Vanguard



GLOBAL MONTHLY UPDATE
OCTOBER 2026

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Contents

INDIAN OCEAN/ARABIAN SEA /PERSIAN GULF 3
OVERVIEW, OCTOBER 2026 3
MARITIME INCIDENTS, OCTOBER 2026 4
NORTH & WEST AFRICA 7
OVERVIEW, OCTOBER 2026 7
MARITIME INCIDENTS, OCTOBER 2026 8
EUROPE/BLACK SEA 8
OVERVIEW, OCTOBER 2026 8
MARITIME INCIDENTS, OCTOBER 2026 9
AMERICAS 12
OVERVIEW, OCTOBER 2026 12
MARITIME INCIDENTS, OCTOBER 2026 13
SOUTHEAST ASIA 15
OVERVIEW, OCTOBER 2026 15
MARITIME INCIDENTS, OCTOBER 2026 16

© Copyright Vanguard Technology 2022

INDIAN OCEAN/ARABIAN SEA /PERSIAN GULF

OVERVIEW, OCTOBER 2026

Maritime security across the Persian Gulf and wider Indian Ocean remained highly volatile throughout October, with the ongoing US-Iran conflict continuing to expose commercial shipping to direct military action, projectile strikes and increasingly aggressive enforcement measures. The Strait of Hormuz remained the principal flashpoint, with repeated attacks against tankers and containerships conducting both inbound and outbound transits. Notable incidents included strikes against RITI, GFS PRIDE, PETRO DOLPHIN and ST3, several of which resulted in fires, loss of propulsion, crew evacuations and reported fatalities or missing personnel. The sinking of GFS PRIDE and the disabling of RITI further demonstrated the potentially catastrophic consequences of transiting the Strait, while the geographic spread of incidents into Omani, Emirati, Saudi and Iraqi waters highlighted the wider regional exposure of commercial shipping.

The conflict also continued to evolve beyond conventional projectile attacks, with small-boat assaults, UAV strikes and direct military intervention increasingly affecting merchant vessels. The tanker LOUISE 1 was attacked near Khasab by a small craft that reportedly attached explosive devices to its hull, while LOYALTY sustained damage from an RPG attack in the Arabian Gulf. The Netherlands-flagged tug JIF BARRACUDA was also struck by two UAVs near Khor Fakkan, demonstrating that support and salvage vessels were not immune from the threat. Meanwhile, US forces disabled OCEAN MOLICA in the Gulf of Oman after the vessel allegedly attempted to breach the naval blockade against Iran. The incident reinforced the increasingly complex operating environment, in which commercial vessels faced risks arising from both Iranian military activity and US blockade enforcement.

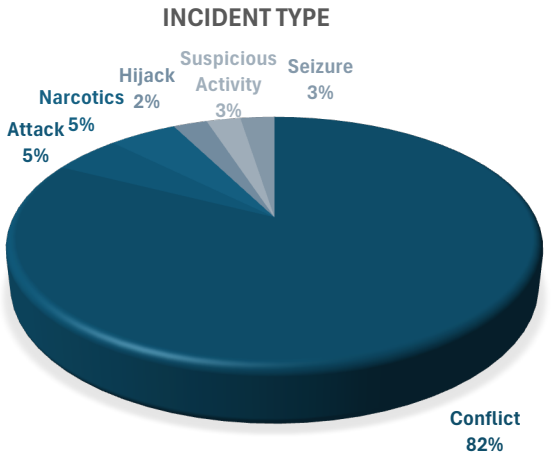
The broader political and military environment remained characterised by sustained confrontation, competing restrictions on maritime movement and limited progress towards a negotiated settlement. US CENTCOM maintained its blockade against vessels entering or departing Iranian ports, reporting more than 130 commercial vessels redirected and several disabled or destroyed during enforcement operations. Iranian forces, meanwhile, continued to challenge commercial transits through Hormuz, including through direct attacks and threats against vessels using routes considered unauthorised. Independent maritime reporting identified October as the most intense month for attacks against commercial shipping since the conflict began, with more than 30 incidents recorded in and around the Strait. The combination of military escalation and continued commercial demand for Gulf energy exports has therefore created an increasingly unpredictable environment, in which vessels remain exposed despite reduced overall transit volumes.

The security situation in Yemen and the Red Sea also remained unstable, with renewed fighting between Houthi forces and Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces centered on territory surrounding the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Government-aligned forces reportedly recaptured several strategically important coastal areas, although control of the wider waterway remained contested. Houthi missile and UAV activity continued to threaten Saudi energy infrastructure, including reported attacks around Ras Tanura and Rabigh, while Saudi-led coalition strikes targeted Houthi-controlled fuel infrastructure near Ras Isa. These developments reinforced the interconnected nature of the Persian Gulf and Red Sea conflicts, with threats to both Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb continuing to undermine regional energy security and commercial shipping confidence.

Elsewhere, piracy-related activity off Somalia showed renewed signs of concern, following the reported hijacking of the Iranian fishing vessel AZINI and sightings of suspicious small craft in the Gulf of Aden. The potential use of AZINI as a mother vessel raised concerns over further attacks against merchant shipping, although no subsequent operations had been confirmed in the reporting reviewed. A separate armed encounter involving an LNG tanker in the Gulf of Aden highlighted the continuing threat from small craft.

© Copyright Vanguard Technology 2022





MARITIME INCIDENTS, OCTOBER 2026

30-10-26	**Iran**	**CONFLICT**	The Marshall Islands-flagged tanker AL MAYEDA (IMO: 9397298) was struck three times by unknown projectiles approximately 40nm south of Lavan Island, Iran, in the Persian Gulf, at approximately 18:00 UTC. The impacts caused damage to the vessel's engine room and accommodation block, resulting in a fire onboard. The fire remained ongoing at the time of writing, while all crew members were reported safe, with no environmental impact reported. The full extent of damage and the origin of the projectiles remain unknown.
29-10-26	**Oman**	**CONFLICT**	Panama-flagged tanker LOUISE 1 (IMO: 9290323) was approached by a small boat approximately 25nm northeast of Khasab, Oman, while conducting an outbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz at 22:12 UTC. The small boat attached two explosive devices to the vessel's port-side hull above the waterline, which subsequently detonated and caused a fire in the engine room, temporarily disabling the vessel. The fire was subsequently extinguished, and the vessel continued towards its next port of call.
29-10-26	**Strait of Hormuz**	**CONFLICT**	Panama-flagged tanker RITI (IMO: 9249075) was struck by a UAV while completing an outbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz at approximately 16:00 UTC. The impact caused a fire onboard and resulted in the loss of propulsion and navigational systems, leaving the vessel unable to continue its voyage. The fire could not be extinguished, and the crew subsequently evacuated the vessel.
29-10-26	**Oman**	**CONFLICT**	A tanker was struck by an unknown projectile approximately 9nm north of Khasab, Oman, at 03:00 UTC. The Master of a Panama-flagged tanker subsequently reported passing the vessel, which was on fire and mostly submerged. Another vessel was observed nearby, potentially providing assistance.
29-10-26	**Somalia**	**HIJACKING**	Iranian fishing vessel AZINI was reportedly hijacked by armed pirates while operating off the northeastern coast of Somalia, at approximately 09:00 UTC. The vessel's last reported position was 09°42′N 053°55′E, at approximately 04:00 UTC on 30 October. The status of the crew and the vessel's current whereabouts remain unknown. EUNAVFOR Operation ATALANTA has assessed that the vessel could potentially be used as a mother vessel to support further piracy attacks, although no such activity has so far been confirmed.
28-10-26	**Gulf of Aden**	**SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY**	Several sightings of suspicious small craft operating near merchant vessels were reported in the Gulf of Aden, potentially indicative of Pirate Action Group activity. A green and blue boat was reportedly observed carrying nine persons, two ladders and a hook.
27-10-26	**Saudi Arabia**	**CONFLICT**	A fire was reported near Saudi Aramco facilities at Ras Tanura, Saudi Arabia, during the early hours following an attack in the region. The fire was subsequently contained, while the extent of damage and any impact on oil-loading operations remained unclear as of writing. The incident occurred as Saudi authorities reported intercepting three Houthi ballistic missiles targeting the kingdom's Eastern Region.
26-10-26	**Iraq**	**CONFLICT**	An unidentified vessel was sighted on fire approximately 63nm southeast of Al-Faw, Iraq, according to third-party reporting. The vessel involved was believed to have been the Palau-flagged chemical/oil products tanker ORTA (IMO: 9261841). No further details regarding the incident were confirmed as of writing.
24-10-26	**Sri Lanka**	**NARCOTICS**	Sri Lankan authorities seized approximately 561.7 kg of narcotics, comprising 239.764 kg of methamphetamine and 321.941 kg of heroin, at Naotunna Beach, Sri Lanka. The narcotics, valued at approximately USD 35.5 million, were discovered concealed inside 10 sacks and 11 travel bags. One dinghy was seized in connection with the operation, while

© Copyright Vanguard Technology 2022

			authorities suspect the narcotics were smuggled into Sri Lanka by sea from a foreign country. No arrests were specified in the report.
23-10-26	**Strait of Hormuz**	**CONFLICT**	A tanker was struck by an unknown projectile while conducting an outbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz at 08:39 UTC. The impact disabled the vessel. All crew were reported safe.
22-10-26	**Red Sea**	**CONFLICT**	Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree claimed that Saudi forces targeted an unidentified yacht reportedly carrying 14 Indian nationals near Zuqar Island, Yemen, in the southern Red Sea. Citing preliminary information, Saree further claimed that Houthi forces were conducting a rescue operation involving the yacht's occupants.
22-10-26	**Oman**	**CONFLICT**	A Singapore-flagged tanker was struck by an unknown projectile while conducting an outbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz approximately 7nm northeast of Limah, Oman, at 17:15 UTC. The vessel subsequently continued its voyage to its next port of call.
21-10-26	**Oman**	**CONFLICT**	The Kuwait-flagged tanker AL DASMA (IMO: 9653446) was struck by an unknown projectile approximately 11nm west of Bukha, Oman, at 01:45 UTC. The impact caused a fire onboard, which was subsequently extinguished. All crew reported safe. The incident has been acknowledged in an official NAVAREA IX navigational warning issued by the Pakistan Navy's National Hydrographic Office.
21-10-26	**Iraq**	**CONFLICT**	The Liberia-flagged tanker MT SOYIA (IMO:9263916) was struck by an unknown projectile approximately 30nm southeast of Al Faw, Iraq, at 18:30 UTC. All crew were reported safe, with no damage to the vessel reported.
19-10-26	**Oman**	**CONFLICT**	A Hong Kong-flagged tanker was involved in an interaction with military forces approximately 121nm east of Duqm, Oman, at 10:00 UTC, amid ongoing military activity in the region. The vessel was reportedly instructed to halt its transit and demonstrate compliance with the blockade but failed to comply. No further details regarding the interaction, vessel status or crew have been disclosed.
18-10-26	**UAE**	**CONFLICT**	The Netherlands-flagged tug JIF BARRACUDA (IMO: 9345506) was struck by two UAVs while travelling southbound northeast of Khor Fakkan, UAE. The vessel sustained damage to the wheelhouse. The vessel continued towards Khor Fakkan and requested assistance.
18-10-26	**Yemen**	**CONFLICT**	The Bahamas-flagged LNG tanker was approached by a small skiff with seven persons onboard while transiting the Gulf of Aden at position 12°54'N 047°55'E. The skiff fired two shots towards the vessel, prompting the onboard Armed Security Team (AST) to return fire, after which the skiff disengaged. No ladder or other boarding equipment was observed onboard the skiff.
16-10-26	**Saudi Arabia**	**CONFLICT**	The Marshall Islands-flagged crude oil tanker ST3 (IMO: 9220964) was struck by an unknown projectile on its port aft side while operating in the Arabian Gulf approximately 68nm from Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia, at 05:05 UTC. The impact caused a loss of power and an engine-room fire. The crew subsequently abandoned the vessel and transferred to the nearby UAE-flagged containership SAFEEN PRINCIPAL (IMO: 9799927).
16-10-26	**Saudi Arabia**	**ATTACK**	The Tanzania-flagged tanker LOYALTY (IMO: 9182306) was attacked by a small boat approximately 78nm northeast of Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia, at 19:22 UTC. An RPG struck the vessel's aft port quarter, damaging a fresh water tank and causing an approximately 1.4-metre-diameter hole. All crew were accounted for and reported safe.
14-10-26	**Strait of Hormuz**	**CONFLICT**	Singapore-flagged containership GFS GISELLE was struck by an unknown projectile while conducting an inbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz. All crew mustered in the designated area and no injuries were reported. The vessel sustained minor damage and continued its transit.
14-10-26	**Strait of Hormuz**	**CONFLICT**	Marshall Islands-flagged containership AL SAADIYAT was struck by an unknown projectile while conducting an outbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz. No crew casualties or significant damage to the vessel were reported. The vessel continued its transit.
13-10-26	**Strait of Hormuz**	**CONFLICT**	Singapore-flagged containership GFS PRIDE and Barbados-flagged tanker ALFONSO were struck by unknown projectiles in two separate incidents while operating in the Strait of Hormuz. GFS PRIDE was subsequently understood to have sunk, while the status of ALFONSO remained unclear. Separately, Antigua and Barbuda-flagged bulk carrier CAPE DAO, originally struck on 23 September, was reported to be sinking following an unsuccessful rescue attempt.
13-10-26	**Yemen**	**CONFLICT**	Approximately 10 Saudi-led coalition airstrikes reportedly targeted the Ras Isa oil terminal area in Hodeidah Governorate, Yemen, including fuel-storage tanks and a Yemen Petroleum Company facility. Houthi authorities subsequently reported two people killed and two injured, while the extent of damage to the terminal remained unconfirmed. The Saudi-led coalition later confirmed conducting strikes against fuel-related infrastructure in Hodeidah, including storage facilities and infrastructure used for the transfer and unloading of fuel.
12-10-26	**Indian Ocean**	**SEIZURE**	Crude oil tanker DF PEAK (IMO: 9341067) was intercepted and seized by the French Navy approximately 450nm south of Réunion Island on suspicion of operating under a false Beninese flag and involvement in illicit fuel transportation, according to French President Emmanuel Macron. French naval personnel boarded the vessel under Article 110 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which permits the right of visit under specific circumstances, including suspected fraudulent flagging.

© Copyright Vanguard Technology 2022

11-10-26	**Oman**	**CONFLICT**	Nicaragua-flagged tanker PETRO DOLPHIN (IMO: 1072294) was struck by a UAV in the vicinity of Sohar Anchorage, Oman. The vessel was subsequently reported on fire and drifting at 24°41.40'N 056°43.50'E, approximately 9.6nm northeast of Sohar Port. India's Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways stated that 11 Indian seafarers were onboard, of whom nine were rescued and reported safe, while two remained missing.
11-10-26	**Strait of Hormuz**	**CONFLICT**	Liberia-flagged tanker ANGOLA PROSPERITY (IMO: 9896414) was struck on its port side by an unidentified projectile while conducting an outbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz at 12:00 UTC. The impact caused damage to the vessel. All crew were reported safe.
11-10-26	**Strait of Hormuz**	**CONFLICT**	Three commercial vessels were struck by unknown projectiles in separate incidents while transiting the Strait of Hormuz. An India-flagged containership was struck while conducting an inbound transit. The Panama-flagged products tanker KITION M (IMO: 9321160) and the Bahamas-flagged crude oil tanker EVER VICT (IMO: 9266774) were struck while conducting outbound transits.
11-10-26	**Strait of Hormuz**	**CONFLICT**	Bahamas-flagged crude oil tanker EVER VICT (IMO: 9266774) was struck by an unknown projectile while conducting an outbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz.
10-10-26	**Strait of Hormuz**	**CONFLICT**	Marshall Islands-flagged tanker VALTHERA (IMO: 9296389) was struck by an unknown projectile on its port side while conducting an outbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz at 19:20 UTC. The impact caused a fire onboard, with the Master subsequently requesting assistance. All crew were reported safe.
10-10-26	**Gulf of Oman**	**CONFLICT**	Panama-flagged general cargo vessel OCEAN MOLICA (IMO: 9139270) was disabled by US forces in the Gulf of Oman after allegedly ignoring repeated warnings and attempting to run the ongoing naval blockade against Iran. US Central Command stated that a US military fighter jet struck the vessel's stern with a precision munition, fully disabling its propulsion without harming the crew. CENTCOM added that the vessel had previously departed an Iranian port and was attempting to transit regional waters when it was targeted.
09-10-26	**UAE**	**CONFLICT**	A vessel, likely the Panama-flagged crude oil tanker GEM NO.2 (IMO: 9735373), was struck by an unknown projectile approximately 13nm west of Al Jazeera, UAE, at 10:00 UTC. The vessel reportedly issued a distress alert indicating a fire onboard, which was subsequently extinguished. The status of the crew and extent of damage remain unknown at current.
09-10-26	**Strait of Hormuz**	**CONFLICT**	The IRGC Navy claimed to have struck the Vietnam-flagged LPG carrier NV SUNSHINE (IMO: 9350288) while the vessel was allegedly attempting to transit an unauthorised southern route through the Strait of Hormuz. The IRGC claimed that the strike caused a major fire in the vessel's engine room and propulsion system. However, on 10 October, operator Nhat Viet Transportation Corporation rejected the reports, confirming that NV SUNSHINE had not been attacked and continued to operate safely and normally. Vietnam's Maritime and Waterway Administration subsequently stated that information provided by the operator, following direct communication with the Master and continuous vessel monitoring, confirmed that no attack or engine-room fire had occurred and that the vessel and crew remained safe.
07-10-26	**Qatar**	**CONFLICT**	Antigua and Barbuda-flagged oil/chemical tanker ACERS (IMO: 9301902) was struck by multiple projectiles, approximately 51nm north of Madinat ash Shamal, Qatar, at 19:00 UTC. Casualties were reported, although the number and severity remain unknown at current.
07-10-26	**Arabian Sea**	**NARCOTICS**	The Pakistan Navy vessel PNS YARMOOK intercepted two dhows carrying approximately 2.85 tonnes of narcotics during separate counter-narcotics operations in the Arabian Sea, at an unspecified distance from Pakistan's coastline. The seizures comprised approximately 850 kg of crystal methamphetamine and 2,000 kg of hashish/cannabis, concealed inside compartments onboard the vessels. The narcotics, with an estimated combined value of USD 96 million, were seized and are expected to be transferred to the relevant authorities for further legal proceedings. No information regarding arrests or the identities of the two dhows has been disclosed.
07-10-26	**Red Sea**	**ATTACK**	Singapore-flagged containership CUL KLANG was attacked by a small craft in the southern Red Sea at approximately 06:15 UTC. Multiple shots were fired towards the vessel, reportedly in the direction of the bridge, before the small craft moved away from the area. The incident is not currently considered piracy-related or linked to the Houthis and was likely associated with local fishermen. All crew were reported safe and the vessel is continuing its voyage.
06-10-26	**Strait of Hormuz**	**CONFLICT**	A crude oil tanker was struck by an unknown projectile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz at 17:09 UTC. No casualties were reported, while the extent of damage and any environmental impact remain unknown at current.
06-10-26	**Oman**	**CONFLICT**	Panama-flagged tanker ON PEACE (IMO: 9893204) was struck by a projectile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz approximately 9nm northeast of Limah, Oman, resulting in a fire onboard. India's Ministry of External Affairs stated that 12 of the 19 crew members were injured.
05-10-26	**Saudi Arabia**	**CONFLICT**	Yemen's Houthis claimed to have targeted the Saudi Aramco-linked Petro Rabigh refining and petrochemical complex in Rabigh with ballistic and cruise missiles and drones as part of a wider series of attacks against Saudi Arabia. Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree claimed that the strike caused a fire at the facility. However, no confirmation of the strike

© Copyright Vanguard Technology 2022

			or resulting damage has been issued by Saudi authorities. The Petro Rabigh complex has direct access to an associated marine terminal, with berths used for bulk oil vessels and exports of refined petroleum products. At present, no disruption to marine terminal or port operations has been reported.
05-10-26	**Yemen**	**CONFLICT**	Yemeni government claimed that Saudi-backed forces advanced along the coast surrounding the Bab el-Mandeb Strait towards Mokha, retaking much of the territory seized by the Houthis last month. In response, the Houthis claimed to have attacked King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, an Aramco refinery in Rabigh, Abha International Airport and Khamis Mushait military base.
05-10-26	**Strait of Hormuz**	**CONFLICT**	Four tankers were struck in separate incidents within the Strait of Hormuz between 3 and 5 October. On 3 October, the Liberia-flagged crude oil tanker GHANA PROSPERITY (IMO: 9732541) was struck by an unknown projectile just above the waterline. On 4 October, the Singapore-flagged LPG tanker GAS VELA (IMO: 9969845) was struck by a drone, while the Liberia-flagged crude oil tanker CAMEROON PROSPERITY (IMO: 9315159) was struck by two unknown projectiles while transiting the Strait. On 5 October, the Greece-flagged LNG tanker MARAN GAS MYSTRAS (IMO: 9658238) was struck by an unknown projectile at, causing a fire in the vessel's engine room.
05-10-26	**Oman**	**CONFLICT**	Liberia-flagged tanker SINGAPORE ENERGY (IMO: 9534846) was hailed by the IRGC while conducting an inbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz, approximately 11nm north of Khasab, Oman, at 08:27 UTC. The vessel was instructed to turn back or face being targeted. The Master subsequently confirmed that the vessel complied with the instruction and turned back.

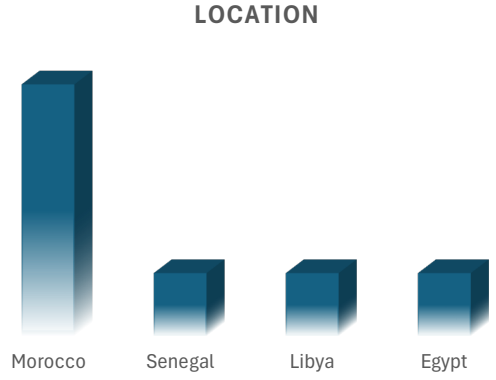
NORTH & WEST AFRICA

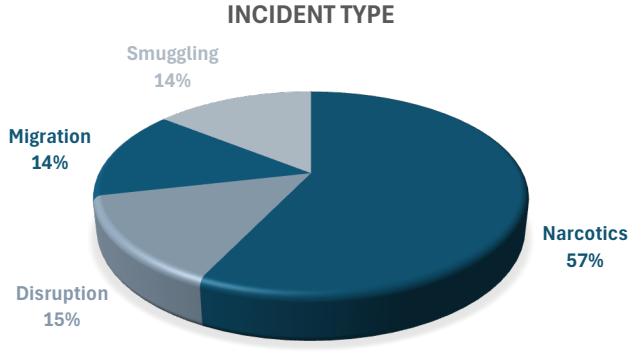
OVERVIEW, OCTOBER 2026

Maritime security activity across North and West Africa during October was predominantly characterised by narcotics trafficking, smuggling, and irregular migration, with Morocco remaining a principal hotspot for illicit trade through established maritime routes. Reported incidents were largely concentrated around commercial ports and coastal areas.

Narcotics trafficking represented the most prominent threat, with Moroccan authorities conducting several significant interdictions at Tanger Med Port. Notably, approximately 3.6 tonnes of cannabis resin were discovered concealed within agricultural products, while separate operations resulted in the seizure of more than 160 kg of cocaine, including shipments concealed in refrigerated containers and pharmaceutical cargo. In Senegal, authorities recovered approximately 205 kg of cannabis along Nianing Beach, highlighting the continued use of coastal areas for suspected narcotics trafficking.

Irregular migration and commercial smuggling also persisted, with the Royal Moroccan Navy intercepting approximately 200 migrants aboard a pirogue off the Moroccan coast. Separately, Egyptian authorities seized undeclared medicines, medical equipment and commercial goods arriving at Safaga Port from Saudi Arabia. In Libya, interference with the Hamada–Zawiya pipeline temporarily disrupted crude oil supplies to the Zawiya refinery, highlighting the vulnerability of the country's energy infrastructure to localised interference and the potential implications for petroleum exports.





© Copyright Vanguard Technology 2022

MARITIME INCIDENTS, OCTOBER 2026

30-10-26	**Senegal**	**NARCOTICS**	Senegalese authorities seized approximately 205 kg of cannabis discovered on Nianing Beach, in the Mbour Department, Senegal. The narcotics were discovered following reports of suspicious packages along the shoreline, prompting local police to conduct a search of the area. The seizure comprised six parcels and 20 smaller packages of cannabis, which were subsequently transferred to the local gendarmerie unit. An investigation has been launched to determine the origin of the narcotics and identify those responsible. No arrests or vessels associated with the shipment have been reported.
29-10-26	**Morocco**	**NARCOTICS**	Moroccan authorities seized more than 112kg of cocaine from a truck at Tanger Med Port. The narcotics were contained in 98 packages concealed inside a truck carrying pharmaceuticals which had arrived from Europe.
22-10-26	**Libya**	**DISRUPTION**	Crude oil supplies to the Zawiya refinery were disrupted after unidentified individuals entered a crude oil reception station near the refinery and closed an isolation valve on the Hamada–Zawiya pipeline. The closure reduced production at the Hamada and Tahara oilfields and threatened refinery operations and associated petroleum exports through Zawiya. The pipeline was reopened on 24 October, allowing crude oil production to begin returning to normal levels.
15-10-26	**Morocco**	**MIGRANTS**	The Royal Moroccan Navy intercepted a pirogue carrying approximately 200 migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, including 124 Senegalese nationals, off the Moroccan coast on 15 October. Numerous women and minors were among those intercepted, according to the Senegalese Press Agency.
13-10-26	**Egypt**	**SMUGGLING**	Egyptian Customs seized quantities of human medicines, medical devices, cosmetics and other commercial goods concealed among personal effects inside a vehicle arriving at Safaga Port from Duba Port, Saudi Arabia. The total Customs duties and compensation were valued at EGP 16.62m (USD $317k).
11-10-26	**Morocco**	**NARCOTICS**	Moroccan police and Customs seized 3,565kg of cannabis resin concealed inside boxes of agricultural products in a Morocco-registered international freight truck at Tanger Med Port. The truck driver was arrested.
05-10-26	**Morocco**	**NARCOTICS**	Moroccan customs authorities seized approximately 48.3 kg of cocaine concealed inside a refrigerated container at Tangier Med Port, Morocco. The container had arrived from the Port of Rio Grande, Brazil, and was selected for inspection following a customs scan. The narcotics were discovered during a joint inspection involving customs officers, judicial police and a sniffer-dog unit. A GPS tracking device was also recovered alongside the concealed cocaine. No arrests were reported at the time of writing.

EUROPE/BLACK SEA

OVERVIEW, OCTOBER 2026

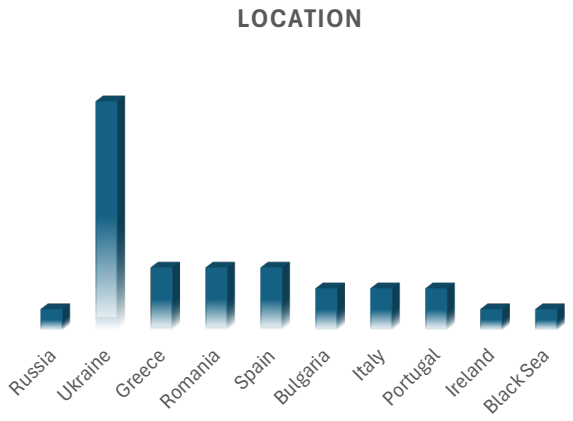
Maritime security across Europe during October continued to be dominated by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, with sustained UAV and uncrewed surface vessel (USV) attacks increasingly affecting commercial shipping and port infrastructure across the Black Sea. Russian operations remained concentrated around Ukraine's Odesa region, particularly Chornomorsk, Odesa and Izmail, with repeated claims of strikes against merchant vessels allegedly transporting military cargo. Although many of these claims remained independently unverified, confirmed incidents demonstrated the growing vulnerability of commercial shipping, with attacks increasingly extending beyond Ukrainian waters into the exclusive economic zones and territorial waters of neighbouring Black Sea states.

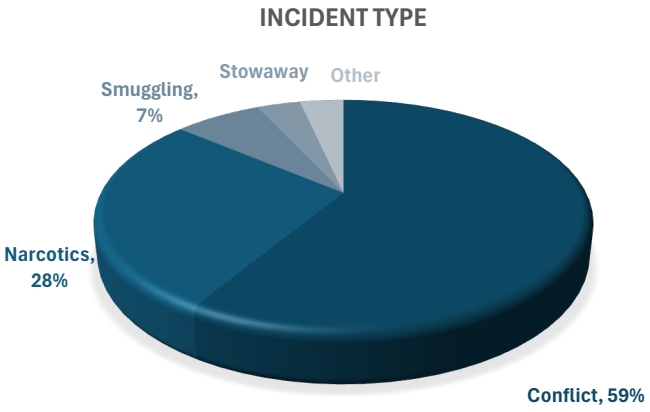
Several merchant vessels sustained significant damage, casualties or were lost during the reporting period. Notable incidents included the sinking of KHORYV off Romania, resulting in one confirmed fatality and three missing crew members, and the loss of ROYAD MAMMADOV, which reportedly sank following a suspected Russian UAV strike, killing two crew members. Off Bulgaria, CONTSHIP JET was struck by three USVs, forcing its crew to abandon the vessel, while CHELSEA 3 and HS DIGNITY were reportedly targeted in separate drone incidents, the latter resulting in the vessel's sinking. Ukrainian operations also targeted Russian-linked shipping, including AFRAMAX RIO, which caught fire following a USV attack off Sochi. These incidents highlighted the increasing use of unmanned systems against commercial vessels and the potential for substantial loss of life, environmental damage and disruption to regional trade.

© Copyright Vanguard Technology 2022

The conflict's geographical expansion represented a particularly concerning development, with incidents reported off Romania and Bulgaria demonstrating that vessels operating outside the immediate Ukrainian conflict zone were not insulated from military activity. The targeting of commercial vessels and port infrastructure also reinforced the increasing overlap between civilian maritime trade and military logistics, particularly where Russia alleged that merchant shipping was supporting Ukrainian military operations. However, the absence of independent confirmation for several Russian claims continued to complicate assessments of the scale and deliberate targeting of commercial shipping.

Outside the Black Sea, narcotics trafficking remained the principal criminal maritime security concern, with significant cocaine seizures across Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece. Portuguese authorities intercepted approximately 3.7 tonnes of cocaine aboard a high-speed vessel off Faro, while a separate operation recovered approximately 2.7 tonnes near Tocha Beach. In Spain, investigations at Algeciras exposed organised criminal networks exploiting legitimate port access and containerised cargo, while additional seizures in Italy and Greece demonstrated the continued use of commercial ports and smaller vessels for illicit shipments.





MARITIME INCIDENTS, OCTOBER 2026

28/29-10-26	**Ukraine**	**CONFLICT**	Russia's Ministry of Defence claimed that Russian UAVs struck two unidentified dry-cargo vessels in separate incidents in the Black Sea. On 28 October, a vessel was reportedly struck while at sea en route to Chornomorsk and was alleged to be carrying cargo intended to support the Ukrainian Armed Forces. On 29 October, Russia claimed that another dry-cargo vessel was struck while at sea en route to Odesa, allegedly carrying military and dual-use cargo. Neither vessel has been identified and both incidents remain unconfirmed.
28-10-26	**Bulgaria**	**CONFLICT**	Liberia-flagged containership CONTSHIP JET (IMO: 9348625) was struck by three USVs approximately 17nm east of Cape Kaliakra, Bulgaria, while sailing from Haifa, Israel, to Constanța, Romania. The 18 crew subsequently abandoned the vessel and were rescued by Bulgarian Navy and Border Police assets. The vessel was carrying 421 containers, while more than 20 containers fell overboard, including containers carrying dangerous goods.
26-10-26	**Greece**	**NARCOTICS**	Greek authorities seized 18.1kg of cocaine from a vehicle at the commercial port of Lavrio. The narcotics were contained in 127 packages concealed inside the vehicle's luggage-area wheel arches and a specially constructed compartment beneath the main storage area. A British national was arrested. The narcotics were valued at more than EUR €1.3m.
26-10-26	**Italy**	**SMUGGLING**	Italian authorities seized a Cayman Islands-registered yacht valued at approximately EUR €2.6m at Torre Annunziata Port on suspicion of aggravated customs smuggling. Authorities stated that the vessel had remained within European Union customs territory beyond the permitted 18-month temporary admission period without being re-exported or regularised through the payment of applicable import duties.
25/26-10-26	**Ukraine**	**CONFLICT**	Russia's Ministry of Defence made repeated claims that UAVs struck unidentified dry-cargo vessels at sea while they were reportedly transporting cargo to Ukrainian Black Sea ports, including Chornomorsk and Odesa, between 25 and 26 October. The vessels have not been identified, and the claims remain independently unconfirmed. Russia also claimed that UAV strikes against the Port of Chornomorsk damaged loading and unloading infrastructure at three berth terminals and four warehouses

© Copyright Vanguard Technology 2022

			containing alleged military and dual-use cargo. Ukrainian authorities have not confirmed the claimed vessel strikes or port damage.
23-10-26	**Romania**	**CONFLICT**	Comoros-flagged tanker KHORYV (IMO: 8138712) was struck by a drone approximately 13nm east of Constanța, Romania, outside Romanian territorial waters, resulting in a fire before the vessel capsized and sank. Of the 13 crew members onboard, comprising ten Ukrainian and three Azerbaijani nationals, nine were rescued, one was confirmed dead and three remain missing. Romanian President Nicușor Dan subsequently attributed the attack to Russia.
22-10-26	**Ukraine**	**CONFLICT**	The Russian Ministry of Defence (MoD) claimed that Russian forces struck an unidentified dry-cargo vessel at sea while it was reportedly transporting military-related cargo to the Port of Chornomorsk, Ukraine, and targeted port infrastructure at Kiliia during overnight strikes on 21–22 October. The facilities at Kiliia were allegedly being used to unload and store military equipment supplied to Ukraine. Separately, Ukrainian regional authorities confirmed overnight strikes across the Odesa region, including damage to a civilian facility, but did not report any impacts on port infrastructure or merchant vessels.
22-10-26	**Spain**	**NARCOTICS**	Spanish Civil Guard officers announced the dismantling of a cocaine trafficking network operating through Algeciras Port, arresting 18 people, including eight dockworkers. Investigators linked the group to four port seizures totalling 139.28kg of cocaine. The network allegedly used authorised terminal access to recover drugs concealed in legitimate container cargo from South America. Six suspects were remanded in custody.
20-10-26	**Ukraine**	**CONFLICT**	Russia's Ministry of Defence claimed strikes against three cargo vessels at Reni Port and two others transiting towards Odesa, alleging that the vessels were being used for military purposes. The claims remained independently unverified. Vessel identities, precise positions, casualties and damage were not disclosed.
16-10-26	**Greece**	**STOWAWAY**	The Cyprus-flagged ferry SUPEREASTV (IMO: 9893369) reported one Iraqi stowaway who embarked at the Port of Igoumenitsa, Greece, on 16 October. The individual subsequently disembarked at the Port of Venice, Italy, on 17 October. No further details regarding the circumstances of the stowaway's discovery or disembarkation were provided.
15-10-26	**Romania**	**CONFLICT**	San Marino-flagged chemical tanker WINE TRADER (IMO: 8808707) reportedly caught fire while anchored approximately 13nm southeast of Sulina, Romania, within Romanian territorial waters, at approximately 07:00 LT (04:00 UTC), according to the Romanian Naval Authority. The vessel issued a distress alert, prompting a search and rescue operation involving a rescue vessel and helicopter. Of the 12 crew members onboard, four were reported safe, while eight remained missing. Separately, Comoros-flagged chemical/oil products tanker YARA J (IMO: 9221803) reportedly caught fire while anchored near the entrance to the Sulina Canal late on 14 October. The crew extinguished the fire, and all personnel were reported safe.
15-10-26	**Ukraine**	**CONFLICT**	Two unidentified dry-cargo vessels were allegedly struck by Russian UAVs while operating in the Black Sea after reportedly delivering military cargo to the Port of Odesa, Ukraine, according to the Russian Ministry of Defence. Separately, the Russian MoD claimed that UAV strikes targeted infrastructure at the Port of Izmail, alleging that the facilities were being used to unload and store military and dual-use cargo. Ukrainian authorities confirmed attacks against infrastructure in Odesa region but did not report impacts on port facilities or vessels.
13-10-26	**Black Sea**	**CONFLICT**	Malta-flagged general cargo vessel CHELSEA 3 (IMO: 9361392) was reportedly struck by three aerial drones approximately 18nm east of Byala, Bulgaria, overnight on 12–13 October, according to Bulgarian Prime Minister Rumen Radev. A distress signal was received at approximately 01:30 LT following reported impacts to the vessel's deck and side. All 15 crew members were rescued, with five receiving medical attention for minor injuries. Separately, Guinea-Bissau-flagged cargo vessel HS DIGNITY (IMO: 9545912) reportedly sank approximately 17nm east of Krapets, Bulgaria, following a suspected drone attack during the same night.
13-10-26	**Ukraine**	**CONFLICT**	An unidentified dry-cargo vessel was allegedly struck by Russian forces in the Bug Estuary while reportedly delivering military and dual-use cargo to the Port of Mykolaiv, Ukraine, according to the Russian Ministry of Defence. The alleged strike formed part of a wider overnight operation involving precision-guided weapons and UAVs against Ukrainian logistics, railway and port infrastructure. The vessel's identity, extent of damage and crew status remained unknown, while the Russian MoD's claims remained unverified.
11-10-26	**Ukraine**	**CONFLICT**	Russia's Ministry of Defence claimed that UAVs struck two separate dry-cargo vessels near Chornomorsk, Ukraine. One vessel was reportedly struck inside the Port of Chornomorsk overnight after allegedly delivering military cargo, while a second was reportedly struck while underway in the Black Sea en route to Chornomorsk during the day, allegedly carrying military cargo. Neither vessel was identified and no information regarding damage or casualties was disclosed, with both incidents

© Copyright Vanguard Technology 2022

			remaining Russian claims. Separately, Russian UAVs struck port and logistics infrastructure in Mykolaiv, damaging a cargo terminal and warehouse.
11-10-26	**Portugal**	**NARCOTICS**	Portuguese authorities seized approximately 3,700kg of cocaine from a high-speed vessel intercepted around 80nm south of Faro. The vessel failed to stop and collided with an authorities' vessel while attempting to evade interception. One Spanish national onboard died from injuries sustained during the collision, while another Spanish national and a British national were arrested.
11-10-26	**Ireland**	**SMUGGLING**	Irish Revenue officers seized 1,123,200 fireworks from an accompanied trailer that had disembarked from a ferry arriving from France at Rosslare Europort. The fireworks were valued at €2.25m (USD $2.52m). One man was questioned in connection with the seizure.
10-10-26	**Greece**	**NARCOTICS**	Hellenic Coast Guard seized 360.7kg of cannabis from a Croatia-flagged sailing vessel approximately 6.5nm south of Antipsara, west of Chios. The narcotics were concealed in 27 bags and were valued at €1.08m (USD $1.21m). Two Ukrainian nationals onboard the vessel were arrested.
07-10-26	**Ukraine**	**CONFLICT**	Russia's Ministry of Defence claimed that Russian forces struck a dry-cargo vessel in the Black Sea while it was en route to the Port of Odesa. The vessel was reportedly targeted by UAVs and was alleged to be transporting cargo intended for the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The vessel's identity and extent of damage remain unknown, with no confirmation of the incident from Ukrainian authorities at current.
07-10-26	**Portugal**	**NARCOTICS**	Portuguese National Republican Guard (GNR) personnel seized approximately 2.7 tonnes of cocaine during a maritime smuggling operation near Tocha Beach, Cantanhede, Portugal. Approximately 700 kg of cocaine were intercepted during an attempted unloading from a speedboat, while a further two tonnes were discovered at a nearby property following the initial operation. Authorities reportedly apprehended or identified 21 foreign nationals in connection with the operation and seized firearms and a vehicle used to transport the narcotics. The speedboat and its occupants reportedly escaped, while the cocaine was suspected of having been transferred from a larger vessel operating further offshore.
07-10-26	**Spain**	**NARCOTICS**	Spanish authorities reported seizing 50kg of cocaine and arresting three suspects following an attempted extraction from a container ship at Algeciras Port. The suspects approached aboard a stolen jet ski, with two boarding the vessel dressed as port workers. Officers recovered two backpacks containing 50 cocaine packages that had been removed from a shipping container and concealed aboard the ship. Maritime patrol personnel intercepted the third suspect on the jet ski. All three were subsequently remanded in custody.
06-10-26	**Ukraine**	**CONFLICT**	Marshall Islands-flagged commercial vessel carrying rapeseed oil was struck by a Russian UAV in the Black Sea off the Odesa region, Ukraine. The impact damaged the vessel and caused a fire in the superstructure, killing one crew member and injuring seven others.
06-10-26	**Russia**	**CONFLICT**	Liberia-flagged crude oil tanker AFRAMAX RIO (IMO: 9273844) was attacked by uncrewed surface vessels (USVs) in the Black Sea off Sochi. Russia's Ministry of Transport confirmed that the tanker, which was carrying oil, was struck by unmanned boats and subsequently caught fire, resulting in oil burning on the surrounding water. All 23 Indian crew members were rescued and brought ashore, with no injuries reported. The vessel has been under Ukrainian sanctions since February 2026 for its alleged involvement in Russia's shadow fleet.
06-10-26	**Bulgaria**	**INCIDENT**	Togo-flagged general cargo vessel ALFA WATAN (IMO: 7510884) and the Palau-flagged general cargo vessel ABLE (IMO: 9001136) in the Black Sea approximately 70–80nm east of Byala and Cape St Atanas, within Bulgaria's EEZ. Both vessels issued distress signals, with Bulgarian sources stating that they had been struck by drones. ALFA WATAN reportedly sustained critical structural damage and subsequently sank, prompting a search and rescue operation for its crew, whose status remains unclear. ABLE sustained a major fire, forcing its 18 crew members to abandon the vessel. All 18 were subsequently rescued by the Bulgaria-flagged ferry DIOSCURIA (IMO: 7931997). The circumstances remain under investigation, with an earlier Turkish source stating that the two vessels had collided near the entrance to Romania's Sulina Canal, while no responsibility for any alleged drone strike has been officially attributed at current.
06-10-26	**Italy**	**NARCOTICS**	Italian Guardia di Finanza personnel seized approximately 128 kg of cocaine concealed inside a shipping container in a yard outside the Port of Genoa's Prà terminal, Italy. The container had previously transported lemons from Chile and was empty when authorities discovered 119 packages of cocaine concealed within an internal partition. Four individuals were arrested on suspicion of international drug trafficking after being observed attempting to retrieve the narcotics from the container. Italian authorities estimated the cocaine's potential street value at approximately EUR 70 million.

© Copyright Vanguard Technology 2022

05-10-26	**Romania**	**CONFLICT**	Saint Kitts and Nevis-flagged cargo vessel ROYAD MAMMADOV (IMO: 9356969) caught fire while underway in the Black Sea approximately 30nm south of Sfântu Gheorghe, Romania, within Romania's Exclusive Economic Zone and outside its territorial waters. The vessel had departed Izmail, Ukraine, bound for Ravenna, Italy, and was reported to be carrying corn. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated that the vessel was struck by two Russian drones, although Romanian authorities have not confirmed the cause of the fire. The vessel subsequently sank following the evacuation of its crew. Two crew members were killed and 11 were rescued.
05-10-26	**Ukraine**	**CONFLICT**	Multiple Russian strikes targeted commercial vessels and port infrastructure across Ukraine's Odesa region and the north-western Black Sea on 4–5 October. On 4 October, the Russian Defence Ministry claimed that four dry-cargo vessels were struck across Chornomorsk Port, the Bug Estuary and the north-western Black Sea, alleging that the vessels were transporting military-related cargo. Chornomorsk Port was also struck, causing a major fire. During a subsequent wave of attacks on the evening of 4 October and overnight into 5 October, Ukrainian authorities confirmed strikes on industrial and port infrastructure across Odesa Oblast, causing multiple fires, with no casualties reported. Russia separately claimed strikes on the Vylkove port facility, fuel-storage facilities and a dry-cargo vessel inside Chornomorsk Port, as well as another dry-cargo vessel underway south of Odesa.
04-10-26	**Ukraine**	**CONFLICT**	A Liberia-flagged civilian cargo vessel was struck while at a port in Ukraine's Odesa region, killing one crew member and injuring three others, while a further 13 crew members were evacuated. The Russian Defence Ministry later claimed that a dry-cargo vessel at the Port of Odesa had been struck by UAVs after allegedly delivering military equipment to Ukraine, likely referring to the same incident. Separately, during the night of 3–4 October, Russia claimed that UAVs struck another unidentified dry-cargo vessel underway east of Odesa, alleging that it was transporting military equipment for Ukrainian forces.
02-10-26	**Spain**	**NARCOTICS**	Spanish customs authorities seized approximately 1.42 tonnes of cocaine concealed inside a van transported by ferry from Ibiza to the Port of Valencia, Spain. The narcotics were discovered during a routine X-ray inspection, which identified suspicious cargo concealed behind a partition inside the vehicle. A Romanian national driving the van was arrested and subsequently transferred to judicial custody, while the vehicle and narcotics were seized.

AMERICAS

OVERVIEW, OCTOBER 2026

Maritime security activity across the Americas during October was overwhelmingly dominated by narcotics trafficking, with significant interdictions across the eastern Pacific, Caribbean and major commercial ports. Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica and Nicaragua remained prominent hotspots, with organised criminal networks continuing to exploit high-powered small craft, commercial vessels and containerised cargo to transport narcotics towards North America and Europe. The frequency and scale of seizures demonstrated the continued sophistication of regional trafficking networks and their ability to operate across multiple maritime jurisdictions.

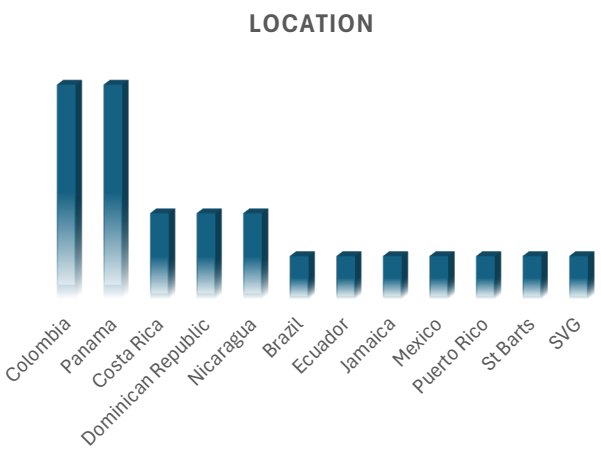
Colombia recorded several particularly significant seizures, including approximately 7.6 tonnes of cocaine concealed within powdered panela at Cartagena Port, destined for the Netherlands, and a further two tonnes intercepted aboard go-fast vessels in the Colombian Caribbean. Elsewhere, Costa Rican authorities intercepted approximately 2.5 tonnes of narcotics aboard a high-speed vessel off Cabo Matapalo, while Panamanian authorities conducted multiple interdictions involving small craft and shipping containers. These incidents highlighted the continued importance of both the eastern Pacific and Caribbean as major trafficking corridors, with criminal networks exploiting established maritime routes and international transshipment hubs.

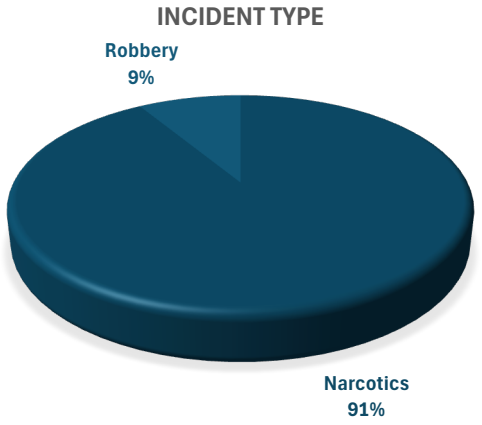
Commercial shipping remained particularly vulnerable to narcotics contamination, with drugs discovered concealed within legitimate cargoes, shipping containers and vessel structures. Notable incidents included approximately 780 kg of cocaine hidden within a tuna shipment at Guayaquil Port, destined for France, and cocaine recovered from a submerged compartment aboard OMICRON ATLAS at Santos Port. Multiple seizures at Panamanian terminals also involved narcotics concealed within refrigerated container panels, demonstrating the continued use of sophisticated concealment methods and legitimate international trade routes. These incidents

© Copyright Vanguard Technology 2022

reinforced the operational, legal and reputational risks facing shipowners and operators, particularly at ports associated with transnational narcotics trafficking.

International counter-narcotics cooperation remained prominent, with coordinated operations involving US, Colombian, Mexican, Dominican and other regional maritime authorities resulting in substantial seizures and arrests. Traditional maritime crime was comparatively limited, although dinghy thefts from yachts in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Barthélemy highlighted the continued vulnerability of recreational vessels at anchor.





MARITIME INCIDENTS, OCTOBER 2026

31-10-26	**SVG**	**ROBBERY**	An unidentified yacht reported the theft of its grey Highfield 340CL dinghy, equipped with a Yamaha Enduro 15HP outboard motor, while anchored off The Whaleboner in Admiralty Bay, Bequia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The incident occurred between 02:00 and 06:00 LT, while the vessel's owner was sleeping onboard and the dinghy was left unsecured in the water. The owner subsequently paid a ransom and recovered the dinghy in Saint Lucia. No police report was filed, while no further details regarding the perpetrators were provided.
31-10-26	**Colombia**	**NARCOTICS**	Colombian authorities announced the seizure of 2,001kg of cocaine following the interception of two go-fast vessels in the Colombian Caribbean, in coordination with US authorities. Five people were detained. The narcotics comprised 2,000 packages in 80 bundles, with cargo discarded overboard subsequently recovered.
31-10-26	**Panama**	**NARCOTICS**	Panama's National Aeronaval Service (SENAN) intercepted a speedboat carrying 1,148 packages of suspected narcotics while operating south of Jicarón Island, Veraguas Province, Panama, in the Pacific Ocean. The vessel was detected during maritime surveillance operations and subsequently escorted to the Quebrada de Piedra Naval Air Station for inspection. Three individuals onboard were apprehended, while the vessel and suspected narcotics were seized. The contents and total weight of the packages remain unconfirmed, pending forensic examination.
29-10-26	**Panama**	**NARCOTICS**	Panamanian authorities seized 698 packages of suspected narcotics from the vessel REINA DEL MAR near Isla Grande, Colón Province. The narcotics were contained in 28 sacks onboard the vessel. No arrests were reported.
29-10-26	**Panama**	**NARCOTICS**	Panamanian authorities seized 510 packages of suspected narcotics concealed inside a shipping container at a Pacific port. The container had arrived from Chile, was in transit through Panama and was destined for Spain. The shipment was declared as plant extracts. No arrests were reported.
28-10-26	**Nicaragua**	**NARCOTICS**	Nicaraguan authorities seized 150 packages of cocaine following the detection of a suspicious artisanal vessel near Playa Los Zorros, Chinandega Department. Three suspects abandoned six sacks containing the narcotics and fled following an exchange of fire with military personnel. One woman, suspected of coordinating logistical support for the shipment, was subsequently detained.
27-10-26	**Brazil**	**NARCOTICS**	Brazilian authorities seized approximately 33kg of cocaine from a submerged compartment of the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier OMICRON ATLAS (IMO: 9464510) at Santos Port. The vessel had most recently called India and was scheduled to load a cargo of bulk corn before sailing to Singapore. No arrests were reported.
27-10-26	**Panama**	**NARCOTICS**	Panamanian authorities seized 20 packages of suspected narcotics concealed inside the refrigeration panels of a shipping container at a port terminal in Colón. The container had

© Copyright Vanguard Technology 2022

			arrived from Paita, Peru, and was due to transship in Panama before continuing to Antwerp, Belgium. No arrests were reported.
27-10-26	**Colombia**	**NARCOTICS**	Colombian authorities seized 303.7kg of marijuana and 2.9kg of cocaine from a cabotage vessel intercepted in the Pacific Ocean near Bahía Solano. The narcotics were contained in 627 packages concealed inside mattresses and sacks of rice. Seven Colombian nationals and one Venezuelan national were arrested. The narcotics were valued at approximately USD $3.3m.
26-10-26	**Colombia**	**NARCOTICS**	Colombian authorities seized 1,250kg of cocaine from an artisanal vessel intercepted in the Pacific Ocean west of Chocó. The narcotics were contained in 42 sacks comprising 1,250 packages and concealed inside an ice hold among a cargo of fish. Three Colombian nationals were arrested. The narcotics were valued at approximately USD $58m.
25-10-26	**Ecuador**	**NARCOTICS**	Ecuadorian authorities seized 780.08kg net of cocaine concealed inside a container carrying canned tuna at Guayaquil Port. The narcotics were contained in 784 packages and the shipment was destined for France. Four port workers were arrested.
25-10-26	**Costa Rica**	**NARCOTICS**	Costa Rican authorities seized approximately 2,505kg of narcotics from a go-fast vessel intercepted approximately 67nm off Cabo Matapalo. The seizure comprised approximately 2,248kg of marijuana and 257kg of cocaine. Two Colombian nationals onboard the vessel were arrested.
25-10-26	**Panama**	**NARCOTICS**	Panamanian authorities seized 51 packages of suspected narcotics concealed inside the refrigeration panels of a shipping container at a port terminal in Colón. The container had arrived from Callao, Peru, and was in transit through Panama before continuing to Barcelona, Spain. No arrests were reported.
24-10-26	**Dominican Republic**	**NARCOTICS**	Authorities seized 568kg of cocaine from a go-fast vessel intercepted approximately 102nm south of Isla Beata during a multinational operation involving Colombian, Dominican and US authorities. The narcotics were contained in 555 packages concealed inside sacks. Three Dominican nationals were arrested.
24-10-26	**France**	**ROBBERY**	A Highfield CL380 dinghy fitted with a Honda 20HP outboard motor was stolen overnight from a yacht in Gustavia, Saint Barthelemy, while the owners slept onboard. The dinghy was in the water and was not locked at the time of the theft. The incident was subsequently reported on the local VHF net.
20-10-26	**Dominican Republic**	**NARCOTICS**	Authorities in the Dominican Republic intercepted a 40ft speedboat southwest of Isla Beata, recovering 1,068 packages of suspected cocaine weighing more than one tonne. Three Colombian nationals were arrested following a pursuit involving naval and aerial units. Fuel containers, navigation equipment and communications devices were also seized.
20-10-26	**Nicaragua**	**NARCOTICS**	Nicaraguan naval personnel and police seized 499 packages of cocaine following a pursuit of the motorboat NAZARET, which attempted to evade interception after being detected near Pochomil. Naval personnel fired warning shots during the pursuit, before all three occupants entered the water approximately 100 metres off Playa Salamina, Villa El Carmen. One suspect was detained, while two escaped. Authorities seized the vessel, its outboard engine and fuel supplies.
19-10-26	**Costa Rica**	**NARCOTICS**	Costa Rican authorities recovered approximately 1.5 tonnes of cocaine following a pursuit of a speedboat approximately 20nm off Cabo Matapalo. Those onboard reportedly discarded the cargo into the sea. The operation began on 19 October and continued into the following morning, supported by US aerial surveillance. Two suspects were subsequently detained ashore.
19-10-26	**Colombia**	**NARCOTICS**	Colombian police seized approximately 7.6 tonnes of cocaine concealed through mixing with powdered panela at Cartagena Port. The operation was conducted by the National Police's Anti-Narcotics Directorate. Subsequent reporting identified the Netherlands as the intended destination.
17-10-26	**Jamaica**	**NARCOTICS**	The Jamaica Customs Agency seized approximately 1,457kg of cocaine concealed in shipping containers transiting Kingston Port from South America to Europe. The targeted operation involved the agency's Targeting Centre, international law enforcement partners and the Firearms and Narcotics Investigation Division. The drugs had an estimated local street value of JMD1 billion.
12-10-26	**Colombia**	**NARCOTICS**	Colombian Navy personnel seized 1,620kg of cocaine and 51kg of marijuana from a go-fast vessel intercepted in the southern Colombian Pacific. The vessel sank during the interdiction, prompting naval personnel to rescue its three occupants and recover 83 bales containing the narcotics from the water. Two Colombian nationals and one Ecuadorian national were arrested. A GPS device and two satellite phones were also seized. The narcotics were reportedly destined for Costa Rica and valued at approximately USD $17m.
12-10-26	**Mexico**	**NARCOTICS**	Mexican Navy personnel, in coordination with the US Coast Guard, seized approximately 1,268kg of cocaine from a vessel intercepted approximately 366nm south of Huatulco, Oaxaca. The narcotics were contained in 46 bales. Six individuals were arrested, including five foreign nationals. The narcotics were valued at 289.1 million pesos (USD $15.7m).
12-10-26	**Puerto Rico**	**NARCOTICS**	Puerto Rico Police maritime personnel, in coordination with US Customs and Border Protection, seized 69 blocks containing approximately 77kg of cocaine from a 24-foot

© Copyright Vanguard Technology 2022

			vessel near Palomino Island, off Fajardo. The vessel's four occupants threw the narcotics overboard while being pursued before authorities recovered the packages. Four individuals were arrested. The vessel had reportedly travelled from St. Thomas and the narcotics were valued at over USD $800k.
12-10-26	**Colombia**	**NARCOTICS**	Colombian naval personnel seized approximately 1,620kg of cocaine and 51kg of marijuana from a go-fast vessel intercepted in the southern Colombian Pacific. The vessel sank during the interdiction, prompting personnel to rescue its three occupants and recover 83 bales of narcotics from the water. Two Colombian nationals and one Ecuadorian national were arrested. A GPS device and two satellite phones were also seized. The narcotics were reportedly destined for Costa Rica.
31-10-26	**Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**	**ROBBERY**	An unidentified yacht reported the theft of its grey Highfield 340CL dinghy, equipped with a Yamaha Enduro 15HP outboard motor, while anchored off The Whaleboner in Admiralty Bay, Bequia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The incident occurred between 02:00 and 06:00 LT, while the vessel's owner was sleeping onboard and the dinghy was left unsecured in the water. The owner subsequently paid a ransom and recovered the dinghy in Saint Lucia. No police report was filed, while no further details regarding the perpetrators were provided.
31-10-26	**Colombia**	**NARCOTICS**	Colombian authorities announced the seizure of 2,001kg of cocaine following the interception of two go-fast vessels in the Colombian Caribbean, in coordination with US authorities. Five people were detained. The narcotics comprised 2,000 packages in 80 bundles, with cargo discarded overboard subsequently recovered.
31-10-26	**Panama**	**NARCOTICS**	Panama's National Aeronaval Service (SENAN) intercepted a speedboat carrying 1,148 packages of suspected narcotics while operating south of Jicarón Island, Veraguas Province, Panama, in the Pacific Ocean. The vessel was detected during maritime surveillance operations and subsequently escorted to the Quebrada de Piedra Naval Air Station for inspection. Three individuals onboard were apprehended, while the vessel and suspected narcotics were seized. The contents and total weight of the packages remain unconfirmed, pending forensic examination.
29-10-26	**Panama**	**NARCOTICS**	Panamanian authorities seized 698 packages of suspected narcotics from the vessel REINA DEL MAR near Isla Grande, Colón Province. The narcotics were contained in 28 sacks onboard the vessel. No arrests were reported.
29-10-26	**Panama**	**NARCOTICS**	Panamanian authorities seized 510 packages of suspected narcotics concealed inside a shipping container at a Pacific port. The container had arrived from Chile, was in transit through Panama and was destined for Spain. The shipment was declared as plant extracts. No arrests were reported.
28-10-26	**Nicaragua**	**NARCOTICS**	Nicaraguan authorities seized 150 packages of cocaine following the detection of a suspicious artisanal vessel near Playa Los Zorros, Chinandega Department. Three suspects abandoned six sacks containing the narcotics and fled following an exchange of fire with military personnel. One woman, suspected of coordinating logistical support for the shipment, was subsequently detained.
27-10-26	**Brazil**	**NARCOTICS**	Brazilian authorities seized approximately 33kg of cocaine from a submerged compartment of the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier OMICRON ATLAS (IMO: 9464510) at Santos Port. The vessel had most recently called India and was scheduled to load a cargo of bulk corn before sailing to Singapore. No arrests were reported.
27-10-26	**Panama**	**NARCOTICS**	Panamanian authorities seized 20 packages of suspected narcotics concealed inside the refrigeration panels of a shipping container at a port terminal in Colón. The container had arrived from Paita, Peru, and was due to transship in Panama before continuing to Antwerp, Belgium. No arrests were reported.
27-10-26	**Colombia**	**NARCOTICS**	Colombian authorities seized 303.7kg of marijuana and 2.9kg of cocaine from a cabotage vessel intercepted in the Pacific Ocean near Bahía Solano. The narcotics were contained in 627 packages concealed inside mattresses and sacks of rice. Seven Colombian nationals and one Venezuelan national were arrested. The narcotics were valued at approximately USD $3.3m.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

OVERVIEW, OCTOBER 2026

Maritime security activity across Southeast Asia during October was predominantly characterised by narcotics trafficking and cross-border smuggling, with incidents concentrated around Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. Regional authorities continued to intercept illicit shipments involving methamphetamine, ketamine, cigarettes and fuel, highlighting the persistent exploitation of coastal shipping routes, small craft and commercial vessels for organised criminal activity. Smuggling was particularly prominent in the southern Philippines, Malaysian waters and the wider Malacca Strait, where established maritime trade routes and extensive coastlines continued to facilitate illicit movements.

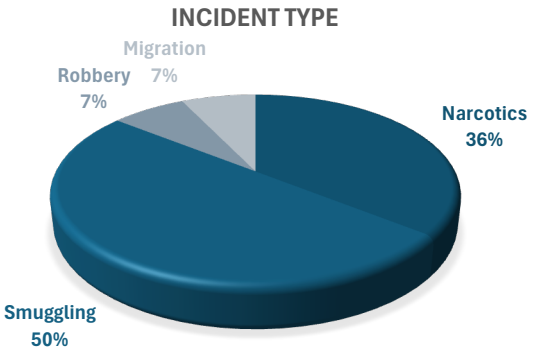
© Copyright Vanguard Technology 2022

Narcotics trafficking remained a significant regional concern, with several major interdictions demonstrating the scale and sophistication of criminal networks. Indonesian authorities intercepted the tanker GLOBAL 168 in the Malacca Strait, reportedly carrying approximately one tonne of ketamine, while Thai authorities seized approximately 1.18 tonnes of methamphetamine aboard EAST HARBOUR 1 in the Gulf of Thailand. In Bangladesh, authorities uncovered an elaborate underwater trafficking system used to transport yaba pills from Myanmar through the Naf River, highlighting increasingly sophisticated concealment and transportation methods. Additional seizures in Indonesia and Malaysia reinforced the continued use of both commercial vessels and smaller coastal craft for narcotics distribution.

Smuggling activity remained widespread, particularly involving illicit cigarettes and subsidised fuel. Malaysian authorities intercepted approximately 200,000 cigarettes aboard a speedboat off Tawau, while Hong Kong Customs seized more than 2.2 million illicit cigarettes from a high-powered vessel operating without navigation lights. Further interceptions in the Philippines and Singapore demonstrated the continued use of small craft and vessel-to-shore transfers to circumvent customs controls. These incidents reflected the profitability of cross-border contraband movements and the challenges facing regional maritime enforcement agencies.

Traditional maritime crime was comparatively limited, although the boarding of TIMONI HARMONY at Vung Tau Anchorage, Vietnam, highlighted the persistent threat of opportunistic theft against anchored commercial vessels. Irregular migration also remained a concern, with Malaysian authorities intercepting 28 individuals during a suspected migrant-smuggling operation off Perlis.





MARITIME INCIDENTS, OCTOBER 2026

28-10-26	**Malaysia**	**SMUGGLING**	Malaysian authorities seized approximately 200k illicit cigarettes from a speedboat approximately 1.35nm southwest of Sungai Tawau. The vessel attempted to evade authorities before suffering engine failure, after which the operator abandoned the boat and escaped into shallow waters. The cigarettes were valued at approximately RM160k (USD $38k), while the vessel, engine and cargo had a combined estimated value of RM190k (USD $45k).
27-10-26	**Hong Kong**	**SMUGGLING**	Hong Kong Customs seized approximately 2.23m suspected illicit cigarettes from a high-powered speedboat in waters southeast of the Ninepin Group. The vessel, which was operating without navigation lights, attempted to flee before being intercepted. Two Chinese nationals were arrested. The cigarettes were valued at approximately HKD $10m (USD $1.3m).
27-10-26	**Philippines**	**SMUGGLING**	Philippine naval personnel intercepted an unnamed motorised boat carrying undocumented cigarettes near Grande Santa Cruz Island, Zamboanga City. Approximately 20–25 boxes of cigarettes without the required permits were recovered onboard. The vessel and cargo had a combined estimated value of approximately PHP 5.51m (USD $93k) and were subsequently transferred to the Bureau of Customs–Port of Zamboanga.
26-10-26	**Philippines**	**SMUGGLING**	Philippine Maritime Police seized 400 reams of suspected smuggled cigarettes from a maritime operation off Barangay Baliwasan, Zamboanga City. The cigarettes, valued at approximately PHP 500k (USD $8.4k), reportedly lacked the required graphic health warnings. Two individuals were arrested.
21-10-26	**Indonesia**	**NARCOTICS**	Indonesian authorities detained eight suspects, comprising seven Indonesian nationals and one foreign national, after intercepting MT GLOBAL 168 in North Sumatra waters on suspicion of narcotics smuggling. The joint operation involved police, the National Narcotics Agency, customs and military police. The vessel was subsequently towed under

© Copyright Vanguard Technology 2022

			escort to Belawan Port. The precise interception position, cargo origin and intended destination were not disclosed.
21-10-26	**Indonesia**	**NARCOTICS**	The Mongolian-flagged tanker GLOBAL 168 (IMO: 9078347) was intercepted by Indonesian authorities while allegedly transporting approximately 1,000 kg of ketamine through the Malacca Strait. The narcotics were suspected of having been smuggled into Indonesia by sea from a foreign country. Eight suspects, including one foreign national, were apprehended, while the vessel was seized by Indonesian authorities. No further details regarding the shipment's origin or intended destination were provided.
17-10-26	**Indonesia**	**SMUGGLING**	Indonesian naval personnel and partner agencies intercepted concealed illicit contraband aboard KM GUNUNG DEMPO (IMO: 9401324) during a coordinated inspection at Sorong Port. Part of the consignment was linked to a passenger who had reportedly embarked at Wasior and intended to transport it to Jakarta. Authorities seized the cargo and transferred it to the relevant agency for further examination.
16-10-26	**Malaysia**	**MIGRANTS**	The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency disrupted a suspected migrant-smuggling operation off Kurung Tengar, Perlis, detaining 28 individuals and seizing an unregistered fibreglass boat. At approximately 0600 hrs, the vessel ran aground in shallow waters during interception, prompting its occupants to attempt to escape towards the beach. Maritime officers, supported by personnel ashore, detained all occupants, comprising 21 Bangladeshi nationals, four Myanmar nationals, two Thai nationals and one Malaysian, including the skipper and crew.
14-10-26	**Malaysia**	**SMUGGLING**	Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency personnel seized approximately 240 litres of petrol and a motorcycle from an unregistered boat approximately 0.35nm southwest of Kampung Sinakut Tengah, off Felda Sahabat, Tungku, Lahad Datu. The boat fled toward the coastline after detecting the approaching patrol vessel before its operator abandoned the craft and escaped into nearby vegetation. The petrol and motorcycle were suspected to be intended for smuggling to a neighbouring country. The boat and seized items were valued at approximately RM50k (USD $12.2k).
13-10-26	**Singapore**	**SMUGGLING**	Singapore Police Coast Guard and Police Intelligence Department personnel seized 238 cartons and 120 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes during a vessel-to-shore smuggling operation near Marina South Wharf. Three Indonesian nationals were arrested onboard a Singapore-flagged vessel moored in the area, while a fourth Indonesian national was arrested ashore. A Singaporean national involved in transporting the cigarettes was also arrested. The vessel was seized for investigation.
12-10-26	**Bangladesh**	**NARCOTICS**	Border Guard Bangladesh personnel seized 220k yaba pills and uncovered an underwater narcotics-smuggling system near Anjumanpara, Ukhiya, close to the Naf River. The network used a specially constructed wooden submersible carrier powered by an electric motor and moved along approximately two kilometres of steel cable and pulleys to transport narcotics underwater from Myanmar through the Naf River and Faiysha Canal into Bangladesh. A foreign-made pistol, two magazines, 11 rounds of ammunition and associated equipment were also seized. Three suspects were arrested.
08-10-26	**Malaysia**	**NARCOTICS**	Maritime officers intercepted a fibreglass boat carrying approximately 65kg of suspected cannabis. The occupants allegedly attempted to ram a patrol boat, prompting officers to fire warning shots. Two men were detained.
07-10-26	**Thailand**	**NARCOTICS**	Curaçao-flagged vessel EAST HARBOUR 1 (MMSI: 306110000) was intercepted by Thai maritime authorities while transporting approximately 1,178 kg of crystal methamphetamine in the lower Gulf of Thailand. The narcotics were concealed in 39 sacks containing tea-packaged drugs, hidden inside a compartment at the vessel's stern, and were reportedly destined for the Philippines. Six Thai crew members, including the Master, were arrested during the operation, which followed surveillance of the vessel after its departure from Songkhla province. Thai authorities estimated the narcotics' potential street value at approximately THB 600 million–1.2 billion.
06-10-26	**Indonesia**	**NARCOTICS**	Indonesian authorities seized approximately 89 kg of methamphetamine, 1,929 etomidate pills and 8.4 litres of liquid etomidate at Bakauheni Port, Lampung, Indonesia. The narcotics, valued at approximately USD 10 million, were suspected of having been smuggled from a foreign country by sea, involving an unauthorised ship-to-ship transfer before arriving at the port. Seven suspects were apprehended in connection with the operation. The identities of the vessels involved in the suspected offshore transfer have not been disclosed.
03-10-26	**Vietnam**	**ROBBERY**	Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier TIMONI HARMONY was boarded by unidentified perpetrators while anchored at Vung Tau Anchorage, Vietnam, awaiting reberthing instructions, at approximately 16:30 LT. The perpetrators approached the vessel in a small craft and boarded, stealing an unspecified quantity of paint drums. The boarding was promptly detected, and the crew implemented measures to safeguard the vessel, personnel and remaining stores. The perpetrators subsequently departed the area. The Master confirmed that no crew members were injured during the incident.

© Copyright Vanguard Technology 2022

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.

Disclaimer

Vanguard Technology and any of its affiliated or associated companies make no representation, warranties, or assurance against risk with respect to the contents of this document. This report is intended to provide general information about maritime intelligence topics but does not provide individual advice and the creators assume no liability for the accuracy of any information contained herein, or through links, you will find in it. Vanguard Technology reserves the right to change or revise this document, in consultation with the recipient.

Copyright

This report is copyright of Vanguard Technology © 2022. All rights reserved. Unless we provide express prior written consent, no part of this report should be reproduced, distributed, or communicated to any third party. We do not accept any liability if this report is used for an alternative purpose for which it is intended, nor to any third party in respect of this report.