishing gear for practising light-coarse fishing in the sea area.

The persons apprehended in these operations are residents of Mannar, Thalayadi, Puulayarkoilady, Pudukuduirippu and Anandapuram, who are from 28 to 59 years of age. The suspects along with their fishing equipment and dinghies were handed over to the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Jaffna for onward legal action.



12. 18th April 2023

Navy nabs 08 persons engaged in light-coarse fishing in eastern seas

A coordinated operation conducted by the Navy and the Assistant Directorate of Fisheries (ADF) in Mullaitivu led to the apprehension of 08 persons who engaged in light-coarse fishing off Nayaru and Alampil, Trincomalee in the dark hours of 18th April 2023. During the operation, the Navy also seized 04 dinghies and unauthorized fishing gear used for this illegal act.

The Navy conducts regular operations in the coastal and sea areas around the island in order to suppress illegal fishing activities performed by people. As an extension of these efforts, a group of Rapid Action Boat Squadron (RABS) personnel of the Naval Detachment Nayaru belonging to SLNS Gotabaya in the Eastern Naval Command conducted this operation in coordination with officials of ADF in Mullaitivu on 18th April. The operation resulted in apprehension of 08 persons engaged in light-coarse fishing in Nayaru and Alampil sea areas. Meanwhile, 04 dinghies and several unauthorized fishing equipment used for this illegal act were taken into naval custody.

The apprehended persons are residents of Puttalam, Kuchchaveli and Mullaitivu from 22 to 44 years of age. The accused along with the dinghies and other fishing gear were handed over to ADF in Mullaitivu for onward legal action.



13. 23rd April 2023

Navy apprehends a suspect with over 26 kg of Kerala cannabis in Jaffna

A special operation conducted by the Sri Lanka Navy on 23rd April 2023 in the coastal area of Anthonyपुरam in Palali, Jaffna led to the apprehension of a suspect with over 26 kg of Kerala cannabis.

The Navy conducts regular patrols and search operations in the coastal and sea areas of the island to prevent the influx of contraband and other nefarious activities. Accordingly, naval personnel of Veththalakerni and Point Pedro Naval Detachments in SLNS Uththara in the Northern Naval Command mounted this operation by deploying an Inshore Patrol Craft P 055. During this special operation a person was apprehended on suspicion and the Navy was able to recover about 26 kilograms and 170 grams of Kerala cannabis in 13 packages concealed in a traditional boat used by the suspect to smuggle drugs.

Meanwhile, the gross street value of the apprehended Kerala cannabis is believed to be over Rs. 08 million.

The suspect apprehended in connection to the incident is a residents of Anthonyपुरam, aged 21. The accused along with seized Kerala cannabis was handed over to the Palali Police for onward legal action.



14. 26th April 2023

Navy apprehends 10 persons engaged in illegal harvesting of sea cucumber in northern waters

The Sri Lanka Navy apprehended 10 persons for engaging in illegal harvesting of sea cucumber, during search operations conducted off Kudirippu, Veththalakerni and Nagar Kovil in Jaffna on 26th April 2023. The operations also led to the seizure of 1040 sea cucumbers, 05 dinghies and diving gear.

The Navy carries out regular operations in the coastal and sea areas around the island, with a view to prevent illegal fishing practices which threaten the sustainability of fish populations, undermine legitimate fishing industries, and damage marine ecosystems. As an extension of these efforts, the Naval Deployment Veththalakerni, belonging to the Northern Naval Command, made these apprehensions in the sea areas of Kudirippu, Veththalakerni and Nagar Kovil, by deploying naval craft. Accordingly, naval personnel nabbed 10 persons engaged in harvesting of sea cucumber, without valid licence, and took into custody about 1040 sea cucumbers, 05 dinghies and diving gear.

The apprehended persons are residents of Mannar, Vankalai and Palleimunai areas, from 22 to 46 years of age. The suspects together with the stock of sea cucumber and belongings were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Thalayadi for onward legal action.

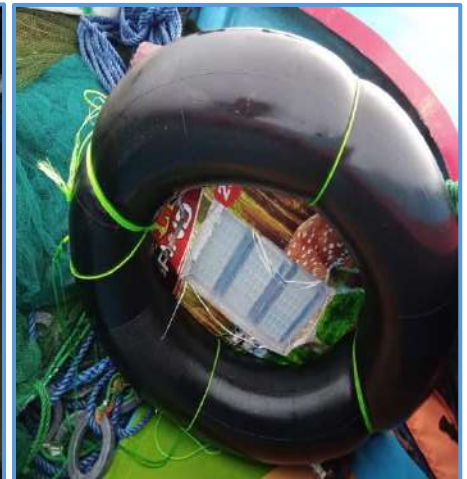


Navy apprehends 22 persons for engaging in illegal fishing in eastern waters

The Sri Lanka Navy apprehended 10 persons for engaging in illegal harvesting of sea cucumber, during search operations conducted off Kudirippu, Veththalakerni and Nagar Kovil in Jaffna on 26th April 2023. The operations also led to the seizure of 1040 sea cucumbers, 05 dinghies and diving gear.

The Navy carries out regular operations in the coastal and sea areas around the island, with a view to prevent illegal fishing practices which threaten the sustainability of fish populations, undermine legitimate fishing industries, and damage marine ecosystems. As an extension of these efforts, the Naval Deployment Veththalakerni, belonging to the Northern Naval Command, made these apprehensions in the sea areas of Kudirippu, Veththalakerni and Nagar Kovil, by deploying naval craft. Accordingly, naval personnel nabbed 10 persons engaged in harvesting of sea cucumber, without valid licence, and took into custody about 1040 sea cucumbers, 05 dinghies and diving gear.

The apprehended persons are residents of Mannar, Vankalai and Palleimunai areas, from 22 to 46 years of age. The suspects together with the stock of sea cucumber and belongings were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Thalayadi for onward legal action.



Navy takes hold of over 836kg of smuggled Kendu leaves in Kalpitiya

The Navy seized over 836kg of smuggled Kendu leaves during separate operations carried out off Paramunai and Kudawa beach area in Kalpitiya on 30th April and 01st May 2023. The search operations also led to the apprehension of 01 dinghy and 02 persons in connection to the acts of smuggling.

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

As a result of these efforts, SLNS Vijaya belonging to the Northwestern Naval Command intercepted a suspicious dinghy, during a search conducted off Paramunai in the dark hours on 30th April. When searched, the Navy recovered 17 sacks of Kendu leaves weighing about 550kg and 750g and took them into custody along with the dinghy and 02 suspects involved in the racket.

Meanwhile, SLNS Vijaya also recovered about 286kg and 200g of smuggled Kendu leaves, in 09 sacks, from the Kudawa beach, during a search carried out in the area this morning (01st May).

The suspects held are residents of Anawasala in Kalpitiya, aged 18 and 23. The accused along with the total consignment of Kendu leaves held in both operations and the dinghy were handed over to the Customs Preventive Office in Katunayake for onward legal action.

