

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT

"ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING BY WATERWAY IN THE AMERICAS"

MARITIME DRUG TRAFFICKING



SEMAR-AM, in compliance with its mission, carries out naval operations in order to respond in a timely manner to any contingency against strategic installations, as well as to detect and inhibit the illegal activities of criminal organizations engaged in the trafficking of drugs, oil and gas, and weapons, human trafficking, small-scale drug dealing, kidnapping, and extortion.



SEMAR-UIN will be constituted as the agency for centralizing all information regarding the maritime spaces of the ZMM country and its surroundings, for intelligence purposes and decision-making by High Command to prevent threats to national maritime interests.

THE PROBLEM

Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) affects most countries in the world, as a phenomenon that transcends borders and uses emerging technologies to explore and exploit opportunities for criminal activities.

Illicit drug trafficking in its many guises allows TOC to harbor ties with other criminal groups in order to make smuggling activities more efficient and constantly enhance means of transportation.

MARITIME DRUG TRAFFICKING ROUTES

Route 1.- Set sail from Buenaventura, Col., arriving in the vicinity of Costa Rica and El Salvador (24 to 48 hours at sea with 1 refueling).

Route 2.- Set sail from Tumaco, Col., arriving in the vicinity of El Salvador and Guatemala (5 to 7 days at sea with more than 3 refuelings).

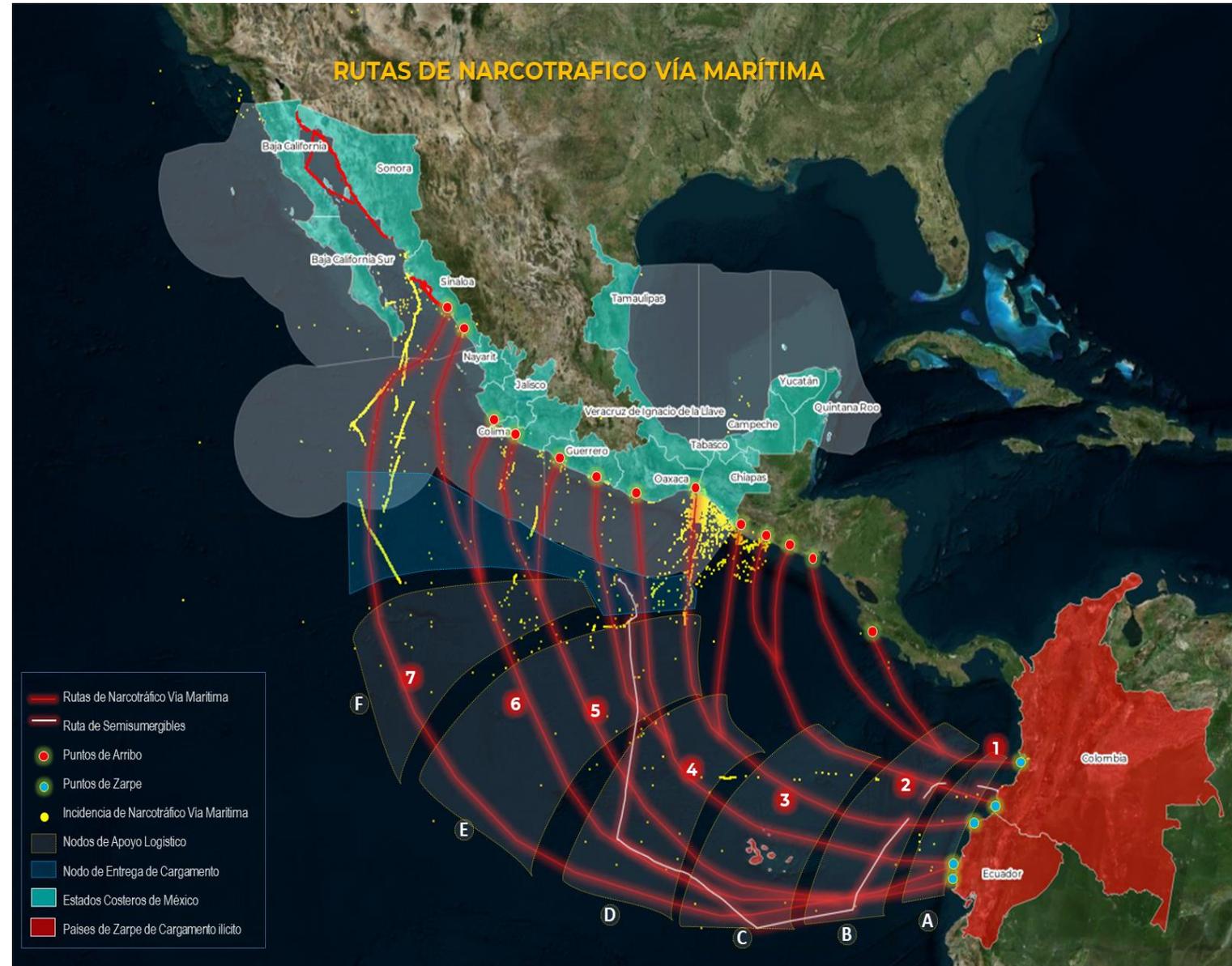
Route 3.- Set sail from Esmeraldas, Ecuador reaching the coasts of Guatemala and Chiapas, Mexico (7 days at sea with 5 refuelings).

Route 4.- Set sail from San Lorenzo, Ecuador, arriving at the coasts of Oaxaca and Guerrero, Mexico (8 days at sea and 6 refuelings).

Route 5.- Set sail from Puerto Rico, Ecuador, arriving at the coasts of Michoacán and Guerrero, Mexico (9 days at sea with 8 refuelings).

Route 6.- Set sail from Puerto Rico, Ecuador with arrival in Jalisco and Sinaloa, Mexico (11 days at sea with more than 8 refuelings).

Route 7.- Set sail from Ayampe, Ecuador, arriving in Sinaloa, Mexico (13 to 15 days at sea and more than 8 refuelings).



MARITIME DRUG TRAFFICKING ROUTES

The identified routes converge in the fishing area of the "Salinas", located in the vicinity of the natural protected area of the "Golfo de Santa Clara" Sonora; it has been determined that this route begins inside the "Bocana de El Dorado" Sinaloa, from where the smugglers' boats set sail, and extends to the vicinity of "San Rafael" Sonora, where it forks into two; one parallel to the coasts of Sonora and the other through Baja California, continuing through the "Colorado River Delta" to later continue by land to the towns of "Indiviso" and "Estación Coahuila".

According to the analysis of the secured GPS, navigation is carried out during the night and early morning hours, from 8:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. the following day, after which the drug traffickers take refuge in remote areas, such as mangroves and/or "beaches" in the vicinity of cliffs.

The seasonality detected indicates that the trips last an average of 15 days, always maintaining a distance of between 1.5 to 4 nautical miles from the coast.

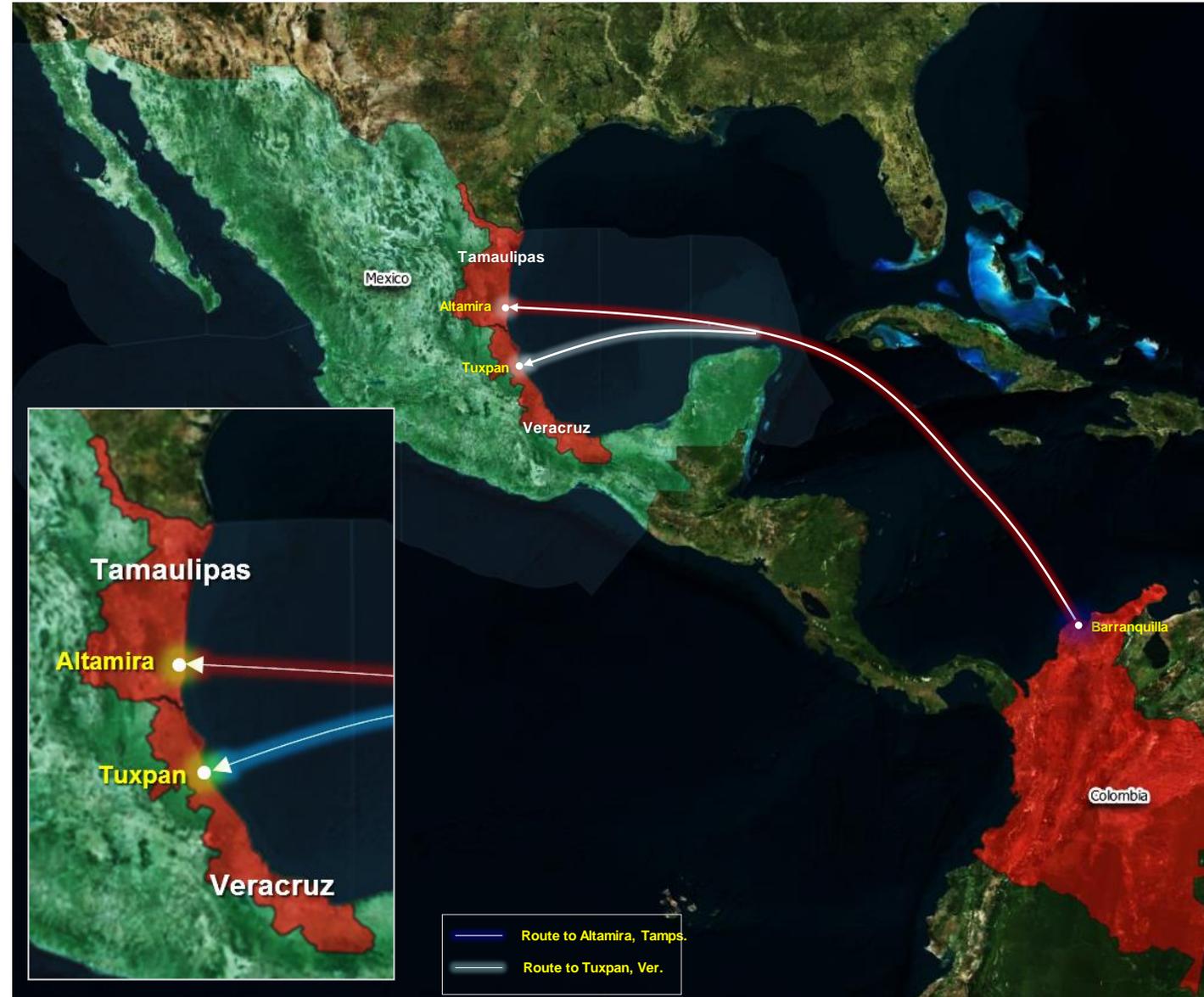


MARITIME DRUG TRAFFICKING ROUTES

Due to the incidence detected this year and findings obtained in the **Ports of Altamira, Tamps. and Tuxpan, Veracruz** , it is possible that transnational organized crime (TOC) is shifting its *modus operandi* of transporting drugs by sea in the **form of "Containerized Illicit Cargo" (CIC)** to a "new route" through the Gulf of Mexico, with the main destination being the United States.

The aforementioned *modus operandi* is mainly found on the Pacific Coast, and consists of merchant ships transporting illicit cargo from South America to the ports of Lázaro Cárdenas, Mich., Manzanillo, Col., and Ensenada, BC. However, operations carried out by this institution have resulted in the seizure of several shipments and consequently in losses for TOC; therefore, it is possible that this modus operandi will be replicated and might increase along the Gulf of Mexico Coast.

It is important to consider that **100% of the ships** found with cocaine cargoes come from Barranquilla, Colombia.



DRUG TRAFFICKING ROUTES BY SEA TO EUROPE

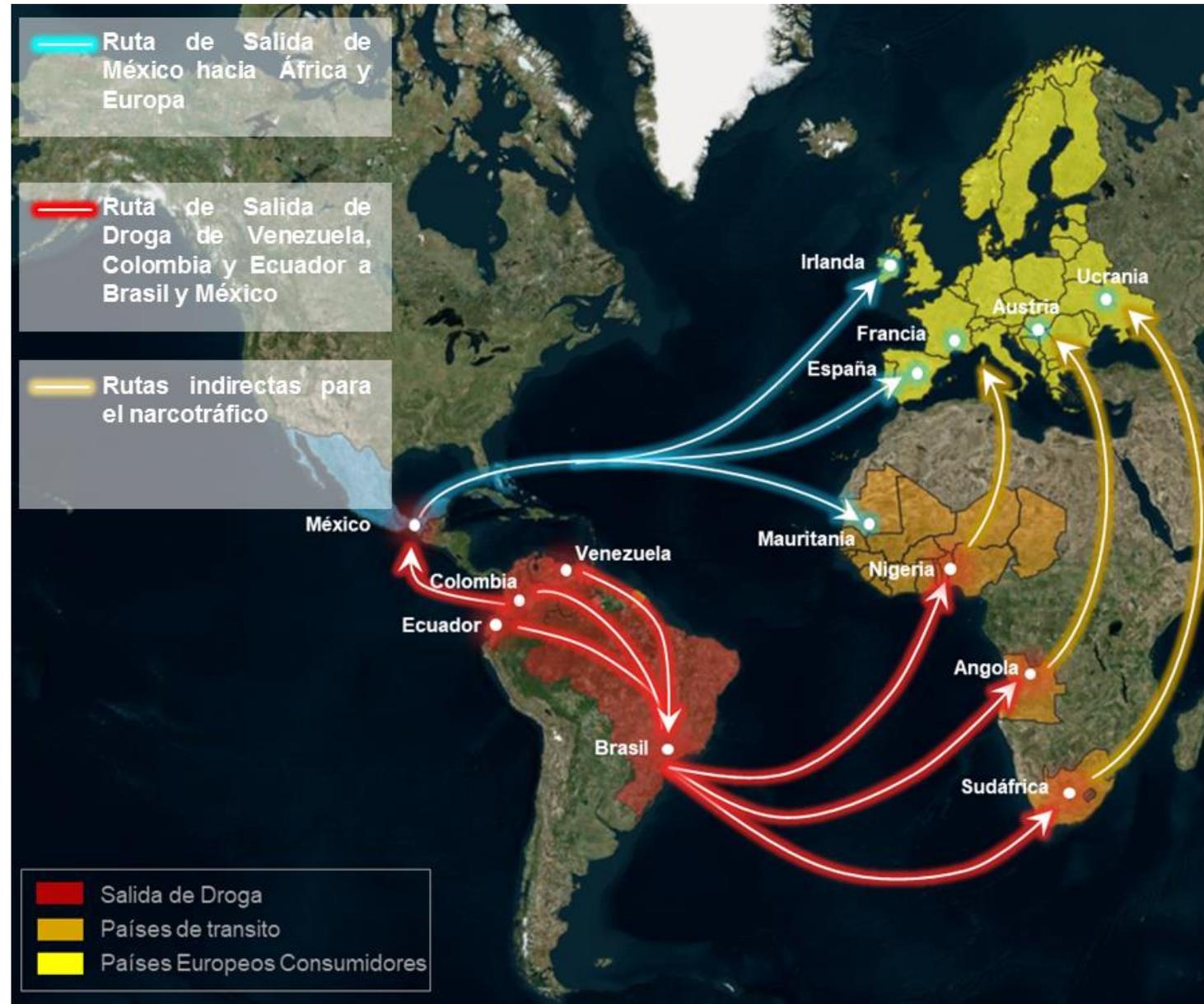
The existing relationship between Latin America as a producing region and West Africa as a trafficking zone for shipments to Europe, testifies to the **displacement of the modus operandi** for Maritime Narcotrafficking (MNT).

The most acceptable hypothesis is that transnational organized crime (TOC) uses **methods that are the easiest to execute and have the highest success rate**.

Colombia, Brazil, and Venezuela are identified as "**key departure points**" for cocaine to Europe. From them, the drugs are transported by boats, private yachts or by air, among other methods.

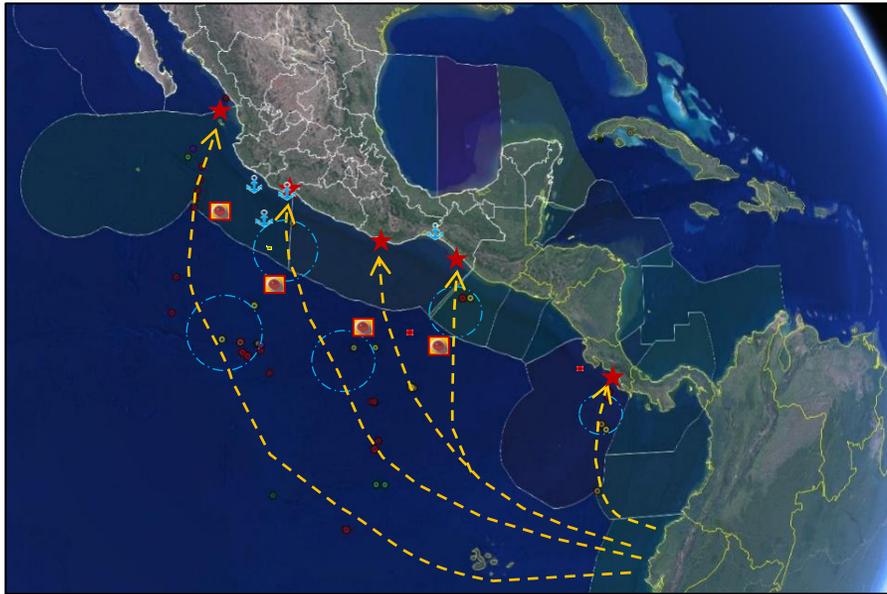
Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, and Italy accounted for 80 percent of the 61.6 metric tons of cocaine seized in the European Union in 2014, so the trend is on the rise.

Colombian and Italian organized crime networks continue to dominate the cocaine trade to Europe, in collaboration with Dutch, British, Spanish, and Nigerian groups. **The Netherlands and Spain** are the main distribution centers.

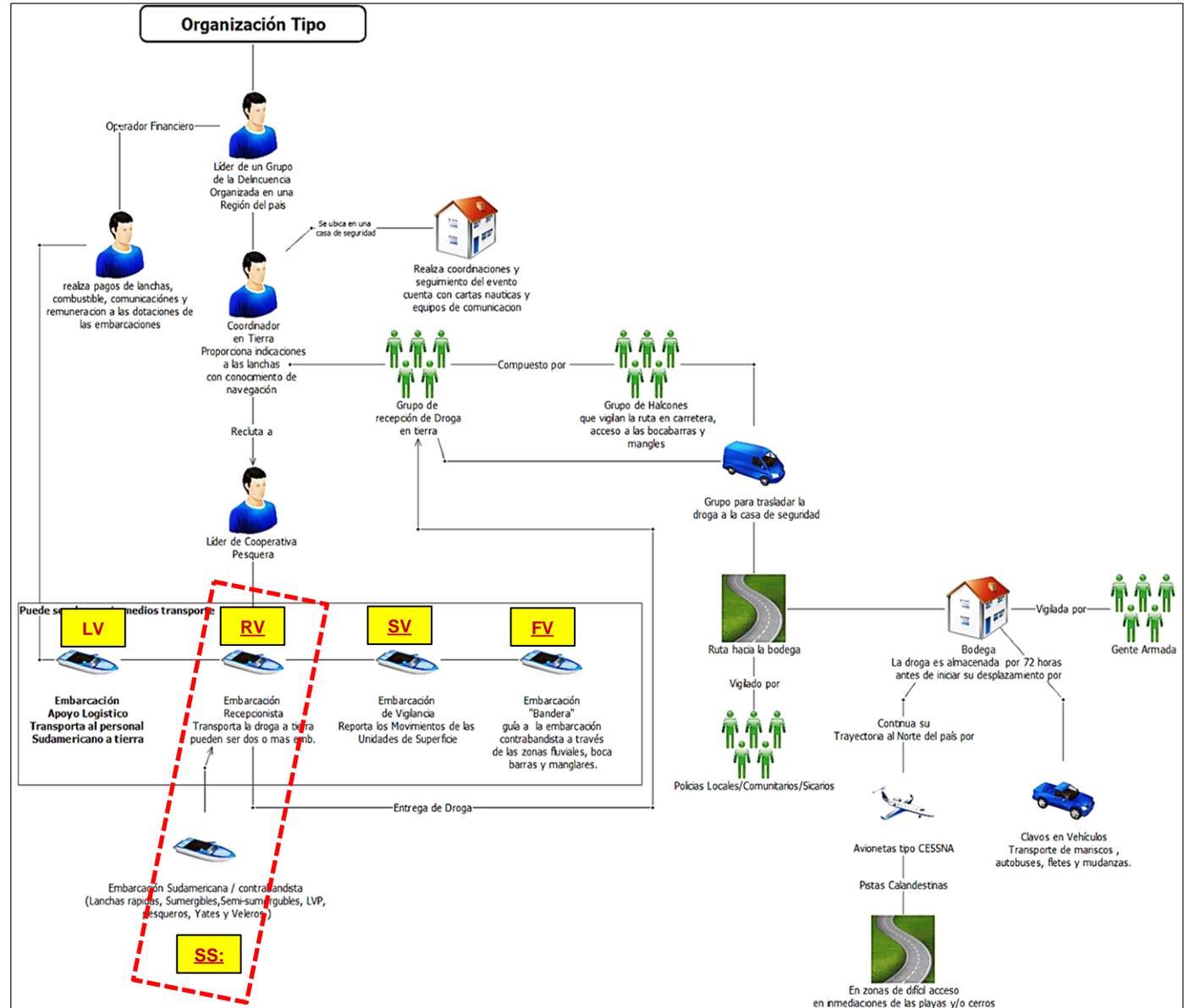


"TYPICAL" MARITIME TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION

This "typical" organization has been observed in the states of **Chiapas, Oaxaca, Guerrero, Michoacán, and Sinaloa**, where the "**Cartel of the Pacific**" exerts great influence.



- SS: Smuggler Ship
- LV: Logistics Vessel
- RV: Receiving Vessel
- SV: Surveillance Vessel
- FV: Flagship or guide vessel



DRUG TRAFFICKING THROUGH CONTAINERIZED CARGOES

Taking advantage of the large flow of containers and the inability to fully screen them, TOC uses three methods for containerized drug trafficking:

- ❑ **Blind Hook [CHECK: *Gancho Ciego*] or Rip-Off:** This consists of the introduction of from 200 to 400 kg of drugs in bags, sacks, or suitcases inside a container after dispatch, "without the knowledge of the sender or the consignee".
- ❑ **Contamination:** This consists of contaminating legal merchandise by impregnating it with drugs and then recovering the drugs through chemical processes.
- ❑ **Concealment:** This consists of deliberately concealing the drug inside a product from the place of origin with the consent and complicity of the companies involved in the transport.



Blind Hook or Rip-Off
Suitcases inside the container



Contamination
Chili sauce with cocaine



Contamination
Wood impregnated with cocaine



Concealment
Stone crushing machine

DRUG TRAFFICKING THROUGH UNDERWATER POLLUTION

Torpedoes / Underwater Contamination - In this modality, the cargo is attached to the hull of a merchant vessel or is placed in different areas of its structure, until it is finally recovered by divers upon arrival at its port of destination.

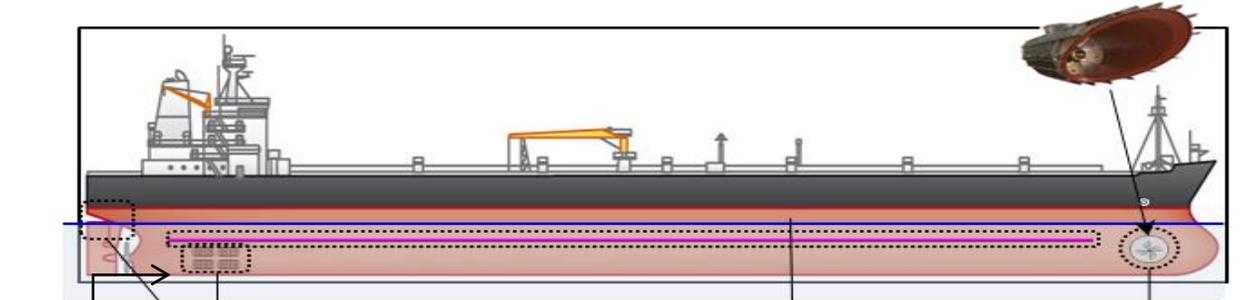
In Mexico, the trafficking of illicit substances via merchant ships continues to be a profitable and effective means for TOC.



Sea chests



07-02-2018
MN CAUTIN
Sea Chests - 42.6 kg Cocaine
Drug trafficking Destination : Lázaro Cárdenas(Mexico)



Comp. Pala Timón



Cajas de Mar



Quilla de Balance



Troster



Maletas



Maletas



Tipo Torpedo



Maletas



21-03-2018
MN COCHRANE
Sea Chests - 362.3 kg Cocaine
Drug trafficking Destination : Lázaro Cárdenas(Mexico)



28-09-2018
MN NORTHERN JUVENILE
Sea Chests - 54 kg Marijuana (Groumete)
Drug trafficking Destination : Manzanillo (Mexico)



TYPES OF VESSELS USED IN MARITIME DRUG TRAFFICKING

- ❑ **Speedboats:** Smaller vessels that travel long distances and use their speed to evade authorities at sea account for the vast majority of maritime cases, as smuggling, receiving, logistical, and surveillance vessels. They can load up to 2 tons of drugs.
- ❑ **Submersible and Semi-submersible:** Detected less frequently by technical and radar intelligence, they use very open routes, sailing from the coast of Colombia to the vicinity of Mexico's EEZ to deliver cargo to receiving vessels. They can carry up to 7 tons, are difficult to detect, and have a high level of navigational autonomy.
- ❑ **Yachts and Sailboats:** They use recreational cover, navigating in territorial waters, and have been detected in the Caribbean Sea and Baja California Sur. They can transport up to 2 tons of drugs.
- ❑ **Fishing Boats:** Generally tuna and shrimp trawlers, they are involved in transporting cocaine and marijuana and also provide logistical support to smuggling vessels.



"TANKA" 2019 Event



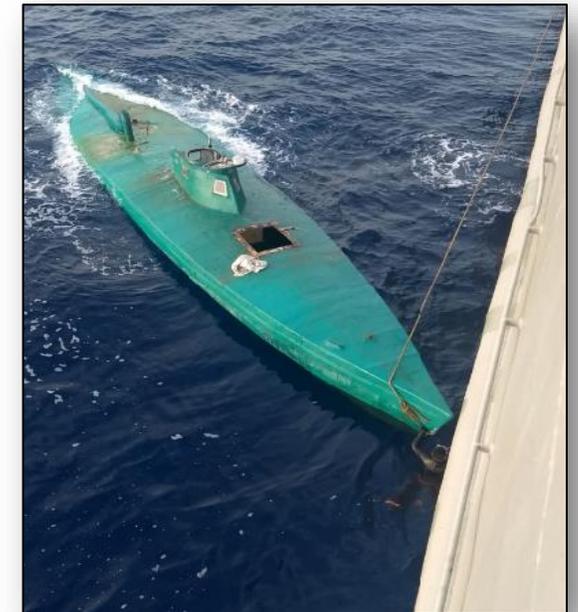
"CALABROTE" 2019 Event



"ZULEMA" 2017 Event



"MC-1" Event 2017



"EUGENIA" Event 2019

PARASITIC TYPE OF ARTIFACT MODE

On June 10, 2019, while carrying out search and river control operations, the National Navy of Colombia, inspected to a “courier” type of boat in which they detected a cylinder-type river device 14 m long x 1.5 m wide attached to the right side of the hull. Inside it, they found **1,649** rectangular **packages** with marijuana, **weighing 1,663 kg** and a 9mm pistol with 10 cartridges.

This cylinder had a water and air injection system with valves allowed it to sink or float in the water. The estimated value of this artifact was **\$ 142,500 Mexican pesos (US\$ 7,314.31)**.

It is presumed that the seized drugs belonged to the armed group Residual 48 and were destined for Brazil, where they would be worth approximately **\$ 57,000,000 Mexican pesos (US\$ 2,925,724.50)**.



GPS TECHNOLOGY



Smuggler vessel of the Reformaña type



03 GARMIN GPS



inReach SE®+
 Comunicador satelital
 NÚMERO DE REFERENCIA 010-01735-00
 Precio sugerido. Sujeto a cambios sin previo aviso.
\$9,482.75 MXN

General description:

Physical dimensions	2.7" x 6.5" x 1.5" (6.8 x 16.4 x 3.8 cm) with keypad and SOS button on the side
Screen size (width x height)	1.4" W. x 1.9" H. (3.5 x 4.7 cm); 2.31" diag. (5.9cm)
Screen resolution (width x height)	200 x 265 / 60 Hz
Type of screen	Transflective TFT color screen.
Weight	7.5 oz (213.0 g)
Battery	Rechargeable internal lithium-ion battery
Battery life	Up to 100 hours in default 10-minute tracking mode, 30 days in power-saving mode at 30-minute intervals, and up to 30 days in standby mode.

- 100% global the Iridium satellite network coverage enables **two-way text messaging from any location**
- Send an interactive SOS to the continuous search and rescue monitoring center.
- Records and shares your location.
- Synchronizes with mobile devices.
- Free access to a cloud-based portal **to plan trips with routes and intermediate points, create preset messages and quick texts**, synchronize and manage device settings
- The inReach Explorer+ device adds preloaded TOPO DeLorme® maps with GPS routing, plus a built-in digital compass, barometric altimeter, and accelerometer.

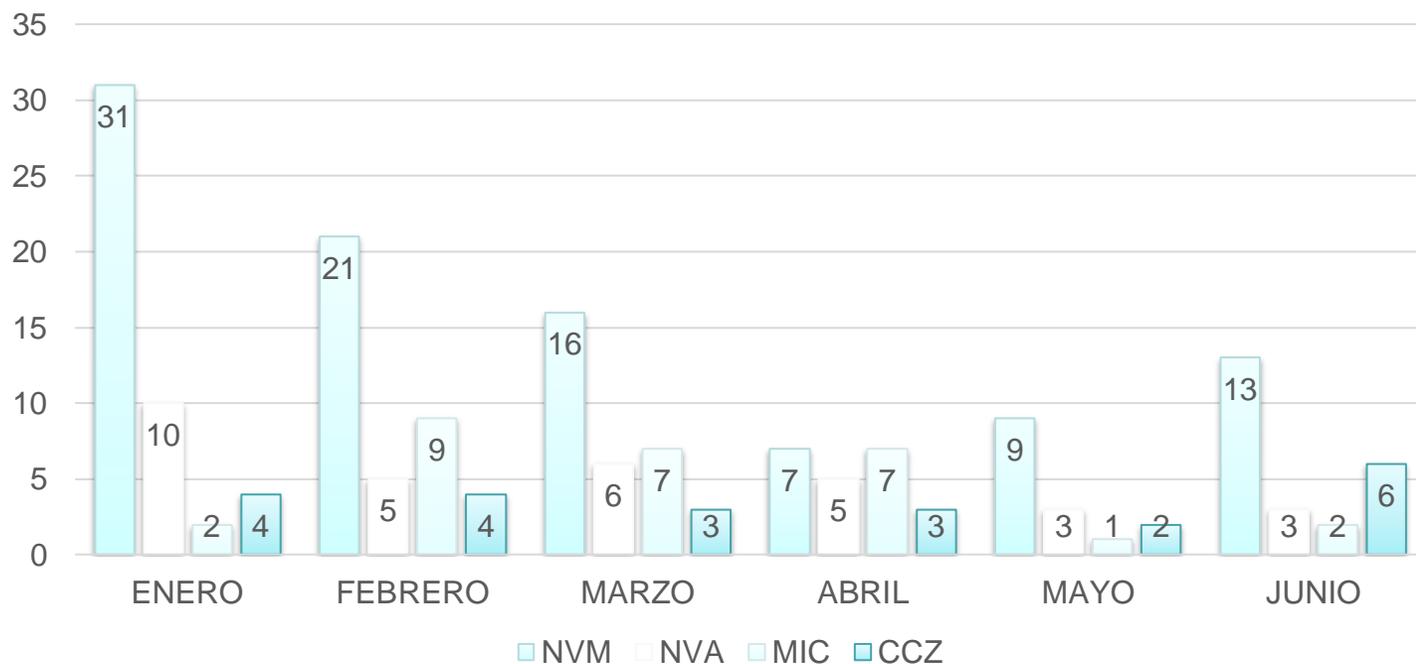


38 packages with 1211.5 kilos of cocaine hydrochloride

SECUREMENT (ASEGURAMIENTOS) STATISTICS JANUARY - JUNE 2021

Results in January - September 2021					
Maritime			Port		
Merchandise (efectos)	Quantity	Price	Merchandise (efectos)	Quantity	Price
NVM Secured Events	10	N/A	Containers	64	N/A
Cocaine	10,170.17	\$ 162,722,656.00	Cocaine	335.32	\$ 5,365,120.00
Boats	8	\$ 2,400,000.00	Marijuana	1028.8	\$ 82,304.00
Semi-submersible	4	\$ 6,000,000.00	Methamphetamines	195.9	\$ 2,840,550.00
Persons	35		Precursors Q	244.927	-

Threat Incidence



Merchandise (efectos)	Grand Total
Cocaine	10,505.49 kg
Marihuana	1,028.8 kg
Persons	35
Boats	8
Semisumersibles	4
Methamphetamine	195.9 kg
Chemical Precursors	244,927 kg/lt

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION