



Vanguard

GLOBAL MONTHLY UPDATE

AUGUST 2026

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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INDIAN OCEAN/ARABIAN SEA /PERSIAN GULF

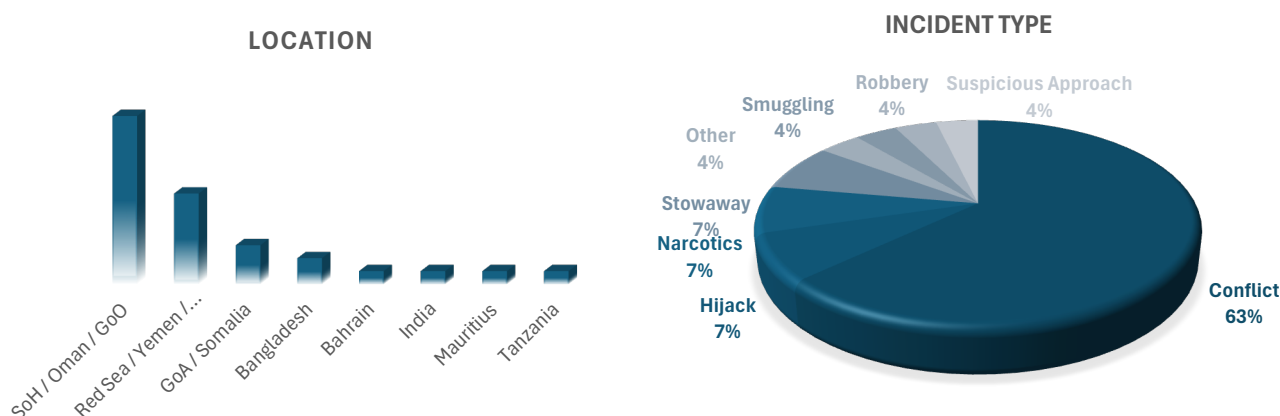
OVERVIEW, AUGUST 2026

Maritime security across the Persian Gulf and wider Indian Ocean remained extremely volatile throughout August, with the Strait of Hormuz continuing to serve as the principal flashpoint in the US-Iran conflict. Commercial shipping remained directly exposed to projectile, missile, and UAV attacks, with repeated strikes against tankers and cargo vessels transiting off Oman and through the Strait. Notable incidents included attacks on NAVIG8 MESSI, TARIF, AL WATAN, METRO VENETIAN and SIDR, the latter resulting in two crew fatalities. The attack on VELA NOVA in the Gulf of Oman further demonstrated that the threat extended well beyond the immediate confines of Hormuz.

The wider political environment remained defined by continued military pressure alongside stalled diplomacy. Oman-mediated efforts to establish arrangements for safer navigation through Hormuz continued during the month, but negotiations remained constrained by Iranian demands for sanctions relief and compensation and continued US pressure on Iranian maritime trade. Traffic through Hormuz remained dramatically below pre-conflict levels, with UKMTO data indicating AIS-tracked transits were around 90% lower than normal during part of August. Iran's Persian Gulf Strait Authority also continued to formalise its own transit regime, warning that non-compliant vessels could face fines, detention, seizure or confiscation, further increasing uncertainty for operators.

The conflict simultaneously continued to shift pressure towards Saudi Arabia and the Red Sea. Houthi forces maintained their maritime embargo campaign against Saudi-linked shipping and claimed attacks against Saudi energy infrastructure, including the Jazan refinery and tankers operating near Yanbu. Saudi crude exports increasingly moved with AIS disabled in response to the threat, while traffic through Bab el-Mandeb also declined. This reduced the effectiveness of the Red Sea as a straightforward alternative to disrupted Gulf routes and reinforced the increasingly interconnected nature of risk across Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman and Red Sea corridors.

Traditional maritime security threats also remained relevant. Two vessels were hijacked in the Gulf of Aden and off Somalia, while suspicious armed approaches continued off Yemen, demonstrating that piracy and armed criminality persist alongside the state-level conflict. Overall, August showed no meaningful return to normality: commercial vessels remained exposed not only to direct military attack, but also to forced rerouting, sanctions and blockade enforcement, reduced AIS usage, rapidly changing Iranian transit requirements and persistent war-risk insurance pressures.



MARITIME INCIDENTS, AUGUST 2026

31-08-26	STRAIT OF HORMUZ	CONFLICT	Liberia-flagged tanker was struck by three rockets while transiting the Strait of Hormuz at 20:00 UTC. The rockets impacted the vessel's port side, engine room and ballast tank, resulting in a loss of communications. All crew were reported safe with no casualties.
31-08-26	OMAN	CONFLICT	Saudi Arabia-flagged VLCC SIDR (IMO: 9854715) was struck by unknown projectile(s) while conducting an outbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz approximately 17nm northeast of Khasab, Oman. The vessel was carrying approximately two million barrels of Saudi crude

			loaded at Juaymah terminal. The impact caused a fire onboard which was subsequently contained. Two Filipino crew members were killed, while the remaining 14 crew were safe.
25-08-26	OMAN	CONFLICT	Liberia-flagged crude oil tanker METRO VENETIAN was struck by an unknown projectile approximately 9nm northeast of Ash Shishah, Oman. The impact caused damage to the engine room and disabled the vessel. All crew were reported safe.
24-08-26	SAUDI ARABIA	CONFLICT	Saudi Arabia-flagged tanker AMZAN (IMO: 9693745) was struck by an unidentified projectile while underway approximately 63nm off the coast of Yanbu, Saudi Arabia, near 23°53'N, 036°55'E. The impact caused a fire on the vessel's main deck. The crew successfully extinguished the fire, with no damage to the vessel reported. All crew members were reported safe, and the vessel remained underway.
24-08-26	STRAIT OF HORMUZ	OTHER	Iran's Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) has warned that vessels deemed to have violated Iranian transit arrangements in the Strait of Hormuz may face restrictions during subsequent passages. The PGSA stated that measures could include fines, detention, seizure, or confiscation.
20-08-26	GULF OF ADEN	HIJACK	Tanker SEAMULL, also known as SIBU 1 (IMO: 9204776), broadcast a distress call over VHF Channel 16 after being approached by an unauthorised vessel while transiting westbound through the Gulf of Aden, approximately 136nm east of Al Mukalla, Yemen. The vessel was identified near 14°41'N 051°27'E following an earlier military report of a vessel under pirate attack in the wider area. The armed persons reportedly took control of the vessel and redirected it towards Somalia.
20-08-26	BAHRAIN	SMUGGLING	Bahraini authorities seized approximately 2.9 tonnes of chewing tobacco at Bahrain Seaport after being discovered concealed inside precast concrete blocks. The tobacco, valued at approximately USD 100,400, is prohibited in Bahrain and was suspected of having been smuggled into the country by sea from an overseas location. One suspect was apprehended in connection with the shipment.
20-08-26	INDIA	NARCOTICS	A shipping consignment containing approximately 56 kg of methamphetamine was intercepted by India's Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) at Nhava Sheva Port (Jawaharlal Nehru Port). The consignment was destined for Saudi Arabia, with the narcotics reportedly mixed with maize inside one bag among a shipment of 351 export bags. Two individuals were arrested in connection with the shipment, while authorities continued investigations into the wider trafficking network.
17-08-26	OMAN	CONFLICT	Liberia-flagged general cargo vessel was struck by an unknown projectile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz approximately 5nm off the coast of Oman at 19:45 UTC. The projectile struck the vessel's engine room, resulting in one death. Two attempts to evacuate the crew by helicopter were unsuccessful.
17-08-26	SOMALIA	HIJACK	Cameroon-flagged cargo vessel LUTUF (IMO: 9109134) has been hijacked approximately 4nm south of Mareeyo, Somalia. Eight-armed persons reportedly boarded the vessel at approximately 11:36 UTC and subsequently took control.
14-08-26	STRAIT OF HORMUZ	CONFLICT	Liberia-flagged bulk carrier AL WATAN (IMO: 9615030) was struck by an unknown projectile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz at approximately 20:00 UTC. The projectile impacted the vessel's hull. No casualties were reported.
13-08-26	STRAIT OF HORMUZ	CONFLICT	The Singapore-flagged tanker NAVIG8 MESSI (IMO: 9482859) was struck by an Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle (UAV) while conducting an outbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz. The vessel sustained minor damage but remained operational and continued under its own power. All crew were reported safe, with no injuries or environmental impact.
13-08-26	STRAIT OF HORMUZ	CONFLICT	The Liberia-flagged tanker TARIF (IMO: 9828390) was struck by an Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle (UAV) while conducting an outbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz. The vessel sustained minor damage but remained operational and continued under its own power. All crew were reported safe, with no injuries or environmental impact.
13-08-26	SAUDI ARABIA	CONFLICT	The Houthis claimed responsibility for a drone attack targeting Saudi Aramco's Jazan refinery, stating that two UAVs were launched against the facility. A Houthi military source said the attack was conducted in response to alleged Saudi violations of Yemeni airspace and sovereignty in Saada and Hajjah provinces.
13-08-26	STRAIT OF HORMUZ	CONFLICT	Singapore-flagged tanker NAVIG8 MESSI (IMO: 9482859) and Liberia-flagged tanker TARIF (IMO: 9828390) were struck by Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) while conducting outbound transits of the Strait of Hormuz. Both vessels sustained minor damage but continued under their own power. All crew were safe and accounted for, with no injuries or environmental impact reported.
11-08-26	OMAN	CONFLICT	The Panama-flagged containership VELA NOVA (IMO: 9136228) was struck by a missile fired from a helicopter while transiting westbound through the Gulf of Oman at approximately 07:15 UTC. The strike caused a fire, which was subsequently extinguished, and left the vessel not under command. All 17 crew were accounted for with no reported injuries.
11-08-26	YEMEN	CONFLICT	The Tanzania-flagged general cargo vessel TIHAMAH (IMO: 1031329) was struck by an unknown projectile approximately 5 NM off Mokha, Yemen, in the southern Red Sea. The projectile struck the vessel amidships and caused a fire, which was subsequently brought under control. Two crew members, one Pakistani and one Indonesian national, were killed,

			while four others were injured. Yemeni naval forces subsequently deployed to assist the vessel and came under fire, resulting in one additional casualty.
10-08-26	BANGLADESH	NARCOTICS	Bangladeshi authorities intercepted a small boat carrying approximately 250,000 Yaba tablets off Chittagong Anchorage and detained two crew members. The seizure was made during a maritime enforcement operation and highlights the continued use of small craft for narcotics trafficking along Bangladesh's southeastern coast and approaches to major commercial shipping areas.
10-08-26	BANGLADESH	ROBBERY	A Singapore-flagged tanker was boarded by four perpetrators while berthed at Chattogram Port, Bangladesh, at 06:00 UTC+8. The crew sighted the perpetrators near the port-side midship store and raised the alarm, prompting them to escape. Items from the store were reported stolen, while all crew were safe. The vessel did not require assistance and continued its voyage to Sri Lanka.
09-08-26	SAUDI ARABIA	CONFLICT	The Houthis claimed responsibility for a drone attack targeting Saudi Aramco's Jazan refinery. The Saudi Energy Ministry confirmed that a fire occurred at the facility but did not confirm its cause. The fire was subsequently extinguished with no reported injuries. The incident occurred two days after Saudi Arabia signed a defence pact with Turkey and Pakistan.
09-08-26	MAURITIUS	STOWAWAY	Seven male stowaways were apprehended onboard the Denmark-flagged container vessel RHINE MAERSK (IMO: 9456991) at the Port of Port Louis, Mauritius. The individuals were reportedly nationals of Nigeria and Oman and were attempting to travel illegally by sea to a foreign country. The seven individuals were subsequently detained by Mauritian authorities.
08-08-26	STRAIT OF HORMUZ	CONFLICT	An ADNOC vessel was targeted by a missile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz. No injuries were reported and the situation was brought under control. The vessel was not publicly identified. ADNOC stated the previous day that 15 of its vessels had been targeted by missiles or drones since the conflict began, resulting in one crew fatality and 20 injuries.
06-08-26	STRAIT OF HORMUZ	CONFLICT	Iranian state and IRGC-affiliated media claimed that Iranian forces struck two unspecified targets in the Strait of Hormuz. The vessels were not identified by Iranian authorities, although the claim likely referred to the Marshall Islands-flagged VLCCs NISSOS KEA (IMO: 9920758) and NISSOS KEROS (IMO: 9856074), both of which reportedly interrupted AIS transmissions while approaching the Strait of Hormuz. There was no confirmation that either vessel was attacked, and the incident remained an Iranian claim.
05-08-26	YEMEN	CONFLICT	Dominica-flagged tanker witnessed an explosion while transiting westbound through the Gulf of Aden, approximately 95nm off the coast of Aden, Yemen, at approximately 14:30 UTC. According to the vessel's Master, the explosion occurred approximately 40 metres off the port side, generating a shockwave that reached the vessel. The vessel sustained no damage, all crew were reported safe, and continued towards its next port of call in Djibouti.
05-08-26	SAUDI ARABIA	CONFLICT	Houthi-aligned Yemeni Armed Forces claimed that the Saudi tanker WAFA was targeted with multiple ballistic missiles in the northern Red Sea off Yanbu, Saudi Arabia. The group stated that the strike formed part of its maritime blockade campaign against Saudi shipping and claimed that eight Saudi tankers had been targeted since 22 July. The claim likely referred to the Saudi Arabia-flagged tanker NCC WAFA (IMO: 9688348). There was no independent confirmation that the vessel was struck or damaged.
04-08-26	YEMEN	CONFLICT	India-flagged cargo vessel FAIZE NOORE OLIYA sank approximately 13nm off the Hodeidah coast, Yemen, after reportedly being struck by an explosive-laden boat. Yemeni-government-aligned Al-Shaab TV stated that the Red Sea Coast Guard and Yemeni Navy rescued all 14 people onboard, comprising 13 Indian nationals and one Yemeni.
03-08-26	OMAN	CONFLICT	Liberia-flagged bulk carrier MINOAN PIONEER (IMO: 9471630) was struck by an unidentified projectile approximately 20nm northeast of Khasab, Oman, while transiting northbound through the Strait of Hormuz at 22:00 UTC. The initial distress call was relayed by the nearby Panama-flagged tanker SURIANAME PROSPERITY (IMO: 9376740), which reported that MINOAN PIONEER had suffered a complete blackout and required assistance. The projectile reportedly struck the engine room, while a fire broke out in the accommodation area.
02-08-26	OMAN	CONFLICT	Liberia-flagged tanker EGYPT PROSPERITY aborted its eastbound transit through the Strait of Hormuz and proceeded towards the Dubai Offshore Pilot Station (OPL) after the bridge team received threatening VHF transmissions from individuals claiming affiliation with the Sepah Navy. During the incident, the crew also reported hearing a distant explosion off the vessel's starboard side. No damage or injuries were reported. In a separate report from the same area, the Liberia-flagged tanker ON PRIDE advised that its crew heard several warning shots, followed shortly afterwards by an explosion approximately 1.5nm from the vessel's port quarter while inbound through the Strait of Hormuz. The Master assessed that the projectile was likely directed at another vessel, although this could not be confirmed. The close timing and proximity of the two reports indicate they may be related.
02-08-26	YEMEN	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH	Liberia-flagged container vessel reported a suspicious approach by a speedboat carrying armed personnel while transiting approximately 24nm west of Mokha, Yemen, at 07:30 UTC. According to the Master, the vessel maintained continuous monitoring of the

			approaching craft, increased speed, and heightened onboard security measures. The speedboat did not attempt to board or otherwise interfere with the vessel, which subsequently proceeded safely through the area. No injuries, damage, or further incidents were reported.
01-08-26	TANZANIA	STOWAWAY	A Tanzanian national reportedly embarked as a stowaway onboard the Barbados-flagged general cargo vessel VEFA (IMO: 9331804) while the vessel was at the Port of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The stowaway was subsequently discovered onboard and provided with accommodation, meals, clean clothing and shower facilities pending resolution of the case.

NORTH & WEST AFRICA

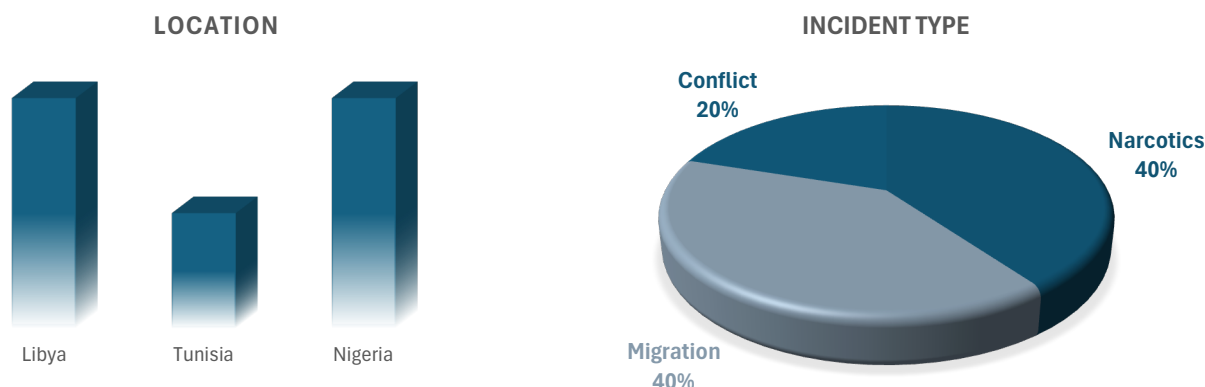
OVERVIEW, AUGUST 2026

Maritime security activity across North and West Africa during August was relatively limited, with reporting focused on narcotics trafficking, migration-related incidents and one conflict-related attack on energy infrastructure in Libya.

Nigeria recorded two significant narcotics seizures at major commercial ports, with approximately 1.09 tonnes of high-potency cannabis intercepted at Apapa Port and a further 400kg seized at Lekki Deep Sea Port. Both shipments had arrived from Thailand and were concealed within legitimate containerised cargo, highlighting the continued use of commercial shipping routes to facilitate transnational drug trafficking.

Migration-related activity was reported off both Tunisia and Libya, with merchant vessels involved in responding to migrant craft in distress. In both cases, those onboard were successfully transferred ashore, underscoring the continued likelihood that commercial vessels operating in the central Mediterranean may be called upon to assist with humanitarian incidents.

The most notable security development occurred at Libya's Zawiya Oil Complex, where an explosive-laden drone struck fuel storage infrastructure as part of a wider series of attacks against the facility. Although no casualties were reported and operations later resumed, the incident demonstrates the continuing vulnerability of North African energy and port-linked infrastructure to conflict-related disruption.



MARITIME INCIDENTS, AUGUST 2026

21-08-26	TUNISIA	MIGRATION	Egypt-flagged tug MARIDIVE 208 rescued 34 migrants in one vessel southeast of Kerkennah islands, Tunisia. The migrants were transferred to Tunisia.
21-08-26	NIGERIA	NARCOTICS	Nigeria's National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) seized approximately 1,090.5 kg of high-potency cannabis, locally referred to as "Loud", from a shipping container at the Port of Apapa. The container had arrived from Laem Chabang Port, Thailand, and contained 54 cartons of cannabis concealed among dry fish, rice, vehicle parts, soap and batteries. The seizure formed part of what the NDLEA described as its first interception of illicit drugs shipped from Thailand through Nigeria's maritime corridor.
19-08-26	NIGERIA	NARCOTICS	Nigeria's National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) seized approximately 400 kg of high-potency cannabis, locally referred to as "Loud", from a shipping container at Lekki Deep Sea Port. The container, which had arrived from Laem Chabang Port, Thailand, had

			previously been placed on an NDLEA watchlist. The narcotics were concealed among pallets, with 798 reams of A4 paper reportedly used as cover cargo.
11-08-26	LIBYA	CONFLICT	An explosive-laden drone struck diesel tank 4/4 within the Zawiya Oil Complex, marking the fifth attack in the latest series of strikes against the facility. Since 8 August, other targets have included an untreated naphtha tank, the Zawiya water desalination plant, a 4.5-million-litre gasoline tank, the refinery's oil-blending and packaging plant, and additional diesel storage tanks. Fires were contained with no casualties, while refinery operations were temporarily disrupted before resuming. The Zawiya refinery forms part of the wider oil-port complex and exports crude through its associated oil port.
05-08-26	LIBYA	MIGRATION	Marshall Islands-flagged LPG carrier KOHAKU (IMO: 9932608) was reportedly alerted to a small migrant boat carrying approximately 25 persons in distress while operating approximately 70nm north of Sirte, Libya, within the Maltese Search and Rescue (SAR) Region. Maltese SAR authorities were reportedly notified, and the merchant vessel was alerted to the incident. According to subsequent reports, the migrants were later safely disembarked in Sicily.

EUROPE/BLACK SEA

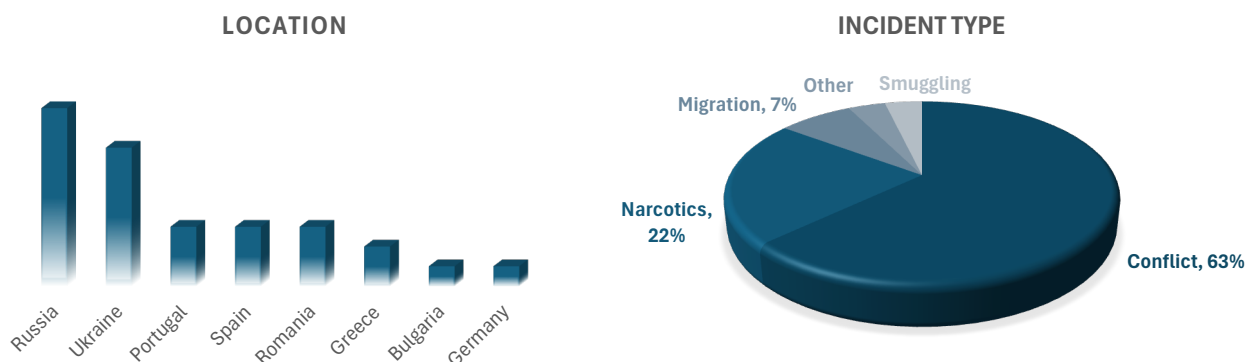
OVERVIEW, AUGUST 2026

Maritime security across Europe during August remained heavily dominated by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, with sustained attacks against merchant vessels, ports, and offshore infrastructure across the Black Sea. The area around Novorossiysk emerged as a particular hotspot, with multiple commercial vessels struck by UAVs, including ANNA S, ELINA B, RMS TEAM, VOLGO BALT 226 and URAL. Several attacks resulted in serious fires, casualties or extensive vessel damage, demonstrating the increasingly direct exposure of civilian shipping to military operations.

Russian attacks similarly continued against Ukrainian maritime infrastructure and merchant shipping, particularly around Odesa and the Danube ports. Commercial vessels were struck while alongside or operating in the Black Sea, while port infrastructure at Odesa, Reni, and Izmil sustained repeated attacks. Ukraine also continued targeting Russian naval and export infrastructure, including facilities at Novorossiysk and Yeysk, highlighting the continued expansion of maritime targeting against strategically important logistics and energy assets.

The threat also extended towards Romanian waters and offshore energy infrastructure, where unidentified drones and an unmanned surface vessel were detected close to the Neptun Deep gas project and subsequently destroyed by Romanian authorities. This represents an important widening of the conflict-related maritime risk beyond Russian and Ukrainian territorial waters and increases the potential for collateral disruption to regional energy infrastructure and commercial operations.

Away from the conflict, maritime narcotics trafficking remained the principal criminal threat, with significant cocaine, hashish and methamphetamine seizures recorded in Spain, Portugal, Germany and Bulgaria. High-speed craft continued to feature prominently around the Iberian Peninsula, including an armed confrontation between traffickers and Spanish authorities off Huelva, while Mediterranean migration remained comparatively limited in the reporting.



MARITIME INCIDENTS, AUGUST 2026

28-08-26	UKRAINE	CONFLICT	Russian Ministry of Defence (MoD) claimed Russian forces conducted overnight UAV strikes against infrastructure at the Port of Odesa, Ukraine. According to the MoD, six storage facilities containing military equipment intended for the Ukrainian Armed Forces were struck. The Russian claims have not been independently verified, and no confirmation regarding damage, casualties, or disruption to port operations has been issued by Ukrainian authorities at the time of writing.
27-08-26	OMAN	CONFLICT	Dominica-flagged general dry cargo PROGRESS IV (IMO:8358130) was reportedly struck at approximately 19:00 LT while operating around 20nm southeast of Sfântu Gheorghe, Romania. The vessel subsequently caught fire and sank, prompting a search and rescue operation coordinated by Romanian authorities. All 12 crew members were rescued, with one seafarer reported injured. Romanian President Nicușor Dan stated that the cause and circumstances of the incident remain unknown and that an investigation will be conducted.
27-08-26	RUSSIA	CONFLICT	Cameroon-flagged, Turkish-owned Ro-Ro cargo vessel LIDER BORDO MAVI (IMO: 8009088) was reportedly struck by three UAVs while sailing from Samsun, Türkiye, towards the Port of Tuapse, Russia. The strikes reportedly caused a fire onboard and temporarily disrupted communications with the vessel. Five crew members were reportedly injured during the attack. Communications with the vessel were subsequently restored.
27-08-26	GERMANY	NARCOTICS	German authorities disclosed the seizure of approximately 1.5 tonnes of methamphetamine concealed inside a shipping container at the Port of Hamburg. According to the Hamburg Public Prosecutor's Office, the container had arrived from Pakistan and was declared as carrying thousands of sacks of white rice. Irregularities detected during an X-ray inspection prompted authorities to search the container, with several hundred purported rice sacks found to contain methamphetamine.
25-08-26	UKRAINE	CONFLICT	Five merchant vessels were reportedly struck at the ports of Pivdennyi and Odesa, according to the Russian Ministry of Defence (MoD). The MoD claimed that three cargo vessels carrying supplies for the Ukrainian military and a tanker were struck at Pivdennyi, while another cargo vessel was struck at Odesa.
24-08-26	BULGARIA	NARCOTICS	Bulgarian authorities disrupted an alleged maritime narcotics smuggling operation near Tsarevo on the country's southern Black Sea coast. Police seized more than 120 kg of marijuana and recovered a powered underwater propulsion device which investigators believe was intended to be used by a diver to cross the maritime border towards Türkiye while towing a small boat carrying the narcotics.
23-08-26	RUSSIA	CONFLICT	Ukrainian UAVs reportedly targeted the Yeysk district, Russia, with debris from at least one UAV impacting an enterprise located within the Port of Yeysk. According to local authorities, the impact caused a fire at the facility, with emergency services responding to the scene. Elsewhere in the district, UAV debris reportedly struck residential areas, resulting in two fatalities and two injuries. No damage to vessels was reported.
22-08-26	RUSSIA	CONFLICT	Vanguard is aware that the Cameroon-flagged Ro-Ro cargo vessel URAL (IMO: 7725386) was reportedly struck by a UAV while operating off Novorossiysk, Russia. At the time, URAL was carrying 18 seafarers who had been evacuated from the bulk carrier NECIBE following an earlier reported UAV attack against that vessel in the same area on 17 August.
22-08-26	PORTUGAL	NARCOTICS	Portuguese authorities seized approximately 5.3 tonnes of hashish during an operation targeting an international maritime narcotics trafficking network in the Algarve. The operation centred around Azinhal, Castro Marim, near the Spanish border, with suspects reportedly attempting to escape by both land and sea. Seven foreign nationals aged between 21 and 39 were arrested, while authorities seized two vessels, including a high-speed craft, three vehicles, a firearm, ammunition and six mobile phones alongside the narcotics.
22-08-26	SPAIN	NARCOTICS	Spanish authorities seized approximately 150 kg of cocaine concealed inside a shipping container at the Port of Algeciras. The container had arrived from Ecuador and was destined for Portugal, with the narcotics concealed among a declared shipment of frozen fruit pulp.
21-08-26	RUSSIA	CONFLICT	Barbados-flagged container vessel RMS TEAM (IMO: 9282170) was reportedly struck by a UAV approximately 20nm off Novorossiysk, Russia, in the vicinity of 44°29'N, 037°27'E. The vessel was reportedly sailing from Gemlik, Türkiye, to Novorossiysk when the strike caused an explosion and significant fire, which subsequently spread to containers onboard. One crew member was initially reported missing. Operator Akkon Lines reportedly described the damage as critical, with the vessel and its cargo considered likely to be a constructive total loss. RMS TEAM's AIS was last detected on 18 August northeast of Samsun, Türkiye, three days before the reported attack.
21-08-26	RUSSIA	CONFLICT	The Comoros-flagged general cargo vessel VOLGO BALT 226 (IMO: 8841711) was reportedly struck by a UAV while transiting the Black Sea off Novorossiysk, Russia, en

			route to Trabzon, Türkiye. The vessel had 11 crew members onboard, comprising ten Azerbaijani and one Georgian national. No injuries were reported. Despite sustaining damage during the incident, VOLGO BALT 226 reportedly maintained speed and continued its passage.
21-08-26	PORTUGAL	SMUGGLING	Portuguese Maritime Police intercepted an uncrewed high-speed vessel suspected of involvement in maritime smuggling while adrift off Santo Amaro de Oeiras beach. The vessel was found with its engines running and was carrying approximately 4,000 litres of fuel stored in around 100 jerrycans, alongside food and other equipment.
20-08-26	OMAN	CONFLICT	Romanian armed forces destroyed an unidentified unmanned surface vehicle (USV) after it approached within several hundred metres of the Neptun Deep offshore gas project in Romania's Black Sea Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). According to Romanian Defence Minister Radu Miruță, F-16 fighter aircraft were deployed after the device was detected approaching the offshore infrastructure. Romanian authorities stated that the USV was destroyed as a precaution to protect personnel and critical energy infrastructure. Ukraine reportedly confirmed that the device did not belong to its forces.
20-08-26	SPAIN	NARCOTICS	Spanish authorities seized nearly six tonnes of hashish and arrested ten suspected members of a maritime narcotics trafficking group following an armed confrontation off Huelva. The incident began after authorities detected a semi-rigid high-speed vessel suspected of transporting narcotics, prompting a maritime pursuit during which the crew reportedly discarded bales of hashish and opened fire on a Guardia Civil patrol vessel. Officers returned fire, injuring one suspect.
17-08-26	RUSSIA	CONFLICT	Liberia-flagged, Greek-managed bulk carrier ANNA S (IMO: 9207778) was struck by five successive aerial drones approximately 20nm off Novorossiysk, Russia, resulting in a major fire and extensive damage. The vessel was in ballast and inbound to Novorossiysk to load grain when the attack occurred. All 21 crew abandoned the vessel and were safely rescued by the nearby Malta-flagged bulk carrier ELINA B (IMO: 9577446). Approximately five hours later, ELINA B was itself struck by two aerial drones, sustaining damage but remaining operational.
16-08-26	RUSSIA	CONFLICT	A Greek-interest tanker, likely the Liberia-flagged SKIROS (IMO: 9390628), was struck by an aerial drone while loading oil offshore from Novorossiysk, Russia, in the Black Sea. Footage of the incident showed the drone conducting an initial pass over the area before approaching the tanker and striking the vessel's bridge, causing a fire.
13-08-26	UKRAINE	CONFLICT	Russian forces conducted drone strikes targeting port and naval infrastructure at Reni and Izmail ports on the Danube River in Ukraine's Odesa Region. The Russian Defence Ministry claimed the strikes targeted a Ukrainian Navy command post at Reni and a temporary military deployment site at Izmail. The attack reportedly damaged port infrastructure at Izmail and caused a fire, which was attended by emergency services.
12-08-26	UKRAINE	CONFLICT	A Guinea-Bissau-flagged general cargo vessel was struck by a Russian drone while loading at the Port of Odesa. The strike caused significant damage to the vessel's accommodation area, stern and upper deck, and injured one crew member. A subsequent fire was extinguished by the crew with assistance from port firefighting teams. No pollution was reported, while Russia stated that the attack was targeting military equipment and infrastructure.
12-08-26	RUSSIA	CONFLICT	Ukraine launched a drone assault against Russian naval vessels and grain export facilities at Novorossiysk Port. Ukrainian authorities stated that the operation targeted several warships in the bay, including the ADMIRAL ESSEN and ADMIRAL MAKAROV frigates, as well as a landing ship, corvette and other vessels. Grain terminals were also reportedly targeted, although the extent of damage remains unconfirmed. Russia later announced the diversion of some cargo flows towards alternative ports and land routes due to logistical constraints.
11-08-26	OMAN	SECURITY	Two Gerbera-type aerial drones were discovered drifting at sea near the Neptun Deep offshore gas project in Romanian territorial waters. The drones were initially sighted by a civilian vessel operating near the development, while their origin remains unconfirmed. Romanian authorities subsequently carried out a controlled detonation of the devices due to the potential risk posed to nearby shipping and offshore operations.
11-08-26	PORTUGAL	NARCOTICS	Portuguese Maritime Police seized an unregistered high-speed vessel found stranded near Mouchão do Lombo do Tejo, close to the mouth of the Tagus River. The four-engine vessel was abandoned with no crew or narcotics onboard, although authorities recovered provisions, equipment, helmets and eight fuel drums. The vessel was suspected of being intended for narcotics trafficking and was subsequently towed to Maritime Police facilities for investigation.
09-08-26	UKRAINE	CONFLICT	Infrastructure at Odesa Seaport sustained damage during an overnight Russian attack. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed that the seaport had been affected, although the specific infrastructure damaged and extent of the damage were not disclosed.

09-08-26	SPAIN	NARCOTICS	The Spanish Civil Guard recovered more than 800 kg of cocaine off Punta Umbría following the pursuit of a semi-rigid vessel equipped with four high-powered outboard engines. During the pursuit, the suspects discarded part of the cargo into the sea before evading authorities. A subsequent search operation recovered 27 bales of cocaine from the water. The incident occurred amid increased cocaine trafficking activity across the southwestern Iberian Peninsula, where maritime networks continue to use mother ships to transfer large consignments to high-speed vessels for transportation ashore. The trend has resulted in increased multinational law-enforcement activity involving Spanish, Italian, British and US authorities.
05-08-26	GREECE	MIGRATION	UK-flagged high-speed craft PURUS VARNA (IMO: 1071599) reportedly rescued 31 migrants from a small boat in distress approximately 43nm southwest of Cape Tenaro, Greece, near the boundary between the Greek and Maltese Search and Rescue (SAR) Regions. The rescue followed an earlier distress alert, during which nearby merchant vessels were notified and relevant coastguard authorities coordinated the response. According to subsequent reports, PURUS VARNA safely disembarked the rescued persons at Kalamata, Greece.
03-08-26	UKRAINE	CONFLICT	Russian Ministry of Defence (MoD) claimed its forces conducted overnight strikes against Ukrainian maritime infrastructure and merchant vessels in the Black Sea. According to the MoD, three dry cargo vessels carrying military cargo were struck while at sea, while a further dry cargo vessel delivering supplies to the Ukrainian Armed Forces was targeted in the Port of Mykolaiv. The claims remain unverified. The Russian MoD routinely publishes statements alleging strikes against merchant vessels and port infrastructure supporting the Ukrainian Armed Forces, often without providing evidence sufficient to independently verify the reported impacts.
03-08-26	RUSSIA	CONFLICT	Cameroon-flagged roll-on/roll-off cargo vessel NADEZHDA reportedly came under a drone attack late evening approximately 20nm off Novorossiysk, while en route from Novorossiysk, Russia, to Samsun, Türkiye. According to the Turkish Directorate General of Maritime Affairs, the incident resulted in a fire in the vessel's bow. All 22 crew members were evacuated to Russia, while three crew members reportedly sustained serious injuries.
03-08-26	GREECE	MIGRATION	Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier THEMIS (IMO: 9452543) reportedly rescued 38 migrants from a small boat in distress approximately 55nm south of Crete, Greece. Initial reports indicated that one person had fallen overboard, while deteriorating weather conditions complicated rescue efforts. According to subsequent reports, THEMIS successfully recovered the migrants and proceeded towards Egypt.

AMERICAS

OVERVIEW, AUGUST 2026

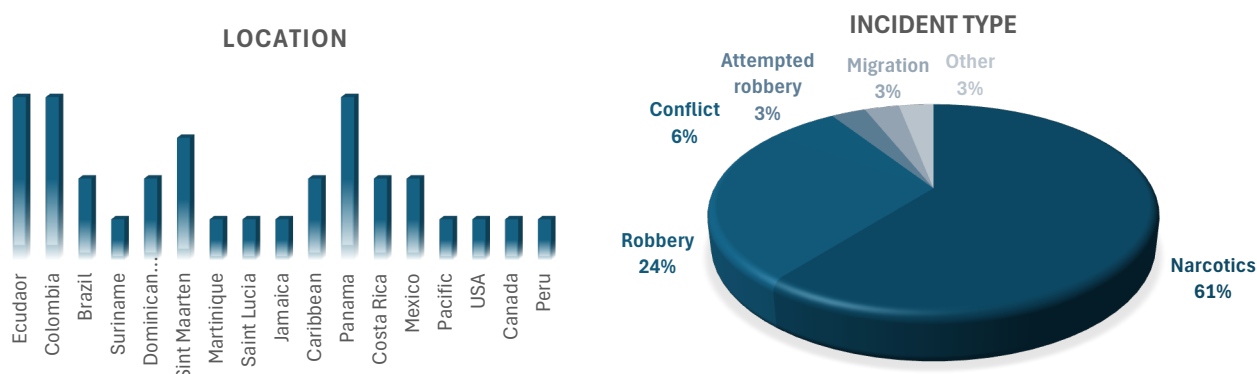
Maritime security activity across the Americas during August was overwhelmingly dominated by large-scale narcotics trafficking, with significant cocaine and marijuana movements identified across the eastern Pacific, Caribbean, and major commercial ports. Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Mexico, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic remained particularly prominent, with multi-tonne seizures from go-fast vessels and containerised cargo demonstrating the continued use of both established offshore trafficking corridors and legitimate supply chains. Ecuadorian ports remained an important gateway for cocaine destined for Europe, including shipments concealed within export containers bound for Spain.

The scale and sophistication of offshore trafficking remained notable. Authorities intercepted vessels carrying several tonnes of cocaine at a time, including approximately 4.4 tonnes off Costa Rica, 2.6 tonnes off Colombia and nearly two tonnes south of Mexico. Long-range trafficking craft were equipped with substantial fuel reserves, satellite communications and multiple high-powered engines, while multinational surveillance and interdiction increasingly involved US military and law-enforcement assets.

A particularly significant development was the increasing militarisation of US counter-narcotics operations. US forces conducted lethal strikes against suspected trafficking vessels in both the Caribbean and eastern Pacific, resulting in multiple fatalities, while unmanned surface vessels were also used to identify and track suspected traffickers for subsequent naval interception. This represents an increasingly assertive approach to maritime counter-narcotics enforcement and adds a new security dimension to established trafficking corridors.

Elsewhere, robbery remained concentrated around Caribbean and Central American anchorages and marinas, particularly involving thefts from yachts and dinghies in Sint Maarten, Martinique and Panama. These incidents

were generally opportunistic and low-level compared with the scale of organised narcotics activity. Overall, August reinforced narcotics trafficking as the principal maritime security threat across the Americas, with increasingly sophisticated trafficking networks met by correspondingly more intensive and, in some cases, lethal enforcement operations.



MARITIME INCIDENTS, AUGUST 2026

31-08-26	PANAMA	NARCOTICS	Panamanian authorities, including units of the National Aeronaval Service (SENAN), seized 909 packages of undisclosed narcotics from an artisanal narco-boat during a maritime patrol off Farallon, Coclé. The vessel was detected moving suspiciously in an apparent attempt to avoid attention, and its crew fled seaward upon discovery. A subsequent pursuit enabled units to seize the narco-boat and recover the narcotics.
27-08-26	ECUADOR	NARCOTICS	Ecuadorian authorities, in coordination with the National Police, seized 300 kg of cocaine hydrochloride at one of the terminals of the Port of Guayaquil. The narcotics were concealed in 12 jute sacks containing 401 blocks hidden inside a container carrying licit export goods. The container originated in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, and was destined for Barcelona, Spain. In addition to the cocaine, two GPS devices and two tampered security seals were recovered. No arrests were reported.
27-08-26	MARTINIQUE	ROBBERY	A Caribe dinghy with a 15HP Yamaha outboard was stolen from a yacht anchored in the Le Marin anchorage at 01:00 LT. The dinghy was not locked at the time of the theft.
27-08-26	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	NARCOTICS	Dominican authorities seized over 1.5 tonnes of cocaine, totalling 1,497 packages, south of Punta Salinas in Baní, Peravia Province. Air, sea, and land units pursued a 40-foot narco-speedboat equipped with two 200-horsepower engines for more than 12 hours before intercepting it in coastal waters. The vessel was carrying 60 bales containing the narcotics, along with fuel tanks, a satellite phone, a cell phone, personal documents, and other evidence. Two Dominican nationals and one Colombian were arrested.
27-08-26	COLOMBIA	NARCOTICS	Units of the Colombian Navy, in coordination with the Southern Interagency Task Force, seized 2,621kg of cocaine from a go-fast narco-vessel operating 90nm northwest of Barranquilla. Naval intelligence identified the craft departing the northern coast with four outboard engines, enabling the ARC 252 helicopter to interdict and disable the vessel. The crew discarded multiple bales into the sea, prompting surface units and oceanographic elements to conduct a two-day search and recovery operation that resulted in the retrieval of 105 bales containing 2,619 packages. The narcotics were reportedly destined for Central America. Three Colombians, two Venezuelans and one Jamaican were arrested.
25-08-26	CARIBBEAN SEA	CONFLICT	US military forces conducted a lethal strike against a small vessel suspected of narcotics trafficking while operating along an established trafficking route in the Caribbean Sea. According to US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), intelligence indicated that the vessel was actively involved in narcotics trafficking. Four persons onboard the vessel were killed during the strike. No US military personnel were reported injured.
25-08-26	COSTA RICA	NARCOTICS	Costa Rican authorities, including the Drug Control Police (PCD), the Special Support Unit (UEA) and the Directorate of Intelligence and Criminal Analysis (DIAC), in collaboration with the National Coast Guard Service and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), seized 4,436kg of cocaine from a narco-boat intercepted 170 nautical miles off Puerto Golfito, Puntarenas. Two Colombian nationals were arrested.
24-08-26	PANAMA	ROBBERY	A locked small panga with an outboard motor was stolen from a yacht berthed in Marina Carenero at 01:00 LT. The vessel was later recovered the next day without the outboard.
23-08-26	EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN	CONFLICT	US military forces conducted a lethal strike against a small vessel suspected of narcotics trafficking while operating in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. According to US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), intelligence indicated that the vessel was actively involved in

			narcotics trafficking, although no supporting evidence was publicly provided. Two persons onboard the vessel were killed during the strike.
23-08-26	SAINT LUCIA	ROBBERY	Two jerry cans of fuel, one gasoline and one diesel, were stolen from the deck of a yacht anchored in Rodney Bay while the owners slept onboard. The cans were not locked, and the securing lines were found cut.
23-08-26	CANADA	NARCOTICS	Canadian authorities, with the assistance of sniffer dogs, seized 204.5kg of cocaine concealed within a marine shipment arriving from Panama at the Vancouver Marine Terminal. The narcotics, packaged in 78 bricks, were covered in a white paste and hidden inside containers of red liquid declared as paint pigment. No arrests were reported.
22-08-26	ECUADOR	NARCOTICS	Ecuadorian authorities seized approximately 1.01 tonnes of cocaine concealed inside a shipping container at the Port of Posorja. The container was destined for the Port of Lázaro Cárdenas, Mexico, and was declared as carrying electromagnetic lifting equipment.
22-08-26	PERU	ROBBERY	Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier FRONTIER JASMINE (IMO: 9933418) was boarded by two robbers armed with knives while anchored at San Nicolas Anchorage, Peru, at approximately 06:30 UTC. Duty crew spotted the perpetrators near the forecandle store and immediately raised the alarm, prompting them to escape with stolen ship's stores. No crew members were injured or assaulted. The incident was subsequently reported to VTS and Port Control.
21-08-26	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	NARCOTICS	Dominican authorities intercepted an unregistered 32-foot speedboat carrying approximately 1.3 tonnes of suspected cocaine and 30 packages of suspected marijuana in the Caribbean Sea, several nautical miles south of Punta Salinas. The vessel was reportedly monitored for more than 15 hours before being intercepted during an operation supported by the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Colombian Air Force.
20-08-26	MEXICO	NARCOTICS	Mexican authorities seized 265kg of cocaine onboard a small narco-vessel fitted with an outboard motor approximately 66nm northwest of the coast of Lázaro Cárdenas, Michoacán. The narcotics were contained in 230 packages, including four bundles and three bags, with authorities also recovering multiple fuel drums intended to supply the vessel.
19-08-26	PANAMA	ROBBERY	An unlocked vessel at anchor was boarded in Linton Bay, Panama at 09:40 LT. A laptop computer was stolen while the owner was away.
19-08-26	COLOMBIA	NARCOTICS	The Colombian Navy intercepted a go-fast vessel carrying approximately 1.43 tonnes of cocaine while operating in the central Caribbean off the coast of Bolívar. The vessel was detected during maritime surveillance operations and subsequently intercepted by Colombian Coast Guard units supported by a naval aviation patrol aircraft. Authorities recovered 1,469 packages containing approximately 1,426 kg of cocaine, alongside satellite navigation and communications equipment. Three Colombian nationals onboard the vessel were arrested.
17-08-26	SINT MAARTEN	ROBBERY	A dinghy secured alongside was boarded in Simpson Bay Marina, Sint Maarten at 23:59 LT. An outboard motor (Tohatsu 15HP) and fuel tank were stolen, with neither item secured to the vessel.
15-08-26	ECUADOR	NARCOTICS	Ecuadorian authorities seized 994kg of narcotics concealed within 19 packages inside a container at a port in Guayaquil. The shipment was introduced into the port hidden within the cabin of a heavy vehicle and later transferred into an export container with the alleged involvement of corrupt port personnel, including a security guard and crane operator, with irregular RTG crane activity in yard C1 leading to its detection. Ten suspects were arrested, including port operational and security staff.
14-08-26	COLOMBIA	NARCOTICS	Colombian authorities seized approximately 1.7 tonnes of marijuana onboard a motorised vessel in waters near Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca. The narcotics were concealed in 71 sacks containing 1,772 rectangular packages, with authorities also recovering communications equipment from the vessel. The interception followed the detection of suspicious activity, with a Coast Guard unit deployed to interdict the vessel, which later sank due to hull damage and adverse weather conditions. Two Costa Rican nationals were arrested.
13-08-26	SURINAME	NARCOTICS	Authorities reported the seizure of approximately 1.9 tonnes of cocaine at Jules Sedney Port in Paramaribo during an international counter-narcotics operation. The shipment reportedly originated in Colombia's Upper Guajira region and was transported to Suriname by speedboat. The cocaine was assessed to be destined for European markets, either directly or via maritime trafficking routes through Africa.
12-08-26	OFF SAN DIEGO, USA	MIGRANTS	The US Coast Guard intercepted a panga-style vessel approximately seven miles west of San Diego carrying nine suspected irregular migrants. The vessel was detected during an overnight patrol and subsequently boarded by Coast Guard personnel. All nine individuals were detained and transferred to US Border Patrol authorities at Ballast Point. The incident highlights the continued use of small maritime craft for irregular migration along the southern California coastline.
11-08-26	SINT MAARTEN	ROBBERY	A dinghy secured to the dock was boarded in Simpson Bay Marina, Sint Maarten at 12:32 LT. A fuel tank and foot pump were stolen after the fuel line was cut.

10-08-26	ECUADOR	NARCOTICS	Ecuadorian authorities seized approximately 1.2 tonnes of cocaine concealed within a container of bananas destined for Spain. During inspections, officers identified irregularities in cardboard packaging within the cargo, with subsequent analysis establishing that cocaine had been impregnated directly into the cardboard rather than concealed in conventional packages. Authorities assessed that the concealment method was intended to reduce the likelihood of detection and would require specialist laboratory processing to extract the cocaine following arrival. The shipment was valued at approximately USD 58.5 million on the European market.
10-08-26	SINT MAARTEN	ROBBERY	A dinghy secured to the dock was boarded in Simpson Bay Marina, Sint Maarten at 23:37 LT. Surveillance footage showed the perpetrator had arrived by dinghy, rummaged through several dinghies, departed, and later returned to steal a fuel tank before leaving the area.
09-08-26	CARIBBEAN SEA	NARCOTICS	LATE REPORT Further details emerged regarding a major US naval counter-narcotics interdiction in the Caribbean involving unmanned surface vessels. Two Saildrone Voyager vessels reportedly tracked a suspected trafficking vessel before coordinating with US naval forces, enabling the interception and seizure of cocaine valued at approximately USD 81 million. The operation forms part of expanded US maritime surveillance activity targeting trafficking routes across the Caribbean and eastern Pacific.
08-08-26	COSTA RICA	OTHER	The US Coast Guard coordinated the rescue of 22 crew members from a commercial vessel that caught fire approximately 630 NM off Costa Rica. The incident occurred far offshore in the eastern Pacific, requiring coordination between regional maritime authorities and nearby commercial shipping. All 22 crew were successfully rescued.
07-08-26	MEXICO	NARCOTICS	The Mexican Navy intercepted a speedboat carrying nearly two tonnes of cocaine approximately 850 km south of Acapulco during a maritime surveillance operation. Six suspected Ecuadorian nationals were detained. Authorities also recovered 2,450 litres of fuel, satellite communication equipment and emergency beacons, indicating the vessel was configured for long-range offshore trafficking operations.
07-08-26	JAMAICA	NARCOTICS	LATE REPORT US Coast Guard personnel intercepted a suspected go-fast vessel approximately 136 miles southwest of Negril, Jamaica, seizing around 1,500 lb of marijuana. The operation formed part of a wider series of Caribbean and eastern Pacific interdictions targeting high-speed maritime trafficking routes.
05-08-26	BRAZIL	NARCOTICS	The Parana Military Police, in coordination with the Federal Police of Mato Grosso do Sul, seized over 1,400 kg of marijuana concealed in two motorized boats hidden along a channel of the Parana River near Querencia do Norte, northwest Parana. The vessels, abandoned without operators, were identified during a river patrol, and were reportedly destined for offloading at clandestine ports. No arrests were reported.
04-08-26	BRAZIL	NARCOTICS	Brazilian authorities seized 210 kg of cocaine onboard a narco-vessel off Imbituba Port, Brazil. No arrests were reported.
03-08-26	PANAMA	ATTEMPTED ROBBERY	A yacht anchored near Isla Bamboo in Gatun Lake while transiting the Panama Canal was approached by a launch at 03:00 LT. The perpetrators attempted to remove the locked outboard from the dinghy but were unsuccessful. A line handler sleeping in the cockpit awoke, and the perpetrators fled. The incident was reported to the police.
02-08-26	COLOMBIA	NARCOTICS	Panamanian authorities seized approximately 271kg of cocaine from a go-fast vessel intercepted following a high-speed pursuit after departing the Colombian coastline bound for Panama. The vessel was initially detected approximately 93nm southwest of Curiché, Colombia, and tracked by a US maritime patrol aircraft before intelligence was relayed to Panamanian authorities. One Colombian and one Ecuadorian national were detained.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

OVERVIEW, AUGUST 2026

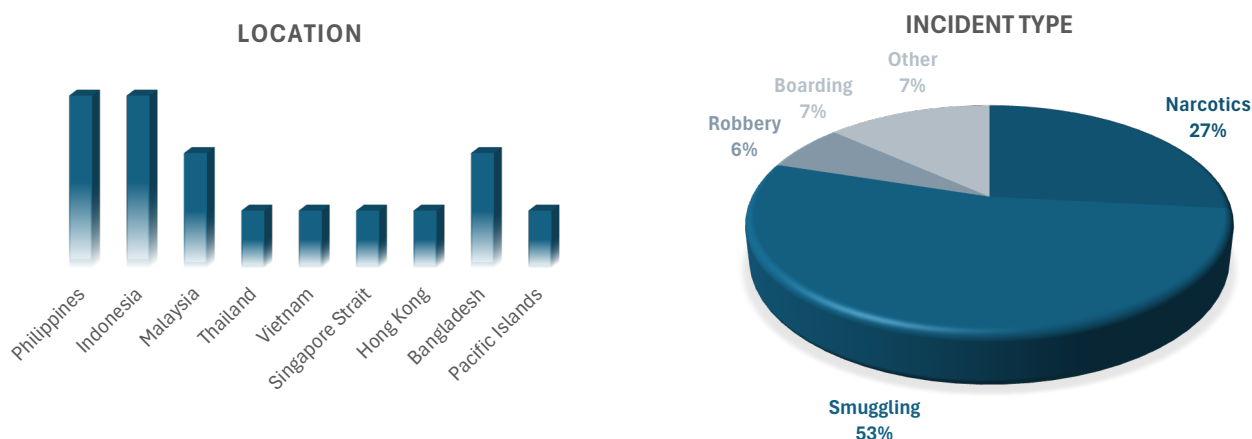
Maritime security activity across Southeast Asia and Oceania during August was primarily characterised by smuggling and narcotics trafficking, with significant interdictions involving commercial shipping, small craft and domestic maritime routes. Smuggling activity was particularly prominent across Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand, involving illicit movements of fuel, cigarettes, coal and mineral commodities. The seizure of more than 10,000 tonnes of nickel ore in Indonesian waters was particularly notable, while repeated fuel and coal seizures highlighted the continued exploitation of coastal and domestic shipping networks.

Narcotics trafficking remained a significant regional concern, with approximately 1.3 tonnes of suspected ketamine intercepted from a Tanzania-flagged vessel near Indonesia's Riau Islands, alongside methamphetamine seizures in Malaysia and the Philippines. Containerised trafficking also extended into the Pacific, with cocaine discovered at Papeete Port in French Polynesia inside a container destined for Australia. Collectively, the incidents

demonstrate the continued use of both conventional commercial supply chains and smaller maritime routes for regional and international narcotics movements.

Traditional maritime crime remained comparatively limited but persisted around established hotspots. A bulk carrier was boarded by four knife-armed perpetrators while underway in the Singapore Strait, while YM PIONEER was boarded and robbed while anchored at Vung Tau, Vietnam. Although neither incident resulted in crew injuries, they reinforce the continuing exposure of vessels to opportunistic boarding and theft around the Straits of Malacca and Singapore and regional anchorages.

Elsewhere, maritime safety remained an underlying operational concern, illustrated by a passenger vessel fire in the Lombok Strait that resulted in one fatality and the rescue of 172 people. Overall, August reflected a diverse but predominantly criminal maritime threat environment, with smuggling and narcotics trafficking considerably more prevalent than piracy or serious violence against commercial shipping.



MARITIME INCIDENTS, AUGUST 2026

28-08-26	INDONESIA	SMUGGLING	Naval patrol vessel KRI PARI-849 seized 10,005.89 tons of nickel ore onboard the Indonesia-flagged tug TB LINTAS SAMUDERA 127 towing the barge LINTAS SAMUDERA 99 in Southeast Sulawesi waters. The vessel was en route from Jetty Cinta Jaya to Jetty PT GPS Obo, South Halmahera, and was detected during blockade and monitoring operations initiated after intelligence indicated illicit nickel ore movements from the Konawe area. A subsequent inspection identified administrative irregularities and deficiencies in the documentation validating the cargo's legality. The vessel carrying 10 crew members was taken to the Kendari Navy Base (Lanal) for further examination.
28-08-26	BANGLADESH	SMUGGLING	Bangladeshi Coast Guard personnel seized approximately 1,100 metric tonnes of coal worth around Tk 1.10 crore (USD \$90,200) on board an unknown vessel during an operation in the Char Monai Anandaghat area off Barisal, Bangladesh. The coal had been transhipped from a foreign vessel reportedly stationed just south of Bangladesh in the Bay of Bengal before being moved upriver toward Barisal. Twelve crew members were detained.
25-08-26	HONG KONG	SMUGGLING	Hong Kong Customs seized 1,300 cylinders of suspected smuggled refrigerant from a seaborne container at Kwai Chung Container Terminal. The shipment, originating from the US and declared as laminate flooring, contained the concealed refrigerant with an estimated market value of HKD 6.4m (USD \$820k). No arrests were reported.
24-08-26	MALAYSIA	SMUGGLING	Two fibre boats were intercepted by Malaysian authorities off Batu 3, Tawau, Sabah, while allegedly being used to smuggle approximately 298,000 cigarettes by sea. The cigarettes, valued at approximately USD 148,500, were being transported without valid documentation and were suspected of having originated from a foreign country. Both vessels and the cigarettes were seized by Malaysian authorities.
24-08-26	FRENCH POLYNESIA	NARCOTICS	French Customs officers seized 30.9kg of cocaine concealed inside a container destined for Australia using the rip-off method at Papeete Port. The narcotics, valued at 618 million XPF (USD \$5.5m), were located in two bags containing 27 rectangular cellophane-wrapped packages. No arrests were reported.
23-08-26	PHILIPPINES	NARCOTICS	Philippine authorities seized 43 kg of methamphetamine at Manila International Port after being discovered concealed as commercial goods. The narcotics, valued at approximately USD 5.1 million, were suspected of having been smuggled into the

			Philippines by sea from an overseas location. No further information regarding the shipment's origin, concealment method or parties involved has been reported.
22-08-26	VIETNAM	ROBBERY	Liberia-flagged bulk carrier YM PIONEER (IMO: 9902548) was boarded by unauthorised persons while anchored at Vung Tau Anchorage, Vietnam, at approximately 18:06 UTC. The perpetrators stole ship's stores before escaping from the vessel. No crew members were injured or assaulted. The crew conducted a search of the vessel and reported the incident to local authorities, with the Vung Tau Border Defence Force subsequently boarding the vessel to investigate.
18-08-26	MALAYSIA	NARCOTICS	A vessel carrying approximately 5.8 kg of methamphetamine was intercepted by Malaysian authorities off Manjung. The narcotics were discovered in 22 packages and were suspected of being smuggled by sea to a foreign country. One foreign national was apprehended in connection with the shipment, while the vessel and narcotics were seized by Malaysian authorities.
16-08-26	PHILLIP CHANNEL, SINGAPORE STRAIT	BOARDING	Panama-flagged bulk carrier boarded by four perpetrators armed with knives while transiting the Phillip Channel, Singapore Strait, at 03:40 LT (UTC+8). The crew sighted the perpetrators in the engine room, after which the alarm was raised and a search was conducted, with no perpetrators subsequently found onboard. All crew were reported safe with no injuries, and the vessel continued its voyage to Singapore with no assistance required.
15-08-26	PHILIPPINES	SMUGGLING	Philippine authorities seized approximately 65,000 litres of diesel onboard a fuel tanker and a cargo vessel being used as a makeshift depot at Pier 5, Navotas Fish Port Complex, Navotas City. The seized fuel, valued at approximately ₱9.75m (USD \$175k), was discovered alongside fuel hoses and pumping equipment. Nine individuals were arrested.
12-08-26	INDONESIA	OTHER	A passenger vessel caught fire while transiting the Lombok Strait in West Nusa Tenggara. Search-and-rescue operations resulted in 172 people being rescued, although one fatality was reported. The cause of the fire remains unclear, and the incident occurred in one of Indonesia's strategically important inter-island maritime corridors.
09-08-26	INDONESIA	NARCOTICS	Indonesian authorities seized approximately 1.3 tonnes of suspected ketamine from a Tanzania-flagged vessel near the Riau Islands. The vessel was intercepted during a maritime operation following intelligence regarding suspected narcotics trafficking. The seizure represents a significant interdiction of drugs transported directly by commercial maritime means.
05-08-26	THAILAND	SMUGGLING	Thai authorities seized 7,000 litres of diesel from a fishing vessel during an inspection in the Tammalang Canal, Satun Province. The operation was conducted by patrol boats SORNCHON 2906 and SORNCHON 5707, which discovered the fuel stored in modified tanks within the vessel's hull. One Thai national was detained, and the seized fuel and vessel were transferred to the Satun Excise Office for further investigation.
05-08-26	BANGLADESH	SMUGGLING	Bangladeshi authorities seized 120 tonnes of coal from four cargo vessels during a Coast Guard operation in the Meghna River near Tankir Canal, Hatia, Noakhali. The operation, conducted by Coast Guard stations Hatia and Ramgati, resulted in the detention of two smugglers after the vessels were found without valid documentation. Initial interrogation revealed that the coal had been purchased from a commercial ship in the outer anchorage area of Chittagong.
04-08-26	PHILIPPINES	SMUGGLING	Philippine authorities seized 600 master cases, 30 reams, and 140 packs of cigarettes from a motorboat south of Amoyloi Reefs, Ungkaya Pukan, Basilan. Seven crew members were arrested. The seized products were valued at approximately PHP 27.7m (USD 475k).

Vanguard Technology

The Vanguard Tech team brings together over 30 years of experience within commercial shipping and the maritime domain. We share a passion for providing a new digital approach – the 'Digital Ocean' to how the commercial shipping industry understands and then deals with maritime risk in its many guises.

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