



INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE

SUMMARY OF MARSEC SITUATION IN IFC'S AREA OF INTEREST (AOI) 2022

THEFT, ROBBERY AND PIRACY AT SEA (TRAPS)

Total number of
incidents: 104
(92 in 2021)

13% ↑

92

Boarding

4

Hijacked

6

Attempted Boarding

2

Suspicious Approach

Type of vessels targeted



Tankers (26)



Bulk Carriers (38)



Tugs and Barges (19)



Fishing Vessels (7)

Others (14)

Effect on seafarers

No injury (94%) Minor Injury (6%)



OBSERVATIONS

1. Relaxation of regional countries' movement restriction measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 may have contributed to the increase in overall TRAPS incidents.
2. The number of recorded incidents in the Singapore Strait continued to increase. Most reported incidents continue to be petty theft and low/non-violent in nature, targeting slow moving ships with low freeboards.
3. In 2023, the IFC expects the overall TRAPS numbers to remain within similar level, with the Singapore Strait (55 incidents in 2022) likely to remain the main area of concern.



OBSERVATIONS

1. The Trilateral Cooperation Arrangement by Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines contributed to the declining incident trend through regular joint patrols in connection with the efforts from the national security agencies.
2. In 2023, the IFC expects the overall number of MT incidents to remain low as long as all countries and the maritime community remain vigilant and share information whenever relevant.

MARITIME INCIDENTS (MI)

Total number
of incidents: 1,186
(1,102 in 2021)

8% ↑

Main type of incidents



Sunk/Capsized: 352



Adrift: 139



Grounding: 102

Main MI in waters off

1

Indonesia: 244

2

Malaysia: 179

3

India: 147



1,304 Dead/
Missing



11,126 Rescued



OBSERVATIONS

1. A key contributing factor for the higher numbers was the monsoon season between July to November.
2. Majority of incidents involved small fishing vessels, and these incidents account for the majority of dead and missing individuals recorded.
3. In 2023, the IFC expects the number of MI to increase as maritime activity increases due to relaxation of COVID restrictions.

ILLEGAL, UNREGULATED, AND UNREPORTED FISHING (IUUF)

Total number
of incidents: 559
(364 in 2021)

54% ↑

Main IUUF occurrences in waters off

1

Malaysia: 188

2

Australia: 88

4

Indonesia: 60

3

Philippines: 72

5

Sri Lanka: 60



Main local incidents off

Malaysia: 122

Philippines: 58

Sri Lanka: 31

Main poaching incidents off

South China Sea: 66

North West Australia: 61

India-Sri Lanka: 52



OBSERVATIONS

1. The increase in IUUF was due to resumption of fishing activities in regional countries, an increase in OPCEN reporting in areas such as Northern Australia, and stepped-up enforcement efforts by authorities.
2. In 2023, the IFC expects IUUF cases to remain high. However, any increase will be at a slower pace as nations increase efforts to control IUUF.

CONTRABAND SMUGGLING (CS)

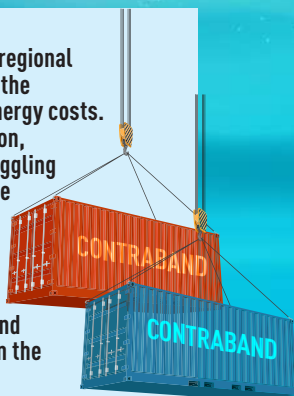
Total number of incidents: 823 (561 in 2021)

47% ↑

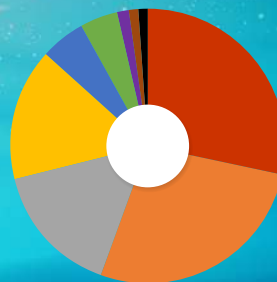


OBSERVATIONS

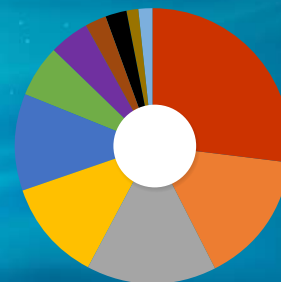
1. The increase in incidents was likely due to the regional political instability and the spill-over effect of the Russian invasion of Ukraine affecting global energy costs.
2. Over 100 tons of drugs, worth over US\$2.3 billion, was seized. Heroin and Methamphetamine smuggling out of Afghanistan and the Golden Triangle were of particular concern.
3. In 2023, the IFC expects the number of CS incidents to increase due to current high inflation, ongoing political instability in the region and the impact of war between Russia and Ukraine that will have a destabilising impact on the energy market.



Type of contrabands



Type of vessels



IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION (IHM)

Total number of incidents: 253 (93 in 2021)

172% ↑

Top 3 locations where migrants are smuggled from

- 1 Sri Lanka
- 2 Indonesia
- 3 Myanmar/ Bangladesh



Top 3 identified IHM routes

- 1 Indonesia to Malaysia: 72
- 2 Sri Lanka to India/Unknown: 55
- 3 Myanmar/Bangladesh to Malaysia/Indonesia: 19



OBSERVATIONS

1. The increase in incidents is due to the addition of new incidents originating from Sri Lanka, accounting for the largest number of people intercepted within the IFC's AOI. Since March, at least 1,779 migrants have used small boats or fishing vessels to depart the country.
2. Indonesian migrants attempting to transit from Indonesia to Malaysia account for 28% of all IHM incidents, the number of people transiting increased 75% in 2022.
3. In 2023, the continued displacement of minorities, state-on-state conflict, civil war, communal violence, extreme weather events, economic insecurity or pandemics continue to act as catalysts for the migration of people throughout the region.

ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY (ENVSEC)

Total number of incidents: 32 (42 in 2021)

24% ↓

Type of Incidents

Maritime Pollution	23
Contagion (COVID 19-related)	1
Others	8



OBSERVATIONS

1. The decrease in incidents was due to better vaccination and preventive measures against seafarers.
2. In 2023, the IFC expects the number of ENVSEC incidents to increase as information gathering techniques are refined and the global economy increases.



CYBER SECURITY (CYBSEC)

Total number of incidents: 3 (0 in 2021)



OBSERVATIONS

1. 3 incidents were reported this year, which was higher than in 2021 with 0 incidents.
2. The most significant incident occurred in the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal, India's only state-owned and operated container terminal.

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Information Fusion Centre

The Information Fusion Centre (IFC) serves as the regional Maritime Security (MARSEC) information-sharing hub covering most of the Indo-Pacific region. With an integrated team of 20 International Liaison Officers from navies / coast guards and more than 100 worldwide linkages (as of Jan 23), the IFC facilitates MARSEC information sharing and collaboration between its partners to cue operational responses, provide maritime situational awareness and enables collaboration beyond its Area of Interest.