



MONTHLY MARITIME SECURITY UPDATE

OCT 2022

**Information Fusion Centre
Indian Ocean Region**

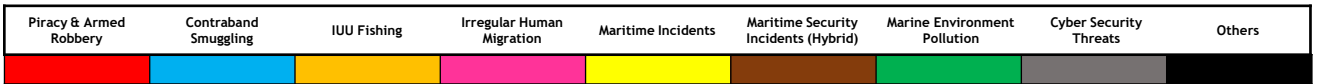
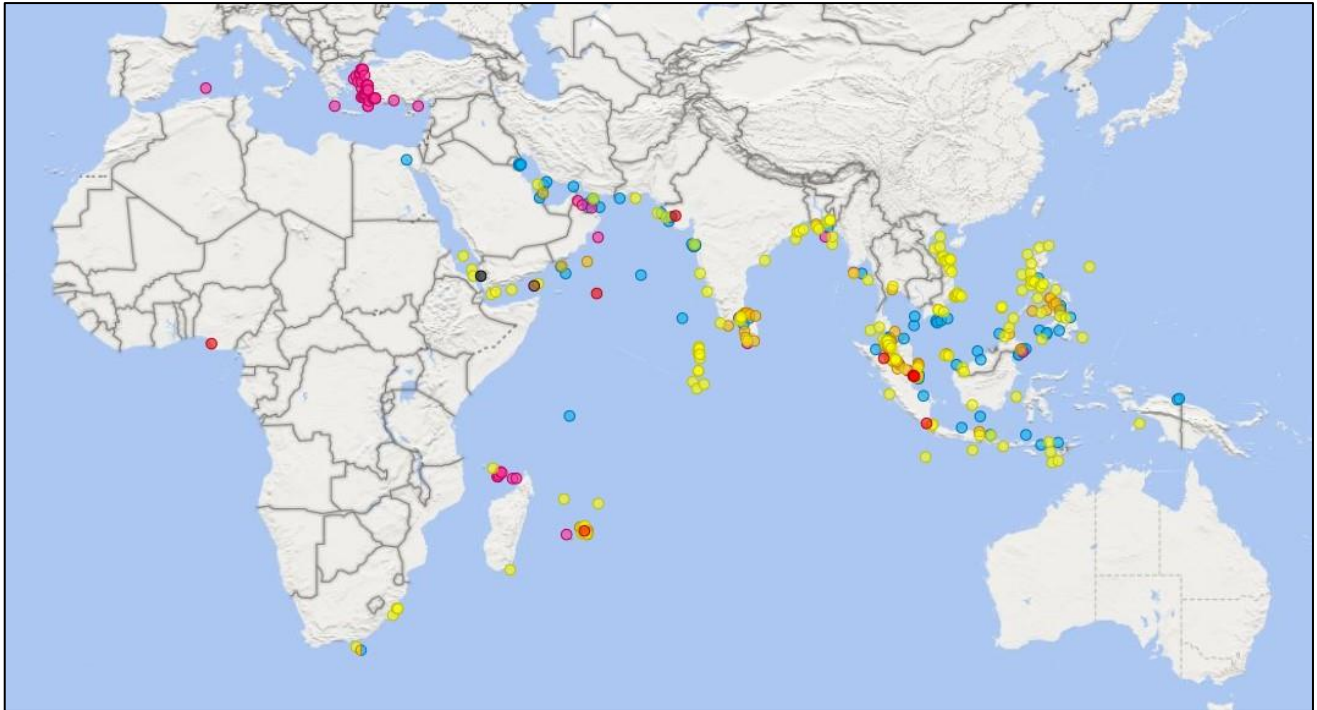


Collaboration for Safety and Security

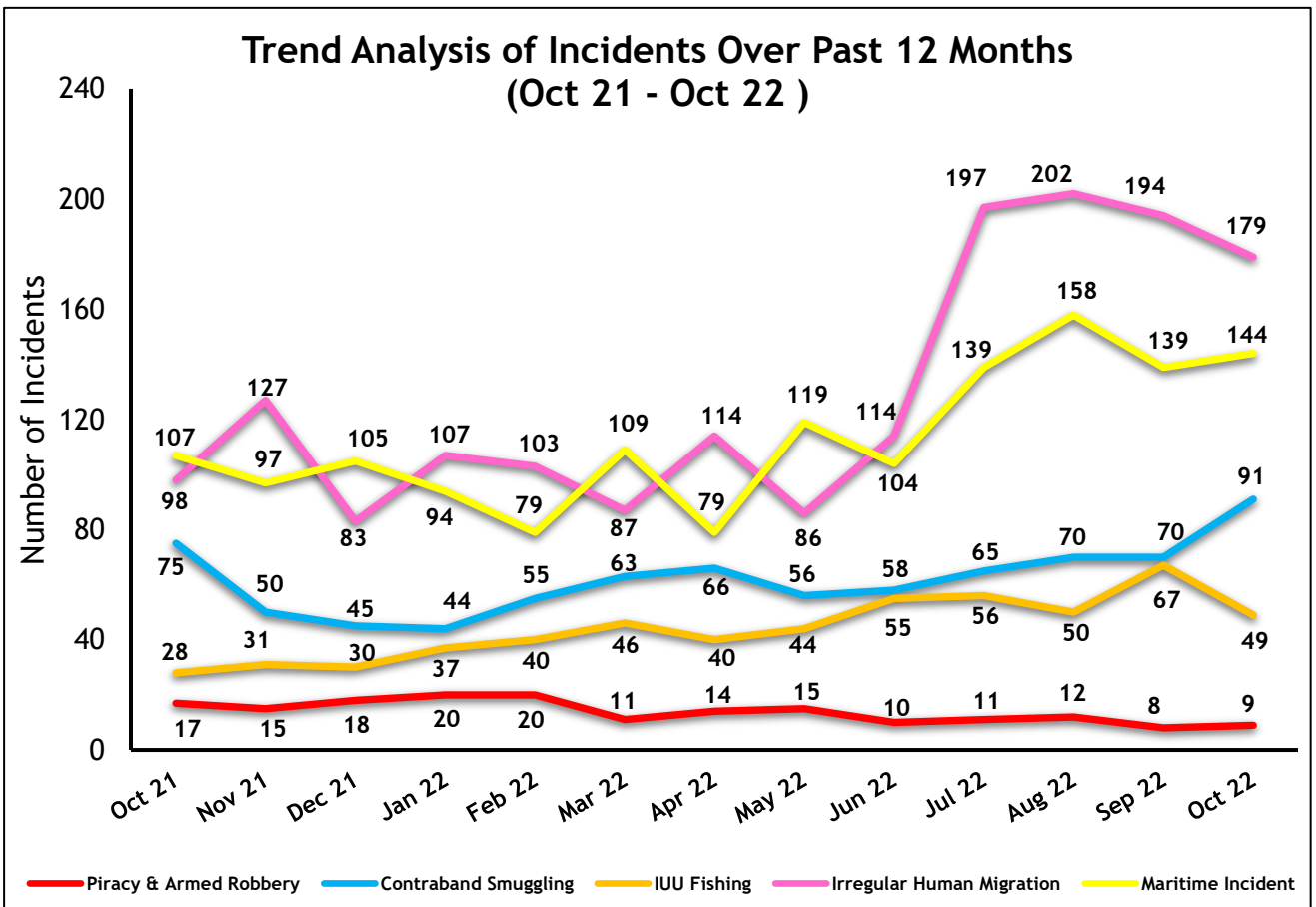
Disclaimer

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.

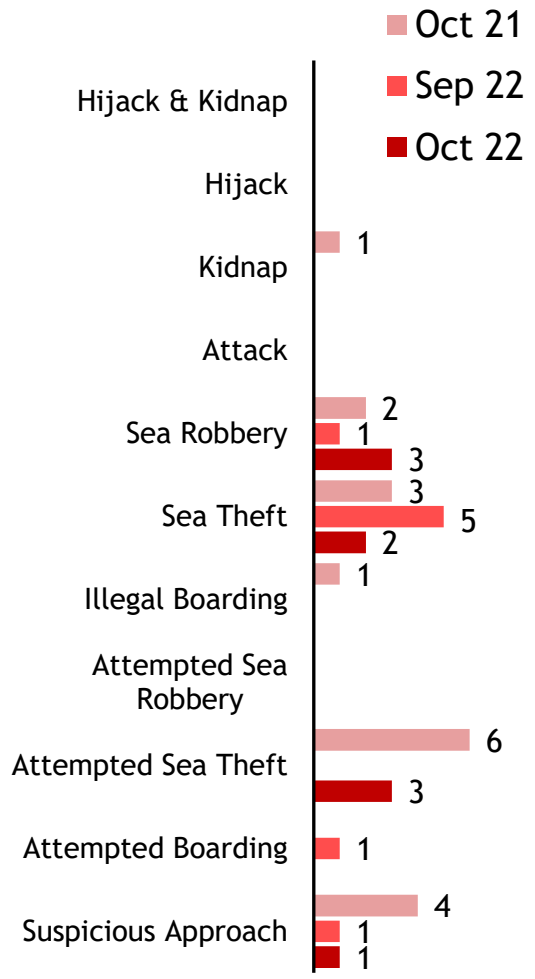
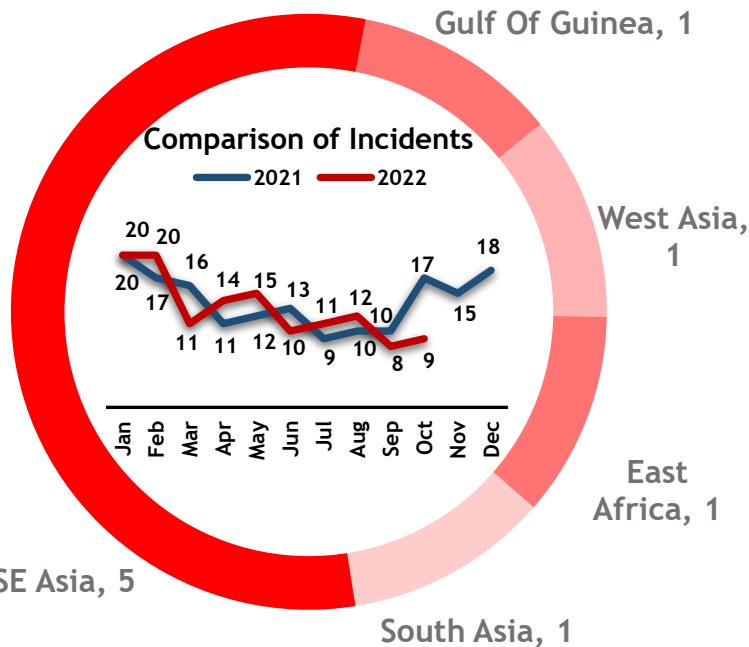
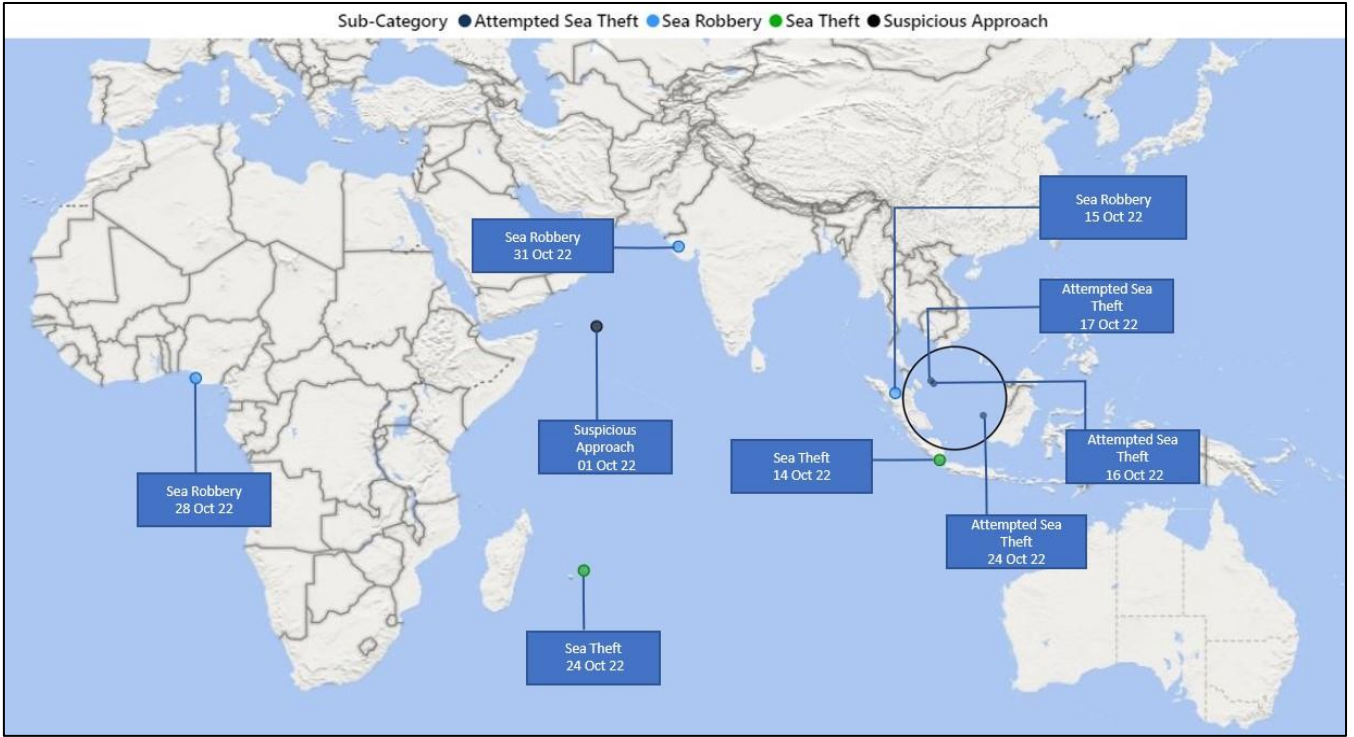
Overview



* GoG - Focus on only Piracy & Armed Robbery incidents; Mediterranean - Focus on only IHM incidents



PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY



09 piracy and armed robbery incidents (actual as well as attempted) were recorded by the Centre for the month of Oct 22. This was a marginal increase in the number of incidents as compared to Sep 22 and 47% decrease from Oct 21. A total of three incidents each of sea robbery and attempted sea theft and two incidents of sea theft and one incident of suspicious approach was recorded by the Centre. A total of seven incidents occurred during night and two incidents in day time.

SOMS - During the month of Oct 22, three incidents of attempted sea theft were reported in the Eastbound Lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) and Precautionary Area of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS). These incidents involved boarding of vessels by the preparators whilst underway, however all crew and vessel was reported to be safe and nothing stolen. The number of perpetrators varied from minimum of three to maximum of five.

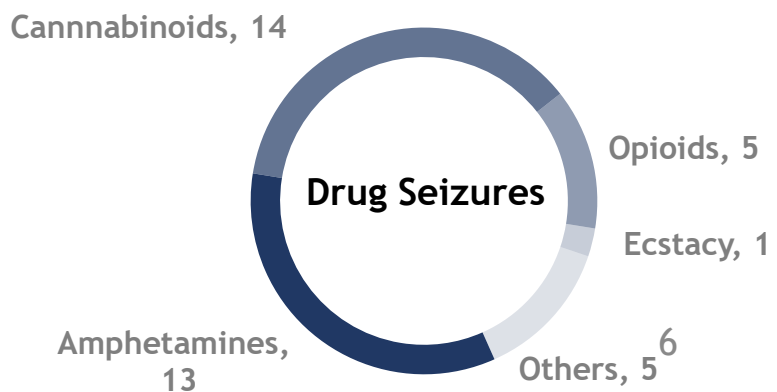
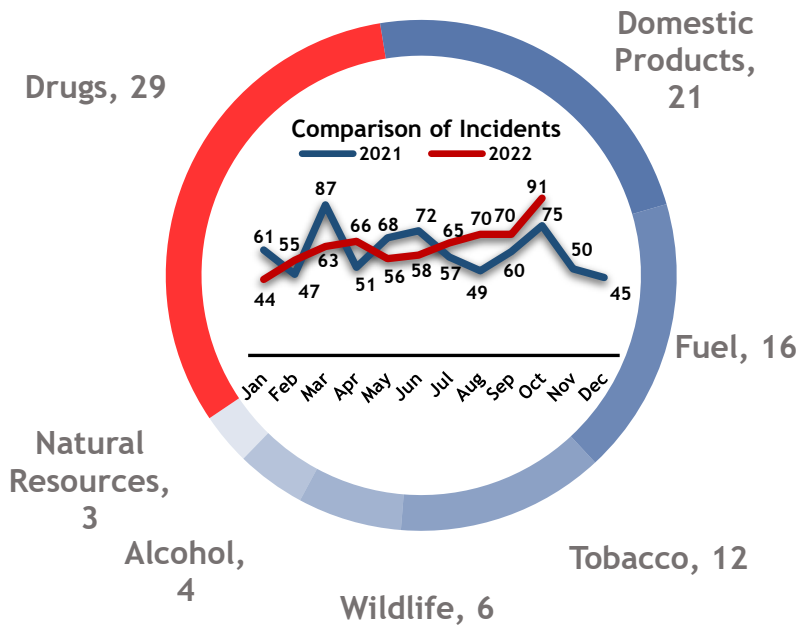
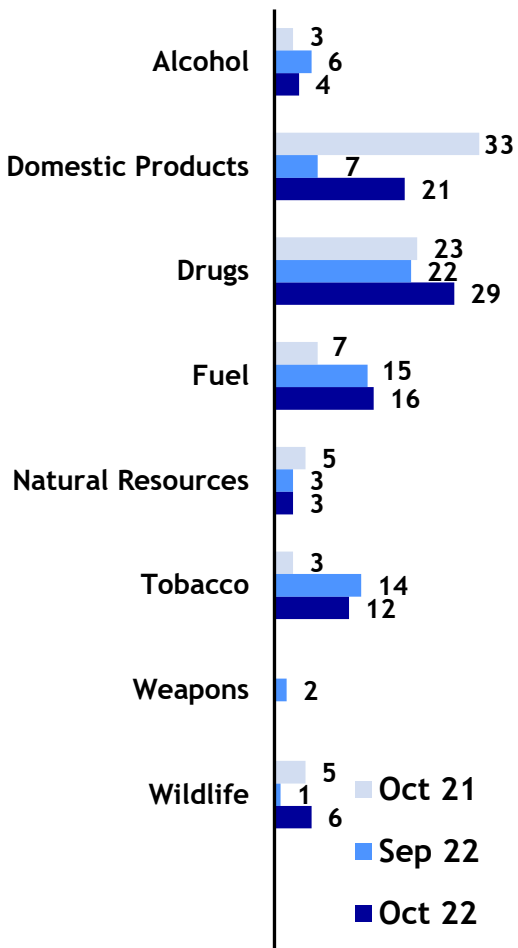
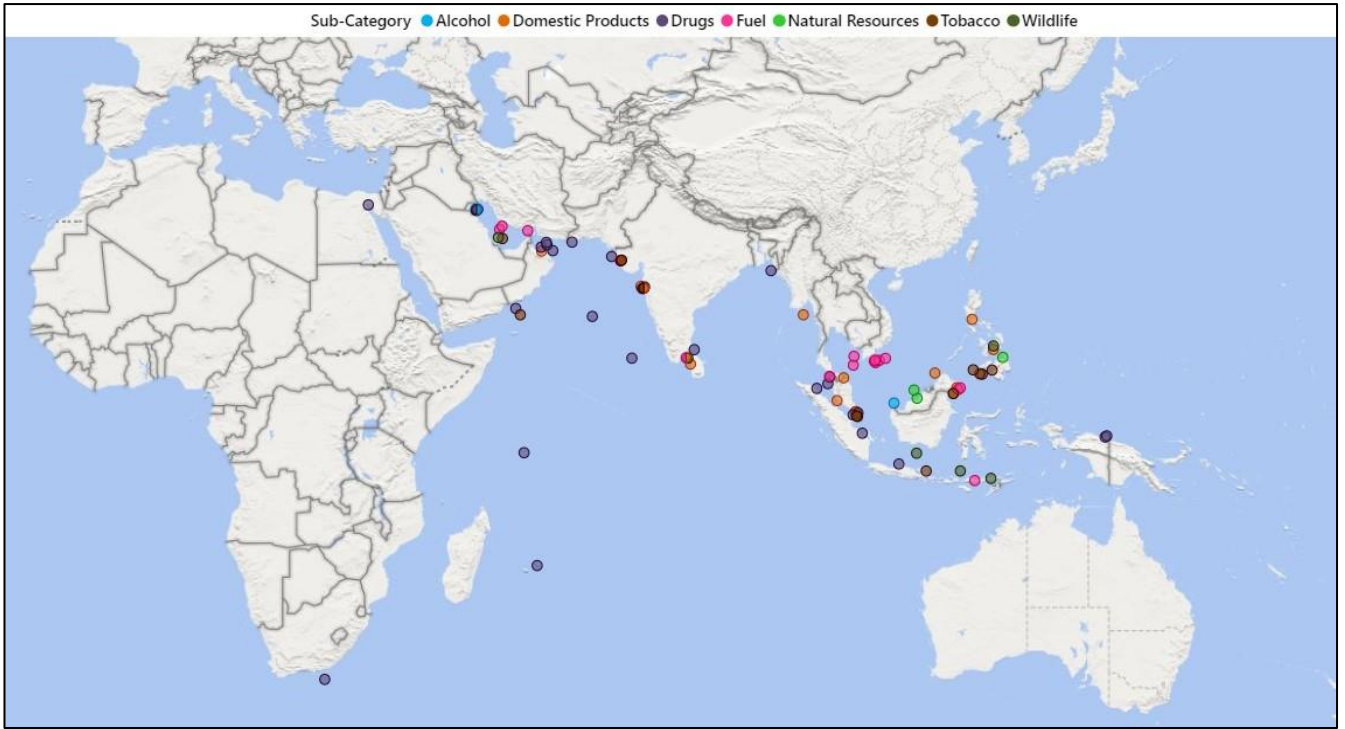
Malacca Strait - One incident each of sea robbery and sea theft was recorded off Indonesia in the Malacca Strait in Oct 22. The incident of sea robbery on a fishing vessel involved perpetrators armed with airsoft gun type weapons. Subsequently, Indonesian authorities were reported to have recovered the stolen items and apprehended three perpetrators, while two more perpetrators eluded capture. The incident of sea theft was discovered onboard a bulk carrier at Panjang anchorage, Indonesia.

Arabian Sea - The incidents of sea robbery and suspicious approach was recorded in Arabian Sea during the month of Oct 22. The incident of sea robbery was reported onboard a chemical tanker wherein six perpetrators armed with knives / rods whilst the vessel was anchored off Kandla, India. Reportedly perpetrators escaped with some engine spares. The incident of suspicious approach was reported by a fishing vessel in North West Arabian Sea. All crew member were reported to be safe in both the incidents

Gulf of Guinea - One incident of sea robbery was recorded in GoG in Oct 22. An offshore supply ship was boarded by unknown number of armed perpetrators whilst at anchor off Escarvos river, Nigeria. Reportedly the crew members were forced to transfer US \$ 3, 200 via their phones. Two crew members were wounded in this incident.

Indian Ocean - One incident of sea theft was recorded in Indian Ocean, off Mauritius in Oct 22. The incident involved a pleasure craft which was boarded by an unknown number perpetrators, whilst moored inside the lagoon at Pointe Calou, Trou D'eau Douce. The perpetrators reportedly escaped with ship's properties which included harness cable, battery cable and an anchor.

CONTRABAND SMUGGLING



91 contraband smuggling incidents were recorded by the Centre in the month of Oct 22, an 30% increase from Sep 22 (70 incidents). Drug smuggling constituted 32% of the recorded incidents, followed by domestic products and fuel smuggling.

Drugs - 29 drug seizure incidents were recorded in Oct 22, a 32% increase from Sep 22. A total of 21 incidents of drug seizures were reported inside ports, primarily hidden inside containers/ vehicles and smuggled via sea route.

Domestic Products - 21 incidents of domestic product smuggling were recorded in Oct 22, which comprised eight incidents each off Malaysia, India and two incidents off Philippines and one incident each off Myanmar, Oman and Sri Lanka. The domestic products seized in these incidents involved 1258 kg of cooking oil, 1680 kg and 76 containers of sugar, 27 LPG cylinders, 32 MT of Kiwis, 23 T of frozen beef, 32.5 T of frozen meat , 427 kg of Kendu leaves and 750 kg of turmeric.

Fuel - 16 incidents of fuel smuggling involving seizure of about 12,000 MT of fuel were recorded in Oct 22. These comprised of eight incidents off Vietnam, three incidents off Iran and one incident each off Indonesia, Thailand, India, Philippines and Malaysia. The seizure of a tanker in Persian Gulf with about 11 million liters of oil accounted for majority of the seized fuel.

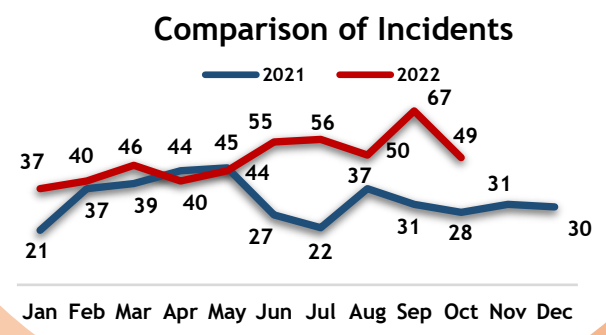
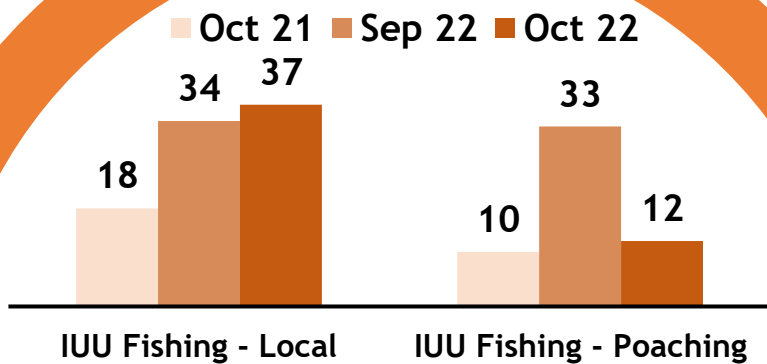
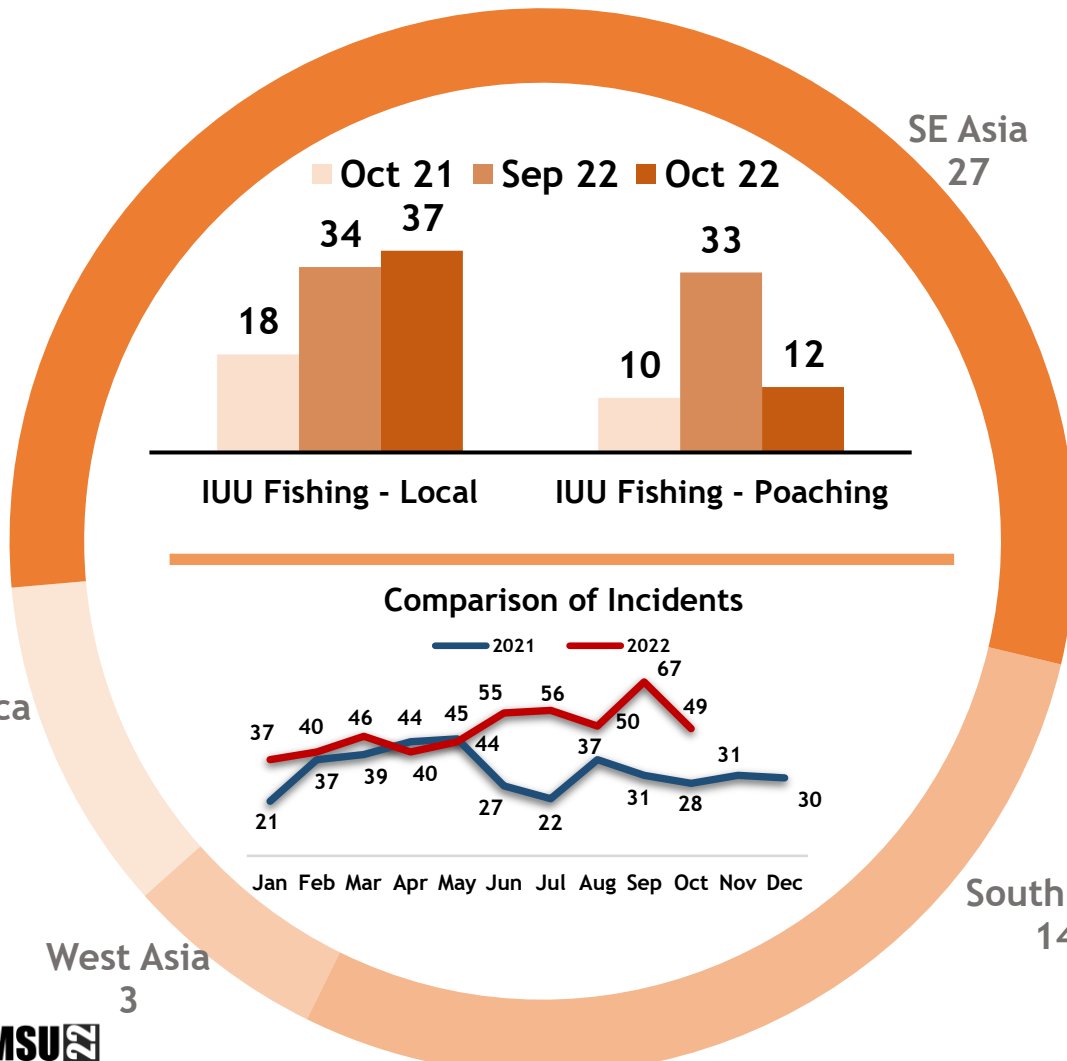
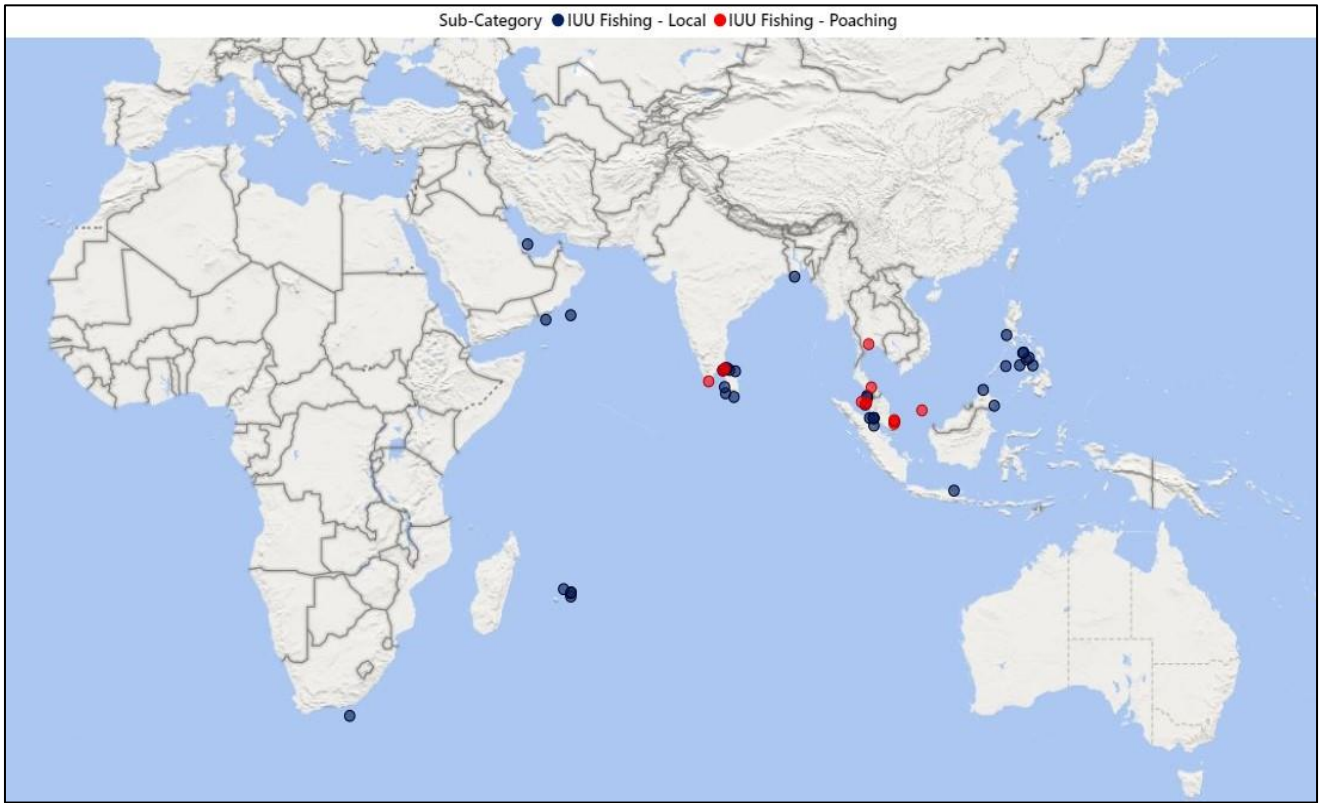
Tobacco - 12 incidents of tobacco smuggling were recorded by the Centre in Oct 22, which comprised of four incidents off Philippines, two incidents each off Indonesia, Malaysia and India, one incident each off Qatar and Oman. A total of 3,397 pieces of e-cigarettes, 7,337 kgs of tobacco and cigarettes worth more than 1.5 million was seized during this month.

Wildlife - Six incidents of wildlife smuggling was recorded by the Centre in Oct 22, which comprised of three incidents off Indonesia and one incident each off India, Philippines and Qatar. The species seized in this incident was sea cucumbers, Sea Weed, Giant Clams, Turtles, Cows, birds and Deer Antlers.

Alcohol - Four incidents of alcohol smuggling were recorded by the Centre in Oct 22, which comprised of three incidents off Indonesia and one incident off Kuwait. A total of 47, 970 bottles of alcohol were seized in these incidents.

Natural Resources - Three incidents of natural resource smuggling were recorded by the Centre in Oct 22, which comprised of two incidents off Malaysia and one incident off Philippines. All three incidents recorded, involved transport of wooden logs or lumber, without a permit.

ILLEGAL UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING



49 IUU fishing incidents were recorded by the Centre for the month of Oct 22, a decrease of about 27% from Sep 22 (67 incidents). A major decrease was observed in the number of poaching incidents as compared to Sep 22. A total of 59 fishing vessels, 225 fishers were involved in IUU fishing during the month of Oct 22. The total quantity of fish catch accounts to 4, 638 tonnes, out of which 4,633 tons were seized from a single vessel by South African authorities. Seizure of banned nets accounting to approximately 8,800 km were also recorded in these incidents.

Local IUU Fishing - Out of 37 incidents of local IUU fishing, 10 incidents were reported off Sri Lanka, nine incidents off Malaysia, eight incidents off Philippines, four incidents off Mauritius, two incidents off Oman and one incident each off Bangladesh, Qatar, Indonesia and South Africa. The arrests and subsequent legal actions by the local agencies were aimed to curb illegal fishing using banned nets, trawling, without valid documents and fishing inside protected areas. Some fishers were also apprehended for fishing banned/protected species.

Poaching - 12 incidents of Poaching by foreign fishing vessels were recorded. Apprehension of foreign fishers undertaking poaching in waters of another country were reported in Malaysia (six incidents), Sri Lanka and Thailand (two incidents each), India and Indonesia (one incident each).

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Fishing Vessels Involved

Fishers Involved

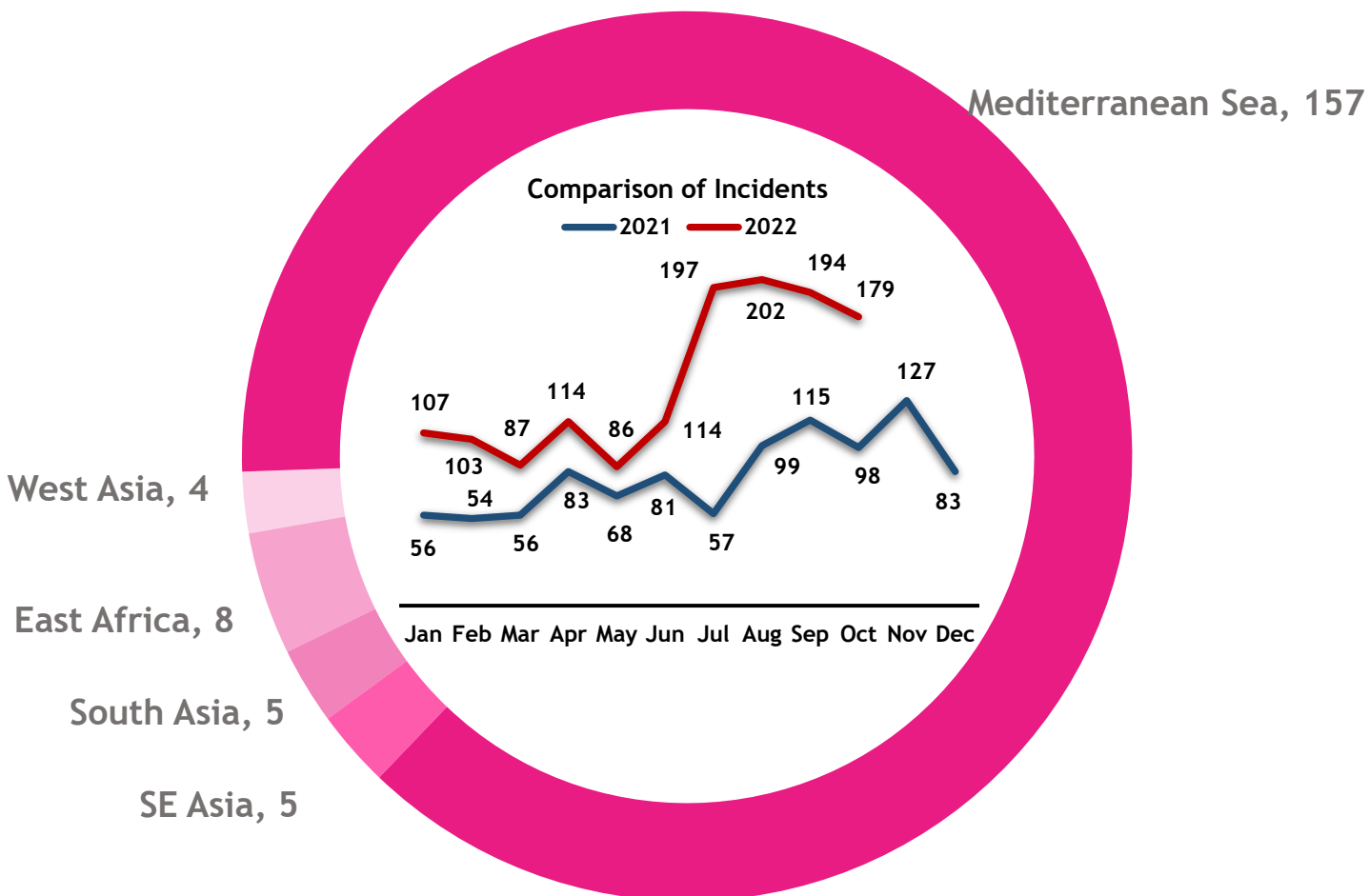
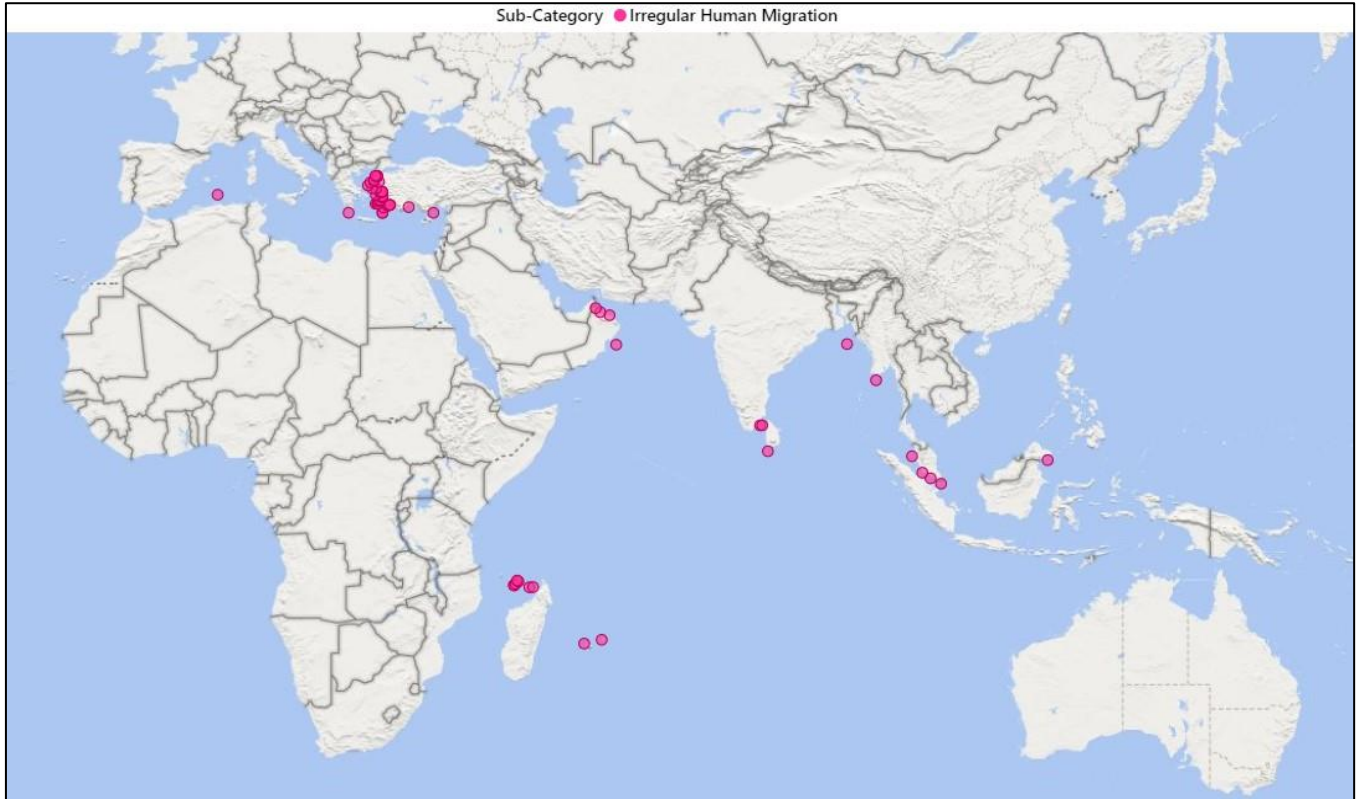


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Fishing Bans Monitored

Region	Duration	Remarks
Oman	15 Aug - 15 Oct 22	Kingfish
Mauritius	15 Aug - 15 Oct 22	Octopus
South Africa	01 Sep 22 - 14 Jan 23	African Penguin
Bangladesh	07 - 28 Oct 22	Hilsa
Seychelles	15 Oct 22 - 14 Jun 23	White Teat Fish

IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION



179 IHM incidents were recorded by the Centre in Oct 22, a 8% decrease from Sep 22 (194 incidents) and a 83% increase from the 98 incidents recorded in Oct 21. The increase could be attributed to enhanced reporting and favourable weather conditions in the Mediterranean. About 88% of the recorded incidents occurred in the Mediterranean region. Five incidents off Mayotte, four incidents each off Oman and Malaysia, two incidents off India and one incident each off Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Reunion and Mauritius constituted the rest.

Mayotte - The Centre recorded five incidents of migrant crossings off Mayotte in Oct 22, as compared to 04 incidents in Sep 22. The incidents involved detaining of traditional local boats “kwassa-kwassa” along with suspected smugglers and irregular migrants.

Mediterranean - 157 incidents were recorded in the Mediterranean in Oct 22, a slight drop from 167 incidents recorded in Sep 22. 154 incidents were recorded off Türkiye, two incidents off Greece and one incident off Spain. The large number of incidents recorded in the *Eastern route* may be attributable to periodic publication of granular data by some of the countries in the region.



Rescued/
Apprehended

6,216



Missing

106



Dead

15



Smugglers
Apprehended

75



Boats

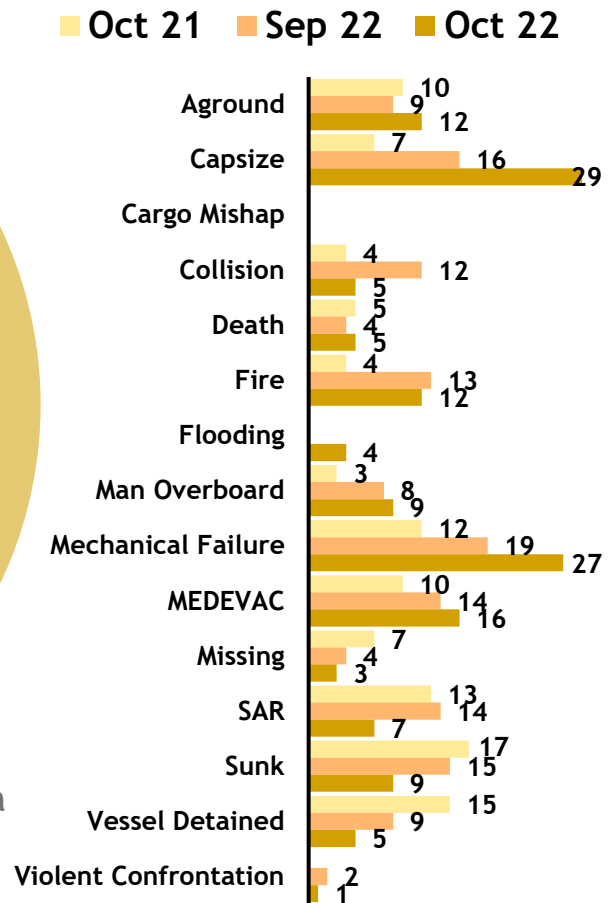
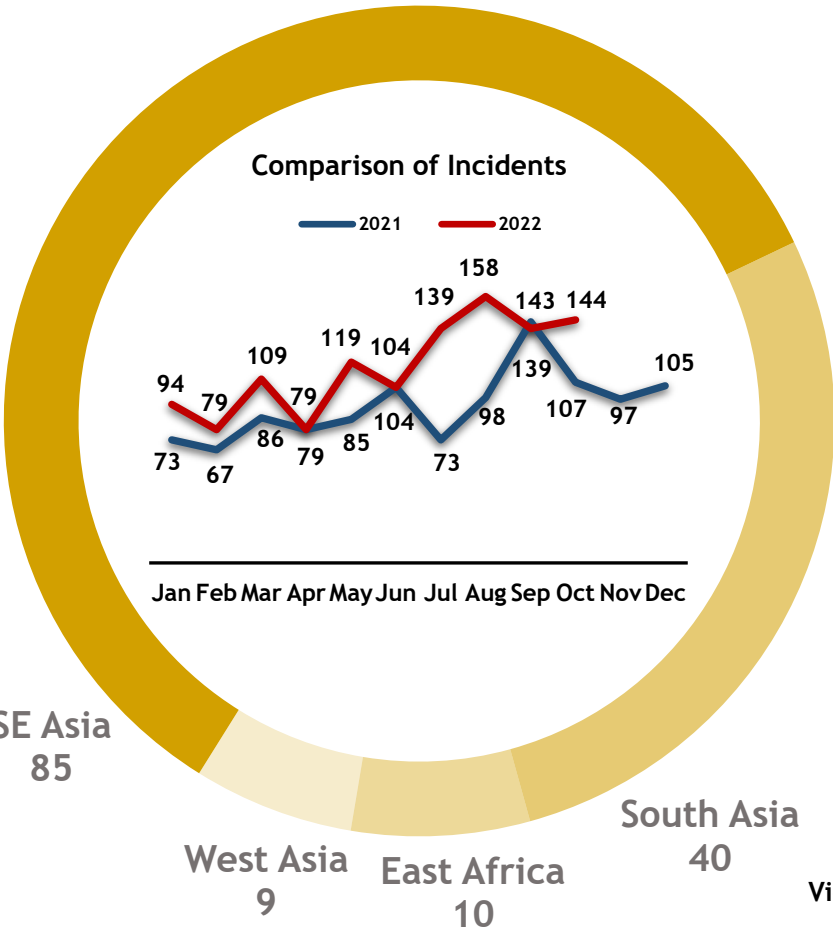
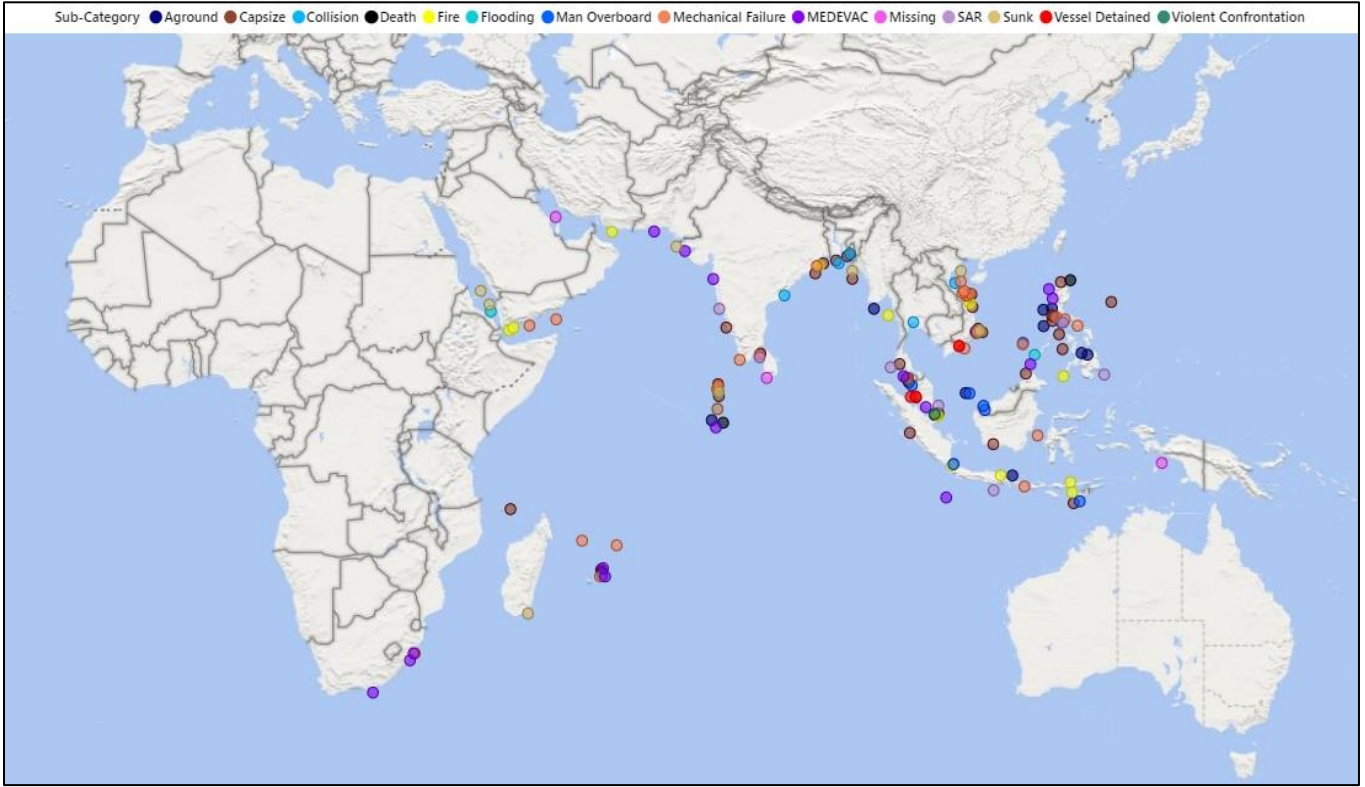
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Migration Trends

Region	Rescued/ Apprehended	Missing	Dead	Smugglers Apprehended	Boats Involved
East Africa	1,273	-	-	60	71
West Asia	143	-	-	-	05
South Asia	122	19	-	-	01
South East Asia	62	-	-	01	05
Mediterranean	4,616	87	15	14	172

MARITIME INCIDENTS



144 maritime incidents were recorded by the Centre for the month of Oct 22, which was similar to Sep 22 (143 incidents). About 54% decrease in both collision and SAR incidents were recorded as compared to Sep 22. About 14% of maritime incidents involved capsizing of vessels due to the adverse weather conditions caused by the cyclones (Cyclone Sitrang and Typhoon Nalgae). A marginal increase was observed in the number of incidents involving vessels running aground or encountering mechanical failures during this month. Five incidents of vessels being detained by coastal authorities were recorded this month - three off Malaysia and two off Vietnam. In all the five cases, the offences reported were either unauthorised anchoring or lack of valid documentation.

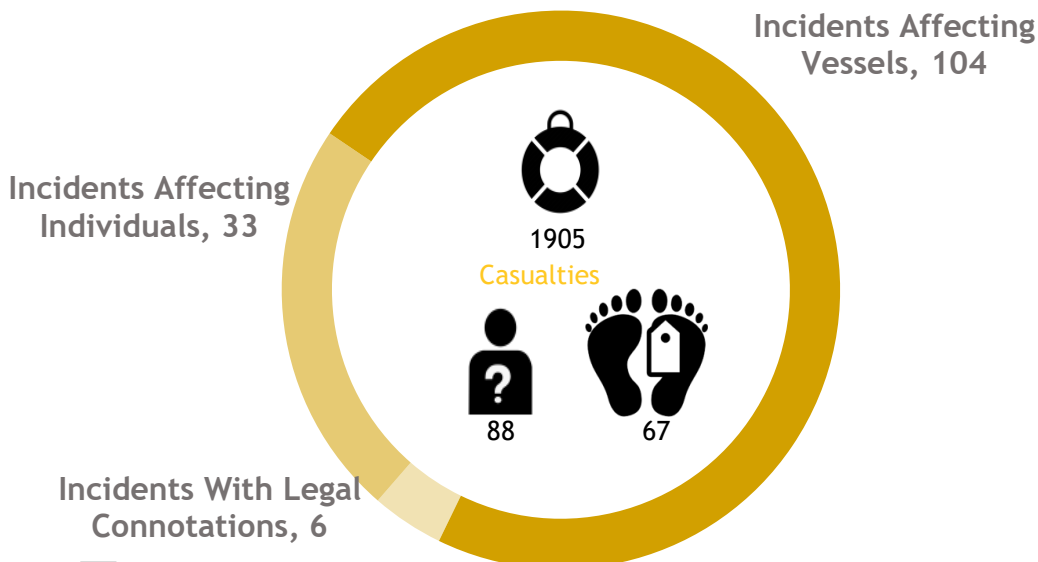
Aground - 12 incidents of vessels running aground were recorded - four incidents in South China Sea, two incidents each in Sulu Celebes Sea and Malacca Strait and one incident each in Java Sea, Andaman Sea, Straits of Malacca & Singapore and Indian Ocean.

Capsize and Sinking of Vessels - 29 incidents of capsizing and nine incidents of vessels sinking at sea were recorded by the Centre during this month. This was an increase of 23% from Sep 22. Majority of the capsize and sinking of vessels incidents involved small boats such as fishing boats, motorboat etc. Out of 29 incidents, 04 incidents were reported during the cyclone Sitrang and tropical storm Nalgae.

SAR Operations - 16 MEDEVAC and seven SAR operations, undertaken by various maritime agencies, were monitored by the Centre during this month. The combined SAR and MEDEVAC saw a decrease of 18% from Sep 22.

Mechanical Failure - 27 incidents of mechanical failure were recorded by the Centre during this month, which was about a 42% increase from Sep 22. Out of 27 incidents of mechanical failure recorded, 21 incidents involved engine failure.

Effect of Incidents



OTHER INCIDENTS



Maritime Security Threats (Hybrid)

01 incident recorded

- Two drone-driven explosions were reported near oil tanker at Ash Shihr Port, Yemen (likely conflict related incident). No casualties or damage to the vessel reported.

Marine Environment Pollution

No incidents recorded

Others

01 incidents recorded

- MT *AMBRIOS*, with an unknown quantity of fuel onboard, was seized in the Red Sea (likely conflict related incident).

Cyber Security Incidents

02 incidents recorded

- A cyber attack was observed on the IMO (International Maritime Organization) websites since 30 September 2022, and left staff unable to access key materials and upcoming events.
- Cyber fraud was observed after few unidentified persons created a fake website for job applications for Mumbai Port Trust.

Cyclonic Storm (CS) 'SITRANG' Over the Bay of Bengal/ 24 Oct 22

The deep depression in west central and adjoining east central Bay of Bengal about 372 nm northwest of Port Blair intensified into a cyclonic storm 'Sitrang' over central Bay of Bengal. Cyclonic Storm 'Sitrang' continued moving north-northeast wards before making landfall on Bangladesh coast on 25 Oct 22. The cyclone began to lose its strength post making landfall in Bangladesh. On 25 Oct 22, CS 'Sitrang' weakened into a Deep Depression and was downgraded to a low common land pressure.



WEATHER FORECAST

Weather Forecast. A monthly weather forecast for the month of Nov 22 in the IOR region has been uploaded on IFC-IOR website for reference.

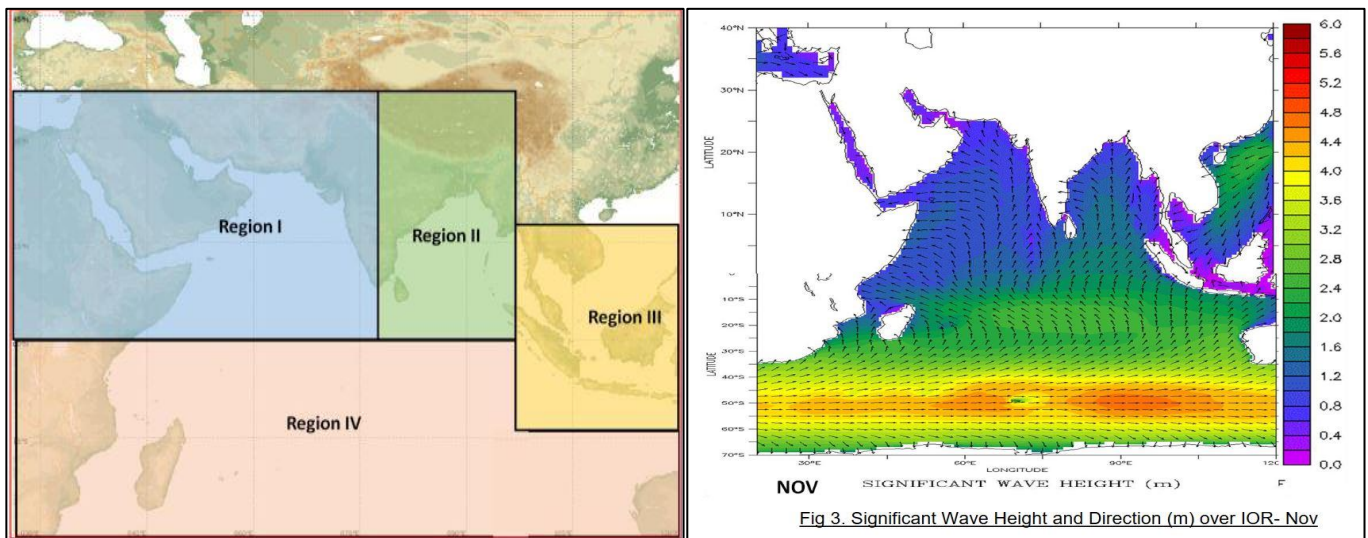


Fig 3. Significant Wave Height and Direction (m) over IOR- Nov

- **Cyber attacks challenge maritime industry**

A cyber attack on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) led to shutting down of IMO website. The cyber attack led to interruption of IT systems and IMO website remained unavailable with a message “under maintenance”. IMO reported that efforts to restore systems, identify the source of attack and further enhance security systems to prevent recurrence are in progress.

Source: IMO



- **Arctic Ocean's acidity increasing four times faster**

Researchers from the Polar and Marine Research Institute at Jimei University and School of Marine Science and Policy at the University of Delaware have discovered that acidification of the western Arctic Ocean is occurring three to four times faster than in other ocean basins - causing a large and rapid loss of the sea ice in the region over the past three decades. Scientists have revealed that some parts of the Mediterranean more than 6°C warmer than usual in comparison with previous years, which sparks fears that the sea's fragile ecosystems are suffering what can be called a "marine wildfire" and being changed forever by global warming.



Source : Polar and Marine Research Institute/ School of Marine Science and Policy

- **Indian Ocean Ports Association (AIOIP)**

Seychelles is the new chair of the Association of Indian Ocean Islands Ports (AIOIP) for the next two years, a platform that is important for the island nation as it starts the expansion of Port Victoria. The AIOIP was established in 2007 with headquarters in Reunion with a aim to create an cooperation dynamic between the ports of the region in order to better defend their common interests and jointly study their challenges and opportunities. AIOIP members include the ports of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mayotte and Seychelles. Seychelles took over the chairmanship from Mauritius after a two-day meeting at the Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA).



Source: Seychelles News Agency

- **Cyber attacks threatens international sea traffic, ports and offshore installations**

Ports, ships, maritime supply chain and major offshore infrastructures including oil and gas installations are vulnerable to cyberattacks. The rapid increase in cyber attacks on the maritime industry has highlighted the inadequacy of the existing international legal framework and the urgent need for comprehensive and innovative international maritime cyber security laws. Currently, some provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS Convention), the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA Convention), the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL Convention) and the related codes and protocols are relevant for ensuring cybersecurity of ships, ports and offshore infrastructures.



Source: Report by Maritime Security Law Expert from Queensland University of Technology

- **Seychelles' Sea Cucumber fishing season opens from 15 October 22 and ban imposed on targeting white-teat fish**

The Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) is banning the fishing of one sea cucumber species while introducing and opening another species for the 2022-2023 sea cucumber fishing season. The new season starts on 15 October 22 ends on 14 June 2023, however, SFA said that for the coming three years, there will be a complete closure on the fishing of the white-teat fish. In Seychelles, sea cucumbers are mostly exported, especially to the Asian market. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the annual export of dried sea cucumbers from 2019-2021 was a total of 41.52 tonnes at a market value of \$4.7 million.



Source: Seychelles News Agency

- **European Parliament adopts new rules for tuna fishing in Indian Ocean**

The EU has been a contracting party of the IOTC since 1995 and the EU fleet fishes in the Indian Ocean, mainly for tropical tuna species. The new rules brings out concerns on a wide range of measures such as a ban on fishing near data buoys, data collection and reporting obligations concerning billfish and blue shark, and measures to protect certain species such as shark, rays, and turtles.

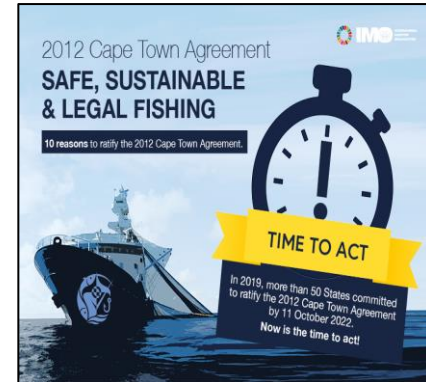


Source: Report by Baird Maritime - Commercial Maritime News Website

- **The 2012 Cape Town Agreement to enhance fishing safety**

IMO is raising awareness of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement (CTA) to help bring it into force. In 2019, more than 50 States committed to ratify the 2012 Cape Town Agreement by 11 October 2022. The Cape Town Agreement (CTA), when in force, will contribute to safe, legal and sustainable shipping. It is aimed at facilitating better control of fishing vessel safety by flag, port and coastal States. The CTA is also expected to contribute to the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and prevent marine plastic pollution from abandoned fishing nets and other equipment.

Source: IMO



- **International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) heralds successful collaboration to reduce harm to Whales**

The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), the global trade association for ship owners and operators, are encouraging the shipping industry to take action to reduce the risk of harm to endangered whale species. To address the issue, the shipping industry has implemented certain measures that aim to prevent collisions between whales and ships, which range from reducing vessel speed, rerouting to engaging stakeholders to raise further awareness.

Source: International Chamber of Shipping



- **All fishing vessels equipped with VMS equipment**

The southern most province of Ca Mau in Vietnam has successfully installed Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) equipment on all its local fishing vessels. This is expected to bolster the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Source: Vietnam News Agency



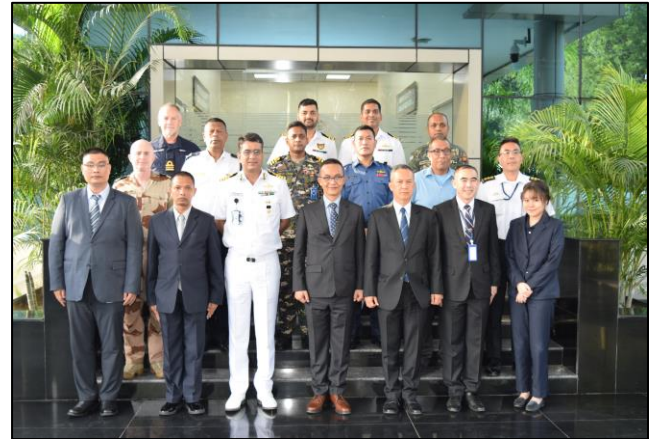
• Uncovering the Companies and Individuals Behind Illegal Fishing Globally

This report focuses on IUU fishing, which accounts for as much as one fifth of the global fisheries catch, with conservative estimates placing the value of the illicit trade anywhere between USD \$10 billion to USD \$23.5 billion every year, with overall economic losses estimated to be USD \$50 billion, making this the third most lucrative natural resource crime after timber and mining.



Source: Report by Financial Transparency Coalition

VISITS



Thai MECC delegation led by Rear Admiral Wichnu Thupa-Ang, from the Office of the Director General of Policy and Plans, Thai-MECC along with 06 delegates visited the Centre on 18 Oct 22.

*** End of Report ***



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

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