

MONTHLY MARITIME SECURITY UPDATE

Aug 2024



**INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE
INDIAN OCEAN REGION**

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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Overview

397 incidents comprising piracy and armed robbery (17), contraband smuggling (97), illegal unreported and unregulated fishing (62), irregular human migration (13), maritime incidents (179), maritime security threats (hybrid) (28) and marine environment pollution (01) were monitored in Aug 24.

Piracy and Armed Robbery 17 incidents of piracy and armed robbery (actual and attempted) were monitored in Aug 24, compared to 12 in last month. No injuries to crew members were reported. *The ongoing monsoon conditions and adverse sea state have severely affected the activities of the PAGs in West Asia.*

Contraband Smuggling 97 contraband smuggling incidents were monitored in Aug 24, compared to 87 in Jul 24. *Drug smuggling (with seizure of 818 kg) continues to be the topmost contributor, followed by natural resources and domestic products. In the recent past, there has been an increase in reported seizures of cannabis and cocaine in East African countries.*

IUU Fishing 62 IUU fishing incidents were recorded in Aug 24, compared to 65 in Jul 24. During these incidents, 62 fishing vessels were seized and 360 fishermen were apprehended.

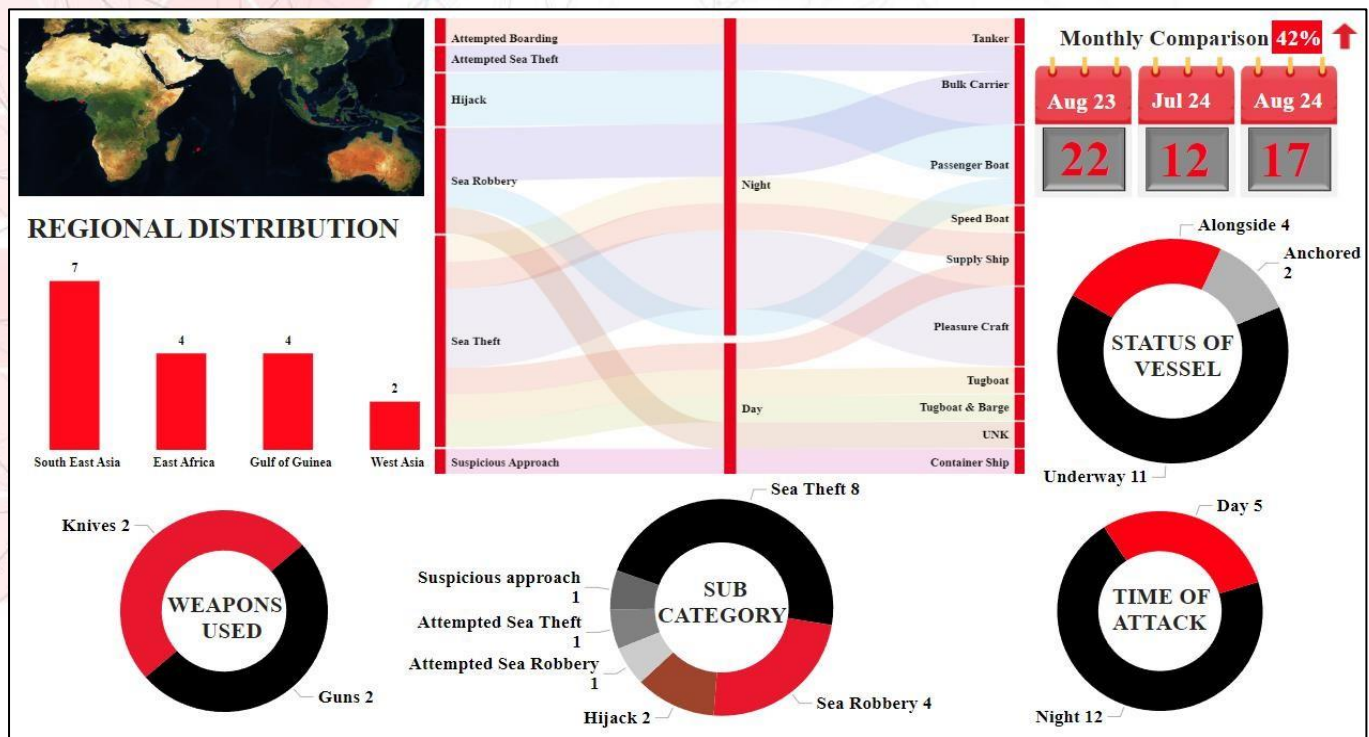
Irregular Human Migration 13 incidents were recorded in Aug 24, compared to 10 in Jul 24. *IHM incidents during the month remained low compared to the previous year's incidents, likely due to adverse weather conditions, which may have deterred attempted crossings.*

Maritime Incidents 179 maritime incidents were recorded by the Centre in Aug 24, compared to 154 in Jul 24. Mechanical failures, MEDEVAC, capsized and vessel sinking were the frequently reported incidents.

Maritime Security Threats (Hybrid) 28 incidents were recorded in Aug 24, compared to 29 in Jul 24. *The drone/ UAS attacks recorded this month were the lowest since Nov 23. Analysis of recent incidents indicates fewer vessels are being targeted, but the impact of these attacks has been significantly greater.*

Marine Environment Pollution One incident of oil spill was reported in Aug 24.

PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY



Overview

17 incidents of piracy and armed robbery (actual and attempted) were monitored in Aug 24, an increase of 42% compared to Jul 24 (12 incidents). The following paragraphs provide a detailed analysis of subcategories and regional trends.

Analysis of Incidents

Sea thefts and **Thefts/Robberies** (14) (actual/attempted) accounted for 82% of incidents reported. The majority of events occurred on vessels underway (10), followed by those alongside (04) and anchored (02). Most incidents (12) took place during the dark hours, while two occurred during daylight. The number of perpetrators varied, ranging from a single individual to groups of up to seven. The stolen items included engine spares, ship equipment, electronic devices, personal belongings, paint stores, and scrap materials.

Hijack Two hijacking incidents were reported in Aug 24 off Bonny River, Nigeria, during the dark hours. Both incidents involved armed perpetrators targeting passenger boats. The attackers boarded the vessels with firearms, taking the passengers hostage to an unknown location and demanding ransom. After ransom demands were materialised, the perpetrators fled, stealing valuables belonging to the passengers. All hostages were eventually released. The pattern observed in both incidents highlights a concerning modus operandi, that includes armed boarding, hostage-taking, ransom demands and subsequent theft.

Regional Analysis

East Africa East Africa accounted for a total of four incidents of sea theft (actual and attempted). Notably, all these incidents occurred off Mauritius during the hours of darkness. Further, the incidents were reported onboard uncrewed vessels and hence no crew were harmed. Reportedly, the ship's items were stolen in these incidents.

PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY

Gulf of Guinea Gulf of Guinea accounted for four incidents which included two incidents of hijack and one incident each of sea theft and sea robbery. All incidents were reported during dark hours except for sea theft which was reported during day time. Stolen items included ship's stores such as paint stores, and small boats. Three passenger boats and one offshore supply vessel were targeted during this month. All crew members were reported to be safe.

South East Asia Southeast Asia witnessed a total of three sea robberies and four sea thefts (both actual and attempted). Five of these incidents occurred during dark hours, with remaining two in daylight. Stolen items included ship spares, engine parts, and scrap materials. No injuries were reported in most cases. *The analysis of incidents reveals an increase in piracy and armed robbery attacks compared to the previous month. In sea robbery incidents, perpetrators were armed with knives and were observed to be of confrontational nature. In one such incident, the perpetrators were reported to be carrying sharp weapons and did not hesitate to injure the crew.* All vessels transiting through Phillip Channel, Singapore Strait and while at anchor are advised to remain vigilant and follow BMP5 practices.

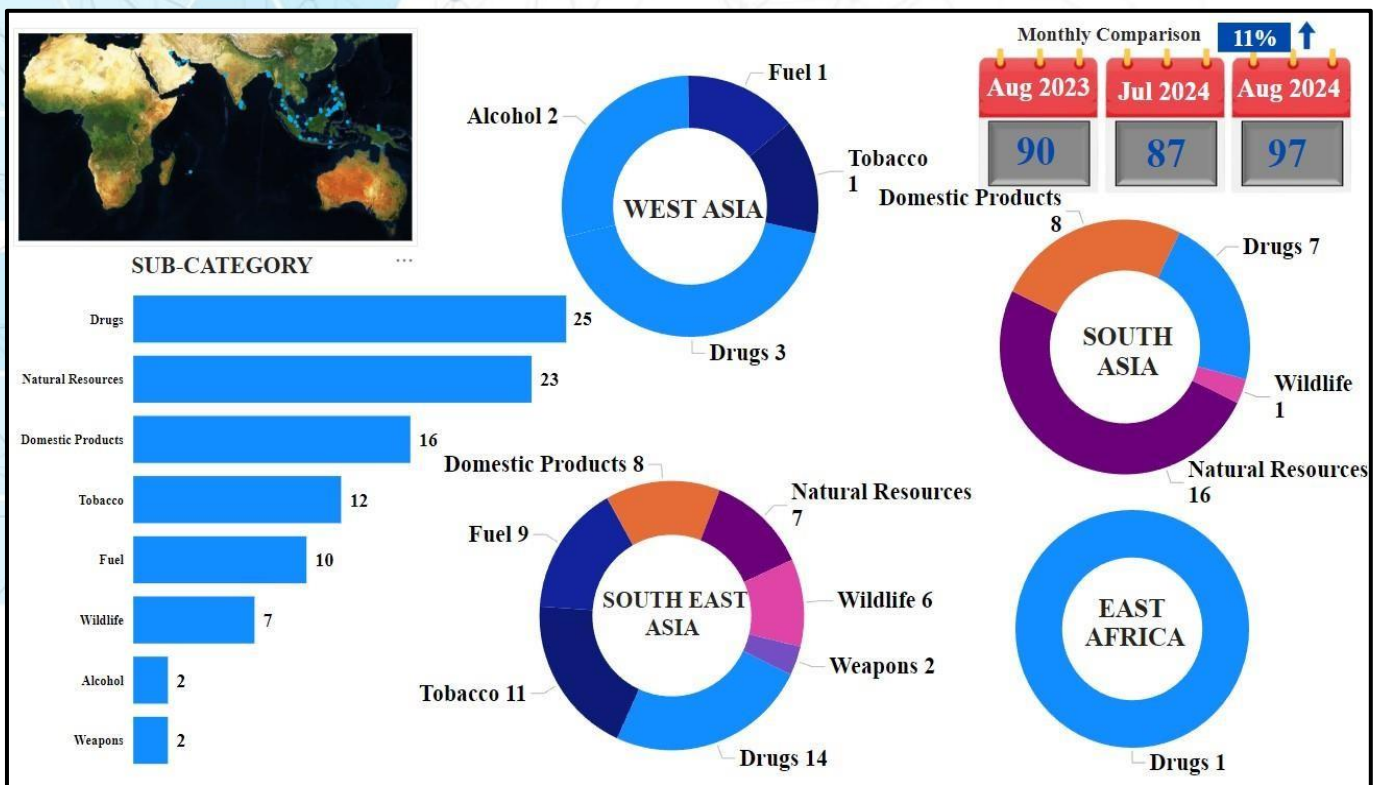
West Asia One incident each of sea robbery and suspicious approach was reported in Aug 24. The incident of sea robbery was reported about 33 nm off Diyar Muharraq, Bahrain. Reportedly, an unknown number of armed perpetrators boarded five boats and escaped with electronic devices, boat supplies and personal belongings.

IFC - IOR Comment

Piracy and armed robbery incidents in Aug 24 witnessed an increase of 42% compared to Jul 24. High-value items such as crew/ passenger's items, vessels and ship/engine spares were stolen, however, no injuries to crew members was reported. The recent decrease in reported piracy incidents off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden should not be interpreted as the elimination of the piracy threat in this region. Analysis suggests that the reduction in activity is largely due to the adverse impact of monsoon conditions on Pirate Action Groups (PAGs). The potential for piracy remains and vigilance is still required from vessels transiting the area.

The sea robbery incidents reported in Southeast Asia indicate that the perpetrators were violent in nature and may have injured the crew if their demands were not met. Further, the hijacking of passenger vessels and taking passengers as hostages to an unknown destination is an alarming development in the Gulf of Guinea. Alert watchkeeping both while underway and at anchorage is highly recommended especially off the Somalia Coast, Gulf of Guinea, Singapore Straits and Phillip Channel. Vessels transiting through these areas are advised to maintain heightened vigilance, follow BMP5 practices and maintain contact with regional authorities for risk mitigation and report any suspicious activities to ifc-ior.gurugram@navy.nic.in.

CONTRABAND SMUGGLING



Overview

97 incidents of contraband smuggling were monitored in Aug 24, a slight increase compared to Jul 24 (87 incidents). The following paragraphs provide a detailed analysis of subcategories and regional trends.

Domestic Products 13 incidents of domestic product smuggling were recorded this month, compared to 19 in Jul 24. The products seized in these incidents involved assorted goods, cars, electric cables, plastic scrap, etc.

Analysis of Incidents

Drugs 25 drug seizures were recorded in Aug 24, compared to 31 in Jul 24. These incidents included seizures of methamphetamine, cannabis, pills, hashish and narcotics. Out of these, 11 incidents specifically involved activities at sea, including *interceptions of boats carrying contraband and recoveries of drugs washed ashore*. The seizures were carried out by the authorities in various countries such as Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mauritius, Oman, Sri Lanka and Thailand, indicating widespread efforts to combat illegal drug trafficking through maritime routes.

Wildlife Seven incidents of wildlife smuggling were recorded in Aug 24, compared to five in Jul 24. Most of these cases involved marine organisms such as lobster seeds, sea cucumbers, reptiles, shellfish, etc.

Tobacco 12 incidents of tobacco smuggling were recorded in Aug 24, compared to six in Jul 24. A total of 340,976 kilograms of tobacco products (cigarettes) were seized across various locations. The value of the seizures was approximately USD 41,943,405. *The apprehension of smugglers and seizures of cigarettes in the harbours of the Philippines and Malaysia were the key contributors to the increase in tobacco smuggling incidents during this month.*

CONTRABAND SMUGGLING

Fuel 10 incidents of fuel smuggling were recorded in Aug 24, compared to 14 in the last month. Most of the incidents were recorded in South East Asia. These incidents involved the seizure of 1,822,200 litres diesel and 1,675 litres petrol.

Alcohol Two incidents of alcohol smuggling were recorded in Aug 24 compared to three in the last month. A total of 735 bottles of liquor were seized in these incidents.

Natural Resources 23 incidents of natural resources smuggling were recorded in Aug 24, a significant increase as compared to nine in Jul 24. The seizures involved 13,349 kgs of kendu leaves, 64,520 m³ of sand, gold and tin ore powder. *The analysis of incidents indicates that the majority of the incidents involving Kendu leaves were reported off the Sri Lanka coast, aligning with previous year trends. Also, all the sand smuggling incidents were reported in South East Asia (mostly in Vietnam).*

Regional Distribution

East Africa East Africa accounted for one incident in Aug 24 compared to four in Jul 24. A total of 50 kgs of cannabis and one speed boat was seized in this incident. *The analysis of incidents indicates that the small boats stolen from anchorage off Mauritius are likely to be utilised in smuggling drugs in small island countries. Further, in the recent past, there has been an increase in reported seizures of cannabis and cocaine in East African countries.*

West Asia West Asia accounted for seven incidents of contraband smuggling, comparable to six in Jul 24. A significant quantity of opioids, cannabis, hashish, and methamphetamine was seized during this month. Kuwait authorities made a significant seizure of 164 kg of opioids, while Qatar authorities confiscated 14,000 kg of tobacco products. The contrabands were hidden inside vessel's water tank. *Recent trends also reveal a growing pattern of small vessels being modified specifically for drug transportation in the area.*

South Asia South Asia accounted for 32 incidents of contraband smuggling in Aug 24, compared to 24 in Jul 24. Natural resources (16), domestic products (08), drugs (07) and wildlife (01) smuggling was monitored in this region. *The analysis of incidents indicate an increase in kendu leaves smuggling off the Sri Lanka coast. The seizures of large quantities of gold off Sri Lanka and cannabis off the Indian coast were significant events in this region.*

South East Asia Southeast Asia accounted for 57 incidents of contraband smuggling in Aug 24, compared to 53 in Jul 24. The seizures of *explosive materials, which are likely to be used in blast fishing and seizures of cigarettes were the significant events. Analysis of incidents reveals that recent increase in domestic product seizures in this region is likely due to the disparity of prices and the increase in the inflation rate.*

ILLEGAL UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING



Monthly Comparison

05% ↓

Aug 2023

57

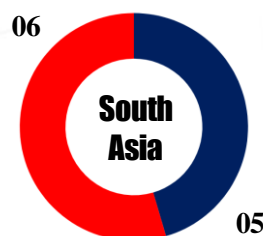
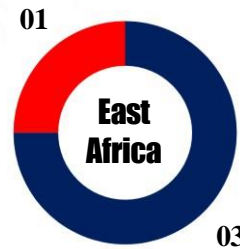
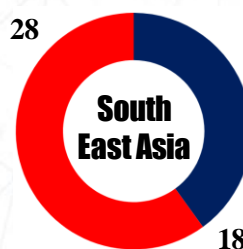
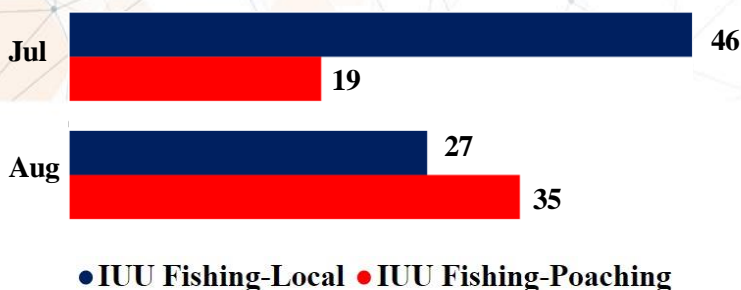
Jul 2024

65

Aug 2024

62

Sub-Category



Overview

62 IUU fishing incidents were recorded in Aug 24 compared to 65 in Jul 24. Among these, 27 incidents were local and 35 were poaching. The analysis of incidents and regional distribution is elucidated in subsequent paragraphs.

Poaching. 35 incidents of poaching involving foreign fishing vessels were recorded compared to 19 in Jul 24. 296 fishermen were apprehended and 40 boats were seized by the authorities.

Analysis of Incidents

Local IUU Fishing. 27 incidents of local IUU fishing were recorded in Aug 24 compared to 46 in Jul 24. These incidents involved violations of fishing licenses by local fishermen, illegal fishing techniques, banned fishing methods, use of blast fishing, etc. 64 fishermen were apprehended and 24 boats were seized by the authorities.

Regional Distribution

South East Asia. 46 incidents of IUU fishing were reported in this region in Aug 24 compared to 42 in Jul 24. 18 incidents were of local IUU fishing and 28 of poaching. These were recorded in the waters of Australia (20), Malaysia, Thailand (03) and one each in Philippines and Indonesia (01). A total of 44 boats were seized and 253 fishermen were apprehended.

ILLEGAL UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

South Asia. 11 incidents of IUU fishing were reported in this region during Aug 24 compared to 13 in Jul 24. Five incidents were of local IUU fishing and six of poaching. These were recorded in the waters of Sri Lanka (10) and India (01). A total of 17 boats were seized and 106 fishermen were apprehended.

East Africa. Four incidents of IUU fishing were reported in this region during Aug 24 compared to 10 in Jul 24. Three incidents were of local IUU fishing and one of poaching. Two incidents each were recorded in the waters of Mayotte and Mauritius

West Asia. One incident of local IUU fishing was reported during Aug 24. Authorities seized one boat and apprehended one fisherman engaged in illegal fishing.

Significant Incident

On 23 Jun 24, Vietnam authorities apprehended a fisherman and seized a fishing vessel with 63 tons of oysters at Quang Ninh, Vietnam. Reportedly, the fisherman failed to produce documents. The estimated value of the seizure was USD 58,955.

Fishing Vessels



63

Catch



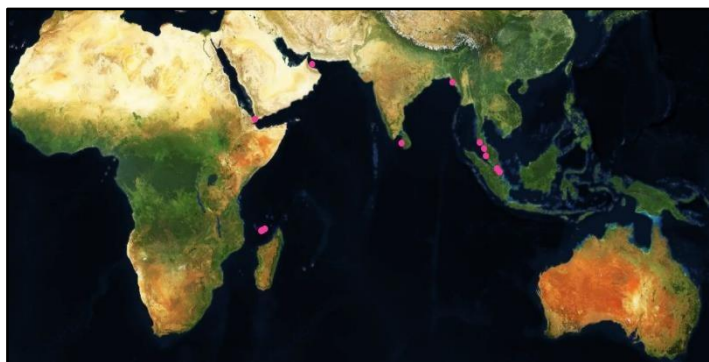
**9283
kgs**

Fishermen



360

IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION



Monthly Comparison

30% ↑

Aug 2023

22

Jul 2024

10

Aug 2024

13

37



Smugglers
Apprehended

14



Missing

829



Rescued/
Apprehended

46



Boats

44



Dead

Regional Distribution



Overview

In Aug 24, there were 13 IHM incidents as compared to 10 in Jul 24. A total of 829 migrants and 37 smugglers/traffickers were apprehended during this month. 44 migrant fatalities were reported in this month. *The analysis of incidents in the recent past indicates that migrant activities have reduced considerably due to the unfavourable weather conditions.*

West Asia. The region witnessed two incidents of irregular human migration, compared to one in Jul 24. *The migration pattern observed in this region involved migrants travelling from the Horn of Africa through Djibouti as a transit country to reach oil-rich countries in this region.* A total of 27 migrants were rescued/ apprehended, 14 migrants were missing, and 13 migrants lost their lives while attempting to reach foreign countries.

Regional Distribution

East Africa. The region witnessed four incidents of IHM compared to six in Jul 24. Kwassa-kwassa remains the preferred mode of transport for migrants in this region. The incidents involved migrants from Comoros, Madagascar, and other countries on the main continent attempting to enter Mayotte. Law enforcement agencies seized 38 boats and apprehended 38 smugglers in Aug 24.

South East Asia. The region accounted for five incidents compared to two in Jul 24. In majority of the incidents, Malaysia was the destination country for migrants. A total of 58 migrants were apprehended/ rescued, while four suspected smugglers were apprehended.

IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION

South Asia: The region witnessed one incident of irregular human migration in Aug 24 similar to Jul 24. Reportedly, one migrant apprehended in this incident was arrested previously in 2021 for his involvement in drug trafficking.

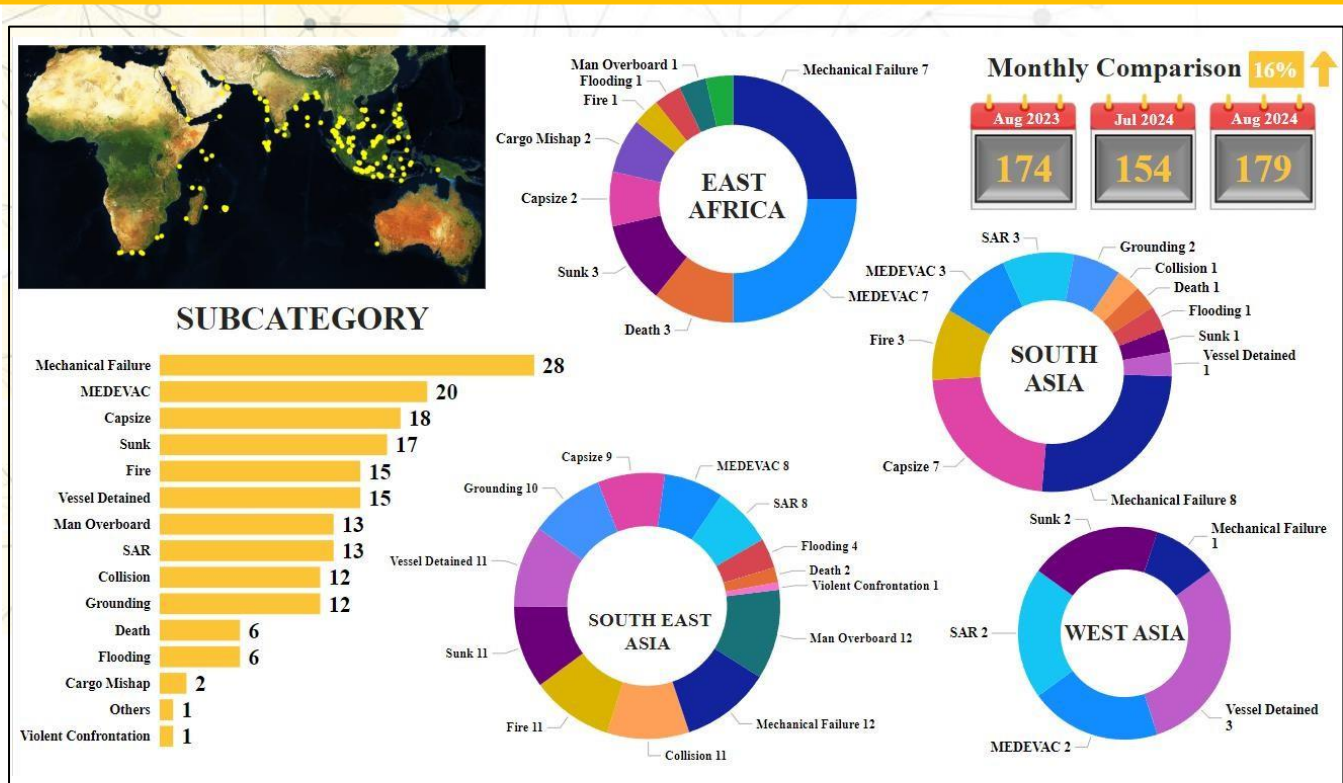
IFC - IOR Comment

IHM incidents during the monsoon season remained low compared to the previous year's incidents. This is mainly attributable to the prevailing weather conditions and strict law enforcement by concerned agencies.

Migration Trends

| | No. Of Incidents | Rescued/ Apprehended | Smugglers Apprehended | Boats Involved |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| East Africa | 4 | 743 | 33 | 38 |
| West Asia | 2 | 27 | - | 01 |
| South East Asia | 5 | 58 | 04 | 05 |
| South Asia | 2 | 1 | - | 02 |

MARITIME INCIDENTS



Overview

179 maritime incidents were observed in Aug 24 compared to 154 in Jul 24. Mechanical Failures (28) constituted the highest number of reported incidents, followed by MEDEVAC (20), capsizing (18), sinking of vessels (17), fire and vessel detentions (15 each), man overboard and SAR (13 each), collisions and groundings (12 each), death and flooding (06 each), cargo mishap (02), violent confrontation (01) and others (01).

Analysis of Incidents

Vessel detained The Centre monitored 15 incidents of vessel detentions in Aug 24 compared to 24 in Jul 24. A majority of detentions were made in South East Asia (11 incidents), and the causes included operating without valid documents, carrying passengers beyond permissible limits and suspicion for engaging in illicit activities.

Man overboard, death, SAR, and MEDEVAC A total of 52 incidents were recorded in Aug 24 compared to 46 in Jul 24. A total of 56 individuals were rescued, 13 individuals were missing, and 14 lives were lost. South East Asia accounted for the highest number followed by East Africa and South Asia. The analysis indicates that 44% of incidents involved fishing vessels.

Capsizing and Sinking of Vessels In Aug 24, 18 incidents of vessel capsizing and 17 of vessel sinking were recorded, compared to 14 and 12 in Jul 24. South East Asia and South Asia accounted for most of these incidents due to prevailing weather conditions and rough seas. The authorities have rescued 226 individuals in these incidents while 64 lives were lost and 45 individuals reported missing.

MARITIME INCIDENTS

Fire and flooding. 15 incidents of fire and six of flooding were recorded in Aug 24, compared to nine and 10 respectively in Jul 24. Fire incidents during the month have witnessed a considerable increase compared to last month. The primary causes of fire included explosions, fire in machinery/ engine room and cargo compartments. The severe weather conditions in the IOR driven by the ongoing monsoon season, have resulted in an increase in the flooding incidents involving small boats and fishing vessels. A major contributing factor to these flooding events has been identified as the poor seaworthiness of the vessels, exacerbated by the adverse effects of heavy weather. The law enforcement agencies were prompt in responding to emergent situations and were successful in rescuing 375 individuals, a significant increase compared to the last month whereas, two individuals lost their lives in these incidents.

Violent Confrontation and Cargo Mishap

One incident of violent confrontation and two incidents of cargo mishap were reported in Aug 24. The incident of confrontation involved a foreign fishing vessel and a law enforcement agency in Southeast Asia, during which three law enforcement officers were injured.

Grounding and collision 12 incidents each of groundings and collisions were recorded in Aug 24 compared to 15 and five in Jul 24. In these incidents, 42% of the incidents involved cargo vessels and passenger vessels.

Regional Distribution

East Africa A total of 28 incidents were reported in East Africa compared to 17 in Jul 24. These included MEDEVACs, mechanical failure (07 each), sunk, death (03 each), cargo mishap, capsized (02 each) and one incident each of man overboard, fire and flooding and others.

West Asia Accounted for 10 incidents compared to 12 in Jul 24. These include vessel detained (03), MEDEVAC, SAR, sunk (02 each) and one incident of mechanical failure.

South Asia Accounted for 32 incidents compared to 26 in Jul 24. These included mechanical failure (08), capsized (07), fire, MEDEVAC and SAR (03 each), grounding and death (02 each), collision, flooding, sinking of vessels and vessels detained (01 each).

South East Asia Accounted for 110 incidents compared to 99 in Jul 24. These included man overboard, mechanical failure (12) each, vessel detained, collision, fire, sinking of vessels (11) each, grounding (10), capsized (09), MEDEVAC, SAR (08) each, flooding (04), death (02) and violent confrontation (01).

Dead



84

Missing



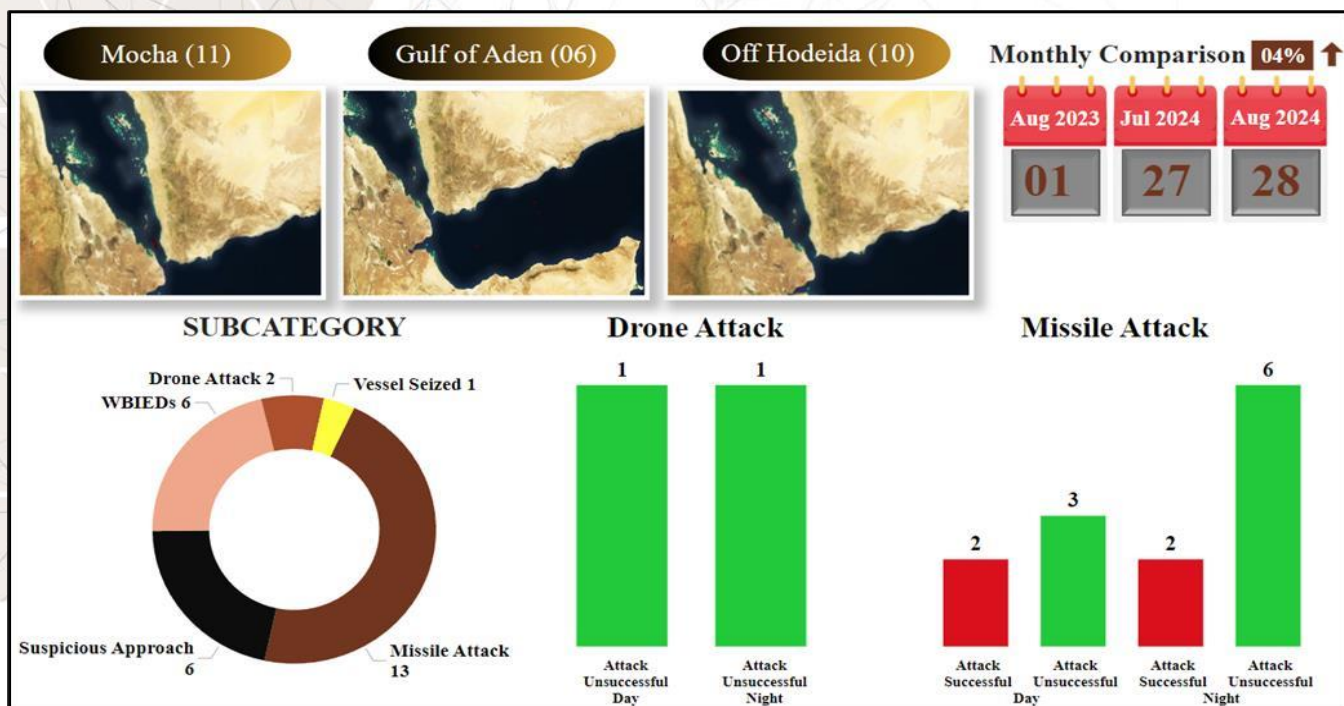
65

**Rescued/
Apprehend**



1062

MARITIME SECURITY THREATS (HYBRID)



Overview

28 maritime security threats (hybrid) incidents were recorded by the Centre in Aug 24, compared to 29 in Jul 24. A few attacks of missiles, drones (UAS) and WBIEDs (USVs) were intercepted by the international forces. Missiles, drones and WBIEDs targeted 27 MVs, with eight attacks being successful.

Location of Incidents

Drone and missile attack incidents were primarily monitored off Hodeidah, Mocha, Bab-el-Mandeb, and the western parts of the Gulf of Aden. The positional analysis of the attacks indicates that the area between 19°17'24.0"N 38°57'36.0"E and 12°39'00.0"N 47°10'48.0"E witnessed these attacks in Aug 24.

Drone / Unmanned Aerial Systems Attacks

In Aug 24, two drone attacks were monitored, compared to eight in Jul 24. The drone/ UAS attacks remained low during this month, since Nov 23. The international forces operating in area were successful in shooting down one drone/ Uncrewed Aerial System.

Missile Attacks

13 missile attacks were monitored in Aug 24, compared to 10 in Jul 24. Five incidents were monitored during day hours and eight during night time. Four of the 13 incidents were successful in inflicting damage to the targeted vessels. *MV GROTON*, *MV SOUNION* and *MV SW NORTH WIND I* were the affected vessels in these attacks.

MARITIME SECURITY THREATS (HYBRID)

WBIEDs

Six WBIEDs attacks were recorded by the Centre in Aug 24. All six incidents were reported during the day time. One of the six incidents of WBIEDs attacks was successful in causing damage to the targeted vessels. Reportedly, five Uncrewed Surface Vessels were destroyed by US Navy Ship/ US CENTCOM Forces.

Suspicious Approaches

Six incidents of suspicious approach were recorded by the Centre in Aug 24 compared to one in Jul 24.

Vessel Seized

On 10 Aug 24, reportedly, armed insurgents kidnapped 56 fishermen about 10 nm off Mocimbao da Praia, Mozambique. The fishermen were released after three days.

Significant Incidents

On 21 Aug 24, a Greek-flagged crude oil tanker *SOUNION* (IMO: 9312145), was attacked five times with missiles and skiffs-WBIEDs, while transiting the Southern Red Sea, approximately 77 nm SW of Al-Hudaydah, Yemen. The initial attack involved two skiffs which approached the vessel to three to four cables. One skiff was manned by five personnel, and the second skiff was manned by 12 personnel. There was an exchange of small-arms fire between the armed security team onboard and the skiffs. The vessel observed flashing lights from the two skiffs, and eventually, the distance between the skiffs and the vessel opened up beyond one mile. Subsequently, the vessel was hit by two missiles about 84 NM NW of Al-Hudaydah, Yemen. The Master reported explosions in engine room resulting in a major fire onboard. Also, there was a loss of propulsion and a 'Mayday' call was raised by the vessel. One of the skiff remained in the vicinity and was likely involved in damage assessment. The vessel was hit by another missile

on the starboard quarter, after 20 mins. Eventually, vessel anchored in position 15° 00' N 041° 37' E and was abandoned by the crew. All crew were reported to be safe, except one crew member who sustained minor injury. A major oil spill was reported in this incident and salvage operation are being progressed.

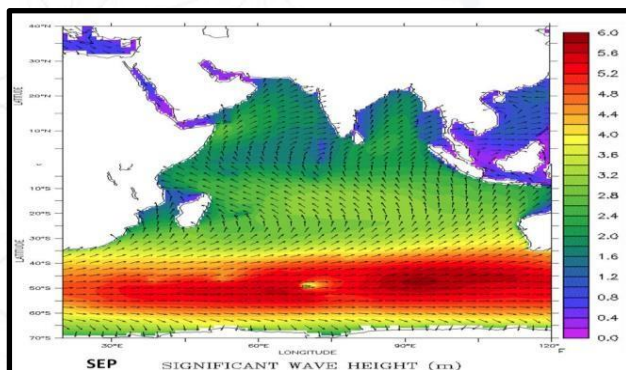
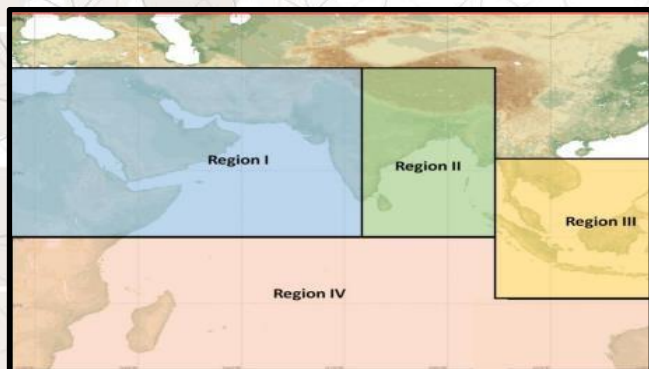


IFC - IOR Comment

In the recent past, the number of attacks reported in the Red Sea area has been comparatively low. While the vessels attacked successfully were less during this month, the severity of the attacks is an alarming development. The analysis of incidents in the recent past reveals a pattern that includes targeting fewer vessels with more impact. All masters and CSOs planning transit through conflict-affected areas are advised to call for assistance on MMB Ch 16 and regularly monitor advisories and notifications promulgated by MARSEC Centres. Further, masters are advised to report any suspicious activity to IFC-IOR (ifc-ior.gurugram@nic.in).

WEATHER FORECAST – SEP 24

Weather Forecast. A monthly weather forecast for the month of Sep 24 has been uploaded on the IFC-IOR website for reference.



Region I: Arabian Sea (AS) – The monsoon current is likely to weaken during this month as compared to the earlier months of the season. Further, the weakening of pressure gradient and light winds from NW-WNW are likely to be seen over the North Arabian Sea. During this month, the Southeast Arabian Sea is likely to be prone to the formation of cyclonic disturbances, especially to the east of 70°E. The average Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) are likely to be 24-26°C and 28-29°C over the West-central and South Arabian Sea respectively. Smooth to slight sea conditions are likely to be seen over the North Arabian Sea and moderate sea conditions are experienced over the Equatorial Indian Ocean. Significant wave height is likely to be about 3.0 m over the East-central AS decreasing eastwards to about 1.5 m over the Equatorial Indian Ocean.

Region II: Bay of Bengal – The pressure gradient over the Bay of Bengal (BoB) is likely to start weakening during this month. The average wind speeds are likely to be 10 -15 knots over the North BoB and 15-20 knots over the South BoB. The low pressure systems over BoB is likely to form to the North of latitudes 15° N, west of longitude 95° E and gradually move in W-NW'ward. The Sea State is likely to be of the order of 3 to 4 over most parts of the BoB. However, closer to the coast it is likely to be around 2. The swell over most parts of the Bay is likely to be S - SW'ly of the order 2 - 2.5 m, whereas closer to coast it is likely to be 1.5 m.

Region III: Southeast Asia – Mean sea level pressure over the area is likely to be of the order of 1006-1010 hPa. During this month, there is likely to be an increase in swell with a mean height of 1.0 – 1.5 m over most parts of the region. The Sea State is likely to be of the order of 3 - 4 but is close to 2 along the coast. A current of the order of 0.8 – 1.2 knots is likely to be experienced over the South China Sea for most of the duration of the month.

Region IV: South Indian Ocean – During the month of Aug, the sea level pressure over central parts of the Southern IOR is likely to be of the order of 1025 hPa and 1014 hPa across the Bay of Bengal. The tropical disturbances are likely to be almost absent in this month. Significant wave height is likely to be 2.5 m over most parts of South IOR, increasing to 3.0 - 3.5 m near the West coast of Australia. Surface current is likely to be maximum off Somalia's coast of the order of 2-3 knots.

GUARDIANS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN: HOW INDIA'S IFC-IOR IS TRANSFORMING MARITIME SECURITY

Information Fusion Centre- Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) is a pivotal element in enhancing maritime security and domain awareness in the Indian Ocean Region. This state-of-the-art facility, inaugurated in December 2018, represents a significant advancement in the Indian Navy's strategic capabilities and reflects its commitment to fostering regional and global maritime security.

Historical Context and Strategic Importance

The Indian Ocean, covering nearly three-fourths of the Earth's surface, has emerged as a strategic zone critical to global geopolitics. The significance of maritime control in this region was underscored by historical figures such as Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who emphasized the importance of naval strength for India's security and independence. Similarly, Sardar K M Parrikar highlighted the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean for India's future, echoing Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan's views on maritime dominance.

Maritime Security Challenges

The Indian Ocean faces various threats, including piracy, smuggling, and terrorism, compounded by technological advancements and increasing maritime traffic. The 2008 Mumbai terror attack exposed vulnerabilities in maritime security, prompting the establishment of the National Committee for Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security (NCSMCS). The Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in Gurugram and the National Command Control Communication and Intelligence Network (NC3I) were pivotal in addressing these challenges.

IFC-IOR's Role and Achievements

The IFC-IOR has become a central hub for maritime domain awareness in the region, featuring 14 International Liaison Officers from partner nations, including Australia, Bangladesh, France, Italy, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar, Maldives, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UK and United States. This collaborative approach enhances information sharing, coordination, and response capabilities. The centre monitors maritime traffic, generates security updates, and provides a comprehensive maritime situational picture. It also collaborates with regional entities and other maritime fusion centres globally.

Conclusion

IFC-IOR plays a crucial role in ensuring maritime safety, environmental protection and effective response to maritime threats. Its contributions extend to critical operations such as counter-piracy efforts and humanitarian missions, reinforcing its position as a key player in the strategic maritime domain.

Source: Dryad Global

EVENTS – AUG 2024



Visit of Journalists from 23 Indo-Pacific countries – 20 Aug 24



Visit of UNODC delegation led by Ms Siji Song, Regional Programme Director, Eastern Indian Ocean- 23 Aug 24



Visit of Adm Marcos Sampaio Olsen, Commander, Brazil Navy- 24 Aug 24

EVENTS – AUG 2024



***Visit of South African Navy delegation led by RAdm David Mkhonto,
Chief Director Maritime Strategy- 29 Aug 24***



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