

MONTHLY MARITIME SECURITY UPDATE

Apr 2024



INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE
INDIAN OCEAN REGION

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Overview

318 incidents comprising piracy and armed robbery (18), contraband smuggling (79), illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (70), irregular human migration (15), maritime incidents (113), maritime security threats (hybrid) (22) and marine environment pollution (01) were monitored in Apr 24 in the IOR.

Piracy and Armed Robbery

18 incidents of piracy and armed robbery (actual and attempted) were monitored in Apr 24, compared to 22 incidents last month. Sea thefts/ robberies continue to be the most frequently reported incidents. Sea robbery incident at Kuala Tanjung Port, Indonesia was the significant event in Apr 24.

Contraband Smuggling

79 contraband smuggling incidents were monitored in Apr 24, compared to 108 incidents in Mar 24. The seizures of 3,977 kg of drugs by *HMS LANCASTER* of the Combined Task Force 150 and 970 kg of drugs by *Indian Naval Ship TALWAR* were the notable events during the month.

IUU Fishing

70 IUU fishing incidents were recorded in Apr 24, compared to 81 in Mar 24. The seizure of three foreign fishing boats and the apprehension of 40 fishermen involved in illegal fishing activities in Malaysian waters was a notable event in Apr 24.

IHM

15 incidents were recorded in Apr 24, compared to 16 in Mar 24. These involved 867 migrants and 55 smugglers/ traffickers. 59 migrant fatalities and 28 missing individuals were reported in this month.

Maritime Incidents

113 maritime incidents were recorded by the Centre for Apr 24, compared to 161 incidents in Mar 24. Detention of vessels, MEDEVAC, man overboard, fire and mechanical failures were the most frequently reported incidents.

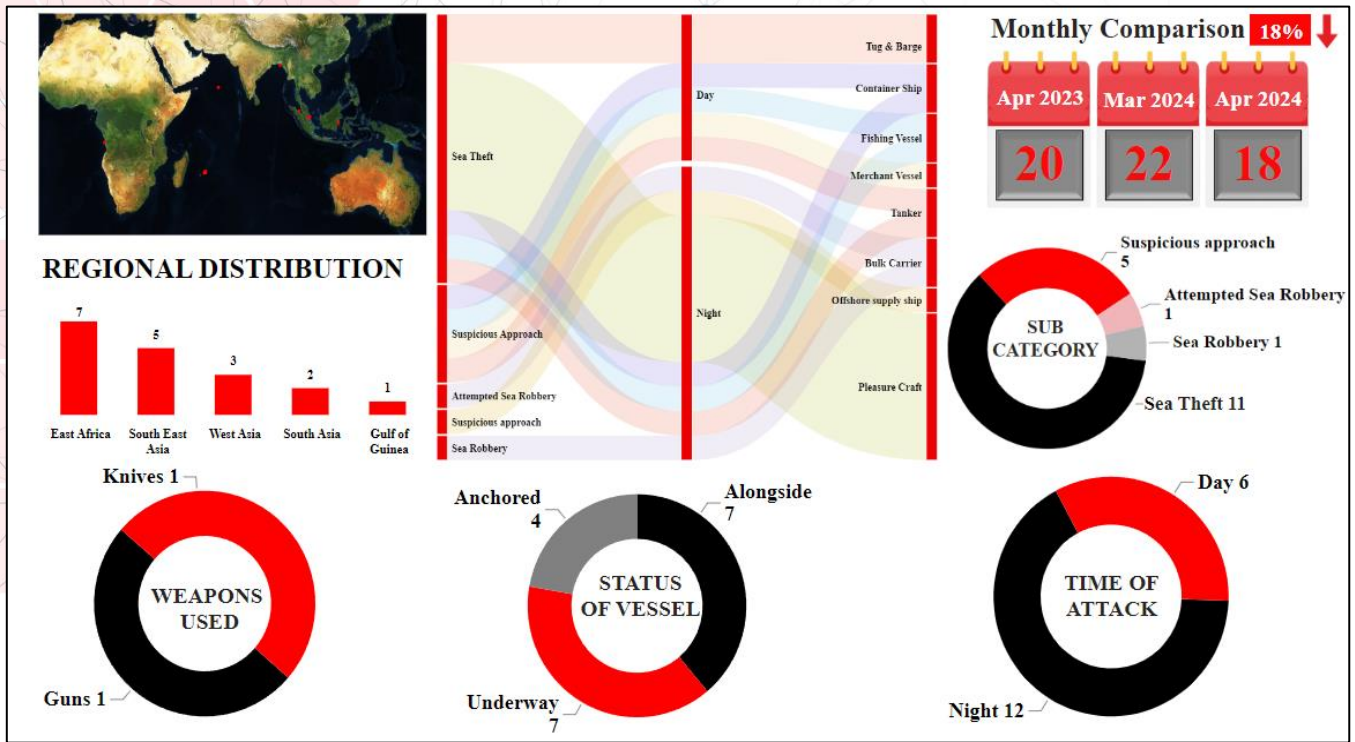
Maritime Security Threats (Hybrid)

22 maritime security threats (hybrid) incidents were recorded by the Centre during the month, compared to 37 in Mar 24. All incidents were related to targeting of commercial shipping in Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Bab-el-Mandeb by non-state actors.

Marine Environment Pollution

One incident of oil spill was reported in East Africa during Apr 24.

PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY



Overview

18 incidents of piracy and armed robbery (actual and attempted) were monitored in Apr 24, compared to 22 incidents last month. Sea thefts (11), suspicious approach (05), sea robbery (01) and attempted sea robbery (01) were the reported incidents under this category. The detailed analysis of the subcategories and regional analysis is elucidated in the succeeding paragraphs.

Sea Thefts/ Robberies

Sea thefts and robberies (13) (actual/ attempted) accounted for the majority of the overall piracy and armed robbery incidents in Apr 24. Most of the incidents were reported on the vessels alongside (07) followed by vessels underway (03) and anchored (03). 11 incidents were reported during dark hours and two incidents during daytime. The number of perpetrators involved in these incidents varied from a minimum of two to a maximum of five. Items such as spare parts, ship's stores, copper coils, fibre boards, scrap metals etc., were reportedly stolen in these incidents. Unmanned pleasure crafts and a fishing boat were also, reportedly, stolen in four incidents.

Hijack and Kidnap

Nil incidents of hijacks and kidnaps were monitored during Apr 24 as compared to three incidents in Mar 24.

Suspicious Approaches

Five suspicious approaches were reported in Apr 24 compared to two in Mar 24. Three incidents were reported on vessels underway during day hours in West Asia, one incident on vessel underway during day hours in South Asia and one incident while at anchorage during night hours in the Gulf of Guinea. The analysis of incidents in the last two months indicates the possibility of Pirate Action Groups (PAG) being active off the north of Socotra Island and up to three other PAGs operating across the region. Vessels are advised to remain vigilant and follow the SOPs mentioned in the BMP 5.

Illegal Boarding

Nil incident of illegal boarding were monitored during Apr 24 compared to three incidents last month.

PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY

Regional Distribution

South East Asia accounted for five incidents, compared to eight in March 2024. All of these incidents involved sea robberies and sea thefts, including both actual occurrences and attempted acts. Three incidents were reported during night and two during day hours. Knives and guns were used in one of each incident by the perpetrators. Ship's items such as engine spares, scrap metals, copper coils, fibre boards, ship's items, etc., were reported stolen. No injury to the crew members was reported in these incidents.

South Asia accounted for two incidents compared to four in Mar 24. One each sea theft and suspicious approach incident was reported in this region. One incident was reported on vessel at anchor and one incident while underway. The perpetrators were observed to have stolen the ship's items. No injury to the crew members was reported in these incidents.

East Africa accounted for seven sea theft incidents similar to Mar 24. Six incidents were reported on pleasure crafts and one incident on a fishing boat anchored off Mauritius. The perpetrators were monitored stealing unmanned pleasure crafts in three incidents, unmanned fishing boat in one and the craft's items in three incidents. No incident of hijacking was reported in Apr 24 in this region.

West Asia accounted for three suspicious approach incidents similar to Mar 24 (three incidents). Piracy and armed robbery continue to remain low in West Asia. However, the maritime security threats (hybrid) incidents in this region continue to present a major threat in this region and are covered in the latter part of this report.

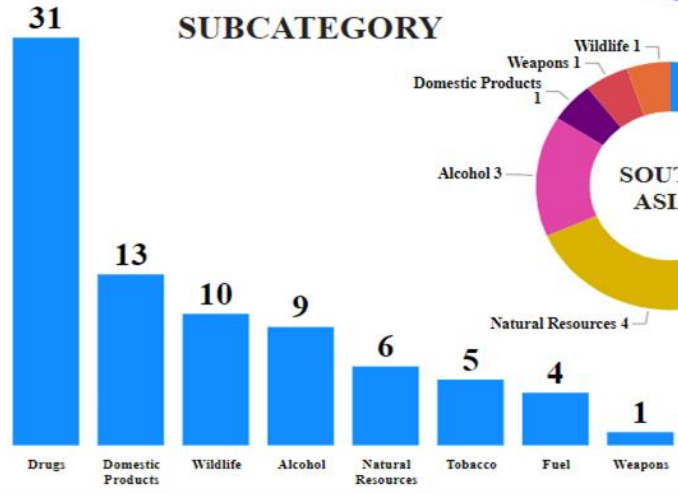
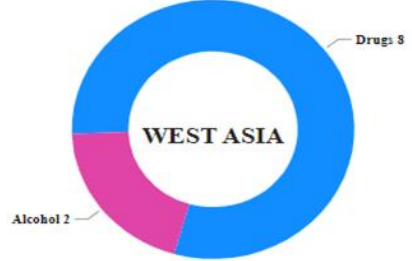
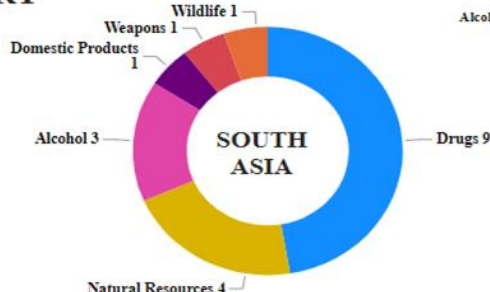
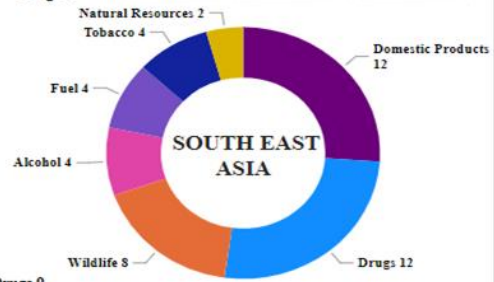
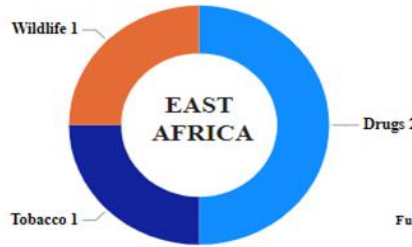
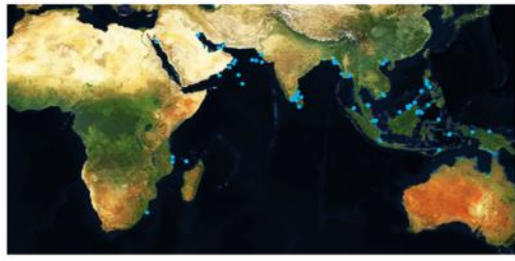
Gulf of Guinea accounted for one suspicious approach incident in Apr 24. The incident was reported on a France flagged offshore supply ship *BOURBON EXPLORER 519* at Luanda anchorage.

Significant Incident

SHAKESPEARE BAY – Sea robbery: 04 Apr 24

- *On 04 Apr 24, an incident of sea robbery was reported on the Hong Kong, China flagged bulk carrier SHAKESPEARE BAY at Kuala Tanjung Port, Indonesia. Reportedly, three perpetrators armed with long knives and special tools boarded the ship while berthed. The perpetrators entered the engine room, took the duty crew as hostage and tied his hands. The perpetrators released the duty crew before escaping with stolen ship's engine spare parts. All crew members were reported to be safe.*

CONTRABAND SMUGGLING



Overview

79 incidents of contraband smuggling were monitored in Apr 24 compared to 108 incidents in Mar 24. Contraband seized comprised of drugs (31), domestic products (13), wildlife (10), alcohol (09), natural resources (06), tobacco (05), fuel (04) and weapon (01).

Analysis of Incidents

Drugs

31 drug seizures were recorded in Apr 24, a significant decrease compared to 44 incidents in Mar 24. Of these, 17 incidents were reported inside ports and harbours. The seizures in ports/ harbours included 10,06,518 captagon pills, 80,000 yaba pills, 544.7 kg of hashish, 320 kg of ketamine, 64.5 kg of cannabis, 58 kg of cocaine and 44 kg of methamphetamine. The remaining 14 incidents were reported at sea, involving the seizure of 26,000 of psychotropic substances, 3,858 kg of

hashish, 2,300 packages of khat, 1,067 kg of methamphetamine, 500 of ecstasy pills, 184.5 kg of heroin, 173 kg of narcotics and 1 kg of cocaine.

Domestic Products

13 incidents of domestic product smuggling were recorded in Apr 24 compared to 18 incidents in Mar 24. The products seized in these incidents involved areca nuts, boar meat, candlenut oil, cashews, ceramic tiles, eggs, cooking oil, copper alloys, cosmetics, gas cylinders, dried gingers, fertilizers, gasoline, sugar, palm oil, sewing machines, stainless steel, subsidised rice, sugar and wheat flour.

Wildlife

10 incidents of wildlife smuggling were recorded in Apr 24, which was a significant increase as compared to Mar 24 (six incidents). The species seized were 1,50,000 lobster seeds, 3,000 kg of giant clam shells, 1,580 kg of Ivory, 1,249 kg of sea cucumbers, 94 birds, 60 turtles, 25 shark fins, 11 guinea pigs, 10 dogs, kangaroos and parrots in these incidents.

CONTRABAND SMUGGLING

Tobacco

Five incidents of tobacco smuggling were recorded in Mar 24 compared to 10 incidents in Mar 24. A total of 12,104 kgs of tobacco were seized in these incidents.

Fuel

Four incidents of fuel smuggling were recorded compared to 11 incidents in the last month. These incidents involved the seizure of approximately 10,000 litres of diesel and 500 litres of petrol.

Natural Resources

Six incidents of natural resources smuggling were recorded in Apr 24 compared to 10 incidents in Mar 24. The seizures involved 3018.5 kg of kendu leaves, 400 cubic meters of sand and 5 kg of gold.

Alcohol

Nine incidents of alcohol smuggling were recorded in Apr 24 compared to eight incidents in Mar 24. A total of 1,60,222 litres of liquor were seized in these incidents.

Weapon

An incident of weapon smuggling was recorded in Apr 24, wherein six water gel sticks, a safety fuse and 20 non-electric detonators were seized by Sri Lanka authorities.

Regional Distribution

East Africa accounted for four incidents of contraband smuggling. Two incidents involved drugs, one incident each of tobacco and wildlife smuggling were monitored in this region.

West Asia accounted for 10 incidents of contraband smuggling. Eight incidents involved drugs and two involved alcohol smuggling.

South Asia accounted for 19 incidents of contraband smuggling of which nine involved drugs, four involved natural resources, three involved alcohol smuggling, and three remaining involved one each, of domestic products, weapon and wildlife smuggling in the region.

South East Asia accounted for 46 incidents of contraband smuggling. These included 12 incidents each of domestic products and drugs smuggling, eight incidents of wildlife smuggling, and four incidents each of tobacco, fuel, alcohol and natural resources smuggling.

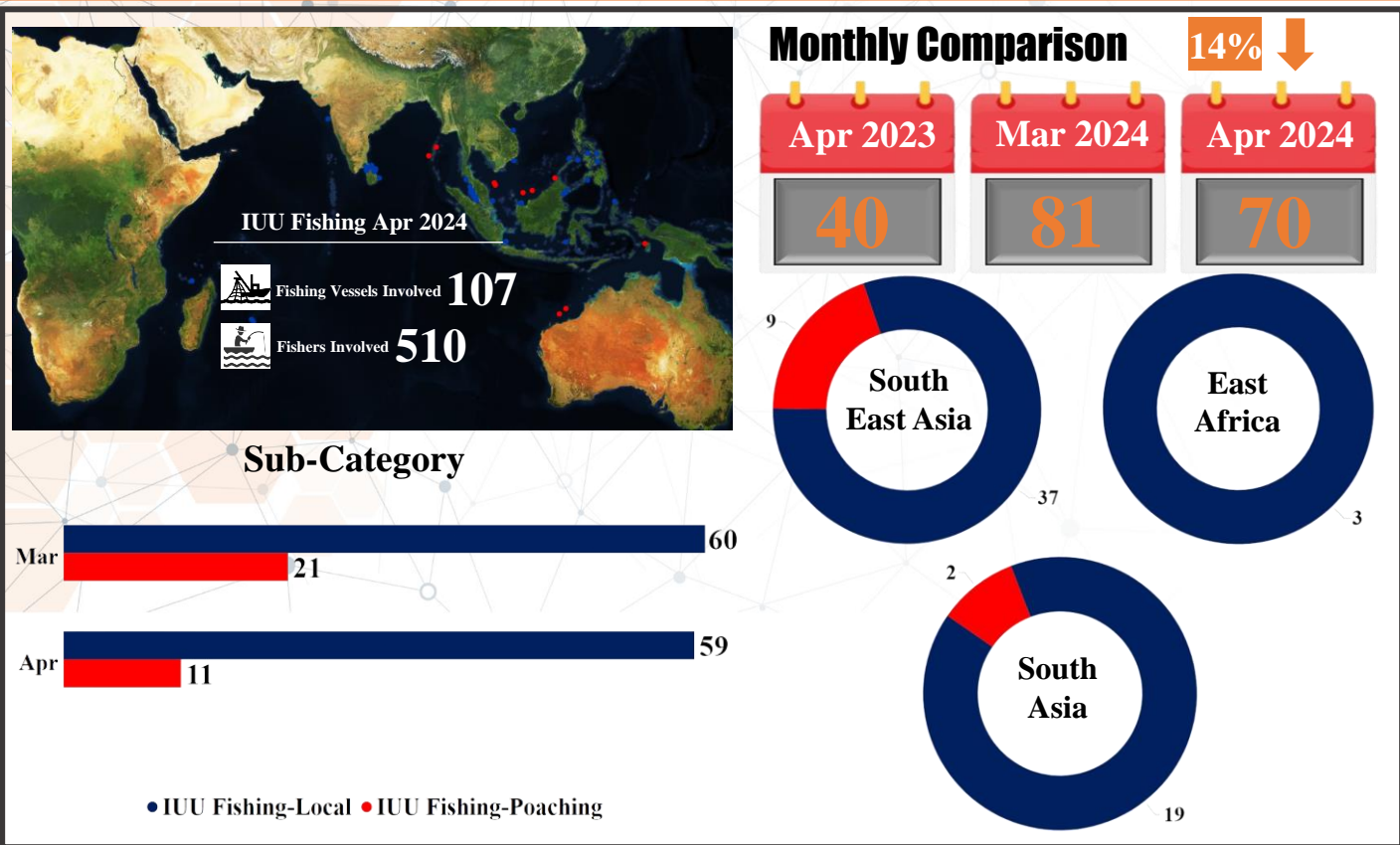
Significant Incidents

✓ From 10 - 11 Apr 24, *HMS LANCASTER* of the Combined Task Force 150 (CTF) seized 3,977 kg of drugs (3,096 kg of hashish, 202 kg of heroin 647 kg of methamphetamine, 17 kg of amphetamine and 15 kg of marijuana) from three dhows in three separate operations in the Arabian Sea.

✓ On 13 Apr 24, in operation 'Crimson Barracuda', the Indian Navy's ship *INS TALWAR*, in collaboration with the multilateral Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), intercepted and seized 940 kg of drugs (453 kg of methamphetamine, 416 kg of hashish and 71 kg of heroin) from a dhow in the Western Arabian Sea. It was the first time the Indian Navy conducted a drug interdiction operation as part of the CMF. The Commandos swiftly boarded the 'dhow', apprehending the illicit cargo. The joint efforts between the Indian Navy and the CMF highlight the effectiveness of collaborative measures in combatting maritime threats, including drug trafficking. This operation underscores India's commitment to maritime security and its active role in global initiatives to uphold stability in the region. The seizure of nearly one ton of narcotics resulted in a significant blow to drug trafficking networks operating in the area.



ILLEGAL UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING



Overview

70 IUU fishing incidents were recorded in Apr 24 compared to 81 incidents in Mar 24. Among these, 59 incidents were local and 11 incidents were of poaching. The total illegal fish catch recorded was 1,12,140 kgs with Indonesia and Malaysia authorities seizing 1,00,000 kg and 12,040 kg. A seizure of approximately 171 m of banned nets was reported off Mauritius.

Poaching. 11 incidents of poaching involving foreign fishing vessels were recorded compared to 21 incidents in Mar 24. The foreign fishing vessels were involved in illegal fishing in the country's waters. A few instances of foreign fishing vessels and fishermen being assisted by the local fishermen/ fishing vessels were also monitored during Apr 24. 178 fishermen were apprehended and 20 boats were seized by the authorities.

Analysis of Incidents

Local IUU Fishing. 59 incidents of local IUU fishing were recorded in Apr 24 compared to 60 incidents in Mar 24. These incidents involved violations of fishing licenses by local fishermen, illegal fishing techniques, banned fishing methods, use of blast fishing, etc. 332 fishermen were apprehended and 87 boats were seized by the authorities.

Regional Distribution

South East Asia. In Apr 24, the region reported 46 incidents of IUU fishing, a decrease from 52 incidents in Mar 24. Among these, 37 incidents involved local IUU fishing, while nine were related to poaching. Of these, 32 incidents were recorded in the waters of Malaysia, six in Philippines, four in Indonesia, and two each in Australia and Vietnam. A total of 60 boats were seized and authorities apprehended 360 fishermen.

ILLEGAL UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

South Asia. 21 incidents of IUU fishing were reported in this region during Apr 24 compared to 17 incidents in Mar 24. 19 incidents were of local IUU fishing and 02 of poaching. Of these, 18 incidents were recorded in the waters of Sri Lanka and three in India. A total of 41 boats were seized and 144 fishermen apprehended in this region.

East Africa. Three incidents of IUU fishing were reported in this region during Apr 24 compared to 11 incidents in Mar 24. All incidents were of local IUU fishing. Two of these incidents were reported in the waters of Mauritius and one in Mayotte.

Significant Incident

On 18 Apr 24, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) conducted operation Khas Pagar, detaining 40 Vietnamese crew members on three fishing vessels for encroaching on Malaysian waters. The vessels were spotted illegally fishing between 124 and 135 nm off Pantai Tok Bali. The authorities found the vessels' skippers without fishing permits, leading to the detention of 37 crew members and three skippers. Furthermore, authorities confiscated the fishing vessels, fishing equipment, 2,900 litres of diesel and 8.7 metric tonnes of fish valued at almost USD 9,41,818.



Fishing Bans Monitored

Region	Duration	Remarks
India	01 Nov 23 – 31 May 24	Olive ridley turtle
Oman	01 Dec 23 – 31 Aug 24	Shrimp
Bangladesh	01 Mar 24 – 30 Apr 24	All kinds of fish
Mayotte	01 Apr 24 – 15 Jun 24	Octopus

IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION

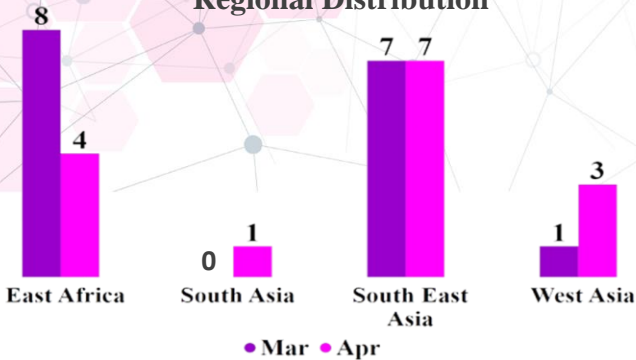


Monthly Comparison

06% ↓



Regional Distribution



Overview

15 incidents were recorded in Apr 24 compared to 16 incidents in Mar 24. These involved 867 migrants and 55 smugglers/ traffickers. 59 migrant fatalities and 28 individuals were reported missing in this month.

Regional Distribution

East Africa. The region witnessed Four incidents of irregular human migration compared to eight in Mar 24. The kwassa-kwassa (small boat) remains the chosen mode of transport for migrants in this region. Most of the incidents involved migrants from Comoros attempting to enter Mayotte illegally. Notably, as compared to the last month, there has been a 27% decrease in the number of individuals attempting to enter Mayotte illegally via sea routes during this month. In Apr 24, the law enforcement agencies seized a total of 61 boats, apprehended 37 smugglers and rescued 491 migrants.

West Asia. Three incidents of irregular human migration were reported in Apr 24 compared to one incident in Mar 24. Djibouti (01), Somalia (01) and Yemen (01) were the destination countries for the migrants in this region. Law enforcement agencies seized three boats and rescued 249 migrants, 59 migrants lost their lives and 28 individuals were reported missing in Apr 24.

South East Asia. The region witnessed seven incidents of irregular human migration compared to seven in Mar 24. Malaysia (06) and Indonesia (01) were the destination countries for the migrants in this region. In Apr 24 the law enforcement agencies seized a total of eight boats, apprehended 18 smugglers and rescued 124 migrants.

South Asia. One incident of irregular human migration was reported in Apr 24, wherein migrants were attempting to reach India. Law enforcement agencies seized one boat and rescued three migrants in Apr 24.

IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION

Significant Incidents

✓ On 08 Apr 24, a boat carrying 66 migrants including children capsized due to water ingress about 200 m off Godoria, Obock, Djibouti. Reportedly, 23 migrants survived, 38 including children lost their lives and five migrants are still missing. It was believed that the migrants were trying to return from Yemen to Djibouti after failing to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

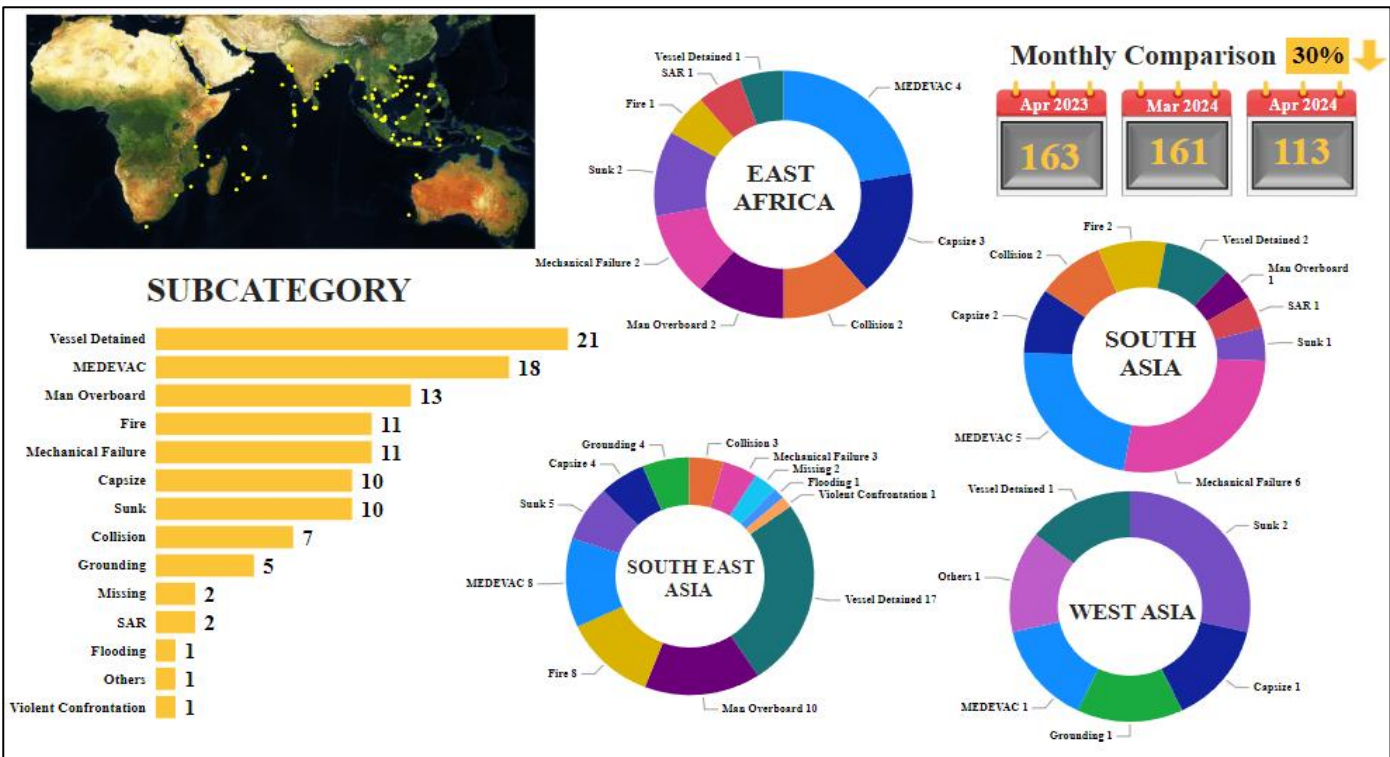
✓ On 22 Apr 24, a boat carrying 77 migrants including children sank off the coast of Djibouti. Reportedly, 33 migrants survived, 21 mortal remains recovered and 23 migrants went missing. This was the second incident in this month along the eastern migration route from Africa to the Middle East.

Migration Trends



Region	No. Of Incidents	Rescued/ Apprehended	Smugglers Apprehended	Boats Involved
East Africa	04	491	37	61
West Asia	03	249	Nil	03
South East Asia	07	124	18	08
South Asia	01	03	Nil	01

MARITIME INCIDENTS



Overview

113 maritime incidents were recorded by the Centre in Apr 24 compared to 161 incidents in Mar 24. Of these 21 vessels were detained which constituted the highest number of reported incidents, followed by 18 MEDEVAC, 13 cases of man overboard, 11 cases each of mechanical failure and fire, 10 cases each of capsizing and sinking of vessels, seven cases of collision, five cases of grounding, and two cases each of SAR and missing.

Analysis of Incidents

Mechanical Failures. 11 mechanical failure incidents were recorded and majority of incidents during this month were reported due to engine failure. In most incidents, the ship's crew addressed the defects, but in a few cases, vessels sought assistance from local authorities. *Regular inspections, timely repairs and following the recommended operating procedures can significantly reduce the risk of mechanical issues.*

Vessel detained. 21 incidents of vessels detention were monitored in Apr 24, compared to 28 incidents in Mar 24. The causes include failing to comply with the requirements of international maritime conventions, such as the non-availability of SOLAS equipment, non-compliance with MARPOL regulations, not having relevant documentation etc.

MEDEVAC and SAR. 18 MEDEVAC and two SAR incidents were recorded in Apr 24, compared to 18 MEDEVAC and 04 SAR in Mar 24.

Capsize and Sinking of Vessels. 10 incidents each of capsize and sinking vessels were recorded in Apr 24, compared to 27 incidents in Mar 24. Most of the incidents involved fishing vessels. 161 individuals were reported to have lost their lives in these incidents during Apr 24.

MARITIME INCIDENTS

Fire and Flooding. 12 incidents of fire and flooding were recorded in Apr 24. Cause of fire included explosions, fire in machinery/ engine room compartment, electrical fires caused by short circuits and non-compliance with standard operating procedures (SOPs) during fuel transfer.

Man overboard and Missing. 15 incidents were recorded in Apr 24, in which a total of two lives were lost, 10 individuals went missing and three individuals were rescued.

Violent Confrontation. An incident of violent confrontation between MMEA personnel and another vessel's crew was reported in South East Asia on 07 Apr 24. Three suspects opened fire on MMEA patrol boat, while approaching to the vessel for inspection. Reportedly, two MMEA personnel were injured and the suspects escaped.

West Asia accounted for seven maritime incidents compared to five incidents in Mar 24. Sinking of vessels (02) followed by one incident each of vessel detained, grounding, capsized, MEDEVAC and others were the reported incidents in this region.

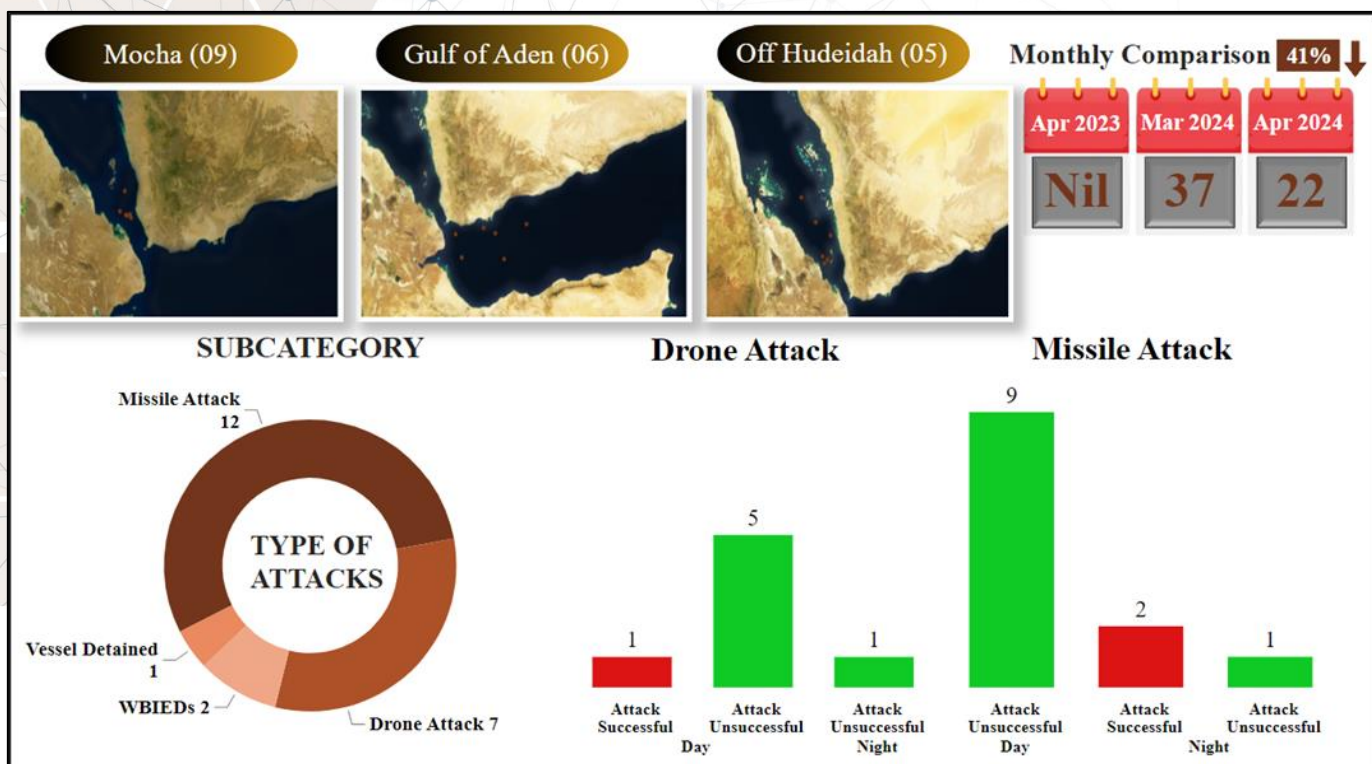
South Asia with 22 incidents, witnessed almost a similar trend compared to Mar 24 (25 incidents). Six incidents of mechanical failure, five incidents of MEDEVAC, two incidents each of collision, vessel detained, fire and capsized, one incident each of SAR, man overboard and sinking of vessels were the reported incidents in this region.

South East Asia accounted for 66 incidents compared to 104 incidents in Mar 24. These incidents encompassed 17 cases of detainment of vessel, 10 cases of individuals going overboard, eight cases each of medical evacuation, five cases of sinking of vessels, four cases each of grounding and capsized, three cases each of collision and mechanical failure, two cases of missing and one incident each of violent confrontation and flooding.

Regional Distribution

East Africa accounted for 18 incidents. MEDEVAC (04) followed by capsized (03), two incidents each of sinking of vessels, collision, man overboard and mechanical failure, one incident each of SAR, vessel detained and fire were the reported incidents in this region.

MARITIME SECURITY THREATS (HYBRID)



Overview

22 maritime security threats (hybrid) incidents were recorded by the Centre in Apr 24, compared to 37 incidents in Mar 24. The 17-day period without recorded attacks may be a contributing factor to the reduction in the number of incidents as compared to last month. The non-state actors continued to target US/ UK/ Israel-owned, operated and managed vessels after a brief lull. Also, two incidents of interceptions and destruction of Waterborne Improvised Explosive Devices (WBIEDs) continued in April. While there may have been a perceived decrease in successful attacks on merchant vessels in early Apr 24, it shouldn't be mistaken for a reduced attack rate by Houthi insurgents.

Location of Incidents

The incidents related to drone and missile attacks by non-state actors were primarily observed 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 12° N

047° E and 16° N 041° E witnessed drone and missile attacks in Apr 24.

Drone Attacks

Seven drone attacks were monitored in Apr 24, compared to 13 attacks in Mar 24. All incidents were reported during day hours except one, which was noted during dark hours. In most (06) of the incidents, international forces operating in the area successfully shot down the drones. Of these incidents, one drone attack on *MSC ORION* was successful causing minor damage to the vessel. No injury to the crew was reported.

Missile Attacks

12 missile attacks were monitored in Apr 24, compared to 20 attacks in Mar 24. Nine incidents were monitored during day hours and three in dark hours. Two of the 12 incidents of missile attacks were found to have inflicted damages to the targeted vessels. The international forces operating in the area successfully shot down missiles in the majority (07) of the occasions. In three incidents the missiles exploded in the vicinity of the vessels. No injury to the crew was reported.

MARITIME SECURITY THREATS (HYBRID)

WBIEDs and Vessel Detention

Two incidents involving the usage of Unmanned Surface Vehicles (USVs) and one incident of detention of a vessel were monitored during Apr 24. USVs were destroyed by the international forces operating in the area. The detention of a vessel was reported onboard a Portugal flagged container ship MSC ARIES on 13 Apr 24. Reportedly, Iran authorities seized the vessel with 25 crew members onboard in a likely conflict-related incident. About one month later, Iran authorities released seven crew members including five Indian, a Filipino and an Estonian on 09 May 24. Another Indian crew member was also released earlier.

✓ On 29 Apr 24, the Malta flagged and Israel affiliated bulk carrier CYCLADES was targeted by three anti-ship ballistic missiles (ASBM) at the same location while enroute from Djibouti to Jeddah in the southern Red Sea about 50 nautical miles North West of Mocha, Yemen. Reportedly, one anti-ballistic-missile exploded near the vessel causing minor damages to the vessel. No injury to the crew was reported.

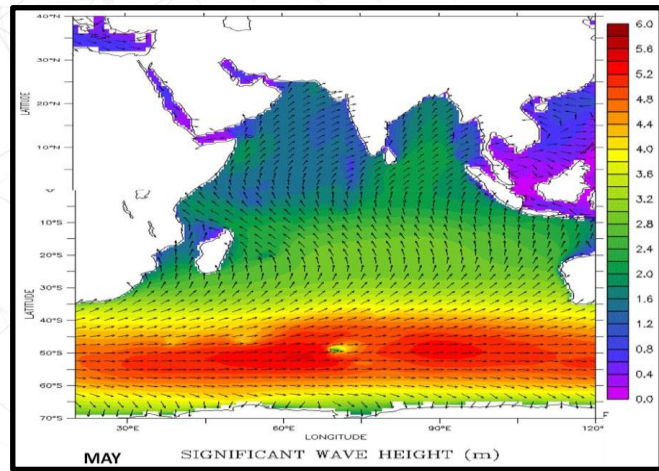
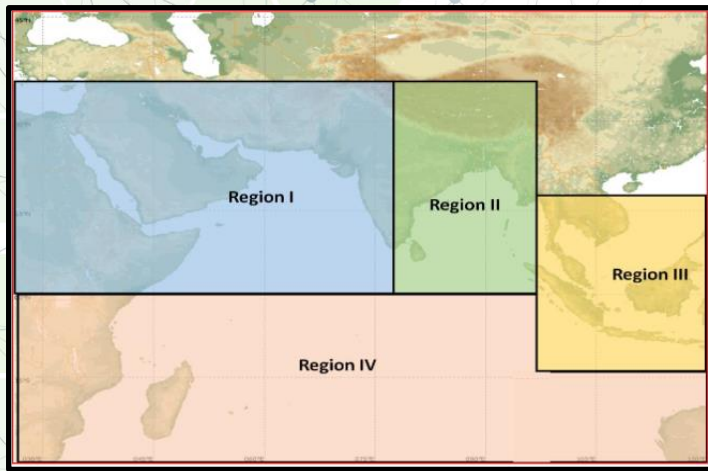


Significant Incidents

✓ On 26 Apr 24, the Panama flagged crude oil tanker ANDROMEDA STAR with 30 crew members was targeted by four missiles in two separate attacks within two hours, about 14 nm SW of Al Mokha, Yemen. Reportedly, the first and second missile missed the vessel. The third and fourth missiles impacted the vessel and caused minor damages. The Indian Naval ship INS KOCHI, responded to the vessel's distress call. The vessel was located by INS KOCHI and an aerial recce was undertaken to assess the situation. Subsequently, the shipborne Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team was deployed onboard the tanker for residual risk assessment. All 30 crew members (including 22 Indian nationals) were reported to be safe and the vessel continued its scheduled transit to the next port.



WEATHER FORECAST – MAY 24



Region I: Arabian Sea (AS). Surface pressure of 1010 hPa is seen over south Arabian Sea and gradually decreases towards higher latitudes to about 1006-1004 hPa over north Arabian Sea off Pakistan coast. Associated with the pressure distribution, the winds are more Westerly over AS of order 10-15KT. The average sea surface temperatures (SST) is about 28-30°C over most parts of AS. Most of the cyclonic disturbances during this month originate between 10° N and 15° N. Most of the Arabian Sea disturbances move in a North Westerly direction and hit Oman coast. And only few moves in Northerly direction and later recurve towards Konkan, Maharashtra or Gujarat Coast. The number of cyclonic disturbances in 30 years from 1988 – 2017 are 07 in Arabian Sea. Surface current is around 0.5-1.0 m/s over most of central Arabian Sea.

Region II: Bay of Bengal. The weather over Bay of Bengal is generally fair and it tends to be cloudy in the south Bay and southern parts of central Bay. The month of May is one of the favourable months for the genesis of cyclones due to high sea surface temperature values. Most of the weather systems which form over the Bay of Bengal, intensify rapidly, and nearly half of them intensify into cyclonic/severe cyclonic storms. In Bay of Bengal, weather systems form generally in the area between latitudes 10° to 15° North, east of longitudes 85° East. The systems in this month have a tendency to move initially in NNW-NW'ly direction. A few of them may cross Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh or Orissa coast. On crossing the Lat 15° North, the systems have a tendency to move in NNE-NE'ly direction and eventually cross Bangladesh / Myanmar coast. The swell conditions over Bay of Bengal during the month are mainly SSW – WSW/ 1.0 – 1.5 M unless affected by weather systems. Over most parts of the Bay of Bengal, significant Wave height is about 1.25 to 2.25 m, however, along the coastal regions the wave height is about 1.0 m.

Region III: Southeast Asia. Mean sea level pressure over the area is of the order of 1008-1010 hpa. SW monsoon over S half of south China Sea begins in May. As the month progresses a NE going current become increasingly evident on the W side of south China Sea. During the month, there is a marked improvement in sea states with a mean frequency of 80% smooth to slight Sea and 10% calms prevailing throughout the area. The mean sea surface temperatures (SST) is about 28-30°C. The pressure gradient becomes slack during the transition period in May. Relative humidity is maximum of 70% over Malacca strait and off Thailand coast.

Region IV: South Indian Ocean. During the month of May, the sea level pressure over central parts of the Southern IOR is in of the order of 1020 HPa and gradually decreases northwards to 1010 HPa over Equatorial Indian Ocean and to 990 HPa towards 55°S latitudes. The pressure gradient over south IOR is of the order of 8-10 h Pa. Tropical disturbances are rare occurrence during the month. They originate around 10° S and east of 80°E longitudes and move in a westerly direction and strike east coast of Madagascar

WEATHER FORECAST – MAY 24

Islands or recurve in south-westerly southerly easterly direction and strike Madagascar coast or Mauritius Islands and adjoining areas. They have a tendency to weaken and dissipate over the sea area in the course of their movement. Average minimum surface air temperatures varies between 10-23°C is seen South IOR. Temperatures are around 27°C over Equatorial Indian Ocean up to 20°S and drastically reduce to below 0°C towards higher latitudes. Average daily max temperatures vary from 10-28°C over most parts of South Indian Ocean.

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

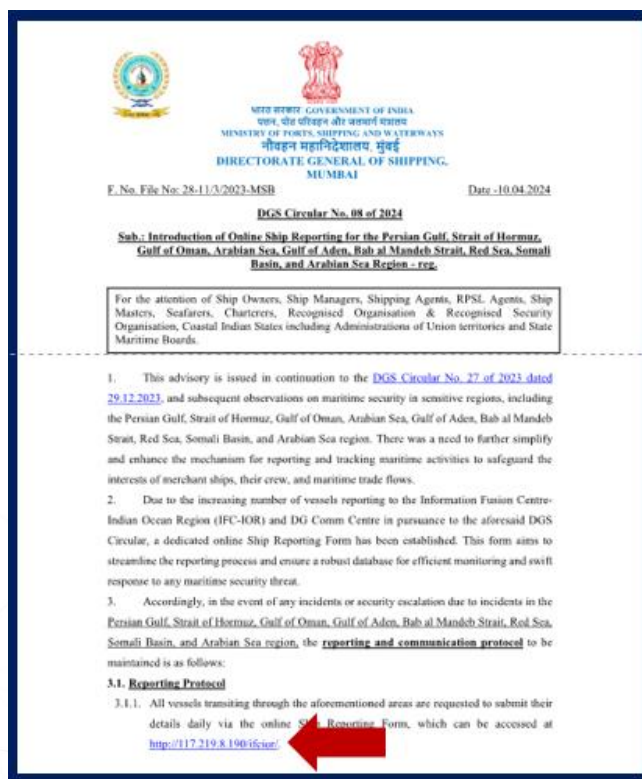
https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/ifc-ior/static/data/reports/weather/IFC_IOR_Weather_Forecast_May_2024.pdf

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Maritime Security Advisory by Directorate General of Shipping, India

For the attention of ship owners, ship managers, shipping agents, RPSL Agents, Ship Masters, Sea Fearers, Charterers, Recognised Organisation & Recognised Security Organisation

This advisory is issued in continuation to the DGS Circular No. 27 of 2023 dated 29 Dec 23, and subsequent observations on maritime security in sensitive regions, including the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, Somali Basin, and Arabian Sea region. There was a need to further simplify the mechanism for reporting procedure to assist in safeguarding; the interests of merchant ships, their crew, and maritime trade flows. Due to the increasing number of vessels reporting to the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) and DG Comm Centre in pursuance to the aforesaid DGS Circular, a dedicated online Ship Reporting Form has been promulgated. This form aims to streamline the reporting process and facilitate a swift response to any maritime security threat. The online Ship Reporting Form can be accessed at <http://117.219.8.190/ifciior/>



Read More:

<https://www.dgshipping.gov.in/writereaddata/ShippingNotices/202404100559042035920MARSECDGSCircularnumber08of2024dated10apr2024.pdf>

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Increase in Somali Pirate Activity Raises Concerns – IMB PRC

The ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB) expresses concern over the resurgence of maritime piracy off the coast of Somalia in its latest Q1 report for 2024. The key highlights of the report are as follows:-

Somali Pirate Activity

- ❑ *Thirty-three piracy and armed robbery incidents recorded in Q1 2024, up from 27 in Q1 2023. Of the 33 incidents, 24 vessels were boarded, six faced attempted attacks, two were hijacked and one was fired upon.*
- ❑ *Somali pirate activity shows worrying rise with two reported hijackings, a vessel fired upon, boarded and attempted approach.*
- ❑ *A Bangladesh flagged bulk carrier hijacked on March 12, 2024, with 23 crew taken hostage.*

IMB Response

- ❑ *IMB emphasizes the need to protect trade routes and seafarers' safety amid Somali piracy resurgence.*
- ❑ *Indian navy operation on March 15, 2024, led to the capture of 35 Somali pirates and release of hijacked vessel and crew.*
- ❑ *Seychelles coast guard intervened in late Jan 24, safeguarding hijacked fishing vessel and crew, apprehending three suspected pirates.*
- ❑ *IMB urges vessel owners to follow BMP 5 guidelines and appreciated actions of Indian navy and Seychelles coast guard.*

Gulf of Guinea Concerns

- ❑ *Gulf of Guinea incidents reduced but caution urged as nine crew kidnapped on January 1, 2024.*
- ❑ *Continued and robust regional and international naval presence crucial to respond to incidents and safeguard life at sea.*

Regional Risks

- ❑ *Rising opportunistic crimes in Bangladesh waters with seven incidents reported in 2024.*
- ❑ *Singapore Straits accounted five incidents, including crew hostage situations, emphasizing ongoing risks for crew safety.*

Source: IMB PRC

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Seychelles and Comoros Sign Agreement to Combat IUU Fishing in EEZ

Seychelles and Comoros have forged an agreement to enhance fisheries cooperation and tackle illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities. The signing ceremony, led by Seychelles' Minister of Fisheries and the Blue Economy and Comoros' Director General for Fisheries solidified efforts to combat IUU fishing in the region. The agreement, signed during a meeting for Indian Ocean coastal states in preparation for the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, aims to establish a formal framework for collaboration to prevent instances of illegal fishing, such as the interception of a Comoros vessel in the Aldabra lagoon. Seychelles' proactive approach includes similar agreements with Madagascar, exemplified by the recent arrest and prosecution of Malagasy fishermen engaged in illegal sea cucumber fishing in Providence. Despite the challenges posed by its vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), Seychelles remains committed to combating illicit maritime activities, with continuous regional operations involving the Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) assets in collaboration with partner countries and organisations.

VISITS AT IFC-IOR



Visit of Students from US National War College (NWC) – 08 Apr 24



Visit of a delegation from US National War College (NWC) – 12 Apr 24



Visit of Lt Gen JP Mathew, CISC – 22 Apr 24

VISITS AT IFC-IOR



Visit of Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, AVSM, SM, DGMO & Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra, AVSM, VSM, DCIDS (OPS) – 26 Apr 24


*** End of Report ***




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Working Definitions used for Maritime Safety and
Security Incidents




CONTACT INFO

 +91 124-2208385, +91 7428963733

 ifc-ior.gurugram@nic.in

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

 @IFC_IOR

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



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