

MONTHLY MARITIME SECURITY UPDATE

Nov 2024



INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE
INDIAN OCEAN REGION

Disclaimer

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Overview

301 incidents comprising piracy and armed robbery (18), contraband smuggling (80), illegal unreported and unregulated fishing (79), irregular human migration (15), maritime incidents (103), maritime security threats (hybrid) (04) and marine environment pollution (02) were monitored in Nov 24.

Piracy and Armed Robbery 18 incidents of piracy and armed robbery (actual and attempted) were monitored in Nov 24, compared to 12 in the previous month. Only one incident recorded injury to two crew members. *The incidents of piracy and armed robbery remained low in IOR except in South East Asia.*

Contraband Smuggling 80 incidents of contraband smuggling were monitored in Nov 24, compared to 63 in Oct 24. *Nov 24 saw a record surge in seizure of drug smuggling, particularly involving methamphetamine-related substances.*

IUU Fishing 79 IUU fishing incidents were recorded in Nov 24, compared to 61 in Oct 24. 80 fishing vessels were seized and 618 fishermen were apprehended.

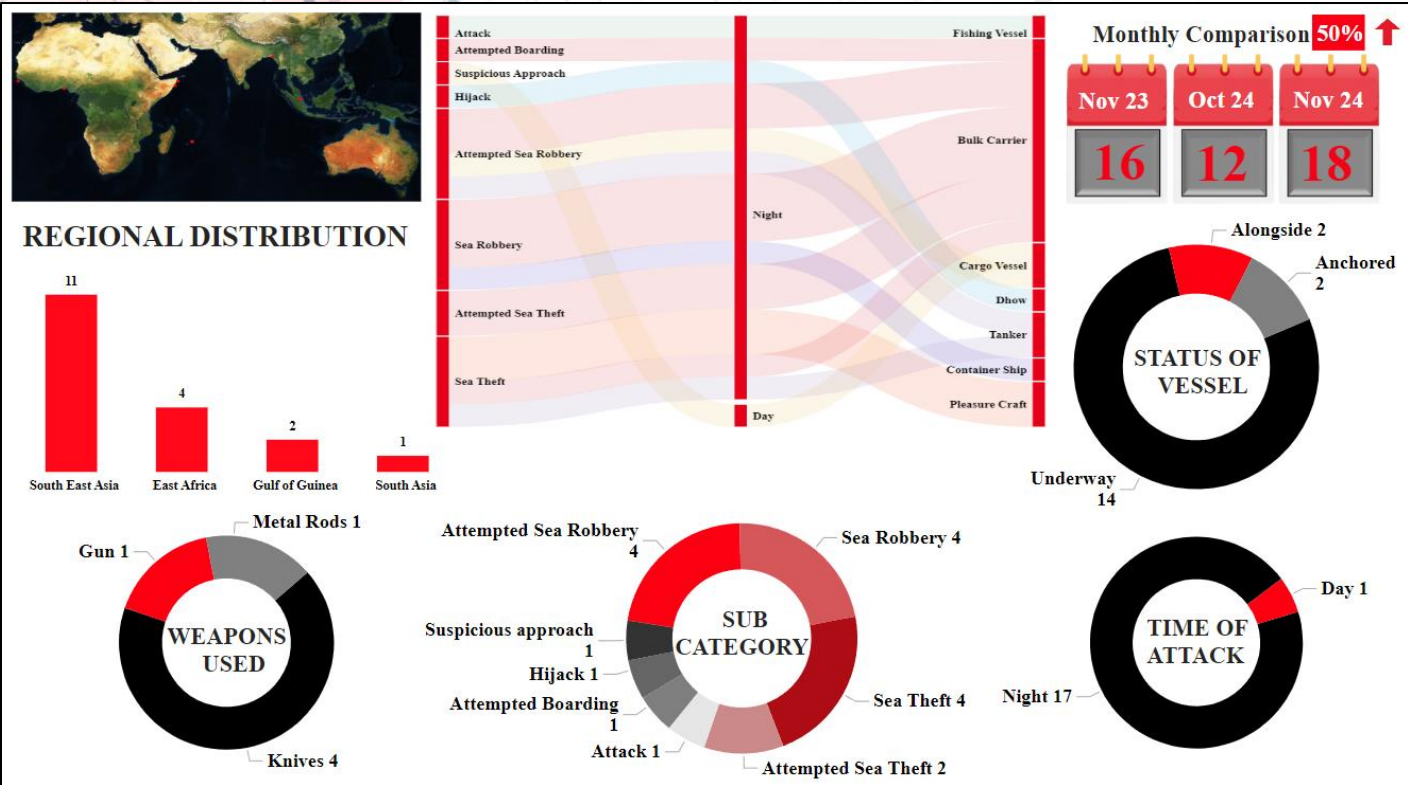
Irregular Human Migration 15 incidents were recorded in Nov 24, compared to 14 in Oct 24. *Illegal migration through maritime routes maintained a consistent low.*

Maritime Incidents 103 maritime incidents were recorded by the Centre in Nov 24, compared to 130 in Oct 24. Incidents involving MEDEVAC, mechanical failures, grounding, vessels sunk, capsizing and detention of vessels were the frequently reported incidents.

Maritime Security Threats (Hybrid) Four incidents were recorded in Nov 24, compared to 10 in Oct 24. *While the number of attacks in the region have reduced yet they have remained lethal and destructive.*

Marine Environment Pollution Two incidents of oil spill were reported in Nov 24.

PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY



Overview

18 incidents of piracy and armed robbery (actual and attempted) were monitored in Nov 24, a 50% increase compared to 12 incidents in Oct 24. 17 incidents were reported in dark hours and one was reported by day.

Analysis of Incidents

Sea Thefts/ Robberies Sea thefts and robberies (actual/attempted) constituted 14 incidents in Nov 24 which *were all reported during dark hours*. Most of the incidents were reported on vessels underway (10). Other incidents involved vessels alongside (02) and vessels anchored (02). The number of perpetrators involved in these incidents ranged from groups of one to twenty (in one incident reportedly 15 – 20 perpetrators were involved). The stolen items included engine spares, ship's item, boat's items and cargo from container. No injury to crew of the affected vessels was reported, except for one incident where two crew members were injured.

Suspicious Approach An incident of suspicious approach was reported during this month. Reportedly, a small craft with 07-08 persons

approached the Palau flagged cargo vessel *NORDBERG*. within 1.5 nm. All crew members were safe and the vessel proceeded to next port of call.

Attack Centre observed one incident of attack in Nov 24 compared to none in Oct 24. On 02 Nov 24, an attack was reported off the coast of Somalia, approximately 14 nautical miles southwest of Hafun. Armed perpetrators in a skiff fired shots at the Iranian-flagged fishing vessel *AL MUSTAFA* before fleeing the scene. Initial reports indicated that a Rocket-Propelled Grenade (RPG) was seen aboard the skiff, though no further details could be ascertained. No casualties were reported during the incident.

Hijack On 01 Nov 24, a hijack occurred off the coast off Ely, Somalia, involving an Iranian-flagged dhow. An unknown number of assailants boarded the vessel and seized control of the ship. The motives of the perpetrators remain unclear, and no further details have so far been ascertained. This incident underscores the ongoing threat of piracy in Somali waters, where hijackings continue to pose significant risks to vessels.

Illegal Boarding An incident of attempted boarding was reported during this month..

PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY

On 17 Nov 24, Reportedly, a fast craft with three perpetrators attempted to board a Marshall Island flagged bulk carrier in Phillip Channel, Indonesia while underway.

Regional Analysis

Gulf of Guinea witnessed two incidents – one of suspicious approach and one of sea robbery.

On 25 Nov 24, an incident of suspicious approach was reported by the Palau flagged cargo vessel *NORDBERG* off Guinea (during day hours). Reportedly, a small craft with 07-08 persons approached the vessel within 1.5 nm. Both the vessel and crew were reported to be safe.

On 28 Nov 24, an incident of Sea robbery was reported on the Marshall islands flagged container ship *NAVIOS DESTINY* at Tin Can Port, Lagos, Nigeria (during dark hours). Reportedly, 15-20 perpetrators armed with knives boarded the vessel while at anchor and took a crew member hostage. Perpetrators escaped with cargo from containers when alarm was raised.

East Africa witnessed a total of four incidents which included two incidents of sea thefts (both actual) and one each incident of attack and hijack. All these incidents were reported during dark hours. Incidents involved vessels alongside (02), and those underway (02). Primarily boat items were stolen and no injuries were reported.

South East Asia witnessed a total of 11 incidents which included six incidents of sea robberies, four incidents of sea thefts (both actual/attempted) and one incident of attempted boarding. Bulk carriers, tankers, and cargo vessel were the affected vessels and all the incidents were reported during dark hours. The stolen items primarily comprised engine part. No injuries to crew were reported. The modus operandi of the perpetrators continues to align with the previous

month, wherein the *perpetrators targeted low-freeboard vessels*. All vessels transiting through Phillip Channel, Singapore Strait and those at anchor are advised to remain vigilant and follow BMP5 practices.

South Asia witnessed an incident of sea robbery which was reported onboard a Liberia flagged bulk carrier *KARLOVASI* at Kutubdia anchorage, Bangladesh. Reportedly, 10 perpetrators armed with knives boarded the vessel at anchor. Perpetrators tied up three local watchmen and injured one of them. They also assaulted one crew member, causing a minor head injury and escaped with ship's property.

IFC - IOR Comment

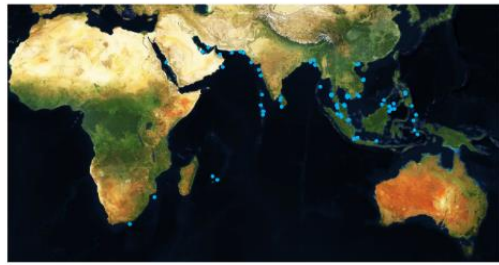
While there was a conspicuous decline in incidents of Piracy in GoA and off Somalia since Jul 24, the same was attributed to the prevalence of SW Monsoons in the region.

A series of incidents indicate presence of active PAGs in the region and the same are as follows: -

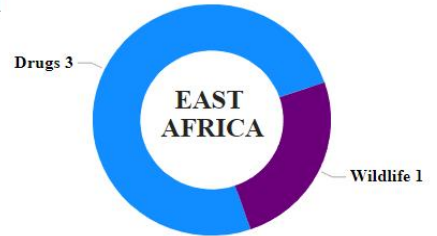
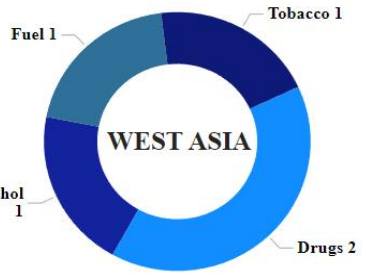
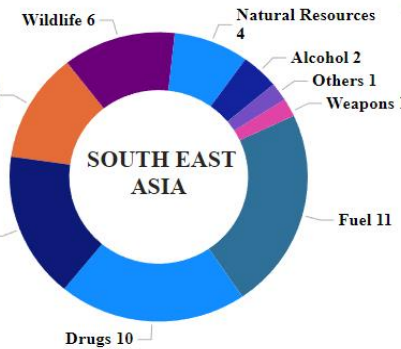
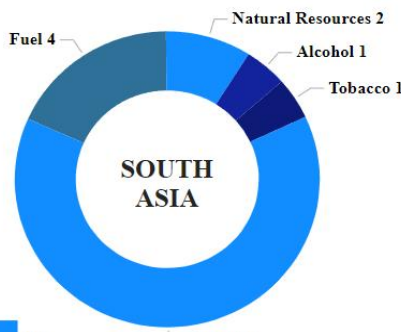
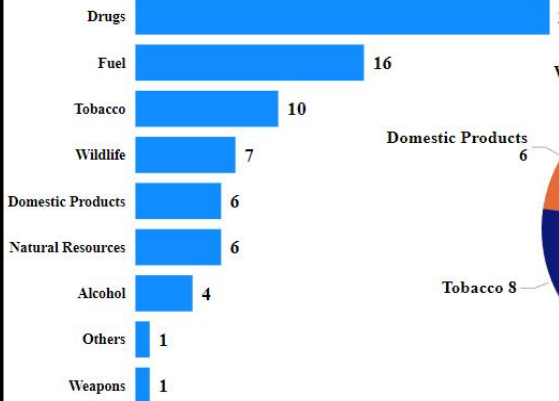
- On 23 Oct 24, a PAG comprising 13 persons departed Ceel Huur Port, Somalia.*
- On 01 Nov 24, an incident of Hijack was reported off Eyl which involved an unknown number of pirates and no further information/ demands from pirates have been received with regard to this incident.*
- It is highly possible that the active PAGs are undertaking hijacks of Dhows operating in vicinity of Somalia coast to acquire mother ships. These mother ships may then be used for mounting attacks on Merchant Traffic.*

Vessels transiting through Somalia Coast, Gulf of Guinea, Singapore Straits and Phillip Channel 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@nic.in.

CONTRABAND SMUGGLING



SUB-CATEGORY



Overview

80 incidents of contraband smuggling were monitored in Nov 24, amounting to 27% increase in incidents compared to Oct 24 (63 incidents).

Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.

Analysis of Incidents

Drugs A total of 29 drug seizures were recorded in Nov 24, slightly higher than the 25 incidents in Oct 24. However, in terms of quantity of seizure, the month witnessed a record high, particularly methamphetamine-related drugs wherein the seizures constituted 7,267 kg in 13 incidents. Three significant incidents alone amounted to a seizure of 12,235,500 methamphetamine pills/tablets. Another major drug bust recorded a seizure value amounting to USD 6,591,836. Other seizures included cannabis, hashish, heroin, cocaine, cathinone and resin. Of these, **21 incidents specifically involved activities at sea, such as the apprehension of suspect vessels transporting drugs, as well as the recovery of drugs washed ashore.** The seizures were carried out by the national authorities of Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique,

Domestic Products Six incidents of domestic product smuggling were recorded this month, similar to Oct 24. The products seized were rubber, cosmetics, vehicles and assorted goods.

Wildlife Seven incidents of wildlife smuggling were recorded in Nov 24, compare to seven in Oct 24. The incidents involved smuggling of reptiles, abalone, shellfish and lobster seeds. **In two significant incidents, Indonesian authorities seized 358 pieces of reptile skins at port and 111 reptiles from a passenger boat.**

Tobacco Ten incidents of tobacco smuggling were recorded in Nov 24, compared to two incidents in Oct 24. A total of 7,872 kg of tobacco products were seized which amounted to an estimated value of USD 2,212,096. **The most significant incidents in Nov 24 included the seizure of 8,390,000 cigarette sticks at Port Klang, Malaysia (valued at USD 1,425,379) and the seizure of 2,575 kg of tobacco hidden inside a shipment of metal bars at Hamad Port, Qatar.**

CONTRABAND SMUGGLING

Fuel 16 incidents of fuel smuggling were recorded in Nov 24, compared to nine in the previous month. Most of the incidents were recorded in South East Asia and South Asia. These incidents amounted to a total seizure of 955,152 litres of diesel, 600 litres of petrol, 3,200 litres of crude oil and 390 litres of other fuel type.

Alcohol and weapon Four incidents of alcohol and one incident of weapon smuggling were recorded in Nov 24 compared to one in Oct 24. Seizures amounted to a total of 34,660 litre of liquor wherein 1300 bottles & 36 cans of liquor were seized in these incidents.

Natural Resources Six incidents of natural resources smuggling were recorded in Nov 24, a 45% decrease compared to 11 incidents in Oct 24. The seizures included 1,550 m³ of sand, 2,550 kg of kendu leaves, 400,000 kg of coal, and 6,025 bamboo sticks. *Over the last two months, the number of natural resources smuggling incidents has significantly decreased, particularly in the South East Asian region.*

Regional Distribution

East Africa East Africa accounted for four incidents in Nov 24, compared to six incidents during the previous month. The regional authorities seized 100 kgs of cannabis, 20 drums of cocaine and 516 number of abalone. In addition, France authorities seized 200 kgs of methamphetamine, cannabis, resin and heroin at 100 nm N of La Réunion onboard a coaster-type ship.

West Asia West Asia accounted for five incidents of contraband smuggling in Nov 24, down from seven incidents in Oct 24. *The seizure of 12,000,000 amphetamine pills by Saudi Arabia authorities was the key highlight. Additionally, Qatar authorities seized 2,575 kgs of tobacco worth USD 118,450 at Hamad Port.*

South East Asia South East Asia recorded 49 incidents of contraband smuggling in Nov 24, up from 35 in Oct 24. These incidents included 11 fuel smuggling cases, 10 drug smuggling cases, eight tobacco smuggling, six cases of wildlife and domestic product smuggling each, four natural resources smuggling, two cases of alcohol smuggling and one case of weapons and others each. A significant methamphetamine seizure by Philippine authorities, worth USD 6,591,836, was a key highlight. The region also saw three separate rubber smuggling incidents totaling 3,200 kgs. *Rubber smuggling has become a common trend, likely driven by high demand in the destination country and low production costs in the origin country.*

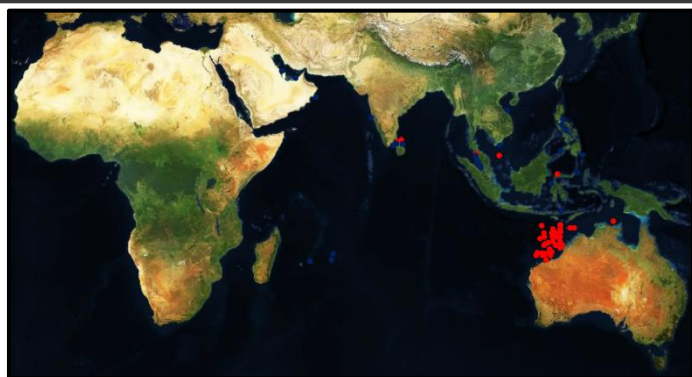
South Asia South Asia accounted for 22 incidents of contraband smuggling in Nov 24, compared to 15 in Oct 24. Drug smuggling incidents in the region were the leading contributor during this month. Significant seizures included the following: -

Indian Authorities	6,700 kgs Methamphetamine
Pakistan Authorities	1,292 kgs Hashish
Maldives Authorities	125 kgs Cocaine 335 kgs Methamphetamine
Sri Lanka Authorities	113 kgs Heroin
Bangladesh Authorities	235,500 Methamphetamine pills

IFC-IOR Comment

Nov 24 saw a record surge in seizure of drug smuggling, particularly involving methamphetamine-related substances. Analysis of the trends shows that methamphetamine smuggling has become more frequent than ever in the region. The Golden Triangle area, considered the origin of these drugs, is now assessed to be producing them on a large scale.

ILLEGAL UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING



Monthly Comparison

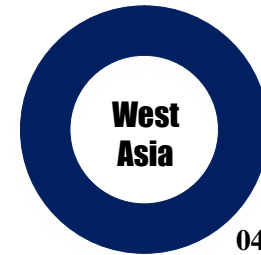
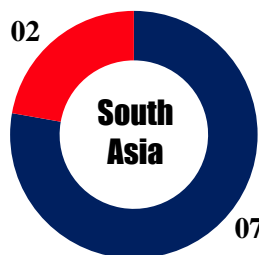
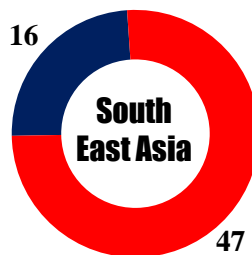
29% ↑



Sub-Category



● IUU Fishing-Local ● IUU Fishing-Poaching



Overview

79 IUU fishing incidents were recorded in Nov 24 compared to 61 in Oct 24 which comprised 49 poaching incidents and 30 local fishing violations.

Analysis of Incidents

Local IUU Fishing. 30 incidents of local IUU fishing were recorded in Nov 24 compared to 40 in Oct 24. These incidents involved violations of fishing licenses by local fishermen, illegal fishing (use of banned method). *A total of 191 fishermen were apprehended and 27 boats were seized by the authorities in these incidents.*

Poaching IUU Fishing. 49 incidents of poaching were recorded in Nov 24 compared to 21 in Oct 24. *A total of 427 fishermen were apprehended and 53 boats were seized by the authorities in these incidents.*

Regional Distribution

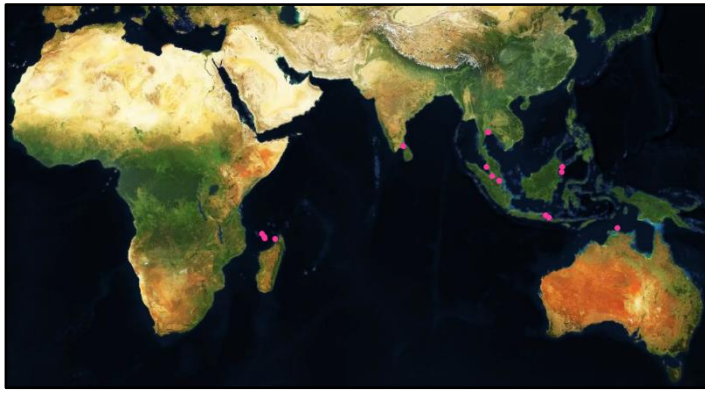
South East Asia. 63 incidents of IUU fishing were reported in this region in Nov 24 compared to 44 in Oct 24. 16 incidents of local IUU fishing and 47 of poaching were monitored. These were recorded in the waters of Australia (27), Indonesia (20), Malaysia (09), Philippines (05) and Vietnam(02). *A total of 67 boats were seized and 515 fishermen were apprehended in the region during the month.*

South Asia. Nine incidents of IUU fishing were reported during Nov 24 compared to 10 in Oct 24. Seven incidents of local IUU fishing and two incidents of poaching were monitored. These were recorded in the waters of Sri Lanka (08) and India (01). *A total of 69 fishermen were apprehended and 10 boats were seized in these incidents.*

East Africa. Three incidents of local IUU fishing were reported, all in the waters of Mauritius during Nov 24, compared to seven in Oct 24. *No boats were seized, and no fishermen were apprehended.*

West Asia. Four incidents of local IUU fishing were reported in this region in Nov 24 compared to no incidents in Oct 24. The incidents were recorded in the waters of Bahrain (02), Oman (01) and UAE (01). *A total of three boats were seized and 34 fishermen were apprehended.*

IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION

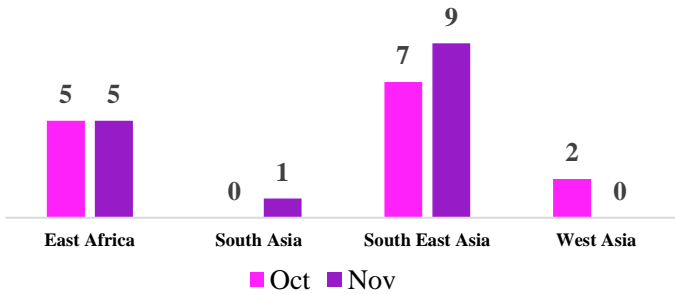


Monthly Comparison

7% ↑



Regional Distribution



Overview

In Nov 24, 15 IHM incidents were reported compared to 14 incidents in Oct 24. A total of 649 migrants and 30 smugglers/ traffickers were apprehended, 26 boats seized and 47 fatalities were reported during this month.

Regional Distribution

East Africa. In Nov 24, the region witnessed five incidents of IHM which is similar to Oct 24. The incidents involved migrants from Comoros, Madagascar and Somalia attempting to enter the France Island of Mayotte. 396 migrants, 22 smugglers/ traffickers were apprehended and 21 boats were seized. 47 unfortunate migrants lost their lives in Nov 24.

West Asia. In Nov 24, West Asia witnessed no incidents of irregular human migration compared to two IHM incidents in Oct 24.

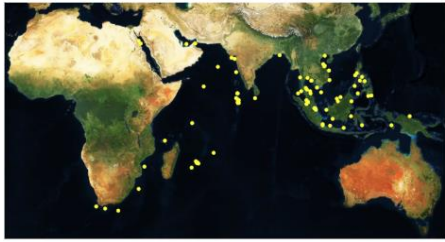
South Asia. The region accounted for one incident of irregular human migration in Nov 24 compared to no incident in Oct 24. The law enforcement authorities apprehended nine migrants and seized one boat.

South East Asia. The region accounted for nine incidents in Nov 24, compared to seven in Oct 24. Malaysia, Australia, Thailand, and Indonesia remain the preferred destination countries for migrants. A total of 244 migrants were apprehended/ rescued, eight suspected smugglers/ traffickers were arrested, and four boats were seized.

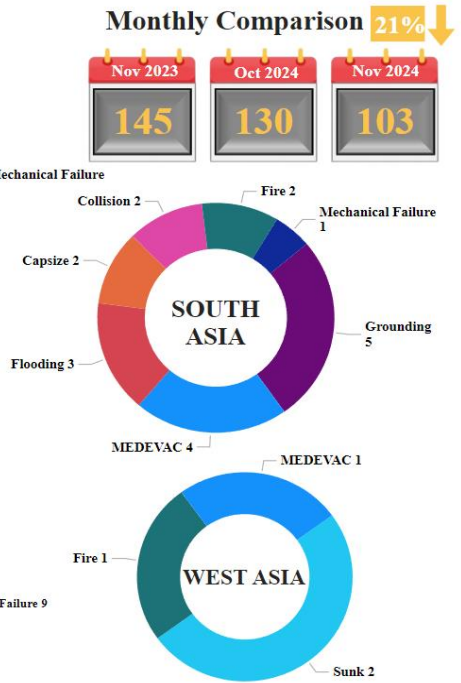
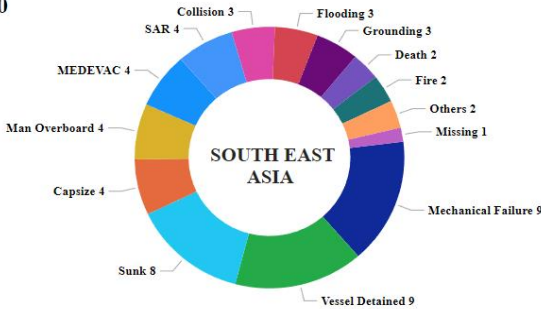
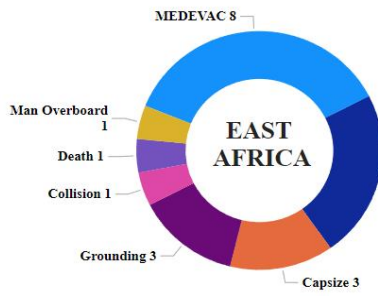
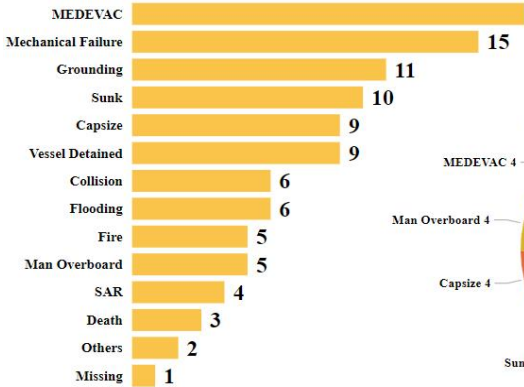
Migration Trends

	No. Of Incidents	Rescued/ Apprehended	Smugglers Apprehended	Boats Involved
East Africa	05	396	22	21
West Asia	00	00	00	00
South East Asia	09	244	08	04
South Asia	01	09	00	01

MARITIME INCIDENTS



SUBCATEGORY



Overview

103 maritime incidents were observed in Nov 24 compared to 130 in Oct 24. MEDEVAC (17) constituted the highest number of reported incidents, followed by mechanical failures (15), grounding (11), sunk (10), vessel detained and capsized (09 each), collision and flooding (06 each), fire and man overboard (05 each), SAR (04), death (03), others (02) and missing (01).

Man overboard, death, SAR, and MEDEVAC A total of 29 incidents were recorded in Nov 24 compared to 36 in Oct 24. A total of 19 individuals were rescued wherein seven individuals were missing and five lives were lost. South East Asia (14) accounted for the highest number of incidents followed by East Africa (10), South Asia (04) and West Asia (01). The analysis indicates that 62% of incidents involved fishing vessels (18 incidents).

Analysis of Incidents

Vessel detained The Centre monitored nine incidents of vessel detentions in Nov 24. All detentions were made in South East Asia against vessels operating without valid documents.

Capsize and Sinking of Vessels In Nov 24, nine incidents of vessel capsizing and 10 incidents of vessel sinkings were recorded, compared to 11 and five in Oct 24. South East Asia accounted for most of these incidents (12 incidents). Concerned authorities rescued 102 individuals in these incidents. 33 lives were lost and eight individuals were reported missing.

MARITIME INCIDENTS

Fire and flooding. Five incidents of fire and six incidents of flooding were recorded in Nov 24, compared to 12 and 13 in Oct 24. All fire incidents involved fishing vessels and other small vessel categories operating in South East Asia (02), South Asia (02) and West Asia (01).

A significant decrease in flooding incidents was monitored compared to Oct 24. Flooding incidents mainly involved cargo ships, fishing vessels and other smaller category vessel operating mostly in South East Asia (03) and South Asia (03).

Cumulatively, a total number of 18 people were rescued and 02 lives were reported lost.

Grounding and collision 11 incidents of grounding and six incidents of collision were recorded in Nov 24 compared to 17 and four in Oct 24. Five incidents of grounding were recorded in South Asia. Barges, fishing vessels and cargo vessels comprised the affected category.

Mechanical Failure The Centre monitored 15 incidents of mechanical failures in Nov 24, a 25% decrease compared to Oct 24 (20 incidents). Majority of the incidents (09) were reported in South East Asia.

Regional Distribution

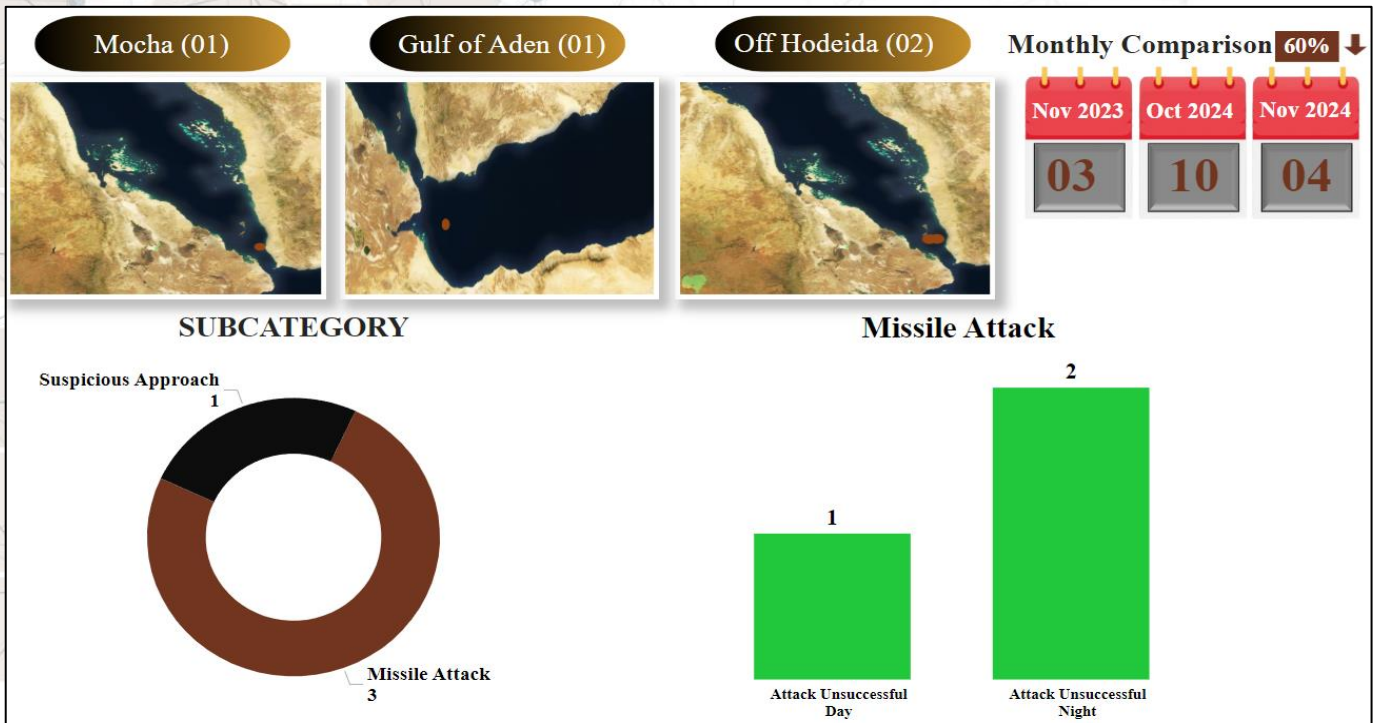
East Africa A total of 22 incidents were reported in East Africa compared to 23 in Oct 24. These include MEDEVAC (08), mechanical failure (05), Grounding & capsized (03 each), collision, death and Man Overboard (01 each).

West Asia accounted for four incidents in Nov 24 which included sunk (02) and one each incident of fire and MEDEVAC.

South Asia accounted for 19 incidents compared to 22 in Oct 24. These included grounding (05), MEDEVAC (04), flooding (03), collision, capsized and fire (02 each) and mechanical failure (01).

South East Asia accounted for 58 incidents compared to 82 in Oct 24. These included mechanical failure and vessel detained (09 each), sunk (08), MEDEVAC, capsized, SAR and Man Overboard (04 each), collision, flooding, and grounding (03 each), death, fire and others (02 each) and missing (01).

MARITIME SECURITY THREATS (HYBRID)



Overview

04 maritime security threats (hybrid) incidents were recorded by the Centre in Nov 24, compared to 10 incidents in Oct 24.

Location of Incidents

Missile attack and suspicious approach incidents were primarily monitored off Al Hodeida, Gulf of Aden and in Red Sea. The positional analysis of the attacks indicates that the area between 13°33'00.0"N 42°51'00.0"E and 11°43'12.0"N 44°09'00.0"E witnessed these attacks in Nov 24.

Drone / Unmanned Aerial Systems Attacks

No Drone Attack were reported this month.

Missile Attacks

Three missile attacks were monitored in Nov 24, compared to eight in Oct 24. One incident was monitored during day hours and two incidents were monitored during dark hours. All three attacks were unsuccessful in inflicting damage to the targeted vessels. All crew members were reported to be safe.

Suspicious Approach

One incident of suspicious approach was recorded by Centre during this month. On 21 Nov 24, reportedly, a small craft with unknown number of persons approached the Cayman Island flagged yacht *TRIPLE SEVEN* within 01 nm about 74 nm SW of Aden, Yemen. No injuries or damage were reported.

IFC-IOR Comments

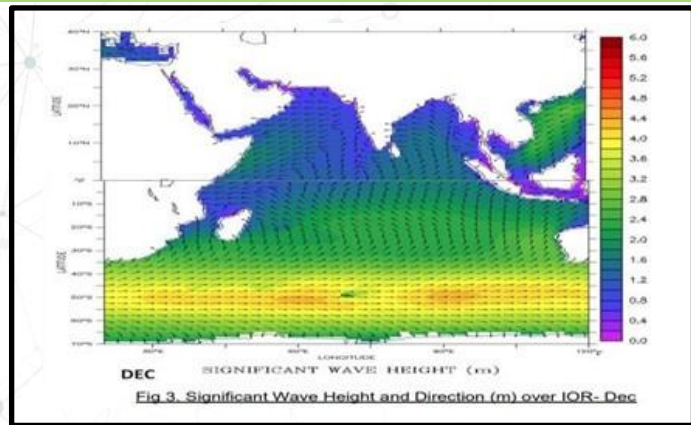
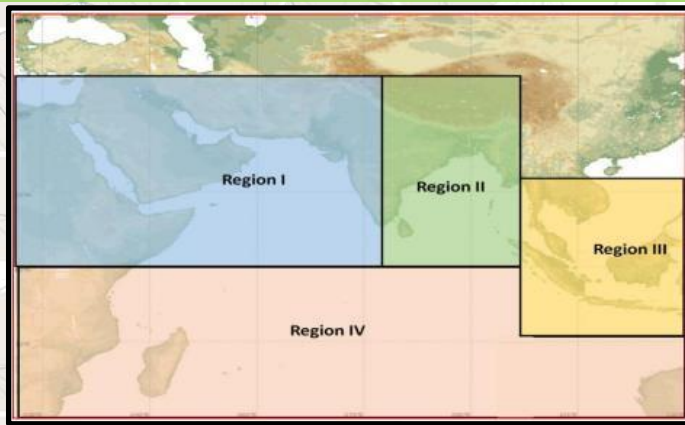
An inconsistent decline in Houthi launched attacks on Merchant Traffic has been observed since Sep 24 as follows: -

Month	Total Attacks	Successful Attacks
Sep 24	04 Drone Attacks 01 Missile Attack	01 Drone Attack 01 Missile Attack
Oct 24	01 Drone Attack 08 Missile Attacks	No Drone Attacks 02 Missile Attacks
Nov 24	No Drone Attack 03 Missile Attacks	No attack successful

Since Jan 24, the security forces operating in the region have frequently intercepted Houthi launched attacks and many other attacks have failed due to inaccurate targeting and uneconomical. Furthermore, the re-routing of traffic through Cape of Good Hope has also reduced the prospect targets plying through Red Sea.

However, over these months such attacks have remained lethal and destructive. Therefore, vessels transiting through the affected areas are *advised to maintain heightened vigilance and maintain contact with regional authorities for risk mitigation and report incidents to ifc-ior.gurugram@nic.in.*

WEATHER FORECAST – DEC 24



Region I: Arabian Sea (AS) - The Mean Sea Level Pressure (MSLP) is likely to be of the order of 1011 -12 hPa over the South Arabian Sea (AS) and gradually likely to increase to about 1017-18 hPa over the North AS. There is a considerable reduction in the frequency of storms during this month. The average Sea Surface Temperature (SST) is likely to be about 24°- 26°C over most parts of AS. The sea conditions are relatively smooth over the North AS and slight to moderate over the South AS. The significant wave height is likely to be of the order of 1.0 - 1.5 m over south AS and likely to decrease northwards to about 0.5 - 1.0 m over North AS.

Region II: Bay of Bengal - The seasonal low pressure area is likely to shift southwards this month and is seen to the south of latitude 5°N. During this month, most of the cyclonic storms are likely to originate between latitudes 5°N - 10°N. The sea state during this month over the Bay of Bengal (BOB) is likely to be 2, which may deteriorate under the influence of weather systems. The swell is likely to be NE – Ely and with a height of 0.8 to 1.5 m over most parts of the Bay except South BoB where it is likely to be 1.5 to 2.0 m.

Region III: Southeast Asia - During the month of December, the mean sea level pressure is likely to be of the order of 1019 - 1020 hPa to the north of 15°N. NEly surface winds are likely to be of the order of 15 -20 Knots gusting upto 30 knots in open sea. Significant waves from NEly direction with a height of about 1.5 - 2.5 m are likely to prevail over the South China Sea and decrease to around 0.5 m over the Malacca Strait.

Region IV: South Indian Ocean - During this month, peak summer is likely to be experienced over the Southern Hemisphere with sea level pressure of about 1020 hPa, decreasing Northwards to 1010 hPa near the equatorial Indian Ocean. The occurrence of tropical disturbance is more common during this month and they usually originate between 10°S to 15°S Latitudes & between 90°E and 120°E Longitudes. These systems track is likely to be towards W-SW and may re-curve towards S-SE after crossing 15°S Latitude. Average minimum air temperatures are likely to move vary between 18°- 24°C in the South Indian Ocean.

EVENTS – NOV 2024



Visit of Govt of Kenya delegation led by Hon. Geoffrey Kaituko, Principle Secretary, Shipping & Maritime Affairs – 20 Nov 24




Information Management & Analysis Centre (IMAC) marks a decade of turning data into insights - 23 Nov 24





Visit of Ambassadors for Indo Pacific H.E. Mr. Marc Abensour & for regional Cooperation in IOR H.E. Mr. Jean Claude Brunet – 25 Nov 24




CONTACT INFO

 +91 124-2208385, +91 7428963733

 ifc-ior.gurugram@navy.gov.in

 <https://indiannavy.nic.in/ifc-ior>

 @IFC_IOR

 IFC-IOR, Sohna Road, Sector-33,
Gurugram 122001, India



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