



ASA
Asian Shipowners' Association



GLOBAL MONTHLY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2026

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL



Contents

INDIAN OCEAN / ARABIAN SEA / PERSIAN GULF	3
OVERVIEW, FEBRUARY 2026	3
MARITIME INCIDENTS, FEBRUARY 2026	3
NORTH & WEST AFRICA	5
OVERVIEW, FEBRUARY 2026	5
MARITIME INCIDENTS, FEBRUARY 2026	6
EUROPE/BLACK SEA.....	6
OVERVIEW, FEBRUARY 2026	6
MARITIME INCIDENTS, FEBRUARY 2026	7
AMERICAS	8
OVERVIEW, FEBRUARY 2026	8
MARITIME INCIDENTS, FEBRUARY 2026	9
SOUTHEAST ASIA.....	12
OVERVIEW, FEBRUARY 2026	12
MARITIME INCIDENTS, FEBRUARY 2026	13



INDIAN OCEAN / ARABIAN SEA / PERSIAN GULF

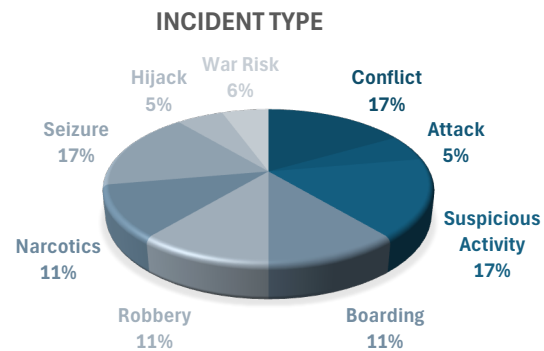
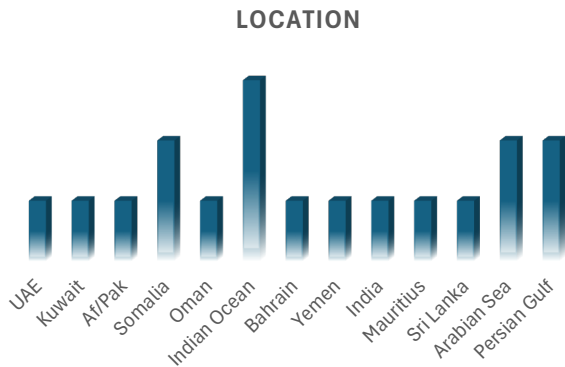
OVERVIEW, FEBRUARY 2026

February 2026 showed early signs of deterioration in the Persian Gulf from the start of the month, including the attempted Iranian interception of the STENA IMPERATIVE in the Strait of Hormuz, the IRGC seizure of two vessels near Farsi Island, and the US shutdown of an Iranian drone in the Arabian Sea. However, the major conflict escalation between Iran, the US, and Israel did not fully materialise until 28 February, characterised with impacts from aerial interceptions to Jebel Ali and Shuaiba.

A parallel trend through the month was the rise in sanctions enforcement and maritime seizures across the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. US and Indian authorities conducted multiple boardings and seizures of tankers linked to Iranian and Venezuelan sanctions evasion networks, highlighting sustained pressure on shadow fleet activity, illicit STS transfers, and deceptive shipping practices. This increased detention and compliance risk for vessels with sanctioned links, opaque ownership, or irregular operating behaviour.

Piracy and armed criminality also remained a concern, particularly off Somalia and into the western Arabian Sea. Incidents included the hijack of a Yemeni fishing vessel, an attempted hijack off Garmaal, a suspicious skiff approach off Oman, and an armed approach to a tug southwest of Aden. While activity remained below historic peaks, the clustering of incidents indicates that pirate groups retain intent and limited operational capability, with the potential to exploit reduced security focus elsewhere in the region.

Overall, February reflected a rapidly worsening and more complex regional threat environment, but with a clear inflection point on 28 February. Early-month incidents pointed to mounting tension, while the events at the end of the month marked the beginning of major open escalation in the Persian Gulf.



MARITIME INCIDENTS, FEBRUARY 2026

Date	Location	Incident Type	Description
28-02-26	UAE	CONFLICT	Debris from aerial interceptions caused a fire at a berth in Jebel Ali Port, leading to a temporary suspension of operations until 2 March.
28-02-26	KUWAIT	CONFLICT	The Kuwait Ports Authority stated that operations at the Shuaiba Port were suspended following the fall of debris in the area.
27-02-26	PAKISTAN/ AFGHANISTAN	CONFLICT	Afghanistan's Taliban authorities launched retaliatory cross-border strikes against multiple Pakistani border posts on 26 February following earlier Pakistani airstrikes inside Afghan territory. Prolonged exchanges of artillery and small-arms fire were reported along several sectors of the Durand Line, with both sides issuing conflicting claims regarding casualties and damage to installations. Pakistan subsequently conducted air and ground strikes overnight into 27 February targeting locations reportedly in and around Kabul, Kandahar and Paktia, describing the action as retaliation against militant infrastructure. Pakistani officials stated forces remain on high alert amid expectations of further retaliation, while Afghan authorities warned of additional responses should strikes continue. Pakistani port operations have continued as normal with no suspension of maritime activity reported. The escalation remains confined to the land border, particularly across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and adjoining frontier sectors. Heightened security presence and tighter access control have been reported around port installations, especially in Karachi and surrounding coastal industrial zones, amid elevated tensions and expectations of further retaliation. Stricter screening procedures are in place, with possible logistics slowdowns affecting cargo handling and overall throughput. However, port operations and scheduled vessel activity continue without interruption.



26-02-26	SOMALIA	ATTACK	A group of suspected pirates operating 2 skiffs departed from the coastal area of Garmaal towards Jiifle and attempted to hijack an Iranian vessel with the intention of using it as a mothership. The crew on board the vessel resisted, and following an altercation, one pirate was killed, two sustained injuries, and the PAG fled back to shore. The local police are reported to have taken over the case, and investigations are ongoing.
25-02-26	OMAN	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH	An Antigua and Barbuda-flagged bulk carrier reported suspicious activity while underway in position 12°03.2 N, 061°36.2 E, after observing one mother boat with two skiffs in the vicinity. One skiff, carrying three persons, conducted an aggressive head-on approach before the vessel took evasive action. The skiff subsequently repositioned to the starboard quarter, briefly followed at a distance of approximately 0.2nm, then disengaged and stopped. No weapons were observed. Vessel and crew are safe and continued with their onward transit.
24-02-26	INDIAN OCEAN	BOARDING	Cook Islands-flagged tanker BERTHA (IMO: 9292163) was boarded by US naval forces within the US Indo-Pacific Command Area of Responsibility in the Indian Ocean. The Department of War stated that forces conducted a right-of-visit maritime interdiction and boarding overnight without incident, adding that the vessel had been operating in defiance of a US-declared quarantine on sanctioned vessels and had attempted to evade monitoring after transiting from the Caribbean to the Indian Ocean. The vessel was designated by the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) under Executive Order 13902 (IRAN-EO13902) and added to the Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) list on 3 December 2024 under the alias MONICA S. OFAC linked the tanker to Shanghai Legendary Ship Management Company Limited and identified it as part of Iran's "shadow fleet" engaged in the transport of Iranian crude oil.
22-02-26	BAHRAIN	ROBBERY	A Bahraini-flagged boat was subjected to a piracy-related robbery near Bahrain's northern maritime border, with pirates forcibly boarding the vessel and temporarily abducting the crew, according to the country's state media. The assailants seized the vessel's contents and took the crew into Iranian waters before returning them to their boat approximately three hours later. All crew members were reported safe, and Bahraini authorities initiated an immediate response and continue to coordinate follow-up legal measures with relevant agencies.
17-02-26	YEMEN	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH	Saint Kitts and Nevis-flagged tug FRONTIER (IMO:9141156) was approached and hailed by a white skiff with five persons onboard at 1016 UTC, while transiting 70nm southwest of Aden, Yemen. The approach escalated into an exchange of small arms fire, after which two additional skiffs were observed operating in the vicinity. The vessel was able to continue its transit. Preliminary information indicates that the incident was connected to low-level local criminal or fishing activity, rather than any action taken by the Houthis.
17-02-26	INDIA	NARCOTICS	Indian Coast Guard intercepted an Iranian speedboat and seized approximately 203 kg of suspected illicit chemical substances packaged in 203 packets, following specific intelligence received by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad, about 140nm off Porbandar, India. Two Iranian nationals were detained during the operation. Authorities assess the cargo was dispatched from Konarak Port, Iran, for a mid-sea transfer to an Indian vessel, with Punjab identified as the intended final destination.
16-02-26	MAURITIUS	ROBBERY	Mauritius authorities reported that an uncrewed pleasure craft (Reg. No. PPC 5357 OL 06) moored inside the lagoon at Trou Aux Biches was boarded by an unknown number of perpetrators. The assailants escaped with items from the vessel. Details on the quantity or value of stolen property remain unknown.
15-02-26	INDIAN OCEAN	BOARDING	Open-source reporting indicates that US military forces conducted a right-of-visit, maritime interdiction and boarding of a sanctioned crude oil tanker in the Indian Ocean without incident. The vessel, which had departed Venezuelan waters in early January laden with fuel oil and crude, was stopped under international maritime protocols after being tracked by US forces. The action underscores ongoing enforcement of sanctions and measures against illicit maritime transport linked to Venezuela's oil exports.
14-02-26	SRI LANKA	NARCOTICS	Sri Lankan authorities seized a dinghy carrying approximately 50 kg of hashish, recovered from two sacks, while operating off Mannar. Two suspects were apprehended during the interdiction, and the vessel was also confiscated. Investigations remain ongoing.
09-02-26	INDIAN OCEAN	SEIZURE	US military forces seized the Panama-flagged tanker AQUILA II following a maritime interdiction and boarding operation conducted in the Indian Ocean. The vessel, linked to the transport of Venezuelan crude oil, had been operating in defiance of a US-imposed quarantine on sanctioned vessels and had remained dark for over three months after departing José Port, Venezuela, in December 2025. US forces tracked the tanker from the Caribbean to the Indian Ocean before intercepting it, citing enforcement of sanctions and denial of illicit maritime activity.
06-02-26	SOMALIA	HIJACK	A Yemeni-flagged fishing vessel was hijacked by a group of armed perpetrators in position 09°02.00'N 050°38.00'E near Durdura along the Somalia coast. The vessel was described as blue in colour and approximately 8m in length and was assessed to have been seized for pirate-related activity.
05-02-26	ARABIAN SEA	SEIZURE	Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ships seized Iran-flagged tanker STELLAR RUBY (IMO: 9555199), Nicaragua-flagged tanker AL JAFZIA (IMO: 9171498; ex CHILTERN), and falsely Mali-flagged tanker ASPHALT STAR (IMO: 9463528) approximately 100nm west of Mumbai within the Indian EEZ. The vessels were engaged in illicit ship-to-ship transfers of oil-based cargo as part of an international smuggling network designed to evade customs duties and regulatory oversight. All three tankers were under U.S. sanctions and were escorted to Mumbai for further investigation.
05-02-26	PERSIAN GULF	SEIZURE	Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy seized two vessels involved in alleged fuel smuggling while operating near Farsi Island in the Persian Gulf. According to IRGC statements carried by state media, authorities discovered more than one million litres of smuggled fuel onboard the two vessels and detained 15 foreign crew members, who were handed over to



			judicial authorities. The Guards stated that the vessels were identified through surveillance and intelligence work and were assessed to be part of an organised fuel smuggling network operating in the area.
03-02-26	ARABIAN SEA	WAR RISK	US forces shot down an Iranian Shahed-139 drone after it approached the US Navy aircraft carrier USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN while operating in the Arabian Sea. US CENTCOM stated that the drone conducted an aggressive approach with unclear intent and was intercepted in self-defence by an embarked F-35C fighter aircraft launched from the carrier, with no damage or casualties reported. IRGC-linked media separately claimed the drone was conducting a routine reconnaissance mission in international waters and stated that surveillance data had been successfully transmitted to Iranian control centres before contact was lost, adding that the circumstances surrounding the loss of communication were under review.
03-02-26	STRAIT OF HORMUZ	SUSPICIOUS APPROACH	US-flagged tanker STENA IMPERATIVE approached by three pairs of Iranian gunboats fitted with 50-calibre guns on the bow while transiting the inbound Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of the Strait of Hormuz, approximately 16nm north of Oman, while heading westbound. The gunboats hailed the tanker on VHF Channel 16 and ordered the Master to stop engines and prepare to be boarded. The STENA IMPERATIVE increased speed and continued on her voyage. At no point did the vessel enter Iranian territorial waters. The vessel was later escorted by a US warship.

NORTH & WEST AFRICA

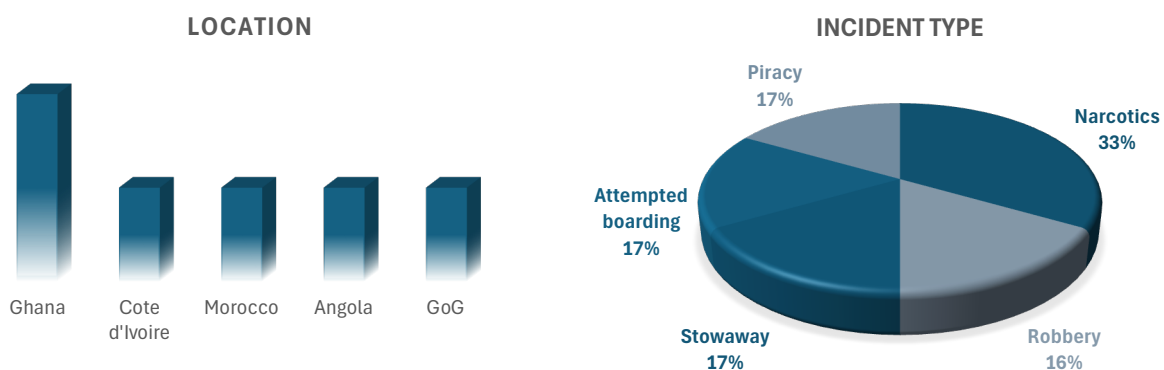
OVERVIEW, FEBRUARY 2026

February 2026 in West Africa was characterised by a mix of maritime criminality, trafficking activity, and lower-level vessel security incidents rather than any single dominant escalation. The most serious pattern was criminal activity in and around the Gulf of Guinea, including suspected Pirate Action Group movement off Gabon, an attempted boarding of an FPSO off Cabinda, and the robbery of multiple fishing vessels off Ghana. While none of these incidents involved kidnappings, they show that armed and opportunistic groups remain active across the wider region, with small craft continuing to pose a threat to offshore assets and local fishing traffic.

A second clear trend was the prominence of narcotics smuggling and maritime trafficking networks. Major seizures were recorded at Tema Port in Ghana, where authorities intercepted a very large consignment of tramadol concealed in a container from the UAE, and in Tangier, where Moroccan authorities seized one tonne of hashish intended for onward maritime movement towards Spain. These cases underline the continued use of West African ports and coastal routes for large-scale drug trafficking, often involving concealment, false cargo declarations, and fast craft intended for onward transfer.

The region also continued to face port and vessel security challenges linked to irregular migration and access control weaknesses. This was reflected in the embarkation of two stowaways onto the MSC MANDY III at San-Pedro, Côte d'Ivoire, indicating ongoing vulnerabilities at port facilities and on berthed commercial vessels. Although not a violent incident, it remains relevant as an indicator of weak perimeter security and persistent migration-related maritime risk in parts of the region.

Overall, February's incident picture suggests that the West African maritime threat environment remains defined by robbery, piracy-linked activity, trafficking, and port security gaps. The concentration of incidents in the Gulf of Guinea and along major trafficking corridors reinforces that criminal maritime threats remain the principal concern for commercial operators in the region.





MARITIME INCIDENTS, FEBRUARY 2026

26-02-26	GHANA	NARCOTICS	Ghanaian authorities seized 146.9 million tramadol tablets weighing about 34.8 tonnes concealed inside 299 cartons in container TGHU6228715 at Tema Port. The shipment, originating from the UAE, had been declared as household goods. Nine officials, including five Customs officers and personnel from other state agencies, were arrested.
26-02-26	GHANA	ROBBERY	Robbers attacked a number of fishing vessels - including the ARGENTINA 2, ARGENTINA 3, SEA LION, and BEREMA NSUKWA - approximately 35nm off the coast of Gomoa Nyanyano/Senya Bereku in the Central Region. The perpetrators stripped the fishermen of outboard motors and personal belongings, leaving them stranded at sea. Following a search and rescue operation, the Ghana Armed Forces rescued 71 fishermen in total. No kidnappings occurred. Patrols intensified within Ghana's Exclusive Economic Zone as investigations continue.
14-02-26	COTE D'IVOIRE	STOWAWAY	Panama-flagged containership MSC MANDY III (IMO 8918966) reported the embarkation of two stowaways at San-Pedro, Côte d'Ivoire on 14 February 2026. Both individuals are assessed to be Ghanaian nationals. Welfare checks were conducted with the Master and the stowaways; no health concerns were reported. The individuals remain accommodated onboard, have been provided with food and water.
11-02-26	MOROCCO	NARCOTICS	Moroccan authorities seized one tonne of hashish intended for maritime smuggling towards the Spanish coast via the Strait of Gibraltar in the Al Manar area of Tangier. The narcotics were packaged in more than 30 bales. Authorities also confiscated a fast inflatable boat equipped with a powerful engine and large quantities of gasoline. No arrests were reported.
05-02-26	ANGOLA	ATTEMPTED BOARDING	An unidentified Floating Production Storage and Offloading unit (FPSO) was approached by one perpetrator in position 05°22.70'N 011°90.20'E approximately 50nm west of Cabinda, Angola at 08:00 LT. The perpetrator was observed climbing one of the mooring chains after disembarking from a local fishing vessel carrying approximately five persons and no weapons were sighted. Upon detection the perpetrator immediately retreated to the fishing vessel and fled.
01-02-26	GOG	PIRACY	A suspected Pirate Action Group (PAG) activity involving a small boat fitted with a 200hp Yamaha outboard engine and carrying armed perpetrators was sighted at approximate position 00°30.30'N 008°05.20'E in the Gulf of Guinea at around 17:00 UTC. The craft was reported operating off Libreville, Gabon, and heading towards Nigerian waters.

EUROPE/BLACK SEA

OVERVIEW, FEBRUARY 2026

February 2026 in Europe and the Black Sea was characterised by two main trends: a sustained counter-narcotics and smuggling enforcement effort across major ports, and continued conflict-related disruption around the Black Sea. Large cocaine and cannabis seizures were recorded at Rotterdam, Antwerp, Portimão, Ambarlı, Civitavecchia, and Spanish ports, showing that European container terminals and short-sea cargo routes remain heavily exposed to organised trafficking activity. Concealment methods were varied and increasingly sophisticated, including drugs hidden in refrigeration systems, flour sacks, household goods, and legitimate cargoes, underlining the adaptability of trafficking networks.

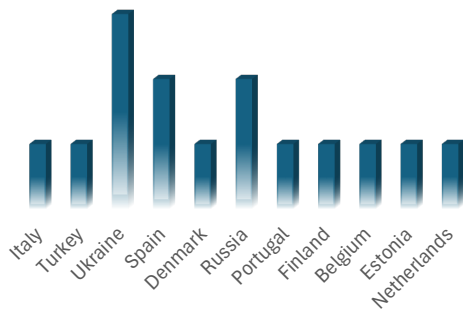
A second major pattern was the continued impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on Black Sea port infrastructure and maritime assets. Russian strikes caused damage at Odesa and Izmail, including port and industrial facilities, while Ukrainian attacks targeted Sevastopol and the Port of Taman, damaging patrol vessels, oil storage, and terminal infrastructure. These incidents reinforce that the Black Sea remains an active conflict environment in which ports, logistics nodes, and maritime-related infrastructure continue to face direct attack risk.

Elsewhere, authorities also maintained pressure on sanctions evasion, false registration, and suspicious shipping activity. This was reflected in the detention of the NORA in Danish waters over false registration concerns and the temporary detention of the BALTIC SPIRIT in Estonia during a customs inspection linked to suspected smuggling. In parallel, Russia's seizure of a high-value meteorite shipment in St Petersburg highlighted the continued use of maritime cargo channels for undeclared or falsely declared goods beyond narcotics alone.

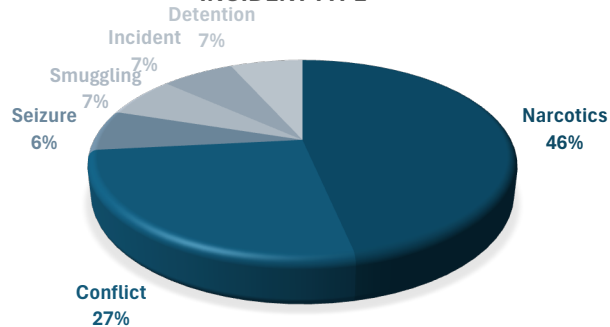
Overall, February's incident pattern suggests that the European maritime threat environment remained dominated by organised criminal trafficking and regulatory enforcement, while the Black Sea stood apart as a live conflict zone with direct strike risk to ports and shipping infrastructure. The result is a divided picture in which most European ports face criminal and compliance-related threats, while the Black Sea continues to carry a much higher level of physical security risk.



LOCATION



INCIDENT TYPE



MARITIME INCIDENTS, FEBRUARY 2026

Date	Location	Incident Type	Description
28-02-26	ITALY	NARCOTICS	Italian authorities, with the assistance of narco-sniffer dogs, seized over 348kg of marijuana, valued at €2m, at the Port of Civitavecchia. The narcotics were discovered on an articulated truck that had just disembarked from a vessel arriving from Barcelona and were concealed within packaging containing household appliances. The shipment was divided into 307 vacuum-sealed bags, several of which had been coated with mustard in an apparent attempt to evade detection. A Bulgarian national was arrested.
27-02-26	TURKEY	NARCOTICS	Turkish authorities seized 127kg of cocaine at Ambarlı Port in Istanbul. The narcotics were discovered concealed within flour sacks inside two shipping containers that had arrived while in transit from Ecuador to Bulgaria on 25 January. The shipment consisted of approximately 1,600 sacks of flour weighing 25kg each, including fishmeal cargo in which the cocaine had been chemically impregnated. The narcotics were valued at approximately TRY 14b (USD \$450m). No arrests were reported.
27-02-26	UKRAINE	CONFLICT	Russian Armed Forces conducted drone strikes across Odesa Oblast, including Odesa and Izmail, targeting civilian, port, and industrial infrastructure. Air raid alerts were activated at about 0015hrs LT, and the attacks resulted in damage to port facilities in Odesa, including oil tanks and a crane, and additional destruction to residential buildings and public infrastructure. Two individuals were injured and hospitalised in moderate condition. Izmail observed about 20 drone arrivals at about 0410hrs local time, with damage remaining unconfirmed.
25-02-26	SPAIN	NARCOTICS	Officers from the Guardia Civil were involved in an armed confrontation with suspected drug traffickers during a counter-narcotics operation near Barbate. Two alleged traffickers sustained gunshot injuries during the incident. One Civil Guard officer was injured after the quad bike used in the pursuit overturned. The operation targeted logistical activity linked to narco-boat crew changes in the area. The Judicial Police Unit of Cádiz assumed responsibility for the investigation.
23-02-26	UKRAINE	CONFLICT	Open-source reporting indicates that Odesa Port, Ukraine, was struck by an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) attack, launched by Russian forces. The strike caused damage to a cargo-storage facility. Ukrainian local authorities reported two fatalities and three injuries. The exact coordinates of the impact were not specified.
21-02-26	UKRAINE	CONFLICT	Open-source reporting indicates that Sevastopol Port, Russian-occupied Ukraine, was targeted by an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) attack launched by Ukrainian forces. Two Russian Project 22460 Rubin-class patrol vessels, moored near Inkerman at the eastern end of Sevastopol Bay, were damaged. Additionally, the UAV operation reportedly struck two Be-12 military aircraft at a repair facility in Yevpatoria; it remains unconfirmed whether the aircraft were operational or being used for spare parts.
19-02-26	DANISH WATERS	SEIZURE	The containership NORA (IMO:9259408) was detained by the Danish Maritime Authority in Danish waters after being assessed as falsely registered. Authorities stated that the vessel, currently sailing under the Iranian flag, previously operated under the Comoros flag; however, Comoros authorities confirmed the ship is not listed in their registry. The vessel will remain under detention until a flag state confirms valid registration and certification, after which a port state control inspection will be conducted.
18-02-26	SPAIN	NARCOTICS	Spanish authorities, in a joint operation by the Civil Guard and Customs Surveillance Service, seized over 80 kg of cocaine concealed within the refrigeration system of a container arriving from Ecuador. Two Albanian nationals were detained at the port while attempting to recover the drugs. The container was selected for inspection following an X-ray scan revealing the concealed narcotics.
15-02-26	RUSSIA	CONFLICT	A Ukrainian drone strike ignited fires at the Port of Taman in Krasnodar Krai, damaging an oil storage tank, warehouse facilities, and port terminals in Volna village on Russia's Black Sea coast. Two individuals were injured.
10-02-26	PORTUGAL	NARCOTICS	Portuguese authorities, in coordination with the Danish Police, the Spanish National Police and the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics) (MAOC-N), seized a total of 1,908kg of cocaine from a vessel in Portimão. On 5 February, authorities seized 1,384kg of



			cocaine trafficked by sea from the vessel. On 10 February, following a technical search of the same vessel, authorities discovered a further 524kg of cocaine concealed in the anchor chain locker at the bow, comprising 22 bales each containing 20 packages, as well as an additional bag containing 20 packages hidden inside an onboard compartment.
05-02-26	RUSSIA	SMUGGLING	Russia's Federal Customs Service seized a meteorite fragment weighing approximately 2.5 metric tonnes from a shipping container destined for the United Kingdom at a port terminal in St. Petersburg. The cargo had been declared as a sculpture, and inspection revealed discrepancies in the declared origin and value, leading officers to open a wooden crate containing a large, jagged stone. A forensic examination confirmed the item as a fragment of the Aletai meteorite with an estimated value of RUB 323 million (USD 4.2 million). No arrests were reported.
05-02-26	GULF OF FINLAND	INCIDENT	Liberia-flagged containership MSC GIADA III reported an explosion in the engine compartment after the vessel entered Neva Bay, in the Gulf of Finland, while en route from Belgium to St. Petersburg. The explosion resulted in a fire, with flames extending to the deck superstructure. There were 22 crew members onboard at the time, comprising a Russian Master and Myanmar nationals among the remaining crew, with no injuries reported. Rescue assets were deployed, including the rescue vessel SPASATEL KAREV and the icebreaker SEMYON DEZHNEV, and the fire was subsequently extinguished. The vessel was later towed to the Port of St. Petersburg.
03-02-26	BELGIUM	NARCOTICS	Belgian Customs seized 1,839kg of cocaine at quay 1700 in the Port of Antwerp. The narcotics were concealed within a container shipment of oils originating from Guyana, South America. No arrests were reported.
03-02-26	ESTONIA	DETENTION	Estonian authorities, in coordination with the Estonian Tax and Customs Board, a police special unit, and the Estonian Navy, detained the Bahamas-flagged container ship BALTIC SPIRIT (IMO: 9765873) in Estonia's internal waters near Naissaar. The vessel was detained for a customs inspection following suspicions of potential smuggling activity. The vessel was en route from Ecuador to St. Petersburg and had entered Estonian waters for bunkering. On 5 February, authorities allowed the vessel to depart the port of Muuga after the inspection did not confirm the presence of any contraband.
01-02-26	NETHERLANDS	NARCOTICS	Dutch Customs seized 463kg of cocaine from a refrigerated shipping container loaded with mangoes during a customs inspection at the Port of Rotterdam. The container originated from Peru and transited Panama prior to arrival. Officers discovered 14 bales concealed behind the container doors, containing a total of 463 packages of cocaine. The container was reportedly destined for a company in Moerdijk before onward transport to Germany, with authorities stating that the companies involved appear to have no connection to the smuggling operation. No arrests were reported.

AMERICAS

OVERVIEW, FEBRUARY 2026

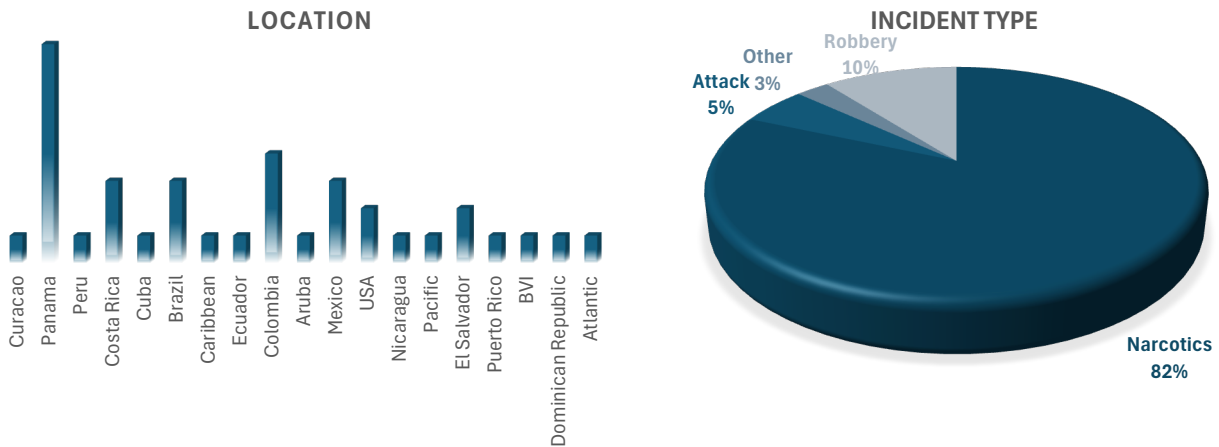
February 2026 in the Caribbean, Central America, and the eastern Pacific was overwhelmingly defined by counternarcotics activity, with a very high volume of seizures at sea and in ports from Panama, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador, Brazil, Peru, and the US/Caribbean basin. The incident pattern shows that the region remains one of the world's most active maritime drug-trafficking corridors, with criminal networks using go-fast boats, fishing vessels, semi-submersibles, container concealment, floating caches, and rip-off methods to move cocaine towards Europe, North America, and Central America. Panama and Costa Rica were particularly prominent, reflecting the continued importance of the isthmus as both a transshipment and interdiction zone.

A second trend was the clear overlap between maritime trafficking routes and international container shipping, particularly for Europe-bound cocaine shipments. Significant seizures linked to cargo flows towards Spain, Belgium, Germany, the UK, and India were recorded in ports including Moín, Colón, Balboa, Paita, Santos, and Buenaventura. Concealment methods included refrigeration systems, legitimate cargoes such as paper, soybean oil, and household goods, as well as tampered seals and covert insertion techniques. This reinforces that major commercial ports and container supply chains across Latin America and the Caribbean remain heavily exposed to organised narcotics infiltration.

Alongside trafficking, there was a lower but notable level of maritime robbery and security instability affecting smaller vessels and anchorages, particularly in Panama, the British Virgin Islands, and Curaçao, where outboard motor theft and opportunistic boarding incidents were recorded. More serious security incidents were limited but notable, including the armed incident in Cuban waters involving a Florida-registered speedboat and Cuban forces, and wider cartel retaliation in Mexico following federal operations against CJNG, which increased the broader threat picture around transport corridors and critical infrastructure, including port-linked areas.



Overall, February's incident pattern shows that the regional maritime threat environment was dominated by industrial-scale narcotics trafficking and aggressive interdiction efforts, with criminal logistics networks continuing to operate across both coastal waters and containerised trade routes. Robbery and isolated armed incidents remained secondary, but the scale and frequency of drug-related activity confirm that trafficking remains the principal maritime security driver across the Caribbean and Latin American operating area.



MARITIME INCIDENTS, FEBRUARY 2026

28-02-26	CURACAO	ROBBERY	A locked small fishing boat berthed at Royal Marine boatyard marina, Curacao, Netherlands was stolen overnight at 00:01 LT. The perpetrators removed a Yamaha 40HP outboard motor (model E40XMH) and fuel containers before sinking the vessel nearby, where it was later recovered by the owner. The outboard motor had been through-bolted and welded to the transom, with an additional lock through the transom clamps which was also defeated. The incident was reported to the marina, local police, and the port captain for further investigation.
27-02-26	PANAMA	NARCOTICS	Panamanian authorities seized 1,163 packages of narcotics weighing 1.2 tonnes from a suspicious boat intercepted south of Punta Mala in Los Santos Province. The packages were discovered inside 25 bales and a backpack stored in blue and light-blue striped sacks, with additional dry herb believed to be marijuana also found onboard. Five crew members were arrested.
26-02-26	PERU	NARCOTICS	The Peruvian National Police seized 18 kg of cocaine alkaloid concealed within a refrigerated container at the Port of Paita. The drugs, distributed in 16 brick-type blocks, were discovered beneath metal floor plates after a narcotics detection dog alerted to the container. The shipment was destined for Germany, but an apparent logistical error resulted in the container returning to its port of origin. A GPS tracking device linked to the trafficking network was also recovered. The seizure represents an estimated EUR 120,000 economic loss to the criminal organisation.
26-02-26	COSTA RICA	NARCOTICS	Costa Rican authorities, in coordination with the Drug Control Police (PCD), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), seized 643 packages of cocaine at the Moín Container Terminal in Limón Province. The narcotics were concealed inside two shipping containers originating from Ecuador and destined for the Port of Valencia, Spain. Authorities reported the shipment was concealed using the "rip-off" method. No arrests were reported.
25-02-26	CUBAN WATER	ATTACK	Cuban authorities reported a lethal maritime security incident after a Florida-registered speedboat entered Cuban territorial waters and opened fire on a Cuban patrol vessel. Cuban forces returned fire, killing four individuals and wounding six others, while one Cuban patrol commander was also injured. The Cuban Interior Ministry stated the group consisted of anti-government Cuban exiles allegedly attempting an armed infiltration for terrorist purposes; one additional suspect was detained ashore. The US denied any involvement and confirmed it is independently verifying the incident.
24-02-26	COSTA RICA	NARCOTICS	Costa Rican authorities seized approximately 1,873 kg of cocaine during a maritime interdiction 137 nm off Cabo Matapalo. The operation involved the National Coast Guard Service, Drug Control Police (PCD), Special Support Unit (UEA), and the Directorate of Intelligence and Criminal Analysis (DIAC), with support from the Drug Enforcement Administration and a U.S. maritime patrol aircraft. The 40-ft go-fast vessel, fitted with three outboard engines and carrying fuel drums, attempted to evade authorities, with crew members jettisoning packages overboard prior to interception. A total of 65 sacks containing 1,873 one-kilogram packages were recovered. Three Colombian nationals were arrested.
23-02-26	BRAZIL	NARCOTICS	Brazilian authorities seized 461kg of cocaine concealed within a 51-tonne shipment of paper at the Port of Santos. The narcotics were discovered in two containers comprising 104 wooden



			pallets, where packages of A4 paper in one container had been replaced with cocaine tablets. The containers were destined for the UK via transshipment at the Port of Antwerp, Belgium. No arrests were reported.
23-02-26	PANAMA	ROBBERY	A yacht at anchor in South Anchorage, Bocas del Toro, reported the overnight theft of an outboard motor at approximately 03:30 local time. The dinghy, which had been secured in the water and locked to the yacht with a security cable, was found the following day without the engine. The owner was onboard at the time of the incident. The theft was reported to local police, the port captain, marina authorities, and broadcast via the VHF net.
23-02-26	PANAMA	NARCOTICS	The National Aeronaval Service (SENAN) seized 1,777 packages of suspected narcotics at a port terminal in Colón Province. The illicit cargo was discovered inside two containers transiting aboard a merchant vessel after authorities identified inconsistencies and tampered security seals. Traceability indicates the shipment originated in Guayaquil, Ecuador, and was destined for London Gateway Port, United Kingdom. Authorities stated the seizure forms part of ongoing counter-narcotics operations under national security initiatives targeting transnational drug trafficking networks.
23-02-26	CARIBBEAN SEA	ATTACK	The US military conducted a lethal kinetic strike on a vessel suspected of smuggling drugs in the Caribbean Sea, killing three men, the US Southern Command reported on 23 February. Intelligence indicated the boat was transiting along known narco-trafficking routes and engaged in narcotics trafficking when it was struck, with no US forces harmed in the action. The strike is part of an ongoing military campaign targeting suspected narcotics trafficking vessels under Operation Southern Spear, which has seen multiple similar actions in the region; three in the past week.
23-02-26	ECUADOR	NARCOTICS	The Ecuadorian Armed Forces, in coordination with the US Coast Guard, intercepted a vessel transporting approximately 3.2 tonnes of cocaine hydrochloride in the Pacific Ocean, 47 nm within Ecuador's Exclusive Economic Zone near Manta. The unnamed vessel was reportedly operating without documentation. Three Ecuadorian nationals were arrested during the operation. Authorities estimate the cargo value at approximately USD 78 million. According to officials, 200 kg of the seized narcotics were transferred to Ecuadorian authorities, while the remainder was retained by US counterparts for destruction in accordance with international cooperation protocols.
23-02-26	COLOMBIA	NARCOTICS	Colombian authorities intercepted a go-fast vessel approximately 70 nm north of Riohacha, seizing 413 kg of cocaine hydrochloride. The shipment, transported by two Venezuelan nationals, was reportedly bound for Central America. Authorities assess that the operation prevented the distribution of more than one million doses and disrupted an estimated USD 19 million in illicit proceeds linked to transnational criminal networks operating in the Caribbean corridor.
23-02-26	ARUBA	NARCOTICS	Aruban police arrested one Colombian national after a vessel carrying narcotics was located near Boca Mahos. Authorities responded to reports of a boat arriving at an inlet and subsequently detained a suspect found nearby who admitted to being on board. A quantity of drugs was recovered from the vessel and hidden ashore. The boat and narcotics packages were seized, with support from the Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard, to secure and relocate the vessel for further investigation.
23-02-26	MEXICAN PORTS	OTHER	Mexican federal forces conducted a targeted operation in Tapalpa, Jalisco, on 22 February against CJNG leader Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes ("El Mencho"), triggering coordinated retaliation by the cartel across multiple states. CJNG elements have established narcobloqueos, attacked police units, and set fire to vehicles, buses and commercial premises in Jalisco, including Puerto Vallarta and the Guadalajara metropolitan area, with further incidents recorded in Michoacán, Guerrero, Tamaulipas and parts of Oaxaca and Baja California. Cartel messaging circulated publicly, warning civilians to remain indoors and stating that members had been ordered to confront state forces, while referencing the mobilisation of a tactical unit identified as "Los Deltas." Federal Army, Navy and National Guard units have since deployed in force to clear blockades, secure transport corridors and reinforce critical infrastructure.
21-02-26	USA	NARCOTICS	US Coast Guard Cutter RICHARD ETHERIDGE seized 79kg of cocaine and 7.7kg of marijuana from a narco-vessel intercepted about 8nm offshore of Miami. The seized narcotics were valued at USD \$1.3m. Two suspects were arrested.
21-02-26	NICARAGUA	NARCOTICS	Nicaraguan naval forces seized at least 100 packages of cocaine after pursuing a yellow and orange vessel along the coast of León. The boat ran aground at El Tesoro Beach, where its occupants fled inland, abandoning four sacks containing no fewer than 25 packages each. Authorities secured the narcotics and launched follow-up search operations to locate the suspects.
20-02-26	PANAMA	ROBBERY	An anchored monohull was boarded and a fishing rod with reel and a sharp knife were stolen from the cockpit off Bug Island in the Hollandaises, San Blas, Panama at 04:00 LT.
20-02-26	MEXICO	NARCOTICS	Mexican authorities, led by the Secretariat of the Navy and coordinated with the Secretariat of Security and Citizen Protection, seized approximately four tonnes of cocaine from a low-profile (semi-submersible) vessel intercepted in Mexican waters, more than 250 NM from the port of Manzanillo. The operation resulted in the arrest of three individuals, who were placed at the disposal of judicial authorities.
17-02-26	EASTERN PACIFIC	NARCOTICS	Ecuadorian National Police, in a joint operation with Peru's Police Intelligence and Investigation System (SIU Peru), seized approximately 2.47 tons of cocaine hydrochloride during a maritime interdiction in international waters. The shipment, consisting of 2,124 brick-type packages, was intercepted along a transnational trafficking route, with three individuals apprehended at sea.



			Authorities estimate the cargo represents more than USD 17 million in wholesale value and approximately 24.7 million doses removed from the illicit market.
16-02-26	PANAMA	NARCOTICS	Panamanian authorities, led by the Attorney General's Office and the National Aeronaval Service (SENAN), seized over two tonnes of suspected narcotics during two maritime counter-drug operations within 24 hours. In the first operation, 936 packages were discovered inside a container aboard a Malta-flagged vessel at the Port of Balboa, arriving from Ecuador; additionally, 1,263 packages were seized south of Jicarón Island, Veraguas Province, where three suspects were apprehended during a naval-air interdiction.
16-02-26	COLOMBIA	NARCOTICS	The Colombian Navy intercepted 265 kg of cocaine during riverine patrols on Tapaje, Nariño Department. The drugs were recovered from an abandoned 25-ft boat on the Tapaje River and packaged in 265 rectangular bundles. Authorities assessed that the shipment was destined for Central America and linked to regional criminal groups.
16-02-26	USA	NARCOTICS	The US Coast Guard interdicted a drug-smuggling vessel near the Fort Lauderdale Sea buoy, seizing 338 kg of cocaine. The operation was conducted by Coast Guard crews with support from a US Customs and Border Protection K9 unit.
15-02-26	EL SALVADOR	NARCOTICS	The El Salvador National Navy seized 6.6 tonnes of cocaine onboard the Tanzania-flagged multipurpose support vessel FMS EAGLE during a maritime interdiction conducted approximately 380nm southwest of the Salvadoran coast. The narcotics were concealed in 330 packages hidden within watertight compartments inside the vessel's ballast tanks and were detected following an underwater inspection carried out by naval tactical divers. The shipment has an estimated market value of USD \$165m. Ten crew members were arrested, comprising four Colombians, three Nicaraguans, two Panamanians, and one Ecuadorian.
14-02-26	COSTA RICA	NARCOTICS	Costa Rican authorities seized 105 kg of cocaine concealed within the refrigeration systems of three containers onboard a vessel at Puerto Moín, Costa Rica. The shipment, originating from Colombia and bound for Belgium, comprised 45 kg, 35 kg, and 25 kg, respectively. Further examination identified that the packages were marked with labels of luxury Swiss watch brands, indicating a concealment method linked to organised trafficking networks.
13-02-26	PUERTO RICO	NARCOTICS	The US Coast Guard, in coordination with Homeland Security Task Force – San Juan Region partners, seized approximately 945 kg of cocaine from a suspected go-fast vessel in the Atlantic Ocean, around 100 NM north of Camuy. The contraband, comprising 29 bales with an estimated street value of USD 13.3 million, was recovered after the vessel conducted evasive manoeuvres, jettisoned its cargo, and fled. No suspects were apprehended. The abandoned go-fast vessel was later located ashore near Arecibo, and the drugs were transferred to Homeland Security Investigations in San Juan for follow-up investigation.
11-02-26	COLOMBIA	NARCOTICS	The Colombian National Police seized 500kg of cocaine hydrochloride at the Port of Buenaventura in Valle del Cauca. The narcotics were concealed within two maritime containers originating from Callao, Peru, and were reportedly destined for illicit markets in China and Mexico. No arrests were reported.
10-02-26	MEXICO	NARCOTICS	The Mexican Navy, in coordination with the US Coast Guard, seized 4.7 tonnes of cocaine onboard a fishing vessel intercepted in international waters in the Pacific Ocean between Isla Clarion and Cabo San Lucas, Baja California Sur. The narcotics were contained in 188 packages discovered during joint maritime surveillance operations. Five individuals on board were arrested.
09-02-26	COLOMBIA	NARCOTICS	The Colombian Navy, acting on Naval Intelligence alerts, seized 1,090kg of cocaine hydrochloride in Pacific waters approximately 70nm off Tumaco in Nariño Department. Coast Guard units deployed to the reported location and located a floating narcotics cache secured to a buoy, with no vessel or crew present at the scene, consistent with the floating load method used to pre-position drugs at sea for later collection by another craft. Authorities recovered 55 packages. The shipment was reportedly intended for onward trafficking routes toward Central America, with an estimated value of more than USD \$11m. No arrests were reported.
08-02-26	BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	ROBBERY	An unattended, locked monohull yacht was boarded and approximately 30 gallons of diesel fuel were siphoned from the starboard tank while anchored in Ber Bay, Tortola between 10:00–12:30 LT. The incident was reported for further investigation.
07-02-26	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	NARCOTICS	Dominican authorities, supported by State Intelligence agencies and the US Coast Guard Southeast District, seized 136 packages of cocaine from a 28-foot fishing boat intercepted several nautical miles east of Higüey, La Altagracia. The vessel, equipped with two 85-horsepower outboard engines, was stopped following a coordinated maritime, aerial, and land operation targeting a suspected drug shipment destined for Puerto Rico. Authorities also seized 16 fuel canisters, food supplies, two cell phones, and life vests. Three Dominican nationals were arrested.
06-02-26	PANAMA	NARCOTICS	Panamanian authorities, including the Drug Prosecutor's Office, the National Aeronaval Service (SENAN), and the National Police, seized 580 packages of cocaine from two artisanal boats intercepted north of El Porvenir in the Guna Yala region. Four suspects were arrested.
06-02-26	EL SALVADOR	NARCOTICS	Salvadoran authorities, including specialized units of the National Civil Police (PNC), seized 398kg of cocaine from a fishing boat intercepted south of Playa Toluca, La Libertad. The narcotics were concealed among fishing equipment in 13 packages aboard the vessel, which was operating along a Nicaragua–Guatemala–US trafficking route. Two individuals, one Salvadoran and one Guatemalan-Mexican national, were arrested.
04-02-26	BRAZIL	NARCOTICS	Brazilian authorities, including the Federal Revenue Service and Santos Customs, seized 240kg of cocaine concealed within a 20-ton shipment of soybean oil at the Port of Santos. The narcotics were hidden inside 18-litre cans loaded in a container destined for Portugal, with planned transshipment at the Port of Tanger Med, Morocco. No arrests were reported.



02-02-26	BRAZIL	NARCOTICS	Brazilian authorities, with the support of narco-sniffer dogs, seized 38 kg of cocaine concealed inside a refrigerated container arriving from the US at a private terminal in Paranaguá Port, Paraná State. No arrests were reported.
02-02-26	PANAMA	NARCOTICS	Panamanian authorities, including the National Police and the Public Prosecutor's Office, seized 811 packages of undisclosed narcotics at a Pacific port. The rectangular packages were discovered inside a shipping container following intelligence-led cargo profiling and verification, which identified irregularities. The container was scheduled to transit through Belgium with a final destination in India. No arrests were reported.
01-02-26	ATLANTIC OCEAN	NARCOTICS	French Navy units, supported by the Brazilian Federal Police (PF), seized approximately 1.3 tonnes of cocaine from a Brazilian-flagged vessel intercepted on the high seas in the Atlantic Ocean off Brazil following intelligence sharing regarding the use of oceanic routes for illicit trafficking by South American criminal organizations. Three Brazilian crew members were transferred into PF custody at the Port of Mucuripe, Fortaleza.
01-02-26	PANAMA	NARCOTICS	Panamanian authorities seized 3,029 rectangular packages of undisclosed narcotics on board a narco-boat intercepted in Caribbean waters off Santa Isabel, north of Sherman, Colón Province. Five suspects were arrested.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

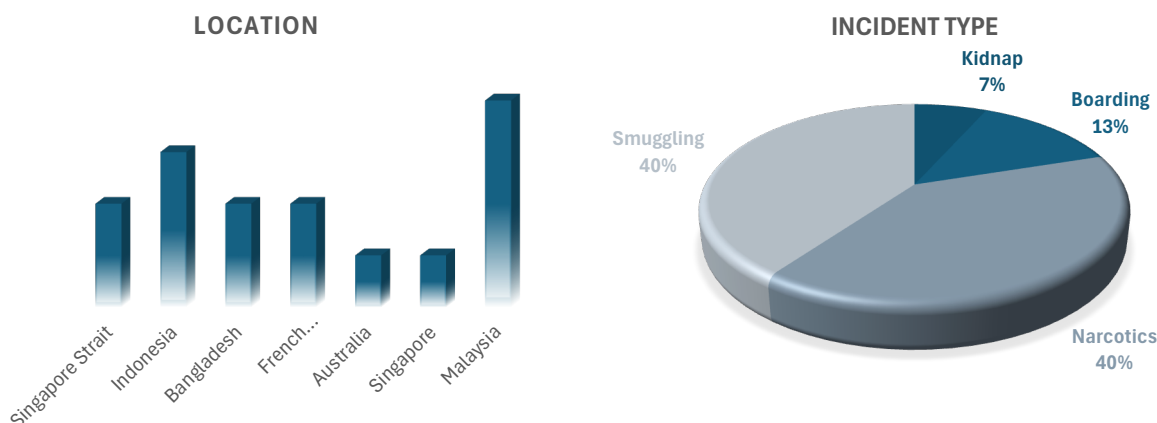
OVERVIEW, FEBRUARY 2026

February 2026 in Southeast Asia was characterised by a mix of petty boarding incidents in congested waterways, large-scale narcotics trafficking, and persistent fuel and hazardous goods smuggling. The most notable security trend was the continued pattern of unauthorised boardings in the Singapore Strait, where two bulk carriers were boarded in the Phillip Channel. In both cases, perpetrators accessed the engine room while vessels were underway, with one incident involving a knife and a confirmed theft. These incidents reinforce the ongoing threat of low-level opportunistic boarding in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

A second major trend was the prominence of maritime narcotics trafficking, ranging from containerised concealment to vessel-based smuggling. Significant seizures included 1.57 tonnes of methamphetamine off Malaysia involving two vessels, 2.4 tonnes of cocaine intercepted in French Polynesia, 473.5kg of cocaine at Papeete, 46kg of methamphetamine at Port Botany, cannabis seizures in Indonesia, and methamphetamine trafficking from Myanmar into Bangladesh. This shows that regional maritime routes continue to be used for both long-haul international trafficking and shorter cross-border narcotics movement, with ports, passenger vessels, tankers, and cargo vessels all exploited by criminal networks.

A parallel pattern through the month was the continued prevalence of fuel smuggling and illicit cargo movement, especially in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore. Multiple incidents involved undeclared diesel, stolen marine gas oil, cyanide cargoes, and other undocumented goods transported by pump boats, tankers, tugboats, and passenger vessels. These cases suggest that small-scale maritime smuggling remains deeply embedded across regional coastal and archipelagic trade routes, particularly where dense traffic, fragmented coastlines, and routine inter-island movement create concealment opportunities.

Overall, February's incident picture suggests that the regional maritime threat environment remained dominated by criminal and enforcement-related activity rather than major armed escalation. The main concerns were opportunistic boarding in the Singapore Strait, sustained narcotics trafficking across both oceanic and coastal routes, and widespread smuggling of fuel and controlled goods. Together, these trends indicate a persistently high level of non-state maritime risk across Southeast Asia and adjacent Pacific waters.





MARITIME INCIDENTS, FEBRUARY 2026

28-02-26	SINGAPORE STRAIT	BOARDING	Singapore-flagged bulk carrier boarded by three perpetrators in approximate position 1°05'43.8"N, 103°33'00.0"E while transiting the Phillip Channel, Singapore Strait, at 02:48 LT (UTC+8). The crew sighted the perpetrators inside the engine room. The Master subsequently reported that all crew were safe and accounted for, although it remained unclear whether any items had been stolen. The vessel did not request assistance and continued its voyage to NPOC, Singapore.
28-02-26	INDONESIA	NARCOTICS	Indonesian authorities seized approximately 6kg of cannabis from the passenger vessel KM CIREMAI at Jayapura Sea Port, Papua. The narcotics were discovered concealed inside a cardboard box containing five packages wrapped in brown tape and hidden among clothing during an inspection prior to departure to Sorong. Two suspects were arrested.
27-02-26	SINGAPORE STRAIT	BOARDING	A Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier was subjected to an unauthorised boarding while underway through the Phillip Channel, Singapore Strait (1°02'46.0"N 103°39'18.6"E) at approximately 03:00 local time. Crew reported five perpetrators, one armed with a knife, in the engine room. No injuries were sustained; one mobile phone was stolen. The vessel remained safe and did not require assistance.
24-02-26	BANGLADESH	KIDNAP	Fishing vessel FB MAYER DOA-3 boarded by nine armed perpetrators while underway off Sonadia Char near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The perpetrators took four fishermen hostage before departing the area. Bangladesh Coast Guard units later intercepted a suspicious fishing boat that attempted to evade a stop signal, after which warning shots were fired and the vessel was boarded. Authorities arrested nine suspects, seized one boat along with locally made firearms and weapons, and rescued all four hostage fishermen alive. No injuries were reported.
12-02-26	FRENCH POLYNESIA	NARCOTICS	French authorities confirmed the seizure of 2.4 tonnes of cocaine from a vessel intercepted within the maritime zone of French Polynesia. The drugs, comprising 100 bales, were not destined for French Polynesia and were subsequently destroyed. In accordance with international legal procedures and following a decision by the Public Prosecutor's Office of Papeete, the vessel and its crew were permitted to continue their voyage, as the flag state declined to transfer jurisdiction to France. The operation was led by French state maritime authorities with support from French armed forces, law enforcement agencies, and US counterparts.
11-02-26	AUSTRALIA	NARCOTICS	The Australian Federal Police seized 46 kg of methamphetamine concealed within a forklift counterweight at Port Botany, following an inspection by the Australian Border Force. The drugs were discovered after X-ray screening identified anomalies inside a 1,200 kg counterweight within a shipping container, revealing 46 one-kilogram packages.
11-02-26	SINGAPORE	SMUGGLING	Singapore Police Coast Guard officers seized an unknown quantity of marine gas oil from two foreign-registered tugboats and one Singapore-registered tugboat during an enforcement operation in waters off Pandan, Singapore. The fuel, valued at approximately SGD 13,670 (USD \$10,831), was allegedly misappropriated without the knowledge of the respective companies. Eighteen suspects were arrested.
10-02-26	MALAYSIA	NARCOTICS	Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) Pahang seized 1.57 tonnes of methamphetamine during a maritime patrol about 107nm northeast of Kuantan near the Pahang–Terengganu maritime boundary. Authorities detained the Thai-registered tanker KAMAL BANGKOK, sailing south with 10 Thai and three Indonesian crew members, and shortly after detained the Indonesian-registered cargo vessel SAIL FISH 09, carrying five Indonesian crew members, at the same location. Inspectors discovered 76 sacks containing the illicit drugs on board KAMAL BANGKOK and also seized approximately 50,000 litres of diesel. Both vessels were suspected of being part of an international drug trafficking syndicate using maritime routes to evade authorities. A total of 18 crew members, including two skippers, were arrested.
09-02-26	BANGLADESH	NARCOTICS	Bangladesh Navy seized approximately 500k methamphetamine pills from an unknown vessel along the Naf River in the Hnila Union area of Teknaf, Bangladesh. The narcotics were recovered from sacks intercepted while being trafficked from Myanmar into Bangladesh. The shipment was valued at approximately BDT 250m (USD \$2.1m).
08-02-26	INDONESIA	SMUGGLING	Indonesian Navy personnel, in coordination with a Joint Task Force and Customs officials, seized approximately 650kg of cyanide from a passenger vessel docked at Amurang Port, North Sulawesi. The cyanide was concealed inside a yellow expedition truck loaded onboard the vessel and was discovered during an inspection following intelligence on the transport of undocumented goods. Authorities estimated the total value of the seized illegal cargo at IDR 1.07bn (USD \$68k).
07-02-26	MALAYSIA	SMUGGLING	Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) personnel from Melaka and Negeri Sembilan seized 50,000kg of diesel from a tanker anchored about 1nm southwest of Melaka Island in the Strait of Malacca, Malaysia. The cargo, valued at approximately RM180k (USD \$38k), was allegedly being transported without valid authorization documents and was not declared in the vessel's port clearance. Five crew members were detained for further investigation.
05-02-26	FRENCH POLYNESIA	NARCOTICS	French Customs officials seized 473.5kg of cocaine from a container unloaded at the Port of Papeete, Tahiti. The container originated in the United States, transited through the Caribbean, and was destined for Australia. Authorities discovered 16 bales concealed between two rows of palletised cargo within the container. Each bale weighed approximately 30kg. No arrests were reported.
03-02-26	MALAYSIA	SMUGGLING	Malaysian authorities seized 1,200 litres of fuel on board a cargo vessel after intercepting it while moving from Tawau toward Sebatik Island, about 0.8nm north of the Aji Kuning River estuary, off Tawau, Sabah. An on-board inspection uncovered 40 gallons of fuel and three barrels of LPG gas. One suspect was detained.



02-02-26	INDONESIA	SMUGGLING	Indonesian authorities seized 30 sacks of cyanide (CNF), 50kg each, and three cartons of liquor on board the pumpboat FADIL BOY during an interdiction in waters off Manado. The captain and two crew members were detained, and the value of the seized goods was estimated at IDR 654.6 million (USD \$42k).
01-02-26	MALAYSIA	SMUGGLING	Malaysian authorities seized 2,000 litres of fuel on board an unknown pump boat in waters off Damaran, Pulau Banggi, Sabah. The vessel was found abandoned, with the crew believed to have fled to evade arrest. An on-board inspection uncovered multiple blue drums containing fuel, with the seizure valued at about RM5k (USD \$1,060).



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.

