

WEEKLY MARITIME INCIDENT UPDATE

Information Fusion Center-Colombo



Information Fusion Center
Colombo
Sri Lanka

Week 11

From 2026.03.16 TO 2026.03.22



SUMMARY OF THE WEEK 11

Executive Summary

Global Maritime Incidents

• Maritime incident	:-	08
• Piracy and Armed Robbery	:-	01
• Smuggling	:-	02
• IUU Fishing	:-	03
• Narcotics	:-	03
• Irregular Human Migration	:-	06
• Maritime Environment Pollution	:-	01
• Other Incidents	:-	04

Total Maritime Incidents 28

Global Weather Incident

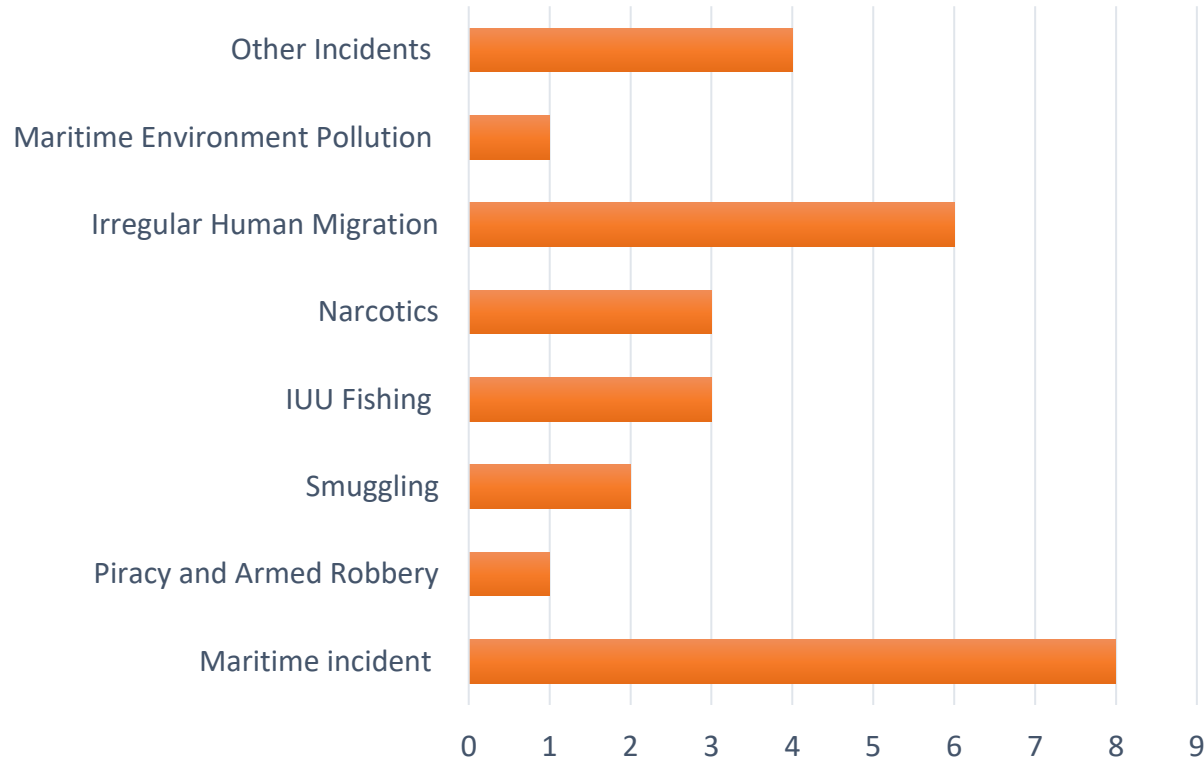
• Tropical Cyclone	:-	01
• Earthquake	:-	03

Total Weather Incidents 04

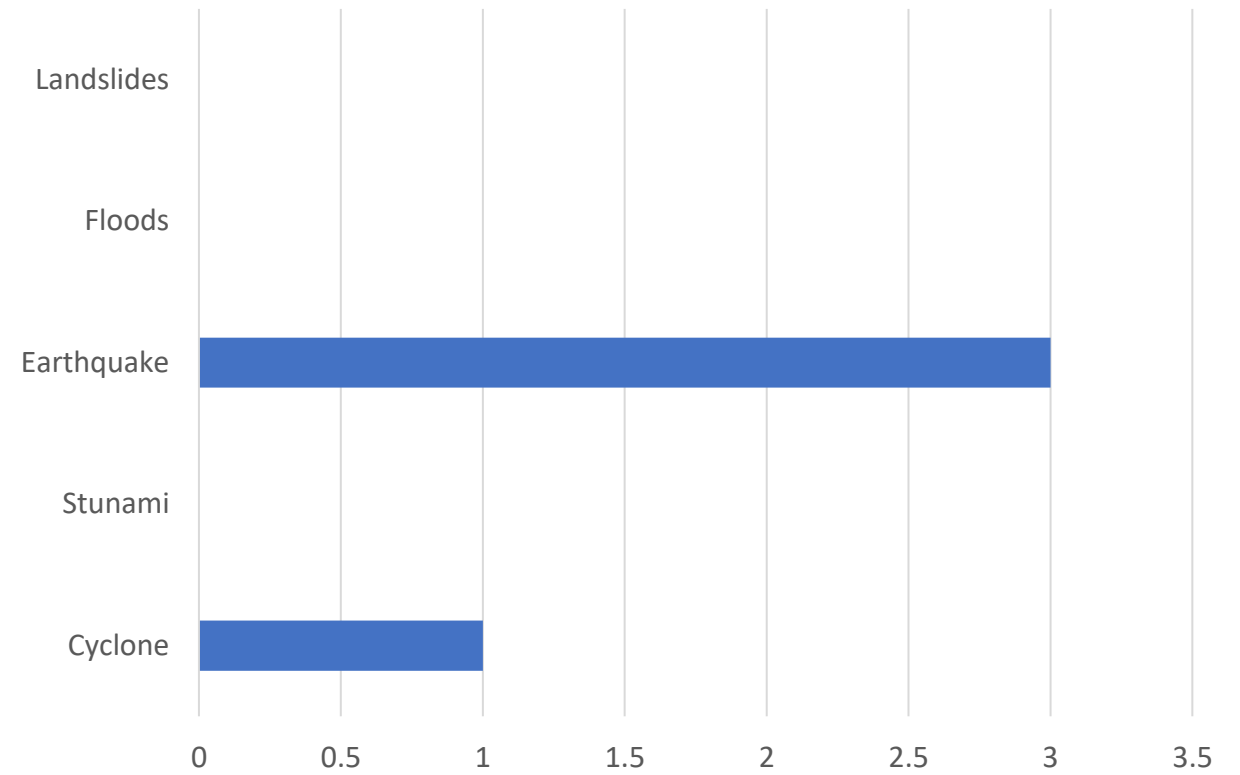


STATISTICS

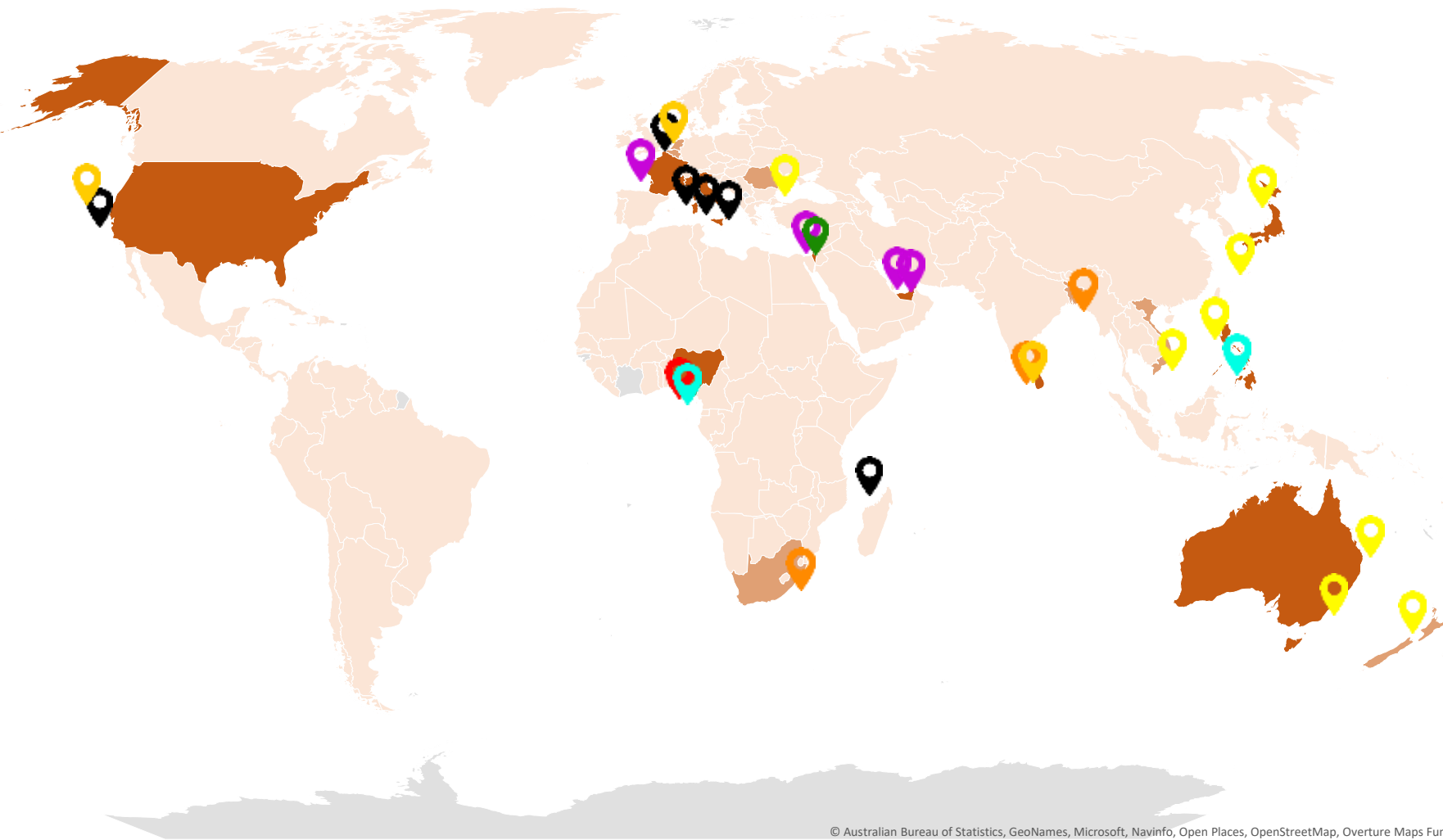
Maritime Incidents











Weather Incidents



STRATEGIC OVERVIEW



CATEGORY	NO
 Maritime Incidents	08
 Piracy & Armed Robbery	01
 Smuggling	02
 IUU Fishing	03
 Narcotic	03
 Irregular Human Migration	06
 Maritime Environment Pollution	01
 Other	04

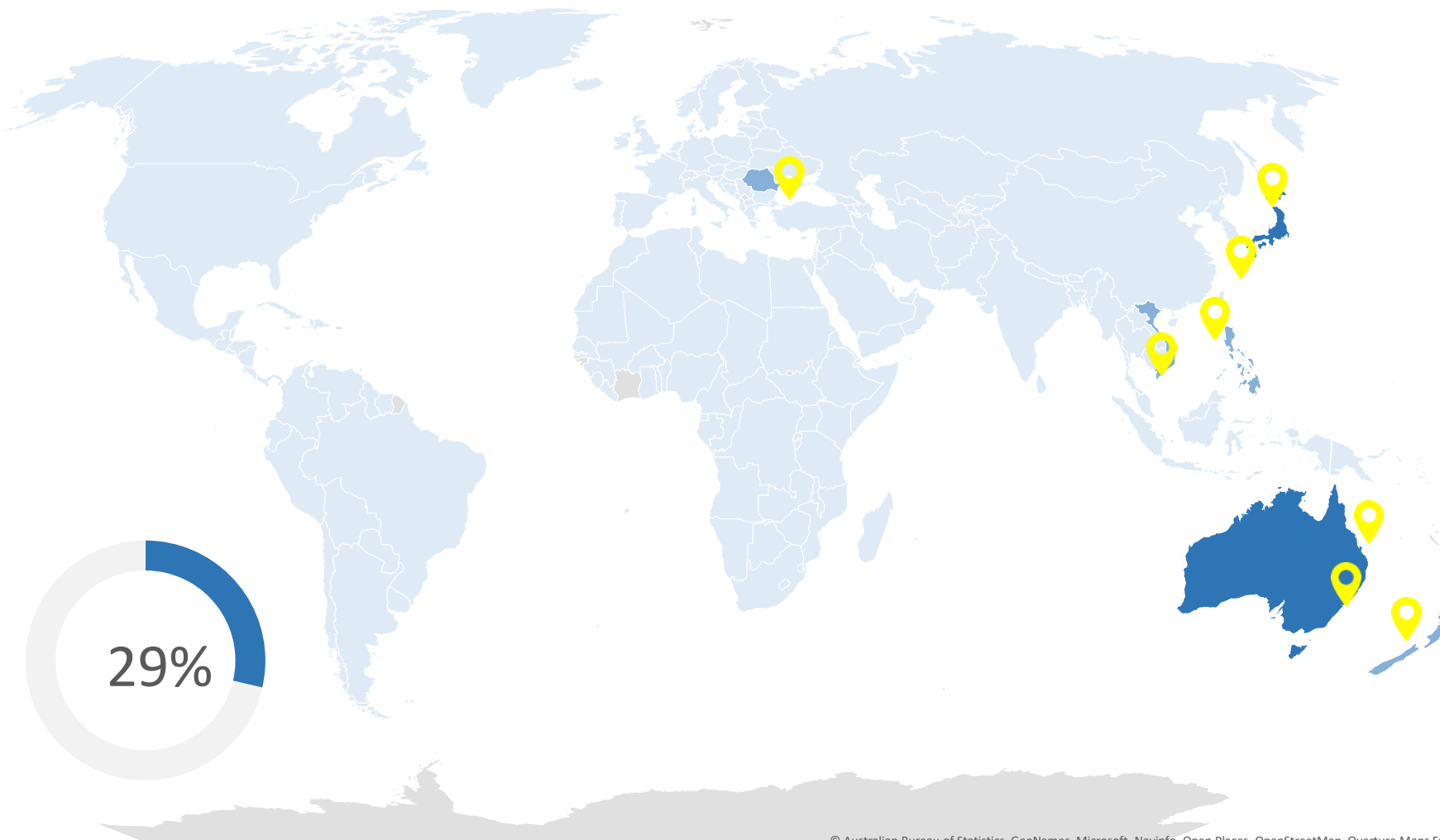
Total Incidents

28

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MARITIME INCIDENTS



COUNTRY /REGION	NO
Australia	02
Japan	02
New Zealand	01
Philippine	01
Romania	01
Vietnam	01

Total Incidents

08

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MARITIME INCIDENTS

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.11	Philippine	APO Cement Port	Search and Rescue (SAR)	Small cargo ship	One of the engineers was trapped in the engine room of the vessel. They were able to extricate him from the ship, and he was reported to be receiving medical attention.
2026.03.13	Vietnam	Off Southern Vietnam	Grounding/Stranding	Name – TRUONG HUNG 268 Name - GRAND FAMILY 18 Name -BIEN DONG 09	Initial reports suggested nine crew members were on the vessel, but it was later confirmed by the captain and the owner, Minh Chau International Trade and Transport Company Limited, that only four crew members were present.
2026.03.16	Australia	Broken Bay	Fire/Folding/Explosion	luxury motor cruiser boat	A nearby vessel rescued four people, two men and two women, as flames engulfed the scene.
2026.03.16	Japan	Off coast of Okinawa	Capsizing /Sinking	two tour boats	The search and rescue operation lasted just over an hour, resulting in all passengers and crew from the two boats being rescued. Unfortunately, two individuals were later declared deceased.
2026.03.17	Australia	50 km off Gold Coast	Search and Rescue	Fishing vessel	The crew say their close call won't stop them from getting back out on the water but there will be some changes to the boat.
2026.03.17	Japan	Off Aomori	Collisions	Fishing vessel & Cargo Ship	Six crew members of the cargo ship were unharmed, and the coast guard office is investigating the cause of the accident.

Source -> <https://maritime-executive.com/article/philippine-coast-guard-rescues-engineer-trapped-on-capsized-ship>
 Source -> <https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/maritime-news/14/accidents/2026/12768/cargo-vessel-sinks-off-vietnam-all-four-crew-rescued>
 Source -> <https://www.northernbeachesadvocate.com.au/2026/03/16/boat-burns-in-broken-bay/>
 Source -> <https://7news.com.au/news/five-fishermen-rescued-after-10-hours-on-sinking-boat-off-gold-coast-queensland-c-21975633>
 Source -> <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yj2026031700297/>
 Source -> <https://www.bairdmaritime.com/amp/story/security/incidents/accidents/two-dead-after-two-tour-boats-capsize-off-okinawa-japan>



MARITIME INCIDENTS

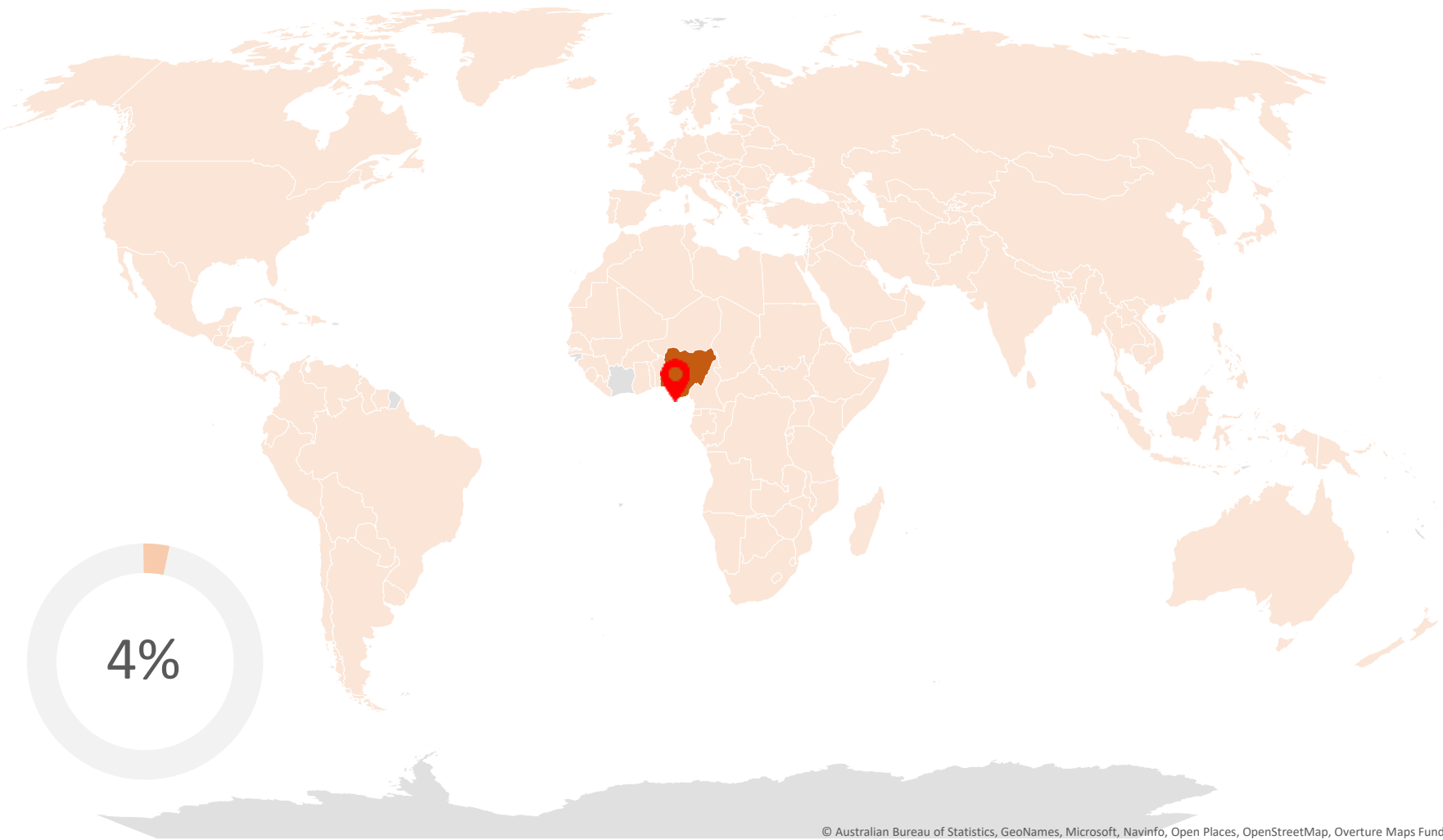
INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.18	Romania	Midia Port	Capsizing /Sinking	Tub Boat	The incident occurred during assistance maneuvers for unloading a tanker at the offshore terminal.
2026.03.18	New Zealand	Barn Bay	Search and Rescue (SAR)	Greymouth fishing vessel	Two helicopters confirmed that the crew was ashore and unharmed about an hour later.

Source -: <https://spotmedia.ro/en/news/news/tugboat-sinks-in-midia-port-all-crew-feared-dead>

Source -: <https://www.odt.co.nz/regions/west-coast/fishing-boat-%E2%80%98splintered-million-pieces%E2%80%99>



PIRACY & ARMED ROBBERY



COUNTRY /REGION	NO
 Nigeria	01

Total Incidents

01

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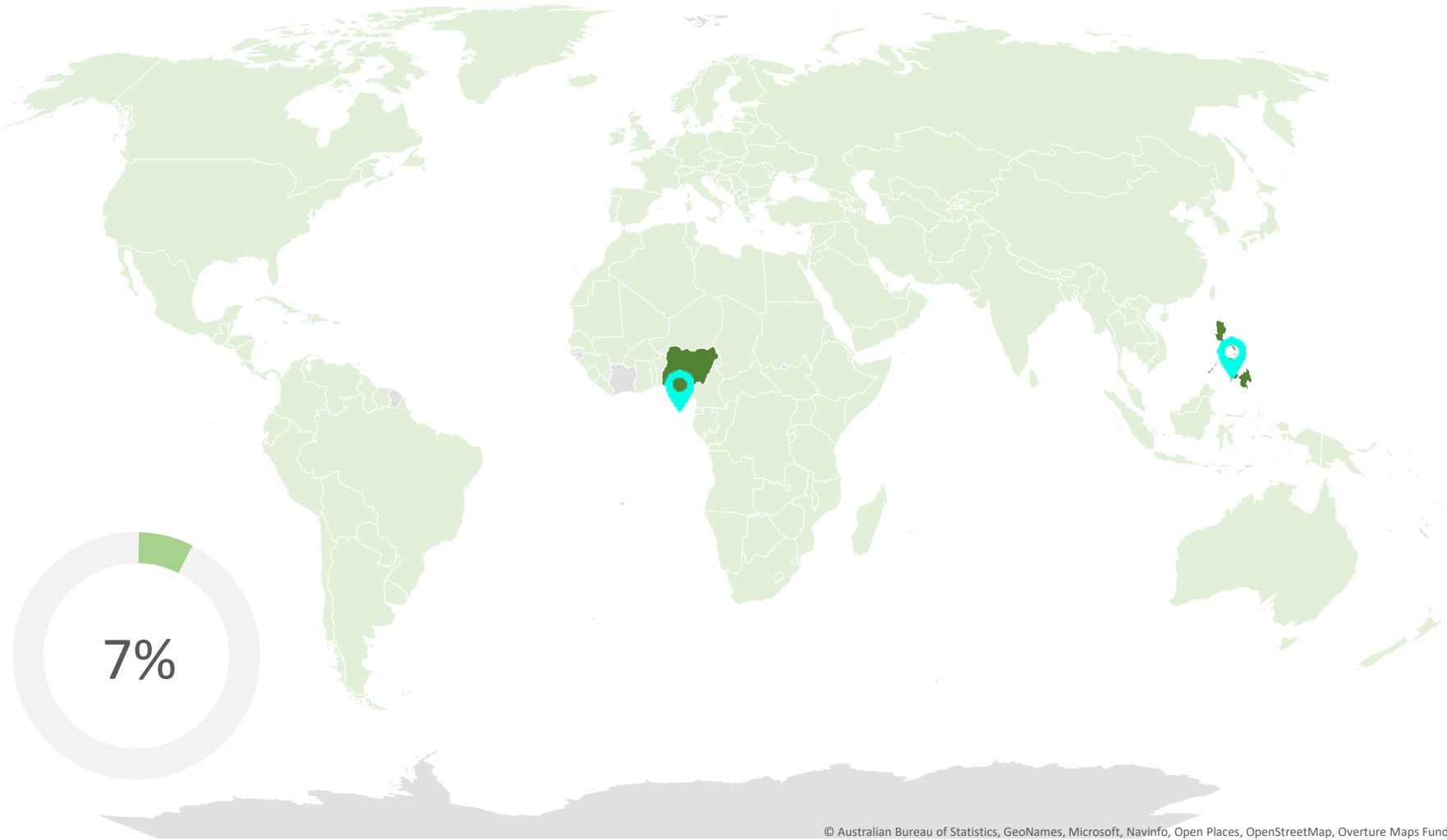
PIRACY & ARMED ROBBERY

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.18	Nigeria	Apapa Port, Lagos	Assault violations	Name - MV ZY JU HE	On Sunday at approximately 0400hrs , theft occurred on the MV ZY JU HE at Eko Support Terminal, resulting in the loss of five tins of paint and a crew member's mobile phone. Preliminary observations suggest that the thieves likely accessed the vessel without a ladder, and poor lighting may have aided the security breach.

Source -: <https://thesun.ng/robbers-attack-vessel-at-apapas-eko-support-terminal/?amp>



SMUGGLING



	COUNTRY /REGION	NO
	Nigeria	01
	Philippines	01

Total Incidents

02

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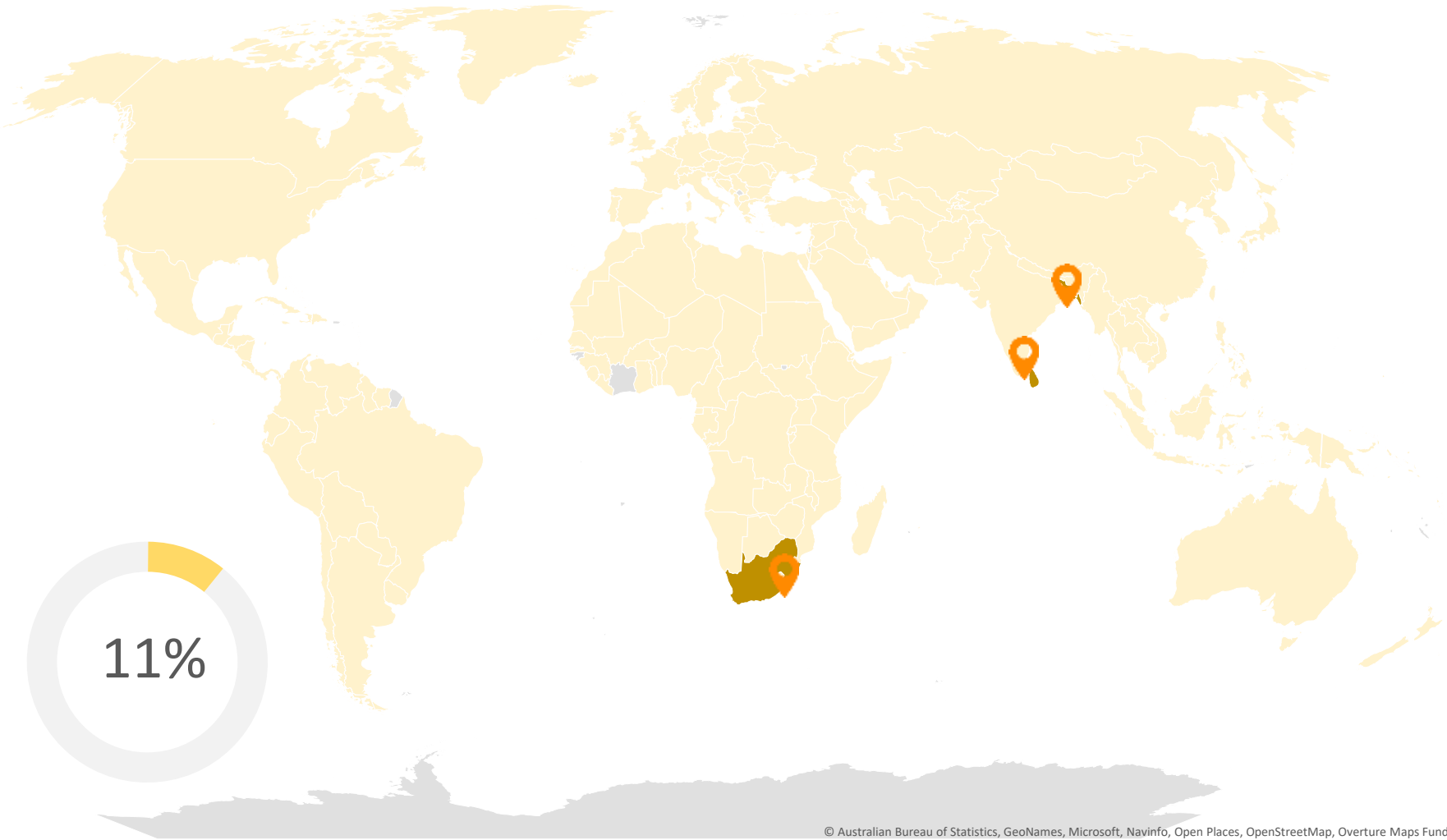
SMUGGLING

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.15	Nigeria	Apapa Port	Contraband /Goods smuggling	-	The consignment was in 3,398 cartons carefully concealed in household utensils it had a duty value of N3.39bn Oshoba said.
2026.03.17	Philippines	Zamboanga del Sur	Contraband /Goods smuggling	One Boat	Upon inspecting the boat, soldiers discovered a haul of cigarettes without tax stamps.

Source -: <https://thewhistler.ng/smugglers-lose-n3-39bn-codeine-cargo-to-customs/>
Source -: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2198218/p40-m-smuggled-cigarettes-seized-in-maguindanao-zamboanga-del-sur>



IUU FISHING



COUNTRY /REGION	NO
Bangladesh	01
South Africa	01
Sri Lanka	01

Total Incidents

03

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IUU FISHING

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.11	Sri Lanka	North Of Mannar	Poaching /Maritime boundary violations	Fishing Boat	The seized boat (01) and Indian fishermen (02) were handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Kilinochchi for onward legal proceedings
2026.03.16	South Africa	South African territorial waters	Poaching /Maritime boundary violations	fishing vessel	Investigations by DFFE found that the vessels had entered South African territorial waters during the consideration of the OPL request.
2026.03.18	Bangladesh	Halda River	Illegal Methods	-	Hathazari Upazila Senior Fisheries Officer Md Shawkat Ali confirmed the drive and said that such drives will continue to protect fish resources.

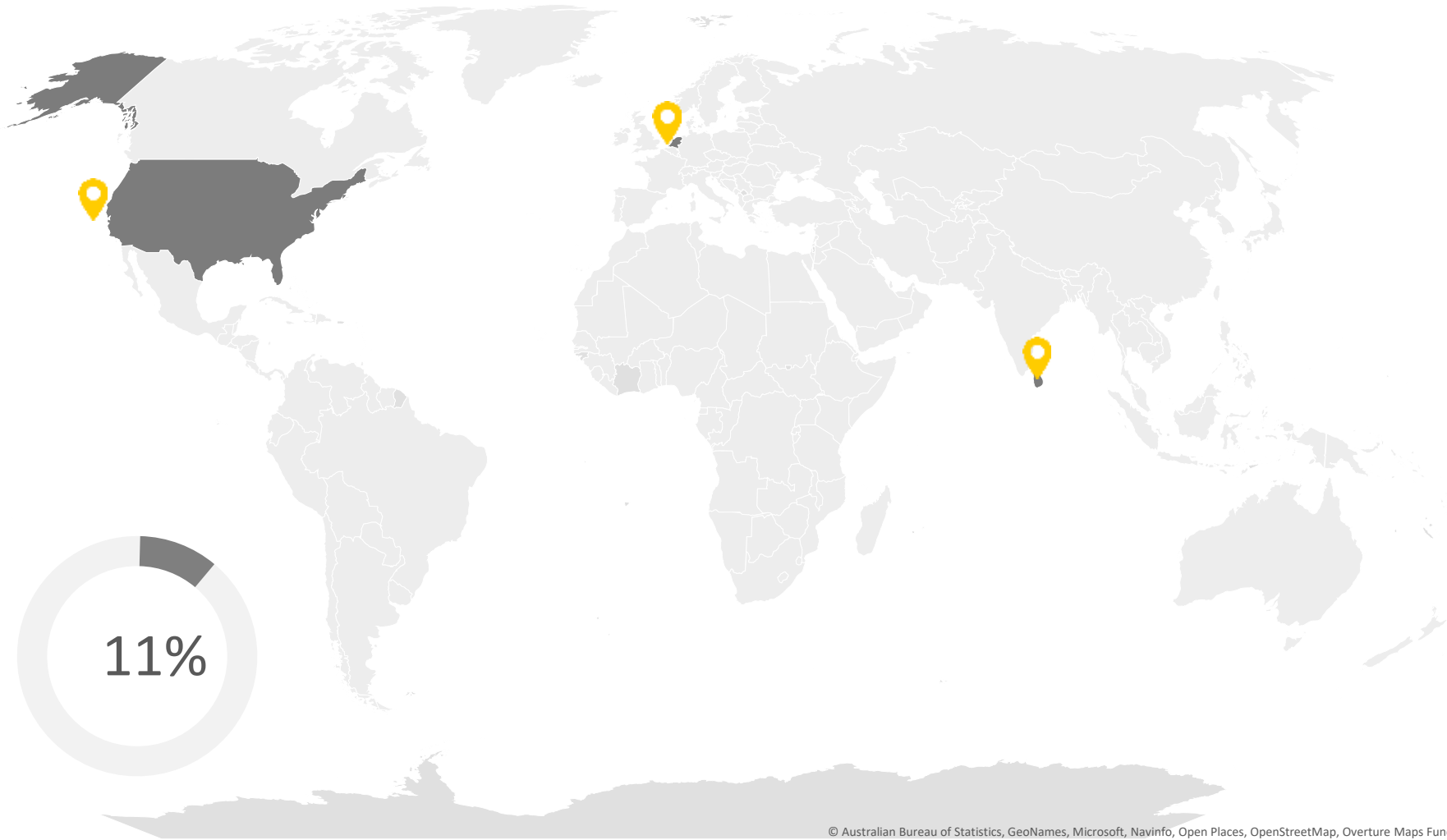
Source -: <https://news.navy.lk/operation-news/2026/03/13/202603131400/>

Source -: <https://defenceweb.co.za/border-security-2/south-african-authorities-intercept-fine-chinese-fishing-vessels-over-illegal-entry/>

Source -: <https://observerbd.com/news/569899>



NARCOTIC



COUNTRY /REGION	NO
Netherlands	01
Sri Lanka	01
United States	01

Total Incidents

03

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NARCOTIC

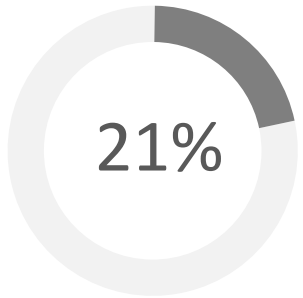
INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.15	Netherlands	Coast of Zeeland province	Sea based Drugs Trafficking /cocaine	Cargo ship	The Amsterdam Public Prosecution Service is leading the investigation. It was withholding further information pending the outcome of the investigation.
2026.03.16	Sri Lanka	High Seas South Of Sri Lanka	Seizure of narcotics	local multi-day fishing trawler	In 2025, naval operations seized narcotics valued over Rs. 75 billion, while operations in 2026 have already seized over Rs. 20 billion worth of drugs.
2026.03.19	USA	Eastern Pacific	Sea based Drugs Trafficking /crystal methamphetamine/cocaine	Boat	The U.S. Coast Guard reported the recovery of two bodies and one survivor, who, along with the bodies, was transferred to the Costa Rican Coast Guard.






Source -: <https://news.navy.lk/operation-news/2026/03/16/202603161730/>

Source -: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/dutch-catch-smugglers-throwing-drugs-into-the-north-sea-from-containership>

Source -: <https://maritime-executive.com/article/video-three-survive-latest-u-s-strike-on-suspected-drug-smuggling-boat>

IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION



	COUNTRY /REGION	NO
	Belgium	01
	Comoros	01
	France	01
	Italy	02
	United States	01

Total Incidents

06

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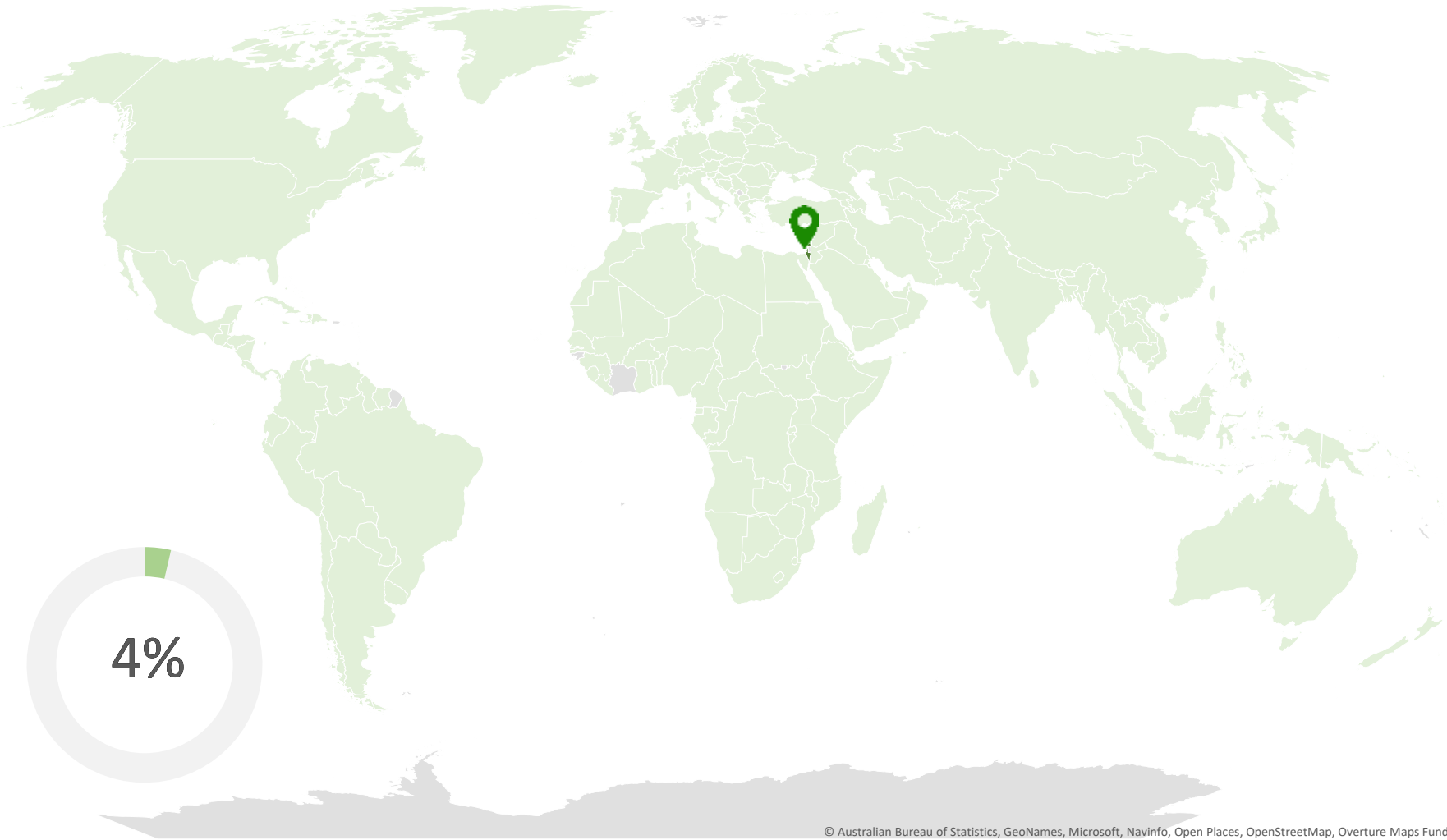
IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.13	Italia	Mediterranean Sea	Overcrowded vessels	One Boat	The groups are heading to Civitavecchia in Italy, several days' sail from the rescue site, on board the NGO's Life Support ship.
2026.03.14	USA	West of San Clemente Island	Failed Broader crossing	Panga style vessel	At 1300 pm a crew intercepted a boat and discovered 23 illegal immigrants on board.
2026.03.15	Italia	island of Lampedusa	Illegal Migrants boats sinks	One Boat	Sixty-four people were rescued, while a 2-year-old boy from Sierra Leone remains missing.
2026.03.17	France	Belgium	Illegal broader crossing	Boat	Martin Hewitt, head of the UK's Border Security Command, will step down at the end of March after 18 months, amid ongoing concerns about small boats crossing the Channel.
2026.03. 18	Comoros	Off Comoros	Illegal Migrants boats capsizing	One Boat	The minister said that the survivors have been taken to the hospital, and the coast guard continues search operations.
2026.03. 18	Belgium	Coast of De Haan	Illegal migrants boats capsizing	Inflatable boat	All migrants were rescued and provided survival blankets for warmth after spending six to seven hours at sea. No one required hospitalization.

Source -: <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/70375/child-missing-after-migrant-boat-sinks-near-italys-lampedusa>
Source -: <https://www.africanews.com/2026/03/15/more-than-50-african-migrants-rescued-from-boat-in-central-mediterranean/>
Source -: <https://www.aol.com/articles/23-arrested-alleged-panga-illegal-220651190.html>
Source -: <https://news.az/news/at-least-17-migrants-dead-in-boat-tragedy-off-comoros>
Source -: <https://www.brusselstimes.com/2031314/nineteen-migrants-rescued-off-the-belgian-coast-after-distress-call-issued>
Source -: <https://ca.news.yahoo.com/almost-80-migrants-rescued-attempting-094051944.htm>



MARITIME ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION



	COUNTRY /REGION	NO
	Israel	01

Total Incidents

01

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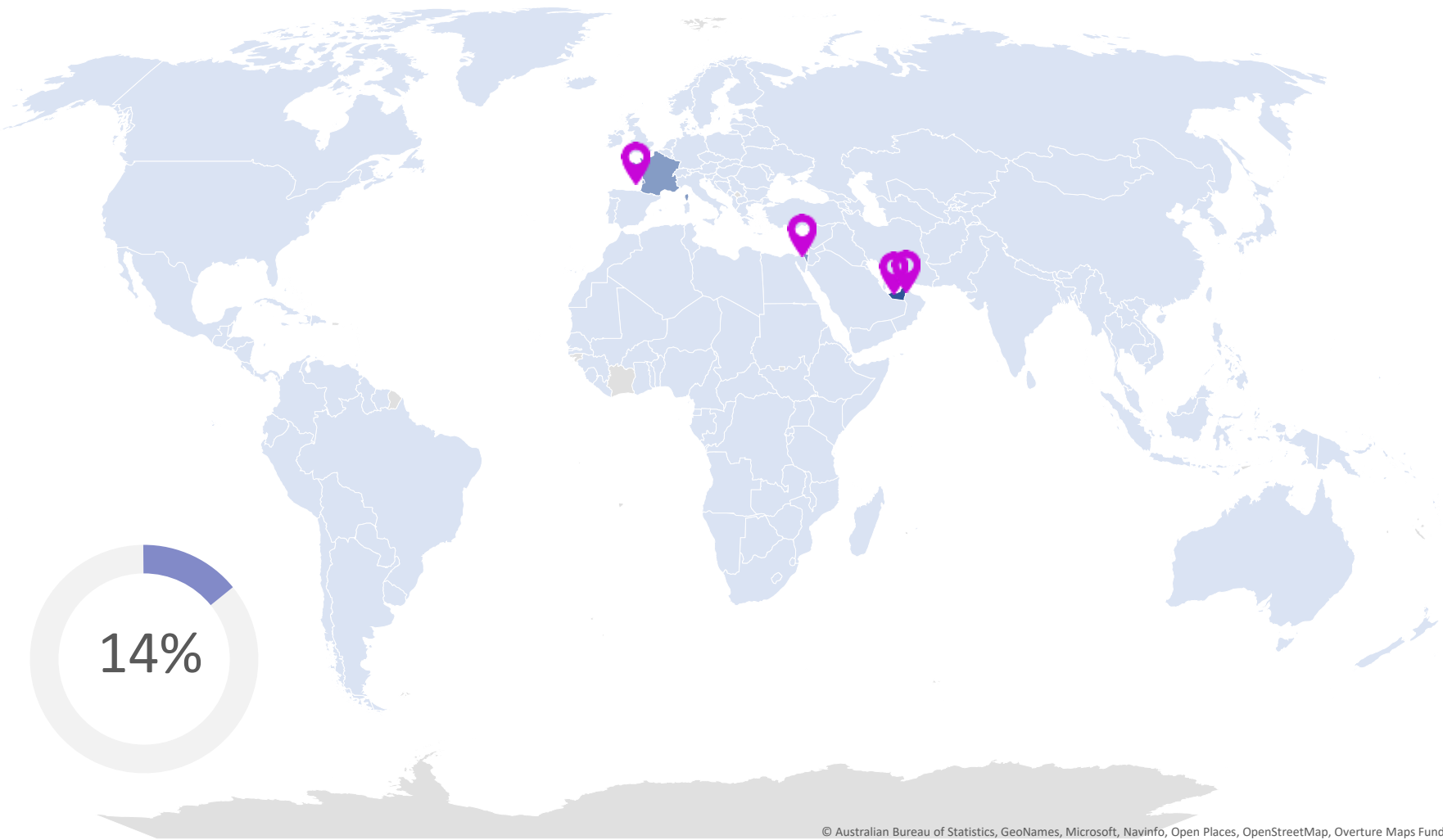





MARITIME ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.18	Israel	Mediterranean Sea	Chemical spill	-	Amid hopes for a ceasefire, the long-term repercussions for the sea and its dependent communities are starting to surface.

Source -: <https://progressive.org/latest/devastation-from-war-in-gaza-spreads-through-mediterranean-waters-hauser-20260317/>

OTHER



	COUNTRY /REGION	NO
	France	01
	Israel	01
	United Arab Emirates	02

Total Incidents

04

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OTHER

INCIDENT DATE	COUNTRY/REGION	LOCATION	SUBCATEGORY	VESSEL DETAILS	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
2026.03.16	UAE	Off Fujairah	Other Military /Coastguard activities	-	The attack occurs during increased tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, with Iran associated with various recent maritime incidents related to its conflict with the United States and Israel.
2026.03.18/19	UAE And Qatar	Khawr Fakkan And East of Ras Laffan	Other Military /Coastguard activities	-	The incident comes amid heightened tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, where Iran has been linked to a series of recent maritime incidents.
2026.03.18	Israel	Caspian Sea	Naval Activities	Iranian Navy Ships	Estimates indicate that Iran is utilizing the Caspian Sea as a route to bypass U.S. sanctions, facilitating the transport of oil, drones, and military equipment.
2026.03.20	France	France	Naval Activities	Name:DEYNA Type: Tanker IMO: 9299903	The prosecutor in the port of Marseille has referred the case, leading to the vessel being escorted to an anchorage point for further investigations.

Source -: <https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/maritime-news/15/maritime-security/2026/12774/tanker-targeted-off-uae-coast-all-crew-reported-safe>
 Source -: <https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/maritime-news/15/maritime-security/2026/12778/two-ships-struck-by-unknown-projectiles-near-uae-and-qatar>
 Source -: <https://www.tesaaworld.com/en/news/israeli-attack-in-the-caspian-sea-walla-reveals-extensive-intelligence-breach-and-targeting-of-iranian-ships>
 Source -: <https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/maritime-news/15/maritime-security/2026/12783/french-forces-board-russian-shadow-fleet-tanker>



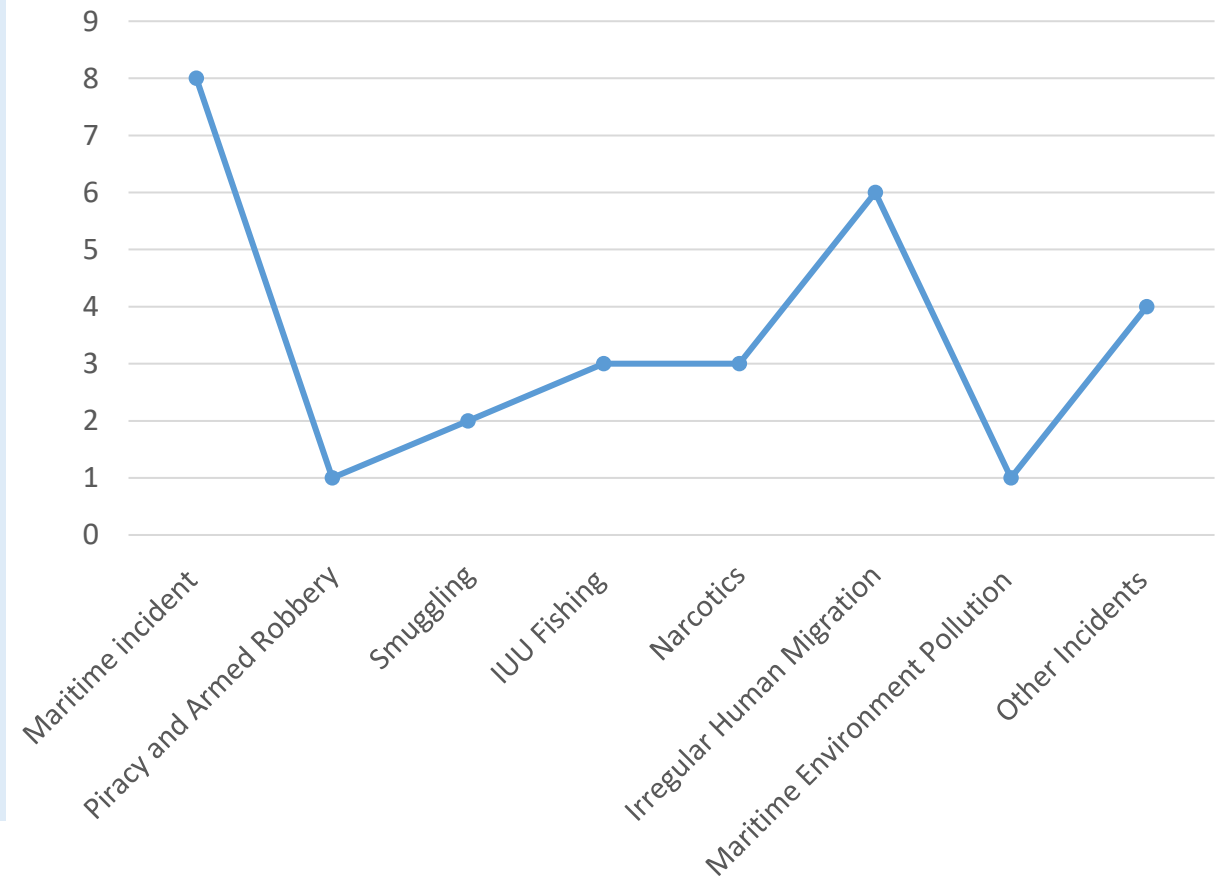
WEEKLY ANALYSIS

During Week 11 (March 16–22, 2026), a total of 28 maritime incidents were reported globally, covering various safety and security-related issues. These included piracy, smuggling, illegal fishing, narcotics trafficking, irregular human migration, as well as significant search and rescue operations and environmental pollution incidents. Key regions affected included Nigeria, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and South Africa. To enhance maritime security.

Recommendations:

It is recommended to improve surveillance through the use of Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) and to strengthen intelligence-sharing among regional maritime agencies. Increased naval and coast guard patrols in high-risk areas would help deter piracy and smuggling activities. Additionally, enhancing vessel safety standards, especially for overcrowded or poorly maintained vessels, and providing comprehensive crew training on emergency response protocols, will help reduce accidents. Finally, enforcing stricter environmental regulations is essential to mitigate pollution incidents, ensuring a safer and cleaner maritime environment.

Maritime Incidents





Information Fusion Center Colombo Sri Lanka

DISCLAIMER

The information in this report has been sourced from various internal and external parties, including international and local stakeholders, maritime agencies, and open sources. The report analyzes incidents to identify trends and discrepancies, aiming to improve the safety and security of mariners and seafarers. While efforts have been made to ensure data accuracy, users should exercise due diligence. Some incident locations may be approximate. IFC-Colombo requests stakeholders' cooperation in reporting incidents for more accurate analysis of maritime threats. The views expressed in this report do not reflect those of the Sri Lanka Navy or Government of Sri Lanka.

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