



Sanctions Evasions at Sea – The Expanding Role of the Grey Fleet.

Kpler

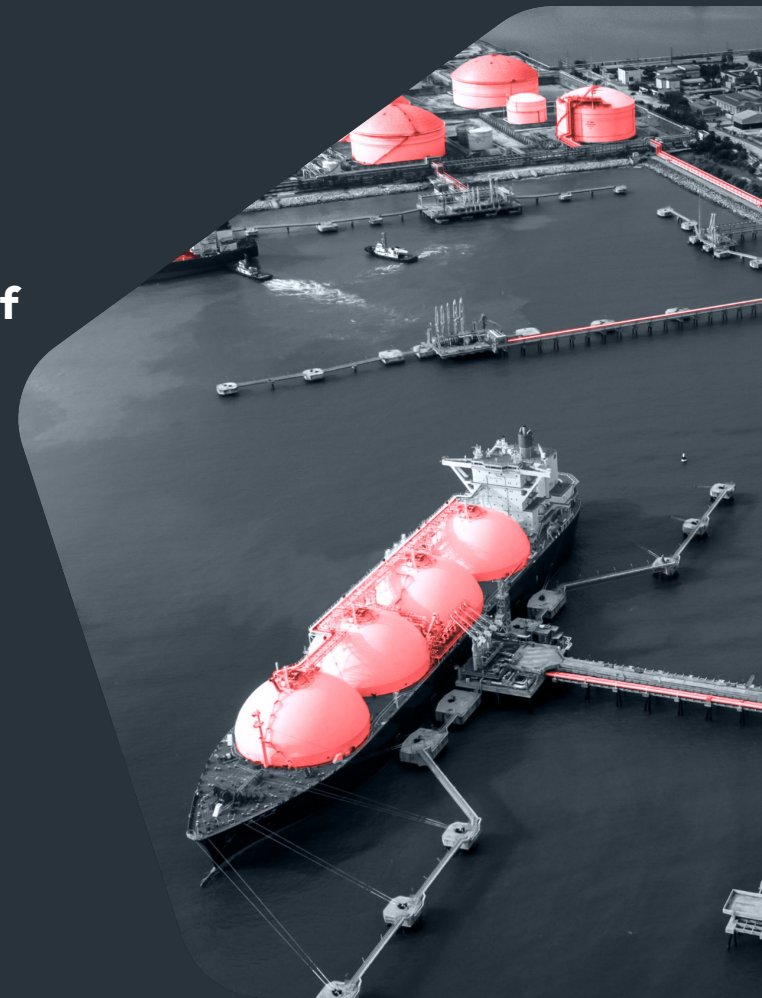
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A game of shadows

Situation

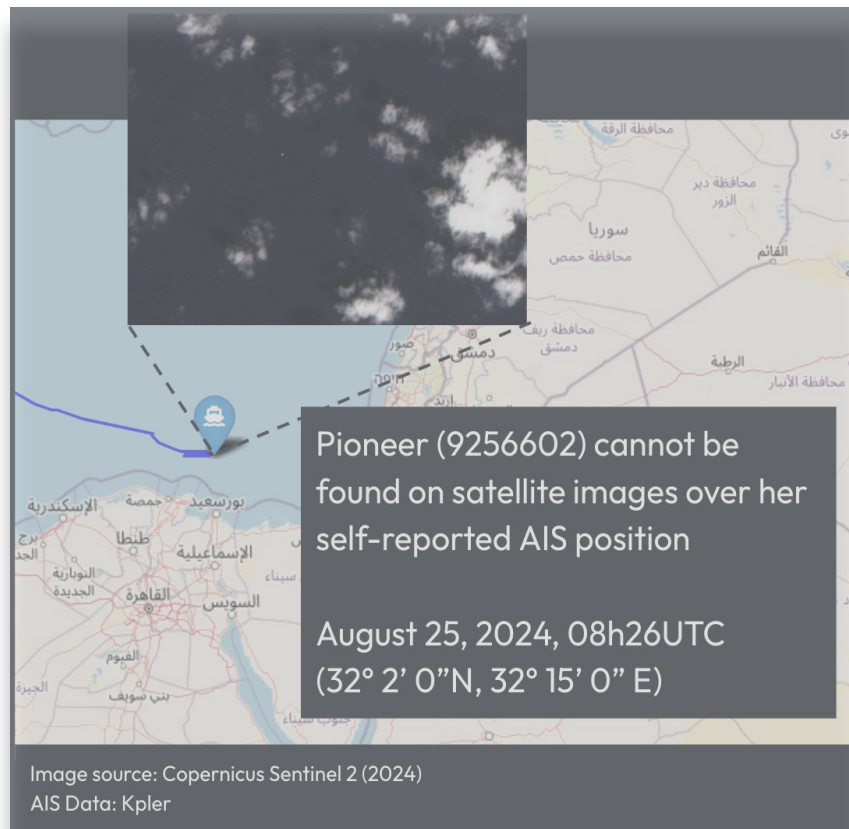
Sanctions tighten. Rules multiply. Eyes everywhere.

Problem

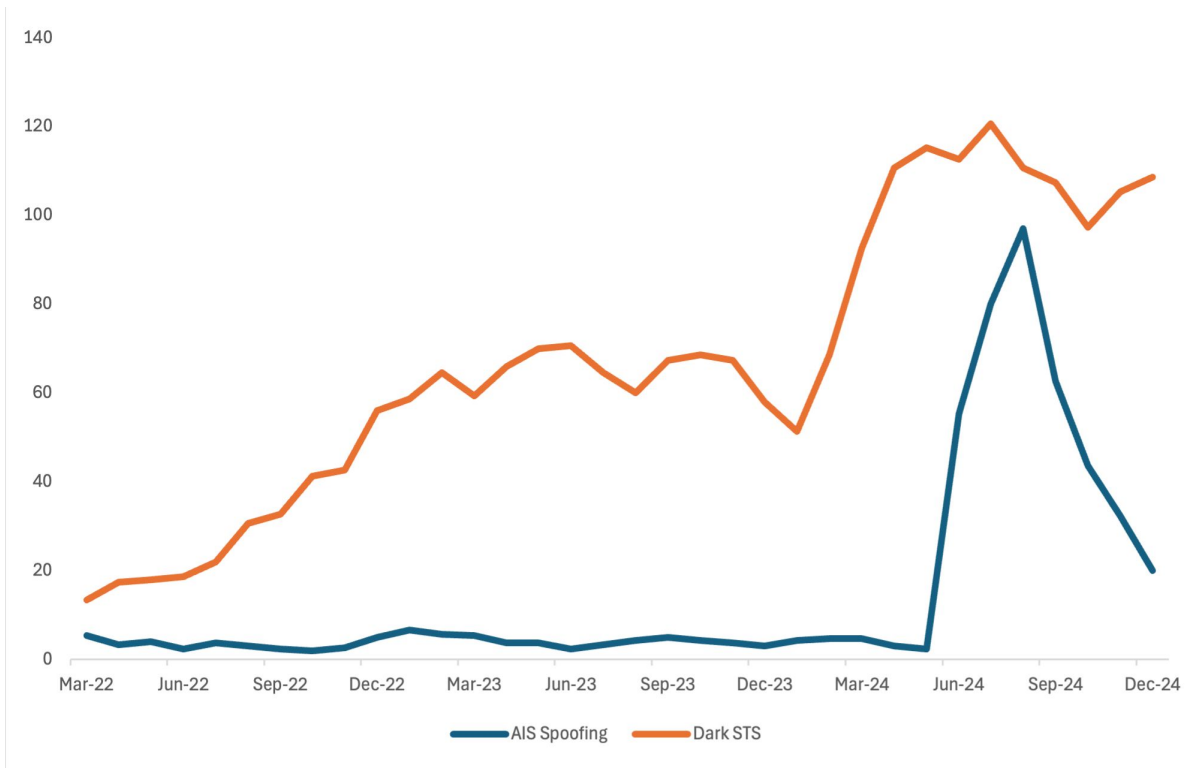
Players need to **move cargo—unseen**, unchallenged.

Outcome

Blend it. Hide it. **Disappear.**



Sophisticated evasion tactics make monitoring and enforcement challenging



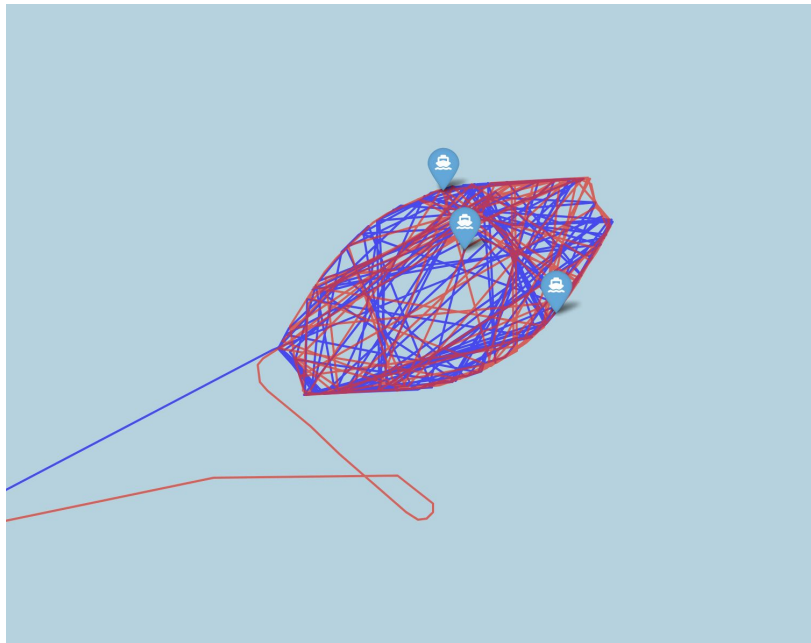
Dark STS Transfers

- **<10** per month (2022) → **90-130** per month (2024).
- **+1,200%** increase, driven by 2024 sanctions.

AIS Spoofing

- **5-10** events per month → Spike to **~160** in May 2024.
- **+1,500%** surge, followed by a rapid decline.

Scrutinise AIS positions



The AIS transmissions by PIONEER (*now called as SPUTNIK ENERGY*) were flagged by Kpler as AIS spoofing...



...to confirm this assumption, we used satellite imagery sources to confirm PIONEER's true location, located 1,300 km away at the Arctic LNG 2 terminal

Pioneer's dark port call on 1 August 2024



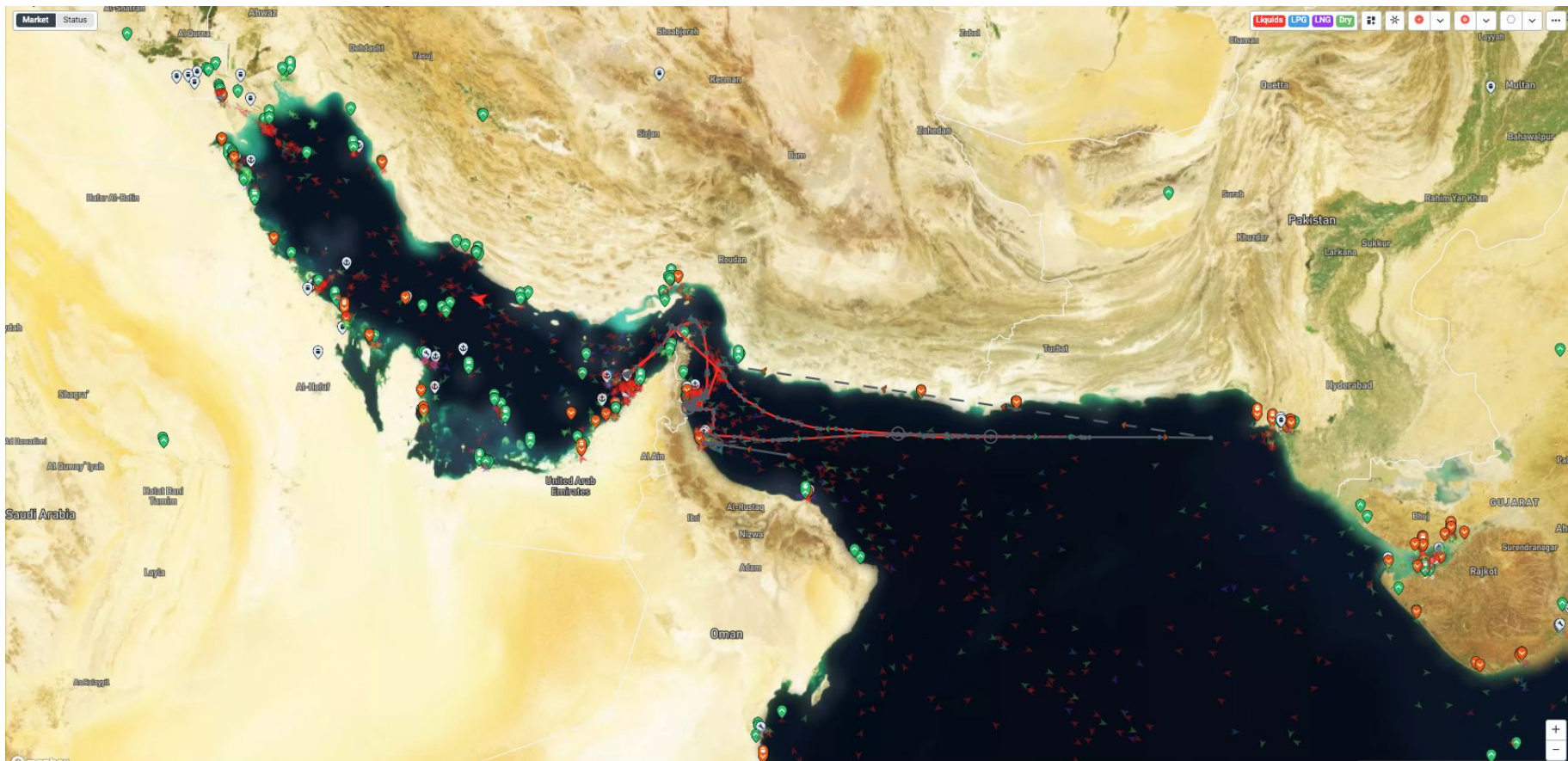
Pioneer dark loading at Arctic LNG 2's terminal on 1 August 2024, 1,300 km from the AIS position she was reporting at the time.



Major flaring event on 1 August indicates restart of LNG production.

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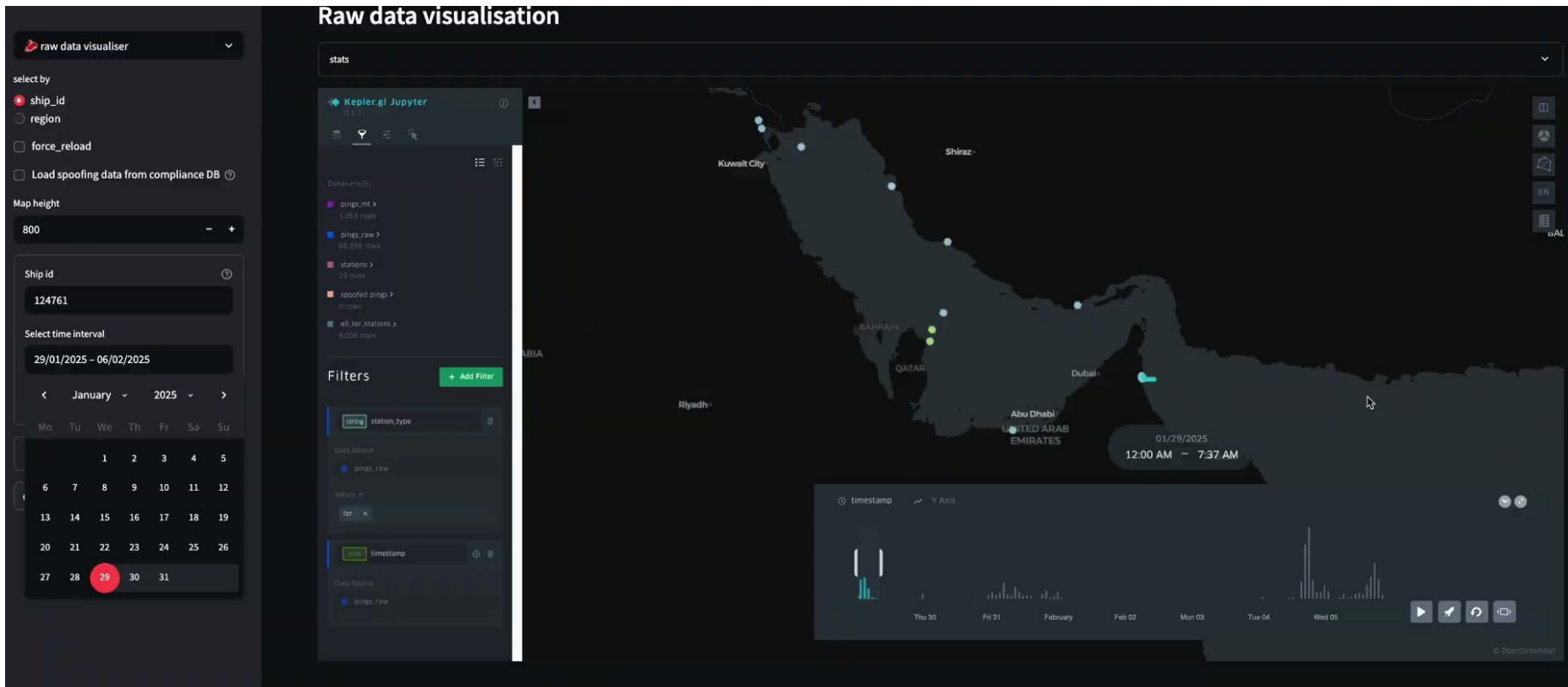
Spoofing Detection - AIS tracks & receiving stations



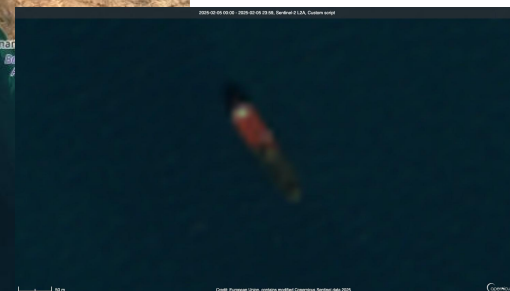
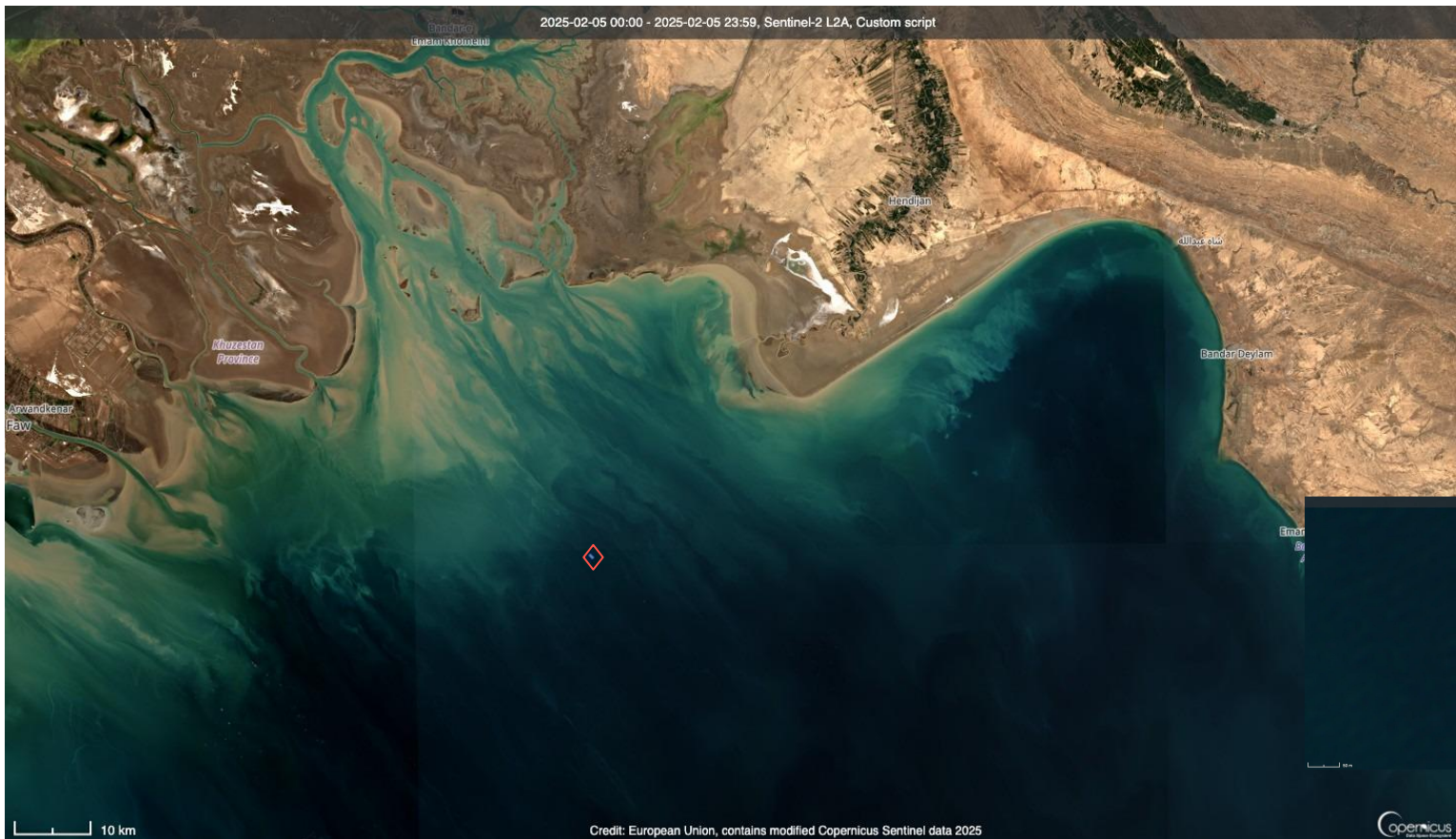
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Spoofing Detection - AIS tracks & receiving stations

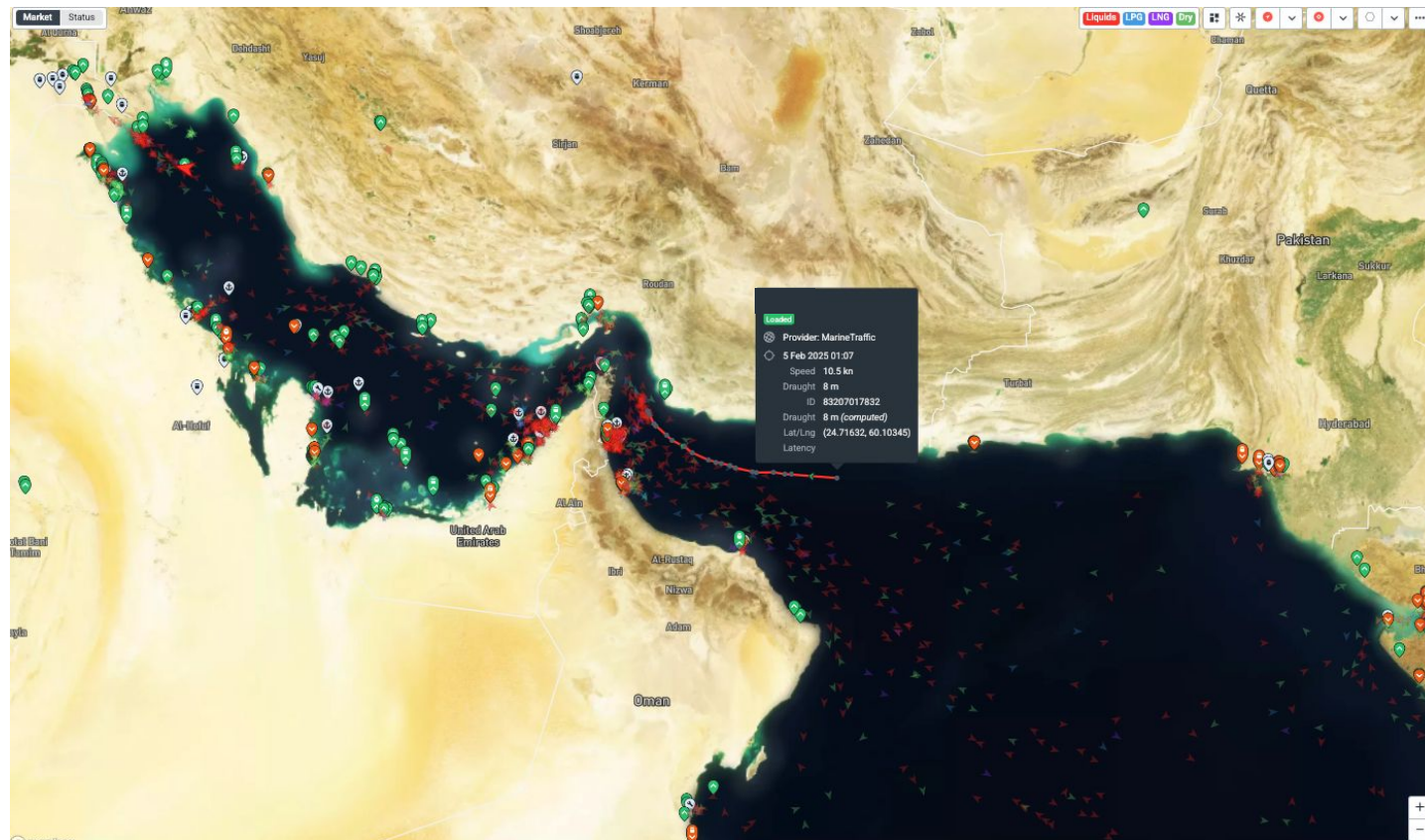
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Spoofing Detection - AIS tracks & satellite imagery: actual location



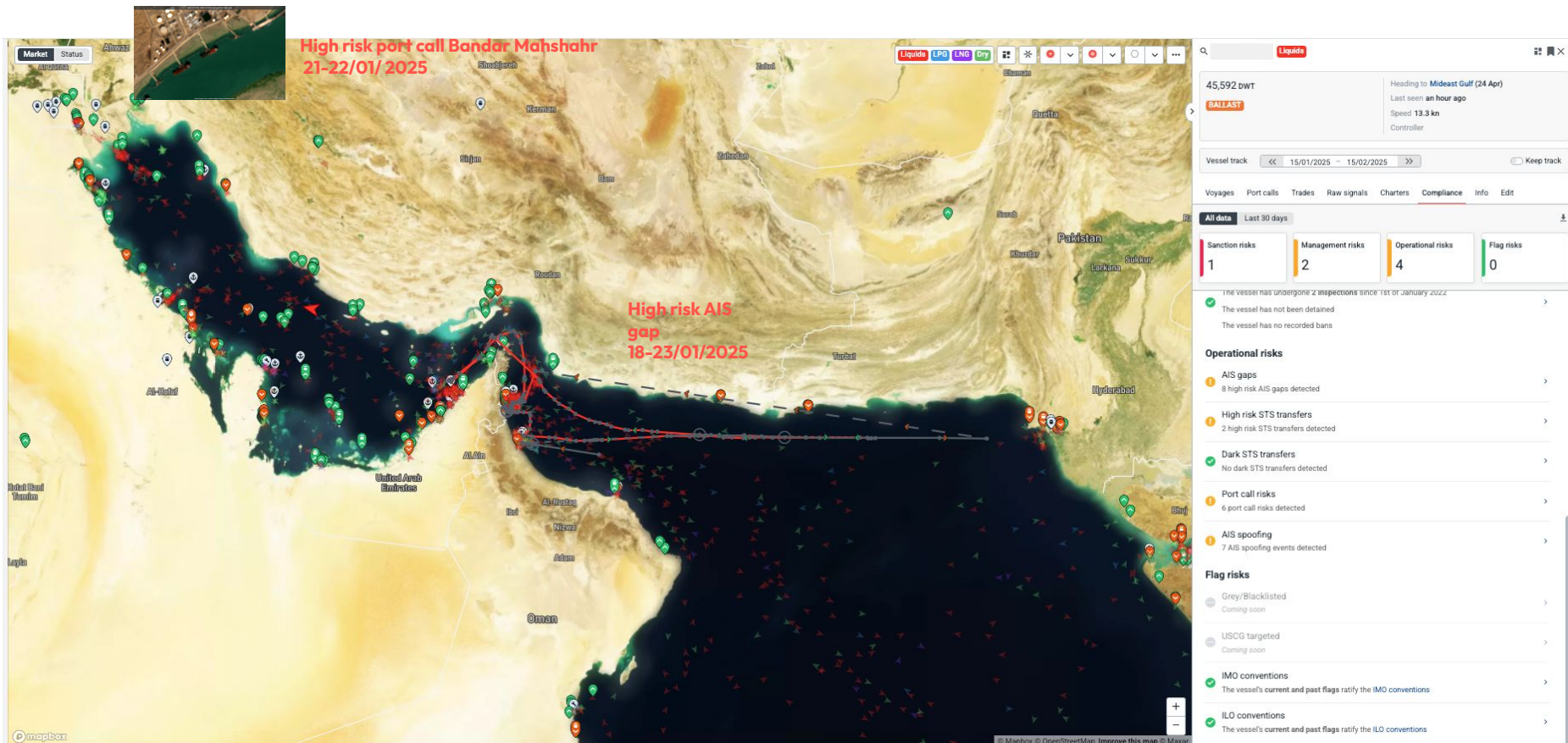
Spoofing Detection - AIS tracks & satellite imagery: reported location



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Operational risks timeline

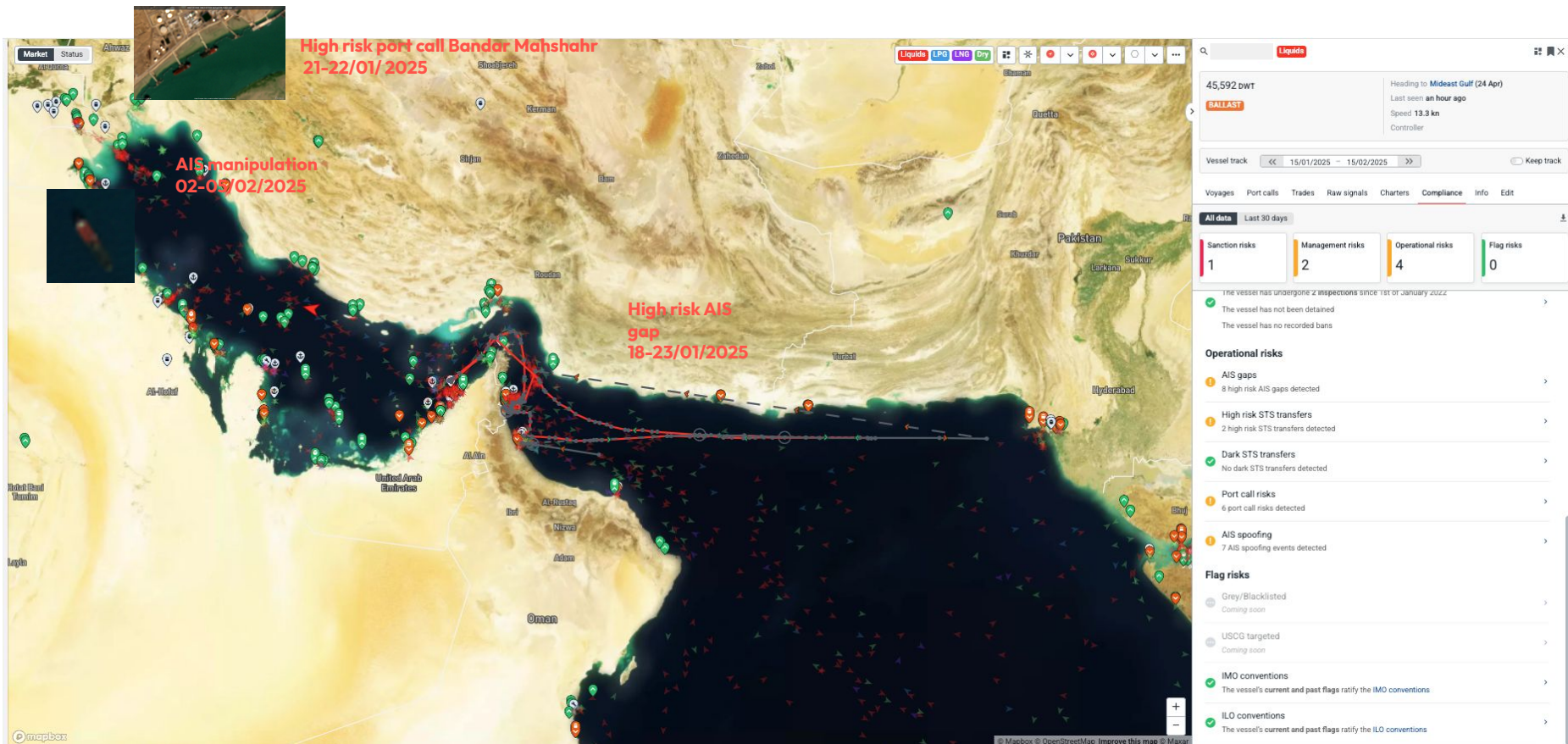
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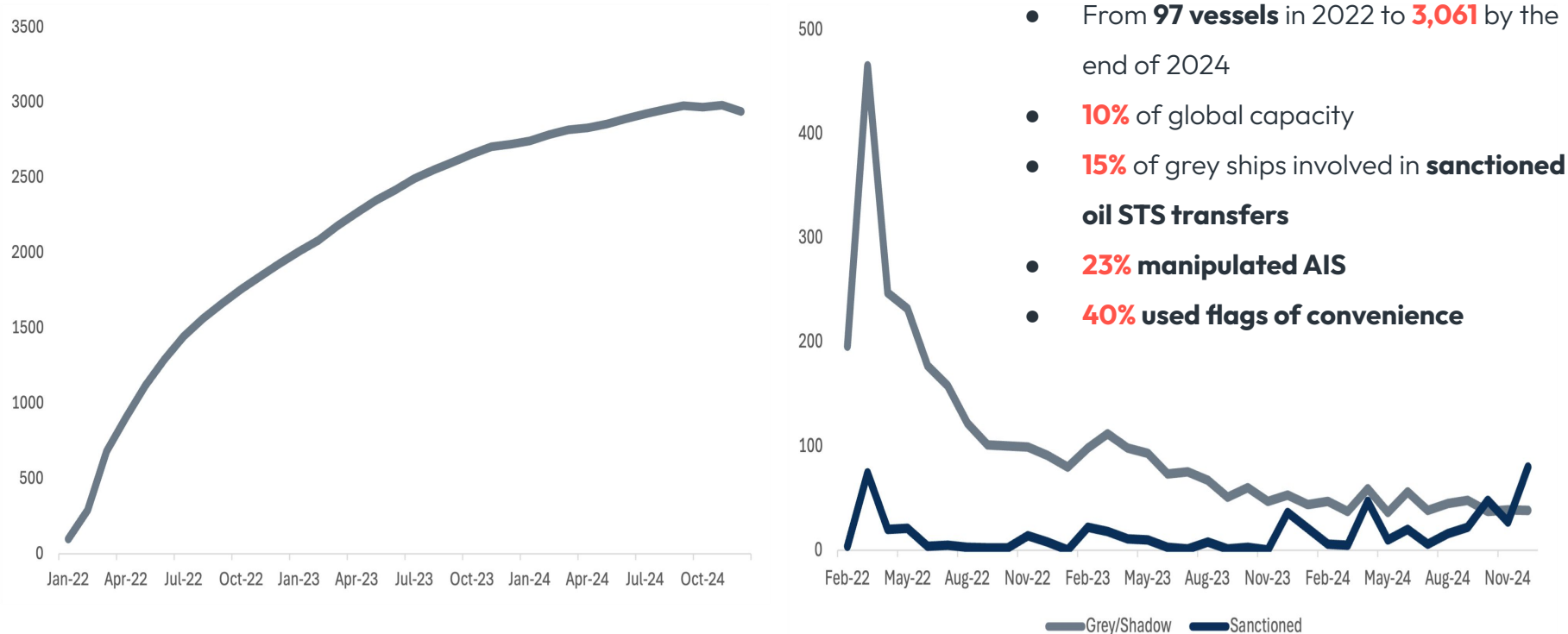
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Operational risks timeline

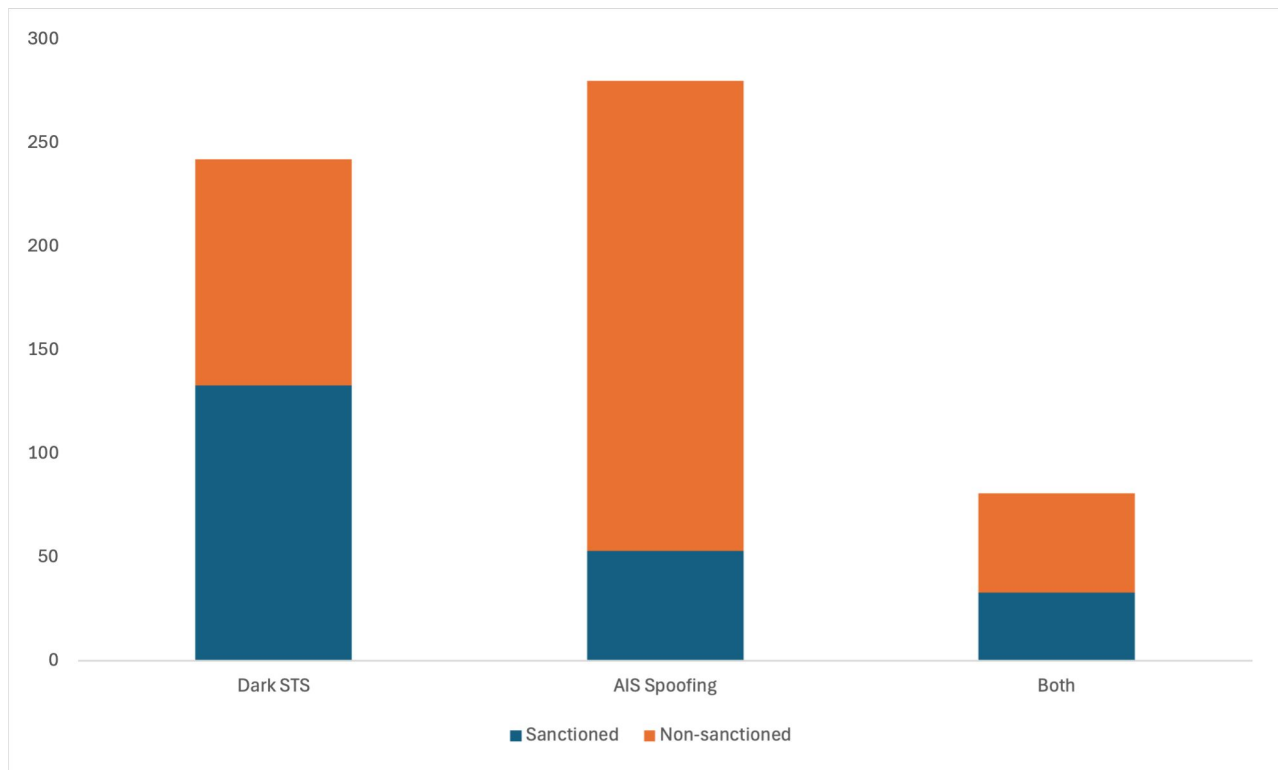
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The grey fleet's rapid expansion poses compliance, safety, and environmental risks



Illicit Maritime Activities (2024)



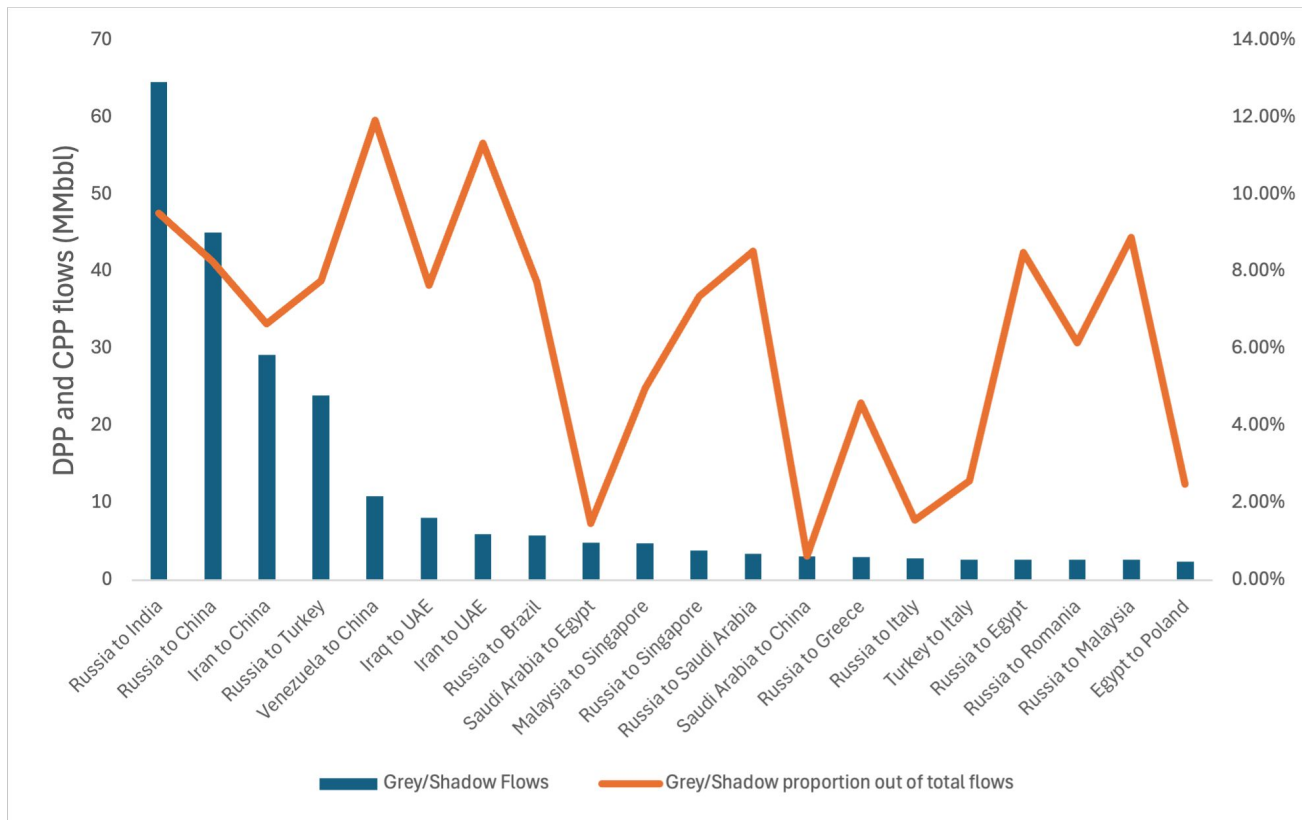
Activity Breakdown

- **Dark STS:** 242 vessels
- **AIS Spoofing:** 280 vessels
- **Both tactics:** 81 vessels

Sanction Timelines

- **34%** of the newly sanctioned vessels were sanctioned **within 250 days** after their first dark activity (dark STS or AIS spoofing)
- **350+** vessels are at **high risk** of being sanctioned within 2025

Grey Fleet's Role in DPP & CPP Trade (2024)



Top Routes by Volume

- **Russia to India** ~65 MMbbl (9.5% of total)
- **Russia to China** ~45 MMbbl (8.5% of total)

High Proportion of Grey fleet

- **Venezuela to China** ~12%
- **Iran to UAE** ~11.5%

Notable Trade Shifts

- **Russia to Saudi Arabia** ~8.5%
- **Russia to Turkey** ~8%

From Shadows to Clarity - Scaling R&C

Fleet-wide expansion

- Extending coverage from tankers and dry cargo over 5k tonnes to **full IMO holding fleet**
- Fully integrated into the **MarineTraffic** platform

Broader coverage. Deeper detection. Seamless access.

Key takeaways

- **Sanctions are tightening** – loopholes are vanishing.
- AIS signals can be **manipulated**, but can be **detected with algorithms and raw data**.
- **Dark transfers and hidden port calls** are the new normal.
- **Insurance exposure is rising** – blind spots are costly.
- In compliance, **ignorance is not a defense**.





Thank you! Questions?

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