



GRC  
RCMP

# MARITIME NARCOTRAFFICKING EXPERTS GROUP

OAS CICAD GUATEMALA  
NOVEMBER 2023





**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**  
**Coastal Detachments, Quebec East District**  
**2023**

Presented by

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## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE Coastal Detachments, Quebec East District 2023

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# TOPICS

1. Introduction
2. General overview
3. Countering maritime  
narcotrafficking



# 1 INTRODUCTION



# AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



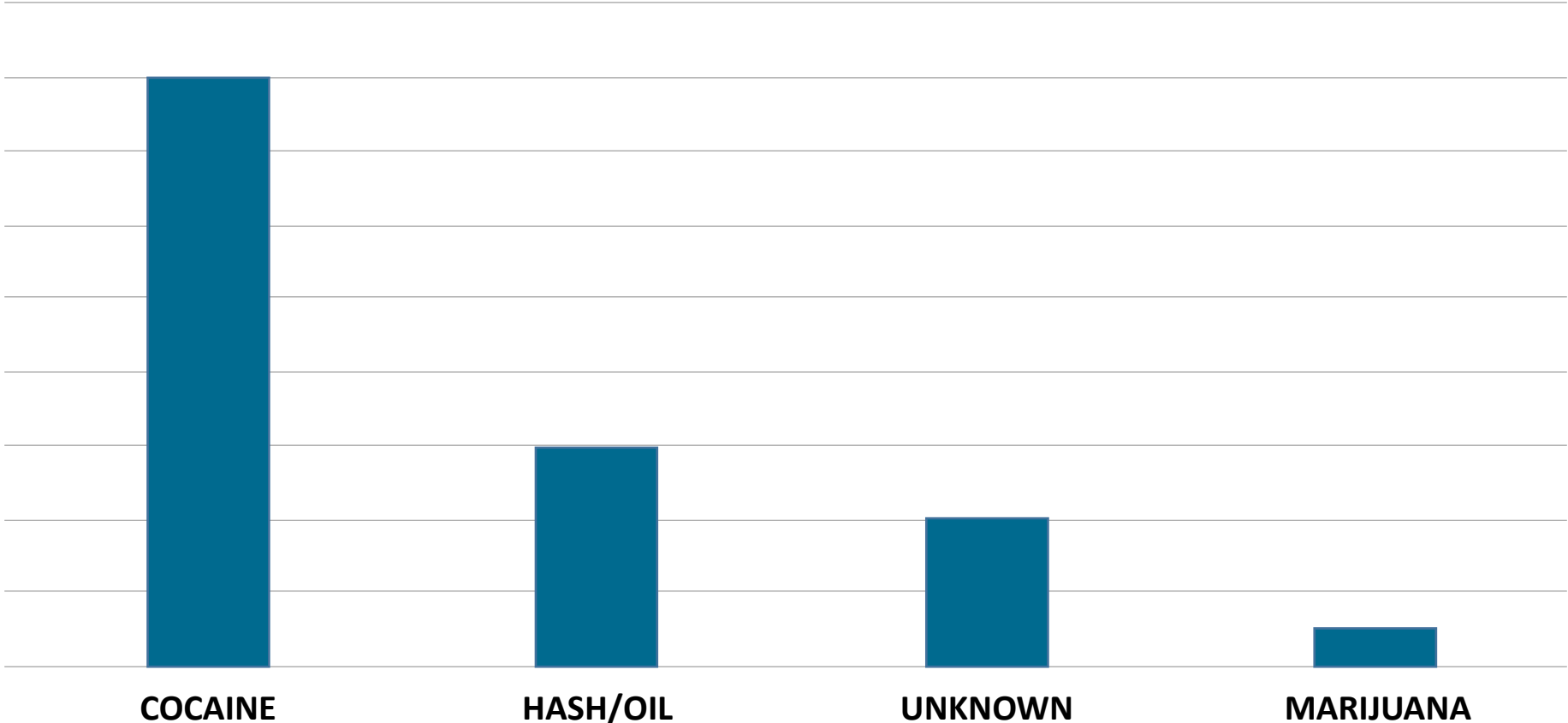
# 2 GENERAL OVERVIEW





# SMUGGLED COMMODITIES

LAST 20 YEARS





# MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION



01

**Shipping  
containers**



02

**Parasite  
modality**



03

**Merchant  
vessels**  
(general cargo &  
bulk carriers)



04

**Sailing  
vessels**



05

**Fishing  
vessels**

# PORT OF MONTREAL

The largest and most important port in Eastern Canada





## PORT OF MONTREAL IMPORTS

- In 2021, less than 2% of all cocaine seized from shipping containers in Canada came directly from Columbia.
- While the majority of that cocaine was produced in Columbia, it transited through the United States, Jamaica, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic prior to coming to Canada.
- Most of those seizures were performed in "dry cargo-general".



## PORT OF MONTREAL IMPORTS

### Concealment methods

- Container structure
- Heavy machinery
- Cement blocks
- Charcoal
- Rocks/tiles (ceramic, quartz, granite, etc.)
- Perishable goods



## PORT OF MONTREAL EXPORTS

- The cannabis sent to the Port of Montreal originates mainly from British Columbia and Ontario.
- It is shipped to Europe in large quantities by shipping containers.
  - Ex.: 1000 kilos of cannabis destined to the Netherlands was recently seized from a shipping container.
- **Top destination countries** for cannabis exports from the Port of Montreal:
  - France
  - Belgium
  - Austria
  - United Kingdom
  - Netherlands
  - Germany



## PORT OF MONTREAL EXPORTS

- Canada: an anticipated source country for fentanyl production. Exports to Australia, Europe and the United States.
- Growing trend: export of methamphetamine to Europe and Australia.



# SHIPPING CONTAINERS - Project OBANE BERRY





June 2018 a commercial vessel was found to be transporting cocaine in a parasitic device attached below the waterline. This parasitic device is similar to the one found on the vessel that arrived in Canada.

## PARASITIC DEVICE



An example of a simple parasitic device attached to the hull of a vessel

Cocaine inside the parasitic attachment

Cocaine concealed inside the parasitic device





**SAILING VESSELS**

USA

## SAILING VESSELS

Cocaine trafficking routes from South America to North America

DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC

PUERTO RICO

VENEZUELA





CANADA

EUROPE

USA

ATLANTIC  
OCEAN

PUERTO RICO

VENEZUELA

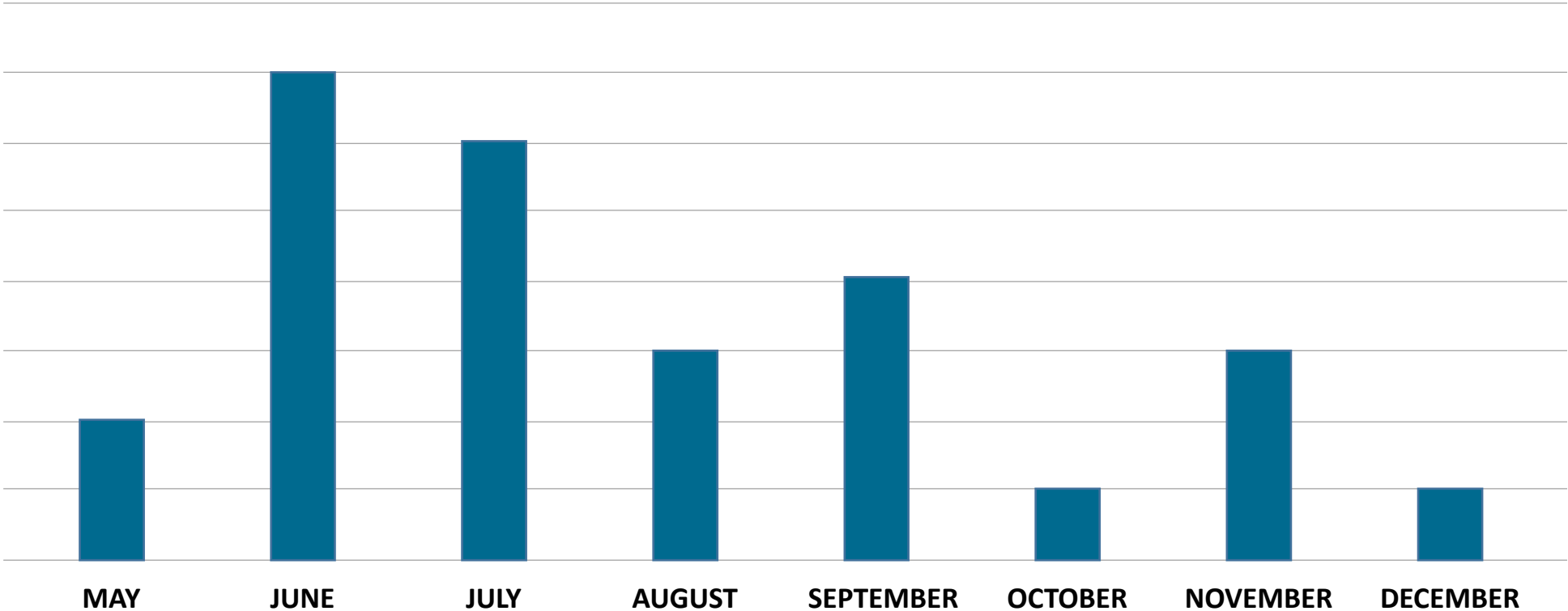
## SAILING VESSELS

Cocaine trafficking routes from South America to North America



# SAILING VESSELS

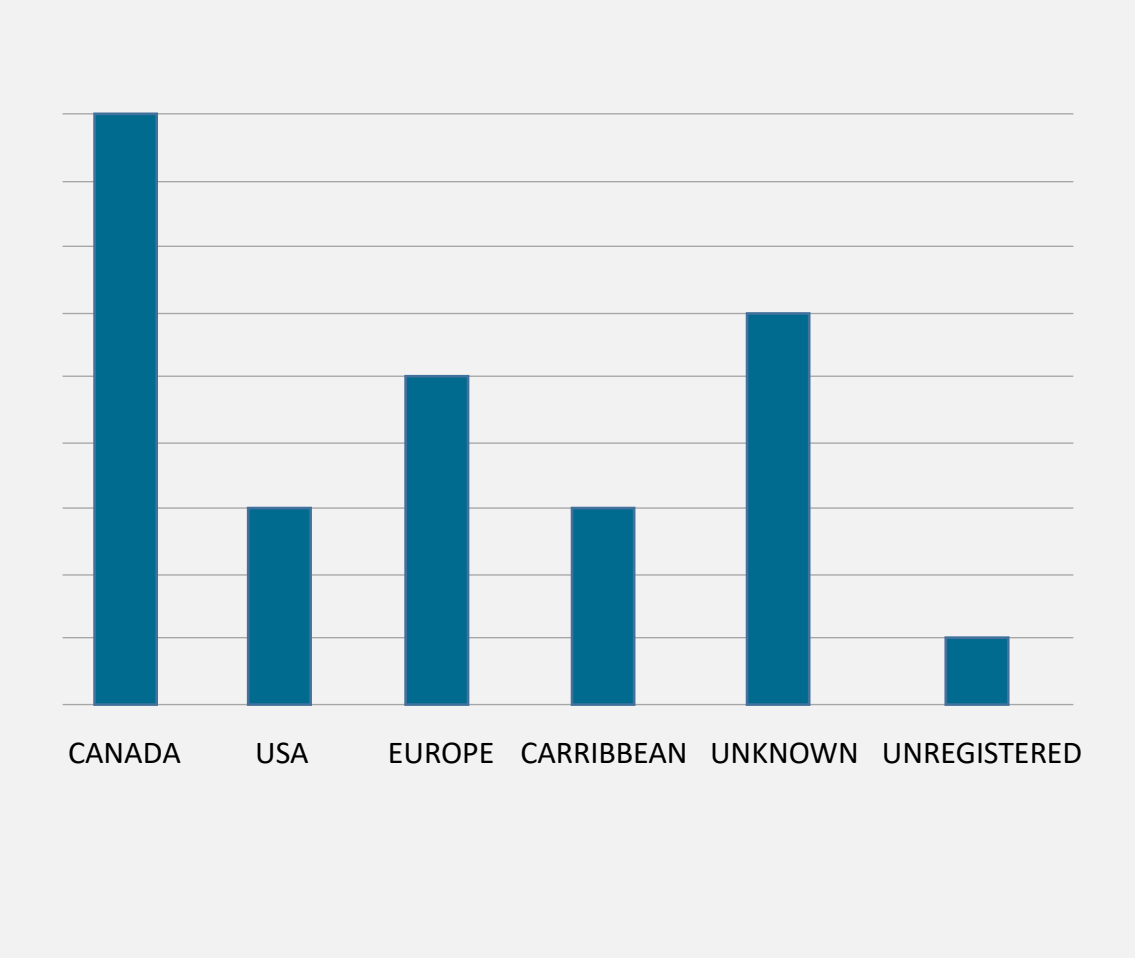
## TIME OF YEAR



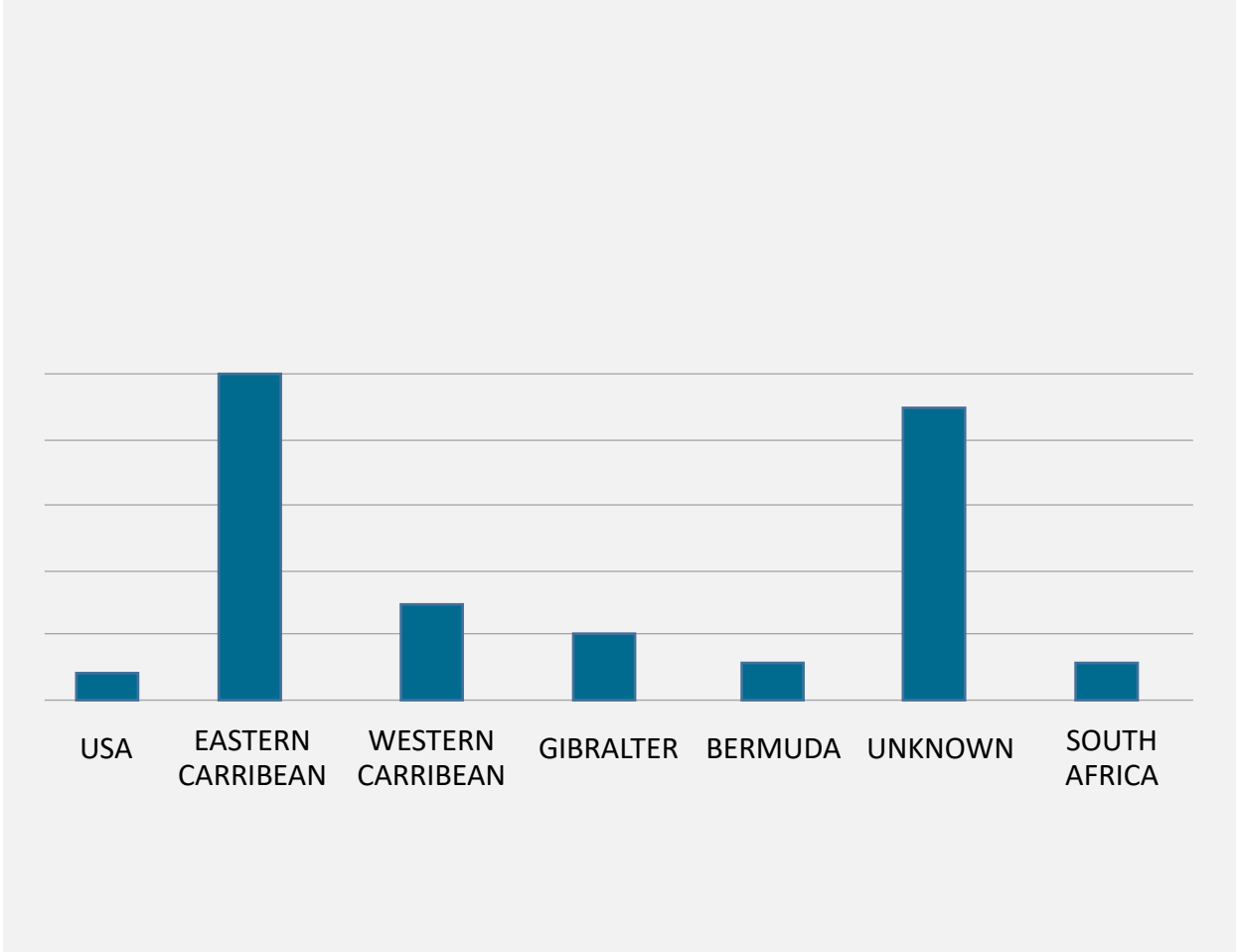


# SAILING VESSELS

## A. Vessel Country of Registration Within the last 20 years

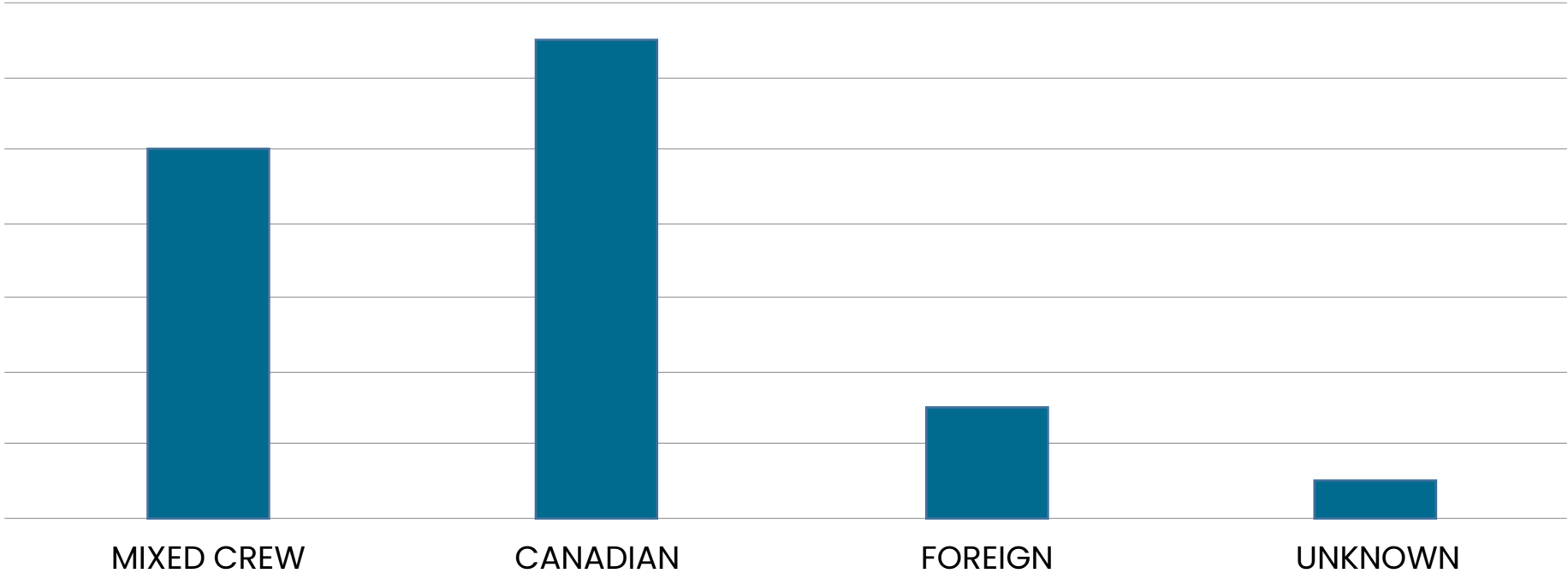


## B. Last Port of Call Within the last 20 years





# SAILING VESSELS CREW





# SAILING VESSELS – OPERATIONS

SV AMETHYST – 552 kilos of cocaine seized 150km south of Halifax – Atlantic Ocean



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## SAILING VESSELS – OPERATIONS

SV AMETHYST – 552 kilos of cocaine seized 150km south of Halifax – Atlantic Ocean

G.R.C.

R.C.M.P.



# SAILING VESSELS – OPERATIONS

SV AMETHYST – 552 kilos of cocaine seized 150km south of Halifax – Atlantic Ocean



## **SAILING VESSELS – OPERATIONS**

**SV INTERLUDE VI – 268 kilos of cocaine seized on a sailboat in Halifax**



# SAILING VESSELS – OPERATIONS

SV INTERLUDE VI – 268 kilos of cocaine seized on a sailboat in Halifax

# 3 COUNTERING MARITIME NARCOTRAFFICKING





# MARINE SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTRES (MSOC)

MSOC-East-Halifax, NS / MSOC-West – Victoria, BC / MSOC-Great Lakes – Niagara, ON

# MSOC EAST

Area of responsibility (AOR)

## AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

11,297,580 Total Sq. Km

6,902,976 Sq. Km Water

4,394,604 Sq. Km Land



MSOC WEST

GREAT LAKES MSOC

MSOC EAST

# MARINE SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER (MSOC)

## Partners and traditional responsibilities



### DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

- Sovereignty
- National Defence
- Core partner assistance



### ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

- Criminal activity
- National security



### CANADA BORDER SERVICES AGENCY

- Integrated Border/Customs services
- Advanced passenger/crew information
- Passenger/Crew/Goods information on arrival



### TRANSPORT CANADA

- Marine safety & security
- Regulatory enforcement/SOLAS requirements
- Port State Control/Vessels entering Canada



### FISHERIES AND OCEANS

- Enforce fisheries, oceans, & species at risk acts
- Marine/inland science, hydrography & fishing harbour structures



### CANADIAN COAST GUARD

- *Oceans Act* – Safety of navigation
- *Canada Shipping Act* – Surveillance and response





# CANADA-U.S. SHIPRIDER

Integrated Cross-border Maritime Law Enforcement Operations



# CANADA-U.S. SHIPRIDER

## Integrated Cross-border Maritime Law Enforcement Operations

- Canadian and US law enforcement officers
- Jointly crewed vessels
- In shared Canada-U.S. waterways
- Only specially trained and designated officers onboard
- Four dedicated Shiprider teams (East & West)
- Surge operations take place in other areas coast to coast



# CANADA-U.S. SHIPRIDER

## Integrated Cross-border Maritime Law Enforcement Operations

### Air support capable:

- Deployment of air assets for cross-border patrols
- Attached to an ICMLEO vessel
- Personnel are all trained and designated
- Designated marine officers may also be onboard
- Video and images may be shared





# MARINE SECURITY ENFORCEMENT TEAM (MSET)



## MARINE SECURITY ENFORCEMENT TEAM (MSET)

- Joint initiative between the RCMP and the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) since 2005.
- Improves national security and enhances Canada's capacity to respond to threats.
- Provides increased police presence at sea in regions with many vessels.



## MARINE SECURITY ENFORCEMENT TEAM (MSET)

- Composed of one sergeant, four corporals and eight constables.
- Members are divided into four teams on two vessels.
- Only one team per vessel is on duty at a time.

# MARINE SECURITY ENFORCEMENT TEAM (MSET)

## In operation year-round:

- **From March to December:**  
on CCG mid shore patrol vessels
- **From December to February:**  
on CCG icebreakers, to gather intelligence





# MARINE SECURITY ENFORCEMENT TEAM (MSET)

## MANDATE

1. **Detect, assess and respond** to significant inbound and outbound threats at Canada's borders (at marine ports and between ports of entry).
2. **Carry out and support** priority investigations involving maritime crime.
3. **Provide marine support** in police operations conducted by RCMP coastal and border detachments and by federal law enforcement partners.
4. **Demonstrate an active presence** throughout the territory and raise public awareness of our mandate.



# MSET TERRITORY SERVED BY C DIVISION



# MSET/SHIPS

## CHARACTERISTICS

<b>TYPE</b>	Mid shore patrol vessel
<b>LENGTH</b>	<b>42.8 m</b>
<b>BEAM</b>	7.3 m
<b>MAXIMUM SPEED</b>	25 knots
<b>CRUISING SPEED</b>	16 knots
<b>TEAM</b>	12
<b>AUTONOMY AT SEA</b>	14 days on a course of 2000 nautical miles



# MSET PATROL VESSELS

Each ship is equipped with two vessels to conduct patrols on the St. Lawrence Seaway and in the St. Lawrence Gulf.

## Characteristics:

- Zodiac hurricane **753s\***
- Two 200 hp outboard motors
- Maximum speed 45 knots
- Four seats

\* MSET members can use detachment zodiacs for operations when necessary.



# INTERNATIONAL POLICING

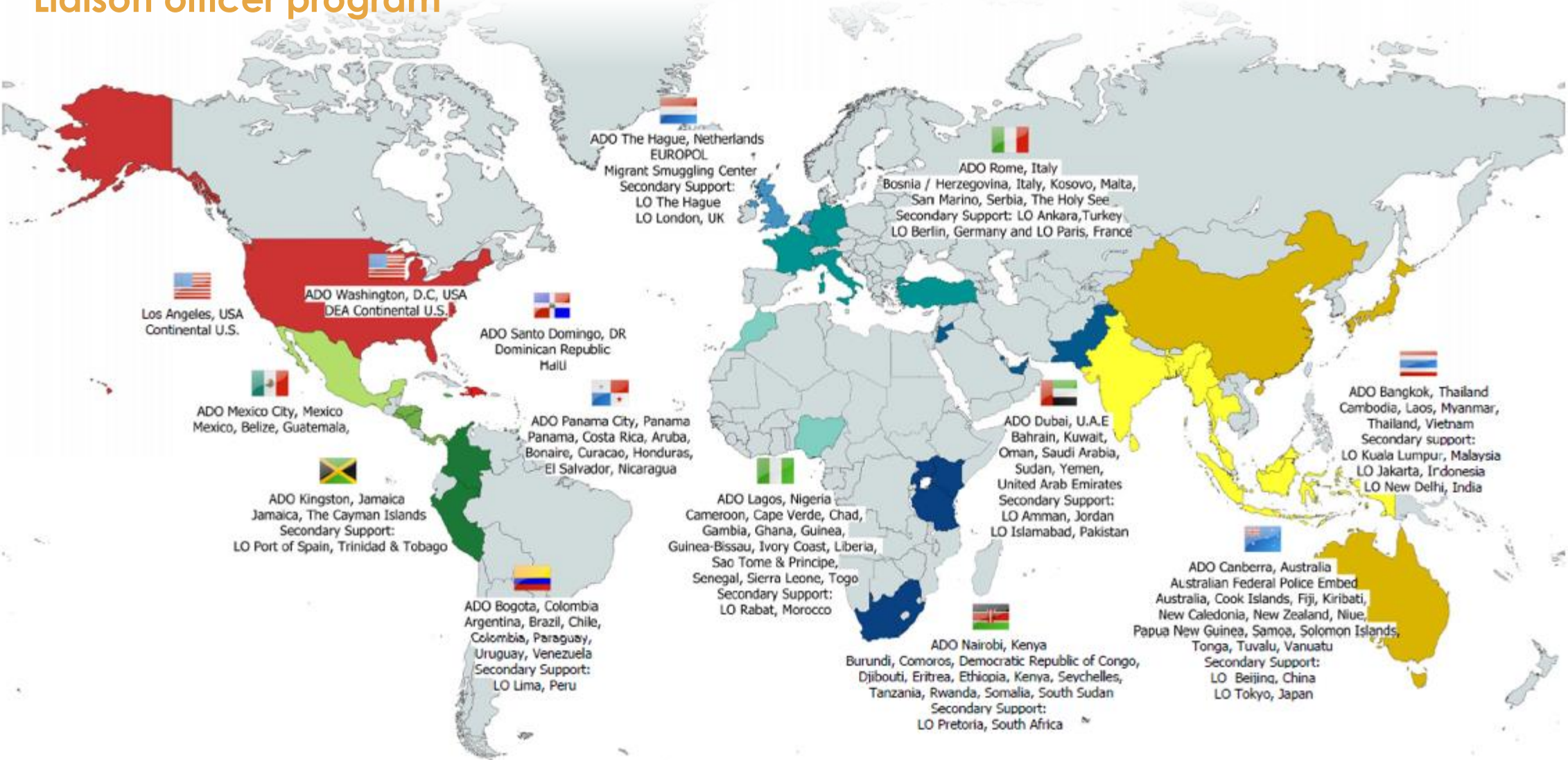
## Liaison officer program – International footprint 2023





# INTERNATIONAL POLICING

## Liaison officer program





**GRC  
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**Thank you  
Gracias**

**QUESTIONS?**

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**Royal Canadian Mounted Police** **Gendarmerie royale du Canada**