



# Maritime Security +

01 FEBRUARY, GULF OF URABA, COLOMBIA, COLOMBIAN DIVERS DISCOVER COCAINE ATTACHED TO THE HULL OF A REEFER

## Background Info

Colombian navy divers have discovered cocaine in a cylinder attached to the hull of a reefer bound for Europe.

They say the vessel, the CROWN OPAL, was searched by divers in the Gulf of Uraba on the northern coast of Colombia.

The divers found the cylinder beneath the waterline on the underside of the hull. It contained 67 kilos of cocaine.

## Assessment and Analysis

The crew of the 10,316 deadweight tonne reefer are understood to have been cleared of involvement in what appears to be a drug smuggling operation.

The reefer, which was bound for Belgium and the United Kingdom, with stops in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, was not detained.

The Colombian navy routinely carries out searches and underwater inspections on vessels. P&I correspondents say shipowners should consider having independent diving companies carry out underwater inspections prior to leaving Colombian ports.

They also advise crew members to carry out regular shipboard inspections during port calls and to be present in all areas of the ship where stevedores or repair technicians are working.

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Source : North P&I Club