



# Information Fusion Centre

Colombo - Sri Lanka

## IFC Monthly Report September 2023

 Naval Headquarters, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka

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 [www.ifccolombo.org](http://www.ifccolombo.org)

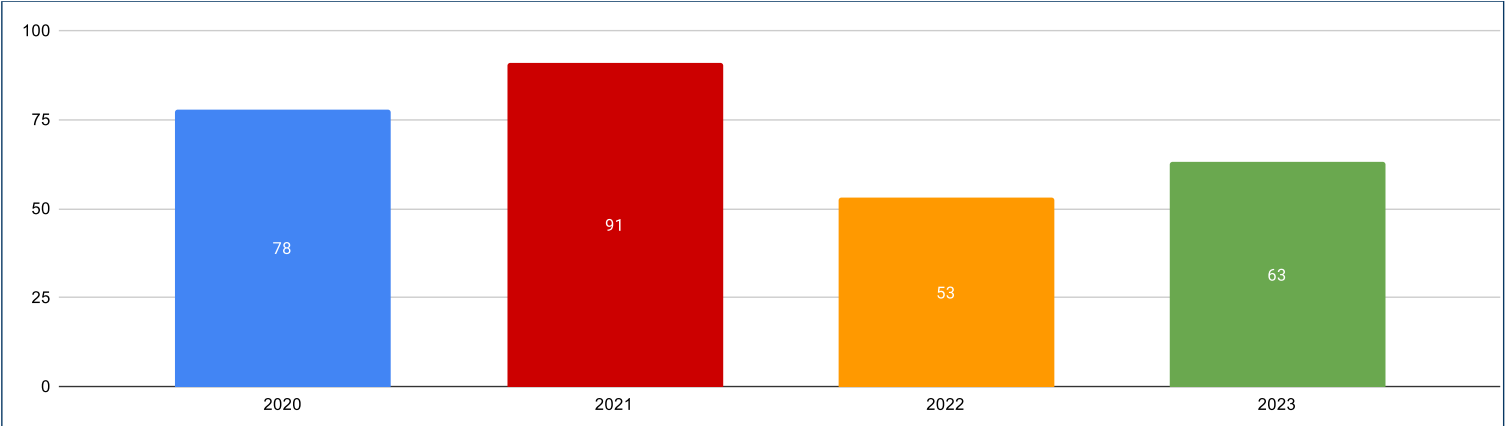
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### OVERVIEW

#### MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



#### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	SEP 2020	SEP 2021	SEP 2022	SEP 2023
IUU Fishing	25	39	3	20
Drug Smuggling	1	3	2	2
Contraband Smuggling	4	11	1	2
Human Smuggling	0	0	7	0
Maritime Incident	22	21	33	28
Poaching	26	17	7	11
Explosive and Firearms	0	0	0	0

#### Poaching

17.5%

#### IUU Fishing

31.7%

#### Drug Smuggling

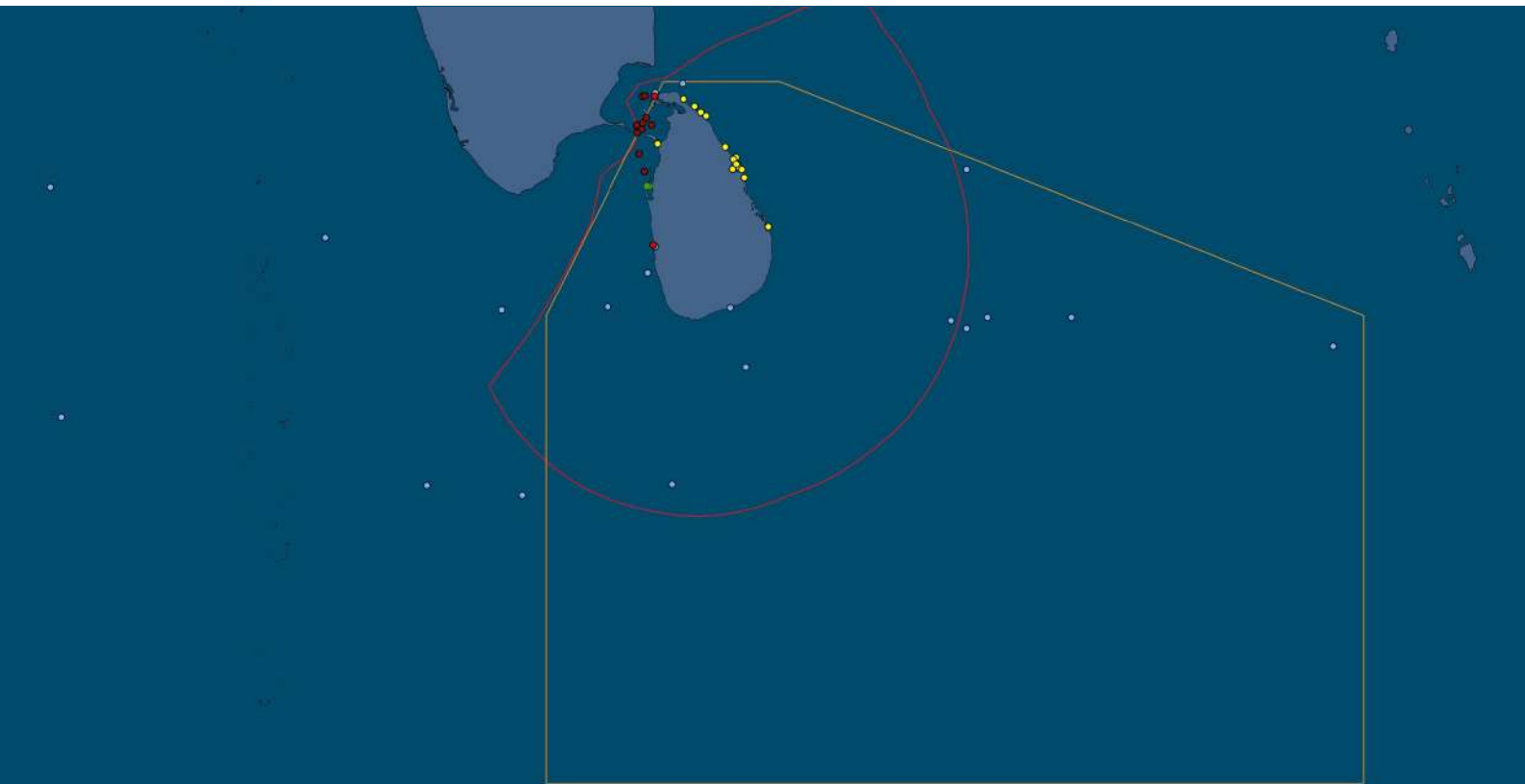
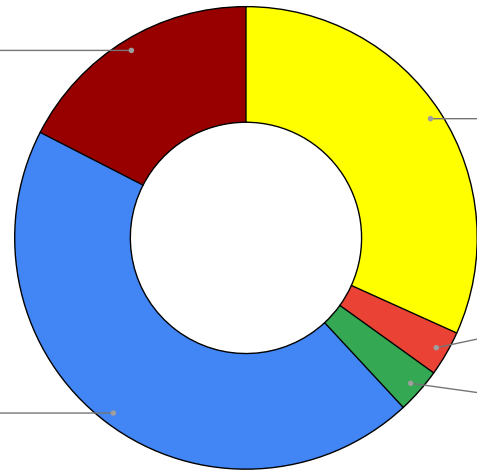
3.2%

#### Contraband Smuggling

3.2%

#### Maritime Incident

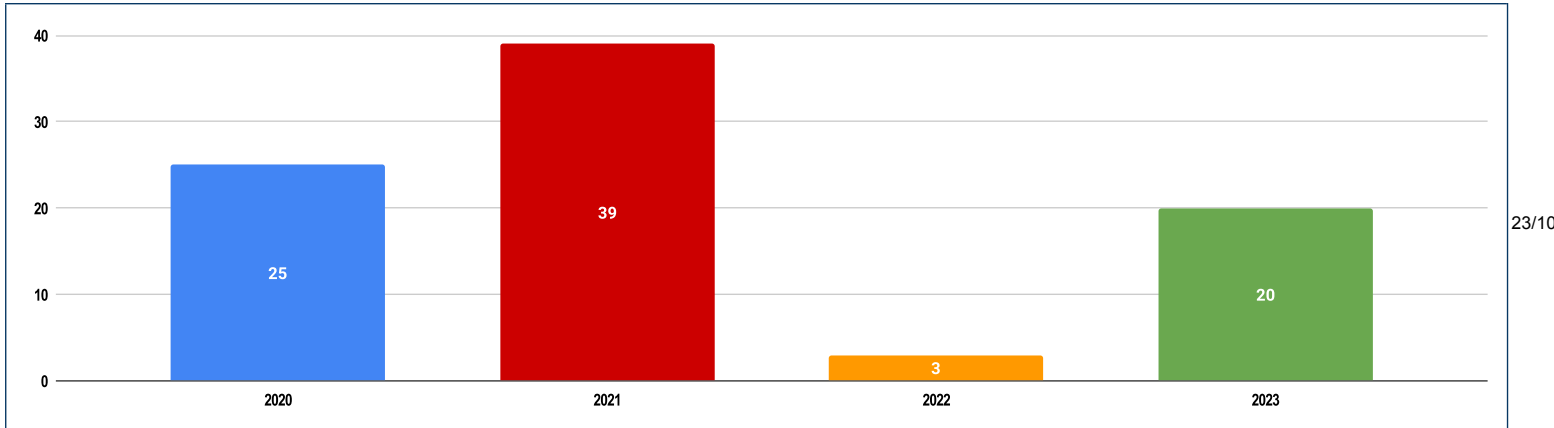
44.4%





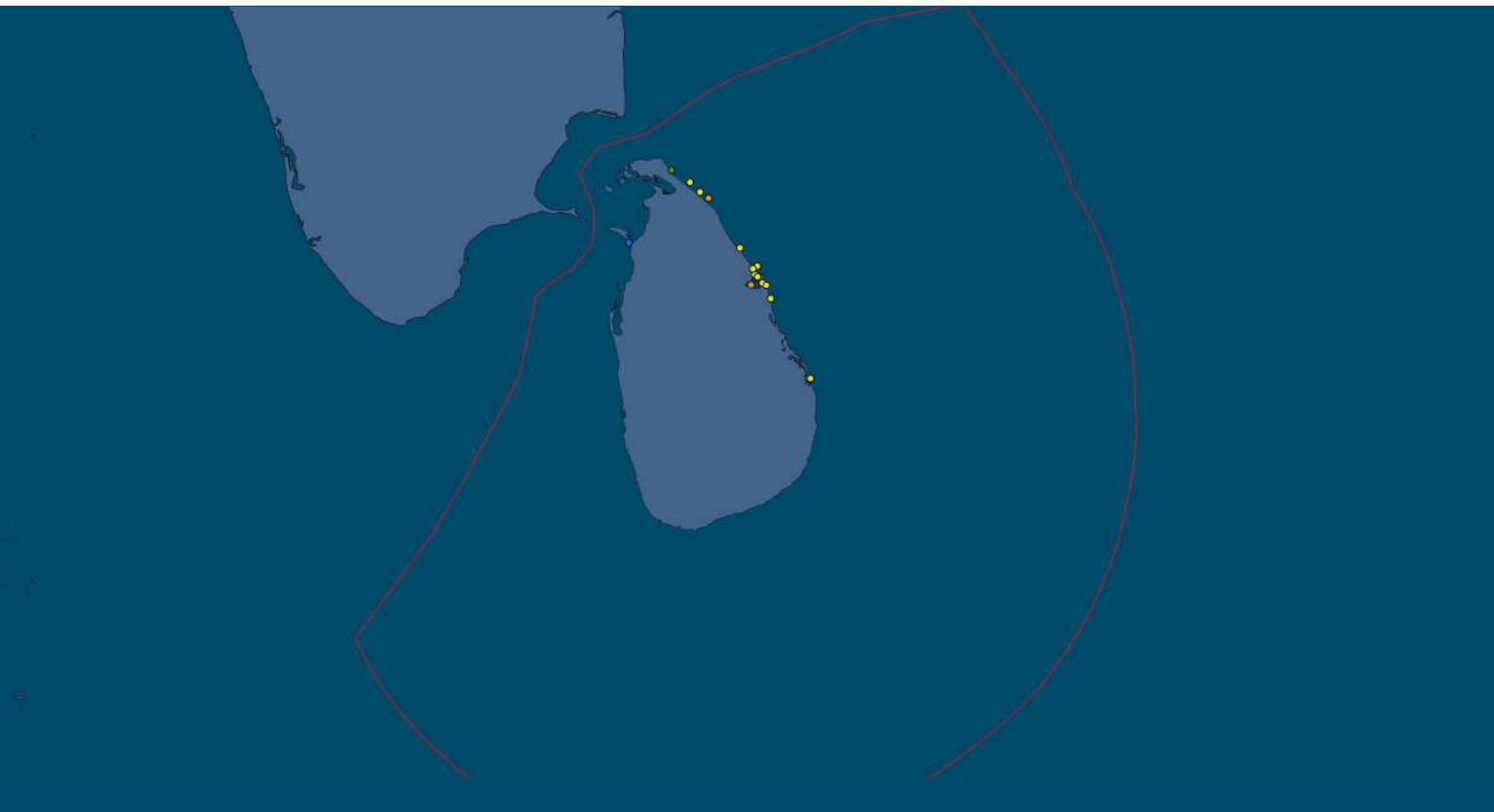
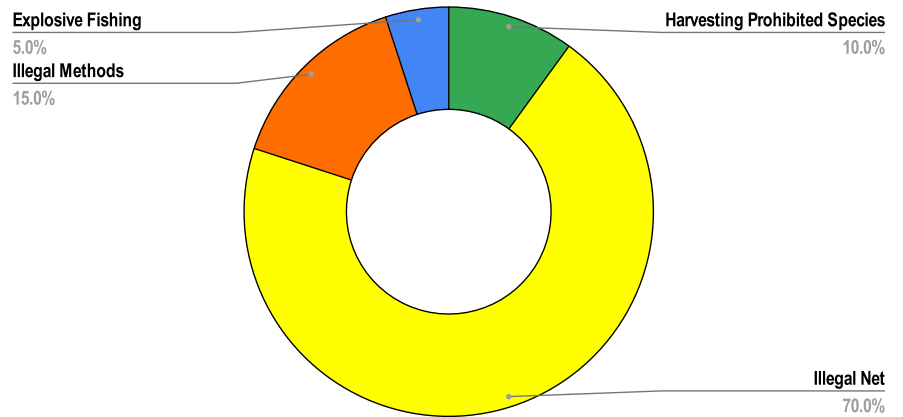
### IUU FISHING

#### NUMBER OF IUU FISHING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



#### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

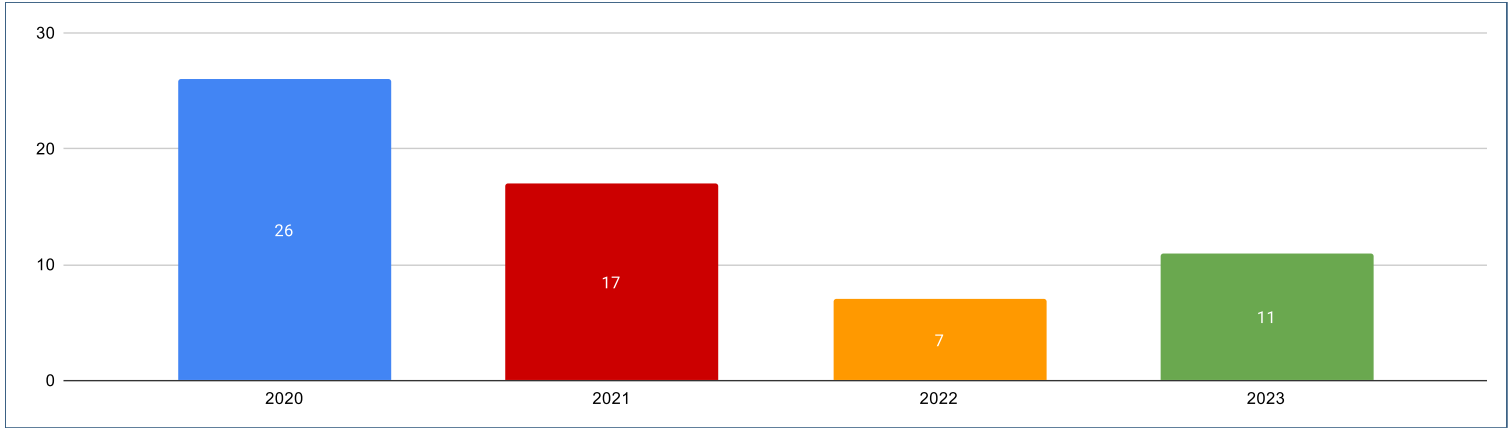
INCIDENT TYPE	SEP 2020	SEP 2021	SEP 2022	SEP 2023
Violation of Certificate Conditions	1	8	0	0
Harvesting Prohibited Species	5	3	1	2
Illegal Net	12	23	1	14
Illegal Methods	7	4	1	3
Explosive Fishing	0	1	0	1





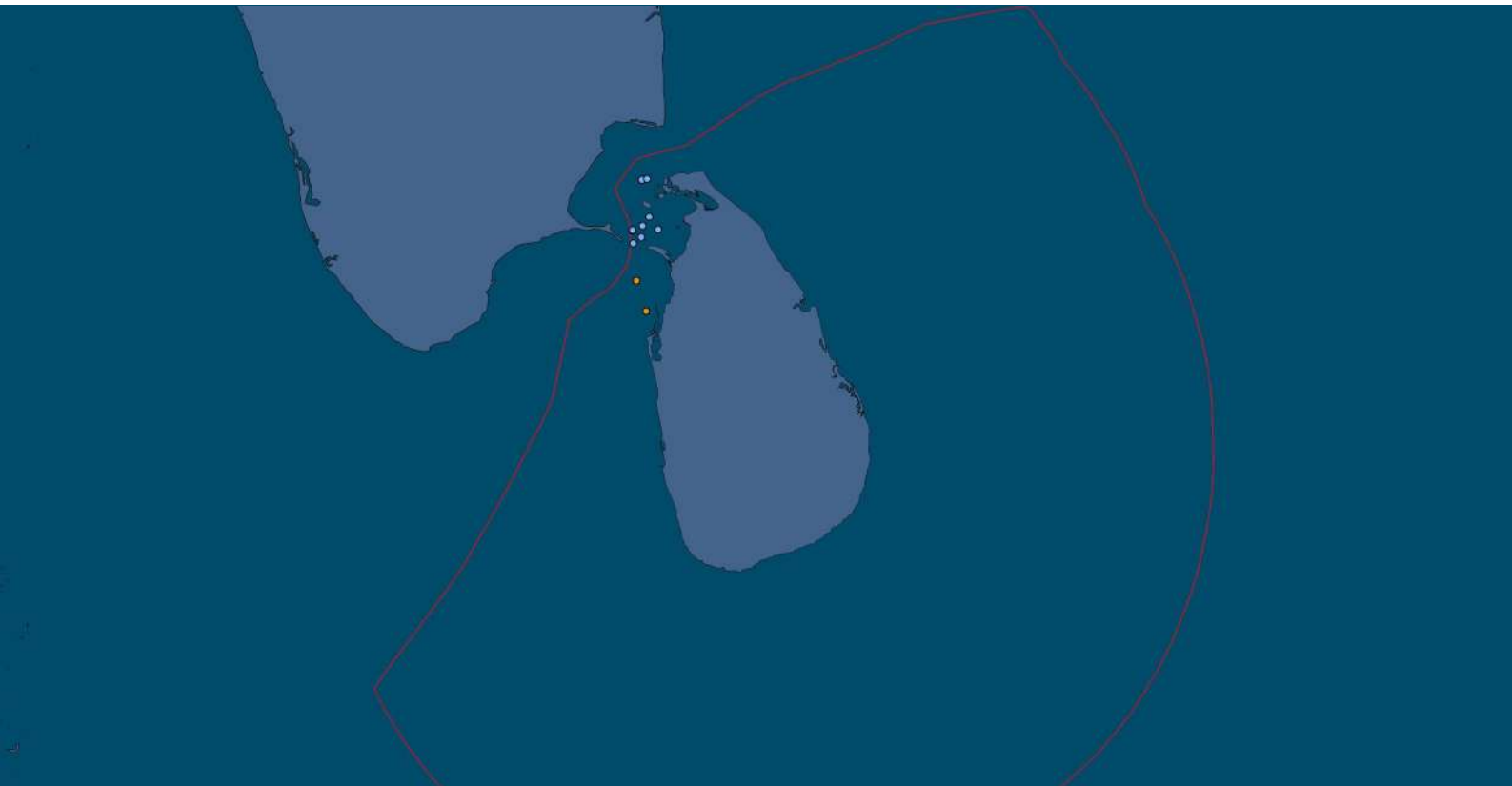
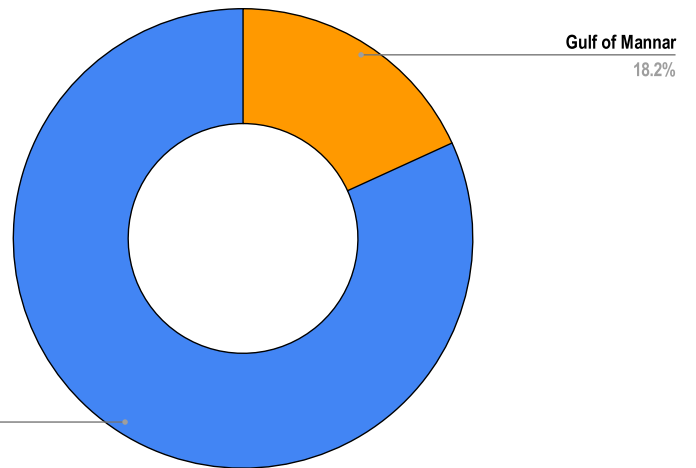
### POACHING

NUMBER OF POACHING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

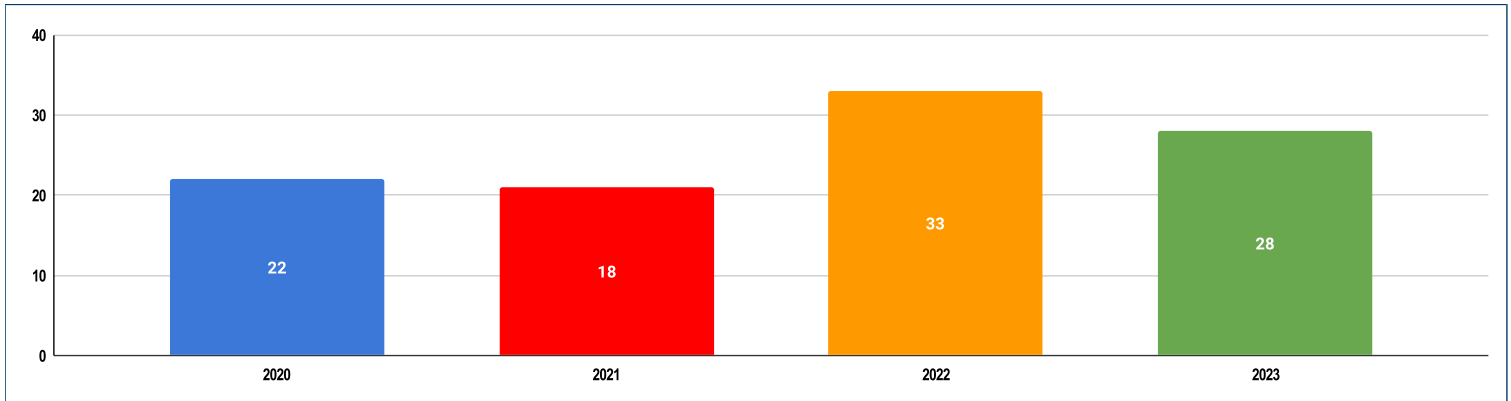
INCIDENT TYPE	SEP 2020	SEP 2021	SEP 2022	SEP 2023
Eastern Coast	5	7	1	0
Palk Strait	0	1	1	0
Gulf of Mannar	15	6	1	2
Palk Bay	6	3	4	9
Other	0	0	0	0





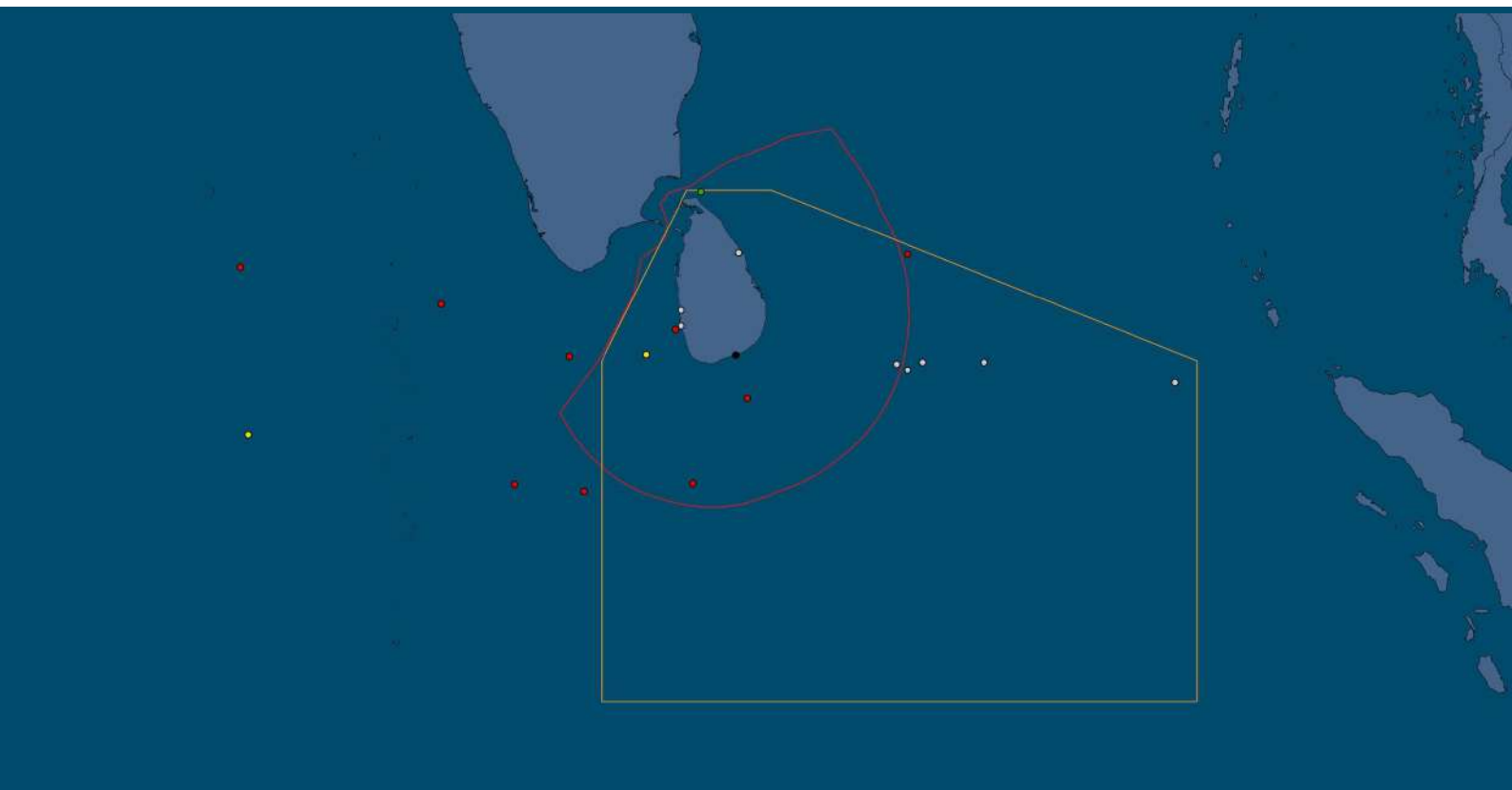
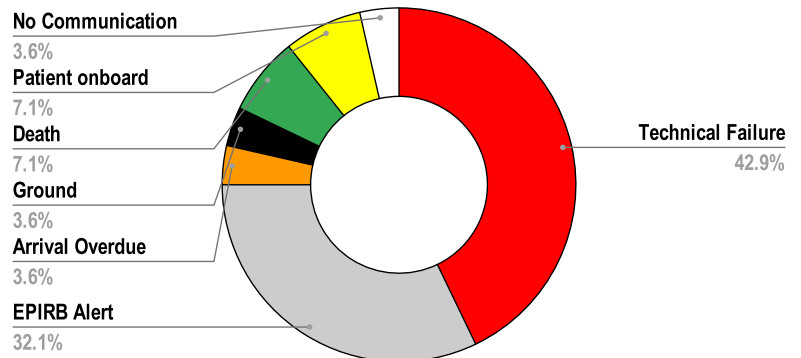
### MARITIME INCIDENTS

NUMBER OF MARITIME INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

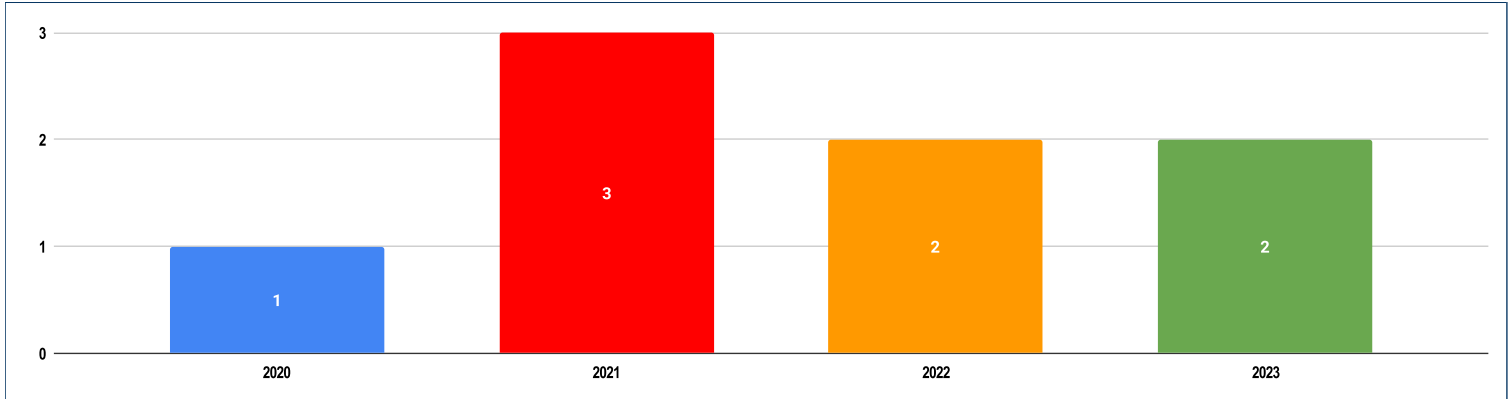
INCIDENT TYPE	SEP 2020	SEP 2021	SEP 2022	SEP 2023
Technical Failure	10	3	11	12
Fire onboard	1	0	0	0
EPIRB Alert	3	5	10	9
Man Over Board	0	0	0	0
Arrival Overdue	2	1	2	1
Capsized	0	1	1	0
Ground	0	0	1	1
Death	0	1	0	2
Patient onboard	4	4	4	2
Collision	0	0	0	0
No Communication	0	0	2	1
Other Incident	0	3	0	0





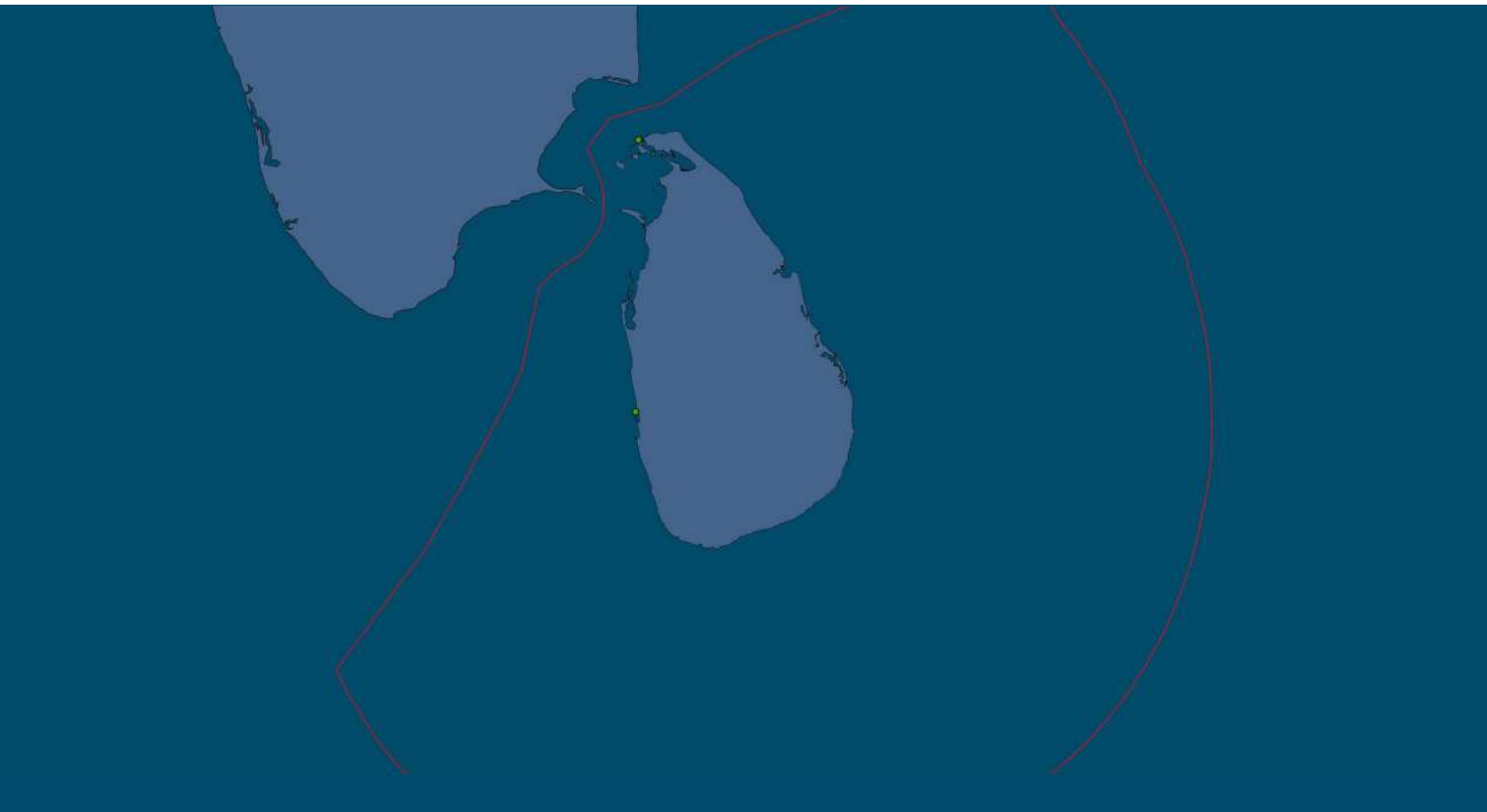
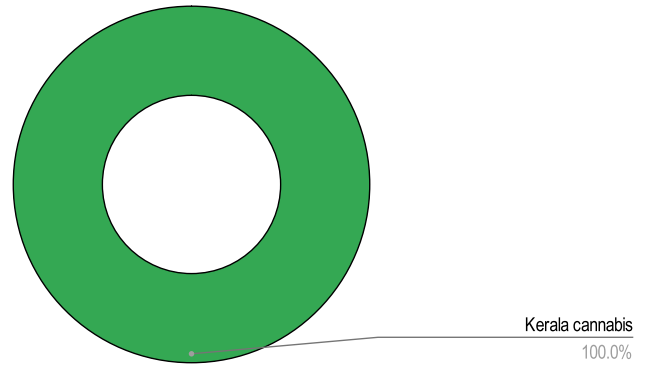
### DRUG SMUGGLING

NUMBER OF DRUG SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

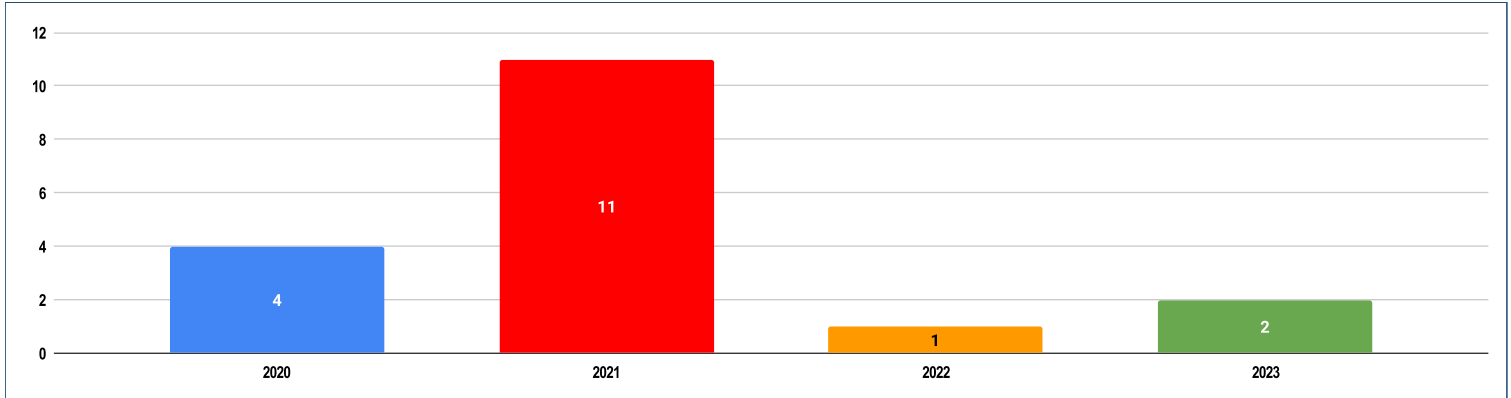
Drug Type	SEP 2020	SEP 2021	SEP 2022	SEP 2023
Heroin	0	0	0	0
Kerala cannabis	1	2	1	2
Ice	0	1	0	0
Tablets	0	0	1	0
Hashish	0	0	0	0
Local cannabis	0	0	0	0





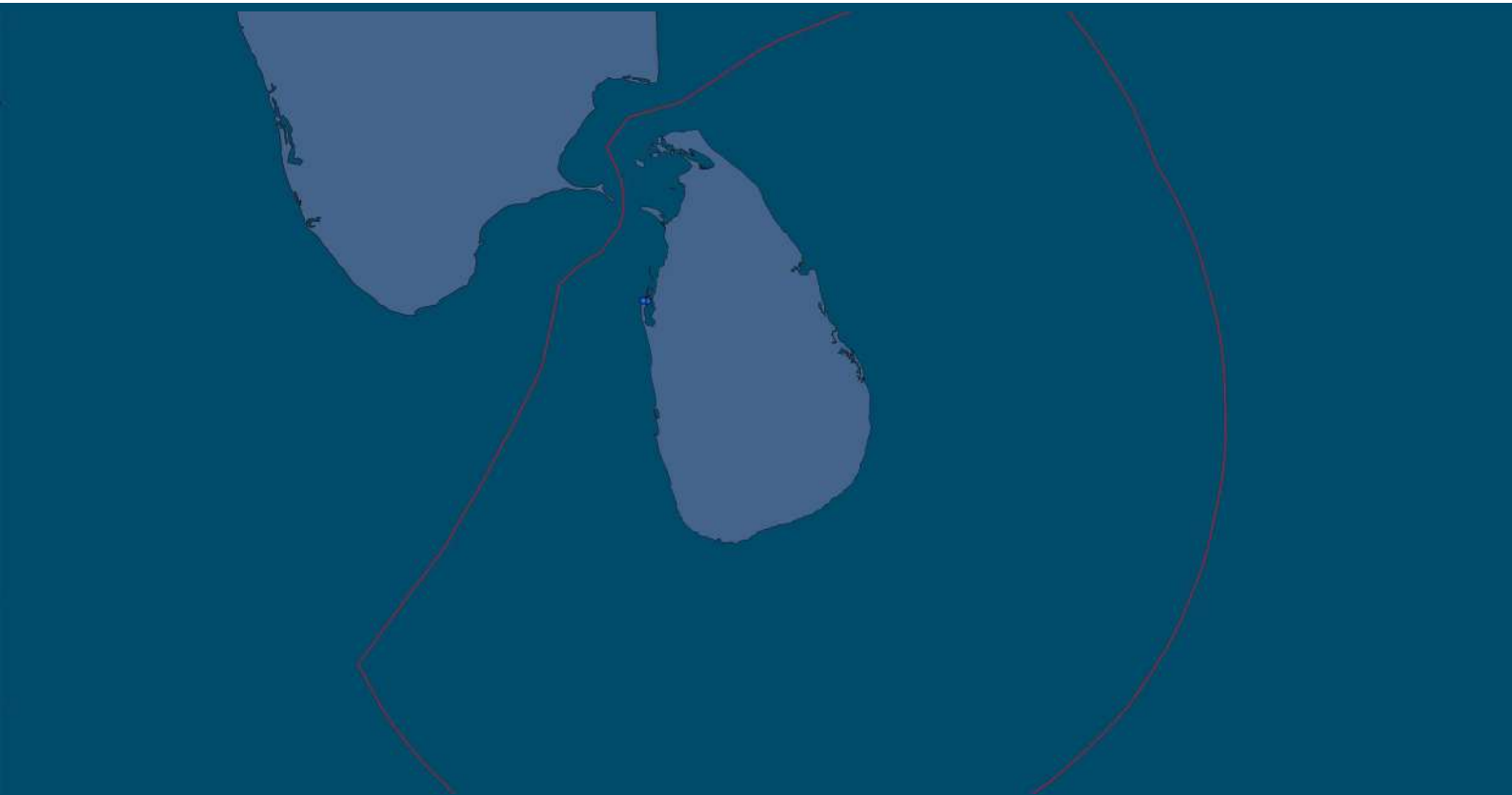
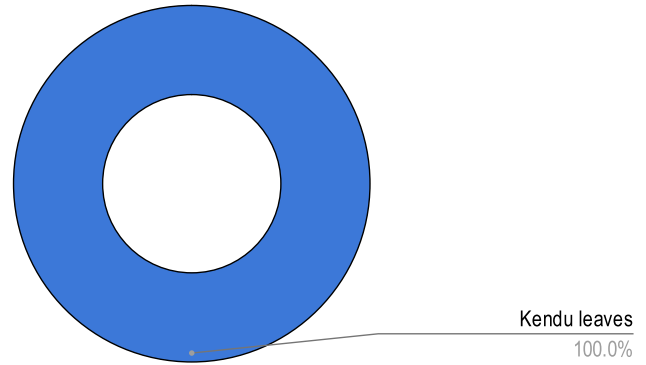
### CONTRABAND SMUGGLING

NUMBER OF CONTRABAND SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

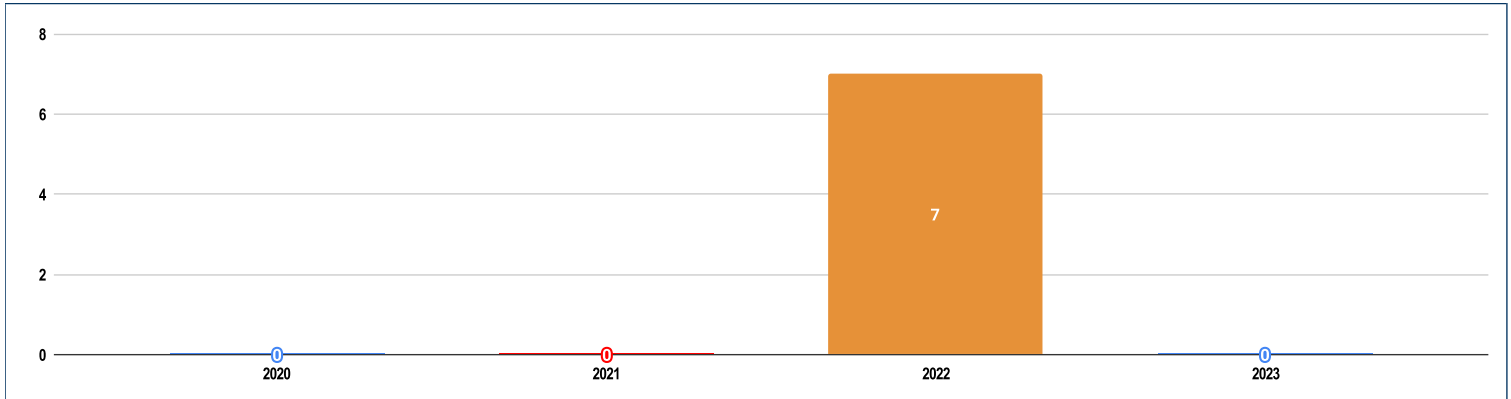
INCIDENT TYPE	SEP 2020	SEP 2021	SEP 2022	SEP 2023
Cardamom	0	0	0	0
Glyphosate	0	0	0	0
Gold	0	0	0	0
Kendu leaves	0	1	1	2
Other	0	1	0	0
Turmeric	4	10	0	0





### HUMAN SMUGGLING

NUMBER OF HUMAN SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	SEP 2020	SEP 2021	SEP 2022	SEP 2023
Human Smuggling	0	0	7	0





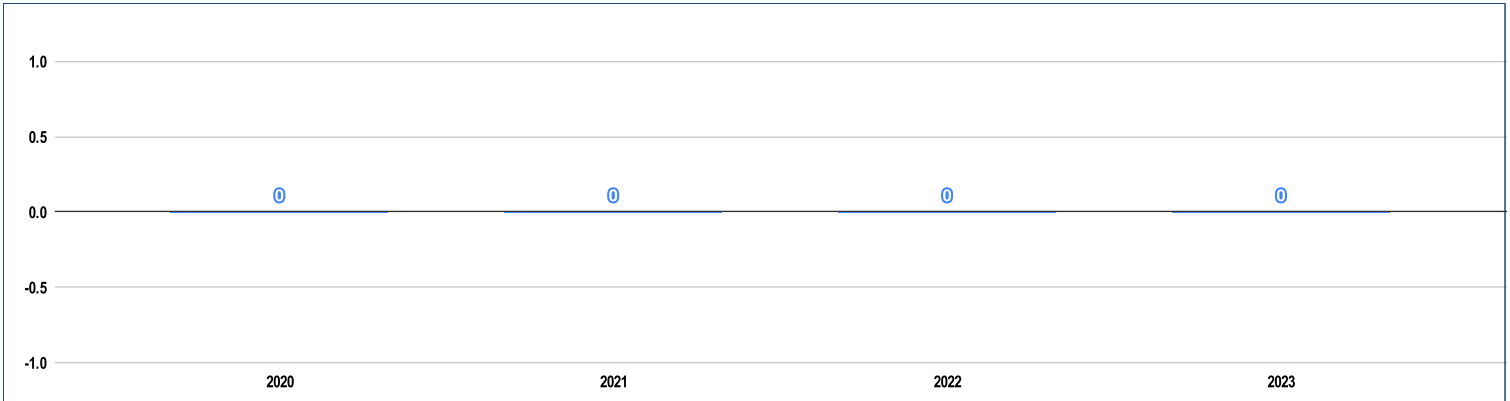


# IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

## MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP SEPTEMBER 2023

### EXPLOSIVE AND FIREARMS

NUMBER OF EXPLOSIVE & FIREARMS INCIDENTS (2020-2023)



### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	SEP 2020	SEP 2021	SEP 2022	SEP 2023
Water Gel Sticks	0	0	0	0



## EVENTS

### 01. 01<sup>st</sup> September 2023

#### **Navy Apprehends 07 Persons For Engaging In Illegal Fishing In Northern Waters**

The Sri Lanka Navy apprehended 07 persons who were using unauthorized nets to catch fish, during a search operation conducted in Kadeikadu sea area of Jaffna in the dark hours of 01<sup>st</sup> September 2023. The operation also led to the seizure of 02 dinghies and illegal fishing gear used for this 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. As an extension of these efforts, the Naval Detachment Chundikulam belonging to the Naval Deployment Veththalakerni in the Northern Naval Command carried out this search operation in Kadeikadu sea area on 01<sup>st</sup> September and nabbed 07 persons for fishing with unauthorized nets. The Navy also held 02 dinghies and unauthorized fishing equipment used by those persons to catch fish.

The persons held in this operation were identified as residents of Mulliyian in Jaffna, from 21 to 38 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.



### Navy Nabs 04 Persons For Engaging In Illegal Fishing In Eastern Seas

The Sri Lanka Navy apprehended 04 persons for engaging in illegal fishing, during a search operation conducted in the sea area of Madurankuda, Trincomalee on 02<sup>ND</sup> September 2023. The operation also led to the apprehension of a dinghy and unauthorized fishing gear used by the individuals.

To safeguard the marine ecosystem from the negative impacts of unlawful fishing practices, the Navy is carrying out continuous operations in the coastal and sea areas surrounding the island. In continuation of these efforts, SLNS Walagamba in the Eastern Naval Command apprehended 04 individuals who were engaging in illegal fishing with unauthorized nets in Madurankuda sea area on 02<sup>ND</sup> September. In addition the Navy also took into custody 01 dinghy and unauthorized fishing gear used by persons.

The persons held in this operation were identified as residents of Kuchchaveli and Poduwakattu areas, from 19 to 37 years of age. Those individuals along with the dinghy and fishing gear were handed over to the Kuchchaveli Fisheries Inspector for onward legal action.





### 03. 03<sup>rd</sup> September 2023

#### **Navy Apprehends 12 Persons For Engaging In Illegal Fishing In Eastern Seas**

The Navy apprehended 12 persons who engaged in illegal fishing practices, during a special operation conducted off Trincomalee in the dark hours of 03<sup>rd</sup> September 2023. The operation also led to the seizure of 02 dinghies and unauthorized fishing equipment used for the 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 stock. Accordingly, SLN Dockyard in the Eastern Naval Command mounted this search operation off Trincomalee on 03<sup>rd</sup> September, where those individuals were held on the charges of practicing light-coarse fishing and fishing with unauthorized nets. In addition, the Navy also apprehended 02 dinghies and unauthorized fishing equipment used for these illegal acts.

The individuals held in this operation are residents of Trincomalee, China Bay and Nilaveli areas, from 20 to 60 years of age. The 12 persons along with unauthorized fishing gear were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector in Cod Bay for onward legal proceedings. The 02 dinghies have been kept in the custody of the Navy until they are handed over to authorities for onward legal action.



## Navy Apprehends 12 Persons For Engaging In Illegal Fishing

The Navy apprehended 12 persons who engaged in illegal fishing practices, during special operations conducted in the beach areas of Nilaweli and Kinniya in Trincomalee and the sea area of Chalai in Jaffna on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The operation also led to the seizure of 4 dinghies and unauthorized fishing equipment and diving gear used for the 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 the fish stock.

Accordingly, SLNS Vijayaba in the Eastern Naval Command carried out operations in the beach area of Nilaveli and in the sea area of Adukkupadu on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September, where 9 individuals were held for fishing using unauthorized nets. In addition, the Navy also apprehended 02 dinghies and unauthorized fishing equipment used for this illegal act.

Meanwhile, the Naval Deployment Veththalakerni in the Northern Naval Command nabbed a suspect on the charges of practicing light-coarse fishing off Chalai on the morning of 10<sup>th</sup> September. Along with the person, a dinghy and unauthorized fishing equipment in his possession were also held.

In the same vein, SLNS Gokanna and SLNS Parakumba carried out a combined search operation in the beach area of Sinnamulachchenai of Kinniya, with the assistance of Trincomalee Assistant Directorate of Fisheries today (11<sup>th</sup> September). The operation led to the apprehension of 2 persons engaged in diving to catch fish. During this operation a dinghy and diving gear used by those individuals were also taken into custody.

The individuals held in these operations are residents of Nilaveli, Trincomalee and Kinniya, from 22 to 51 years of age. The 12 persons along with the dinghies and other unauthorized fishing and diving gear held were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector in Trincomalee and Jaffna Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Department for onward legal proceedings.



## Navy Takes Hold Of About 2223kg Of Smuggled Tendu Leaves

A search operation conducted by the Sri Lanka Navy in the beach area of Ilanthadiya in Puttalam on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 led to the recovery of about 2223kg of smuggled Tendu leaves.

The Sri Lanka Navy conducts regular search operations and patrols in the coastal and sea areas of the island, with a view to prevent the influx of illegal and smuggled items into the island.

In continuation of these efforts, SLNS Thambapanni in the Northwestern Naval Command mounted this search operation at Ilanthadiya Beach on 12<sup>th</sup> September, where the naval personnel recovered 70 packages of smuggled Tendu leaves. The packages of Tendu leaves weighed around 2223kg and 100g. Moreover, the Navy also took into custody a motor bicycle at the beach, which is suspected to be there to distribute smuggled Tendu leaves.

Meanwhile, the motor bicycle held in this operation was handed over to the Norochcholai Police and the consignment of Tendu leaves has been kept in the naval custody, until it is produced to authorities for onward legal proceedings.





## Navy Apprehends 6 Persons For Engaging In Illegal Fishing In Eastern Seas

The Navy apprehended 6 persons who engaged in illegal fishing practices, during a special operation conducted off Salli, Trincomalee in the wee hours of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The operation also led to the seizure of a dinghy and unauthorized fishing equipment used for the illegal act.

The Sri Lanka 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 stock. Accordingly, SLNS Vijayaba in the Eastern Naval Command mounted this search operation off Salli, Trincomalee on 13<sup>th</sup> September. The search operation resulted in the apprehension of 6 persons who were engaging in fishing with unauthorized fishing gear and seizure of a dinghy used for this unlawful practice.

The individuals held in this operation are residents of Kinniya, from 25 to 56 years of age. The 6 persons apprehended were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector in Trincomalee for onward legal proceedings. Meanwhile, the dinghy and unauthorized fishing gear have been kept in the custody of the Navy until they are handed over to authorities for onward legal action.



## Navy Takes Hold Of 03 Poaching Trawlers In Sri Lankan Waters

The Sri Lanka Navy conducted a special operation to chase away Indian poaching trawlers from Sri Lankan waters in the evening of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The operation led to the seizure of 03 Indian trawlers with 17 Indian nationals poaching in island waters off the Kakarathivu Island and Kovilan Lighthouse, Jaffna.

The Navy continues to conduct regular patrols and operations in Sri Lankan waters to curb illegal fishing practices by foreign fishing trawlers, taking into account the consequences of these practices on the livelihood of local fishermen and ocean resources of the country.

In a similar operation, the Northern Naval Command deployed Fast Attack Craft of the 04<sup>th</sup> Fast Attack Flotilla to chase away a cluster of Indian poaching trawlers, after having spotted they were engaging in illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters off the Kakarathivu Island and Kovilan Lighthouse on 13<sup>th</sup> September. In this operation, the Navy held 03 Indian poaching trawlers that continued to remain in island waters, with 17 Indian fishers aboard.

The 03 poaching trawlers together with 17 Indian fishermen were brought to the port of Kankasanthurei and they will be handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Mailadi for onward legal proceedings.

Including the poaching trawlers held in this operation, the Sri Lanka Navy has seized 17 Indian poaching trawlers and apprehended 110 Indian fishermen thus far in 2023. Following these apprehensions, the poaching trawlers and fishermen have been handed over to relevant authorities for legal action.





## 08. 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### **Navy Takes Hold Of Smuggled Consignment Of Tendu Leaves In Wannimundalama Lagoon, Kalpitiya**

The Sri Lanka Navy took hold of a dinghy with a consignment of smuggled Tendu leaves during a special operation carried out in Wannimundalama Lagoon area, Kalpitiya on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The apprehended stock of Tendu leaves weighed around 639kg (wet weight). The Navy also nabbed 02 suspects in connection to the illegal act.

The special operation was mounted by SLNS Vijaya in the Northwestern Naval Command in Wannimundalama Lagoon area on 13<sup>th</sup> September. The search operation led to the apprehension of a suspicious dinghy which was speeding off towards land. During subsequent search of the dinghy, naval personnel found 19 sacks of Tendu leaves weighing about 639kg (wet weight). As a result, the dinghy, 02 suspects aboard and the stock of Tendu leaves were taken into the naval custody.

Meanwhile, the apprehended suspects were identified as residents of Kalpitiya, aged 23 and 45. The accused along with the stock of Tendu leaves and the dinghy will be handed over to the Katunayake Customs Preventive Office for onward legal action.



## 09. 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### Thirteen (13) Persons Engaged In Illegal Fishing In Trincomalee Held By Navy

The Sri Lanka Navy apprehended 13 persons for engaging in illegal fishing activities, during search operations conducted in the Kokkadi beach area and sea area off Foul Point on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023. During those separate operations, the Navy also took hold of 02 dinghies and unauthorized fishing equipment used for the illegal fishing practices.

The Navy remains ever alert and conducts regular operations to prevent illegal fishing activities being carried out in the beach and sea areas belonging to the island. In continuation of these efforts, SLNS Parakumba in the Eastern Naval Command carried out a search operation in the beach area of Kokkadi on 14<sup>th</sup> September and apprehended 08 individuals for engaging in fishing with unauthorized fishing gear. During the operation, the Navy also took into custody a dinghy (01) and unauthorized fishing gear used by the accused.

Meanwhile, SLN Dockyard this morning (15<sup>th</sup> September) apprehended 05 more persons for practicing light-coarse fishing and using banned fishing nets to catch fish off the Foul Point, Trincomalee. The operation also led to the seizure of a dinghy (01) and unauthorized fishing gear used for these illegal acts.

The apprehended individuals have been identified as residents of Illankanthi and Kinniya in Trincomalee, from 22 to 49 years of age. Those persons along with their belongings were handed over to the Trincomalee and Cod Bay Fisheries Inspectors for onward legal action.



### **Navy Apprehends 04 Persons For Engaging In Illegal Fishing In Eastern Waters**

The Sri Lanka Navy apprehended 04 persons for engaging in illegal fishing activities, during a search operation conducted off Koneshwaram, Trincomalee on the afternoon of 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023. During the operation, the Navy also took hold of 01 dinghy and unauthorized fishing equipment used for the illegal fishing practice.

The Navy remains ever alert and conducts regular operations to prevent illegal fishing activities being carried out in the beach and sea areas belonging to the island. In continuation of these efforts, SLN Dockyard carried out a search operation off Koneshwaram, Trincomalee on 18<sup>th</sup> September and apprehended 04 individuals for engaging in fishing with unauthorized fishing gear. The operation also led to the seizure of 01 dinghy and unauthorized fishing gear used by the accused.

The apprehended individuals have been identified as residents of Trincomalee, from 26 to 47 years of age. The persons were handed over to the Cod Bay Fisheries Inspectors for onward legal action. Meanwhile, the dinghy and fishing gear have been kept in the custody of the Navy, until they are handed over to authorities for legal proceedings.





## Navy 01 apprehends 05 Suspects With 13 Water Gel Sticks In Mannar

A search operation conducted by the Navy in the beach area of South Bar, Mannar on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 led to the apprehension of 05 suspects who were planning to employ explosives for fishing purposes. During the operation the Navy also held 13 Water Gel sticks - a type of commercial explosive and a dinghy.

The use of explosives for fishing poses a serious threat to marine life and can cause long-lasting damage to the marine ecosystems. Thus, the Sri Lanka Navy has been conducting regular operations to crack down on explosive fishing and other illegal fishing practices in the island waters.

In a similar operation conducted in South Bar area on 19<sup>th</sup> September, SLNS Gajaba in the North Central Naval Command interrogated these 05 suspects whilst they were getting ready to set out to sea by a dinghy. Subsequent questioning uncovered their intention to use commercial explosives for fishing. Consequently, the Navy apprehended the 05 suspects along with 13 Water Gel sticks and their dinghy.

The suspects held in this operation were identified as residents of Mannar, from 24 to 41 years of age. The suspects along with 13 Water Gel sticks and the dinghy were handed over to the Mannar Police for onward legal action.



## Kerala Cannabis With A Street Value Of Over Rs. 132 Million Held By Navy In Negombo

A special search operation conducted by the Navy in the Mankuliya Lagoon of Negombo today (21<sup>st</sup> September 2023) led to the apprehension of a dinghy loaded with over 400kg of Kerala cannabis.

The Navy conducts regular search operations in the coastal and sea areas around the island, with a view to prevent the influx of drugs into the country. As an extension of these efforts, SLNS Kelani in the Western Naval Command mounted this operation in the Mankuliya Lagoon on 21<sup>st</sup> September. During this operation, naval personnel spotted a suspicious dinghy in the lagoon and recovered 10 packages of Kerala cannabis concealed in the dinghy. The consignment of Kerala cannabis weighed about 400kg and 810g. Accordingly, the stock of cannabis and the dinghy were taken into the naval custody.

Meanwhile, the gross street value of the consignment of Kerala cannabis is believed to be over Rs. 132 million.

The seized consignment of Kerala cannabis and the dinghy were handed over to the Negombo Excise Station for onward legal action.



## **Kerala Cannabis Valued At Over Rs. 33 Million Street Value Held By Navy In Kareinagar**

A special search operation conducted by the Navy in the beach area of Pumattei on the Kareinagar Island, Jaffna in the dark hours of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 led to the seizure of a dinghy loaded with over 100kg (wet weight) of Kerala cannabis.

The Navy conducts regular search operations in the coastal and sea areas around the island, with a view to prevent the influx of drugs into the country. As an extension of these efforts, SLNS Elara belonging to the Northern Naval Command mounted a search operation at Pumattei beach in Kareinagar on 27<sup>th</sup> September. During this operation, naval personnel searched a dinghy at the beach on suspicion and recovered 03 sacks of Kerala cannabis from the dinghy. The 49 packages in those sacks contained Kerala cannabis weighing about 100kg and 85g (wet weight). Thus, the consignment of Kerala cannabis and the dinghy were taken into the naval custody.

Meanwhile, the gross street value of the consignment of Kerala cannabis is believed to be over Rs. 33 million.

The seized consignment of Kerala cannabis and the dinghy has been kept in the naval custody until they are handed over to authorities for onward legal action.





## **Navy Apprehends 03 Persons For Illegal Harvesting Of Sea Cucumber In Northern Waters**

The Sri Lanka Navy apprehended 03 persons for illegal harvesting of sea cucumber, during a special operation conducted off Nagar Kovil in Jaffna on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The operation also led to the seizure of 250 illegally harvested sea cucumbers, diving gear and a dinghy.

The Navy conducts regular operations in the coastal and sea areas around the island in order to suppress illegal fishing activities performed by people with scant regard towards responsible fishing practices. As a continuation of these efforts, Navy Marines attached to the Naval Deployment Veththalakerni in the Northern Naval Command carried out this special operation off Nagar Kovil and searched a suspicious dinghy in the sea area on 27<sup>th</sup> September. The search led to the apprehension of 03 individuals engaged in illegal harvesting of sea cucumber. The Navy also held 250 sea cucumbers, diving gear and the dinghy used for this illegal act.

The individuals held during this operation are residents of Mannar, from 27 to 46 years of age. Meanwhile, the suspects along with their belongings and the stock of sea cucumber were handed over to the Jaffna Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Department office for onward legal action.

