



MONTHLY MARITIME SECURITY UPDATE

JULY 2023

**Information Fusion Centre
Indian Ocean Region**

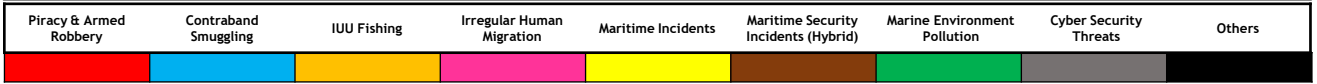
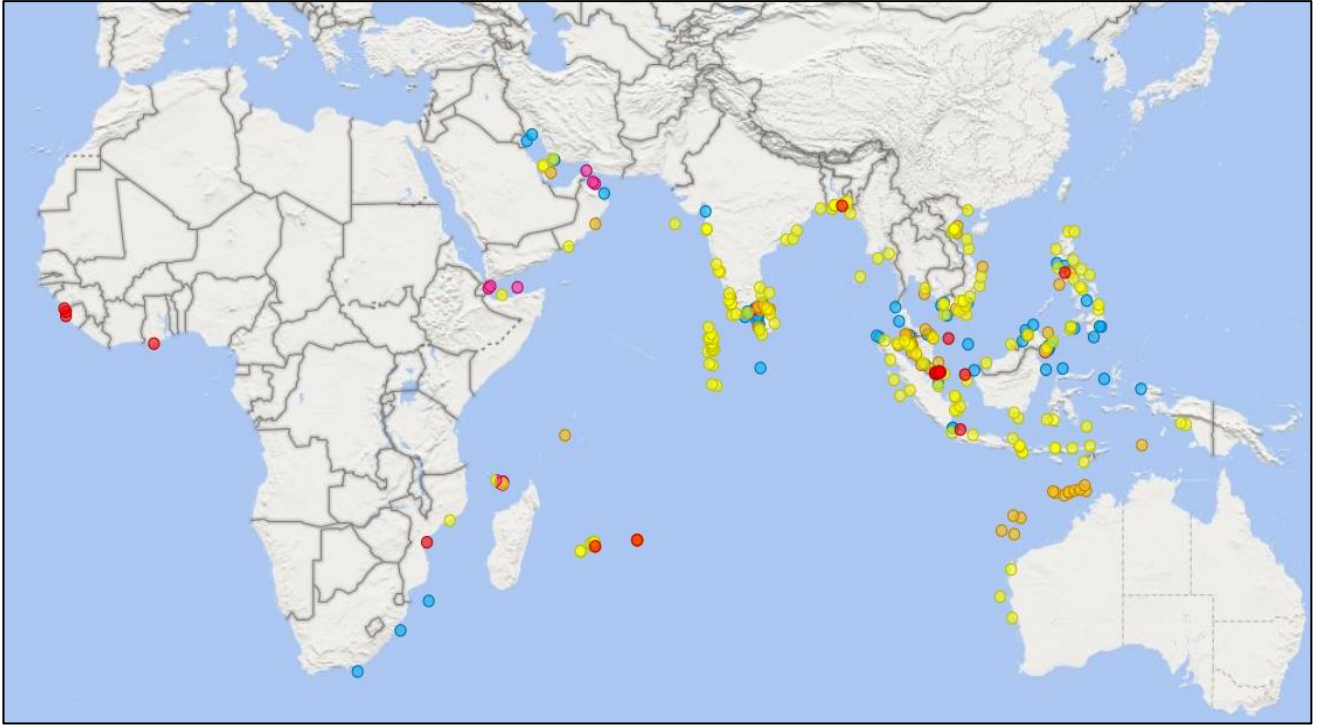


Collaboration for Safety and Security

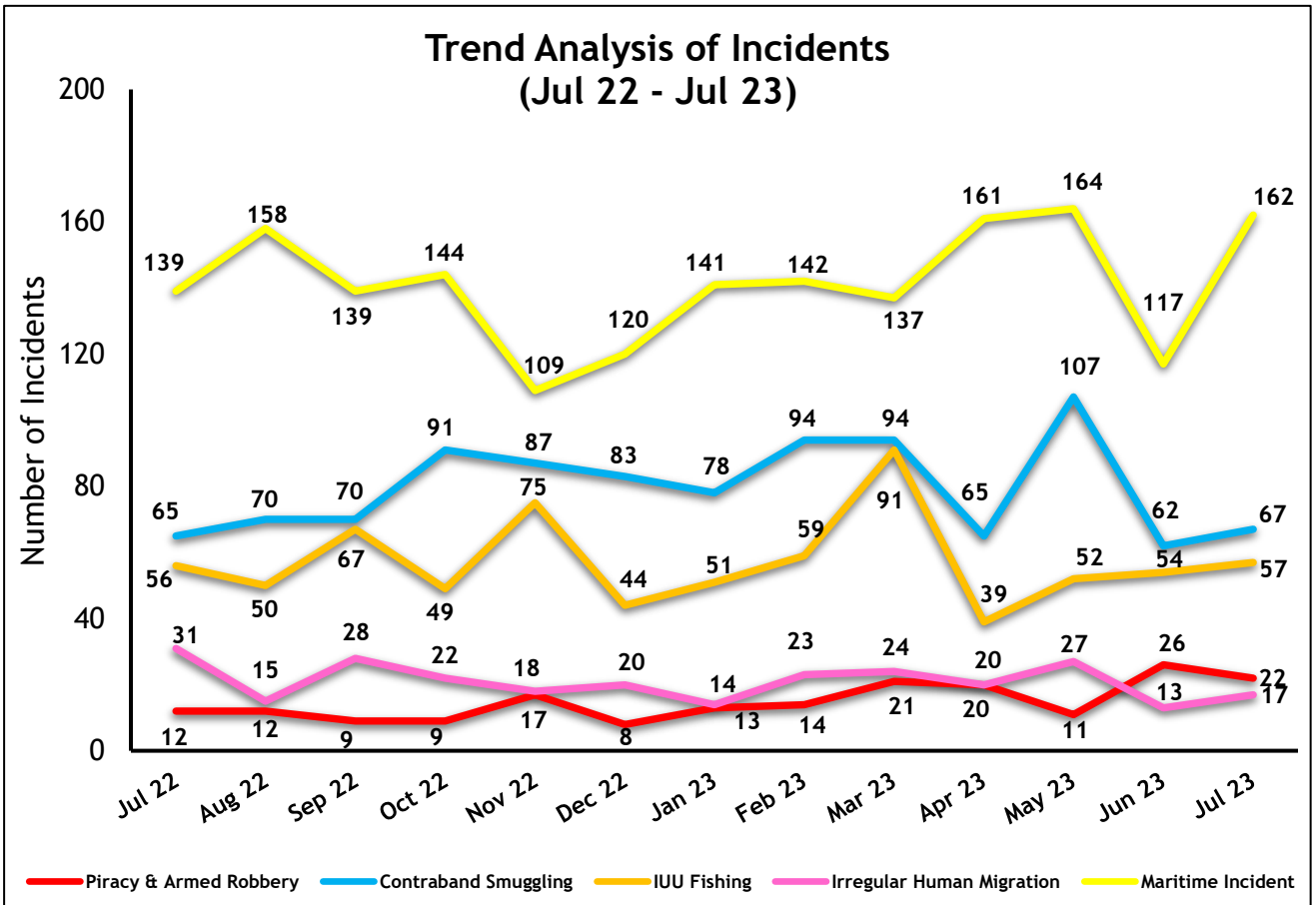
Disclaimer

Information collated in the IFC-IOR's reports have been derived from various internal and external linkages such as partner nations, other maritime stakeholders, agencies and open sources. The report aims to undertake analysis of incidents by establishing trends and anomalies to ensure safety and security of mariners and seafarers. While due care and effort has been taken to ensure veracity of data, due diligence may be exercised for subsequent usage of information contained therein. The positions of incidents depicted in some cases may be approximate or indicative. IFC-IOR requests and seeks assistance of all stakeholders to report incidents in the region to undertake accurate predictive and prescriptive analysis so as to build a comprehensive picture of existing threats in the maritime domain. The information contained in the report and the analysis thereon, is not reflective of the views of the Government of India or Indian Navy in any manner.

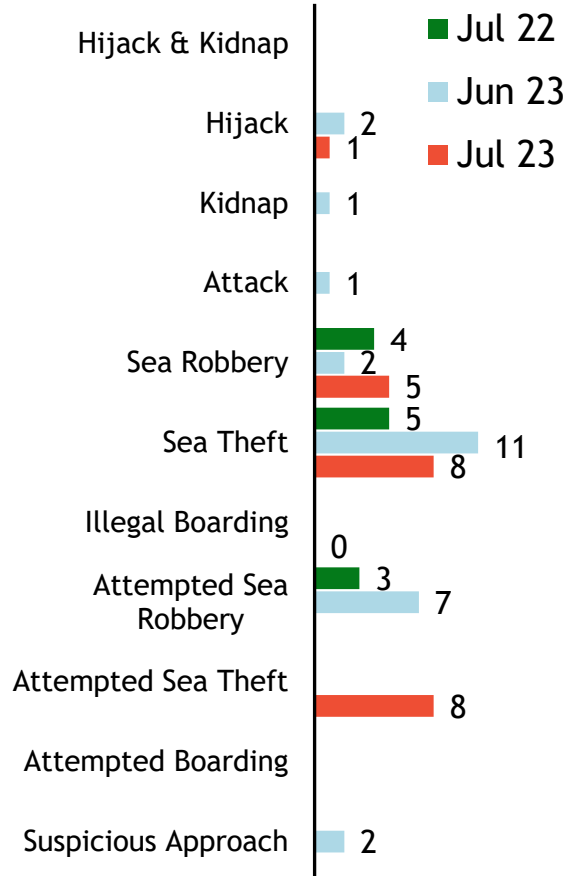
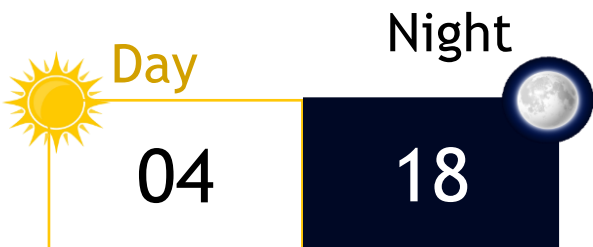
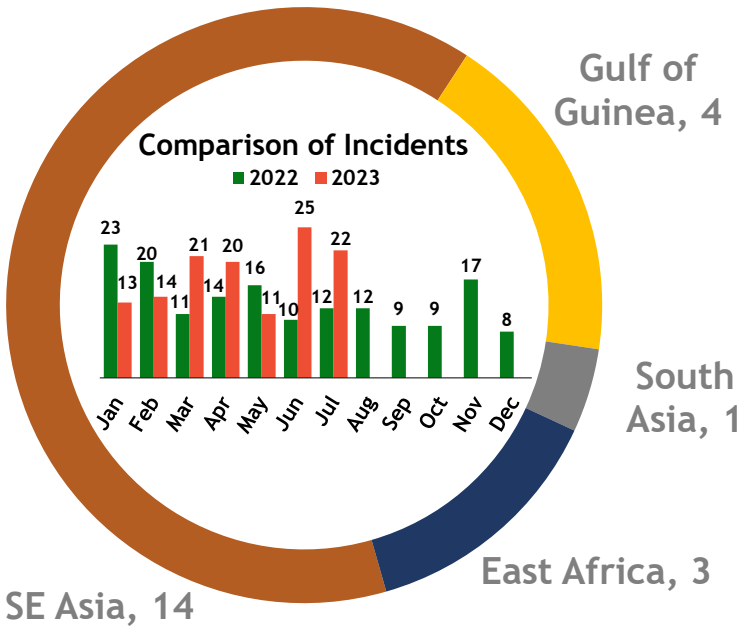
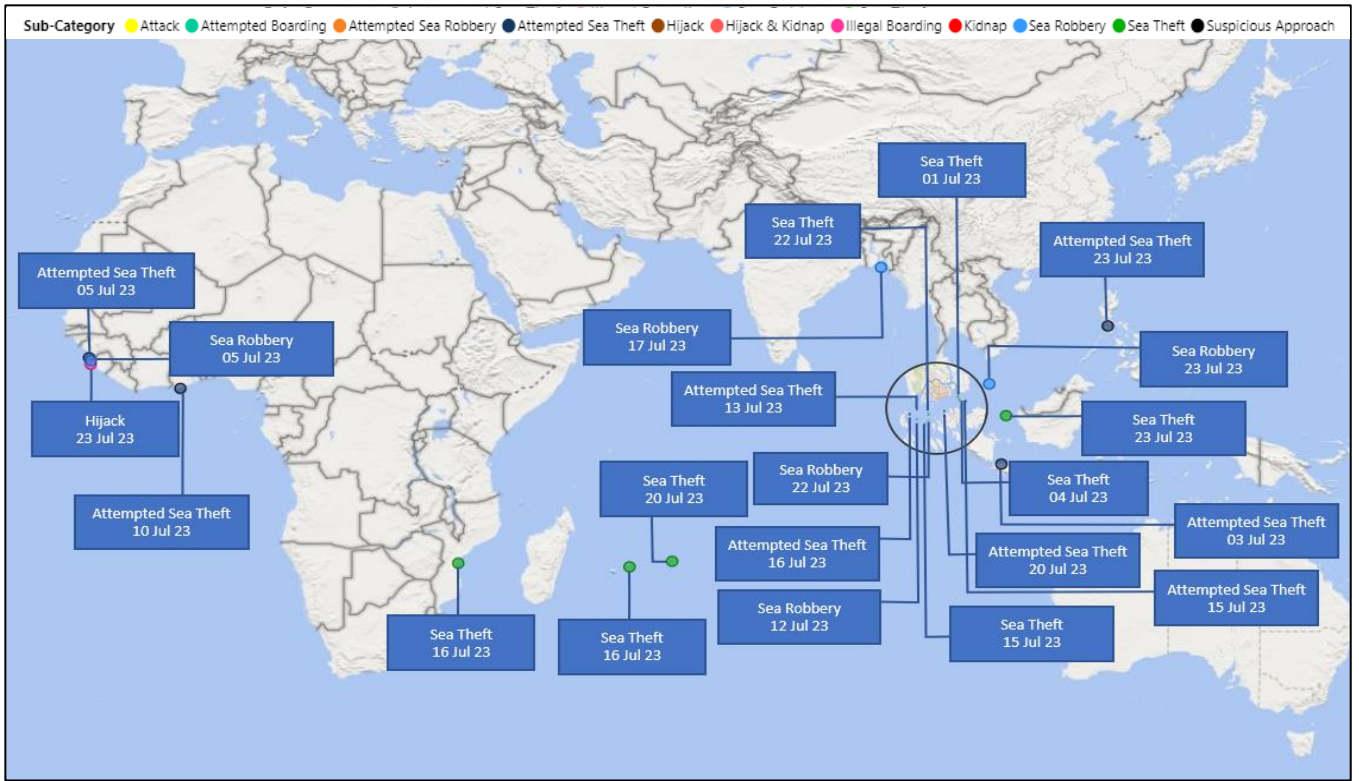
Overview



* GoG - Focus on only Piracy & Armed Robbery incidents



PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY



22 piracy and armed robbery incidents (actual and attempted) were recorded by the Centre in Jul 23, a slight decrease from Jun 23 (25 incidents). Bulk carriers followed by oil tankers, fishing vessels and tug & barges were reported to be the most targeted vessels this month. The number of perpetrators involved in these incidents varied from a minimum of two to a maximum of 13. The regional analysis of Piracy and Armed Robbery is enumerated in the succeeding paragraphs.

SOMS - Four incidents each of attempted sea theft and sea theft and two incidents of sea robbery were recorded in the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of the Singapore Strait (nine in the Eastbound lane and one in the precautionary area of the TSS). Perpetrators were observed operating in groups of three to six. Knives have been observed to be the weapon of choice of the perpetrators in this region during this month. In most incidents, the perpetrators were found stealing ship properties, scrap metals, mobile and torches. All crew members and vessels were reported to be safe.

Gulf of Guinea - Two incidents of attempted sea theft, one each incident of sea robbery and hijacking, were reported in the Gulf of Guinea. The hijacking incident was reported onboard a fishing vessel about 18 nm SW of Freetown, Sierra Leone. 13 perpetrators armed with guns boarded and hijacked the vessel while underway and took 23 crew members as hostage. The Liberian Coast Guard located the vessel off Monrovia, Liberia. After an exchange of gunfire between the perpetrators and the Coast Guard, the vessel and crew were secured. Two perpetrators were apprehended while the others escaped.

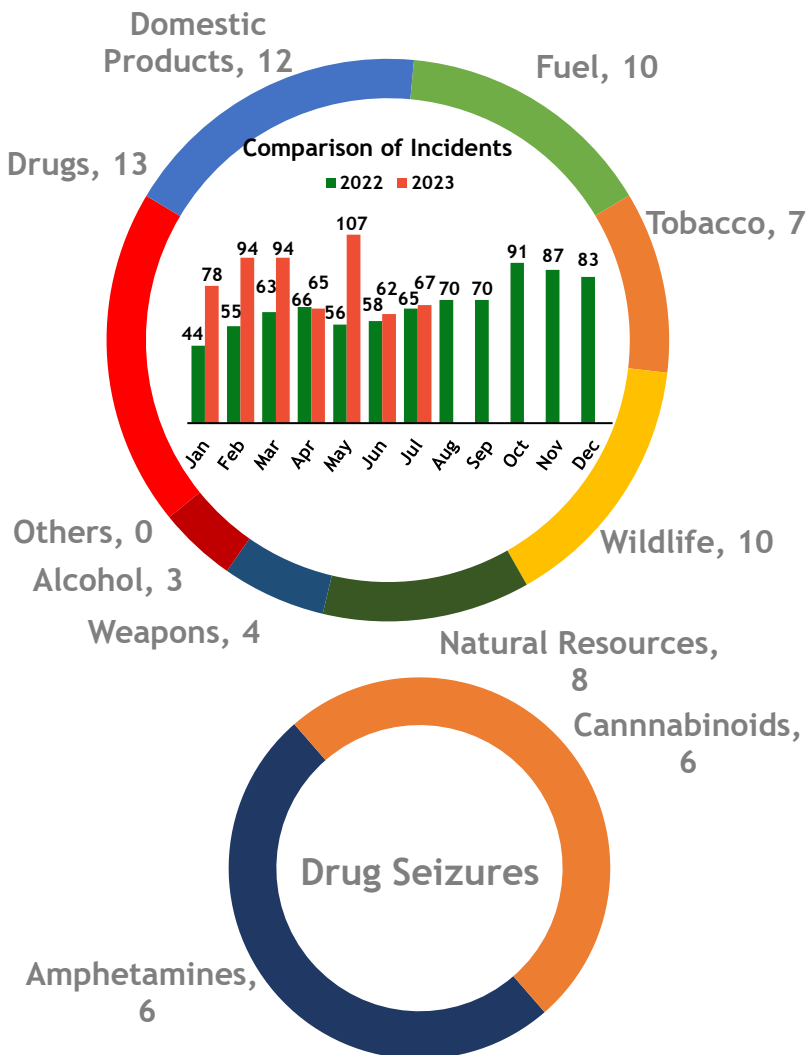
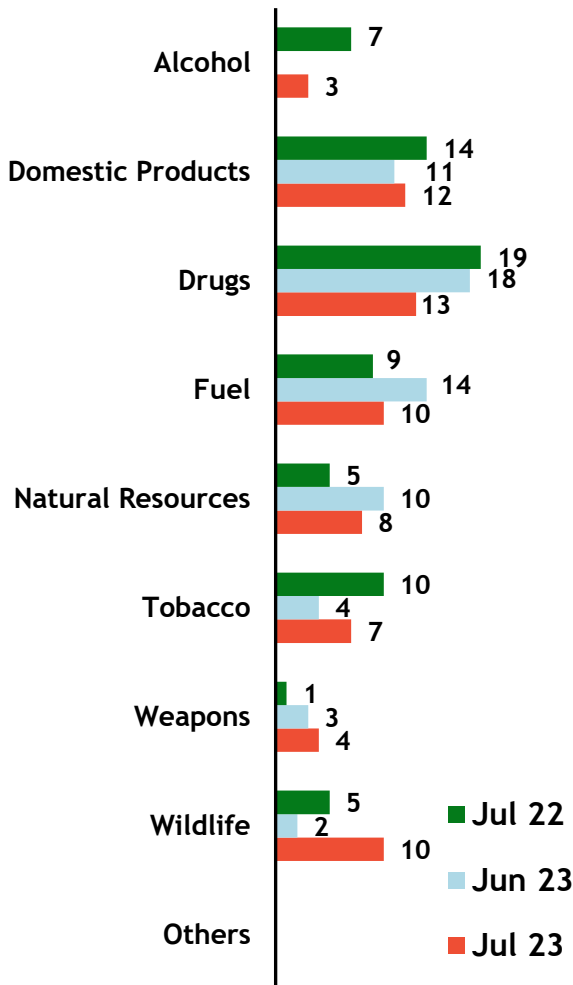
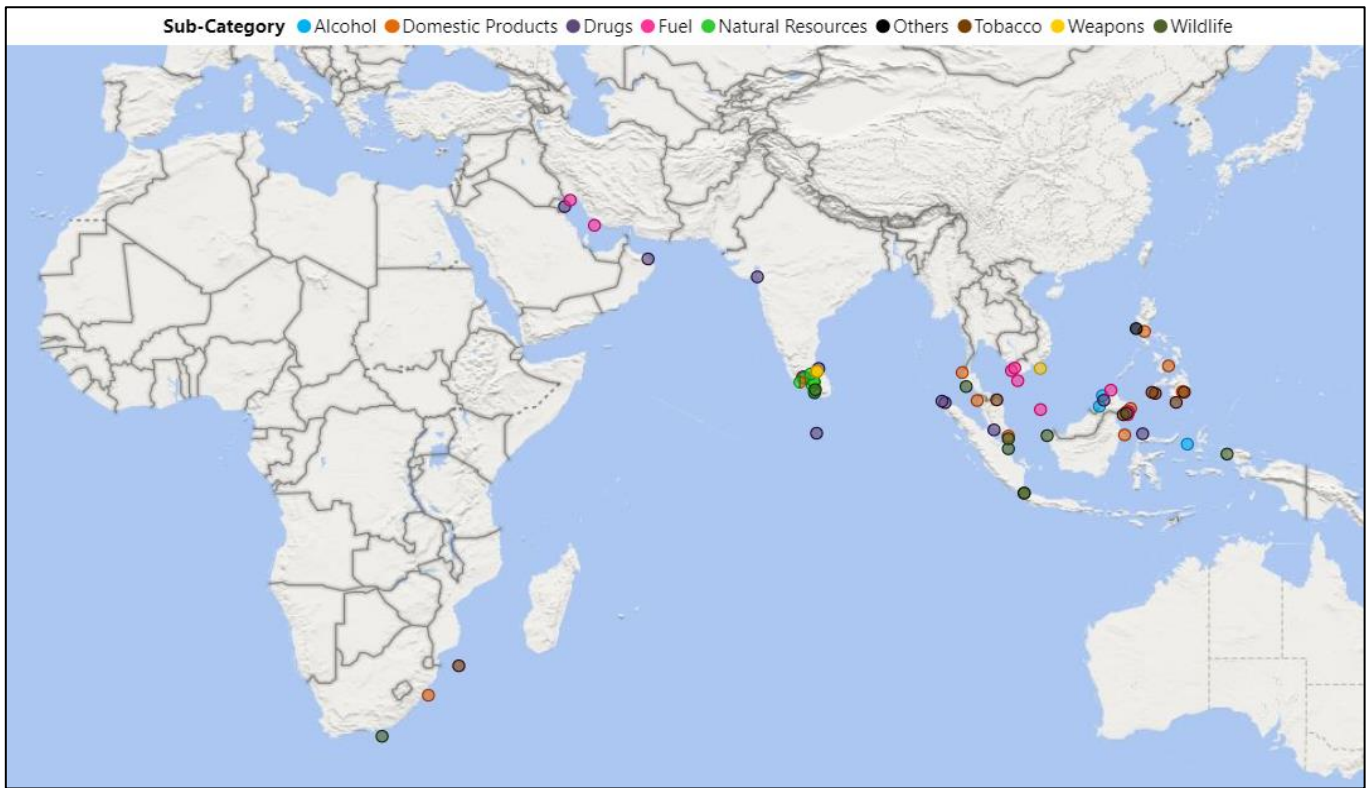
South China Sea - One incident each of attempted sea theft, sea theft and sea robbery was recorded off the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia respectively. The incident of sea robbery was reported onboard Isle of Man flagged product tanker *EDZARD SCHULTE* at Tarahan anchorage, Indonesia. Three perpetrators armed with knives boarded the vessel while at anchor and escaped with the ship's properties. All crew members and the vessel were reported to be safe.

Bay Of Bengal - One incident of sea robbery was reported onboard two fishing trawlers off Bhola's Tazumuddin and Noakhali, Bangladesh. In this incident, ten perpetrators armed with guns and sharp weapons boarded the fishing trawlers while engaged in fishing. The perpetrators escaped with the trawler's items. Two fishermen were injured in this incident.

East Africa - Two incidents of sea theft were reported off Mauritius and one at Beira Anchorage, Mozambique. The perpetrators were observed boarding the vessels at anchorage/ alongside. Ship's properties were reported to be stolen in these incidents.

Java Sea - One incident of attempted sea theft was reported onboard Marshall Islands flagged LPG carrier *MARIANNA GOLDEN* at Tanjung Priok Anchorage, Indonesia.

CONTRABAND SMUGGLING



67 contraband smuggling incidents were recorded by the Centre in the month of Jul 23, a slight increase of 8% from Jun 23 (62 incidents). Drug smuggling constituted the highest reported incidents, followed by domestic products, fuel, wildlife, natural resource and tobacco smuggling. A detailed analysis of sub-categories of Contraband Smuggling is enumerated in succeeding paragraphs.

Drugs - 13 drug seizure incidents were recorded, with five incidents reported inside ports and harbours (300 kg of cannabis, 117 kg of methamphetamine, one million Captagon pills and 10 kg of hashish). The balance eight incidents were reported at sea (641 kg of cannabis and 166 kg of methamphetamine).

Domestic Products - 12 domestic product smuggling incidents were recorded this month. These comprised five incidents off Malaysia, four incidents off Philippines and one incident each off Thailand, Indonesia and South Africa. The domestic products seized in these incidents involved cooking oil, shoes, bags, kerosene oil, cars, cellphones, rubber sheet, clothes, sugar, white onions, counterfeit products and frozen chicken. The incidents involving smuggling of domestic products mostly involved small vessels.

Fuel - 10 incidents of fuel smuggling involving seizures of about 272,569 metric tons of crude oil 3,21,000 L of diesel and 81,150 L of petrol fuel were recorded. These comprised three incidents each off Malaysia and Vietnam, two incidents off Iran and one incident each off India and Indonesia.

Wildlife - 10 incidents of wildlife smuggling were recorded by the Centre, comprising six incidents off Indonesia and one incident each off Malaysia, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The species seized in these incidents were birds, lobsters, cockles, cockerels, turtle eggs, turtle meat and abalones.

Natural Resources - Eight incidents of natural resource smuggling were recorded, comprising five incidents off Sri Lanka and three incidents off India. The seizures involved 4,870 kg of kendu leaves and 17.4 kg of gold.

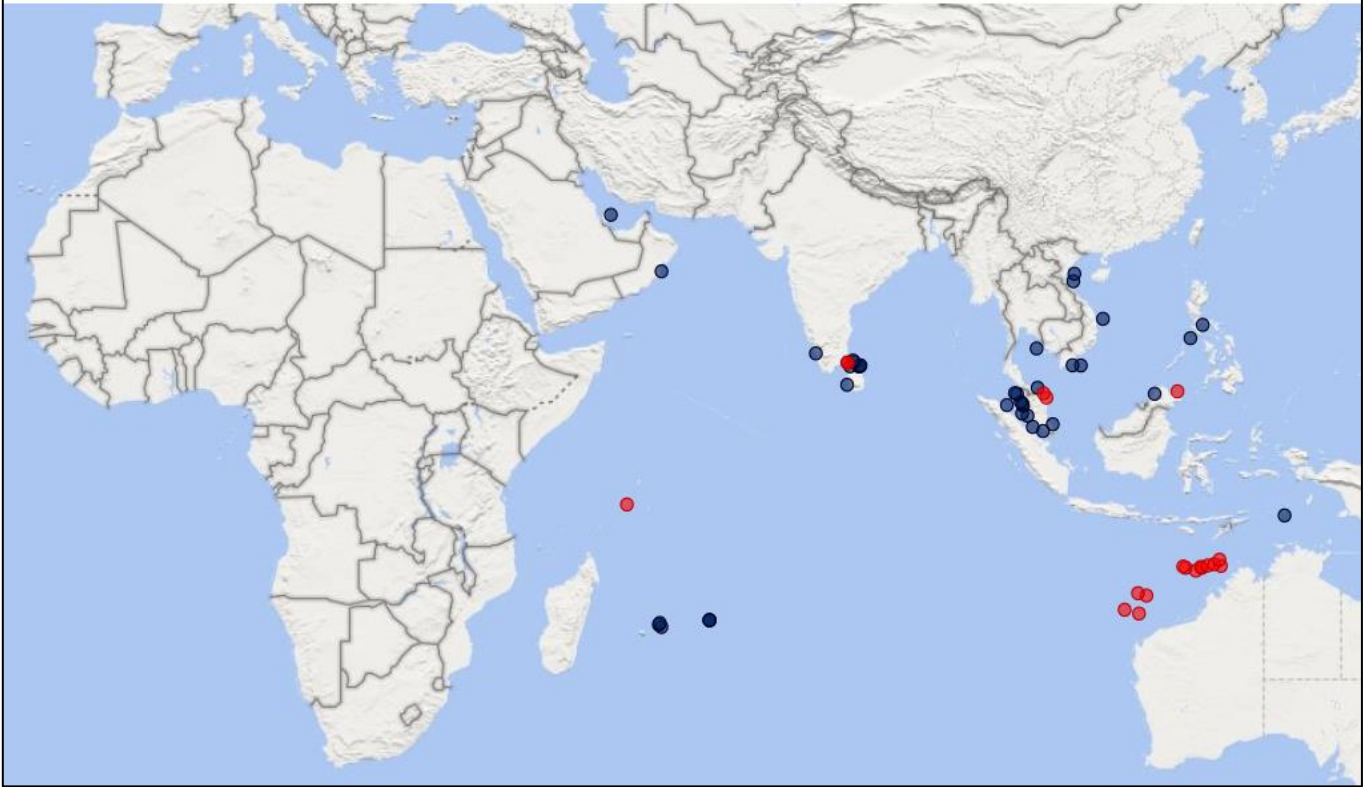
Tobacco - Seven incidents of tobacco smuggling were recorded, comprising four incidents off Philippines, two incidents off Malaysia and one incident off Mozambique. A total of 4,23,340 packets and 2.5 million sticks of cigarettes were seized in these incidents.

Weapons - Four incidents of weapon smuggling were recorded, comprising three incidents off Sri Lanka and one incident off Vietnam. The types of seizures included, non-electric detonators and water gel sticks. These explosives were likely to be utilised for blast fishing.

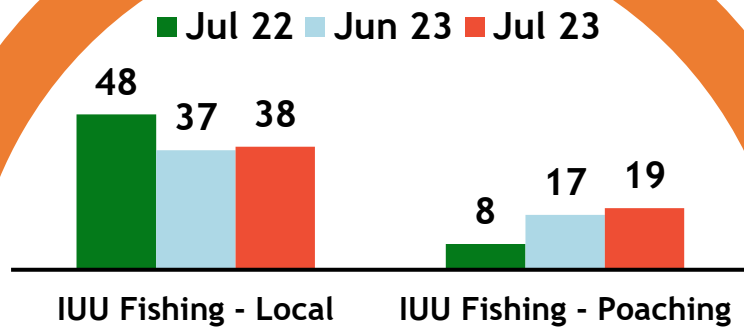
Alcohol - Three incidents of alcohol smuggling were recorded, comprising two incidents off Malaysia and one incident off Indonesia. The seizures in these incidents included beer and 19800 L of liquor.

ILLEGAL UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING

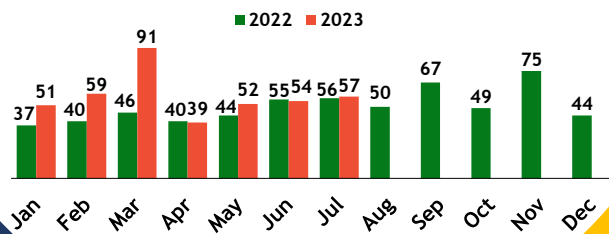
Sub-Category ● IUU Fishing - Local ● IUU Fishing - Poaching



SE Asia, 38



Comparison of Incidents



West Asia, 2

East Africa, 6

South Asia, 11

57 IUU fishing incidents were recorded by the Centre in Jul 23, a slight increase of 5% compared to Jun 23 (54 incidents). 38 incidents were of local IUU fishing and 19 incidents of poaching. 95 fishing vessels and 392 fishers involved were apprehended in IUU fishing this month. The total fish catch recorded was 9,739 kg, of which Malaysian authorities seized 4,300 kg. A seizure of approximately 792 m banned nets was also reported off Mauritius.

Local IUU Fishing - Out of 38 incidents of local IUU fishing, 11 incidents were reported off Malaysia, seven off Sri Lanka, six off Mauritius, five off Vietnam, two each off Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines and one each off India, Qatar and Oman. Most of these incidents were related to license violations by local and foreign fishermen, illegal fishing techniques and fishing of banned species.

Poaching - 19 incidents involving foreign fishing vessels were recorded, comprising 13 off Australia, three off Malaysia, two off Sri Lanka and one off Seychelles. The interdiction of foreign fishing trawlers by authorities across the region was observed due to robust surveillance, timely information sharing, coordinated patrols and adequate focus on the pertinent issue of poaching. 229 fishers were apprehended in poaching incidents and 23 boats were seized by the authorities.

95  Fishing Vessels Involved

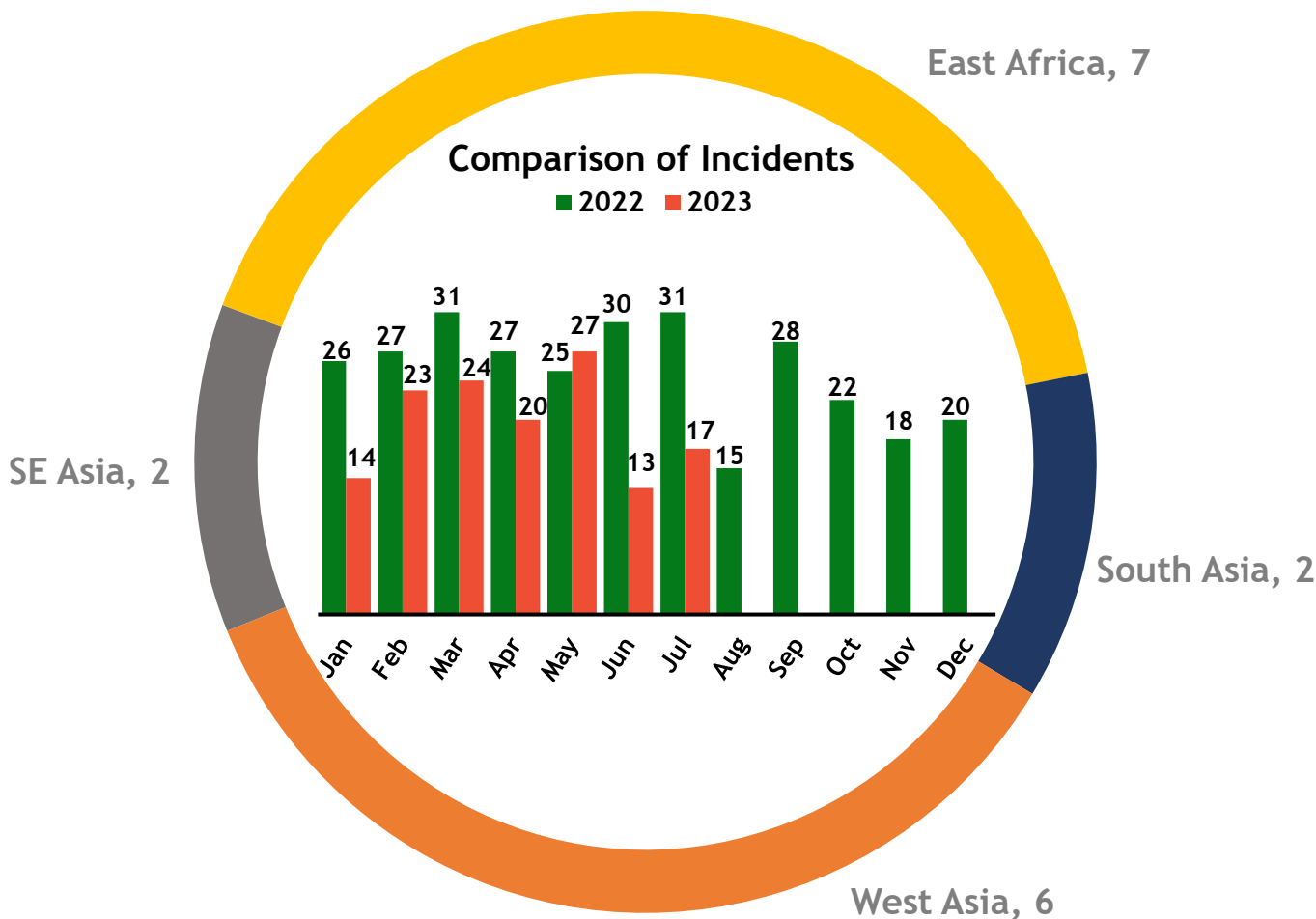
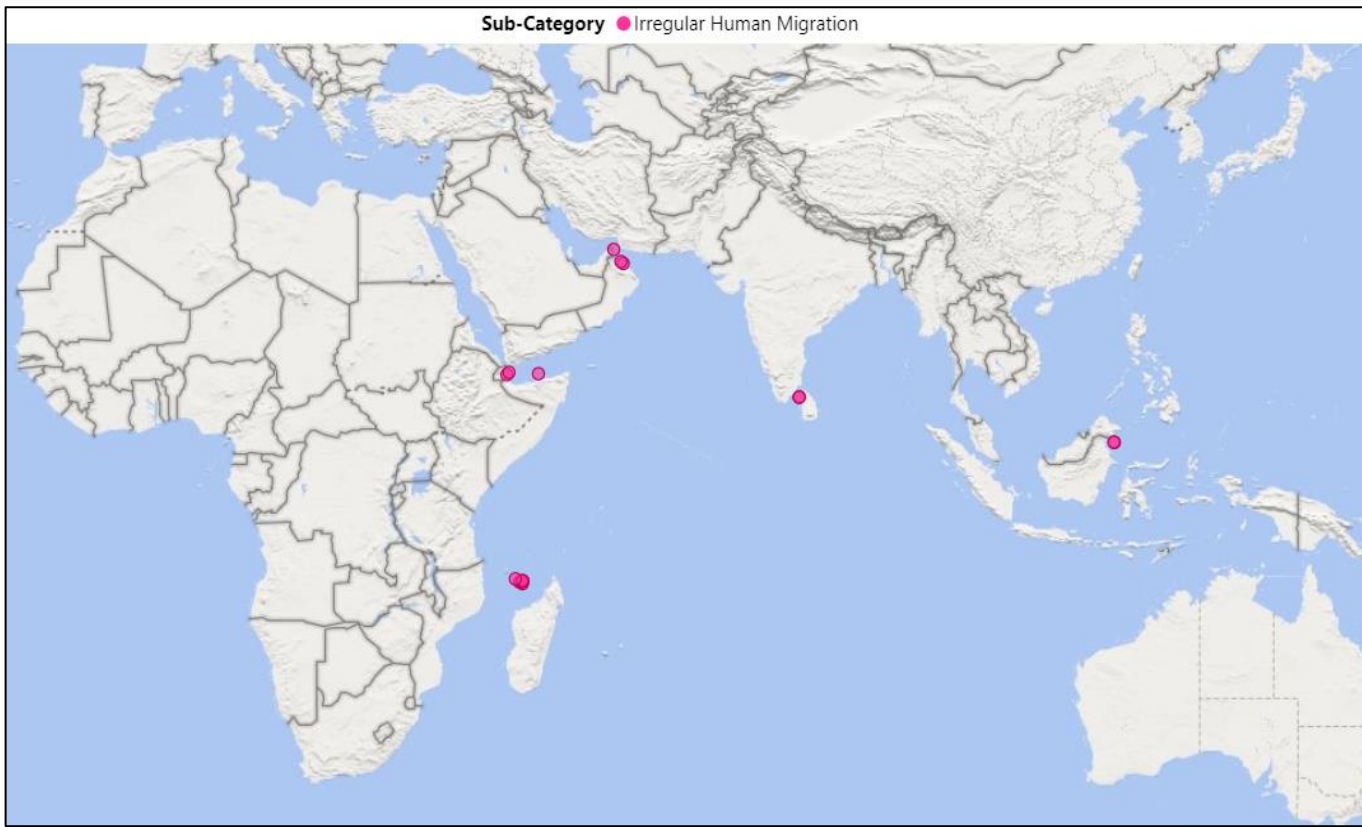
Fishers Involved  **392**



Fishing Bans Monitored

Region	Duration	Remarks
Oman	01 Dec 22 - 31 Aug 23	Shrimp
India (East/ West Coast)	01 Jun - 31 Jul 23	All Fishing
Bangladesh	20 May - 23 Jul 23	All Fishing
Thailand	15 Jun - 30 Sep 23	All Fishing

IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION



IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION

17 IHM incidents were recorded by the Centre in Jul 23, a 31% increase from Jun 23 (13 incidents). These comprised six incidents off Mayotte, three incidents each off Oman and Djibouti, two incidents each off Malaysia and India and one incident off Comoros. Migrants were observed using small boats.

Mayotte - The incidents reported off Mayotte involved detaining of traditional local boats, “kwassa-kwassa”, along with suspected smugglers and irregular migrants. A total of 469 irregular migrants and 20 suspected smugglers were rescued/ apprehended. No migrants were reported missing or dead and 43 boats were seized in these incidents.

Significant Incidents

- On 01 Jul 23, Djibouti authorities rescued 395 irregular migrants (including 100 females) and apprehended an unknown number of smugglers from a boat off Sept Frères, Djibouti.
- On 10 Jul 23, a boat (kwassa-kwassa) with 25 irregular migrants capsized off Moya, Comoros. Reportedly, 16 migrants were rescued by the Comoros authorities, four lost their lives and five went missing. The migrants were attempting to reach Mayotte illegally via sea route.



Rescued/
Apprehended

1102



Missing

05



Dead

04



Smugglers
Apprehended

22



Boats

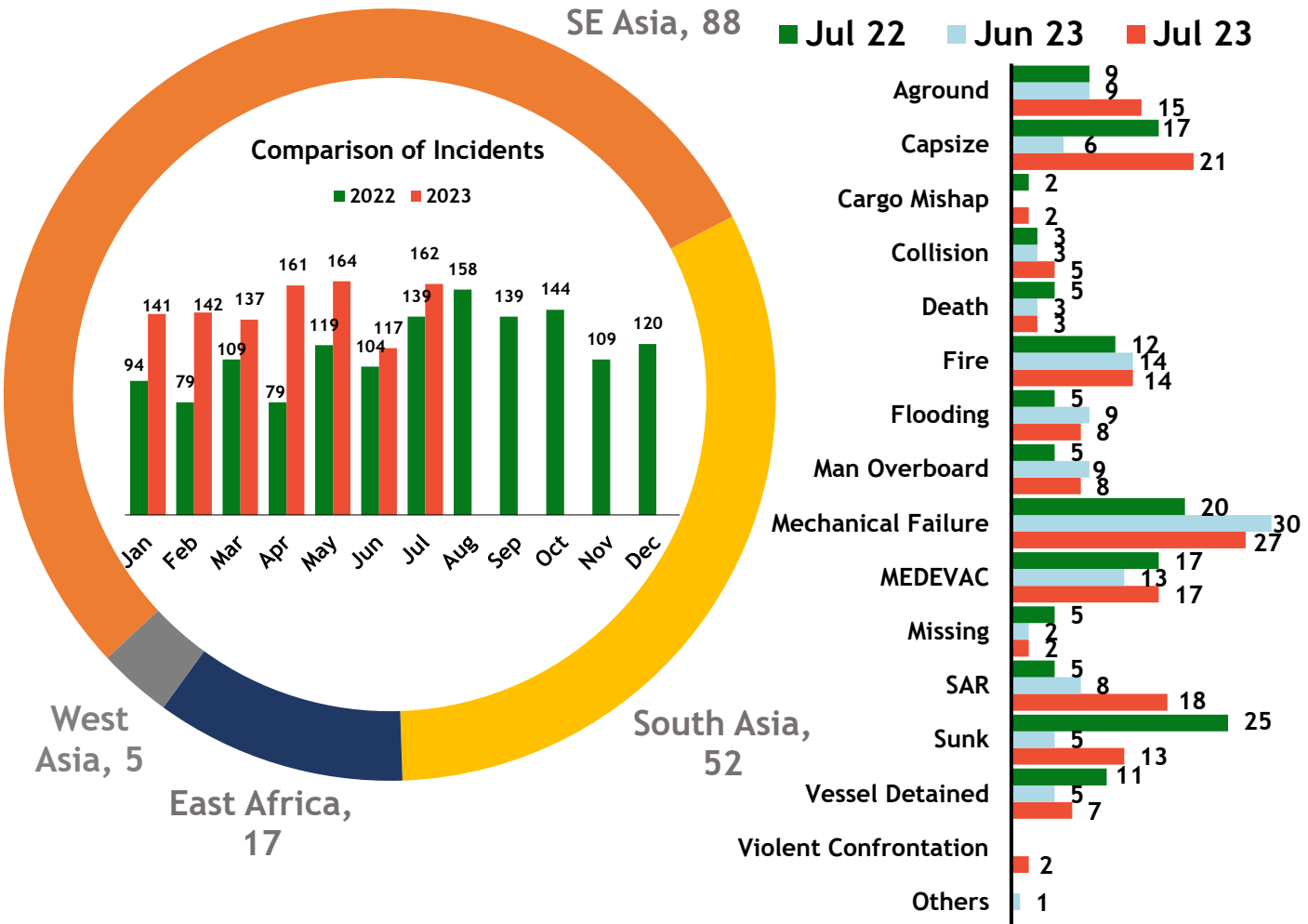
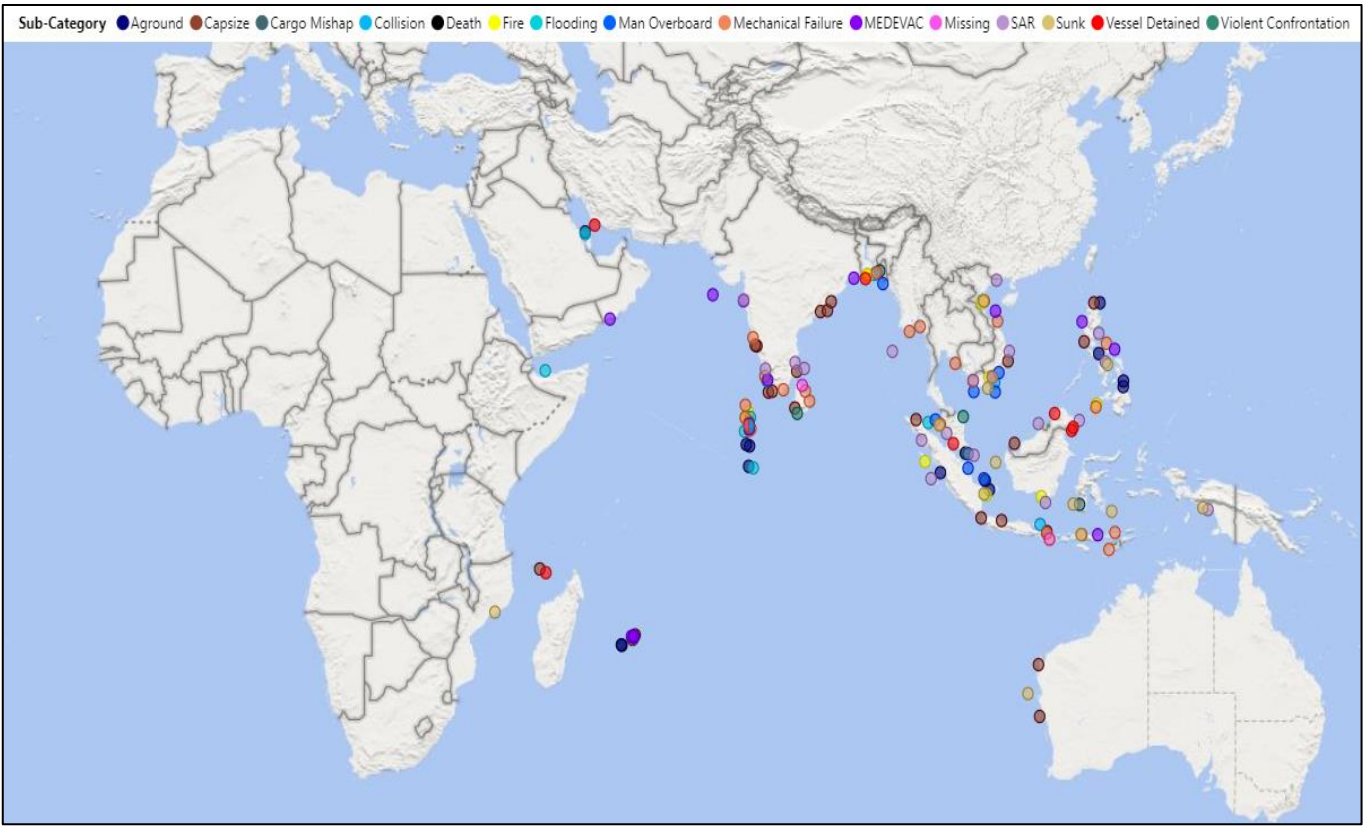
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Migration Trends

Region	No. Of Incidents	Rescued/ Apprehended	Missing	Dead	Smugglers Apprehended	Boats Involved
East Africa	07	485	05	4	20	44
West Asia	06	593	-	-	02	06
South Asia	02	12	-	-	-	-
South East Asia	02	12	-	-	-	07

MARITIME INCIDENTS



MARITIME INCIDENTS

162 maritime incidents were recorded by the Centre for Jul 23, a 38% increase compared to Jun 23 (117 incidents). Mechanical failure constituted the highest number of reported incidents, followed by capsizes, SAR, MEDEVAC and aground incidents. Four out of seven incidents of vessel detention were recorded off Malaysia in Jul 23. Reportedly, all these vessels were operating without valid documentation.

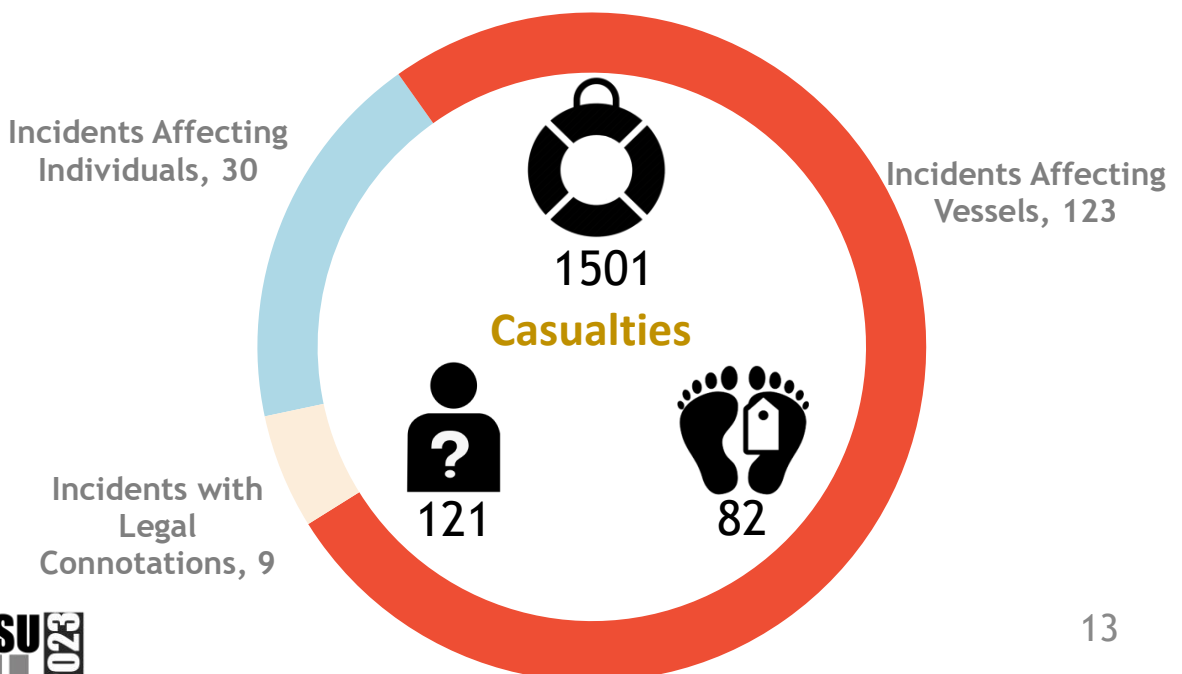
Aground - 15 incidents of vessels running aground (seven incidents in the Indian Ocean, three incidents in the Sulu Sea and one incident each in the South China Sea, Philippine Sea, Persian Gulf, Malacca Strait and Java Sea), a 67% increase compared to Jun 23 (nine incidents) was recorded. No oil leak was reported in any of these incidents and all crew members were safe.

Capsize and Sinking of Vessels - 21 incidents of capsizes and 13 incidents of vessels sinking at sea were recorded during the month, a marginal increase from Jun 23 (six incidents of capsizes and five incidents of sinking of vessels). Fishing vessels were involved in majority of capsizing and sinking incidents. A total of 61 lives were lost in these incidents.

MEDEVAC and SAR Operations - The Centre monitored 17 incidents of MEDEVAC and 18 incidents of SAR operations undertaken by various maritime agencies. The combined SAR and MEDEVAC saw a 75% increase from Jun 23 (20 incidents).

Mechanical Failure - 27 mechanical failure incidents were recorded on fishing vessels, passenger ships and cargo vessels, a 10% decrease from Jun 23 (30 incidents). The majority of incidents during this month were reported due to engine failure and running out of fuel. The incidents of mechanical failure are attributable to heavy weather and sub-optimal maintenance of machinery. The defects were mostly rectified by the ship's crew. However, in some incidents, assistance of local authorities was sought by vessels.

Effect of Incidents



OTHER INCIDENTS

Sub-Category ● Marine Environment Pollution



Maritime Security Threats (Hybrid)

No incidents recorded

Marine Environment Pollution

01 incident

- An incident of oil slick was recorded due to a fire in a chemical storage facility off Raffles Marina, Singapore, on 05 Jul 23.

Others

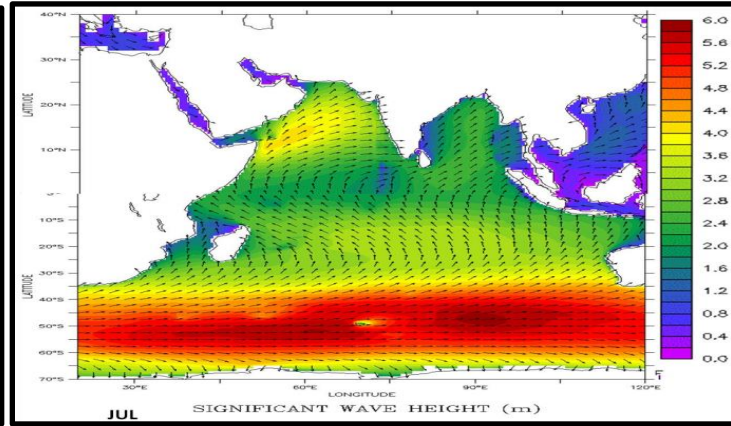
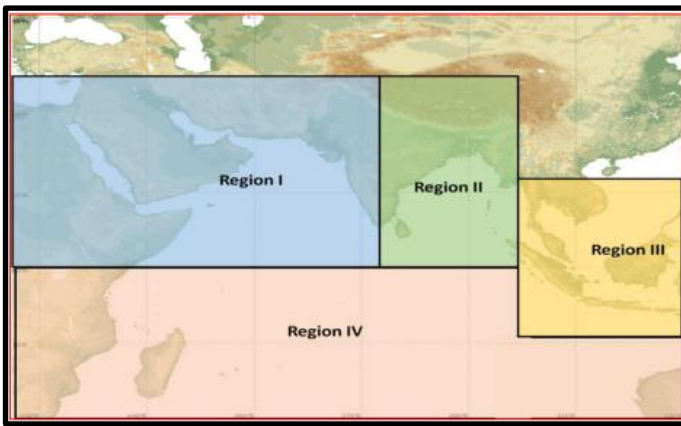
No incidents recorded

Cyber Security Incidents

01 incident recorded

- A ransomware attack by foreign hackers was reported in Japan's biggest maritime port of Nagoya, on 05 Jun 23.

WEATHER FORECAST - AUG 23



Region I: Arabian Sea (AS) - Surface pressure ranging between 1008 -1010 hPa is seen over South Arabian Sea, which gradually decreases to about 1000 -1002 hPa towards the Northern Arabian Sea. The average Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) of about 27 - 28°C prevail over most parts of the Arabian Sea. No cyclonic storms have ever formed over this region during this month. Moderate to Rough Seas (Sea State 4-5) prevail over most parts of the Arabian Sea, reducing to Sea State 2-3 over the Equatorial Indian Ocean.

Region II: Bay of Bengal - The weather systems over the Bay of Bengal (BOB) originate South of latitude 18°N and west of longitude 92°E, gradually tracking WNW ward. The systems forming to the West of long 80°E, tend to curve towards the north. A total of 14 cyclonic disturbances have formed in the Bay during the past 30 years. The probability for intensification of these systems into Severe Cyclonic Storms is very less in this month due to high vertical wind shear. The Average Minimum Surface (Air) Temperature of 28 - 32°C is seen over the Bay of Bengal.

Region III: Southeast Asia - The Mean Sea Level Pressure over the region varies from 1004-1010 hPa. During this month, there is a reduction in swell with a mean height of 0.2 - 1.0 m over most parts of the region. Average Min Surface (Air) Temperatures of 28-32°C are seen over the South China Sea and 20-24°C over the Malacca Strait. The Sea State is around 2 - 5 over most parts of the region.

Region IV: South Indian Ocean - During this month, a maximum Sea Level Pressure of the order of 1024 hPa is seen over the Central parts of the Southern Indian Ocean. High pressure is seen between 25° -35°S and 40° -80°E. The Tropical Disturbances are almost absent in this month. Dry winds are predominant over South Indian Ocean Region and adjoining land masses. The average Minimum Surface (Air) Temperature varies between 20-27°C in Southern IOR. Surface current is maximum off Somalia's coast and is of the order of 0.6-3.1 knots.

Note. The above weather report is also published on the IFC-IOR website and available at the below link for quick download and reference.

https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/ifc-ior/static/data/reports/weather/Weather_Forecast_Aug_23.pdf

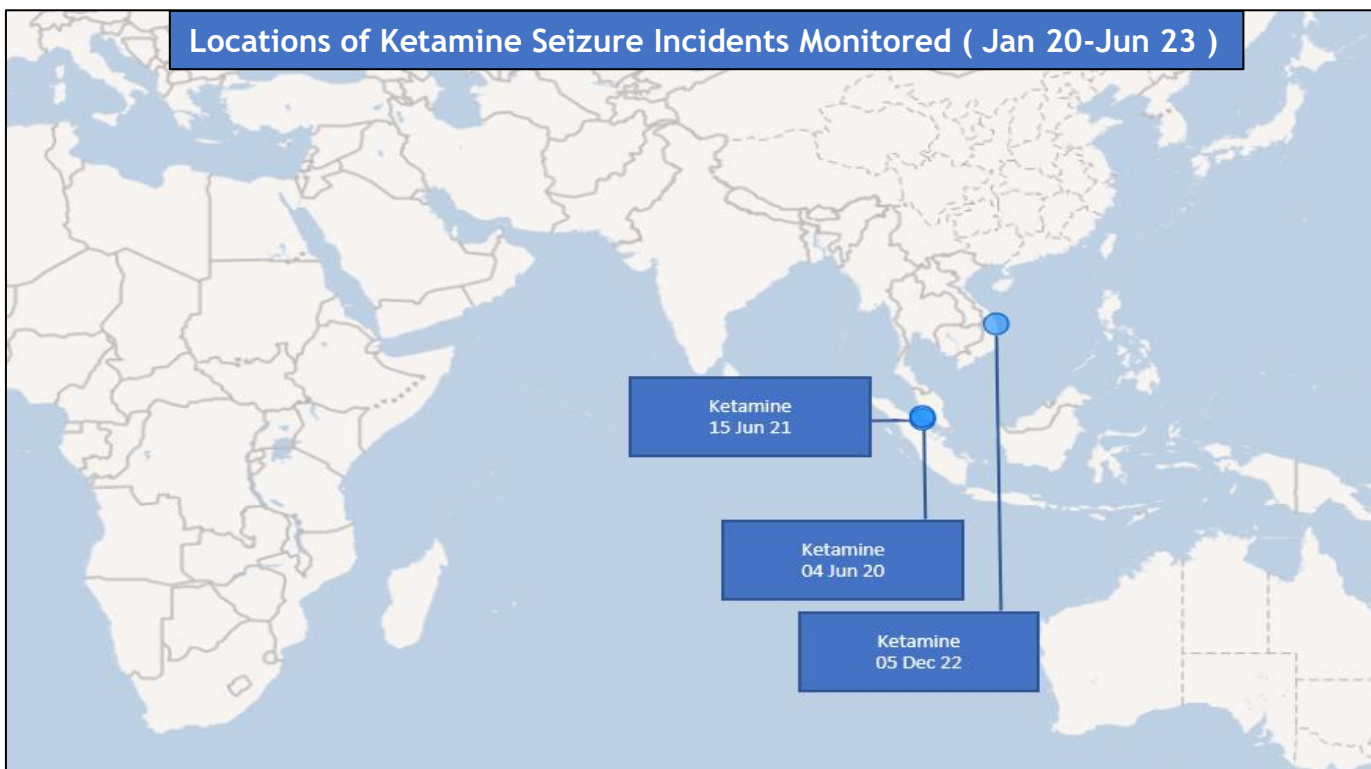
• Australia Authorities Seized Ketamine from Two Commercial Vans

In a joint operation, the Australian Border Force (ABF) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP) seized 84 kilograms of ketamine from two new commercial vans that were imported from Japan. The drugs were concealed inside the panels of the vans in vacuum-sealed bags and had an estimated street value of \$3.36 million. Two persons were arrested and charged with attempting to possess a commercial quantity of the unlawfully imported border-controlled drug. This significant drug seizure has prevented a large quantity of ketamine from reaching the streets of Australia.

What is Ketamine? - Ketamine is a dissociative anaesthetic that has some hallucinogenic effects. Ketamine can induce a state of sedation (feeling calm and relaxed), immobility, relief from pain, and amnesia (no memory of events while under the influence of the drug) and is abused for the dissociative sensations and hallucinogenic effects. Ketamine has also been used to facilitate sexual assault. The various street names for Ketamine are Cat Tranquilizer, Cat Valium, Jet K, Kit Kat, Purple, Special K, Special La Coke, Super Acid, Super K, Vitamin K etc. It is abused by injecting, mixing with liquids, powder that is snorted, mixed in drinks, or smoked.

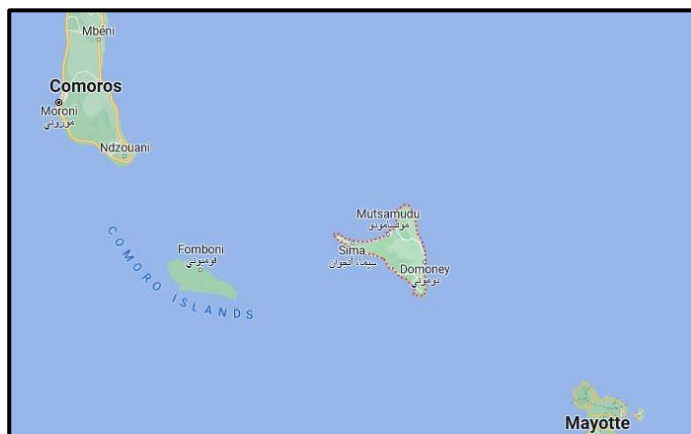
IFC-IOR Comments. IFC-IOR has monitored just three incidents involving the seizure of ketamine between 2020-2023. These cases were recorded on 04 Jun 20 off Klang Port, Malaysia (2500 kg of Ketamine worth USD 23.5 million), on 15 Jan 21 off Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (100 kg of Ketamine worth USD 1.5 million) and on 05 Dec 22 off Pho Chau, Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam (20 kg of Ketamine worth USD 0.3 million).

Locations of Ketamine Seizure Incidents Monitored (Jan 20-Jun 23)



- **Network of Smugglers Dismantled by France Authorities - Mayotte**

French authorities have arrested two main masterminds of a smuggling network that organised illegal crossings between Mayotte and Anjouan, Comoros. The network is estimated to have brought 32,000 Comorian nationals to Mayotte in the past two years, charging between €300 and €500 per person. The network operated between two and five trips per day, using kwassa-kwassas (small boats). The network was also involved in trafficking goods such as contraband and possibly even human trafficking.



IFC-IOR Comments. IFC-IOR monitored 30 incidents of irregular human migration involving the transport of migrants between Jan - Jun 23 off Mayotte. During this period, the Centre recorded apprehensions of 3311 migrants and 209 smugglers with the seizure of 288 kwassa-kwassa boats.

- **Southeast Asia’s Dark Fleet and the Consequences for Legitimate Traders**

The International Maritime Organisation classifies ship-to-ship transfers in the open ocean as a “dangerous practice”. The Legal Committee has observed that between 300 and 600 tankers worldwide operate as a ‘dark fleet’ or ‘shadow fleet’, increasing the risk of oil spills and collisions. Law enforcement agencies in Southeast Asia continue to monitor activities closely, as evidenced in the stream of arrests and detentions of persons and vessels caught with unauthorised ship-to-ship transfers in the region’s waters.



IFC-IOR Comments. IFC-IOR monitored 74 incidents of fuel smuggling cases in South East Asia in which 51 cases of diesel smuggling and seven cases of petrol fuel smuggling were recorded between Jan - Jun 23, involving the seizure of 58,17,945 L of diesel worth USD 56,32,894 and 7,18,969 L of petrol worth USD 9,91,029. Fuel smuggling incidents recorded include smuggling subsidised fuel across national boundaries using small tankers and converted cargo/ fishing vessels.

• India Inaugurates 'SAGAR SAMPARK' Differential Global Navigation Satellite System to Strengthen the Maritime Sector

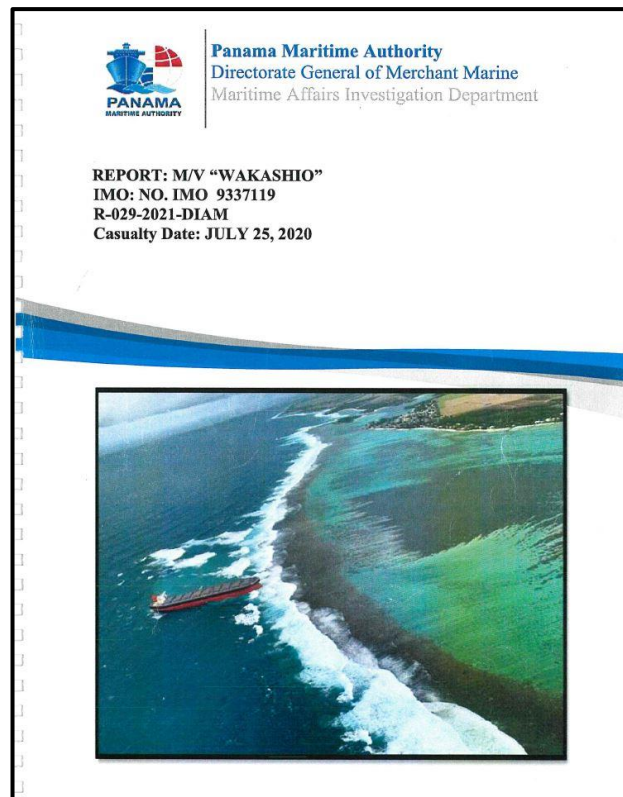
The Indian Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has inaugurated 'SAGAR SAMPARK', which marks a significant step towards digital transformation in the maritime industry. **SAGAR SAMPARK** is an indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS) which corrects the errors and inaccuracies in the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), allowing for more accurate positioning information. The DGNSS launch at 06 locations will enhance the capability of the Director General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL) in the field of Radio Aids to Marine Navigation. The error correction accuracy has been improved from 5 to 10 meters to less than 5 meters upto 100 nautical miles from Indian coastline.



• MV WAKASHIO investigation Report Made Public By Panama Maritime Authority

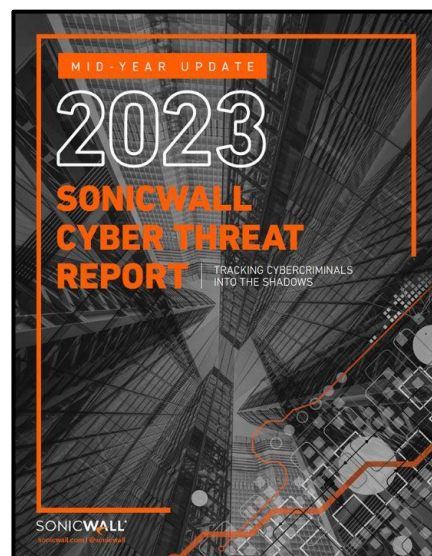
Panama Maritime Authority Investigation Report, made public three years after the grounding of *MV WAKASHIO*, highlights the following: -

- The captain and his subordinates were responsible for the accident.
- There was a "lack of vigilance" and poor anticipation of the risk by the crew. The sinking was caused because of the "human factor".
- Lack of safety awareness by the Bridge team.
- Lack of recognition and implementation of voyage rules.
- The most probable cause was that the bridge team didn't see the risk when the vessel was passing five miles south of Mauritius and was distracted by looking for a signal on mobile to communicate with their families.



• Ransomware Surges 74% in Quarter 2 (Apr-Jun) - SonicWall Report

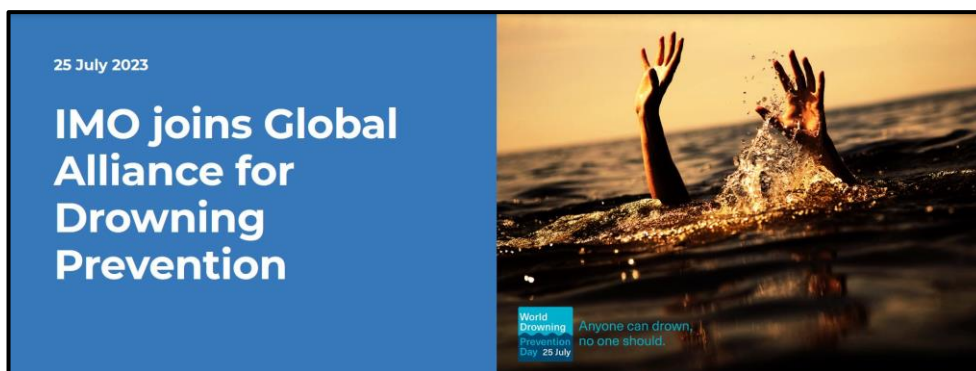
The cybersecurity company SonicWall's Mid-Year Cyber Threat Report documented a 74% increase in ransomware attacks in Q2 compared to Q1, amounting to a total of 88.9 million ransomware attacks during Q2 (Apr-Jun) of 2023. Despite the recent increase, ransomware attacks overall have declined by 41% as compared to H1-22. The drop in numbers compared to 2022 are largely due to heightened law enforcement scrutiny and takedown operations. Cyber-criminals are shifting to "pure extortion attacks", where cyber-criminals threaten victims with data leaks which makes the attack harder to detect, and bypasses traditional ransomware detection mechanisms.



IFC-IOR Comments. IFC-IOR monitored eight incidents of ransomware attacks during Jan-Jun 23. The major ransomware attacks monitored are as follows:-

- Ransomware attack on German shipyard - Apr 23.
- Ransomware attack on US Navy infrastructure - May 23.
- Ransomware attack on shipping websites, Israel - Jun 23.
- Ransomware & DDoS attacks on port websites, Netherlands - Jun 23.

• Global Initiative for Drowning Prevention



IMO has joined a new global initiative led by the World Health Organization (WHO) to address preventable deaths from drowning. The Global Alliance for Drowning Prevention (GADP) was launched at an event in Geneva to mark UN World Drowning Prevention Day, to be held each year on 25 July. The Alliance is a network of partners who will work together to coordinate, strengthen, enhance and expand efforts to prevent drowning deaths, aligned with WHO's priorities. The Alliance operates under the principles of alignment and coordination, agility and responsiveness, driving country-level action, transparency, evidence-based approaches and coordination among interested parties. According to the WHO, an estimated 236,000 people die from drowning each year, with 90% of these deaths happening in low- and middle-income countries. The Alliance will develop a Global Drowning Prevention Strategy and strengthen partner coordination and collaboration.

INFORMATION/EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Yemeni Fishermen Freed from Eritrean Detention

80 Yemeni fishermen were freed by Eritrea after three months of detention. The Yemeni fishing boats were intercepted in the territorial waters of Eritrea. The detained fishermen were released after a request made by the Yemeni embassy in Asmara, but the boats and fishing equipment remain confiscated.



VISIT




Visit of Maj Gen T Brandon, Deputy Chief of Staff for Intel, Armed Forces, Philippines - 12 Jul 23

*** End of Report ***



Scan to Access
Working Definitions used for Maritime Safety and
Security Incidents


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