



Information Fusion Centre

Colombo - Sri Lanka

IFC Monthly Report

July 2023

 Naval Headquarters, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka

 ifc@navy.lk

 www.ifccolombo.org

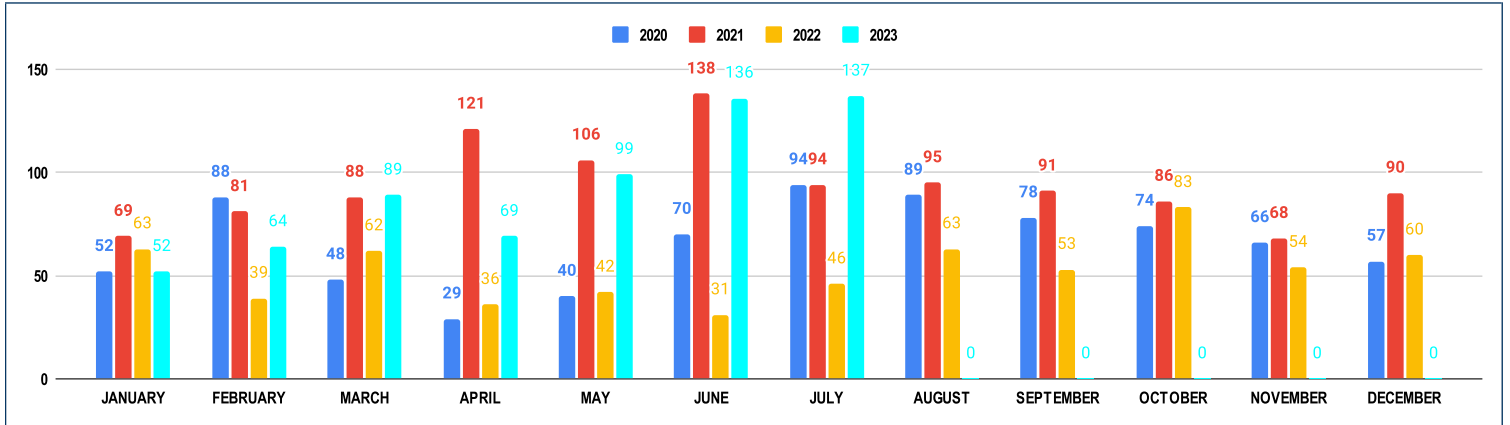
 0094 11 719 2251

 0094 11 244 1454



OVERVIEW

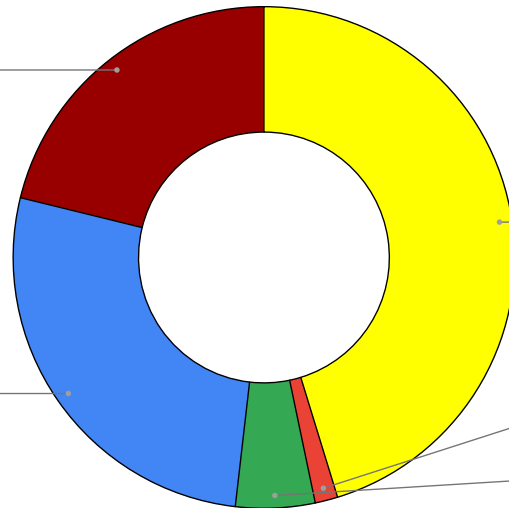
MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	JUL 2022	JUL 2023	TOTAL 2023
IUU Fishing	0	62	305
Drug Smuggling	5	2	23
Contraband Smuggling	1	7	24
Human Smuggling	7	0	3
Maritime Incident	23	37	215
Poaching	10	29	75
Explosive and Firearms	0	0	1

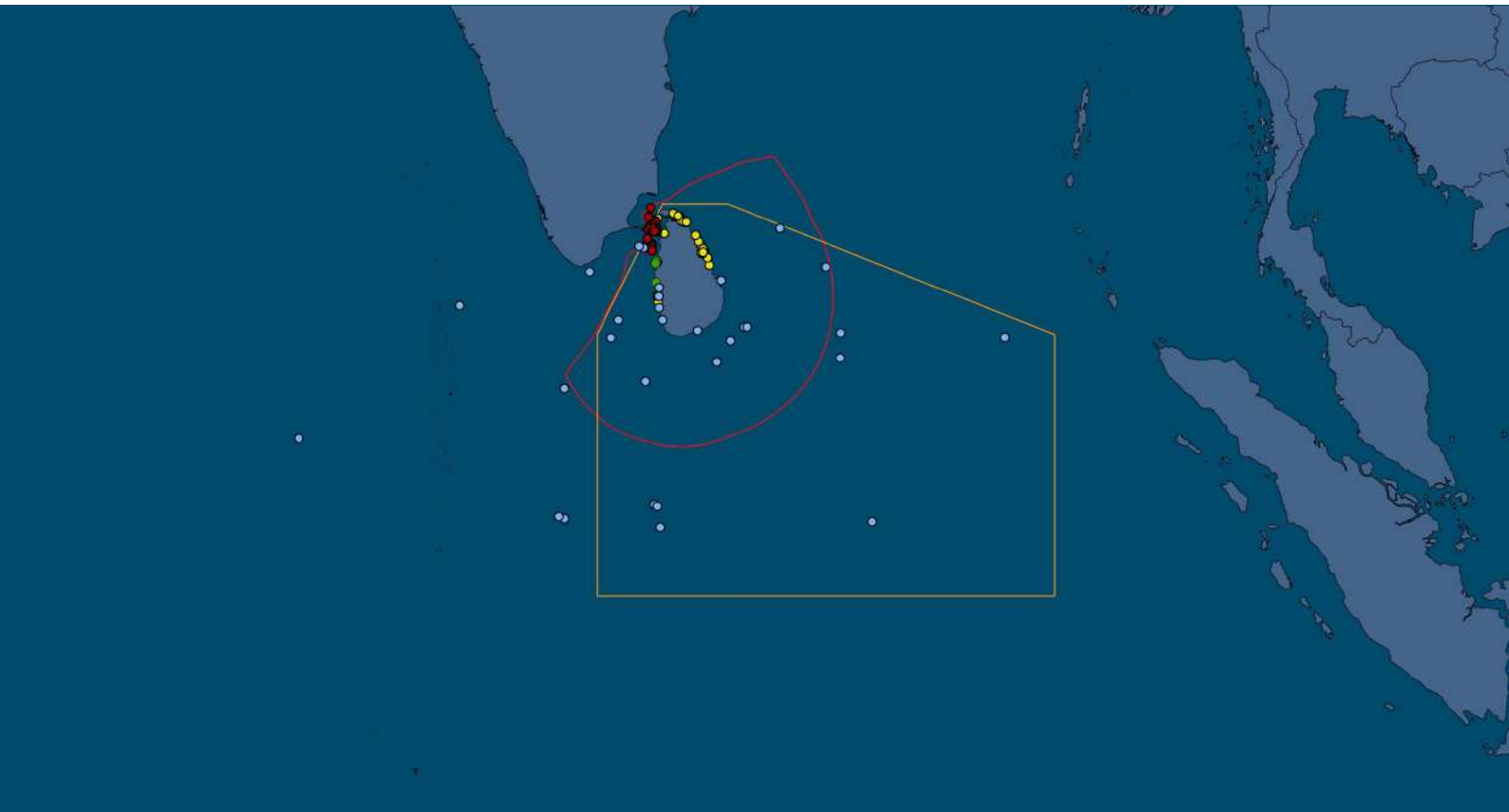
Poaching
21.2%



IUU Fishing
45.3%

Maritime Incident
27.0%

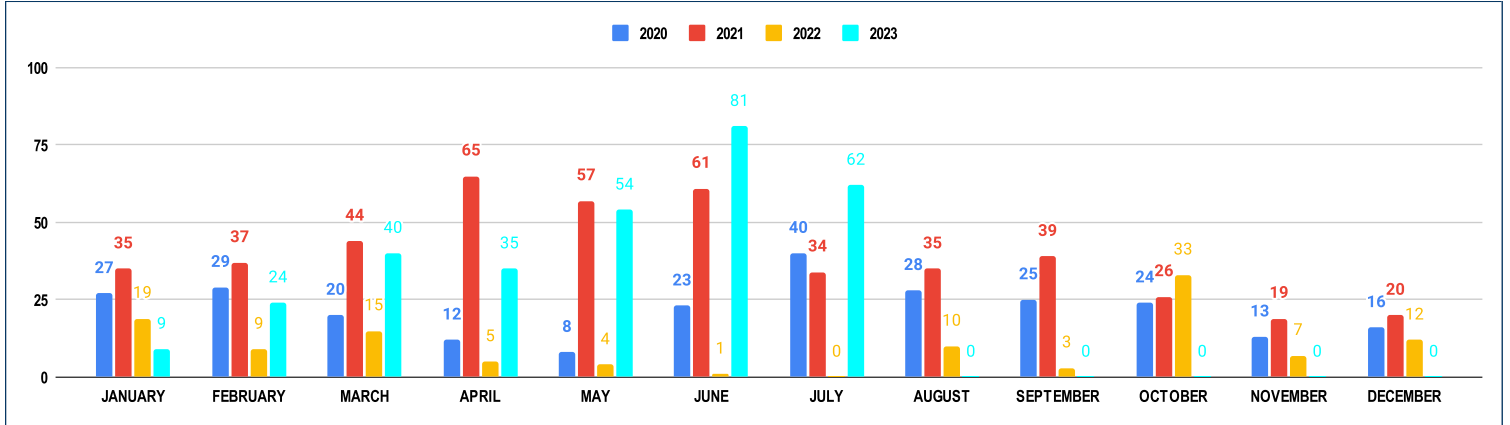
Drug Smuggling
1.5%
Contraband Smuggling
5.1%





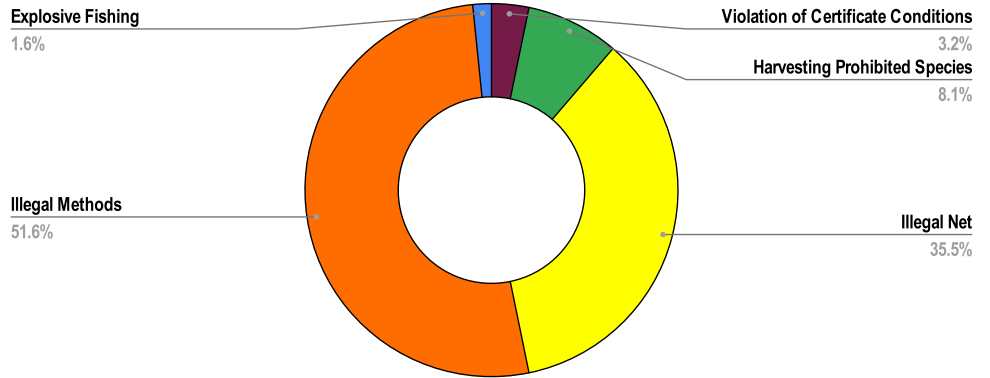
IUU FISHING

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	JUL 2022	JUL 2023	TOTAL 2023
Violation of Certificate Conditions	0	2	25
Harvesting Prohibited Species	0	5	77
Illegal Net	0	22	97
Illegal Methods	0	32	102
Explosive Fishing	0	1	4



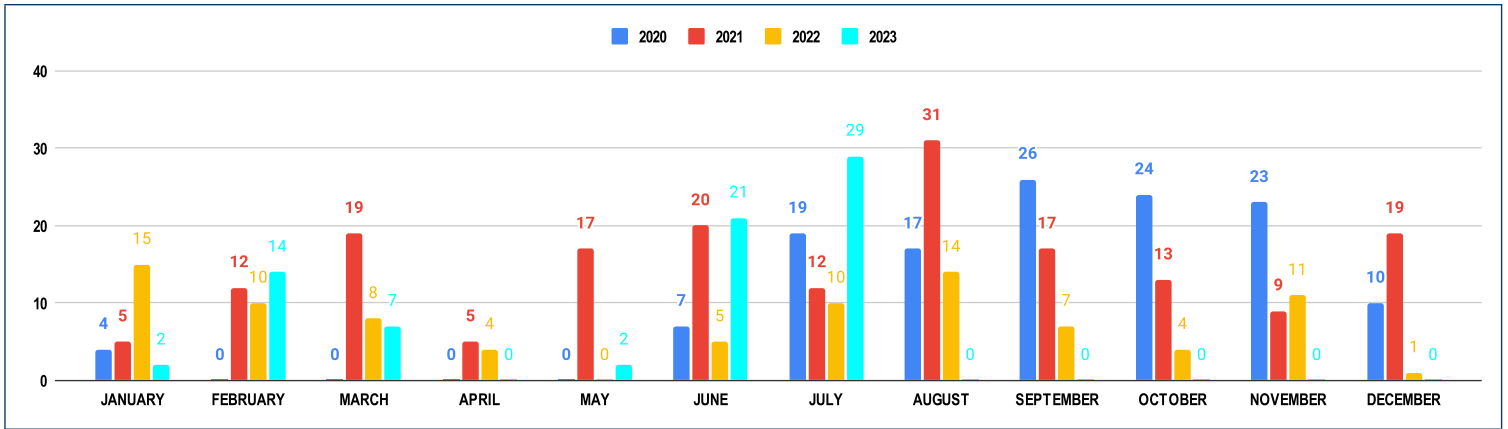


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JULY 2023

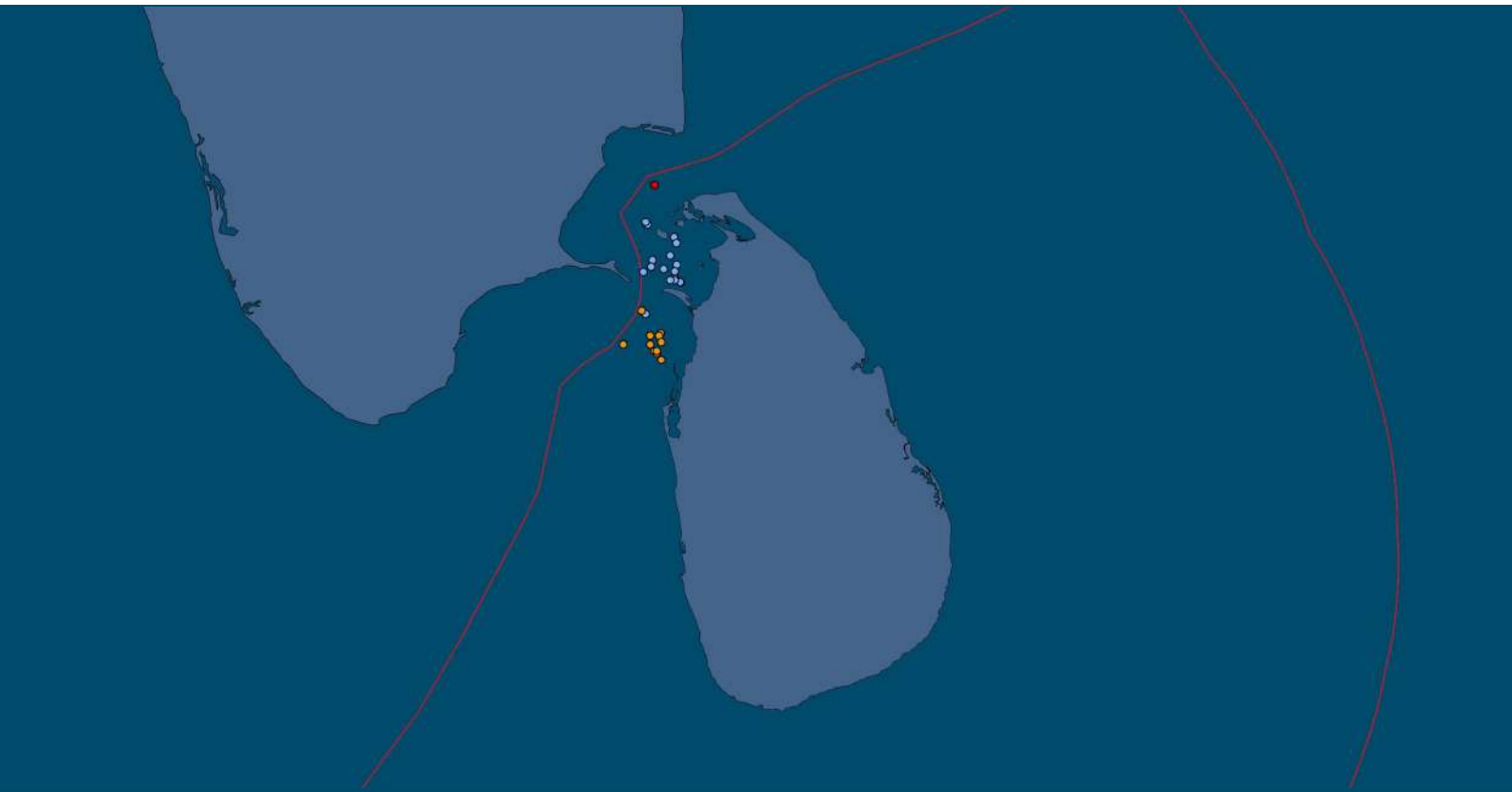
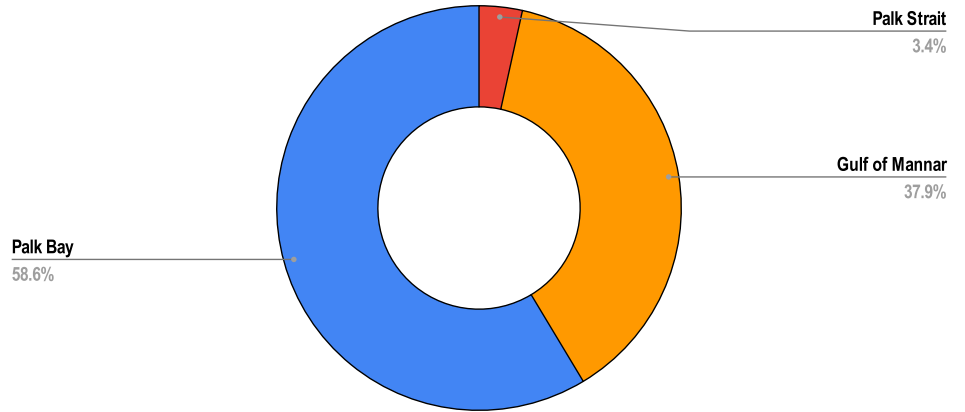
POACHING

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	JUL 2022	JUL 2023	TOTAL 2023
Eastern Coast	2	0	4
Palk Strait	1	1	4
Gulf of Mannar	1	11	27
Palk Bay	6	17	40
Other	0	0	1



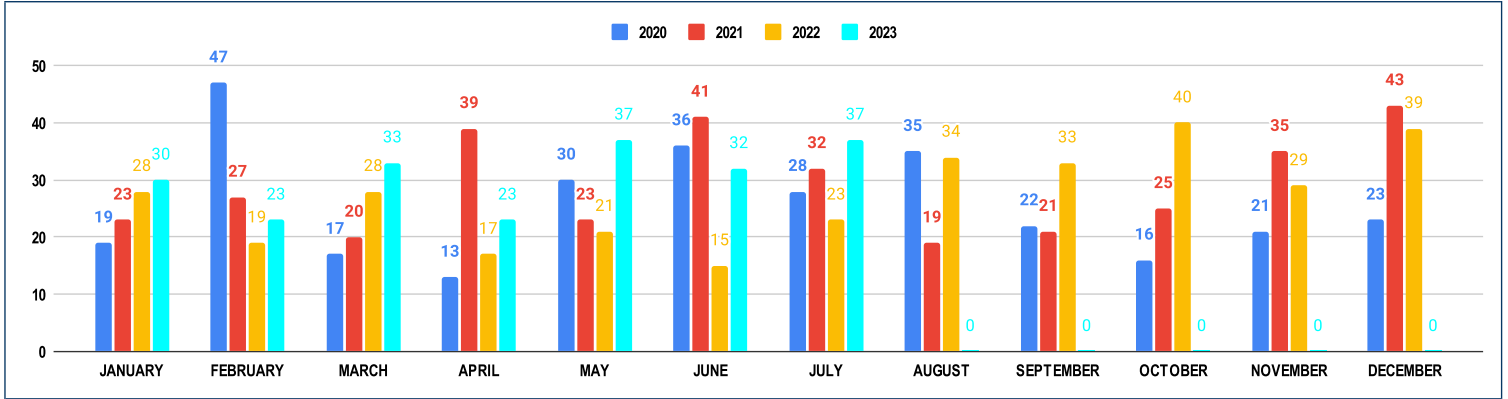


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JULY 2023

MARITIME INCIDENTS

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	JUL 2022	JUL 2023	TOTAL 2023
Technical Failure	13	13	79
Fire onboard	0	0	0
EPIRB Alert	6	10	66
Man Over Board	0	0	1
Arrival Overdue	0	3	5
Capsized	0	0	3
Ground	0	0	1
Death	0	1	7
Patient onboard	0	6	27
Collision	0	0	1
No Communication	2	0	14
Other Incident	1	1	5

Other Incident

2.9%

Patient onboard

17.6%

Death

2.9%

Arrival Overdue

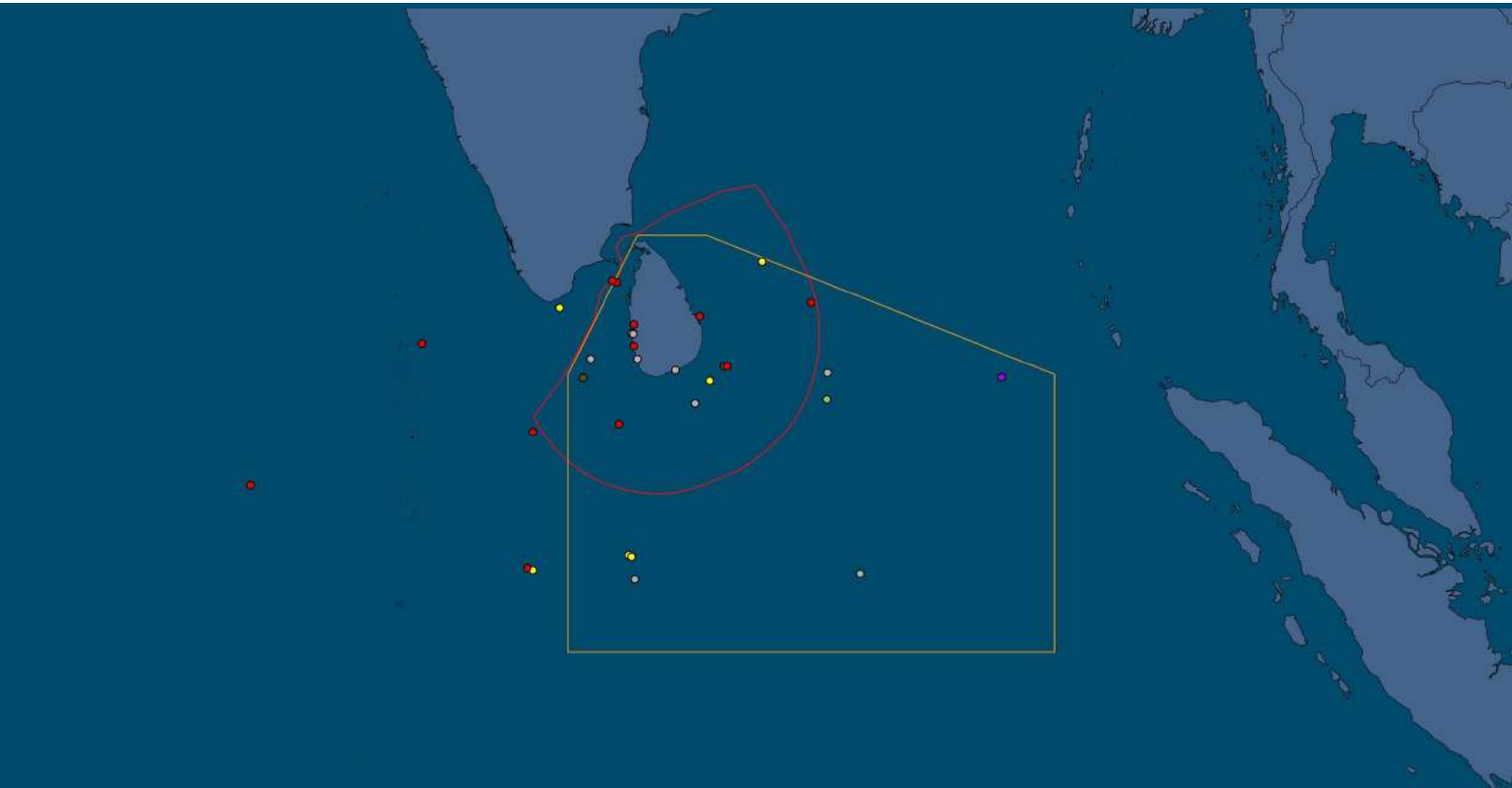
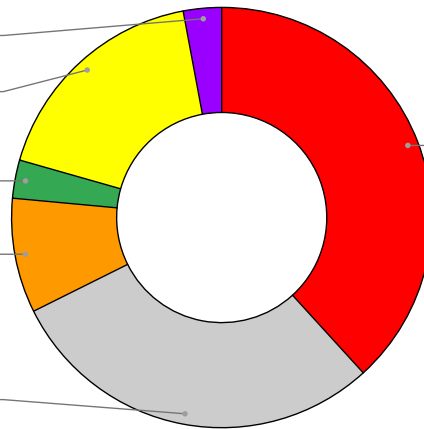
8.8%

EPIRB Alert

29.4%

Technical Failure

38.2%



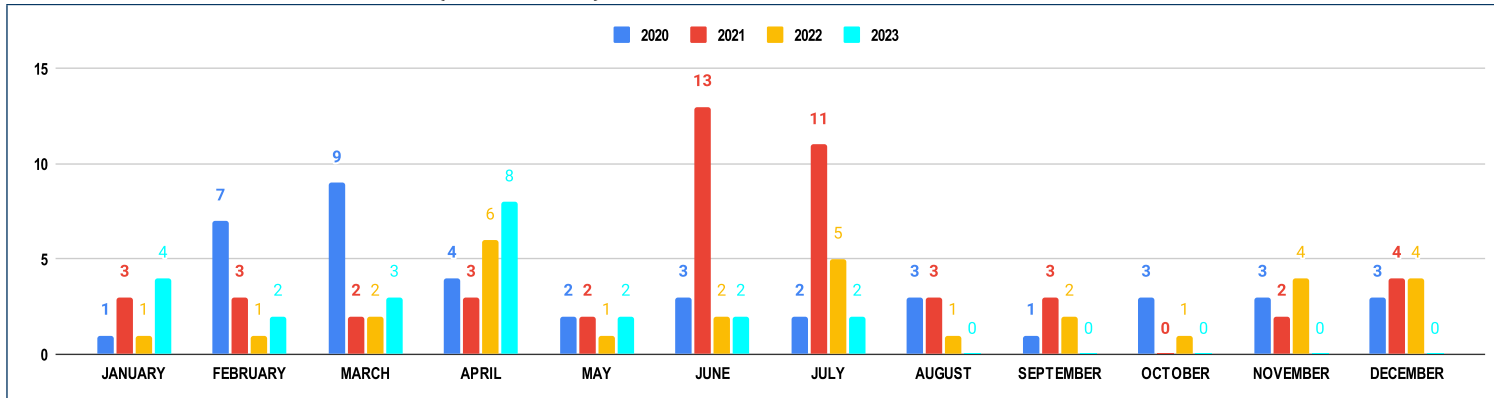


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JULY 2023

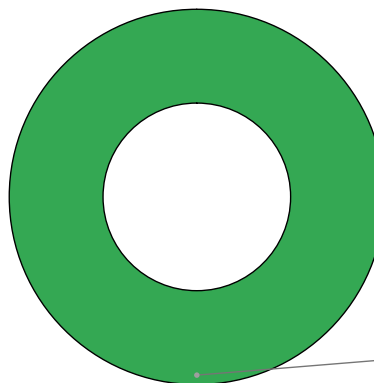
DRUG SMUGGLING

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)

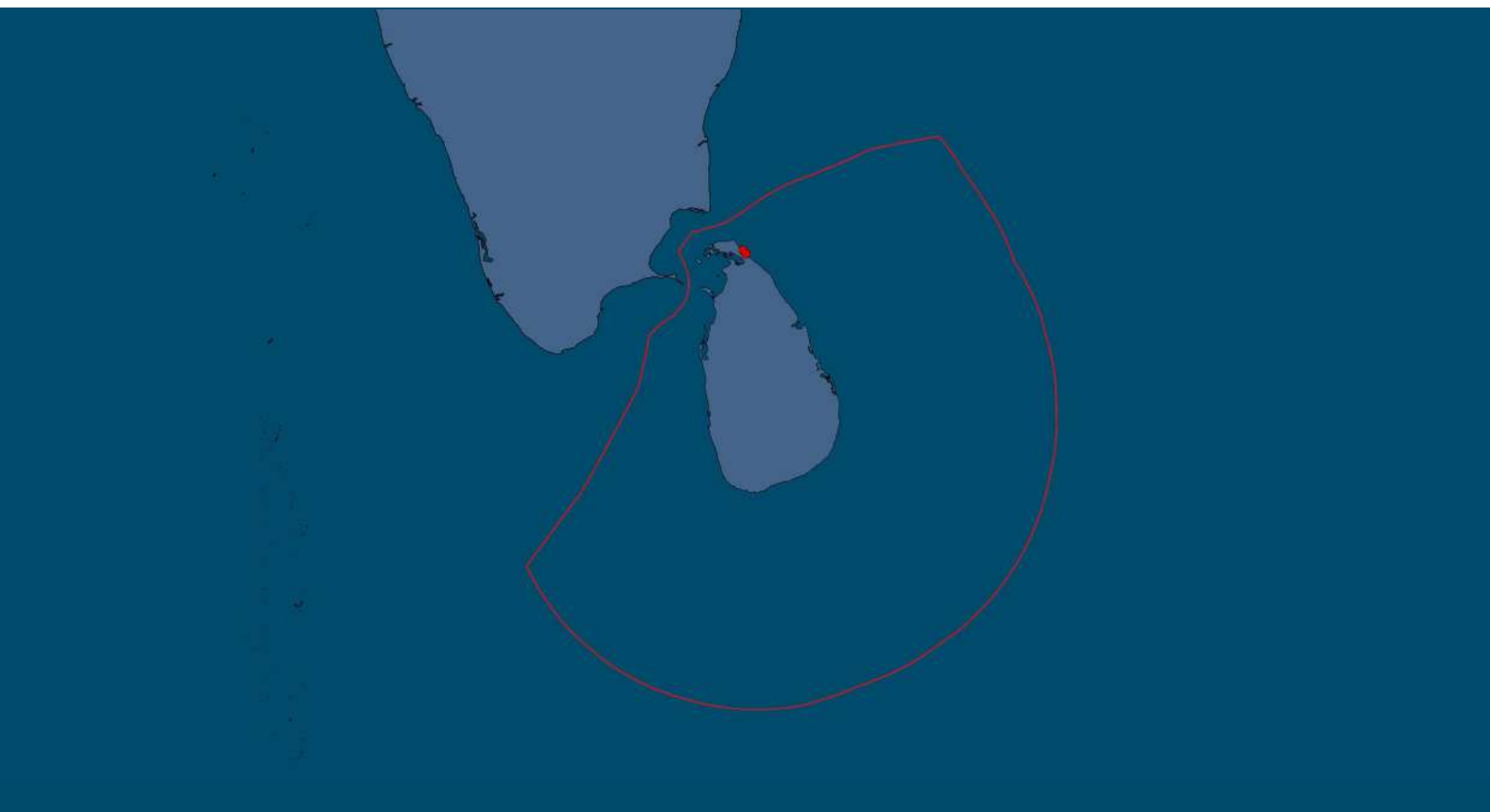


INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

Drug Type	JUL 2022	JUL 2023	TOTAL 2023
Heroin	0	0	4
Kerala cannabis	4	2	16
Ice	0	0	1
Tablets	0	0	0
Hashish	1	0	2
Local cannabis	0	0	0



Kerala cannabis
100.0%



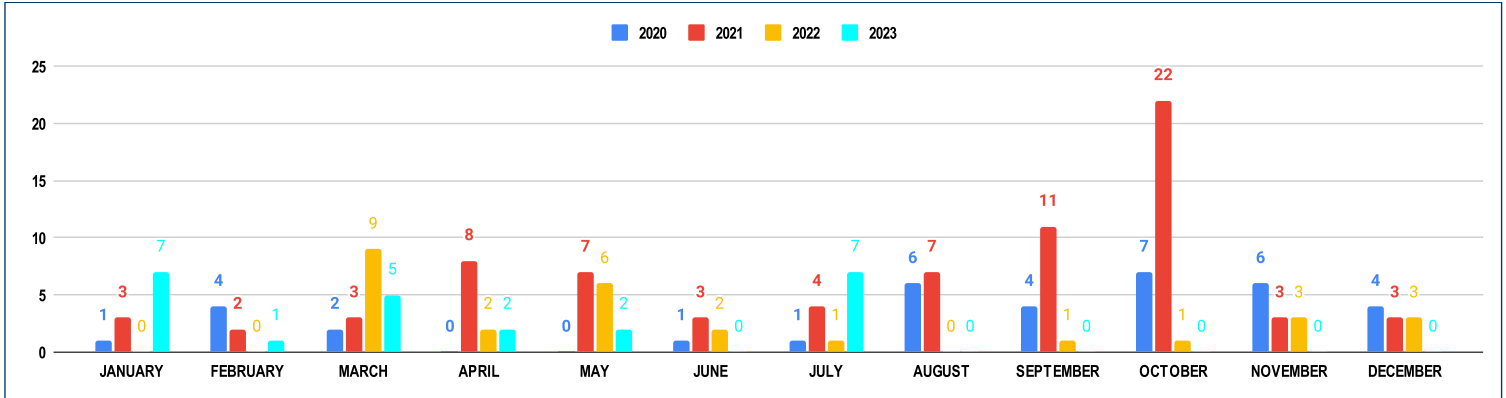


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JULY 2023

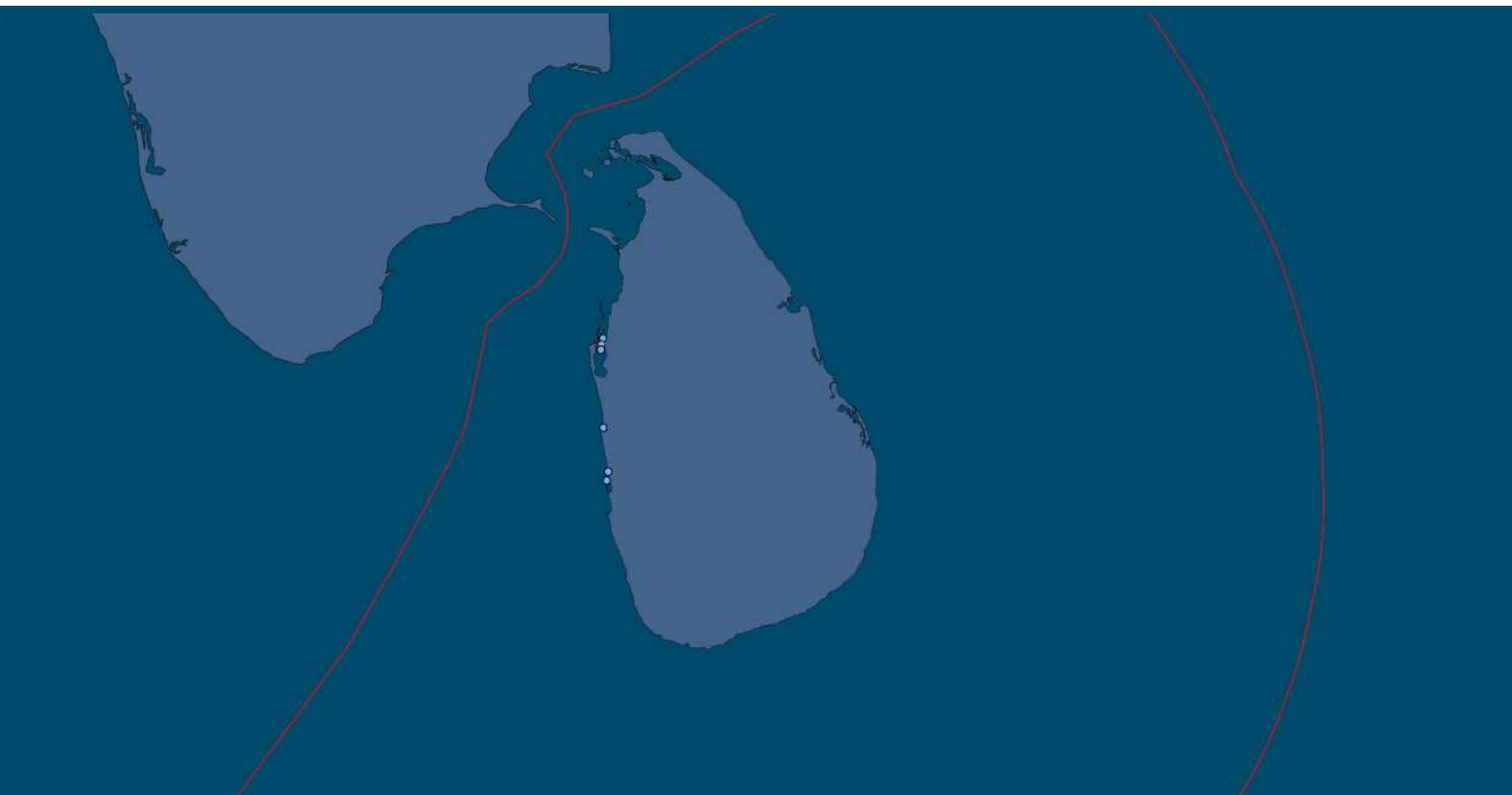
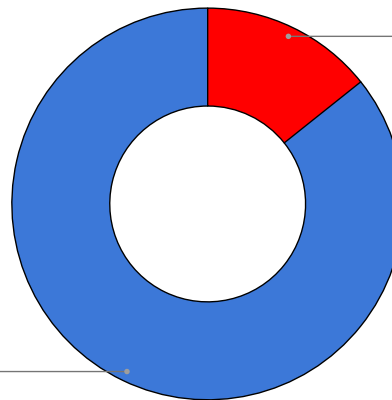
CONTRABAND SMUGGLING

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	JUL 2022	JUL 2023	TOTAL 2023
Cardamom	0	0	1
Glyphosate	0	0	0
Gold	1	1	1
Kendu leaves	0	6	19
Other	0	0	1
Turmeric	0	0	2



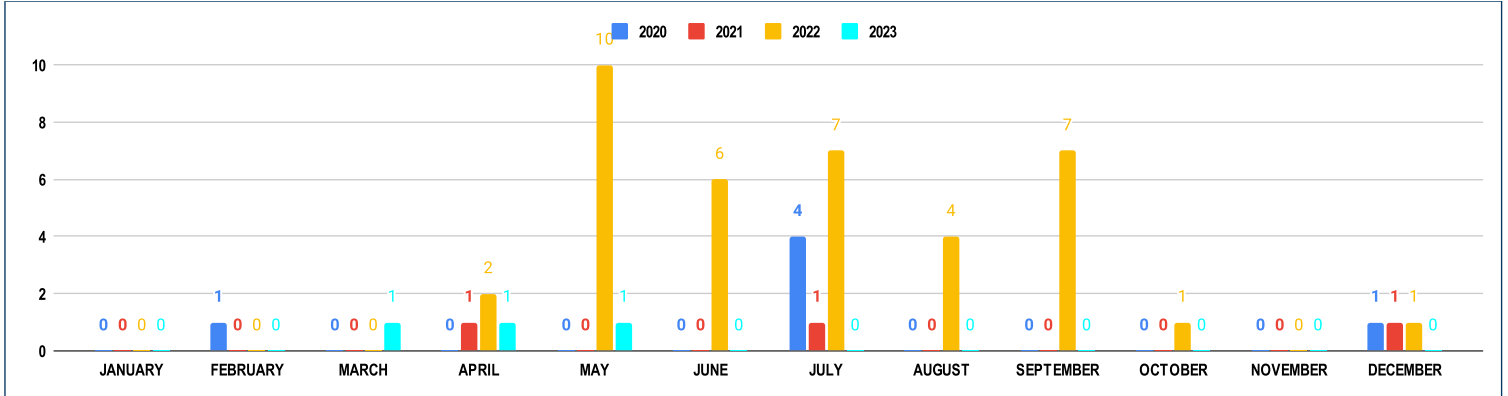


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JULY 2023

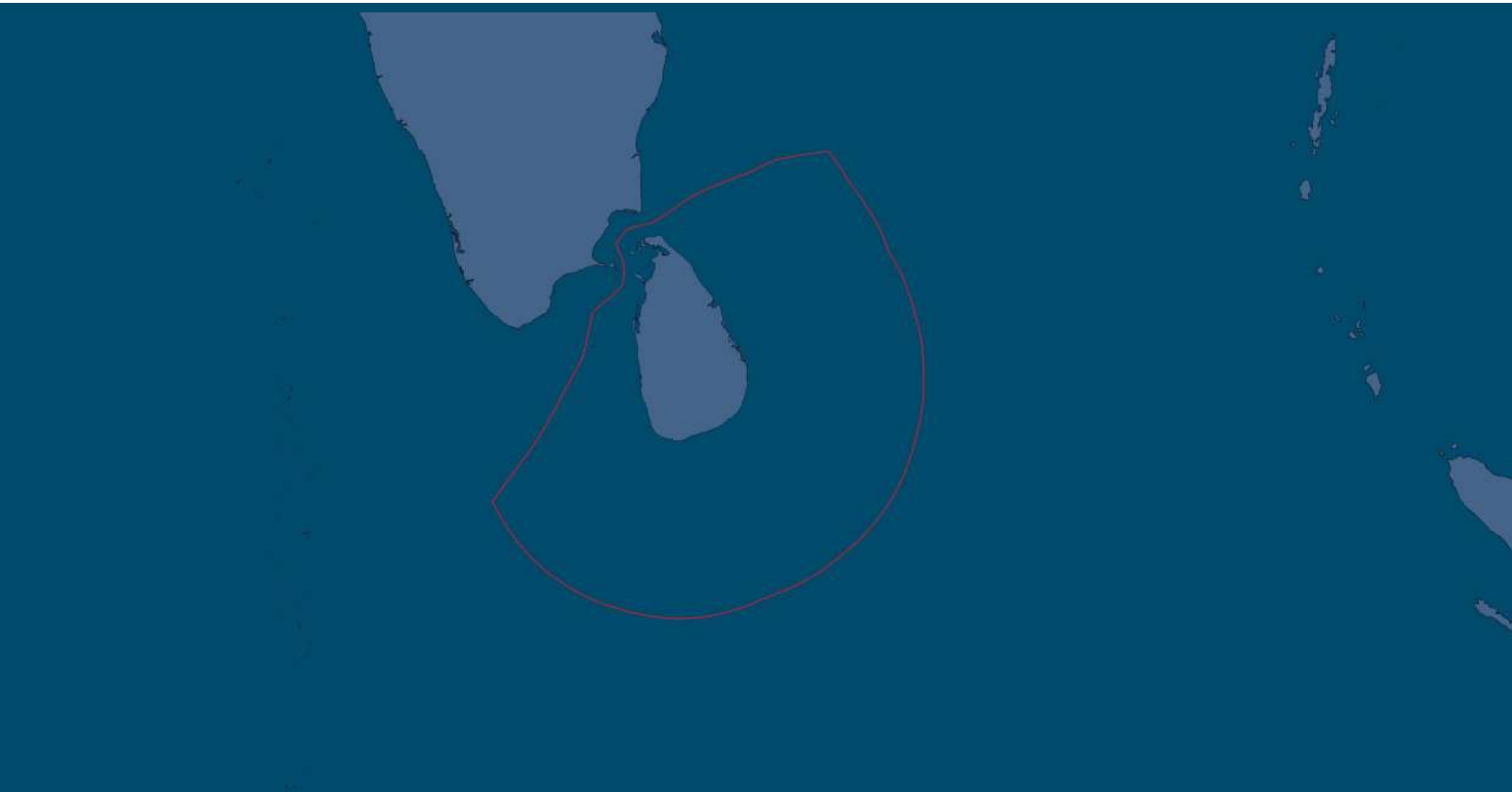
HUMAN SMUGGLING

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	JUL 2022	JUL 2023	TOTAL 2023
Human Smuggling	7	0	3



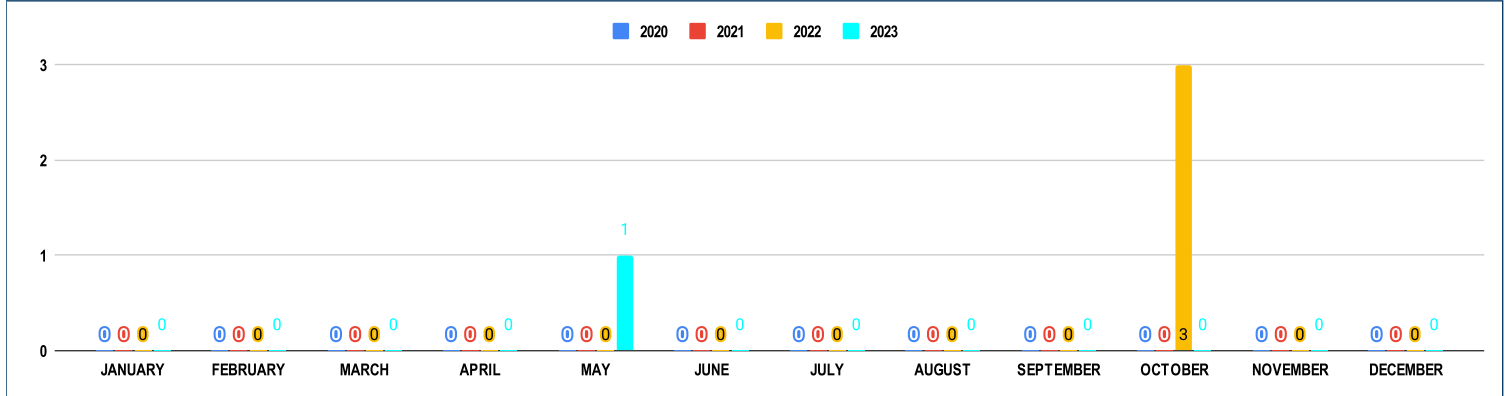


IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JULY 2023

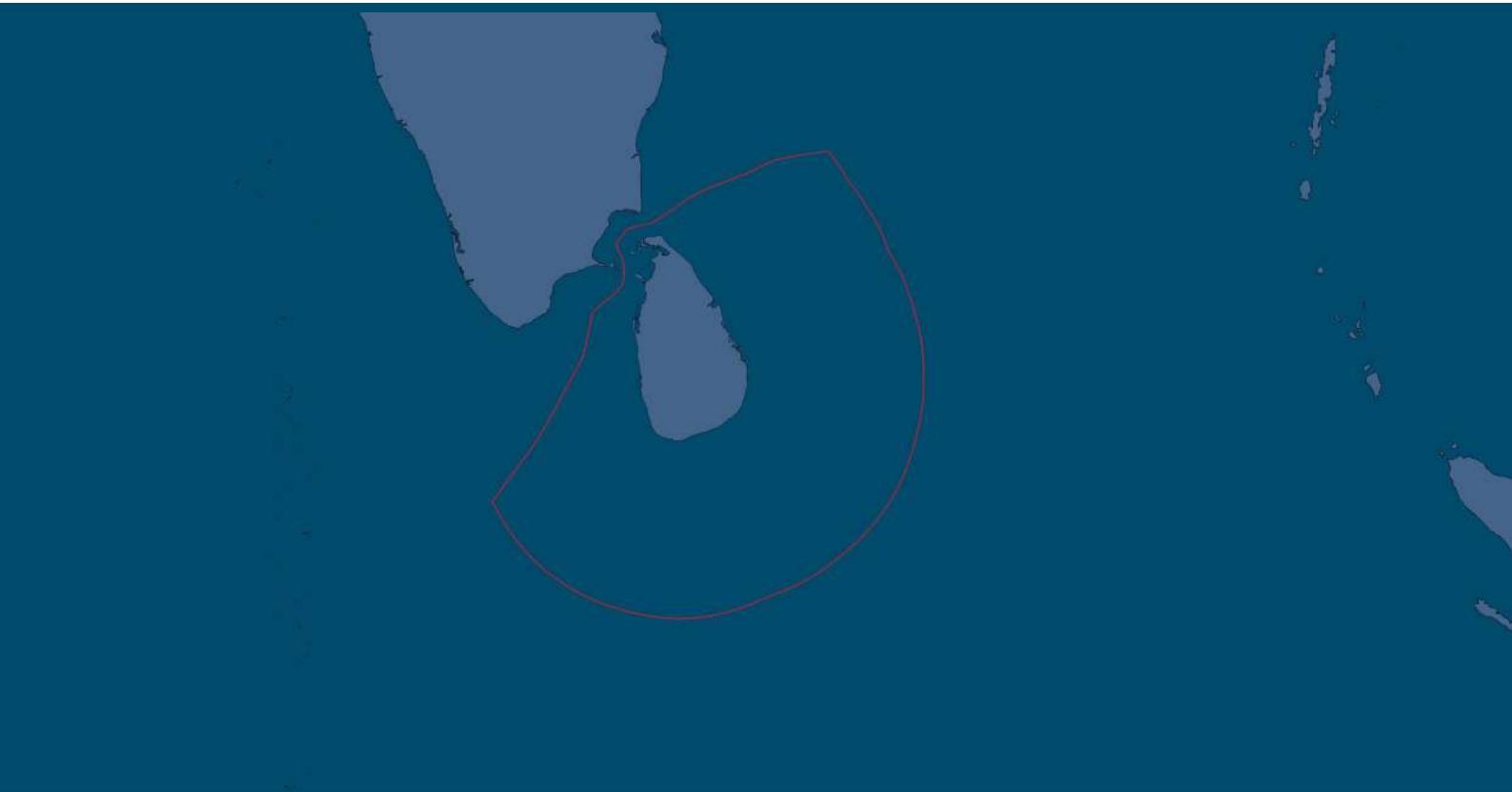
EXPLOSIVE AND FIREARMS

MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	JUL 2022	JUL 2023	TOTAL 2023
Water Gel Sticks	0	0	1



EVENTS

01. 02nd July 2023

Navy apprehends a suspect with 1947kg of smuggled Kendu leaves in Puttalam

The Sri Lanka Navy apprehended a suspect (01) with 1947kg of smuggled Kendu leaves, during a special operation conducted in Karative beach area in Puttalam this morning (02nd July 2023).

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 made this apprehension, during a special operation conducted in Karative beach area this morning. Accordingly, the suspect who had smuggled 65 packages of Kendu leaves weighing 1947kg was nabbed at the beach by the Navy.

The suspect held in this operation is a resident of Karative, Puttalam, aged 50. The accused along with Kendu leaves handed over to the Kalpitiya Police for onward legal action.



Navy renders assistance to barge 'Atulya' and tug 'Avadh' drifted to Mannar south sea area following mechanical failure

The barge 'Atulya', towed by tug 'Avadh', en route from Maldives to India drifted to the Nadukuda coast in Mannar south, northwest of Sri Lanka, on the evening of 07th July 2023. The tug consists of nine (09) crew members who are Indian and Indonesian nationals. Meanwhile, necessary measures to get things back on track as per the procedure are currently being coordinated by the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Colombo at the Navy Headquarters.

MRCC Chennai, India on 06th July notified MRCC Colombo about a mechanical issue on the tug 'Avadh' and drifting of it along with the barge 'Atulya' to the Sri Lankan waters.

Accordingly, on the instructions of the Commander of the Navy, Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera, MRCC Colombo informed the incident to the ship's operator of the distressed tug 'Avadh'. In preparation for a rescue operation, the local agent of the distressed tug, which was drifting towards Sri Lankan waters in adverse weather, was also informed to despatch another tug to the area as well.

By the afternoon of 07th July, the distressed tug and barge drifted towards the Nadukuda beach area in South of Mannar, owing to the rough sea and strong wind. As per the procedure, necessary measures are currently underway to fix the tug, under the coordination of MRCC Colombo.

Furthermore, the Sri Lanka Navy is prepared to provide necessary assistance to the crew of the distressed tug, and remains vigilant to tackle emergencies and provide essential support.



Navy apprehends 12 persons engaged in illegal fishing

The Navy apprehended 12 individuals on 07th and 08th July 2023 off Chalei and Chundikulam in Jaffna and Illuppukadawai in Mannar, while they were engaging in illegal fishing activities. During these special operations, the Navy also held 1870 illegally harvested sea cucumbers, unauthorized fishing gear and 04 dinghies used for these illegal acts.

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, the Naval Deployment Veththalakerni in the Northern Naval Command carried out special operations in the dark hours of 07th July and nabbed 09 persons along with unauthorized fishing gear and 03 dinghies, whilst engaging in light-coarse fishing off Chalei and Chundikulam.

In addition, SLNS Buwaneka in the North Central Naval Command apprehended 03 individuals for fishing without valid passes off Illuppukadawai on the evening of 08th July. During this operation, the Navy also held 1870 illegally harvested sea cucumbers and a dinghy which was used for the illegal act.

The apprehended persons, ranging in age from 23 to 58, were from the areas of Dharmapuram, Vallipuram, Chilaw, Mailavapuram, Kallaru, Thalayadi and Walaipadu. Following the apprehensions, the Navy handed over the suspects, their belongings, and the illegally harvested sea cucumbers to the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Jaffna and Mannar Assistant Directorate of Fisheries for onward legal action.



Navy apprehends 02 poaching trawlers in Sri Lankan waters

The Sri Lanka Navy and Coast Guard conducted a special operation to chase away Indian poaching trawlers from Sri Lankan waters in the dark hours of 08th July 2023. The operation led to the apprehension of 02 Indian trawlers with 15 Indian nationals poaching in Sri Lankan waters off the Delft Island, 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 efforts, the Northern Naval Command deployed Fast Attack Craft of the 04th Fast Attack Flotilla and craft of the Sri Lanka Coast Guard to chase away a cluster of Indian poaching trawlers, having spotted they were engaging in illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters off the Delft Island. In this operation, the Navy held 02 Indian poaching trawlers with 15 Indian fishers continuing to remain in Sri Lankan waters.

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

Thus far in 2023, the Navy has seized 12 Indian poaching trawlers and 74 Indian fishermen in island waters and handed them over to authorities for legal action. Meanwhile, the Navy and the Coast Guard continue to carry out such operations for the protection of the marine environment and the livelihood of the local fishing community.



Navy renders assistance to bring ashore fisherman with burn injuries for medical attention

The Sri Lanka Navy today (11th July 2023) rendered assistance to bring ashore a fisherman with burn injuries, sustained following an accident, while aboard a local multiday fishing trawler. The fisherman has experienced this unfortunate incident while at sea approximately 431 nautical miles (about 798km) off the coast of Galle, southwest of Sri Lanka.

The multiday fishing trawler named 'Sachintha Putha' (Reg. No. IMUL-A-0460 CHW) had set sail from the Negombo harbour for fishing on 22nd June, with five (05) crew members. Reportedly, the multiday fishing trawler collided with a foreign vessel on the high seas southwest of Sri Lanka where a fisherman who was on the local fishing trawler had suffered burn injuries due to an attack by the foreign vessel. Meanwhile, the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, alerted the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Colombo, located at the Navy Headquarters, about the developments.

Responding to the urgent situation, the Navy, at the directives of Commander of the Navy, Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera, made prompt arrangements to bring the wounded fisherman ashore. Accordingly, MRCC Colombo informed the Bulk Carrier 'SPAR MIRA' sailing in the same sea area to get the wounded fisherman aboard.

The Bulk Carrier responded to the MRCC Colombo's information and retrieved the injured fisherman, bringing him on board. Instead of continuing its original course towards Singapore, the ship altered its route and sailed approximately 400 nautical miles to the southern sea area of Sri Lanka by this evening. Meanwhile, a Fast Attack Craft attached to the Southern Naval Command transferred the fishermen brought by SPAR MIRA' and took him to the Galle harbour while administering first aid. He was then rushed to the Karapitiya Teaching Hospital, Galle for further medical attention.

The Sri Lanka Navy continues to exemplify its dedication and unwavering commitment to safeguarding lives at sea, serving as a beacon of hope and security for seafarers and the fishing community.



Navy busts smuggling racket, over 08kg of gold and 02 suspects held in Kalpitiya lagoon

The Sri Lanka Navy successfully dismantled a smuggling racket in the wee hours of today (12th July 2023), seizing about 08kg and 450g of gold, attempted to be smuggled via sea, during a special operation mounted in Wannimundalama lagoon area, Kalpitiya. The operation also led to the apprehension of 02 suspects and a dinghy used for this illegal act.

The Navy carries out regular search operations and patrols in the coastal and sea areas around the island, with a view to preventing an assortment of nefarious activities stemming via sea.

As an extension of these efforts, SLNS Vijaya in the Northwestern Naval Command conducted this special operation in Wannimundalama lagoon today. Upon detection of a suspicious dinghy speeding off from the lagoon towards Kalpitiya sea area, the Navy intercepted the dinghy and searched it on suspicion. During the search, about 08kg and 450g of gold, suspected to be smuggled, were recovered in 04 packages which were concealed in the dinghy. Also, 02 suspects in connection to the incident and a dinghy used for the act were held by the Navy.

The suspects held in this operation were residents of Mandalakuda in Kalpitiya, aged 37 and 42. The accused along with gold and the dinghy are being handed over to Customs Preventive Office, Katunayake for onward legal proceedings.



Navy apprehends 02 suspects while smuggling Kendu leaves by dinghy in Kalpitiya seas

The Sri Lanka Navy apprehended 02 suspects who were smuggling about 530kg (wet weight) Kendu leaves, during a special operation conducted off Periya Arichchal Island, Kalpitiya in the dark hours of 14th July 2023. The operation also led to the seizure of a dinghy used for this illegal act.

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 made this apprehension, during a special operation conducted off Periya Arichchal Island on 14th July, deploying naval craft. Following subsequent search, the Navy recovered about 530kg (wet weight) Kendu leaves, in 16 packages. The operation also led to the apprehension of 02 suspects and a dinghy in connection to the incident.

The suspects held in this operation are resident of Kalpitiya, aged 30 and 44. The accused along with Kendu leaves and dinghy will be handed over to the Customs Preventive Office Katunayake for onward legal action.



Navy apprehends 16 persons for engaging in illegal fishing in northern waters

Special operations conducted by the Navy off Kadaikadu, Nagar Kovil and Chundikulam in Jaffna on 16th and 17th July 2023, led to the apprehension of 16 persons who were engaging in illegal fishing activities. During these operations, the Navy also held 04 dinghies, diving equipment and fishing gear used for these illegal acts.

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 Detachments Veththalakerni, Mamunai and Chundikulam belonging to the Naval Deployment Veththalakerni in the Northern Naval Command made these apprehensions off Kadaikadu, Nagar Kovil and Chundikulam on 16th and 17th July. Accordingly, the Navy nabbed 16 individuals on charges of night diving without valid licence, using unauthorized nets, and light coarse fishing. The operations also led to the seizure of 04 dinghies, diving equipment and unauthorized fishing gear used by the individuals.

The persons held in these operations were identified as residents of China Bay, Trincomalee, Nagar Kovil, Vavuniya, Pudukuduirippu, Mullaitivu, Mannar and Pudumathalan areas, from 16 to 58 years of age. The apprehended persons together with their belongings were handed over to the Office of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Department in Jaffna for onward legal action.



09. 18th July 2023

Navy takes hold of 02 dinghies with over 557kg of smuggled Kendu leaves in Negombo lagoon

The Sri Lanka Navy took hold of 02 dinghies loaded with over 557kg of smuggled Kendu leaves, during a search conducted in the Negombo lagoon on 18th July 2023.

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, SLNS Kelani in the Western Naval Command on 18th July seized these 02 dinghies which were at Duwa area in the Negombo lagoon. Upon search of the dinghies, naval personnel recovered 19 sacks which had been stuffed with over 557kg of smuggled Kendu leaves.

Meanwhile, the seized consignment of Kendu leaves and 02 dinghies were handed over to the Customs Preventive Office in Katunayake for onward action.



10. 23rd July 2023

A suspect with Kerala cannabis valued at over Rs. 54 Mn street value held in northern waters

A special search operation conducted by the Navy in the Waththirayan sea area of Veththalakerni, Jaffna this morning 23rd July 2023 led to the apprehension of a suspect (01) with over 165kg of Kerala cannabis being smuggled by a dinghy.

The Sri Lanka Navy remains vigilant and actively carries out operations to curb illegal activities in its waters and coastal zones. As an extension of these efforts, Naval Deployment Veththalakerni in the Northern Naval Command intercepted a suspicious dinghy in the sea area of Waththirayan this morning. During further search, the Navy recovered 75 packages from the dinghy, which had been stuffed with about 165kg and 400g of Kerala cannabis. The suspect in connection to this act of smuggling and the dinghy used for this illegal act were also held during this operation.

Meanwhile, the gross street value of the seized Kerala cannabis is believed to be around Rs. 54 million.

The suspect held in the operation is a resident of Mulliyan, aged 36. The suspect along with narcotics and the dinghy was handed over to the Maradankeni Police for onward legal action.



11. 24th July 2023

Navy takes hold of about 606kg of Kendu leaves in Kalpitiya

The Sri Lanka Navy took hold of about 606kg (wet weight) of Kendu leaves adrift in waters, during a search conducted close to the Mattutivu Island in Kalpitiya lagoon on 24th July 2023.

The Navy conducts regular search operations and patrols in coastal and sea areas of the island to prevent nefarious activities being carried out via sea routes.

As an extension of these efforts, SLNS Vijaya in the Northwestern Naval Command retrieved 19 suspicious sacks drifting in waters near the Mattutivu Island in Kalpitiya lagoon, during a search conducted in the dark hours of 24th July. The sacks contained about 606kg (wet weight) of Kendu leaves which were subsequently taken into naval custody. It is suspected that smugglers might have abandoned the stock being unable to fetch them ashore.

Meanwhile, the seized consignment of Kendu leaves has been kept in the naval custody until they are handed over to authorities for onward legal action.



Navy apprehends 02 poaching trawlers in Sri Lankan waters

The Sri Lanka Navy and Coast Guard conducted a special operation to chase away Indian poaching trawlers from Sri Lankan waters in the dark hours of 24th July 2023. The operation led to the apprehension of 02 Indian trawlers with 09 Indian nationals poaching in Sri Lankan waters off the Delft Island, 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 efforts, the Northern Naval Command deployed Fast Attack Craft of the 04th Fast Attack Flotilla and craft of the Sri Lanka Coast Guard to chase away a cluster of Indian poaching trawlers, having spotted they were engaging in illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters off the Delft Island. In this operation, the Navy held 02 Indian poaching trawlers with 09 Indian fishers continuing to remain in Sri Lankan waters.

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



13. 25th July 2023

Navy apprehends 19 persons for engaging in illegal fishing in eastern waters

A search operation conducted by the Navy off Kokilai, Pulmude on 25th July 2023, led to the apprehension of 19 persons who were engaging in illegal fishing activities. During this operation, the Navy also held 04 dinghies and unauthorized fishing gear used for the illegal act.

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.

In continuation of these efforts, SLNS Ranweli in the Eastern Naval Command made this apprehension, during a search operation conducted off Kokilai on 25th July. Accordingly, the Navy nabbed 19 individuals who were engaging in fishing using commercial explosives. The operations also led to the seizure of 04 dinghies and unauthorized fishing gear used by these individuals.

The persons held in this operation were identified as residents of Pulmude, Nilaweli and Kuchchaweli, falling within the age range of 18 to 49 years. The apprehended persons together with their belongings were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Mullaitivu for onward legal action.

