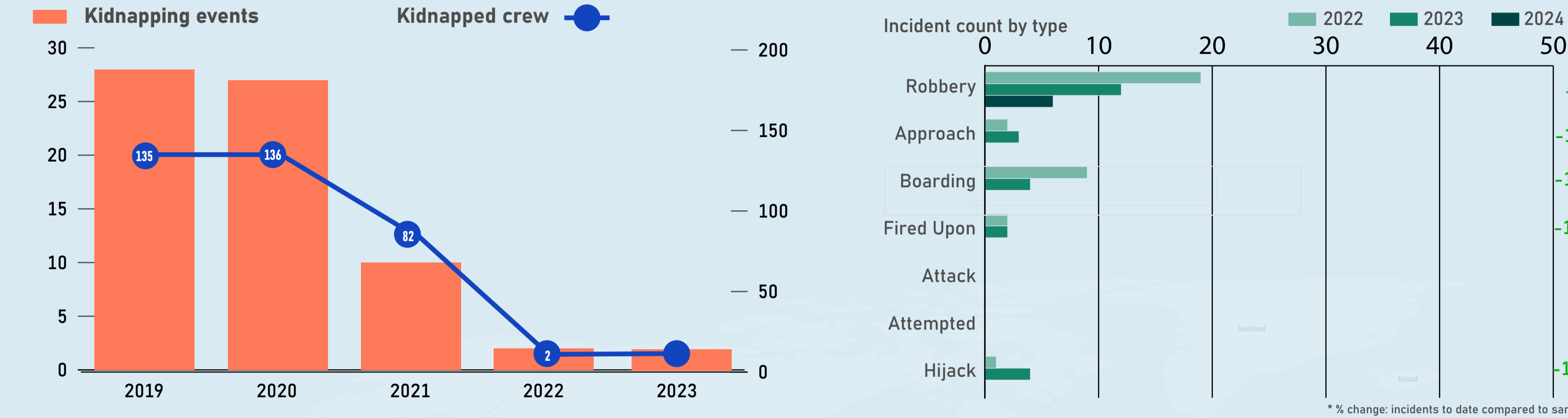
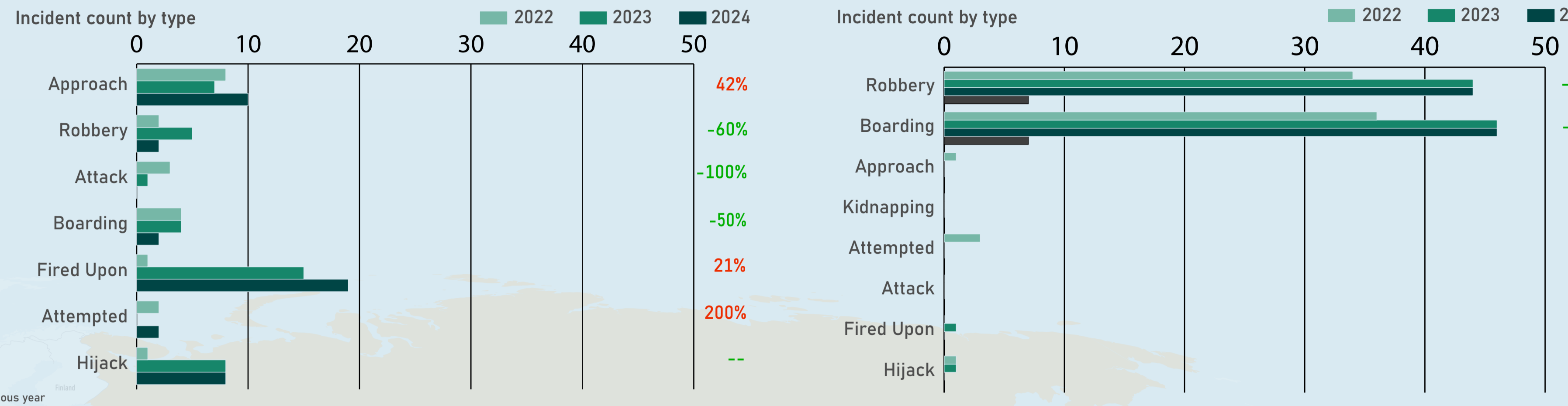


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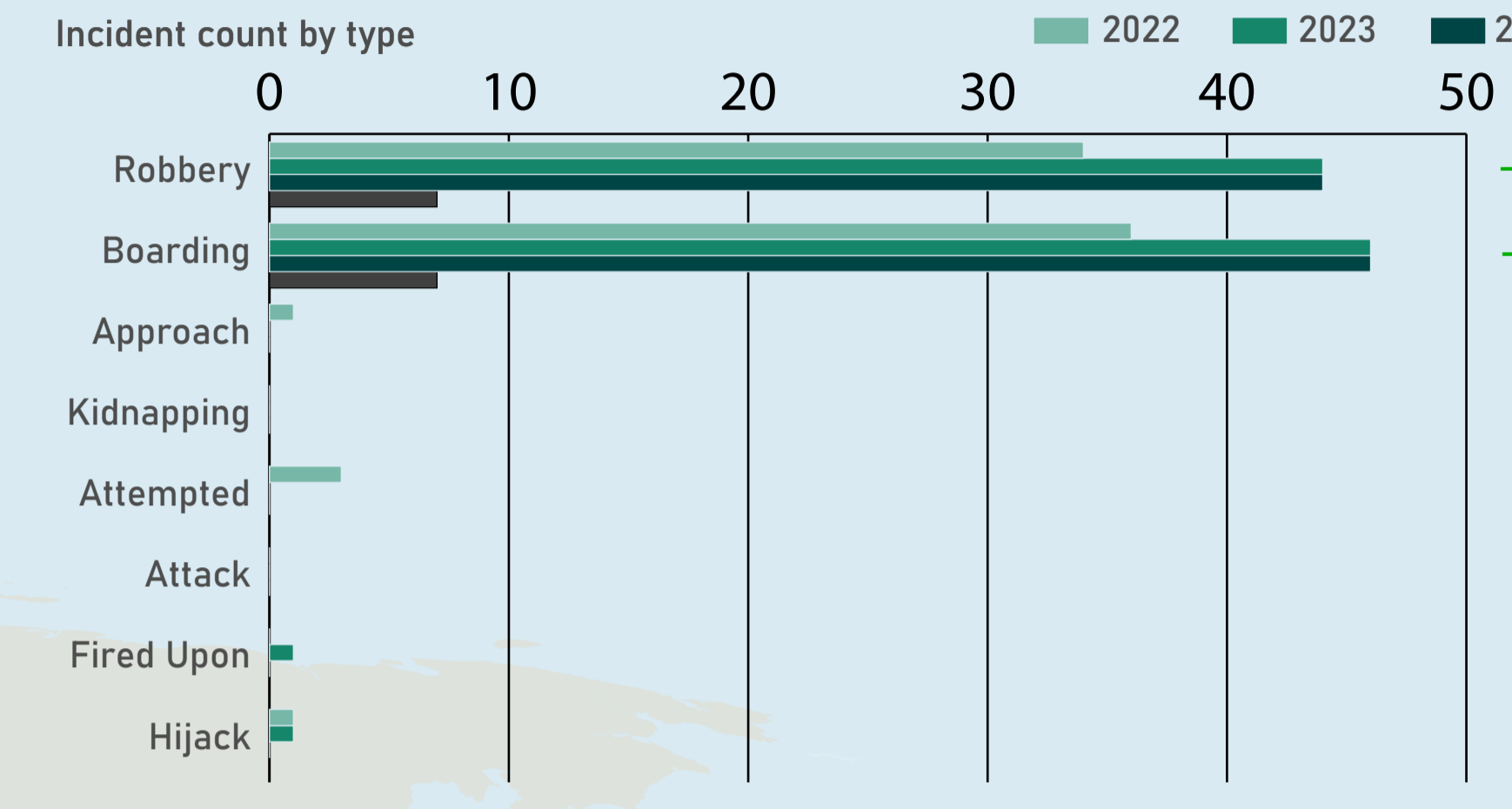
West Africa



Indian Ocean



South East Asia



Baltic Sea - C-Lion1 cable disruption
On 18 Nov 2024, the C-Lion1 cable, a high-capacity undersea fiber optic link between Finland and Germany, was unexpectedly cut, causing a loss of communication services due to the disruption of direct and efficient data communication across the Baltic Sea. The cable's severance remains under investigation, with speculation ranging from natural causes to sabotage. If confirmed, it would mark a significant event in the ongoing threat to critical infrastructure, resembling the 2022 Nord Stream pipeline incidents, where initial blame shifted over time.

The cutting of the C-Lion1 cable is more than just a technical disruption; it has the potential to have far-reaching consequences for the geopolitical landscape. The cable is critical for high-speed data transfer and secure communications between Northern and Central Europe and exposes vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure that can have an impact on commercial operations and international relations. If confirmed as sabotage, increased scrutiny of undersea cable security may prompt NATO and member states to strengthen defenses and increase their naval presence in the region. Economic effects could be felt in sectors such as finance and telecommunications, while strategic military communications could have an impact on national security and global network resilience to state and nonstate threats.

Russia - Ukraine - Heightened tensions in the Black Sea

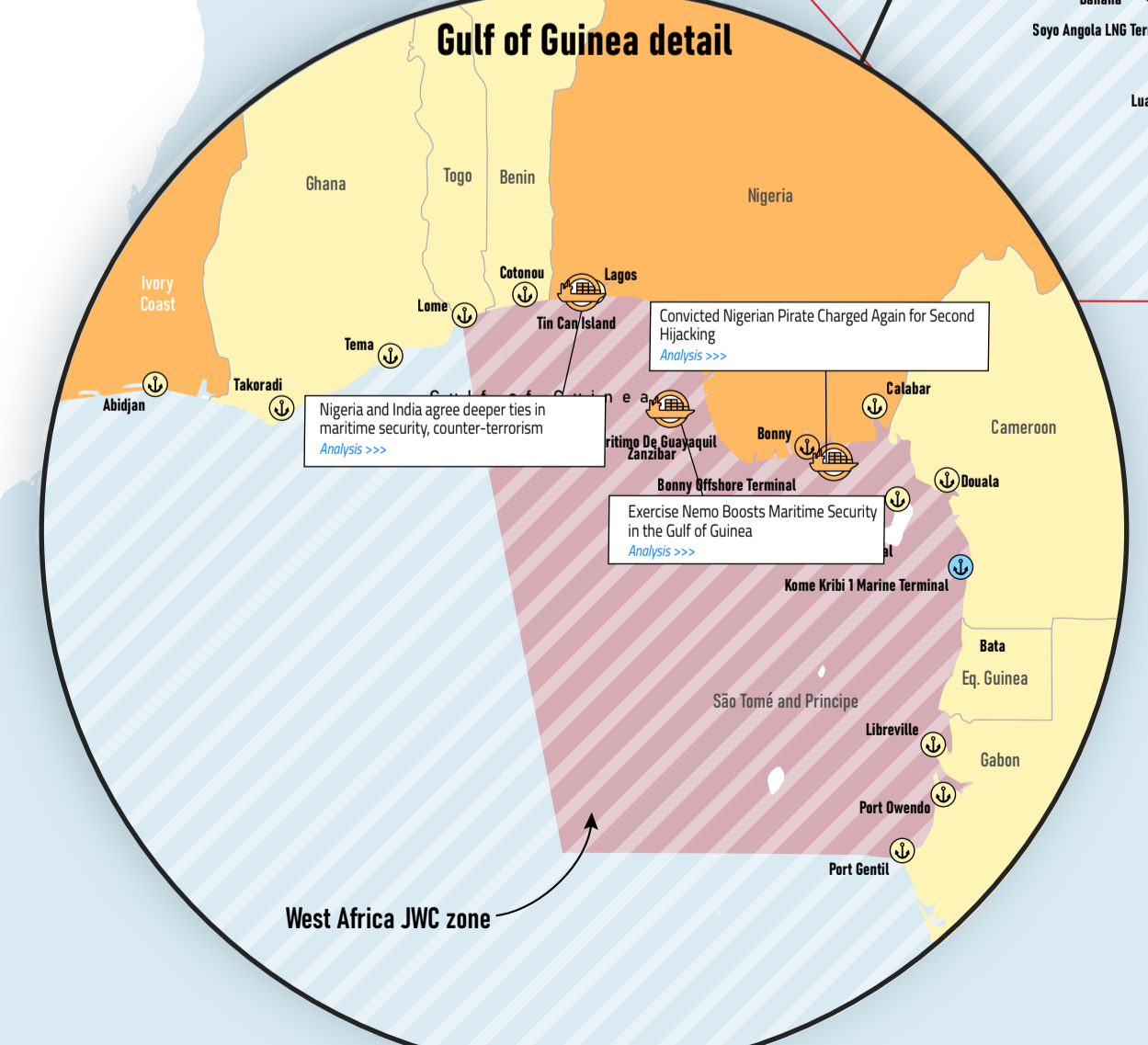
On 17 Nov 2024, Russia launched the largest missile strike on Ukraine since the conflict began. In response, the outgoing Biden administration has authorized Ukraine to use US-supplied long-range missiles, such as ATACMS, to conduct strikes deep within Russian territory, signaling a significant policy shift. This decision comes amid warnings from Russian President Vladimir Putin that any attack on Russian soil could result in the use of nuclear weapons, significantly escalating tensions.

The incoming Trump administration intends to expedite peace talks to resolve the conflict as quickly as possible. This escalation, however, may complicate these plans. By allowing Ukraine to strike deeper into Russia, the US may have strengthened Ukraine's bargaining position, forcing Russia to negotiate from a perceived position of weakness. However, it raises the risk of nuclear escalation, which could derail peace talks while also having catastrophic consequences for global security. Such a move could be interpreted as the Biden administration's attempt to create favorable conditions for Ukraine, potentially undermining the incoming administration's strategy for a swift diplomatic solution.

Ukraine's use of U.S. long-range missiles to target Russian territory could have profound consequences for Black Sea maritime operations. In a scenario involving limited nuclear strikes, tactical weapons could be used to target specific military assets, potentially leading to sea lanes closure and safety zone establishment, resulting in increased insurance rates or ship coverage refusal. The situation could be significantly escalated by a full-scale nuclear confrontation, although this is unlikely due to the global fallout. Russia may use nuclear saber-rattling as a warning, or opt for cyber and conventional retaliation to significantly impact maritime activities, potentially through cyber-attacks on port infrastructure or intensifying blockades. Any nuclear detonation would raise environmental and health concerns, potentially causing radioactive contamination that would disrupt fishing, tourism, and other maritime activities for years. Ports may close or operate under strict safety protocols, severely affecting trade, particularly the export of grain from Ukraine and oil from the Caspian Region.

Risk and impact ratings		
Countries	Ports	
Critical	(Dark Red)	(Red circle with X)
Severe	(Red)	(Orange circle with X)
Substantial	(Orange)	(Yellow circle with X)
Moderate	(Yellow)	(Green circle with X)
Low	(Light Green)	(Blue circle with X)

Local impact on commercial shipping		
Critical	(Red circle with X)	(Red circle with X)
Severe	(Orange circle with X)	(Orange circle with X)
Substantial	(Yellow circle with X)	(Yellow circle with X)
Moderate	(Green circle with X)	(Green circle with X)
Low	(Blue circle with X)	(Blue circle with X)



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