

# **MONTHLY MARITIME SECURITY UPDATE**

**Sep 2024**



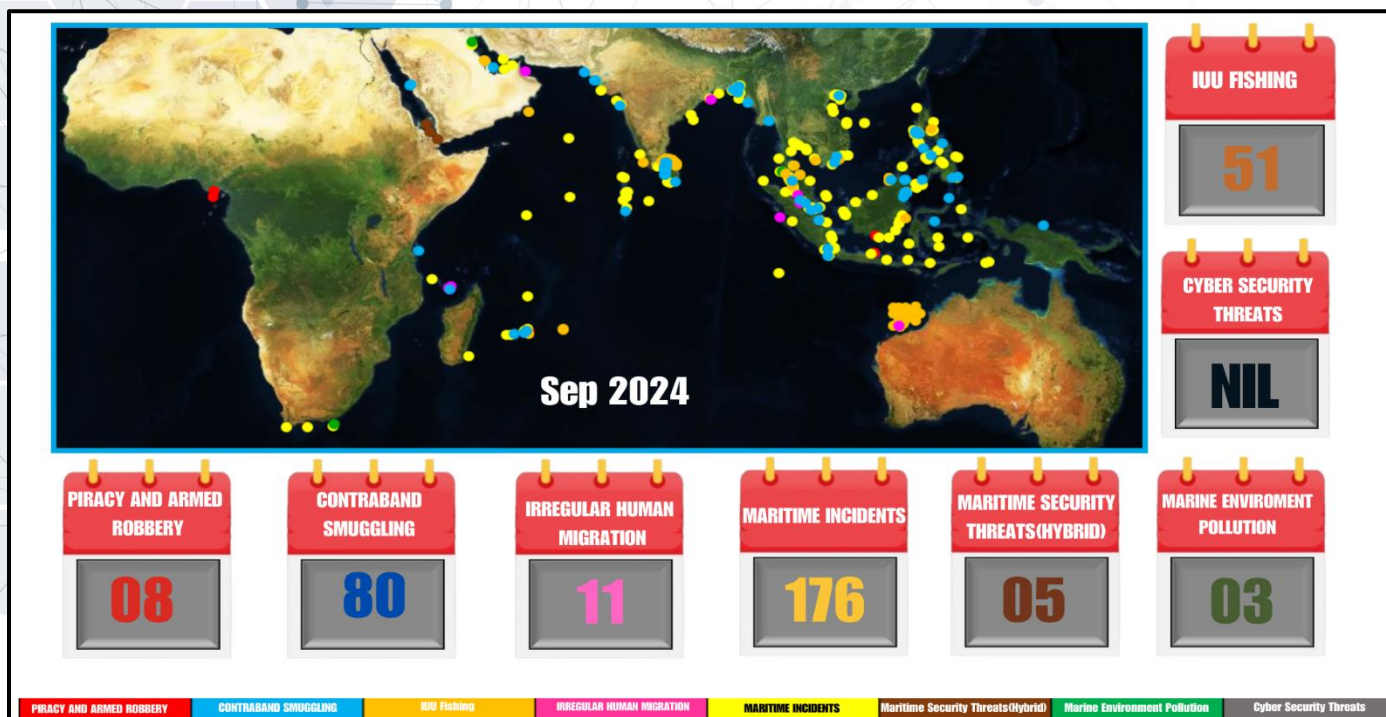
**INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE  
INDIAN OCEAN REGION**

## **Disclaimer**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## Overview

334 incidents comprising piracy and armed robbery (08), contraband smuggling (80), illegal unreported and unregulated fishing (51), irregular human migration (11), maritime incidents (176), maritime security threats (hybrid) (05) and marine environment pollution (03) were monitored in Sep 24.

**Piracy and Armed Robbery** Eight incidents of piracy and armed robbery (actual and attempted) were monitored in Sep 24, compared to 17 in the previous month. No injuries to crew members were reported. *Hijack of passengers in Gulf of Guinea, violent nature of perpetrators in the South East Asia and apprehension of a pirate skiff by Puntland Maritime Forces were the key highlights during this month.*

**Contraband Smuggling** 80 incidents of contraband smuggling were monitored in Sep 24, compared to 97 in Aug 24. Seizures of cocaine in South East Asia, gold in Tanzania port and cigarettes in Indian port were key highlights of Sep 24.

**IUU Fishing** 51 IUU fishing incidents were recorded in Sep 24, compared to 62 in Aug 24.

70 fishing vessels were seized and 351 fishermen were apprehended. A new discovery of *deliberate deception measures by fishing vessels wherein vessels switch off onboard AIS and operate AIS tx from buoys to avoid detection.*

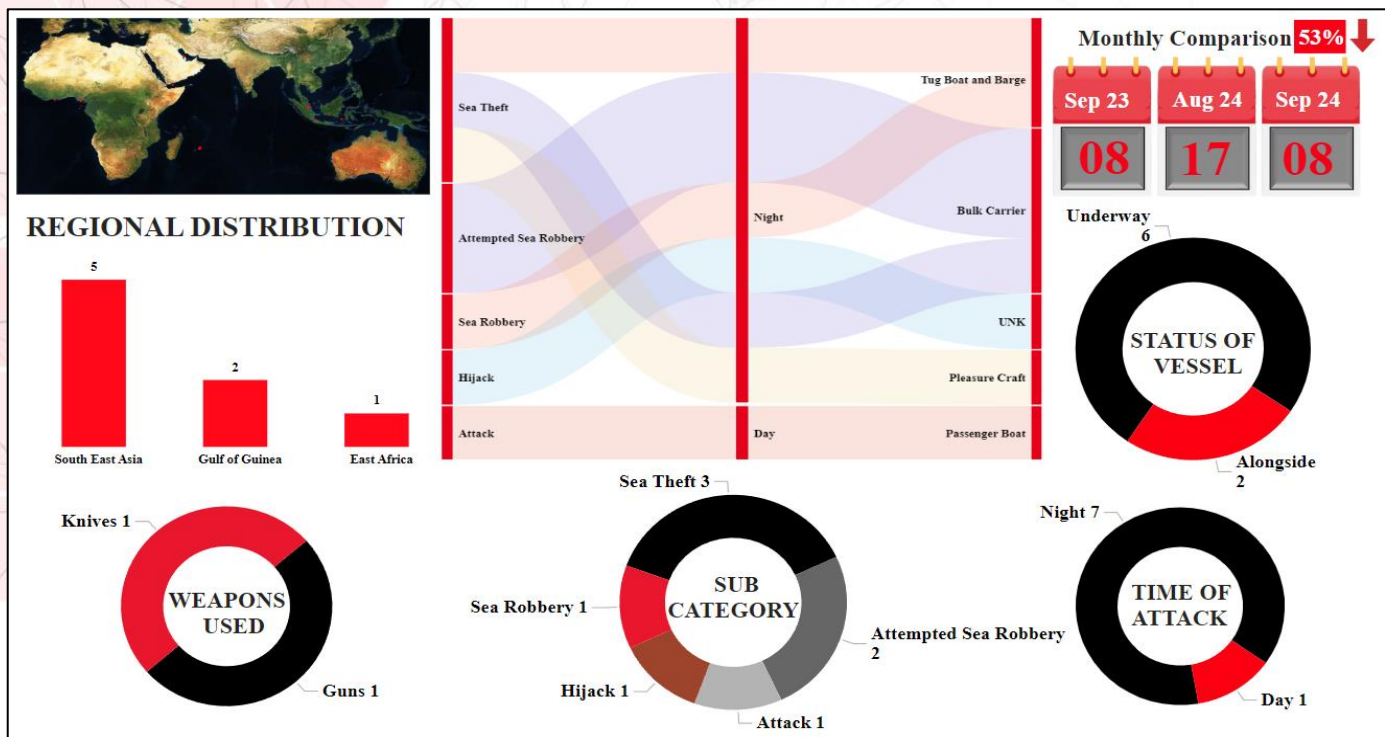
**Irregular Human Migration** 11 incidents were recorded in Sep 24, compared to 13 in Aug 24. *IHM incidents during this month continue to remain low compared to the previous year's incidents, likely due to challenging weather conditions and strict vigilance by law enforcement agencies.*

**Maritime Incidents** 176 maritime incidents were recorded by the Centre in Sep 24, compared to 179 in Aug 24. Mechanical failures, grounding, sinking of vessels and MEDEVAC were the frequently reported incidents. *Typhoon Yagi was the key contributor to capsizing, sinking, grounding and mechanical failure incidents off Philippines and Vietnam during Sep 24.*

**Maritime Security Threats (Hybrid)** Five incidents were recorded in Sep 24, compared to 28 in Aug 24. *Conflict related attacks recorded this month were the lowest since Nov 23.* No major damages or injuries to the crew members was reported during this month.

**Marine Environment Pollution** Three incidents of oil spill were reported in Sep 24.

# PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY



## Overview

Eight incidents of piracy and armed robbery (actual and attempted) were monitored in Sep 24, a 53% decrease compared to Aug 24 (17 incidents). All the incidents except one were reported during dark hours.

## Analysis of Incidents

**Sea Thefts/ Robberies** Sea thefts and robberies (06) (actual/attempted) accounted for 75% of incidents reported. Most of the incidents were reported on vessels underway (04) followed by vessels alongside (02). All the incidents took place during the dark hours. The number of perpetrators involved in these incidents ranged from groups of five to seven. The stolen items included engine parts, boat items and scrap materials. No harm to crew of affected vessels was caused.

**Hijack** One incident of hijacking was reported during the month, compared to two incidents in Aug 24. *The incident involved taking of passengers as hostages seeking compliance with their demands as well as looting personal belongings. Perpetrators were observed to be carrying weapons and escaped with crew belongings such as mobile phones, cash, etc. ship items and navigational equipment.*

**Attack** One incident of attack was reported in Sep 24. Acting against a pirate attack on 16 Sep 24, the Nigerian Navy rescued 20 passengers, including women and children, on Port Harcourt-Bonny sea route, Nigeria. *This incident reveals collusion between pirates and passenger boat operators. The boat operators simulate engine failures. Subsequently, the passenger boat is attacked by the perpetrators and passengers are taken as hostages.*



# PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY

## Regional Analysis

**East Africa** accounted for one incident of sea theft. On 03 Sep 24, an incident of sea theft was reported from an unmanned pleasure craft moored inside the lagoon in Grand Gaube, Mauritius. Reportedly, an unknown number of perpetrators boarded the boat and escaped with boat's items.

**Gulf of Guinea** accounted for two incidents, which included one incident each of hijack and attack. In the recent past, passenger boats have been targeted in this region. Further, during this month, the same boat was reported to be involved in both incidents and was observed to be simulating engine failure at a similar location. ***The Bonny River, which is the primary sea route between Bonny Island and Port Harcourt, Nigeria, has lately been challenged by incessant attacks on passengers commuting on this route.***

**South East Asia** witnessed three incidents of sea robberies and two incidents of sea thefts (both actual and attempted). Bulk carriers, tugs and barges were the affected vessels in the region. All incidents took place during dark hours. Stolen items included engine parts, scrap materials, mobile phones, navigation equipments and cash. No injuries were reported in these incidents. ***Analysis of incidents indicates that perpetrators continue to target slow-speed and low-freeboard vessels such as bulk carriers and tugs.*** All vessels transiting through Phillip Channel, Singapore Strait and while at anchor are advised to remain vigilant and follow BMP5 practices.

**West Asia** No incidents were reported in this region during this month.

## IFC - IOR Comment

Piracy and armed robbery incidents in Sep 24 witnessed a decrease of 53% compared to Aug 24. The decrease is attributable to nil incidents in the West Asia due to the presence of international forces and efforts of regional law enforcement agencies. A significant event that underscores this is the successful interception of a suspected pirate skiff by Puntland Maritime Forces. On 01 Sep 24, a suspected pirate skiff was intercepted at the coastline of Bareeda, Ras Caseyr Region, Puntland State, Somalia. The skiff had seven pirates onboard. The authorities were successful in apprehending three pirates, a skiff and equipment onboard. Four other pirates managed to escape and are still being pursued by the authorities.

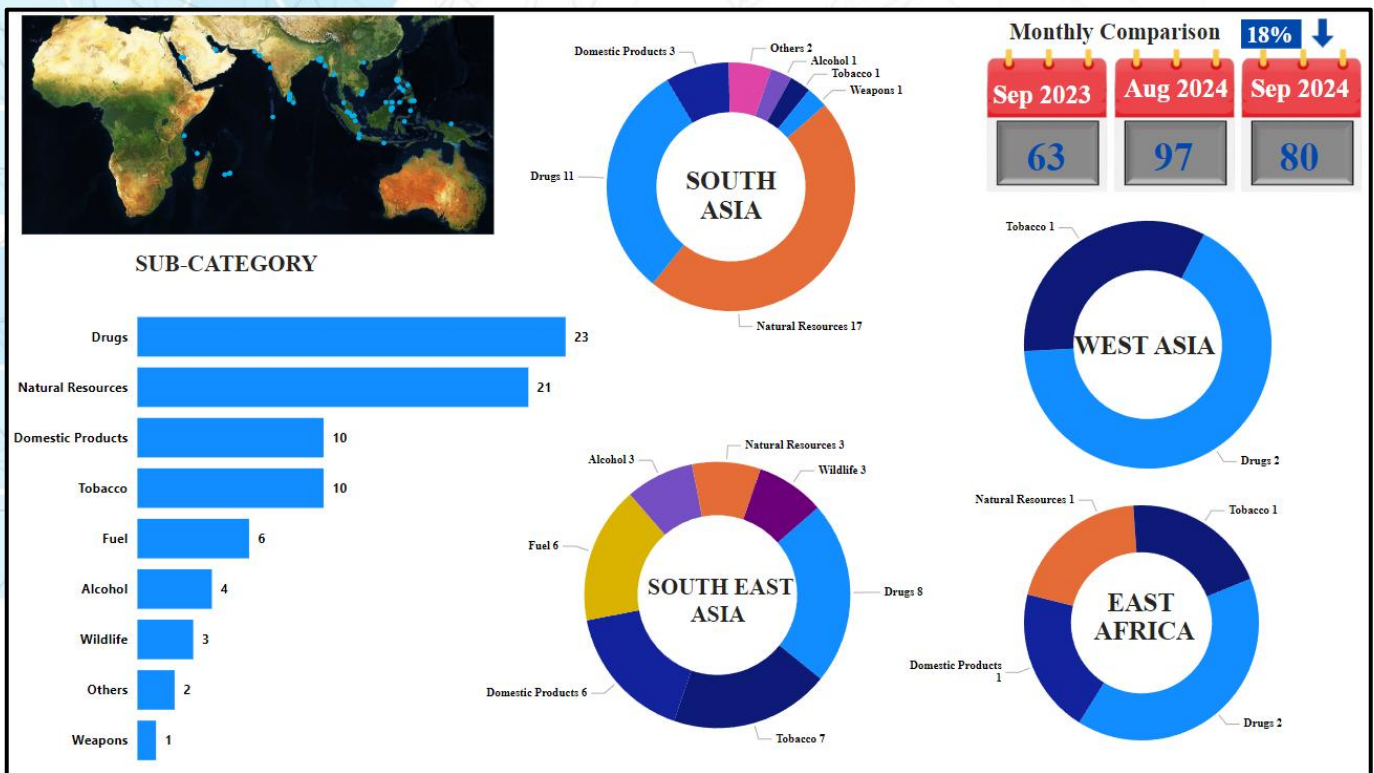
The recent decrease in reported piracy incidents off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden should not be interpreted as the elimination of the piracy threat in this region.

The sea robbery incidents reported in Southeast Asia indicate that the perpetrators were armed and could have injured the crew members.

The close ties between the passenger boat operators and pirates off Nigeria, is an alarming development in the Gulf of Guinea.

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@navy.nic.in](mailto:ifc-ior.gurugram@navy.nic.in).

# CONTRABAND SMUGGLING



## Overview

80 incidents of contraband smuggling were monitored in Sep 24, an 18% decrease compared to Aug 24 (97 incidents).

## Analysis of Incidents

**Drugs** 23 drug seizures were recorded in Sep 24, compared to 25 in Aug 24. These incidents included seizures of methamphetamine, cannabis, cocaine, yaba pills, pregabalin capsule and heroin. Out of these, 17 incidents specifically involved activities at sea, including *interceptions of boats carrying contraband and recovery of drugs washed ashore*. The seizures were carried out by the national authorities of Indonesia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Philippines, Pakistan, La Reunion (French Authorities), Mauritius, Myanmar, and Maldives, indicating widespread efforts to combat illegal drug trafficking through maritime routes.

**Domestic Products** 10 incidents of domestic product smuggling were recorded this month, compared to 13 in Aug 24. The products seized include assorted goods, cosmetics, frozen fish, turmeric, salted fish, chicken, frozen meat, clam shells etc.

**Wildlife** Three incidents of wildlife smuggling were recorded in Sep 24, compared to seven in Aug 24. Most of these cases involved lobster seeds, anchovies, birds, etc.

**Tobacco** 10 incidents of tobacco smuggling were recorded in Sep 24, compared to 12 in Aug 24. A total of 43,338 kilograms of tobacco products (cigarettes) were seized across various locations. The value of the seizures was approximately USD 48,38,287. *Seizures of cigarettes in harbours of India and the Philippines were significant events and key contributors to the tobacco smuggling incidents during this month.*



# CONTRABAND SMUGGLING

**Fuel** Six incidents of fuel smuggling were recorded in Sep 24, compared to 10 in the previous month. Most of the incidents were recorded in South East Asia. These incidents involved the seizure of 1,31,325 litres of diesel and 8,000 litres of petrol.

**Alcohol** Four incidents of alcohol smuggling were recorded in Sep 24 compared to two in Aug 24. A total of 385 cans of beer, 19,800 bottles & 50 cartons of liquor. More than 11,676 litres of liquor was seized in these incidents.

**Natural Resources** 21 incidents of natural resources smuggling were recorded in Sep 24, a 9% decrease as compared to 23 in Aug 24. The seizures involved 7,817 kgs kendu leaves, 16 kgs of gold, 400 kgs of ketum leaves, 2,75,000 lobster seeds and 1300 m<sup>3</sup> of sand. *Analysis of these incidents indicate smuggling of Kendu leaves as a major contributor to natural resources smuggling off the coast of Sri Lanka, aligning with the previous month's trend. Seizures of high-speed craft carrying lobster seeds and seizures of gold at Tanzania were significant events during Sep 24.*

## Regional Distribution

**East Africa** East Africa accounted for five incident in Aug 24 compared to one in Aug 24. A total of 50,277 kgs of cannabis, frozen fish, gold and salted fish and one Kwassa-Kwassa boat with cigarettes were seized in these incidents. The seizures of cannabis and gold were significant events in this region. *The analysis of incidents reveals an increase in seizures of cannabis in East African countries. Additionally, Mauritius intercepted 48 tons of salted fish and two tons of frozen fish concealed in containers without valid documentation, indicating ongoing smuggling attempts in the region. These operations emphasize the need for vigilant monitoring of maritime trade routes to combat illicit activities.*

**West Asia** West Asia accounted for three incidents of contraband smuggling, comparable to seven in Aug 24. *The seizure of 236 kg of cocaine by the Saudi Arabia authorities was a key highlight of this month. Further, a trend observed during Sep 24 reveals a pattern of concealing the drugs in domestic products such as bananas, potatoes, etc.*

**South Asia** South Asia accounted for 36 incidents of contraband smuggling in Sep 24, compared to 32 in Aug 24. Natural resources (17), drugs (11), domestic products (03), others (02) and one each of wildlife, tobacco and alcohol smuggling were monitored in this region. *Analysis of incidents indicates frequent smuggling of kendu leaves off Sri Lankan coast. However, a decline in seized quantity of Kendu leaves was monitored as compared to previous month. The seizures of cigarettes at an Indian port, amphetamine tablets (Yaba) off Kyaukphyu, Myanmar, alcohol and drugs seizures off Bangladesh were key highlights of Sep 24.*

**South East Asia** Southeast Asia accounted for 36 incidents of contraband smuggling in Sep 24, compared to 57 in Aug 24. The seizures of cocaine off Indonesia and Malaysia were the significant events during this month. *Analysis reveals an increase in smuggling of methamphetamine, cocaine and cannabis compared to previous month.*

## IFC-IOR Comment

*Contraband smuggling incidents witnessed a 20% decrease compared to Aug 24. This is attributable to lesser incidents in Southeast Asia compared to Aug 24, which may be due to unfavourable weather conditions caused by Typhoon Yagi. Seizures of cocaine in South East Asia, gold in Tanzania port and cigarettes in an Indian port were key highlights in Sep 24. Ingenious measures to evade detection continues to align with previous trends monitored in the IOR.*

# ILLEGAL UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING



## Monthly Comparison

18% ↓

Sep 2023

69

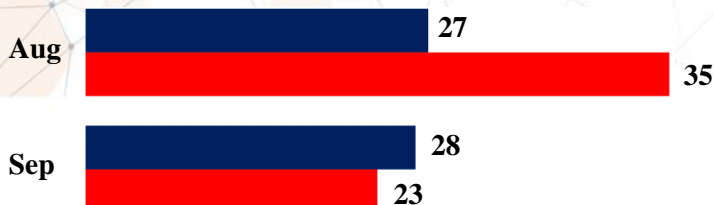
Aug 2024

62

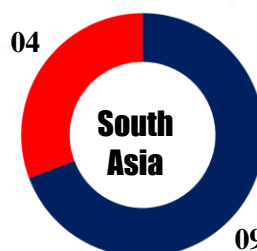
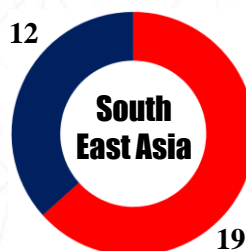
Sep 2024

51

## Sub-Category



● IUU Fishing-Local ● IUU Fishing-Poaching



## Overview

51 IUU fishing incidents were recorded in Sep 24 compared to 62 in Aug 24. Among these, 28 incidents were local and 23 were poaching.

## Analysis of Incidents

**Local IUU Fishing.** 28 incidents of local IUU fishing were recorded in Sep 24 compared to 27 in Aug 24. These incidents involved violations of fishing licenses by local fishermen, illegal fishing techniques, light coarse fishing, use of blast fishing, etc. 91 fishermen were apprehended and 40 boats were seized by the authorities.

**Poaching.** 23 incidents of poaching involving foreign fishing vessels were recorded in Sep 24 compared to 35 in Aug 24. 260 fishermen were apprehended and 32 boats were seized by the authorities.

## Regional Distribution

**South East Asia.** 31 incidents of IUU fishing were reported in this region in Sep 24 compared to 46 in Aug 24. 12 incidents of local IUU fishing and 19 of poaching were monitored. These were recorded in the waters of Australia (18), Malaysia (06), Thailand (03), Vietnam (02) and one each in Philippines and Indonesia. A total of 34 boats were seized and 207 fishermen were apprehended.



# ILLEGAL UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

**South Asia.** 13 incidents of IUU fishing were reported in this region during Sep 24 compared to 11 in Aug 24. Nine incidents of local IUU fishing and four of poaching were monitored. These were recorded in the waters of Sri Lanka (11) and India (02). A total of 34 boats were seized and 131 fishermen were apprehended.

**East Africa.** Four incidents of IUU fishing were reported in this region during Sep 24, Similar as compared to four in Aug 24. All four incidents were of local IUU fishing and were recorded in the waters of Mauritius. Authorities seized one boat in this region.

**West Asia.** Three incident of local IUU fishing were reported during Sep 24. Authorities seized three boat and apprehended 13 fishermen engaged in illegal fishing using illegal fishing nets.

## IFC-IOR Comment

*Deliberate deception measures have been monitored by the centre wherein vessels switch off onboard AIS and operate AIS tx from buoys to avoid detection.*

### Fishing Vessels



**72**

### Catch



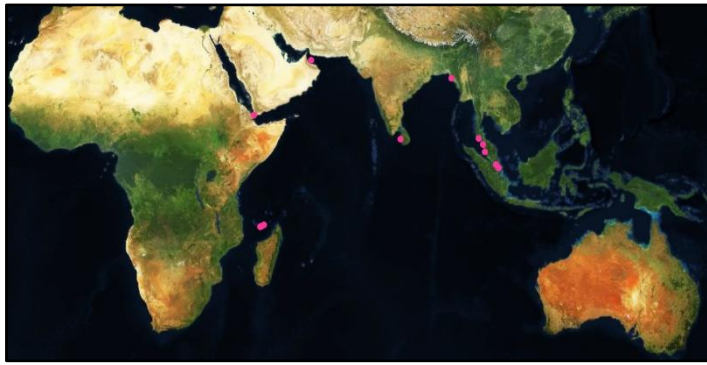
**2640  
kgs**

### Fishermen

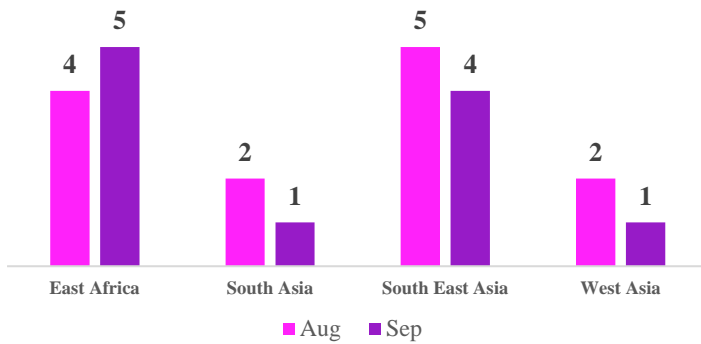


**351**

# IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION

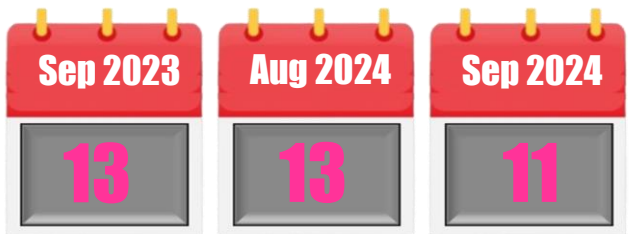


Regional Distribution



## Monthly Comparison

15% ↓



36 Smugglers Apprehended Nil Missing

786 Rescued/ Apprehended

40 Boats

Nil Dead

## Overview

In Sep 24, there were 11 IHM incidents as compared to 13 in Aug 24. A total of 786 migrants and 36 smugglers/traffickers were apprehended during this month. *The analysis of incidents in the recent past indicates that migrant activities via maritime routes have reduced considerably due to the challenging weather conditions.*

**West Asia.** The region witnessed one incident of irregular human migration, compared to two in Aug 24. *The migration pattern observed continues to align with the previous month, wherein the migrants were reported travelling from the Horn of Africa through Djibouti as a transit country to reach oil-rich countries in this region.* A total of 25 migrants were rescued/ apprehended and one boat was seized.

## Regional Distribution

**East Africa.** The region witnessed five incidents of IHM compared to four in Aug 24. Kwassa-kwassa remains the preferred mode of transport for migrants in this region. The incidents involved migrants from Comoros and other countries on the main continent attempting to enter Mayotte. Law enforcement agencies seized 36 boats and apprehended 35 smugglers in Sep 24.

**South East Asia.** The region accounted for four incidents compared to five in Aug 24. In the majority of the incidents, Malaysia and Indonesia was the preferred destination country for migrants. A total of 77 migrants were apprehended/ rescued. Three boats were seized and a suspected smuggler was also apprehended in these incidents.



# IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION

**South Asia.** The region witnessed one incident of irregular human migration in Sep 24, similar to Aug 24. On 01 Sep 24, reportedly, three men believed to be illegal migrants hiding on the Hong Kong flagger bulk carrier GREAT SHENG WEN at Paradip, Odisha, India were apprehended by the Indian authorities.

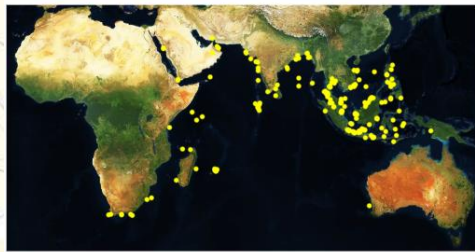
## IFC - IOR Comment

*IHM trends during Sep 24 continue to align with the previous month's trends. The challenging weather conditions and strict law enforcement by concerned stakeholders are likely the contributing factors towards this trend.*

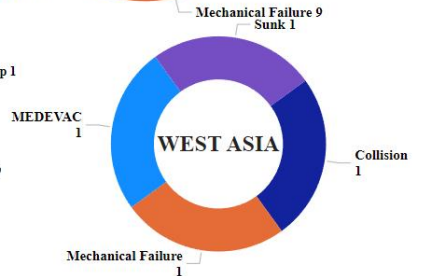
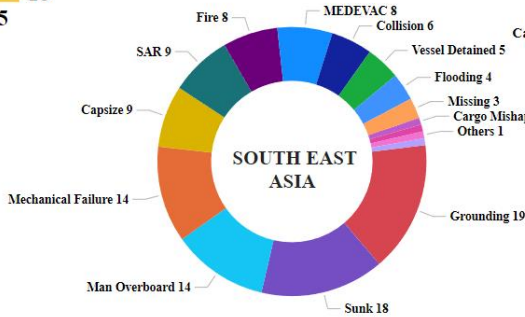
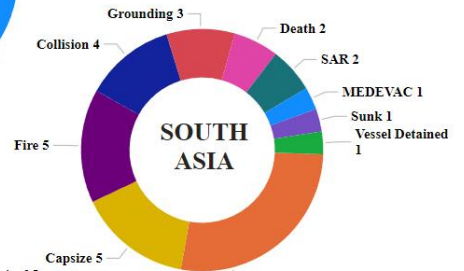
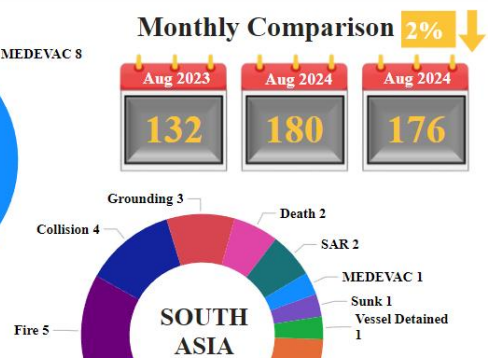
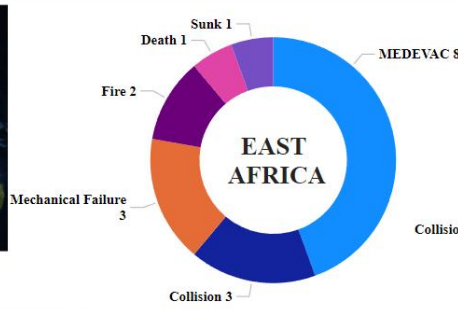
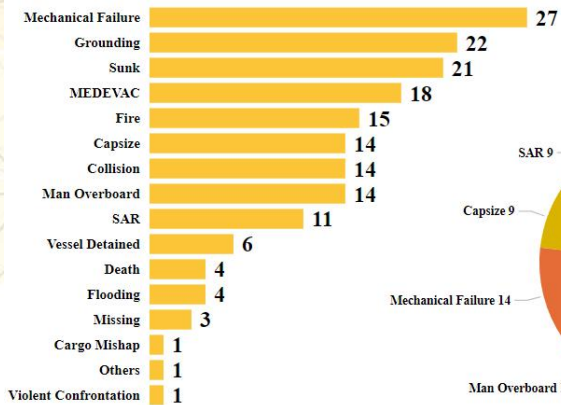
## Migration Trends

	No. Of Incidents	Rescued/ Apprehended	Smugglers Apprehended	Boats Involved
East Africa	05	681	35	36
West Asia	01	25	-	01
South East Asia	04	77	01	03
South Asia	01	03	-	-

# MARITIME INCIDENTS



## SUBCATEGORY



## Overview

176 maritime incidents were observed in Sep 24 compared to 180 in Aug 24. Mechanical Failures (27) constituted the highest number of reported incidents, followed by Grounding (22), Sunk (21), MEDEVAC (18), Fire (15), capsizing, collision, man Overboard (14 each), SAR (11), vessel detained (06), death and flooding (04 each), missing (03) and cargo mishap, others & violent confrontation (01 each).

## Analysis of Incidents

**Vessel detained** The Centre monitored six incidents of vessel detentions in Sep 24. The reported vessel detentions in Sep 24 show a 60% decrease compared to Aug 24. A majority of detentions were made in South East Asia (05 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 47 incidents were recorded in Sep 24 compared to 52 in Aug 24. A total of 62 individuals were rescued, 37 individuals were missing, and 10 lives were lost. South East Asia accounted for the highest number followed by East Africa and South Asia. The analysis indicates that 55% of incidents involved fishing vessels.

**Capsizing and Sinking of Vessels** In Sep 24, 14 incidents of vessel capsizing and 21 of vessel sinking were recorded, compared to 18 and 17 in Aug 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 258 individuals in these incidents while 19 lives were lost and 57 individuals reported missing.



# MARITIME INCIDENTS

**Fire and flooding.** 15 incidents of fire and four of flooding were recorded in Sep 24, compared to 15 and 06 respectively in Aug 24. The primary causes of fire included explosions, fire in machinery/engine room & cargo compartments, short circuits and explosions due to accumulation of flammable gases in confined spaces. 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 particularly barges under tow. 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 86 individuals, a significant decrease compared to the last month whereas, five individuals lost their lives in these incidents.

## Violent Confrontation and Cargo Mishap

One each incident of violent confrontation and cargo mishap was reported in Sep 24. The incident of confrontation involved between two foreign fishing vessels in Southeast Asia, during which ten fishermen were injured. The cargo mishap incident involved a fallen crane boom in South East Asia where two personnel were reported injured.

**Grounding and collision** 22 incidents of groundings and 14 incidents of collisions were recorded in Sep 24 compared to 12 each incidents Aug 24. 86% of grounding incidents were recorded in South East Asia where barges, passenger vessels and supply vessels formed majority amongst affected vessels. Similarly, majority of collision incidents took place in South East Asia where affected vessels majorly comprised cargo vessels, passenger vessels and fishing vessels.

## Regional Distribution

**East Africa** A total of 18 incidents were reported in East Africa compared to 28 in Aug 24. These included MEDEVACs (08), collision and mechanical failure (03 each), fire (02) and death and sunk (01 each).

**West Asia** Accounted for four incidents in Sep 24. These include vessel one each incident of sunk, collision, MEDEVAC and mechanical failure.

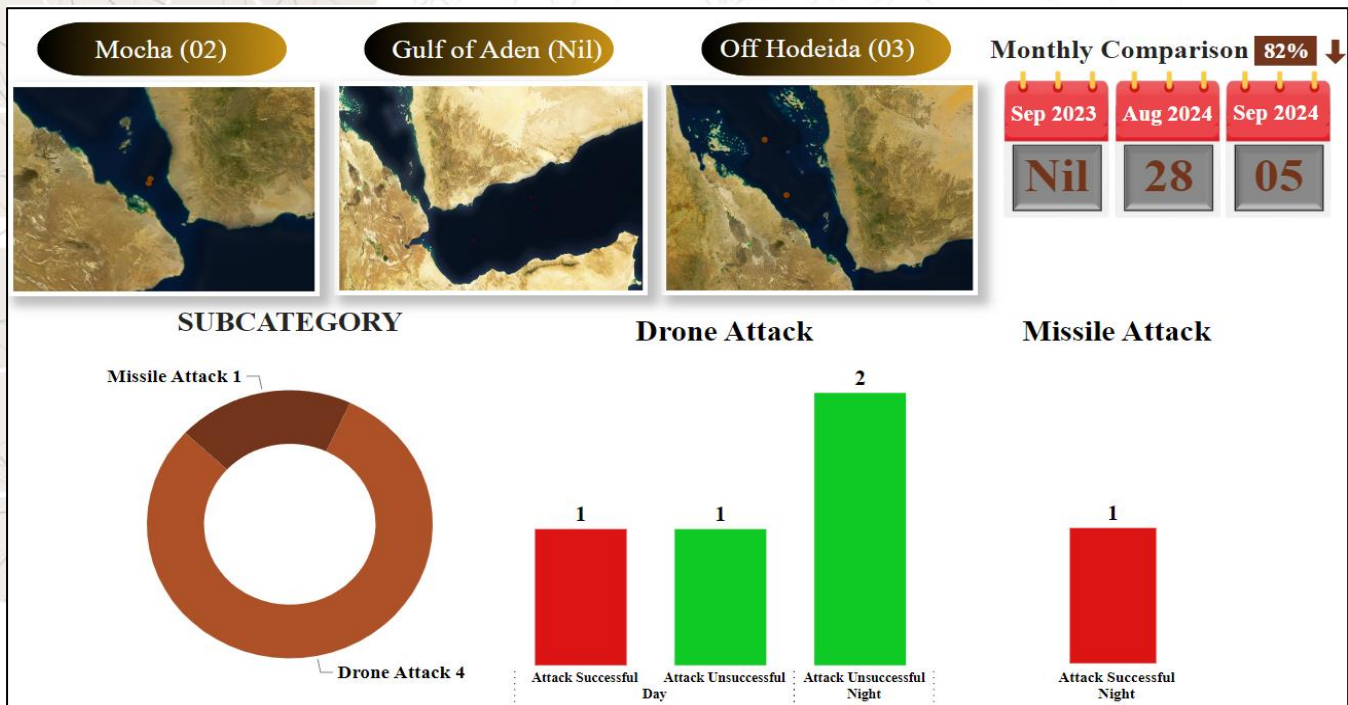
**South Asia** Accounted for 33 incidents compared to 32 in Aug 24. These included mechanical failure (09), capsized and fire (05 each), collision (04), grounding (03), death and SAR (02 each), MEDEVAC, sunk and vessel detention (01 each).

**South East Asia** Accounted for 121 incidents compared to 110 in Aug 24. These included grounding (19), sunk (18), man overboard and mechanical failure (14 each), capsized and SAR (09 each), fire and MEDEVAC (08 each), collision (06), vessel detention (05), flooding (04), missing (03), cargo mishap and others (01 each).

## IFC-IOR Comment

*Typhoon Yagi contributed significantly to maritime incidents (capsized, sinking, grounding, mechanical failures, etc.) off Vietnam and the Philippines. IFC-IOR recommends that all seafarers, especially the fishing community and small vessels, adhere to the local weather forecast, cyclone warnings, and advisories disseminated by relevant agencies before proceeding to sea. The Centre strongly urges all stakeholders to prioritise safety by adhering to SOPs, local weather warnings and safety measures, especially during monsoon seasons.*

# MARITIME SECURITY THREATS (HYBRID)



## Overview

05 maritime security threats (hybrid) incidents were recorded by the Centre in Sep 24, a significant decrease compared to 28 incident in Aug 24. ***This has been the lowest number of attacks in the conflict related incidents since Nov 23.***

### Location of Incidents

The attacks monitored during this month were primarily reported off Mocha and Hodeida. No incidents were reported in Gulf of Aden or Bab-el-Mandeb.

### Drone / Unmanned Aerial Systems Attacks

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

### Missile Attacks

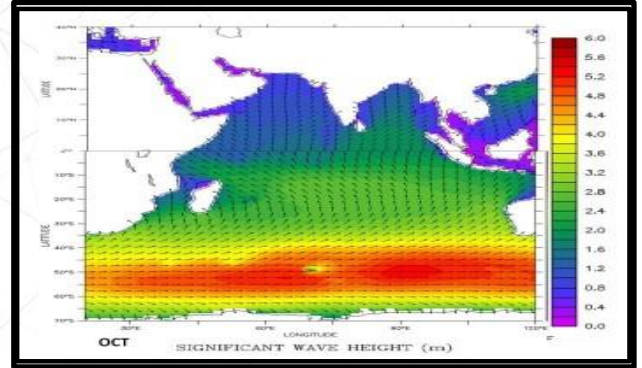
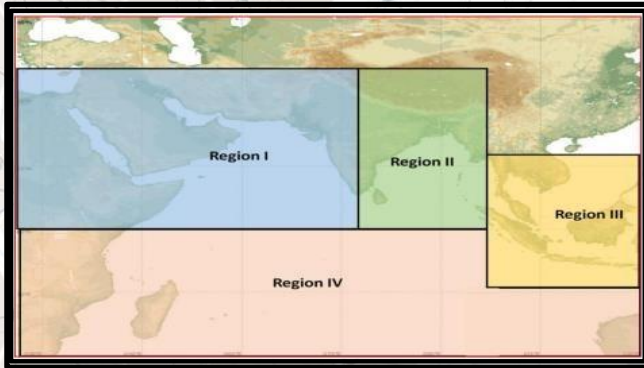
One missile attack was monitored in Sep 24, compared to 13 in Aug 24. The incident was monitored during night time. The incident was successful in inflicting damage to the targeted vessels. **BLUE LAGOON I** was the affected vessel in this attack.

## IFC - IOR Comment

The number of attacks reported in Red Sea area continue to remain low during Sep 24. In few incidents, masters have reported an unknown entity declaring itself as UKMTO, requesting vessels to switch on AIS and provide present position update. All masters are advised not to respond to any such calls or message on MMB Ch 16 or AIS messaging. Further, masters are advised to report any suspicious activity to IFC-IOR ([ifc-ior.gurugram@nic.in](mailto:ifc-ior.gurugram@nic.in)).



# WEATHER FORECAST – OCT 24



**Region I: Arabian Sea (AS)** - October is the transition month when SW'yly winds retreat southwards and are likely to be replaced by the NE'yly winds. During this month the Arabian Sea (AS) is prone to formation of cyclonic disturbances that generally track Westward. However, to the East of 70°E, some of these disturbances are likely to be move NNW wards and later re-curve towards Northeast. A total of 14 cyclonic disturbances have occurred in the region during the last 30 years. The average Sea Surface Temperature (SST) is likely to be 26°C to 27°C over the West-central AS and 29°C over the South AS. The significant wave height is likely to be 1.5 - 2.0 m over the East-central AS and likely to be increases southwards to 2.5 – 3.0 m over the equatorial Indian Ocean.

**Region II: Bay of Bengal** - A seasonal low pressure area establishes over the Central and South Bay of Bengal (BoB), which likely to be shifts southwards resulting NNely to NEly winds over the area. The average winds speed over North BoB is likely to be 10 Knots and over the southern parts it is likely to be of the order of 15 - 20 Knots. During the past 30 years a total of 24 depressions (frequency 1.40 per year) have developed over the BOB. Sea state during the month is likely to be 2, except in Southeast Bay where the sea state is likely to be 3. The direction of swell over most parts of Bay of Bengal is likely to be S - SW'yly with height of the order of 0.6 - 1.2 m.

**Region III: Southeast Asia** - During this month, sea level pressure is likely of the order of 1015 - 1020 hPa and observed to the north of 15°N. Surface winds are likely to be predominantly N-NE'yly/15 - 20 Knots over most parts of the open sea. Moderate swell waves from Northeast with mean height of 1.0 – 1.5 m are likely to be experienced over the South China Sea. Most tropical disturbance over the Gulf of Thailand and South China Sea are likely to be remnants of systems that originated from West Pacific between the latitudes 125° – 140°E.

**Region IV: South Indian Ocean** - The sea level pressure over the northern parts of Southern IOR is likely to be of the order of 1022 hPa, gradually likely to be decreasing to 1012 hPa towards the lower latitudes. A region of high pressure is likely to be seen between Latitude 25-35°S and Longitude 50-90°E. Generally tropical disturbances likely to be originate near 70°E and 10°S and moves Westwards or re-curve towards Northeast. Strong winds from Southeast of the order of 15-20 Knots are likely to be seen from the Equatorial Indian Ocean up to 30°S. Surface Current varies from 0.3 – 1.0 m/s over south IOR and relatively stronger currents up to 1.2 m/s are likely to be seen along Southeast African coast and Malacca strait. Moderate swell of the order of 2.0-2.5m from Southerly direction is likely to be seen over South IOR, decreasing to 1.0 m towards equatorial IOR.

# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

## **2024 WORLD MARITIME DAY ANCHORS** **FOCUS ON MARITIME SAFETY**

World Maritime Day on 26 Sep 24 highlighted the importance of safety at sea in an era of significant transformations and new risks. Fifty years since the adoption of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) – the world’s most important treaty for the safety of merchant ships – the maritime community is at a crossroads, facing rapid advances in technology, global security challenges and the shift to green energy.

This year’s theme for World Maritime Day, “Navigating the future: Safety first!” recognized that safety remains paramount in such a changing environment, whether it pertains to seafarers handling new green fuels, safeguarding passengers in the latest cruise ships, regulating AI-managed autonomous ships or ensuring cybersecurity in a digital world.

Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Arsenio Dominguez said: *“2024 marks 50 years since the SOLAS treaty was adopted. We can be proud of the crucial role this convention has played in setting international safety standards for ship construction, equipment, and operation, preventing maritime disasters and protecting lives. But we cannot be complacent. World Maritime Day calls for collective effort to ensure we keep pace with the ongoing transformation in shipping.”*

Further, United Nations Secretary - General Antonio Guterres, also highlighted the fact that: *“Today, the maritime sector is undergoing a profound transformation as it steers towards greater digitalization, automation and decarbonization. New technologies and designs offer the opportunity to make important contributions to climate action. I count on the commitment of regulators, seafarers and ship operators alike.”*



Source: IMO



# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

## **GPS JAMMING/ INTERFERENCE** **A DEVELOPING THREAT IN IOR AND BEYOND**

A recent increase in GPS interference incidents in the Mediterranean, Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and Persian Gulf has caused substantial concern for maritime navigation and security, Dryad Global stated in its latest Maritime Security Threat Advisory (MSTA).

The other key highlights are enumerated in the succeeding paragraphs:-

- *Historically, the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz have been notorious for GPS jamming. In August 2024, ships reported GPS jamming off the coast of Iran.*
- *This region's strategic importance makes it a hotspot for such incidents, often linked to geopolitical tensions.*
- *The increasing pattern of GPS jamming and spoofing incidents suggests a strategic use for military or strategic purposes, affecting both commercial and military navigation.*
- *These activities could be intended to impede navigation, gather intelligence, or be part of bigger geopolitical goals such as controlling marine routes or responding to perceived threats.*
- *GPS jamming is a developing threat, "spurring the development of defensive techniques for both military and commercial applications".*



*Source: Dryad Global*



# EVENTS – SEP 2024



*Visit of Kenyan delegation led by Maj Gen David Ketter, Asst CDF (Ops, Plans, Doctrine & Trg)- 03 Sep 24*



*Visit of Student officers from DSCSC, Sri Lanka as part of their study tour to India- 05 Sep 24*



*Visit of Chief of Defence Force, Maldives - 08 Sep 24*





# EVENTS – SEP 2024



*Visit of delegation from National Resilience Institute led by Maj Gen Yunianto, Indonesia- 11 Sep 24*



*Visit of delegation from the AFWC, Bangladesh led by Brig Gen Mamun Ur Rashid, NDC, AFWC, PSC - 19 Sep 24*



*IFC-IOR participated in the 5th edition of Goa Maritime Symposium, GMS 24 – 23 - 24 Sep 24*





## CONTACT INFO

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