



# Information Fusion Centre

Colombo - Sri Lanka

## IFC Monthly Report

January 2024

 Naval Headquarters, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka

 ifc@navy.lk

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

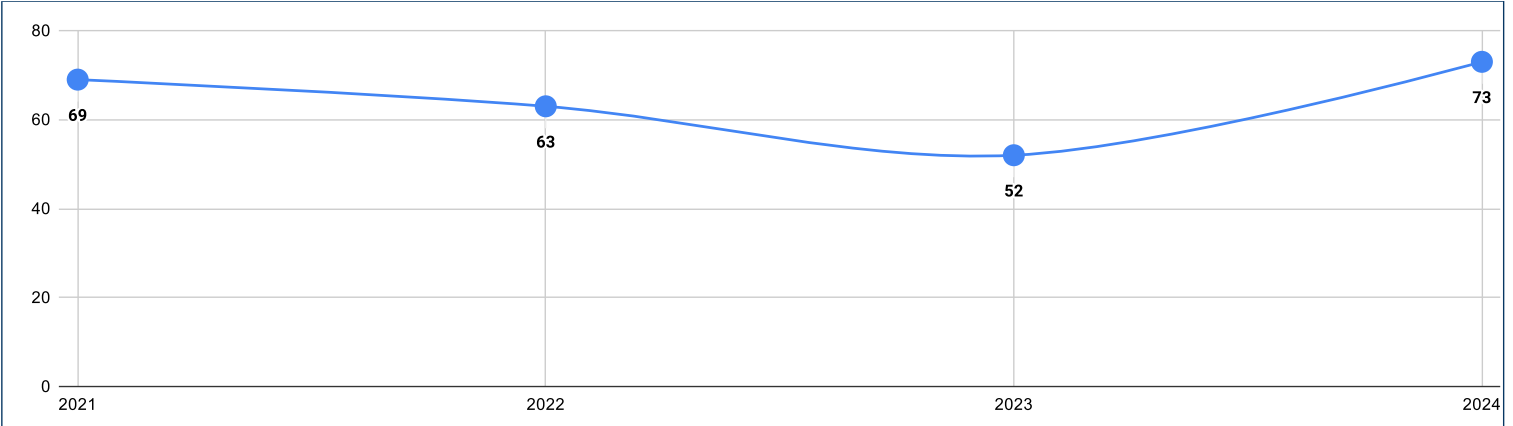
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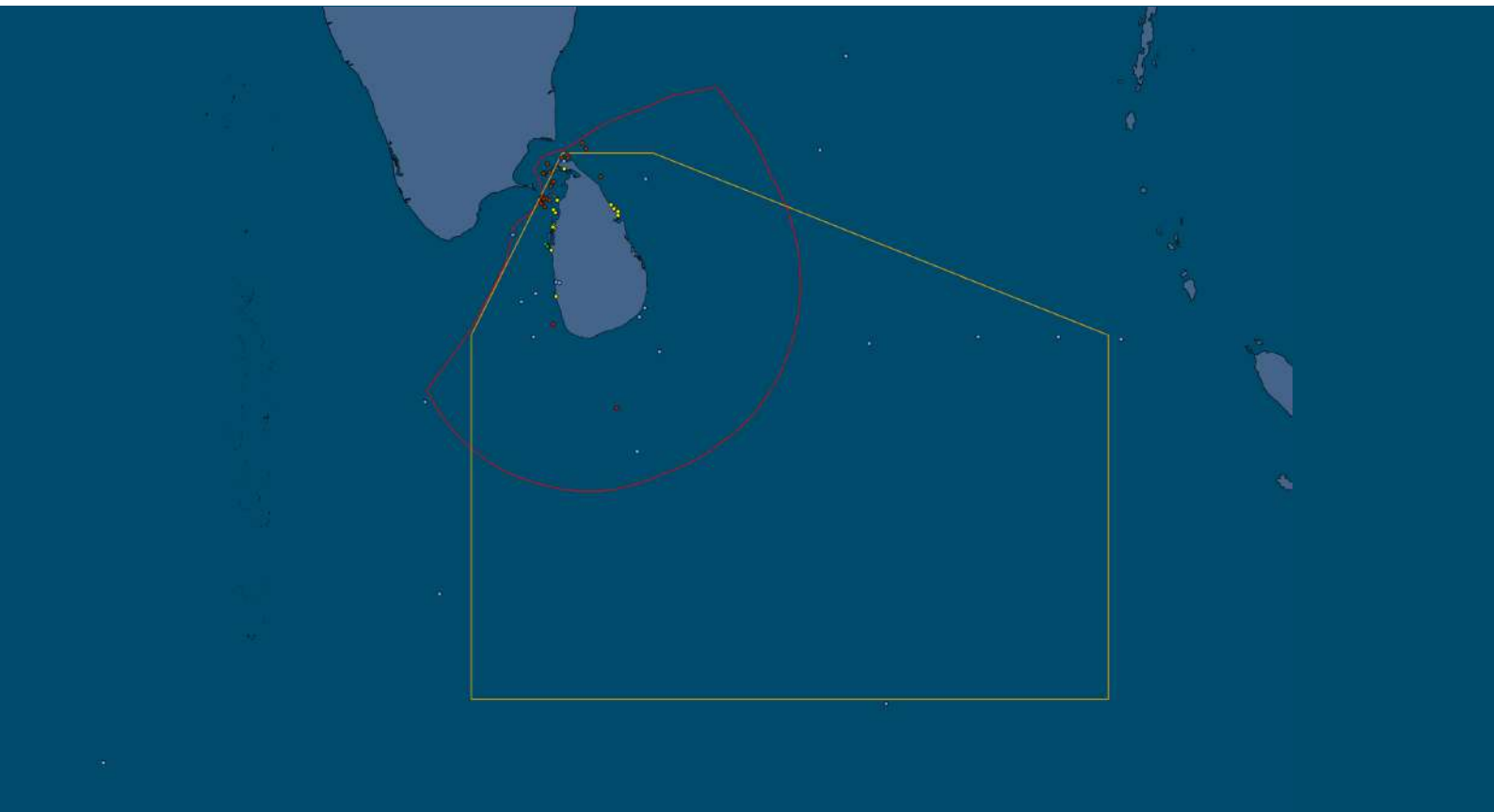
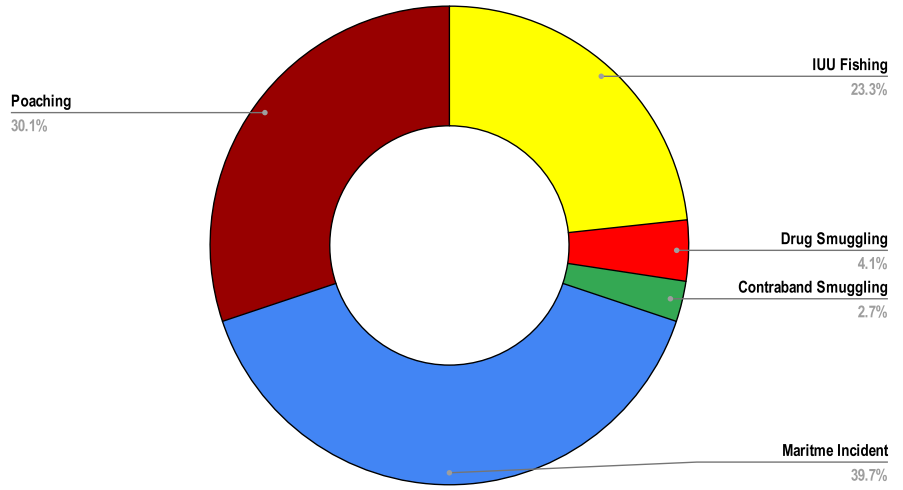
### OVERVIEW

#### MARITIME SECURITY INCIDENTS (2020-2024)



#### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

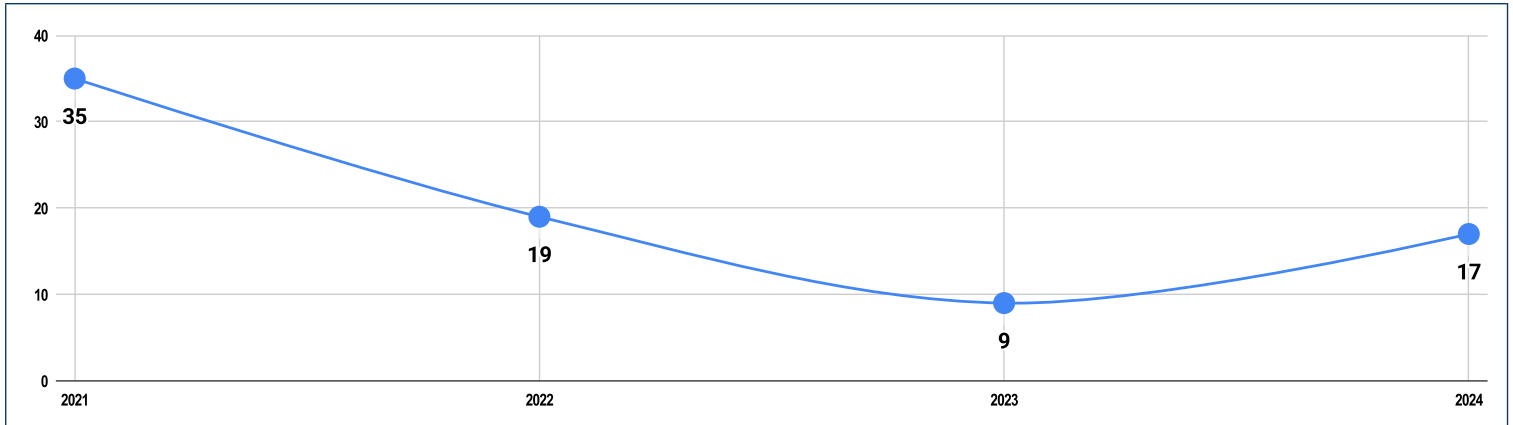
INCIDENT TYPE	JAN 2021	JAN 2022	JAN 2023	JAN 2024
IUU Fishing	35	19	9	17
Drug Smuggling	3	1	4	3
Contraband Smuggling	3	0	7	2
Human Smuggling	0	0	0	0
Maritime Incident	23	28	30	29
Poaching	5	15	2	22
Explosive and Firearms	0	0	0	0





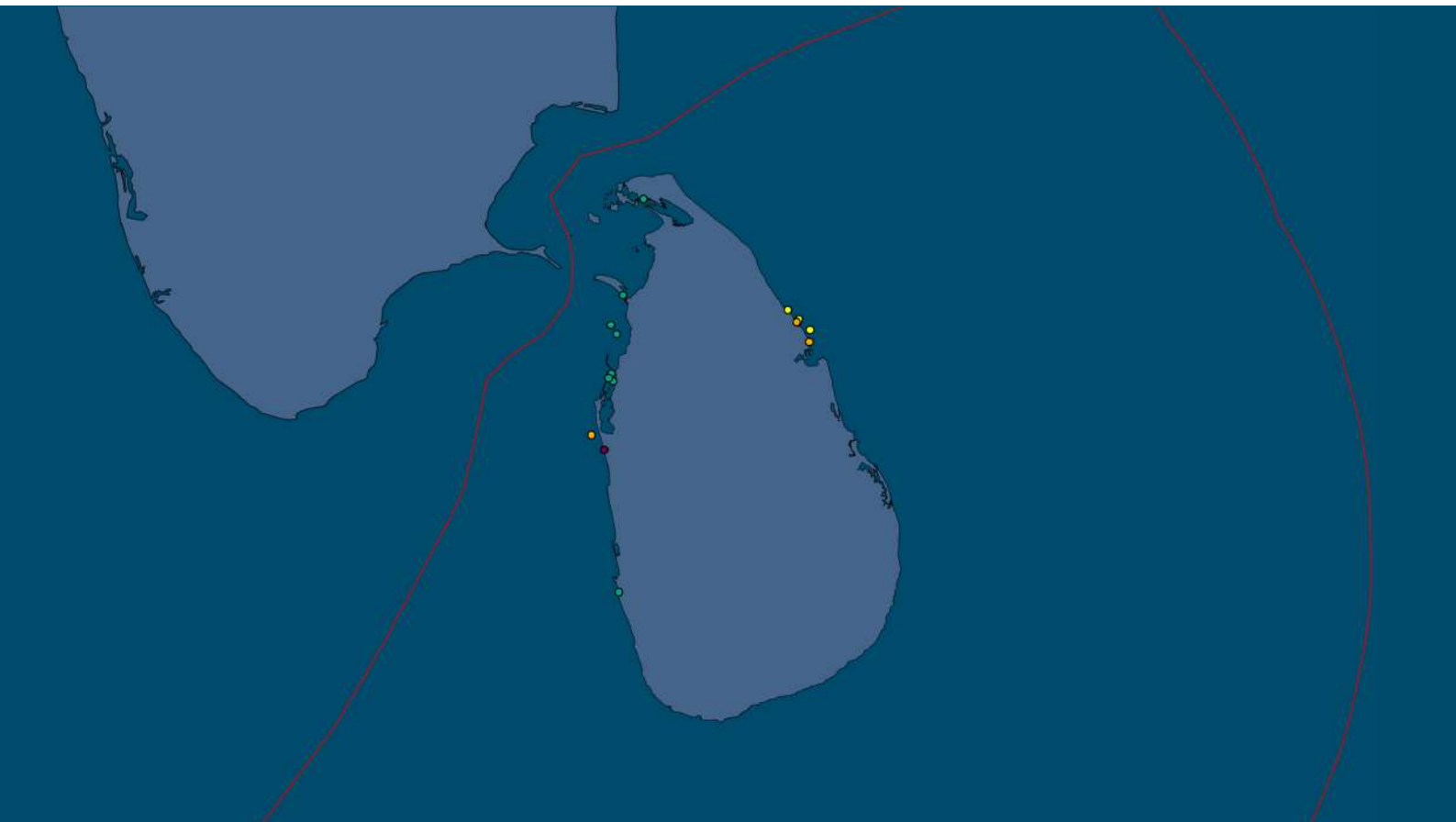
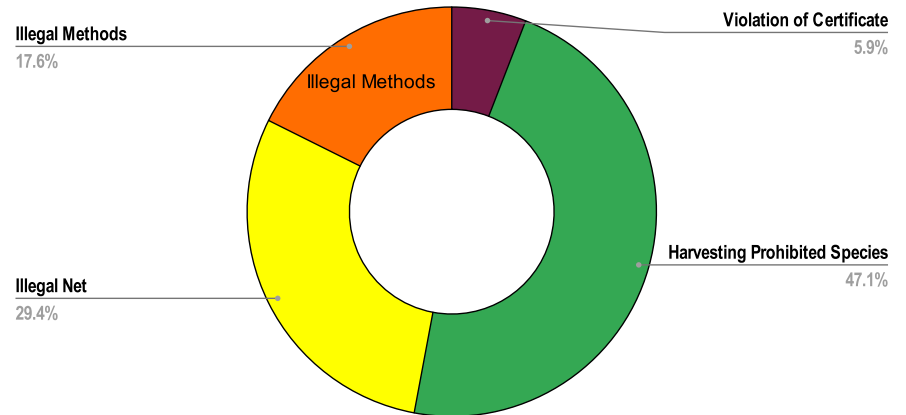
### IUU FISHING

#### NUMBER OF IUU FISHING INCIDENTS (2020-2024)



#### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	JAN 2021	JAN 2022	JAN 2023	JAN 2024
Violation of Certificate Conditions	6	0	1	1
Harvesting Prohibited Species	11	8	4	8
Illegal Net	11	10	3	5
Illegal Methods	7	0	1	3
Explosive Fishing	0	1	0	0



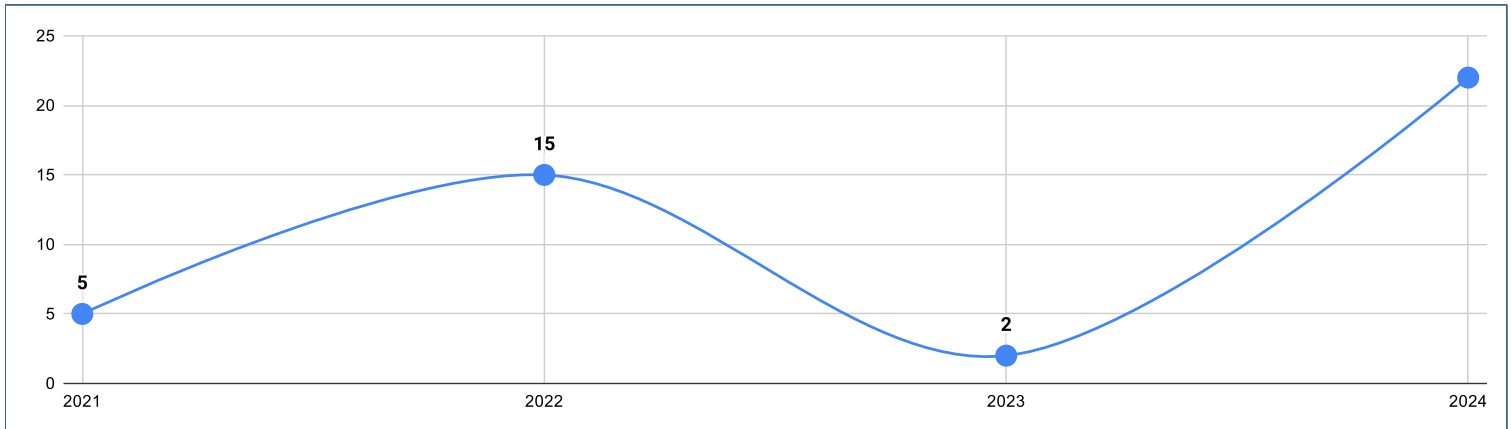


# IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

## MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JANUARY 2024

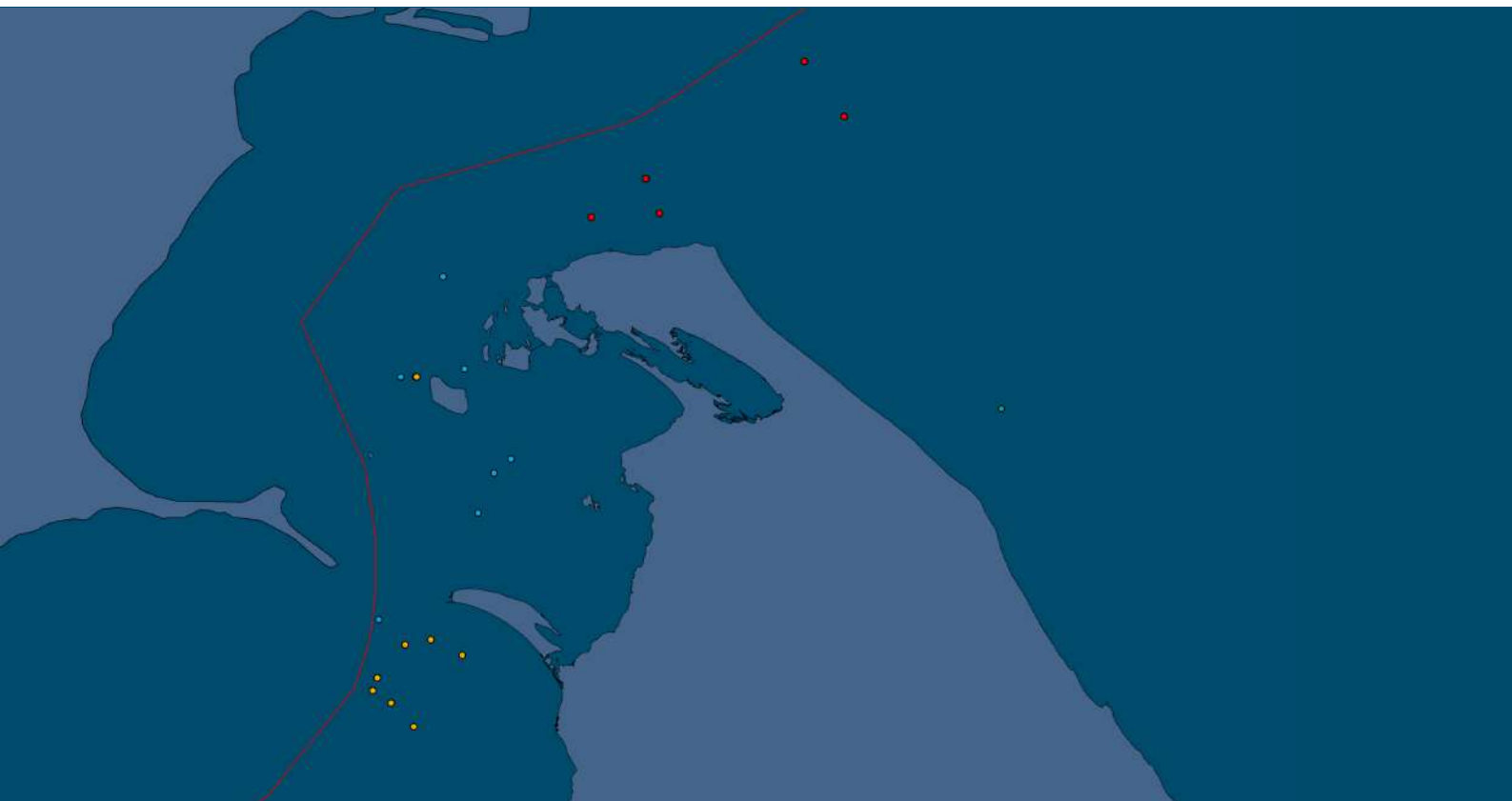
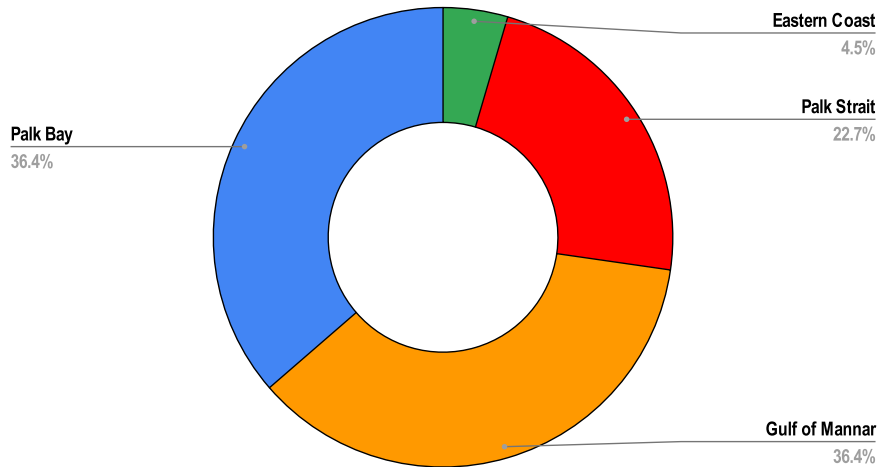
### POACHING

NUMBER OF POACHING INCIDENTS (2020-2024)



INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	JAN 2021	JAN 2022	JAN 2023	JAN 2024
Eastern Coast	1	1	1	1
Palk Strait	1	6	0	5
Gulf of Mannar	1	2	0	8
Palk Bay	2	6	1	8
Others	0	0	0	0



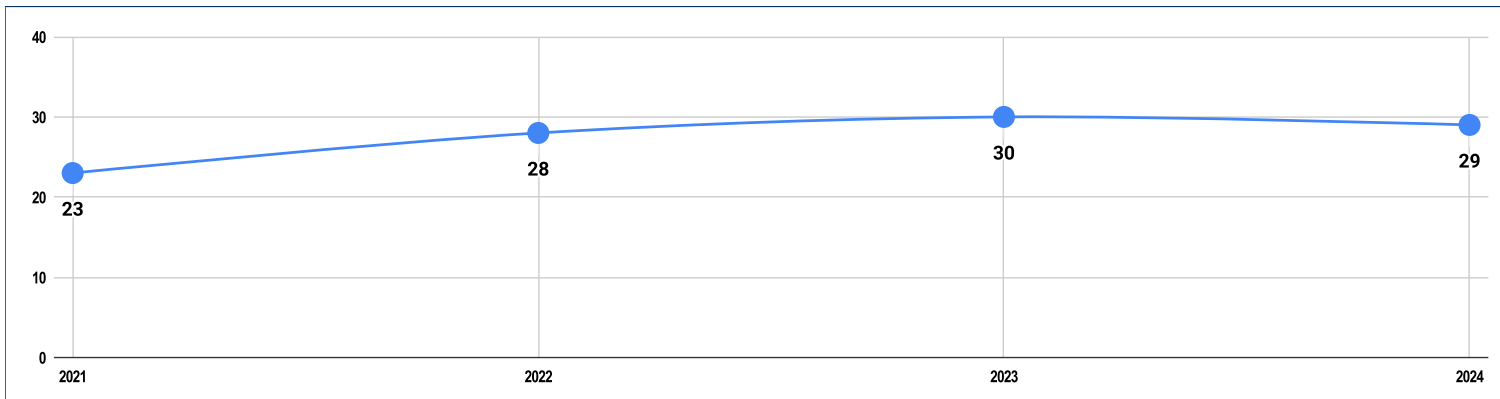


# IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

## MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JANUARY 2024

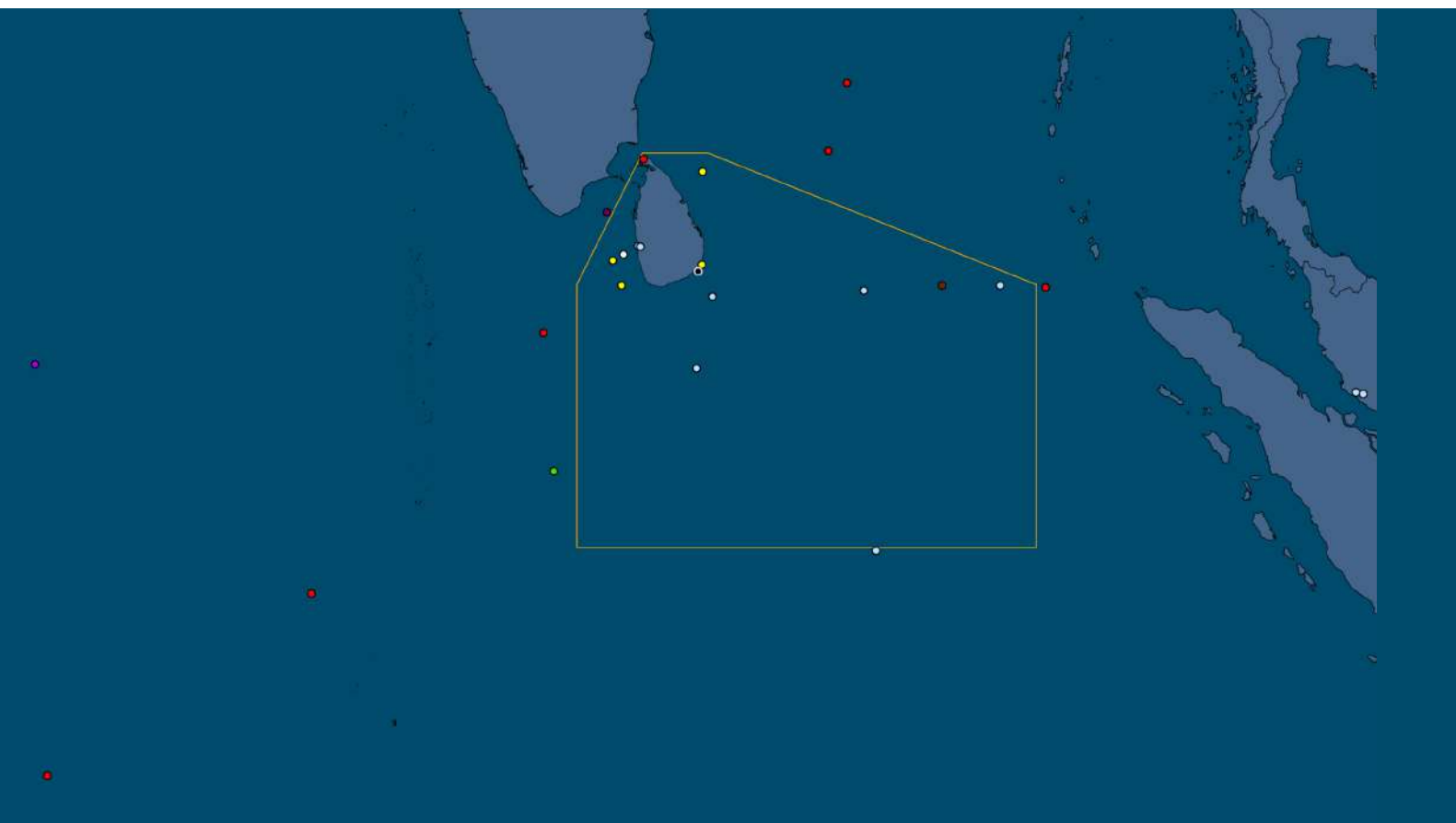
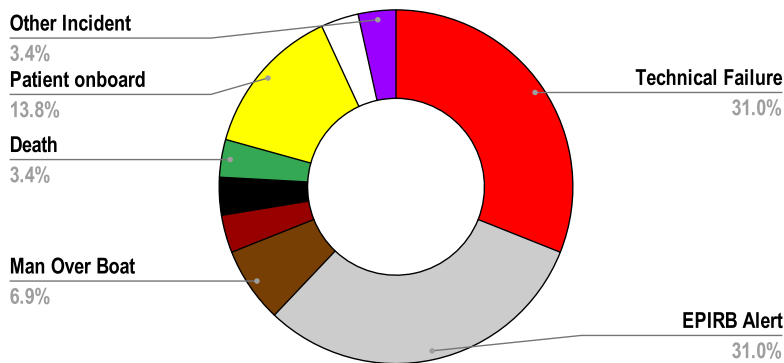
### MARITIME INCIDENTS

NUMBER OF MARITIME INCIDENTS (2020-2024)



### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	JAN 2021	JAN 2022	JAN 2023	JAN 2024
Technical Failure	9	11	20	9
Fire onboard	0	0	0	0
EPIRB Alert	3	8	5	9
Man Over Boat	2	1	1	2
Arrival Overdue	3	3	0	0
Capsized	1	2	0	1
Ground	1	0	1	1
Death	1	0	0	1
Patient onboard	1	3	2	4
Collision	0	0	0	0
No Communication	0	0	1	1
Other Incident	2	0	0	1



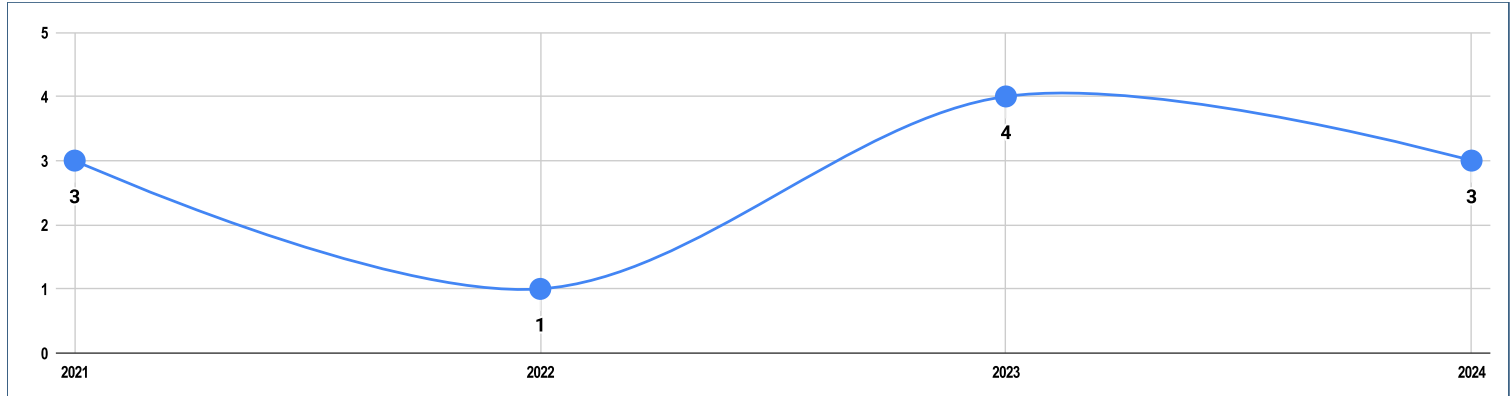


# IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

## MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JANUARY 2024

### DRUG SMUGGLING

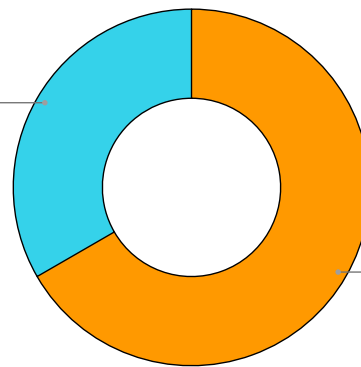
#### NUMBER OF DRUG SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2024)



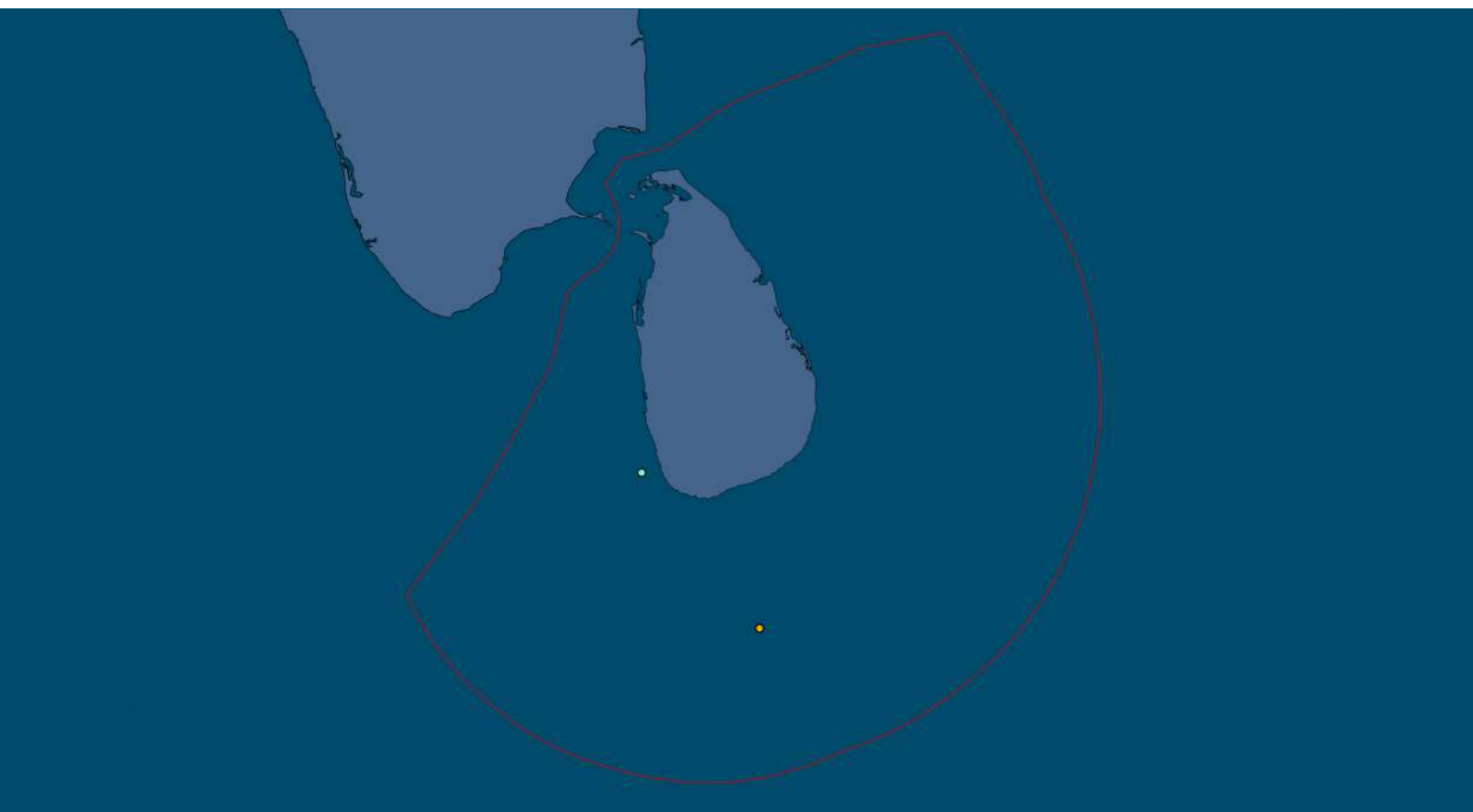
#### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

Drug Type	JAN 2021	JAN 2022	JAN 2023	JAN 2024
Heroin	0	1	1	2
Kerala cannabis	1	0	3	0
Ice	1	0	0	1
Tablets	0	0	0	0
Hashish	1	0	0	0
Local cannabis	0	0	0	0

Ice  
33.3%



Heroin  
66.7%



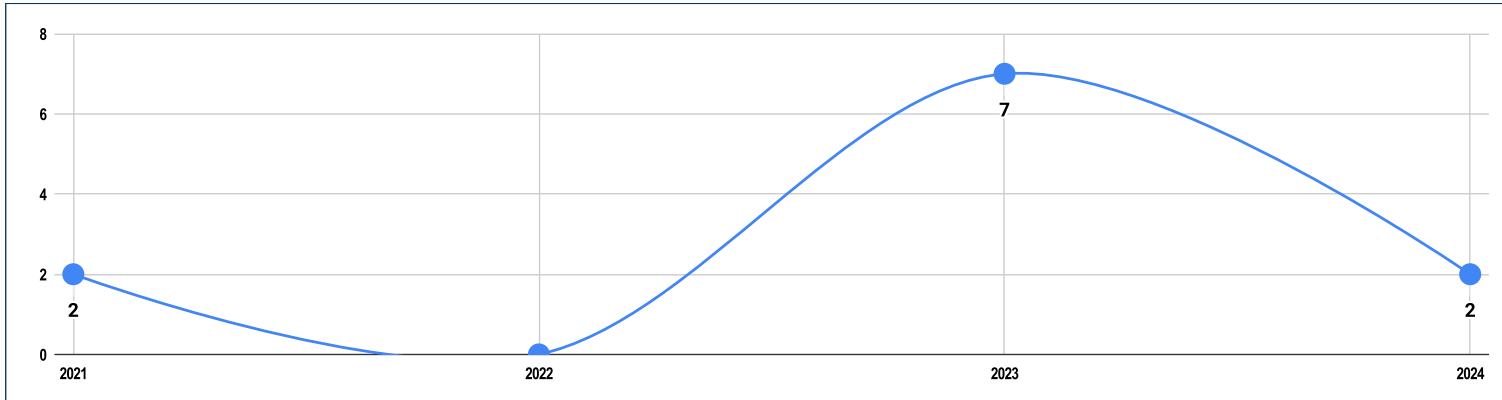


# IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

## MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JANUARY 2024

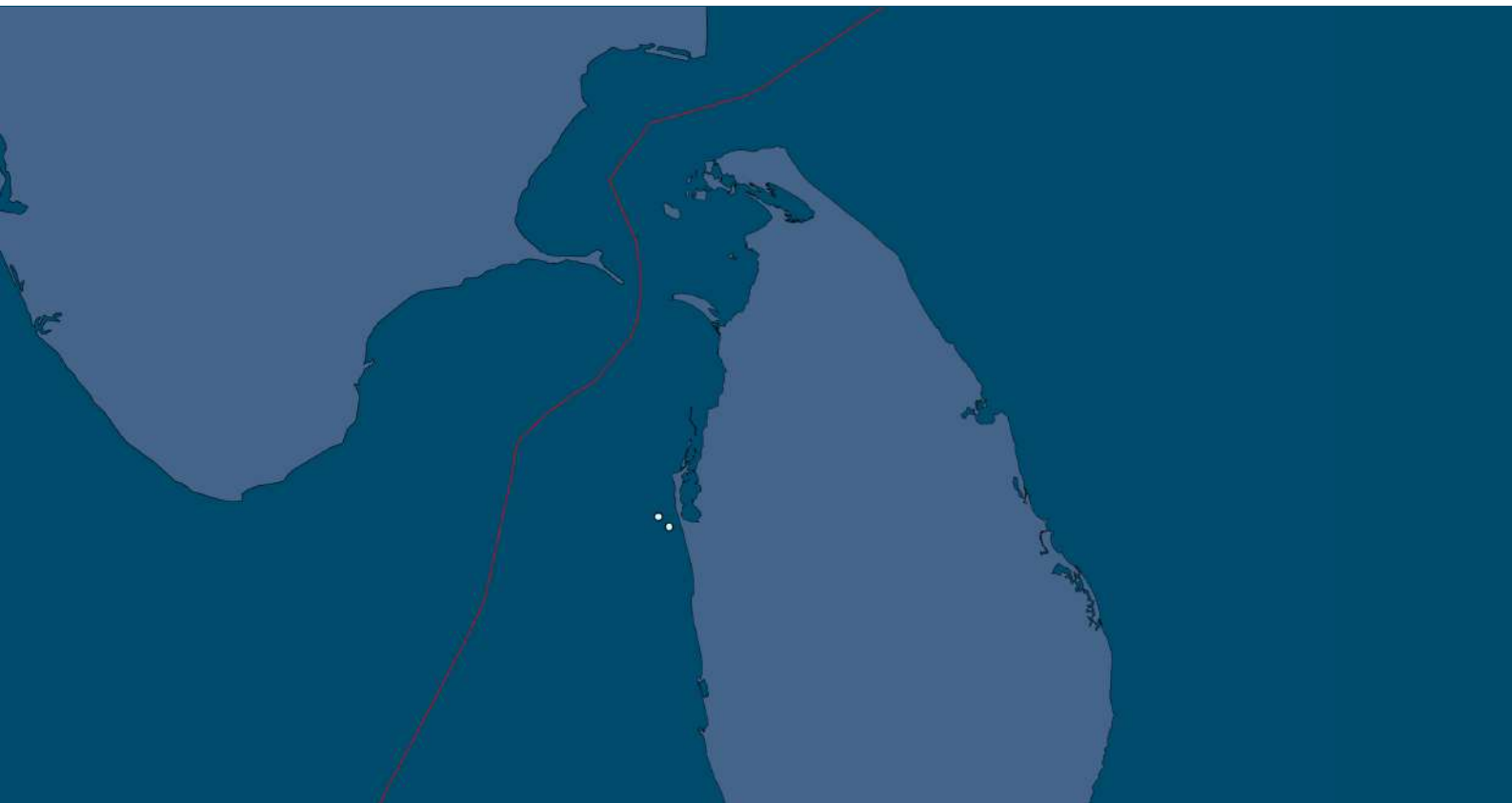
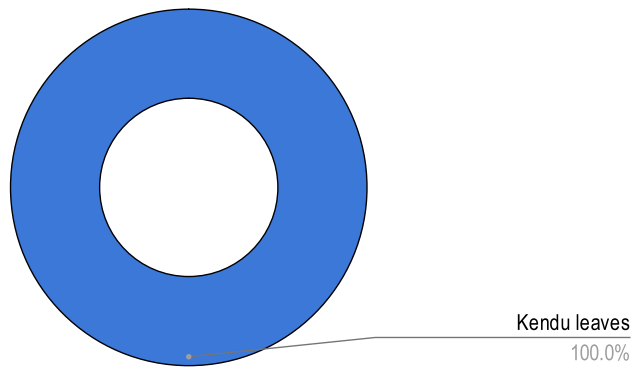
### CONTRABAND SMUGGLING

NUMBER OF CONTRABAND SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2024)



### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	JAN 2021	JAN 2022	JAN 2023	JAN 2024
Cardamom	0	0	0	0
Glyphosate	2	0	0	0
Gold	0	0	0	0
Kendu leaves	0	0	5	2
Other	0	0	0	0
Turmeric	2	0	2	0



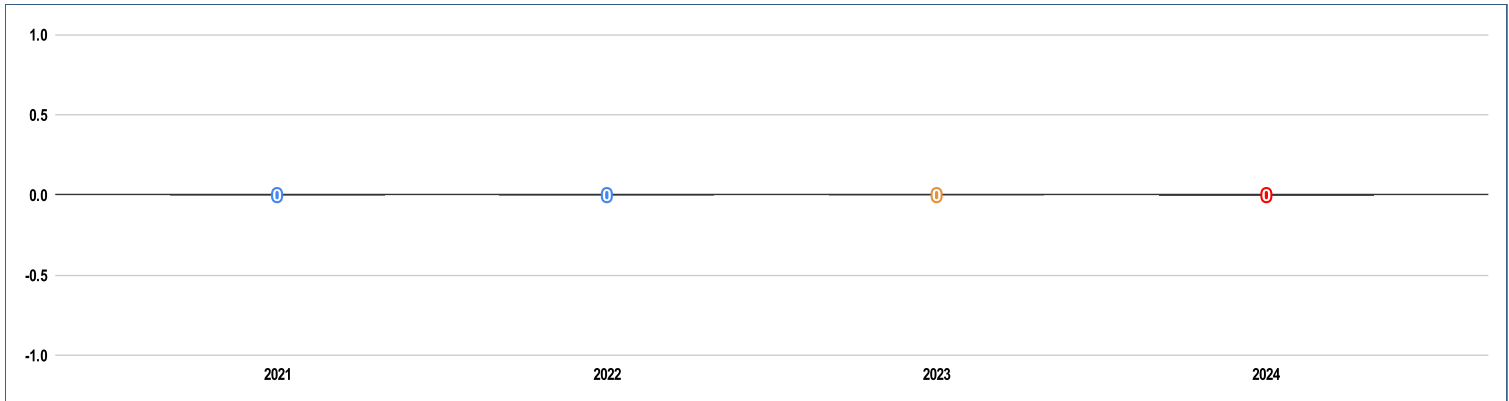


# IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

## MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JANUARY 2024

### HUMAN SMUGGLING

#### NUMBER OF HUMAN SMUGGLING INCIDENTS (2020-2024)



#### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	JAN 2021	JAN 2022	JAN 2023	JAN 2024
Human Smuggling	0	0	0	0

**ZERO  
INCIDENTS  
IN JANUARY 2024**



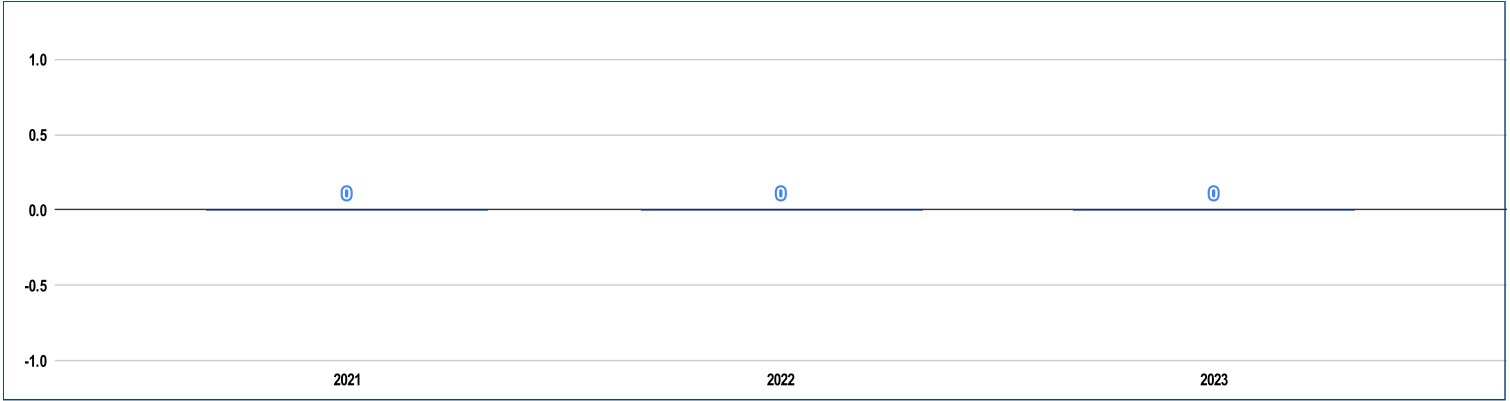


# IFC COLOMBO SRI LANKA

## MARITIME INCIDENT BULLETIN MONTHLY MAP JANUARY 2024

### EXPLOSIVE AND FIREARMS

NUMBER OF EXPLOSIVE & FIREARMS INCIDENTS (2020-2024)



### INCIDENTS IN BRIEF

INCIDENT TYPE	JAN 2021	JAN 2022	JAN 2023	JAN 2024
Water Gel Sticks	0	0	0	0



# EVENTS

## 1. 06<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### **Navy seizes multiday fishing trawler carrying more than 245kg of heroin and crystal methamphetamine valued over Rs. 3190 million, in seas west of Hikkaduwa**

In a major operation against drug trafficking, the Sri Lanka Navy intercepted a local multiday fishing trawler carrying narcotics, at sea about 28 nautical miles (50km) west of Hikkaduwa. Acting on coordinated intelligence efforts by the Navy, Police Narcotic Bureau and other intelligence services a Fast Attack Craft intercepted the suspicious fishing trawler. Upon being escorted to the Galle harbour on 05<sup>th</sup> January 2024, it was inspected in coordination with the Sri Lanka Coast Guard and over 245kg (including packages) of crystal methamphetamine (ICE) and heroin valued over Rs. 3190 million recovered from the trawler. The operation also led to the apprehension of 06 suspects involved in the illegal narcotics smuggling attempt.

The suspects, aged between 28 to 66 years and hailing from Galle, Beruwala and Galgamuwa areas, the consignment of narcotic drugs and the fishing trawler held in this operation was handed over to the Police Narcotic Bureau for onward legal action.



## **Kerala cannabis worth over Rs. 33 million held in Wallipuram, Jaffna**

A coordinated operation carried out by the Navy with the Army and Police Special Task Force (STF) on 08th January 2024 in the beach vicinity of Wallipuram, Jaffna, led to the recovery of over 84kg of Kerala cannabis hidden in nearby shrubs.

The search operation was carried out by the Naval Deployment Point Pedro in the Northern Naval Command with the assistance of the Army Military Intelligence Corps (MIC) Staff and Nelliadi Police STF, in the Wallipuram beach area. The coordinated search led to the recovery of 03 suspicious sacks, hidden in the beach vicinity. Upon inspection, the sacks were found to hold 40 packages of Kerala cannabis, totaling a weight exceeding 84kg and 600g. Consequently, the consignment of Kerala cannabis was taken into custody.

The gross street value of this stock of Kerala cannabis is believed to be over Rs. 33 million. Meanwhile, the haul of Kerala cannabis was handed over to the Point Pedro Police for onward legal action.



### 3. 08<sup>th</sup> January 2024

#### **Navy intercepts 03 dinghies smuggling more than 2000kg of sea cucumber in Kalpitiya seas**

The Sri Lanka Navy intercepted 03 dinghies while they were smuggling a large haul of sea cucumber weighing around 2032kg (wet weight), via sea. The apprehension was made off Uchchamunai, Kalpitiya, during a search operation carried out in the dark hours of 08<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The operation also led to the apprehension of 06 suspects in connection to this illegal act.

The Navy consistently remains vigilant and conducts operations to curb illegal fishing in the sea and coastal areas of Sri Lanka, while also encouraging lawful fishing practices.

In a similar effort, the operation was carried out by a team of Special Boat Squadron personnel attached to SLNS Vijaya in the Northwestern Naval Command. During the operation carried out in the dark hours of 08th January, naval personnel searched 03 suspicious dinghies in the sea area of Uchchamunai and found that they have been smuggling sea cucumber weighing around 2032kg (wet weight) which had been stuffed in 71 sacks. As such, those 03 dinghies, the haul of sea cucumber and 06 suspects aboard were taken into the naval custody.

The suspects apprehended in this operation were identified as residents of Kalpitiya and Thalawila areas, from 21 to 43 years of age. The accused along with 03 dinghies and sea cucumber stock were handed over to the Customs Preventive Office – Katunayake 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 on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The operation led to the seizure of 03 Indian trawlers with 12 Indian fishermen poaching in Sri Lankan waters off the Kovilan Lighthouse in Kareinagar, Jaffna.

In continuation of regular patrols and operations in Sri Lankan waters to curb illegal fishing, the Northern Naval Command deployed its Fast Attack Craft to chase away a cluster of Indian poaching trawlers, after having spotted they were engaging in illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters on 13<sup>th</sup> January. In this operation, naval personnel held 03 Indian poaching trawler with 12 Indian fishermen, continued to remain in island waters off the Kovilan Lighthouse.

The apprehended Indian fishermen (12) and the poaching trawlers (03) were brought to the Kankasanthurai harbour and they will be handed over to the Mailadi Fisheries Inspector for onward legal action.



## Navy takes hold of 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 the evening of 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The operation led to the seizure of 02 Indian trawlers with 18 Indian fishermen poaching in Sri Lankan waters off Mannar.

In continuation of regular patrols and operations in Sri Lankan waters, the North Central Naval Command deployed its Inshore Patrol Craft to chase away a cluster of Indian poaching trawlers, after having spotted they were engaging in illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters on 16<sup>th</sup> January. In this operation, naval personnel held 02 Indian poaching trawlers with 18 Indian fishermen, continued to remain in island waters off Mannar.



## 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 the night of 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024. The operation resulted in the seizure of 02 Indian trawlers and apprehension of 06 Indian nationals poaching in Sri Lankan waters north of the Delft Island, Jaffna.

In continuation of regular patrols and operations in Sri Lankan waters to curb illegal fishing, the Northern Naval Command deployed Fast Attack Craft belonging to the Navy and Sri Lanka Coast Guard to chase away a cluster of Indian poaching trawlers, as the trawlers were detected engaging in illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. In this operation, naval personnel held 02 Indian poaching trawlers with 06 Indian fishermen, continued to remain in island waters off the Delft Island.

The arrested Indian fishermen (06) and the poaching trawlers (02) were brought to the Kankasanthurai Harbour and they will be handed over to the Mailadi Fisheries Inspector for onward legal action.



## Navy seizes more than 65kg of heroin valued over Rs. 1626 million in Southern seas

The Sri Lanka Navy seized (20<sup>th</sup> January 2024) a local multi-day fishing trawler carrying over 65kg of heroin, and another multi-day fishing trawler suspected of assisting it, during a special operation carried out about 100 nautical miles (about 185km) off the Dondra Head, in southern waters. The operation also led to the apprehension of 11 suspects in connection to the smuggling racket.

Accordingly, this special operation was mounted by the Sri Lanka Navy and Police Narcotics Bureau, together with intelligence services, about 100 nautical miles (about 185km) off the Dondra Head. During the operation the naval ship intercepted a suspicious local fishing trawler in southern waters on the morning of 19<sup>th</sup> January. Subsequent search of the trawler led to the recovery of 03 sacks stuffed with heroin weighing more than 65kg and 076g, intending to be smuggled into the country. Also, the Navy held 05 suspects onboard the drug-carrying trawler. Moreover, the Navy seized another multi-day fishing trawler and 06 suspects onboard, suspecting their connection to the illicit drug smuggling racket. Thus, the 02 multi-day fishing trawlers, 11 suspects and narcotics were brought to the Galle Harbour this morning (20th January) for onward legal action.

Meanwhile, the street value of the seized heroin is believed to be more than Rs. 1626 million.

The apprehended suspects, who are from 28 to 52 years of age, have been identified as residents of Matara, Gandara and Dondra areas. The 11 suspects, together with 65kg and 076g of heroin and 02 fishing trawlers held in this operation will be handed over to the Police Narcotic Bureau for onward legal action.





## Navy recovers Tendu leaves in Mampuri sea area of Kalpitiya

The Sri Lanka Navy recovered more than 520kg (wet weight) of Tendu leaves adrift in the sea area off Mampuri, Kalpitiya, during a night patrol conducted on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024.

An Inshore Patrol Craft attached to the Northwestern Naval Command detected and retrieved 16 suspicious parcels adrift in the sea area off Mampuri, during a patrol carried out in the dark hours of 23<sup>rd</sup> January. During subsequent search of the parcels, naval personnel found that the packages had been stuffed with Tendu leaves, weighing about 520kg and 760g (wet weight).

It is suspected that smugglers might have abandoned the stock of Tendu leaves, being unable to smuggle them into the country due to naval operations.



## Navy apprehends 03 for shell fishing in Kalpitiya seas

The Navy apprehended 03 individuals who engaged in shell fishing, during a search operation conducted in the Ippantivu sea area of Kalpitiya on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Meanwhile, the size of the seized conch shells (about 1856) was not within the legally accepted limit. The Navy also held the dinghy used for this illegal act.

The search operation was carried out by Navy Marines attached to SLNS Vijaya in the Northwestern Naval Command. The illegal stash of about 1856 conch shells were recovered from a dinghy which was intercepted on suspicion, whilst plying in the Ippantivu sea area. The operation also led to the apprehension of 03 suspects in connection to the incident and the dinghy used for this illegal activity.

The apprehended suspects were identified as residents of Kalpitiya area, from 12 to 48 years of age. The accused, along with conch shells and dinghy, were handed over to the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Department Office, Puttalam, for onward legal action.

