# MONTHLY MARITIME SECURITY UPDATE

# OCT 26




## INFORMATION FUSION CENTRE
## INDIAN OCEAN REGION

# Disclaimer

Information collated in the IFC-IOR's reports has been derived from various internal and external linkages such as partner nations, other maritime stakeholders, agencies and open sources. The report aims to undertake analysis of incidents by establishing trends and anomalies to ensure safety and security of mariners and seafarers. While due care and effort has been taken to ensure veracity of data, due diligence may be exercised for subsequent usage of information contained therein. The positions of incidents depicted in some cases may be approximate or indicative. IFC-IOR requests and seeks assistance of all stakeholders to report incidents in the region to undertake accurate predictive and prescriptive analysis so as to build a comprehensive picture of existing threats in the maritime domain. The information contained in the report and the analysis thereon, is not reflective of the views of the Government of India or Indian Navy in any manner.

# THE MONTH IN 5 MINUTES

## OCT 26 AT A GLANCE

**247**
**INCIDENTS RECORDED**
▼ *7% from 276 in Sep 26*

**37**
**HYBRID INCIDENTS**
▲ *48% MoM · Highest since 28 Feb 26*

**36**
**VESSELS STRUCK**
*22 damaged · 2 sunk · 14+ crew injured*

**149**
**LIVES LOST AT SEA**
*139 in a single capsize off Djibouti*

**3.4 T**
**NARCOTICS SEIZED**
*Two Arabian Sea / Sri Lanka hauls*

**~11/day**
**SoH TRANSITS (>100 m)**
*up from ~8/day in Sep 26*

## WHAT HAPPENED

- ***Strait of Hormuz remains the Epicentre.*** *Of the 37 hybrid maritime incidents, 25 were monitored in the Strait of Hormuz, including 24 within 30 nm of Khasab, Oman. An RPG attack and the first reported successful limpet-mine attack of the current conflict, on LOUISE 1, indicate the growing threat from small boats.*
- ***Fewer Migration Incidents, Higher Human Cost.*** *Irregular migration incidents fell by 29%, yet 149 people lost their lives at sea. On 08 Oct 26, an overcrowded boat carrying 305 migrants towards Yemen capsized off Djibouti, leaving 139 dead, 84 missing and only 82 rescued.*
- ***Piracy Threat Persists off Somalia.*** *Pirates hijacked FV AZINI between Bandar Bayla and Hafun on 29 Oct 26. India authorities recovered the vessel on 02 Nov 26, with all 20 crew safe. The incident highlights persistent risk of piracy as sea conditions become more favourable for small boats/ skiffs post monsoon.*
- ***Major Drug Seizures despite fewer Smuggling Incidents.*** *Pakistan authorities seized nearly 850 kg of methamphetamine and 2,000 kg of hashish from two dhows, while Sri Lanka recovered another 561.7 kg narcotics (meth and hashish) off Matara. These large seizures highlight continued drug trafficking activity despite a decline in reported smuggling incidents.*
- ***Pollution and Severe Weather add to Maritime Risks.*** *An oil spill from a tanker, GEM NO. 2, affected the coasts of four emirates of UAE before being controlled on 30 Oct 26. Meanwhile, cyclones ARNAB and MURASU affected East Indian coast in late Oct and early Nov, adding to risks for coastal communities and shipping.*

## THREAT PICTURE

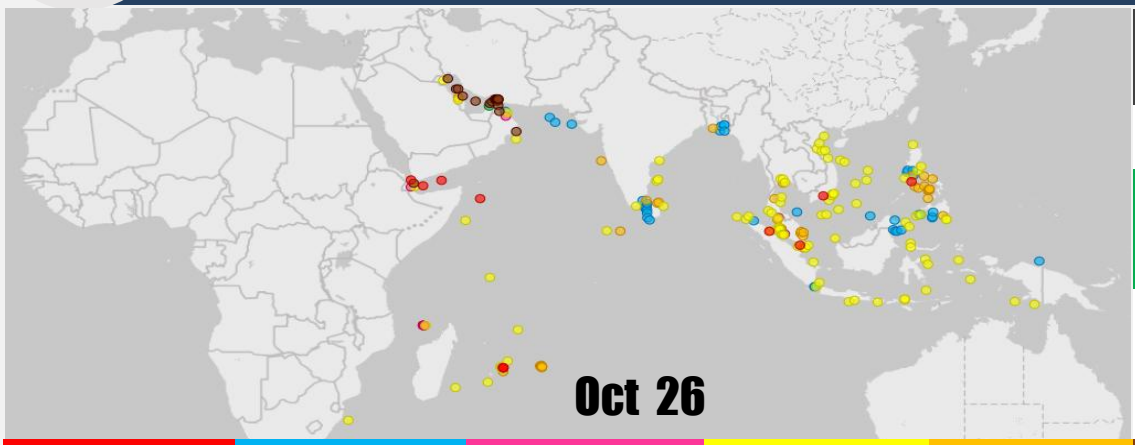
| CATEGORY | OCT 26 | vs SEP 26 | ASSESSED LEVEL | WHERE TO LOOK |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Maritime Security Threats (Hybrid) | 37 | ▲ 48% | CRITICAL | SoH (Khasab), Persian Gulf anchorages, Gulf of Oman |
| Piracy & Armed Robbery | 12 | ▼ 8% | HIGH | NE of Somalia, Gulf of Aden, SE Asia anchorages |
| Contraband Smuggling | 41 | ▼ 35% | HIGH | Arabian Sea – Sri Lanka corridor, Sunda Strait |
| Irregular Human Migration | 12 | ▼ 29% | HIGH | Djibouti – Yemen, Comoros – Mayotte, Malacca Strait |
| IUU Fishing | 44 | ▲ 19% | ELEVATED | Philippines, Malaysia, Mauritius |
| Maritime Incidents | 100 | ▼ 10% | MODERATE | Indonesia, Vietnam (small fishing craft) |

## LOOK AHEAD · NOV 26

- ***Strait of Hormuz:*** *Small-boat and projectile attacks remain a serious threat near Khasab and Gulf anchorages. Daylight transits do not lower risk.* ***Watch for: suspicious craft, unusual approaches, aerial threats and activity near anchorage areas, including transits during daylight.***
- ***Gulf of Aden & Somali Basin:*** *Improving sea conditions post monsoons may increase piracy activity farther offshore.* ***Watch for: suspicious skiffs and unusual approaches by fishing vessels, even at enhanced ranges from shore.***
- ***Bay of Bengal:*** *Cyclones and Northeast Monsoon surges may cause deteriorated sea conditions and increase risks to small craft and ferries.* ***Watch for: sudden strong winds, rough seas, reduced visibility and cyclone warnings.***

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

| SEP 26 | OCT 26 | |
|---|---|---|
| 267 | 247 | 7% ↓ |




| CYBER SECURITY THREATS | MARINE ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION |
|---|---|
| NIL | 01 |

| PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY | CONTRABAND SMUGGLING | IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION | MARITIME INCIDENTS | IUU FISHING | MARITIME SECURITY THREATS (HYBRID) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | 41 | 12 | 100 | 44 | 37 |

## OVERVIEW

*247 incidents were recorded in Oct 26, marking a 7% decrease from 267 incidents in Sep 26. The decline was driven by sharp reduction in contraband smuggling (63 to 41; -35%) and maritime incidents (111 to 100, -10%). The lower volume mask two severe categories: maritime security threats (hybrid) hit a conflict high (+48%) while migrant deaths rose from two to 139.*

**Piracy and Armed Robbery** *12 incidents were recorded, representing an 8% decrease from 13 incidents in Sep 26. Southeast Asia recorded five incidents against six in Sep 26, while East Africa witnessed an increase from two to four incidents. The month witnessed opportunistic thefts in Southeast Asia and Mauritius, armed attacks in the Gulf of Aden and the hijacking of a fishing vessel off Somalia, indicating that the threat persists despite a marginal decline in incidents.*

**Contraband Smuggling** *41 incidents were recorded, a 35% decrease from 63 incidents in Sep 26. South Asia (19 against 33) and Southeast Asia (21 against 26) accounted for 40 of the 41 incidents. Drugs smuggling remained the leading category (10 incidents against 14 in Sep 26). Significant seizures included about 850 kg of meth, 2,000 kg of hashish and cannabis from two dhows in the Arabian Sea (Pakistan), and 561.7 kg of methamphetamine and heroin on the Matara coast (Sri Lanka). Other notable seizures included 4,316 kg of kendu leaves, 5.71 million cigarette sticks and 7,311 tonnes of rock salt.*

**Irregular Human Migration** *12 incidents were recorded, a 29% decrease from 17 recorded incidents in Sep 26. Activity remained concentrated in East Africa and Southeast Asia, with continued interdictions off Mayotte and Malaysia. Despite the decline in incidents, fatalities increased sharply from two to 139, while missing migrants rose from nil to 84, primarily due to major capsize off Djibouti. A total of 470 migrants were rescued or apprehended, highlighting the increased humanitarian impact during the month.*

**IUU Fishing** *44 incidents were recorded, a 19% increase from 37 incidents in Sep 26. The rise was driven local IUU fishing, which increased from 31 to 42 (+35%), while poaching declined from six to two incidents (-67%). Despite more incidents, vessels seized (85), fishermen apprehended (263) and catch seized (3,178 kg) all declined, indicating smaller-scale violations.*

**Maritime Incidents** *100 incidents were recorded, a 10% decrease from 111 in Sep 26 and the lowest monthly count of 2026. MEDEVAC (15) was the leading sub-category, followed by man overboard, capsize, mechanical failure and grounding (10 each). Lives lost rose from 31 to 149, while persons rescued increased from 795 to 1,200 (+51%).*

**Maritime Security Threats (Hybrid)** *37 incidents were recorded in Oct 26, a 48% increase from 25 in Sep 26 and the highest incident count since the beginning of the conflict on 28 Feb 26. Strait of Hormuz accounted for 25 incidents, followed by the Persian Gulf (seven) and Gulf of Oman (three). Of the 36 vessels struck, 22 sustained reported damage, while two vessels sank. Projectile attacks remained the predominant method (32 incidents), with small-boat and aerial attacks indicating diversification of the threat.*

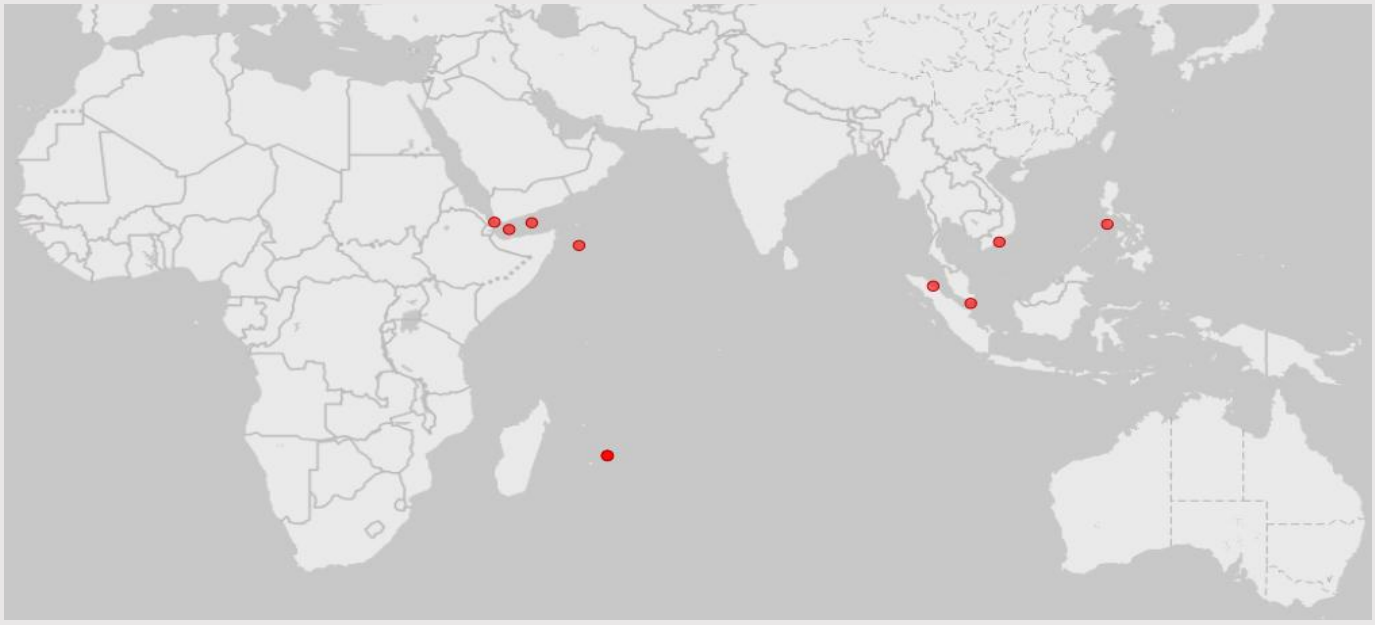
**Marine Environment Pollution** *On 09 Oct 26, tanker GEM NO. 2 was reportedly struck by a projectile off Ras Al Khaimah. The resulting oil slick affected coastal areas of Umm al Quwain, Ras al Khaimah, Ajman and Sharjah. The leakage was stopped on 30 Oct 26, highlighting the environmental consequences of attacks on merchant shipping.*

# PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY

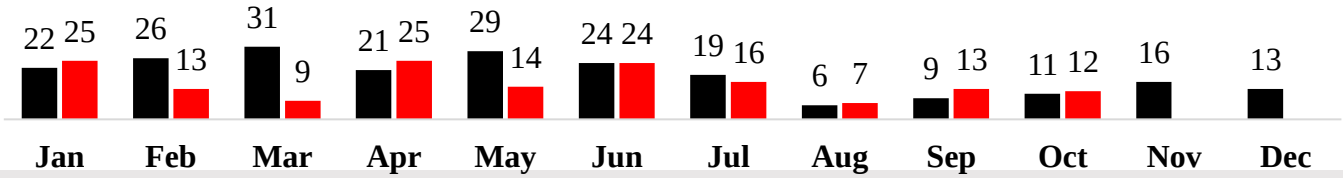
SEP 26: 13

OCT 26: 12

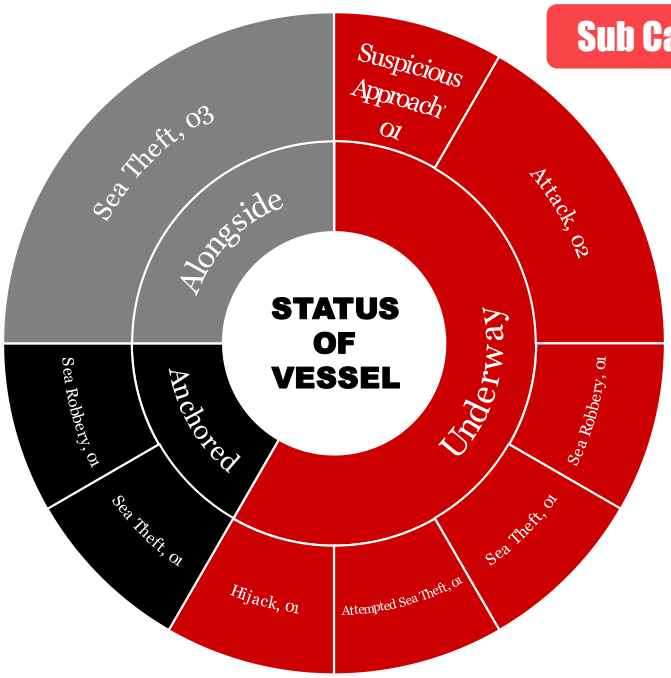
8%

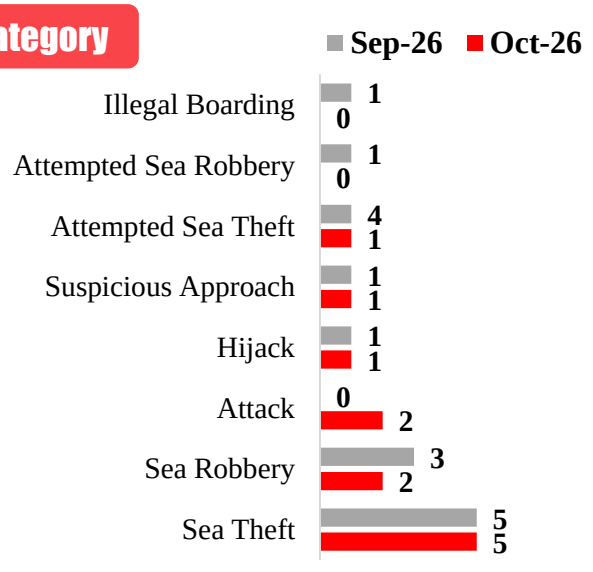


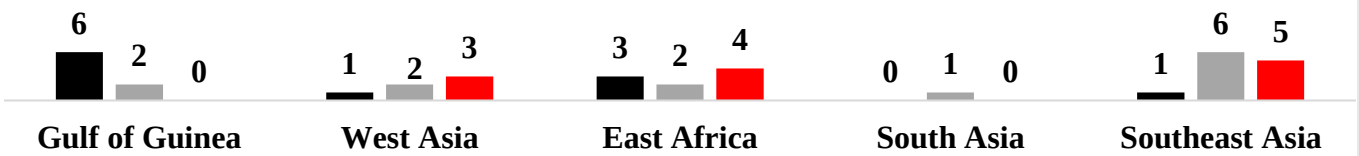
## MONTHLY COMPARISON




## ANALYSIS OF INCIDENTS



# PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY

## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

### Southeast Asia

**Weapons Used**

UNK 02







### West Asia

**Weapons Used**

Gun 03







### East Africa

**Weapons Used**

UNK 01







## HIGHLIGHTS

*Incident volume decreased marginally from 13 in Sep 26 to 12 in Oct 26. However, the continued occurrence of opportunistic thefts, armed attacks and hijacking incidents indicates that the maritime security threat remains persistent.*

- *Off Mauritius, three theft-related incidents involved unattended pleasure craft and outboard engines. In one instance, a stolen pleasure craft was subsequently found aground after being abandoned by the perpetrators. Such incidents highlight the vulnerability of small vessels and the potential for stolen craft to be exploited for unauthorized movements or other illicit maritime activities.*

- *In Southeast Asia, perpetrators continued to target vulnerable vessels, particularly those at anchor or moving at reduced speed. The assault and restraint of a vessel's master off Mindoro highlight the risk of violence against crew during opportunistic boarding incidents.*

- *Off Somalia, the hijacking of Iranian fishing vessel AZINI on 29 Oct 26 between Bandar Bayla and Hafun highlighted the continued operational capability of Somali-based Pirate Action Groups (PAGs). Its successful rescue by Indian Navy on 02 Nov 26 (after the reporting period), with all 20 crew rescued in a 48-hour operation, prevented its potential use as a mothership and demonstrated the value of persistent surveillance and rapid naval intervention.*

### IFC-IOR COMMENTS

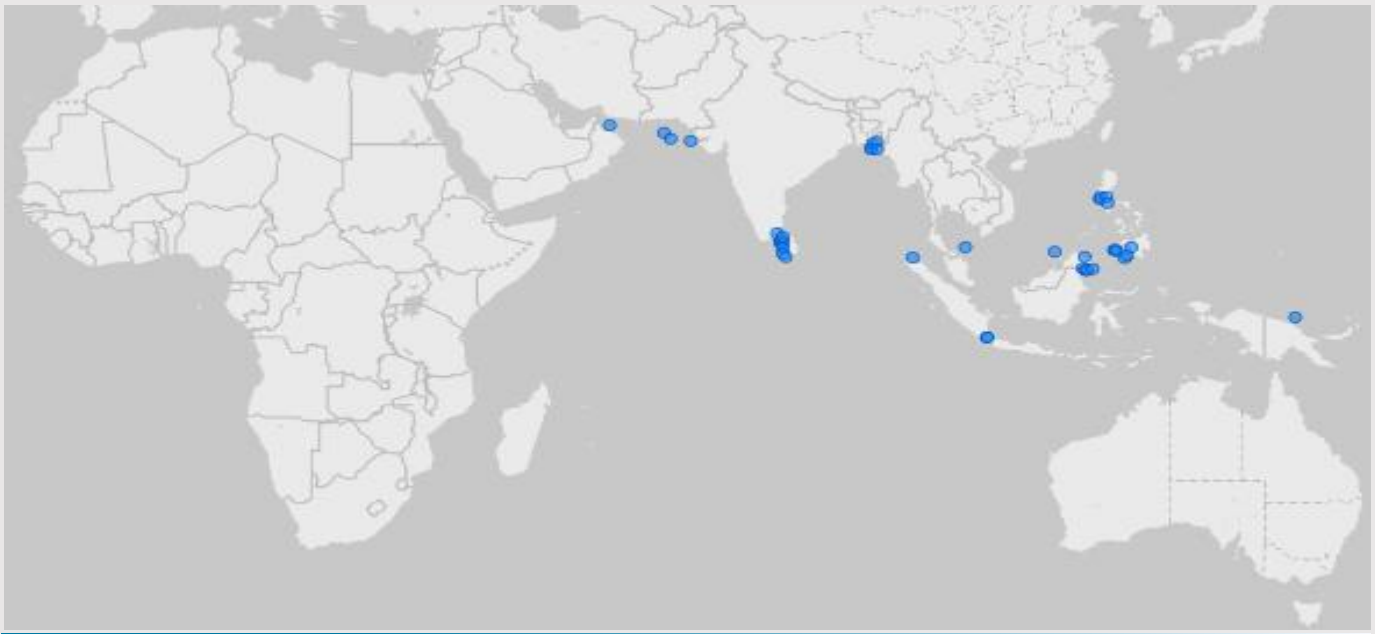
*Oct 26 witnessed continued piracy and armed robbery activity across the IFC-IOR region, with opportunistic thefts in Southeast Asia, armed attacks in West Asia and a hijacking off Somalia. Despite a marginal decline in overall incidents, the threat remains persistent, particularly from armed Pirate Action Groups and opportunistic perpetrators targeting vulnerable vessels. Merchant vessels should maintain heightened vigilance, implement BMP-MS measures, strengthen onboard security arrangements, and report suspicious activity to IFC-IOR promptly. Timely information-sharing with regional reporting centres and coordination with naval forces remain critical to early threat detection, deterrence and effective incident response.*

# CONTRABAND SMUGGLING

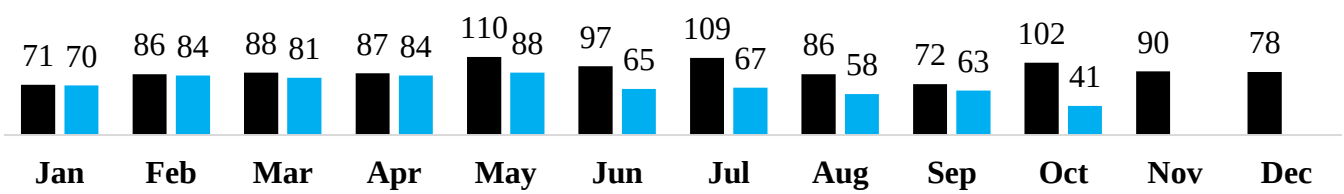
SEP 26: 63

OCT 26: 41

35%

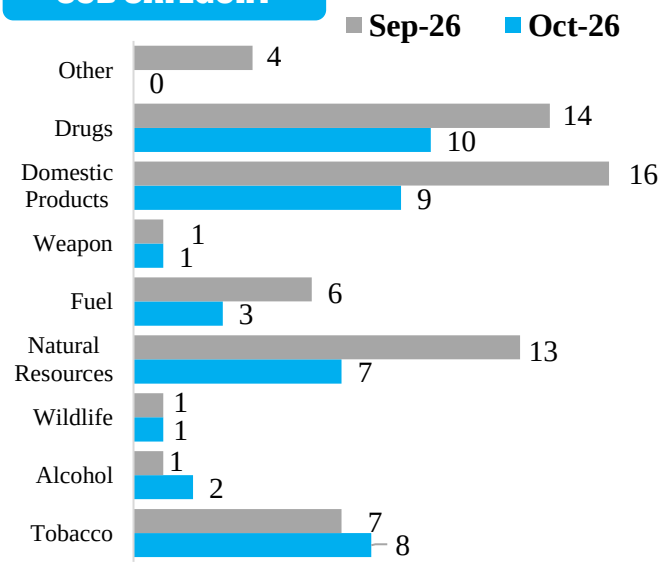


## MONTHLY COMPARISON




## ANALYSIS OF INCIDENTS

### SUB CATEGORY




### DRUG SEIZURES

**02** Opioids

**01** Cannabinoids

**09** ATS

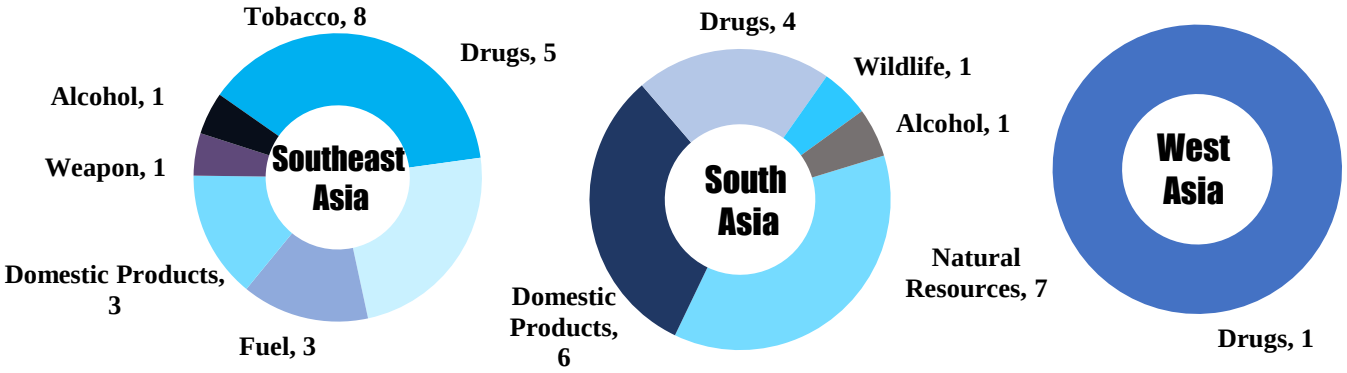
**02** other

## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION



# CONTRABAND SMUGGLING

## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION




## HIGHLIGHTS

*41 contraband smuggling incidents were recorded in Oct 26. Key salient are as follows:*

- ***Drugs (10 incidents)*** *Drug smuggling was the largest category. Seizures included methamphetamine, yaba, heroin, ketamine, cocaine, cannabis, etomidate and psychotropic tablets. Significant quantities were reported in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia.*
- ***Natural Resources (07 incidents)*** *All seven incidents involved kendu leaves seized in Sri Lanka. A total of 4,316 kg was recorded, with several recoveries made from abandoned sacks or coastal locations.*
- ***Domestic Products (09 incidents)*** *Cases included Pakistan-origin rock salt imported into India on falsified documents, cement and sugar in Bangladesh, dried ginger in Sri Lanka, cooking oil in Malaysia, palm oil in Bangladesh, and frozen food products in the Philippines.*
- ***Tobacco and Weapons (09 incidents)*** *Eight cigarette-smuggling incidents accounted for 5.71 million sticks (one seizure unquantified). One weapons case involved 200 rounds of ammunition in Indonesia.*
- ***Fuel (03 incidents)*** *Authorities seized 4,185 L of fuel, comprising 1,185 L of petrol and 3,000 L of diesel, in Malaysia and the Philippines.*

## NOTABLE SEIZURES

| Date | Country | Details | Estimated Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| *07 Oct* | *Pakistan* | *Two dhows intercepted in the Arabian Sea carrying 850 kg of crystal methamphetamine and 2,000 kg of hashish.* | *USD 96 million* |
| *06 Oct* | *Indonesia* | *Seven suspects apprehended; 89 kg of methamphetamine, 1,929 etomidate pills and 8.4 L of liquid etomidate seized at Bakauheni Port.* | *USD 10 million* |
| *11 Oct* | *India* | *7,311 tonnes of Pakistan-origin rock salt (295 containers) imported using falsified origin documents via Colombo. Five containers seized and four arrested.* | *USD 3.20 million* |
| *24 Oct* | *Sri Lanka* | *239.764 kg of crystal methamphetamine and 321.941 kg of heroin recovered off the Talalla–Natunna coast, Matara.* | *USD 35.50 million* |

### IFC-IOR COMMENTS

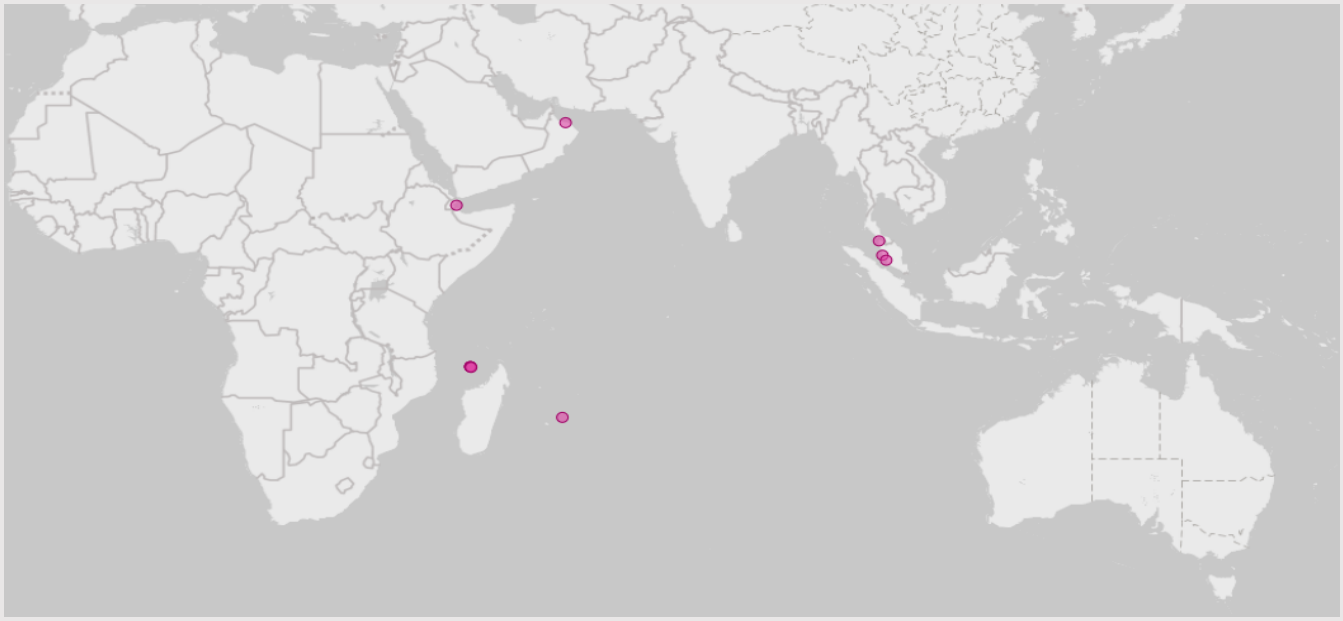
*Drug smuggling remained the leading category, with 10 incidents reported across the region. The Pakistan and Sri Lanka seizures alone removed about 3.4 tonnes of narcotics, underlining the Arabian Sea as one of the principal maritime trafficking region, with further methamphetamine seizures in Thailand and Indonesia. Natural resource smuggling was prominent in Sri Lanka, with seven incidents involving 4,316 kg of kendu leaves. In India, the rock salt case showed transhipment through a third port and falsified origin documents being used to evade trade restrictions. Overall, South Asia and Southeast Asia continued to witness significant contraband activity, with drug smuggling remaining a key concern.*

# IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION

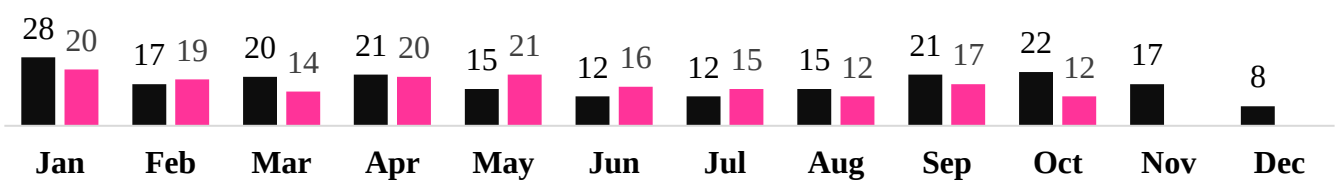
SEP 26: 17

OCT 26: 12

29%



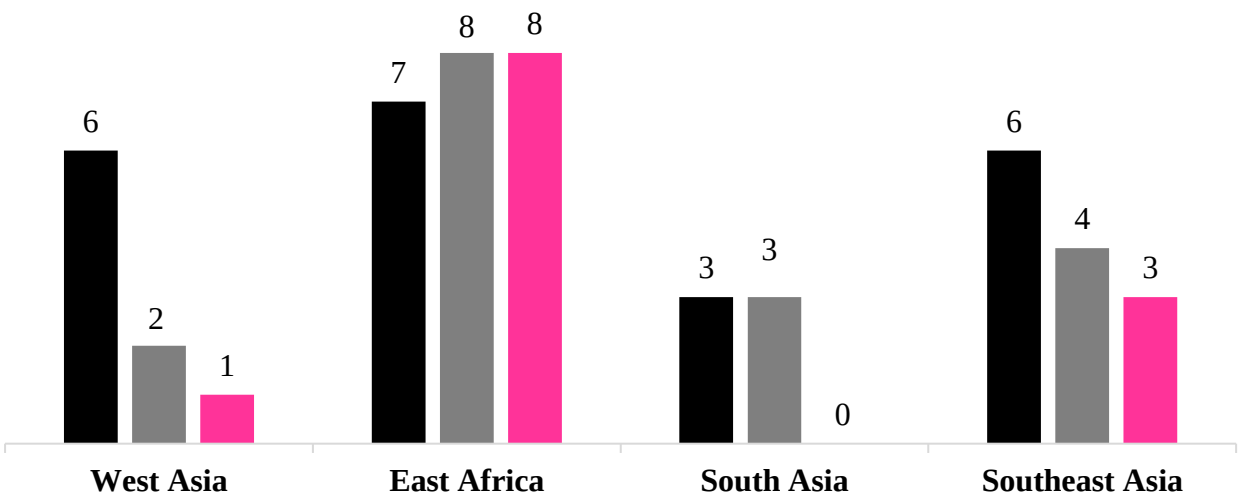
## MONTHLY COMPARISON




## OVERVIEW

- 18 Smugglers Apprehended
- 470 Rescued/ Apprehended
- 84 Missing
- 37 Boats
- 139 Lives Lost

## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION



# IRREGULAR HUMAN MIGRATION

## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

| Migration Trends | No of Incidents | Rescued/ Apprehended | Smugglers Apprehended | Boats Involved |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Asia | 1 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| East Africa | 8 | 363 | 13 | 34 |
| South Asia | - | - | - | - |
| Southeast Asia | 3 | 91 | 5 | 3 |

## HIGHLIGHTS

*12 incidents were reported during Oct 26, a 29% decrease compared to Sep 26. Key highlights include:-*

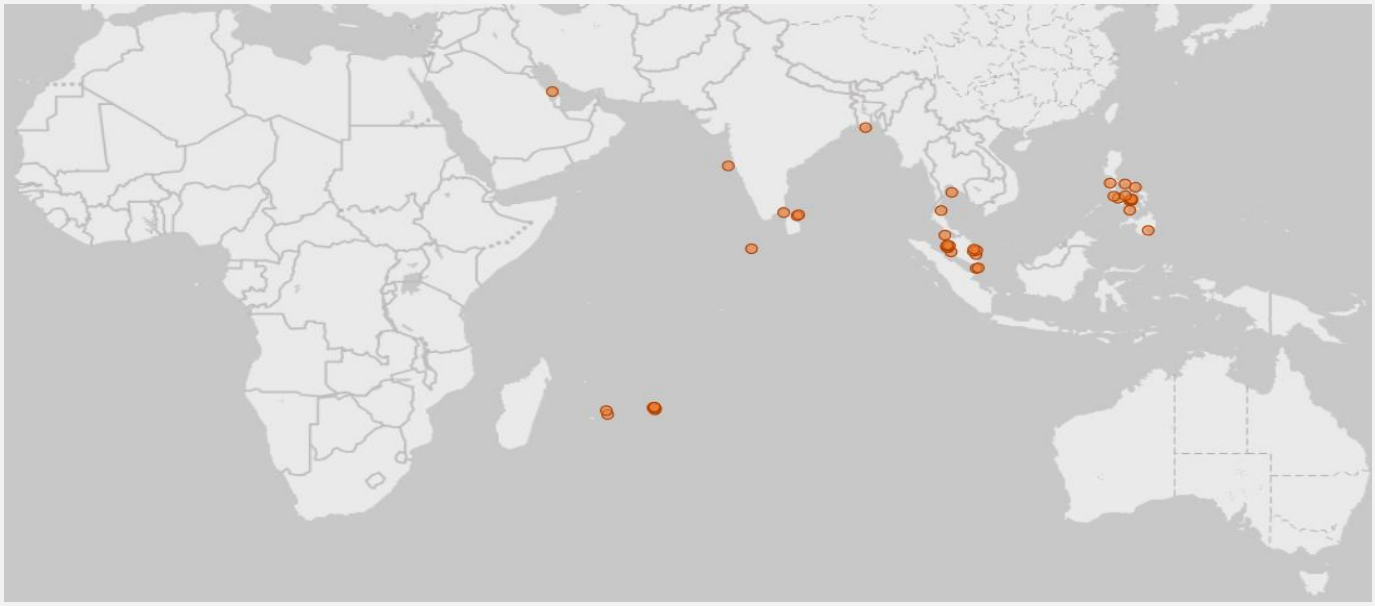
- *On 08 Oct 26, a major capsizing was reported off Guhere, Djibouti, involving a boat carrying 305 migrants attempting to leave the country illegally by sea. The incident resulted in 82 migrants being rescued, 84 reported missing and 139 fatalities, highlighting the vulnerability of migrants undertaking perilous sea crossings towards Yemen.*
- *Six separate operations off Mayotte resulted in the apprehension of 278 migrants and 13 suspected smugglers, alongside the seizure of 32 kwassa-kwassa boats, highlighting continued irregular migration activity along the Comoros–Mayotte corridor.*
- *Malaysia recorded three separate interdictions involving 91 migrants and five suspected smugglers, with three boats seized. During the third operation off Kuala Sungai Padang, one Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) personnel was killed and three others injured following a collision with a concrete structure while pursuing a suspected migrant boat.*
- *Oman authorities apprehended 16 migrants off Barka while entering the country illegally by sea.*
- *Three Ghanaian stowaways were handed over at Port Louis, Mauritius, after being found aboard the Singapore-flagged cargo ship MV SEA PRAJNA while reportedly attempting to reach a foreign country illegally by sea.*

### IFC-IOR COMMENTS

*Despite the decline in reported incidents during Oct 26, the humanitarian impact increased sharply, with fatalities rising from two in Sep 26 to 139 in Oct 26 and missing migrants increasing from nil to 84. These figures were primarily driven by the capsizing off Djibouti, highlighting the severe risks associated with irregular maritime departures, particularly when large numbers of migrants are transported aboard a single vessel. Elsewhere, the continued use of small boats and kwassa-kwassas along the Comoros–Mayotte corridor, alongside movements towards Malaysia and Oman, reflected sustained reliance on established maritime routes. The fatality involving an MMEA personnel during an interdiction off Malaysia further highlighted the operational hazards faced by maritime enforcement agencies. Continued surveillance of high-activity corridors, along with adequate search-and-rescue preparedness, remains important.*

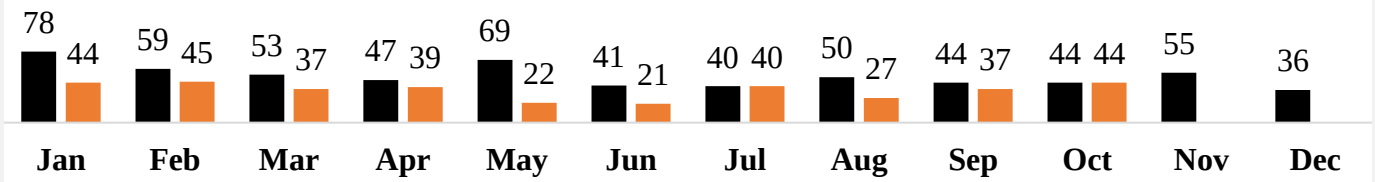
# IUU FISHING

| SEP 26 | OCT 26 | |
|---|---|---|
| 37 | 44 | 19% |



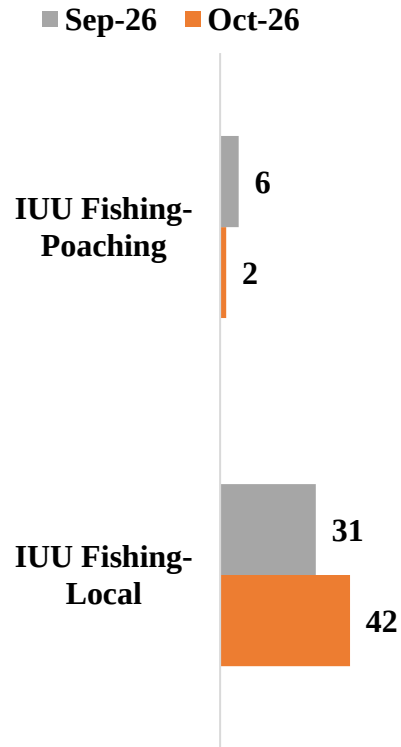
## MONTHLY COMPARISON

■ 2025 ■ 2026




## INCIDENT ANALYSIS

### Sub Category



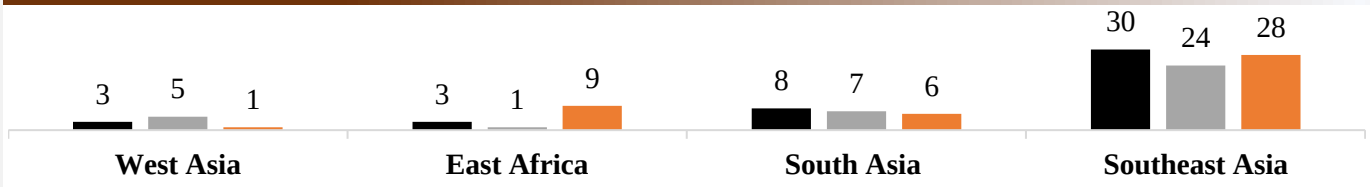

### Overview

| FISHING VESSELS | CATCH | FISHERMEN |
|---|---|---|
| 85 | 3,178 KG | 263 |

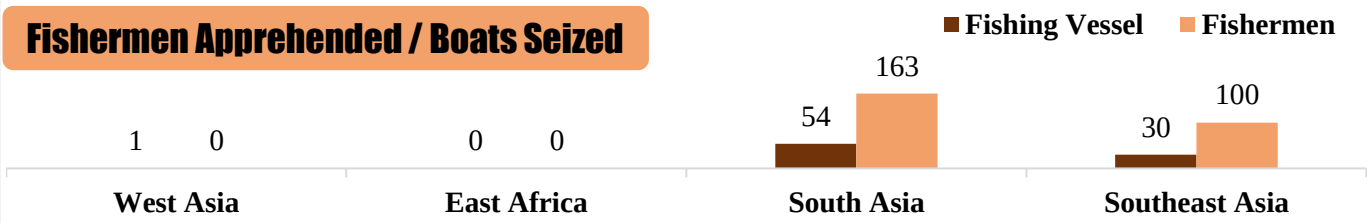
| LOCAL | | POACHING | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FISHING VESSELS | FISHERMEN | FISHING VESSELS | FISHERMEN |
| 81 | 228 | 04 | 35 |

# IUU FISHING

## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION




## Fishermen Apprehended / Boats Seized




## INCIDENT DISTRIBUTION

| IUU Fishing-Local Country wise Distribution | |
|---|---|
| Philippines | 13 |
| Malaysia | 13 |
| Mauritius | 9 |
| Sri Lanka | 2 |
| Thailand | 2 |
| Bahrain | 1 |
| India | 1 |
| Bangladesh | 1 |

| IUU Fishing – Poaching Country wise Distribution | |
|---|---|
| Sri Lanka | 1 |
| Maldives | 1 |

## HIGHLIGHTS

*A total of 44 IUU fishing incidents were recorded in Oct 26, a 19% increase from 37 in Sep 26 and broadly unchanged from 44 in Oct 25. This marked the second consecutive monthly increase as the NE monsoon set in. The rise was entirely attributable to local fishing violations, which accounted for 42 incidents (95%), while poaching incidents declined to two from six in Oct 26.*

- *Southeast Asia remained the leading contributor to IUU fishing in Oct 26, accounting for 28 incidents (64% of the total). The monthly rise was not broad-based: East Africa incidents increased from one to nine incidents, all seizures of illegal nets with no apprehensions of suspects. South Asia recorded only six incidents but accounted for 62% of fishermen apprehended (163), through consolidated area-wide enforcement.*

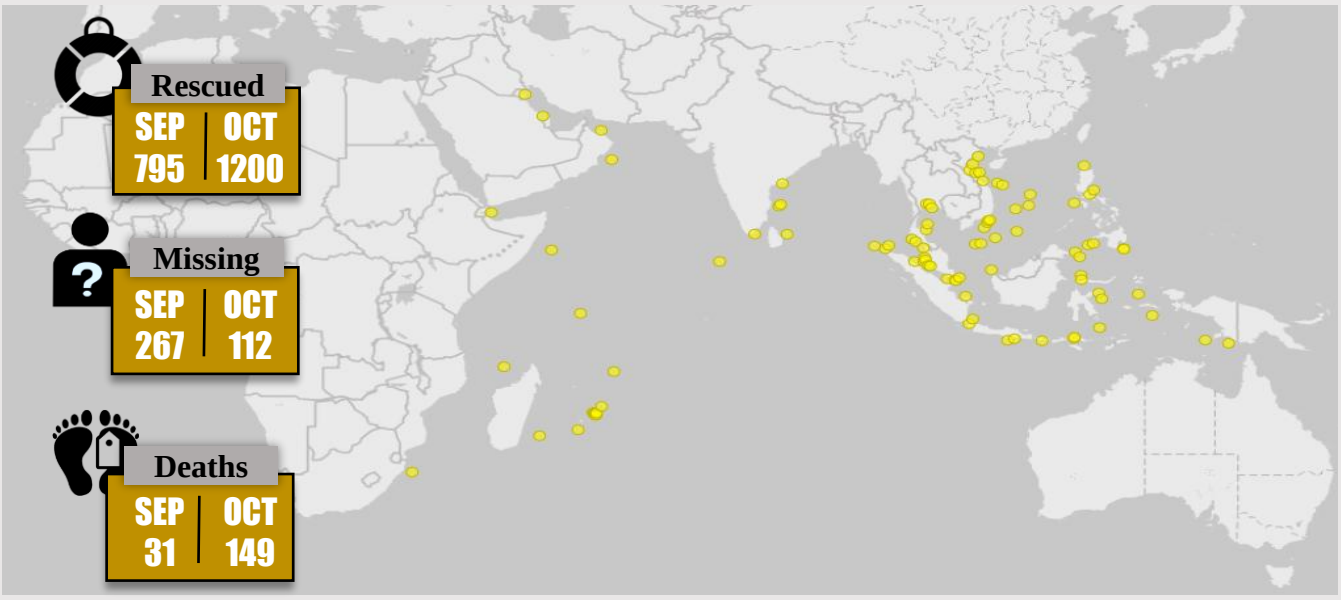
- *Vessel seizures decreased from 93 to 85, fishermen apprehended from 458 to 263, and catch seized from 6,532 kg to 3,178 kg. Oct 26 cases were therefore generally smaller in scale. Nevertheless, the volume of catch seized remained more than three times higher than in Oct 25. Prohibited gear and fishing methods remained the leading violation category, accounting for 59% of incidents. No blast-fishing incidents were reported in Oct 26, compared with three each in Aug and Sep 26.*

### IFC-IOR COMMENTS

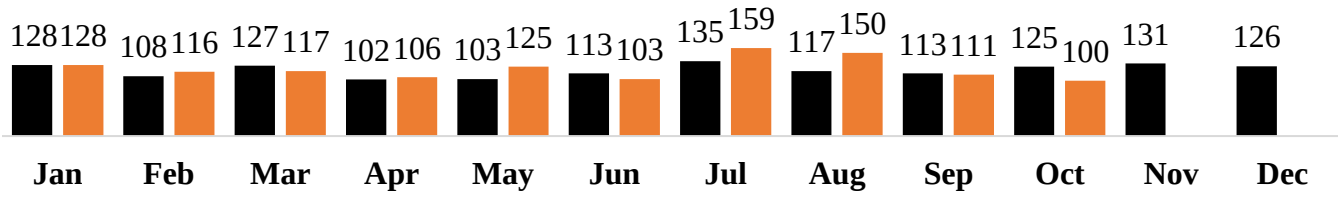
*The Oct 26 rise reflects stricter enforcement against local violations following the onset of the NE Monsoon, rather than increase in cross-border poaching. Cross-border poaching declined to just two cases, with none reported in West Asia, East Africa or northern Australia. All nine incidents in East Africa involved seizures of illegal fishing nets off Mauritius. Local IUU activity is likely to remain elevated through Nov 26 (55 incidents in Nov 25).*

# MARITIME INCIDENTS

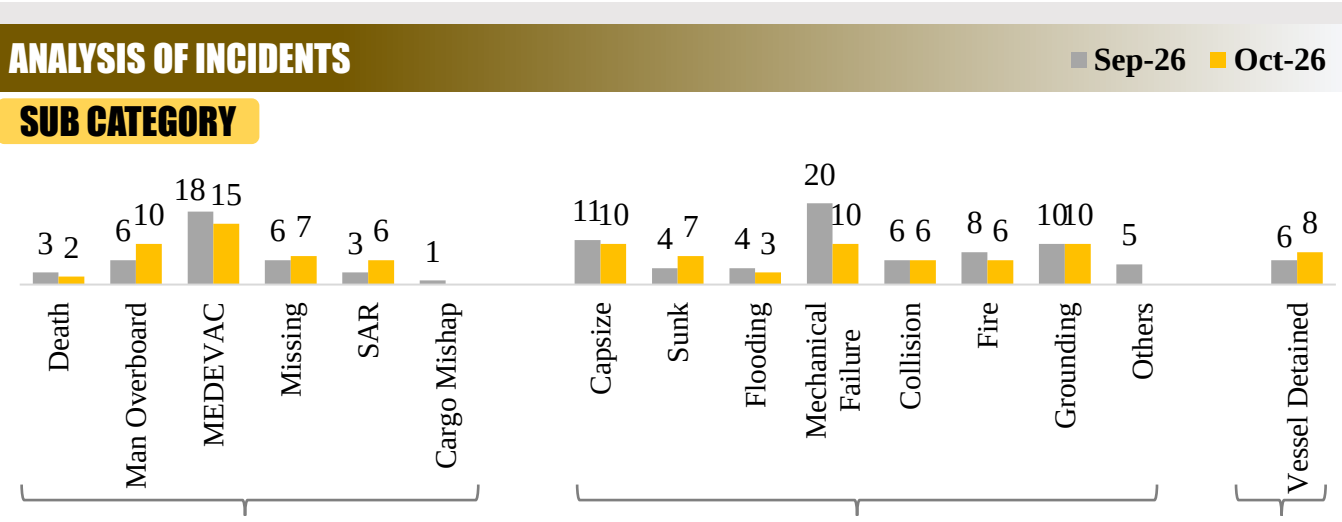
| SEP 26 | OCT 26 | |
|---|---|---|
| 111 | 100 | 10 % |




## MONTHLY COMPARISON




## ANALYSIS OF INCIDENTS




### SUB CATEGORY

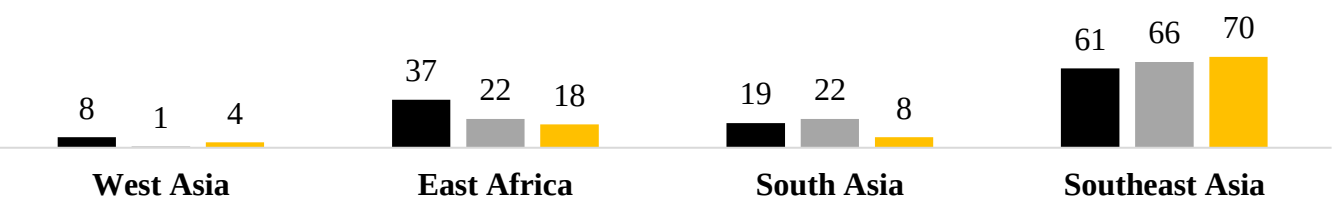



**Incidents affecting Individuals**
**40**

**Incidents affecting Vessels**
**52**

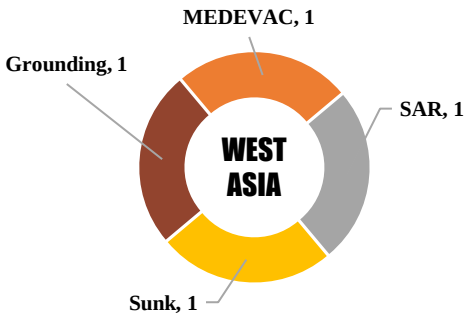
**Legal Connotations**
**08**

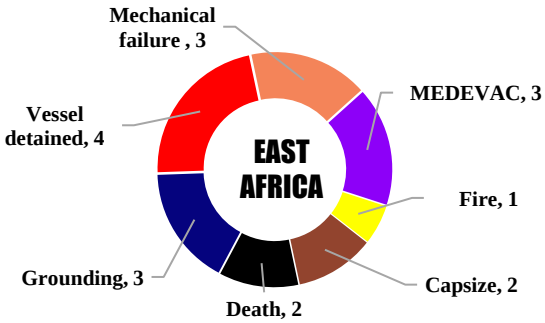
## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

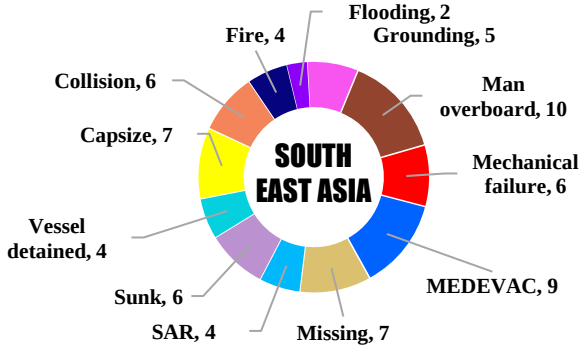


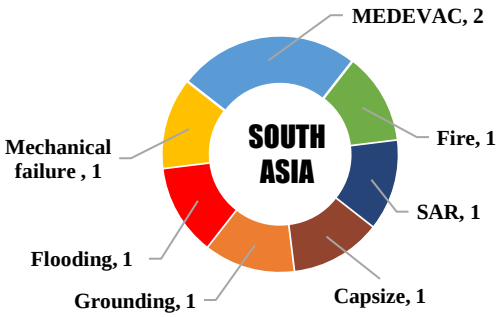
# MARITIME INCIDENTS

## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION




## HIGHLIGHTS

*100 maritime incidents were recorded in Oct 26, a 10% decrease from 111 in Sep 26. It is the lowest monthly count of the year. Despite the lower volume, lives lost rose from 31 (Sep) to 149 (Oct). The key highlights include:*

- *Southeast Asia accounted for 70% of incidents (70 of 100), led by Indonesia (21) and Vietnam (14); Mauritius (9) was the next most affected country. Fishing vessels were involved in 57% of cases. Most missing-person cases involved small fishing boats in Indonesia and Vietnam.*
- *There were 8 vessel detentions, 4 of them by Malaysia authorities, covering illegal fuel transfer, illegal anchoring and missing documents. Mauritius authorities detained 3 boats on suspicion of drug trafficking and Somali authorities detained 1 vessel operating illegally in Somali waters.*
- *On 08 Oct, an overcrowded migrant boat capsized off Djibouti with 305 people aboard: 82 rescued, 84 missing and 139 dead. It accounts for 93% of October deaths and 75% of missing persons (also reported under IHM).*

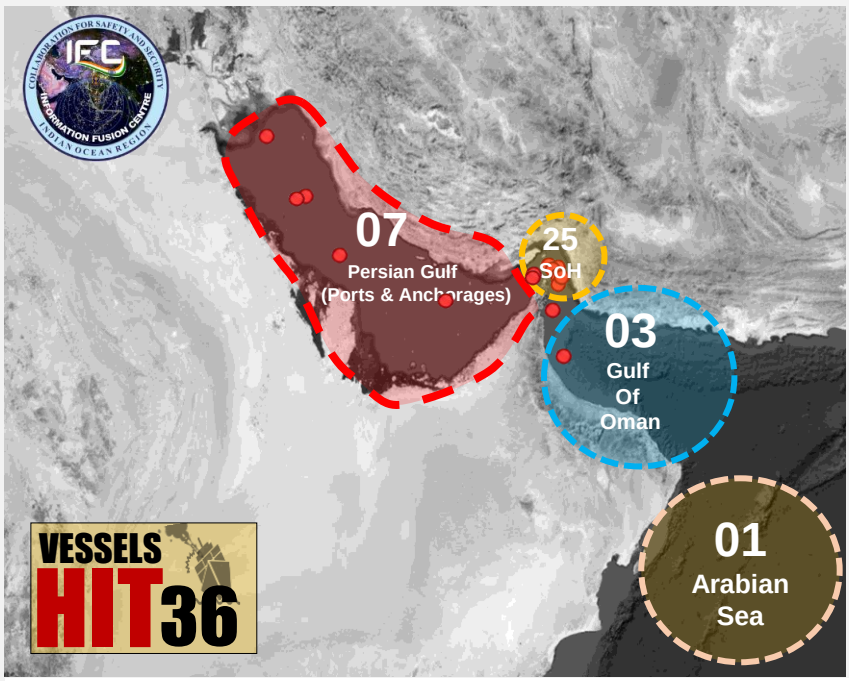
  *Excluding this event, October recorded only 10 deaths and 28 missing.*
- *Rescued persons accounted for approximately 82% (1,200 of 1,461 people involved) of the reported rescued, missing and deceased population. Two passenger vessel incidents contributed the majority of rescues: the BATUMANDI ferry fire off Merak, Indonesia (460 evacuated) and the EXPRESS BAHAGIA 98 grounding off Kuala Perlis, Malaysia (261 rescued). Together they account for 721 rescues, or 60% of all rescues.*

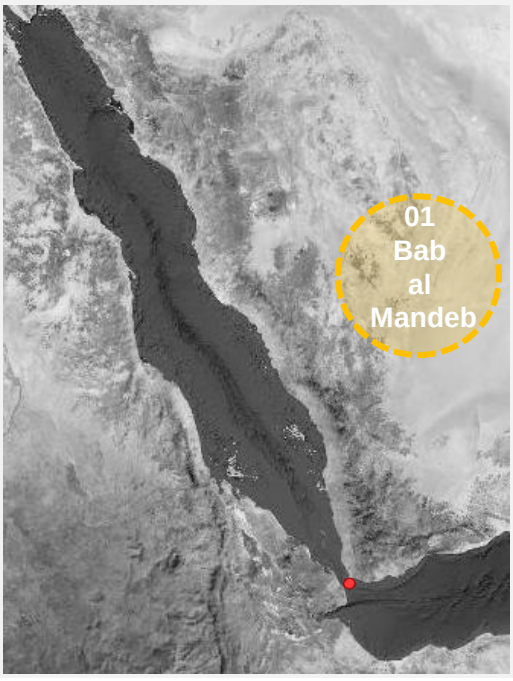
### IFC-IOR COMMENTS

*Incident volume fell to its 2026 low, but human cost rose sharply: one overloaded migrant boat accounted for 93% of deaths, showing that casualty risk is driven by a few high-consequence events rather than incident frequency. Small fishing craft in Indonesia and Vietnam remained most exposed to missing-person cases, while effective SAR on two ferry incidents produced 60% of all rescues. With the NE Monsoon and Bay of Bengal cyclone season under way, small-craft and ferry operators should reinforce weather routing, lifesaving-equipment checks and passenger-load compliance.*

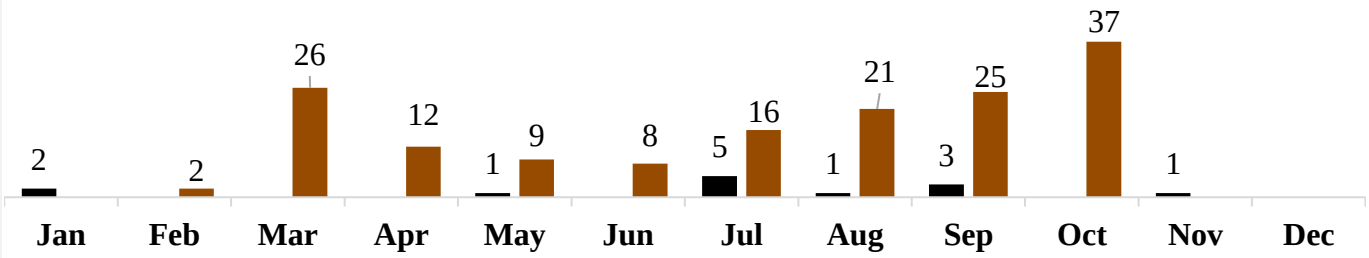
# MARITIME SECURITY THREAT ( HYBRID )

| SEP 26 | OCT 26 | |
|---|---|---|
| 25 | 37 | 48% |

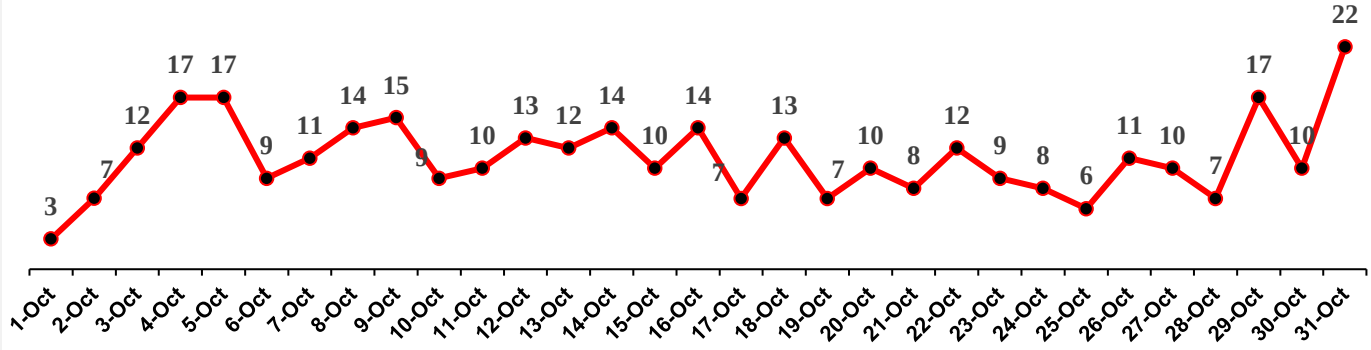



## MONTHLY COMPARISON



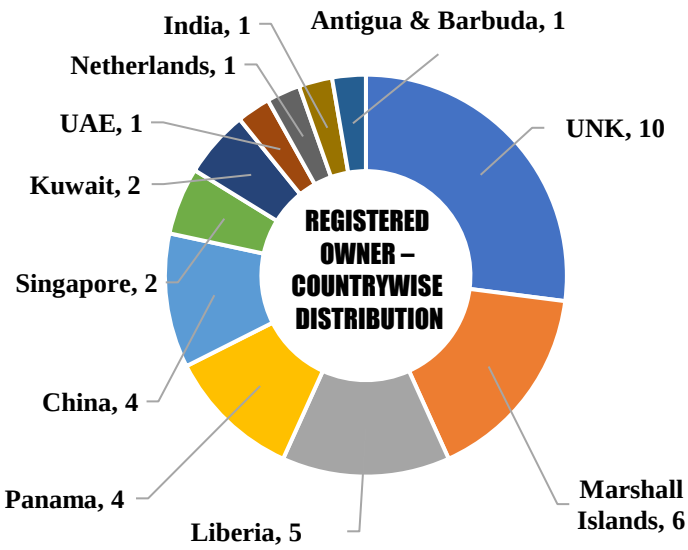

## Daily Transits Through SoH – Oct 26 (Vessels > 100 m)

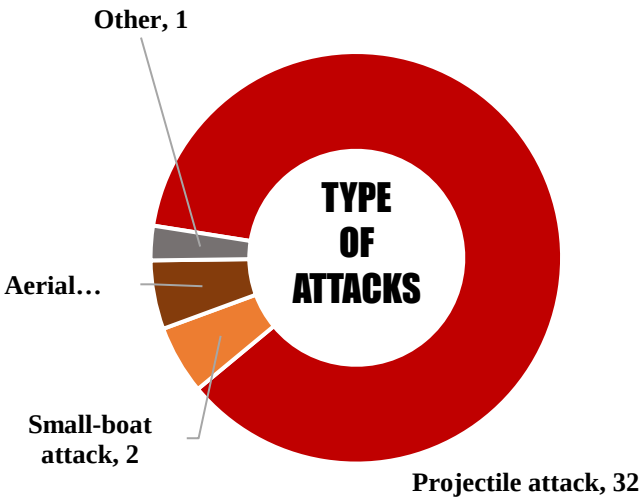



## OVERVIEW

*37 Maritime Security Threats (Hybrid) incidents were recorded in Oct 26, a 48% increase compared to Sep 26 (25) and the highest monthly count since the beginning of the conflict wef 28 Feb 26. 36 vessels were struck, of which 22 reportedly sustained damage, including two that sank. The Strait of Hormuz remained the primary region of concern with 25 incidents, 24 of them within 30 nm of Khasab, followed by the Persian Gulf (7) and the Gulf of Oman (3), with one incident each in the Bab-el-Mandeb and Arabian Sea. Projectile attacks accounted for 32 incidents, alongside two small-boat attacks, two aerial (drone/UAV) attacks and one other incident. Tankers remained the most targeted vessel type (28), followed by container ships (4). Daily SoH transits (vessels >100 m) averaged about 11, up from about eight in Sep 26, still a fraction of pre-conflict traffic.*

# MARITIME SECURITY THREAT ( HYBRID )




## INCIDENT ANALYSIS

- *More than two-thirds of the incidents (25 of 37) occurred during 01-14 Oct, with a maximum of five incidents on 11 Oct. Activity reduced in the second half of the month before rising again with five incidents on 29-30 Oct, indicating that a period of reduced activity should not be read as de-escalation. Persian Gulf incidents were spread along the length of the Gulf, exposing vessels bound for Gulf ports and anchorages even when not transiting the Strait of Hormuz, while isolated incidents in the Bab-el-Mandeb and the Arabian Sea indicate sporadic reach beyond the Gulf.*

- *Weapon employment also reflected an escalation in the threat, with two small-boat attacks {an RPG attack on 16 Oct 26 and limpet mines on LOUISE 1 on 30 Oct 26} and two aerial strikes alongside 32 projectile attacks. Impact was severe: at least 12 vessels suffered fires, two were sunk and five were left disabled or adrift, with two crew missing and at least 14 injured. Daylight attacks rose to five (one in Sep 26), indicating reduced reliance on darkness.*

## SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT : *ON PEACE* - 05 OCT 26

*The Panama-flagged LR2 tanker ON PEACE was struck by an unknown projectile on an outbound Strait of Hormuz transit off Musandam. 12 of the 19 crew (17 Indian) were injured, ten of whom were airlifted by Oman to Khasab, showing that vessels in transit remain exposed to casualty-inducing strikes.*

## IFC-IOR Comments & Recommendations

- ✓ ***Assessment:*** *The threat is widening in method (small boats, limpet mines, daylight strikes) and in geography (Gulf-wide ports and anchorages), not only in volume. IFC-IOR assesses that the risk to merchant shipping in the SoH, Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman will remain critical through Nov 26.*

- ✓ ***Voyage Risk Assessment:*** *CSOs are advised to undertake dynamic, incident-informed risk assessments before and throughout transit, with particular attention to the Khasab approaches, SoH traffic lanes, the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman anchorages. Daylight transits should not be assumed lower risk.*

- ✓ ***Small Craft and Anchorage Precautions:*** *Maintain an all-round watch for small craft and aerial threats, do not allow unidentified craft to close, and minimise time at anchor with engines ready.*

- ✓ ***Emergency Readiness:*** *Verify firefighting, damage-control and lifesaving readiness, with drills for engine-room fire, flooding and abandonment.*

- ✓ ***Reporting and BMP Compliance:*** *Apply BMP (MS) and IFC-IOR advisories throughout the region and report incidents or suspicious approaches to IFC-IOR (ifc-ior.gurugram@navy.gov.in / +91 85275 99898).*

# REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION · ALL CLUSTERS

| CATEGORY | WEST ASIA | EAST AFRICA | SOUTH ASIA | SOUTHEAST ASIA | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Piracy & Armed Robbery* | **3** ▲SEP (2) | **4** ▲SEP (2) | **0** ▼SEP (1) | **5** ▼SEP (6) | **12** ▼ 8% |
| *Contraband Smuggling* | **1** ▼SEP (3) | **0** ▼SEP (1) | **19** ▼SEP (33) | **21** ▼SEP (26) | **41** ▼ 35% |
| *Irregular Human Migration* | **1** ▼SEP (2) | **8** ◆SEP (8) | **0** ▼SEP (3) | **3** ▼SEP (4) | **12** ▼ 29% |
| *Maritime Incidents* | **4** ▲SEP (1) | **18** ▼SEP (22) | **8** ▼SEP (22) | **70** ▲SEP (66) | **100** ▼ 10% |
| *IUU Fishing* | **1** ▼SEP (5) | **9** ▲SEP (1) | **6** ▼SEP (7) | **28** ▲SEP (24) | **44** ▲ 19% |
| *Maritime Security Threats (Hybrid)* | **37** ▲SEP (25) | **-** - | **-** - | **-** - | **37** ▲ 48% |

*Piracy total includes Gulf of Guinea (Sep 26: 02; Oct 26: nil). Hybrid incidents are attributed to the West Asia theatre, including one in the Arabian Sea. Marine pollution (01) not shown.*

## KEY TAKEAWAYS & WHAT TO LOOK FOR

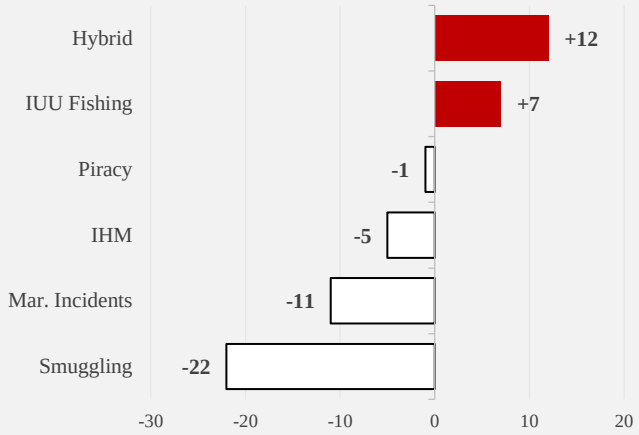
- *Southeast Asia remained the primary locus of maritime activity with **127 of 246** incidents, led by maritime incidents (**70**), IUU fishing (**28**) and contraband smuggling (**21**). **Watch for:** sudden weather deterioration, rough seas and reduced visibility during the NE monsoon, particularly affecting fishing craft and ferries off Indonesia and Vietnam.*
- ***Maritime Security Threats (Hybrid)** increased by **48%, from 25 to 37 incidents**, with 25 in the Strait of Hormuz. Two small-boat attacks and five daylight strikes indicated changing attack patterns. **Watch for:** suspicious craft, unusual approaches and projectile or aerial threats near Khasab and Gulf anchorages, including during daylight.*
- ***Piracy and Armed Robbery** declined by **8%, from 13 to 12 incidents**, although East Africa recorded an increase from two to four, including the hijacking of FV AZINI off Somalia. **Watch for:** suspicious skiffs, unusual approaches by fishing vessels and possible mothership activity farther offshore as sea conditions improve.*
- ***Contraband Smuggling** in South Asia declined by **42%, from 33 to 19 incidents**, despite major narcotics seizures off Pakistan (~2.85 t) and Sri Lanka (561.7 kg). **Watch for:** unusual movements of dhows, suspicious vessel rendezvous and unplanned ship-to-ship transfers along established trafficking routes.*
- ***IUU Fishing** in East Africa increased from **one to nine incidents**, all involving illegal-net seizures off Mauritius, while poaching declined to two incidents across the IOR. **Watch for:** unmarked fishing gear, fishing activity in restricted waters and small fishing vessels operating near shipping routes.*
- ***Irregular Human Migration** declined by **29%, from 17 to 12 incidents**, with East Africa accounting for eight, including the Djibouti capsize that claimed 139 lives. **Watch for:** overcrowded or unseaworthy migrant boats, particularly along the Djibouti–Yemen and Comoros–Mayotte routes, and vessels requiring assistance.*

### IFC-IOR COMMENTS

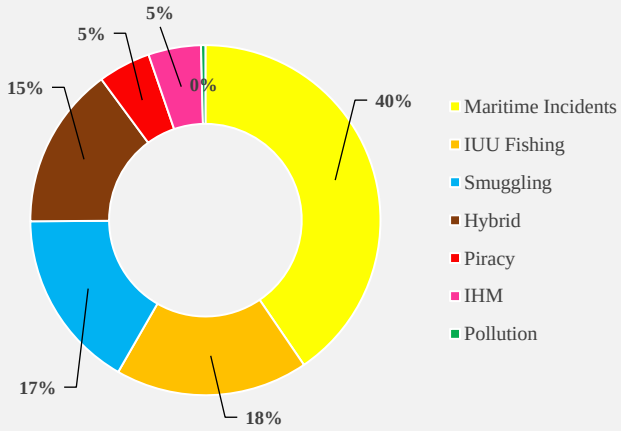
*Oct 26 highlighted three distinct maritime security concerns across the IOR. **West Asia** remained the primary area of conflict-related threats to merchant shipping, with hybrid incidents increasing sharply. **Southeast Asia** accounted for most maritime safety and enforcement incidents, largely involving smaller vessels and local activities. **East Africa** witnessed increased piracy and IUU fishing activity, alongside continued irregular migration and significant loss of life. These developments call for heightened vigilance, improved maritime safety measures and timely information-sharing as the Northeast Monsoon sets in.*

# TRENDS & PATTERNS

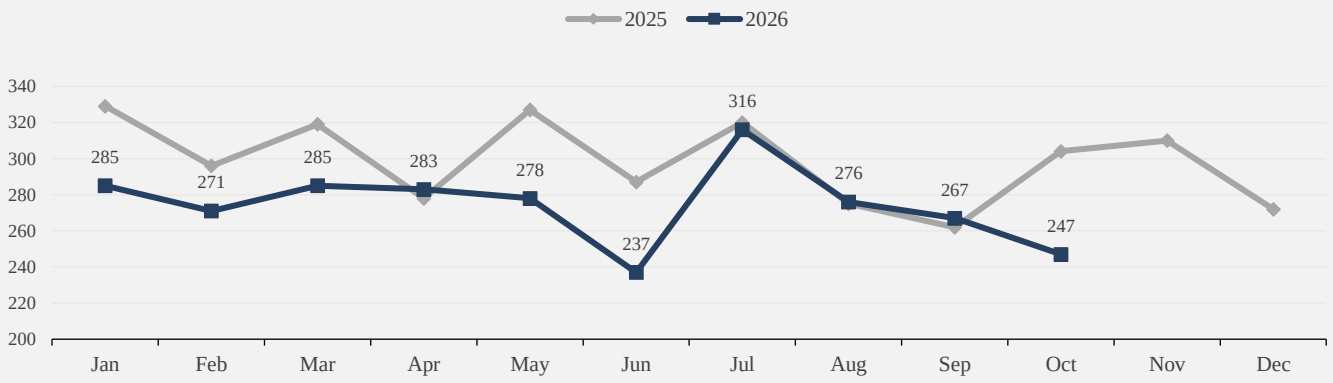
## CHANGE FROM SEP 26



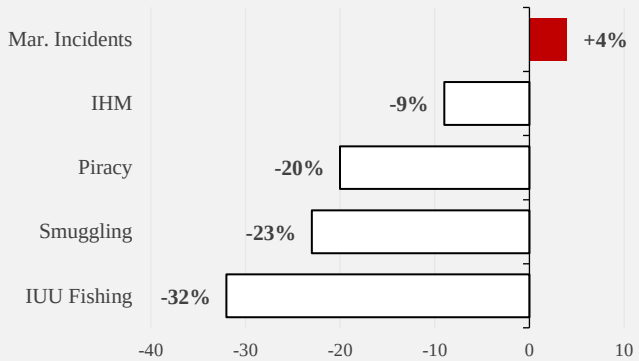

## SHARE · OCT 26




## MONTHLY INCIDENTS · 2025 vs 2026 (SIX CORE CATEGORIES)

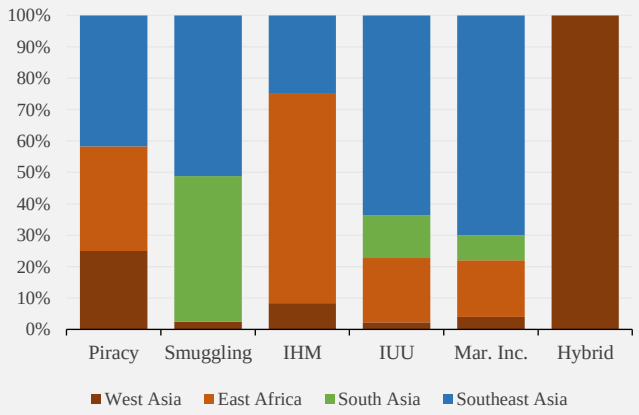



## YTD CHANGE · JAN – OCT




*Hybrid: 12 → 156 (×13)* · *All six: 2,997 → 2,754 (−8%)*

## REGIONAL MIX · OCT 26




### IFC-IOR COMMENTS

*During Jan–Oct 26, a total of **2,754 incidents** were recorded across the six core categories, an **8% decrease from 2,997 in 2025**. However, hybrid security incidents increased thirteen-fold (12 to 156), while IUU fishing, smuggling and piracy declined by 20–32%. October recorded the second-lowest monthly total (246), despite hybrid incidents reaching their highest level (37). **Southeast Asia** continued to account for most maritime safety and enforcement incidents, while **West Asia** remained the primary area of conflict-related threats to merchant shipping. These trends highlight the need for region-specific security precautions, continued vigilance and timely incident reporting.*

# E EVENTS





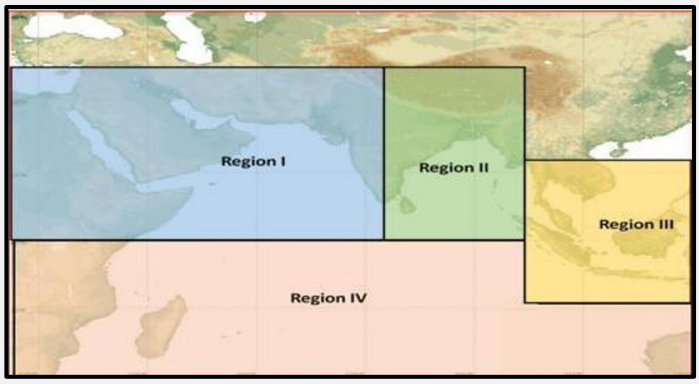

***Visit of 45-member delegation of the 4th Edition of the International Strategic Outreach Programme ( 4TH IN-STEP) on 01 Oct 26***

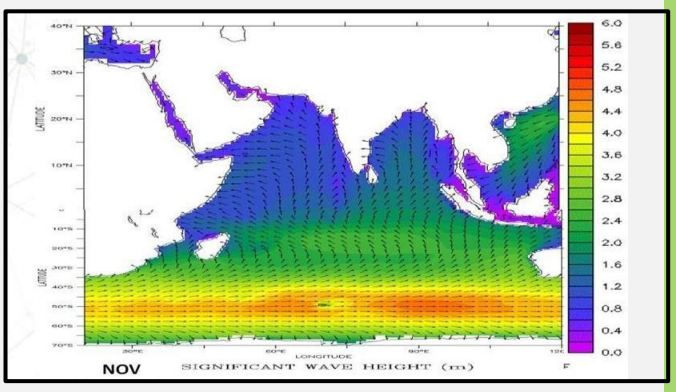





***Visit of 4-member delegation from Fiji, led by Mr Mason Smith, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs on 01 Oct 26***

# WF WEATHER FORECAST - NOV 26




*The **Northeast Monsoon** is setting in over the northern Indian Ocean during Nov 26, while November remains a **peak month for post-monsoon cyclones** over the Bay of Bengal. A **very strong El Niño** persists. Wind, wave and current conditions may vary during monsoon surges, low-pressure systems and cyclones. The values below are indicative monthly ranges.*

➢***Region I: Arabian Sea*** *A pressure gradient of **4 – 6 hPa** is likely across the Arabian Sea. Generally clear skies with **NE'ly winds of 05 – 10 knots** are likely over the north AS. Tropical disturbances may form **north of 8°N and east of 65°E**, initially moving WNW. Sea-surface temperature is likely to be **26 – 27°C** over the west-central AS and around **29°C** over the south AS. Wave height is likely to be **0.5 – 1.0 m** over the east-central AS, increasing to **1.0 – 1.5 m** towards the Equatorial Indian Ocean.*

➢***Region II: Bay of Bengal*** *The seasonal low-pressure area over the west-central Bay is likely to shift to the **SW Bay of Bengal**. **NE'ly winds of 05 – 10 knots** are likely over most parts of the Bay. Tropical disturbances are likely **between 8°N and 13°N, west of 90°E**, tracking WNW and weakening after crossing the east coast of India; about **70%** of depressions and cyclonic storms cross the coast **between 10°N and 16°N**. Sea state is likely to be **2**, rising to about **3** over the SE Bay and considerably higher near cyclonic systems.*

➢***Region III: Southeast Asia*** *Mean sea-level pressure is likely to be **1018 – 1019 hPa**. Surface winds are likely to be **NE–E'ly 15 – 20 knots, gusting to 30 knots** over the open sea, with a moderate **NE'ly swell of 1.5 – 2.5 m** over the South China Sea. Tropical disturbances over the Gulf of Thailand and the South China Sea are likely to be remnants of West Pacific systems (**120° – 140°E**). Surface currents are likely to set **SW – W** in the western South China Sea. The Northeast Monsoon began over Malaysia on **27 Oct 26**, with 3 – 5 heavy-rain episodes expected.*

➢***Region IV: South Indian Ocean*** *Mean sea-level pressure is likely to be about **1020 hPa** over the southern IOR, decreasing to **1012 hPa** near the Equatorial Indian Ocean. Tropical disturbances are likely between **10°S – 15°S and 70°E – 100°E**, moving SW towards **Madagascar and Mauritius**; some may weaken over the sea. Strong winds are likely between **15°S and 20°S**. Significant wave height is likely to be **1.5 – 2.5 m** over most of the South IOR, decreasing to **1.0 m** or less near the equator.*

## AT A GLANCE · NOV 26

| REGION | PREVAILING WIND | SEA / WAVES | CYCLONE RISK | WATCH AREA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| I · Arabian Sea | NE'ly 05 – 10 kt | 0.5 – 1.5 m | MODERATE | N of 8°N, E of 65°E |
| II · Bay of Bengal | NE'ly 05 – 10 kt | Sea State 2 – 3 | HIGH · PEAK | Landfall 10°N – 16°N |
| III · Southeast Asia | NE–E'ly 15 – 20 kt, g30 | Swell 1.5 – 2.5 m | MODERATE | S China Sea, G of Thailand |
| IV · South Indian Ocean | Strong 15°S – 20°S | 1.5 – 2.5 m | RISING | Madagascar, Mauritius |

# WF WEATHER FORECAST - NOV 26

## CYCLONE WATCH · BAY OF BENGAL

*Very Severe Cyclonic Storm **ARNAB** crossed **India's east coast near Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh)** on 28 Oct 26, with winds of approximately **135 km/h**, prompting the evacuation of over **180,000 people** across eastern India. A second system, **MURASU (BOB 09/2026)**, intensified over the southwest Bay of Bengal and was forecast to cross **India's southeastern coast between Nellore and Narsapur** on 03 Nov 26 as a Severe Cyclonic Storm, with winds of **100–110 km/h (gusting to 120 km/h)** and a storm surge of approximately **1 m**. The two successive cyclones highlight increased risks to coastal communities and shipping during the peak post-monsoon cyclone season, with further disturbances possible through Nov–Dec.*

| SYSTEM | CATEGORY (IMD) | PEAK WIND | LANDFALL | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ARNAB** | Very Severe Cyclonic Storm | ~135 km/h | Near Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh | 28 Oct 26 |
| **MURASU (BOB 09)** | Severe Cyclonic Storm (fcst) | 100 – 110 km/h, g120 | Nellore – Narsapur, south AP (fcst) | 03 Nov 26 |

## EL NIÑO & INDIAN OCEAN DIPOLE

***El Niño.** Very strong El Niño conditions prevail. NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (08 Oct 26) recorded a Niño-3.4 anomaly of approximately **+2.1°C**, with strong to very strong conditions expected through **Jan–Mar 27** and the possibility of one of the strongest events since 1950. El Niño may influence rainfall, monsoon patterns and tropical cyclone activity across the IOR, with varying impacts on different regions.*

***Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and Northeast Monsoon.** Meteorological agencies differ in their IOD assessments. While IMD assessed neutral conditions in its 31 Oct 26 outlook, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology confirmed a **positive IOD event** on 27 Oct, with the index above +0.4°C for seven consecutive weeks. IMD also forecast below-normal rainfall (**less than 77% of LPA**) over southern India during Nov 26. These climate conditions may influence rainfall distribution and monsoon activity across the IOR. However, individual cyclonic systems may still bring heavy rainfall, rough seas, coastal flooding and storm surges, particularly in vulnerable coastal and island regions.*

## IFC-IOR COMMENTS · MARINER ADVISORY

- ***Bay of Bengal:** Cyclonic disturbances may intensify rapidly, posing risks to coastal shipping and fishing craft. Monitor IMD/ RSMC New Delhi advisories and heed cyclone and port warnings along the Bay of Bengal coast.*
- ***South China Sea & Gulf of Thailand:** Northeast Monsoon surges may bring winds gusting to **30 kt** and swells up to **2.5 m**. Small craft and passenger ferries should exercise caution and ensure compliance with passenger limits and lifesaving requirements.*
- ***South Indian Ocean:** With the cyclone season beginning, vessels operating near **Mauritius, Réunion and Madagascar** should monitor RSMC La Réunion advisories and prepare for sudden deterioration in weather and sea conditions.*
- ***Arabian Sea & Gulf of Aden:** Improving sea conditions may favour increased small-boat activity, including piracy, smuggling and irregular migration. Vessels should maintain vigilance against suspicious approaches, particularly by skiffs and fishing vessels.*

**NOTE**

*This is a broad monthly outlook. Mariners should continue to refer to daily IMD, INCOIS, RSMC La Réunion and relevant national meteorological and ocean-state warnings for voyage planning.*

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## SCAN FOR FEEDBACK

Your feedback will help IFC-IOR to improve relevance, analytical value, clarity and presentation of future maritime security reports.