DIALOGUE WITH SHIPPING INDUSTRY

Situation of Piracy & Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia (January-September 2022)
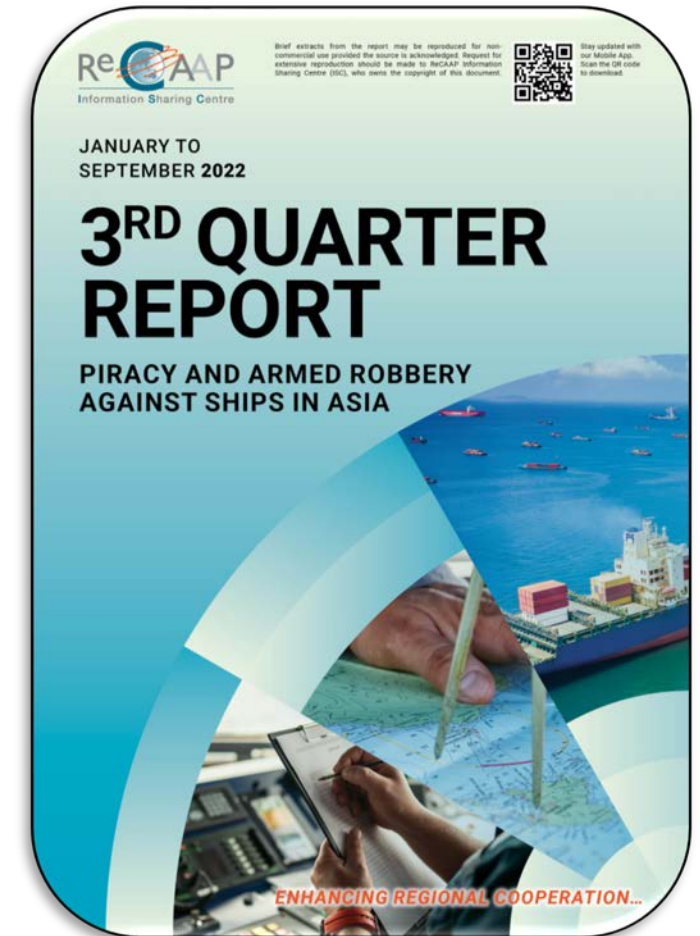
ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

on

28 October 2022

SCOPE

➤ Situation update (Jan-Sep 2022)

➤ Update by location

➤ Areas of concern

➤ Measures to improve situation

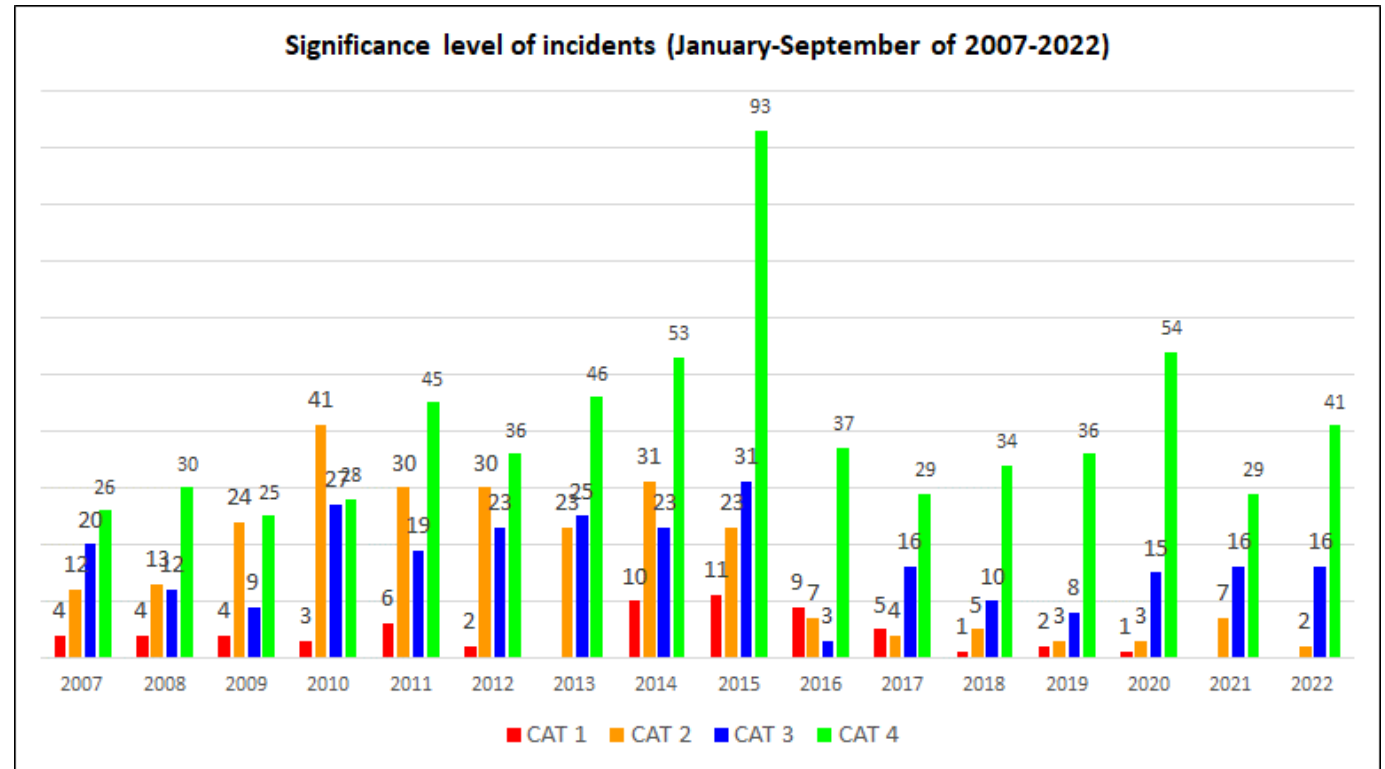# Situation Update (Jan-Sep 2022)

- **No incident of piracy** (on high seas)

- All incidents **Armed Robbery** (internal waters, territorial seas & archipelagic waters)

- **Collective efforts** by law enforcement agencies to deal with incidents in their AoR & shipping industry to make **timely reporting** of incidents to coastal State & flag State

Number of incidents (January-September of 2007-2022)
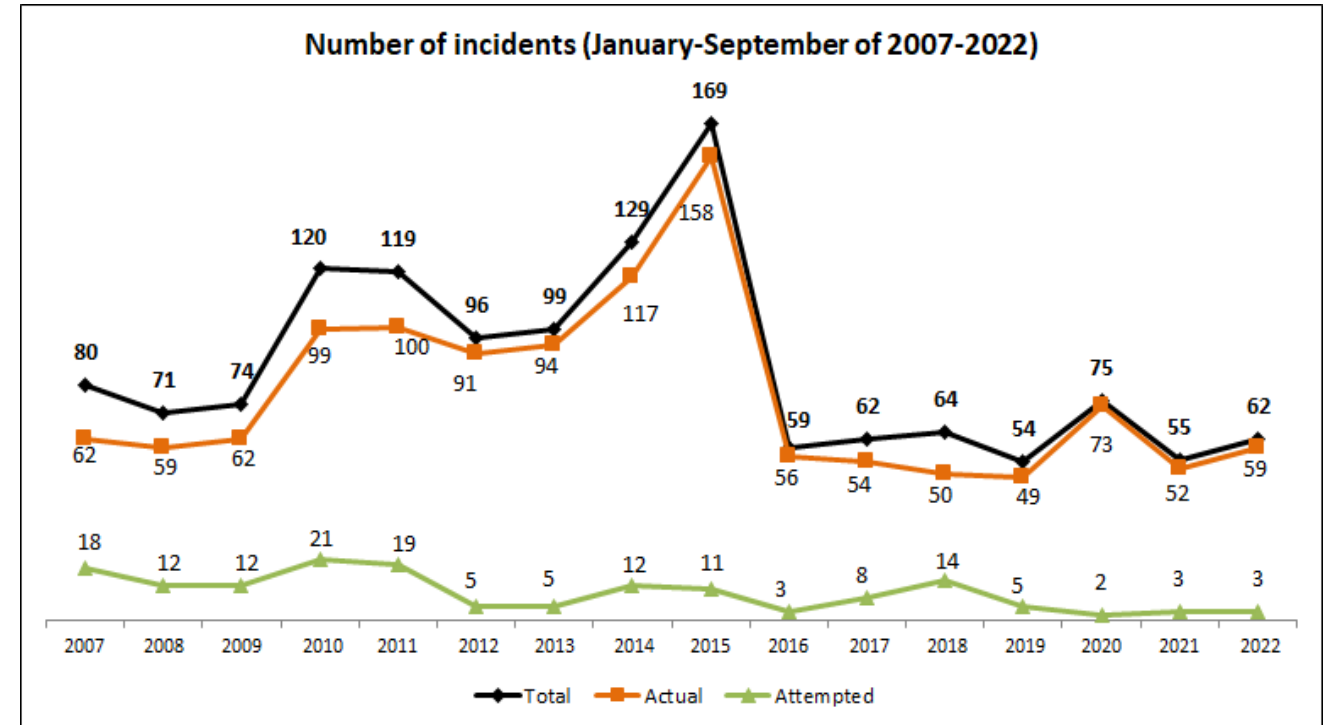
➢ Of 59 incidents, **crew not confronted** in 57 incidents

➢ **Of 2 incidents** - Crew assaulted in one & threatened in another incident

➢ **Crew not injured** in all incidents

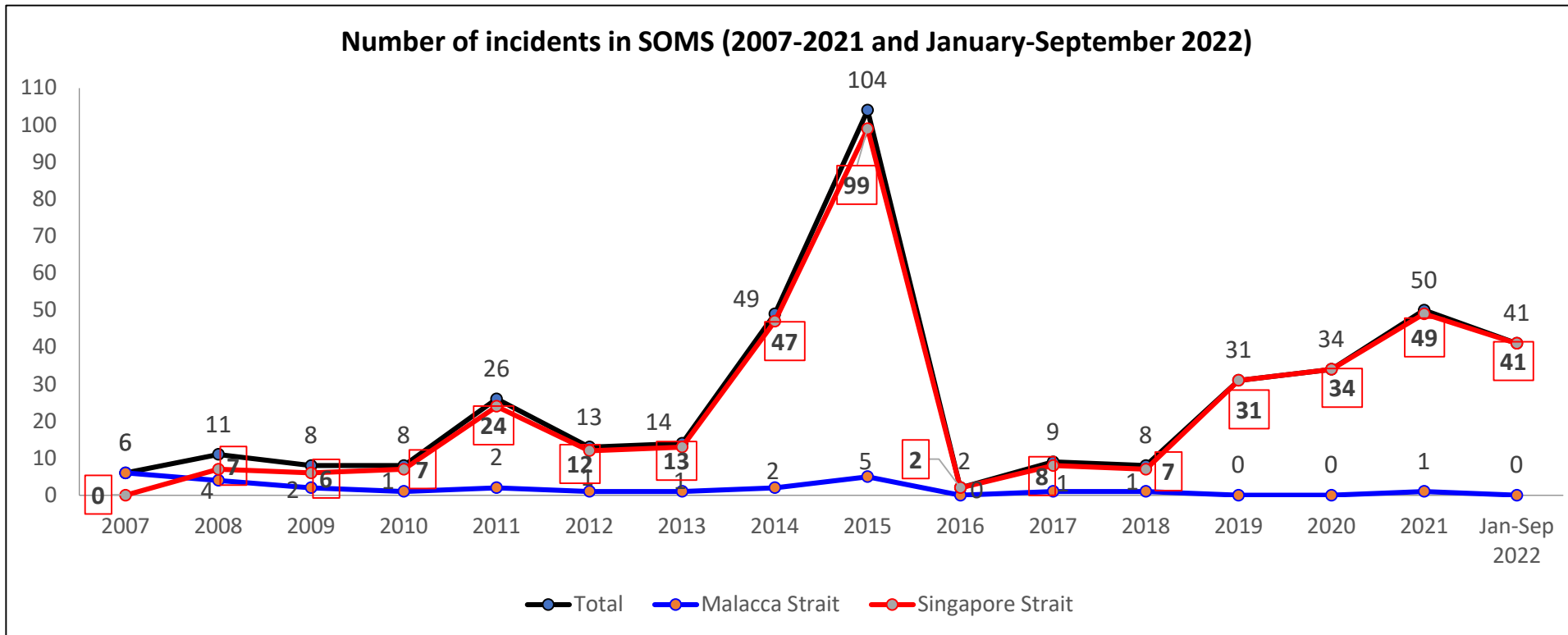➢ 69% (41 of 59 incidents) **CAT 4** (perpetrators **not armed** & crew **not injured**)

Significance level of incidents (January-September of 2007-2022)

Situation Update (Jan-Sep 2022) (cont'd)

s/n	Location	No. of incident		Remarks
		Jan-Sep 2021	Jan-Sep 2022	
1.	Bangladesh	0	4	⬆
2.	Singapore Strait	27	41	⬆
3.	India	4	3	⬇
4.	Indonesia	10	9	⬇
5.	Philippines	11	4	⬇
6.	Vietnam	2	0	⬇
7.	Malaysia	1	1	Same

Update by Location

Straits of Malacca & Singapore (SOMS)

Number of incidents in SOMS (2007-2021 and January-September 2022)

Legend: Total, Malacca Strait, Singapore Strait

Year	Total	Malacca Strait	Singapore Strait
2007	6		0
2008	11	4	7
2009	8	2	6
2010	8	1	7
2011	26	2	24
2012	13	1	12
2013	14	1	13
2014	49	2	47
2015	104	5	99
2016	2	0	2
2017	9	1	8
2018	8	1	7
2019	31	0	31
2020	34	0	34
2021	50	1	49
Jan-Sep 2022	41	0	41

- Increase in incidents in Singapore Strait, decrease in Malacca Strait
- Arrests of perpetrators in 2014 & 2015 resulted in decrease in incidents in 2016
- If incidents continue to occur, annual number for 2022 expected to surpass that in 2021

6

Singapore Strait

(Clockwise) Sampan, knife and scrap metal seized by police
(Source: Singapore Police Coast Guard)
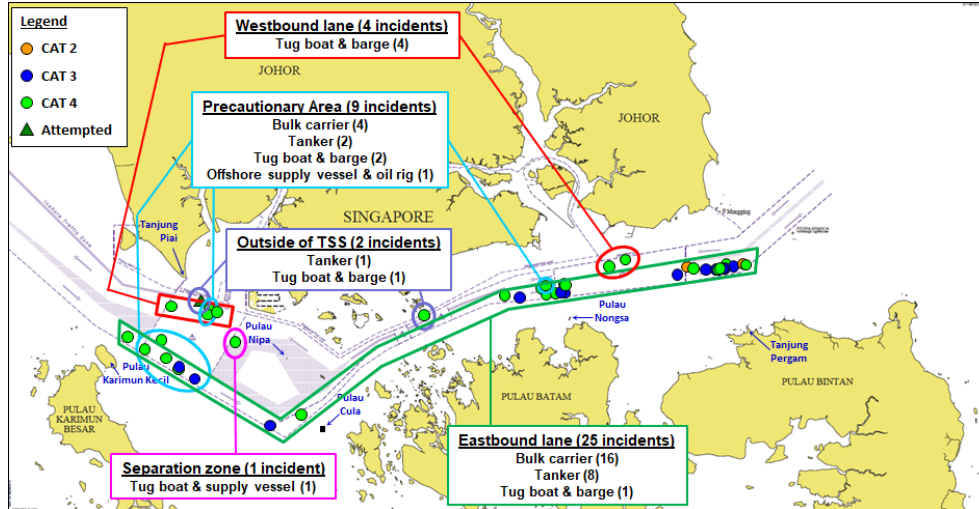
➢ 2 x **CAT 2**, 12 x **CAT 3**, 26 x **CAT 4**, 1 x Attempted

➢ **25** incidents **Eastbound** lane in **TSS**, 9 incidents **Precautionary Area**, 4 incidents **Westbound** lane, 2 incidents **outside TSS**, 1 in **Separation Zone**

👮👦👮 Arrest of Perpetrators [19 Apr 22]

➢ Tug boat towing barge in eastbound lane of TSS

➢ Master reported 2 perpetrators escaped from barge

➢ Authorities boarded barge & arrested 8 perpetrators & 1 crew member
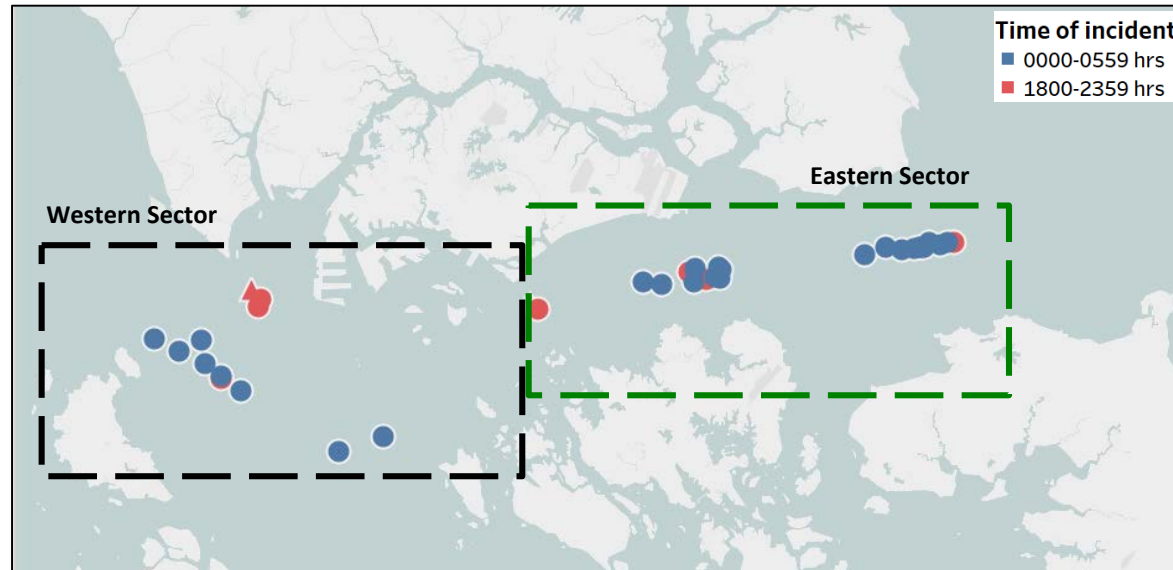
➢ All 9 men charged in Singapore court

Singapore Strait

Hours of darkness

January-September 2022
35 incidents

Daylight hours

January-September 2022
6 incidents

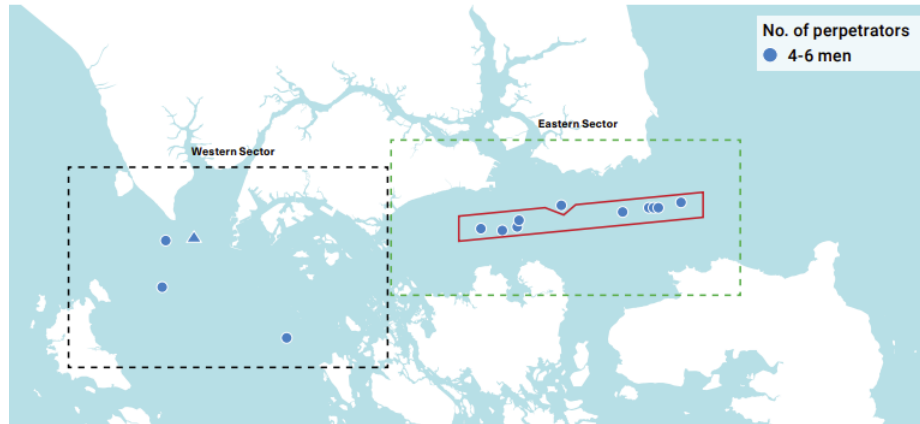**ReCAAP**
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Singapore Strait

Number of perpetrators 4-6 men

January-September 2022

No. of perpetrators
● 4-6 men

Western Sector

Eastern Sector

14 incidents

Stolen items (engine spares)

January-September 2022

Type of losses
● Engine spares

Western Sector

Eastern Sector
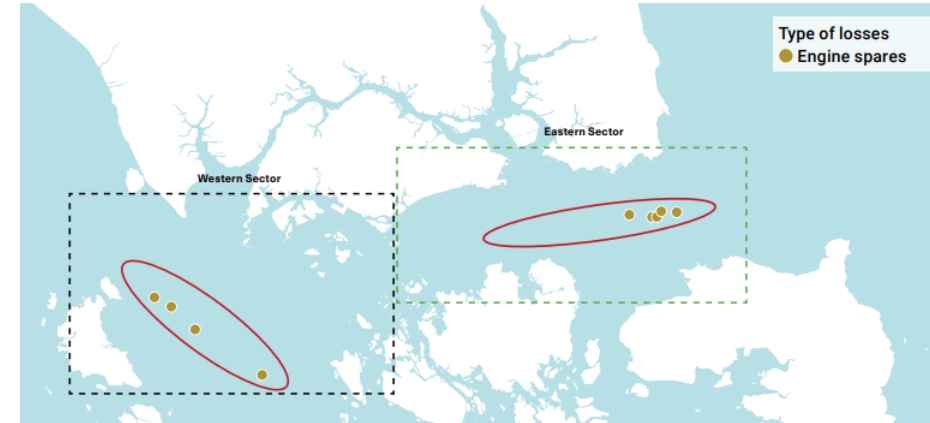
10 incidents

Armed with knives/machetes/others

January-September 2022

Type of weapons carried
● Knives/Machetes/Others only

Western Sector

Eastern Sector

13 incidents

Types of ships boarded (bigger ships)

January-September 2022

Type of ships boarded
● Bulk carrier
● Tanker

Western Sector

Eastern Sector

31 incidents

9

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Bangladesh
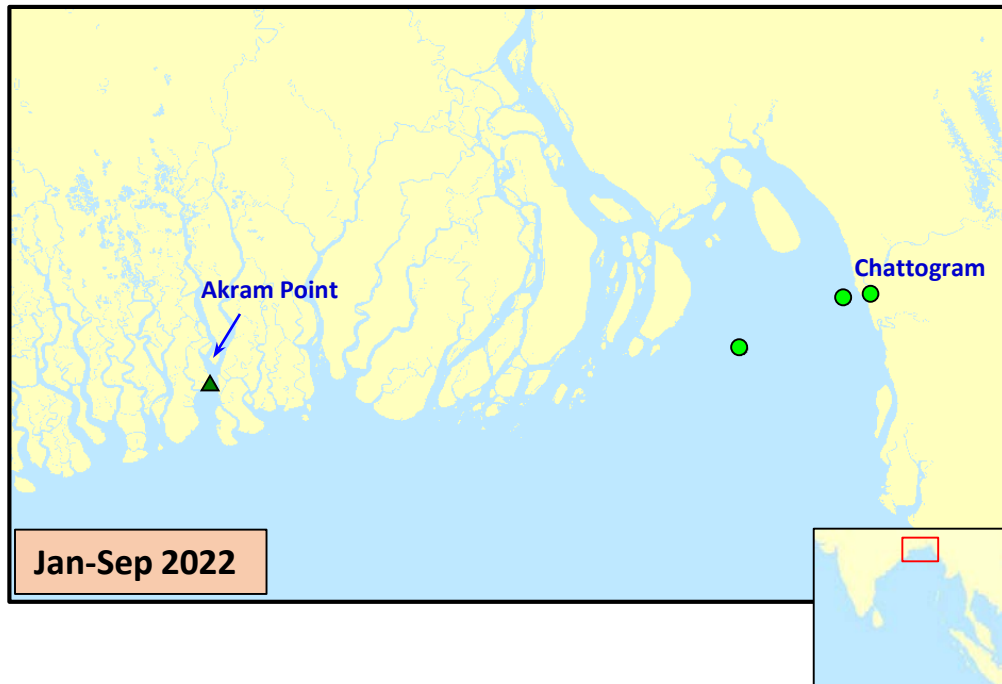
Jan-Sep 2022

Past 5 years …

- 11 (2018) → 0 (2019) → 5 (2020) → 0 (2021) → **4** (Jan-Sep 2022)

January-September 2022

- 3 x **CAT 4**, 1 x Attempted

- **Chattogram Anchorages (3)**
  - Tankers (3)
  - Cans of paint, drums of lubricating oil, gangway wire coil & ship stores stolen
  - **Bangladesh Coast Guard recovered stolen items in two incidents**

- **Akram Point (1)**
  - Six perpetrators tried to board heavy transport vessel but failed due to alertness of crew
  - **Bangladesh Coast Guard apprehended perpetrators, handed them over to local police**

Comments

- Commend good efforts of law enforcement agencies (recover stolen items & arrest)

Recovery of stolen items

Incidents at Chattogram Anchorage, Bangladesh

15 Mar 22: 6 perpetrators boarded *Wawasan Topaz*, Panama-registered tanker, stole ship stores & escaped

- Within 20 min, Bangladesh Coast Guard boarded ship & investigated

- Later, duty patrol recovered stolen items

(Top & Bottom) Recovery of stolen items
(Source: Bangladesh authorities)

16 Apr 22: Unknown number of perpetrators boarded *BLPG Sophia*, Bangladesh-registered tanker, stole 20 cans of paint and two drums of lubricating oil, and escaped

- Bangladesh Coast Guard dispatched team to investigate

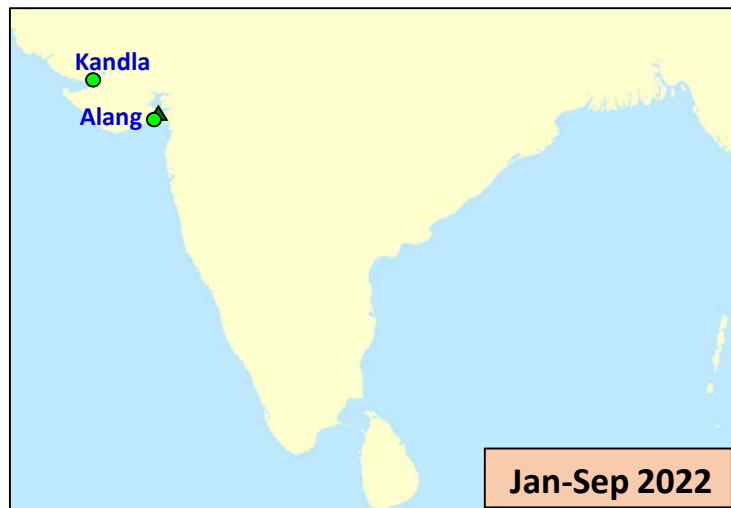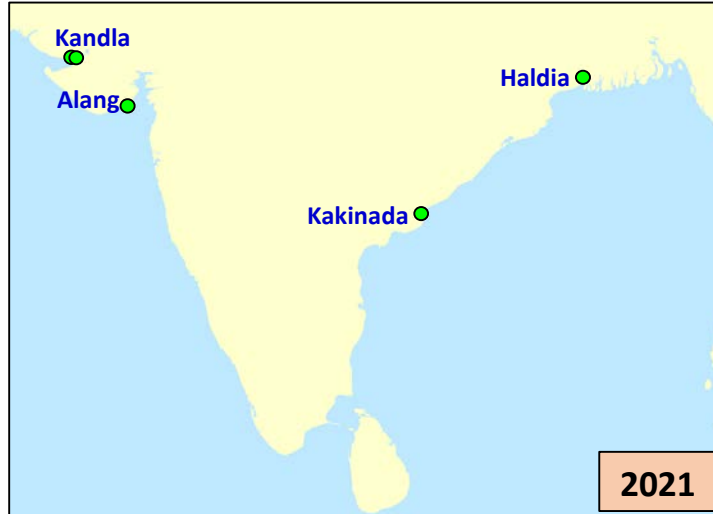- Recovered stolen items after combing operation

Update by Location   (cont'd)

India

2021

Jan-Sep 2022

Past 5 years …

➢ 4 (2018) → 5 (2019) → 9 (2020) → 5 (2021) → **3** (Jan-Sep 2022)

January-September 2022

➢ 2 x **CAT 4**, 1 x Attempted

➢ **Off Alang (2)**

- Tug boat & jack-up barge (1),
  tug boat & semi-submersible rig (1)
- Losses not known, nothing stolen

➢ **Kandla Anchorage (1)**

- Tanker (1)
- Ship stores

Improvement

➢ **Haldia** & **Kakinada**

Update by Location   (cont'd)

Indonesia

2021

Jan-Sep 2022

Past 5 years …

➢ 27 (2018) → 23 (2019) → 22 (2020) → 13 (2021) → **9** (Jan-Sep 2022)
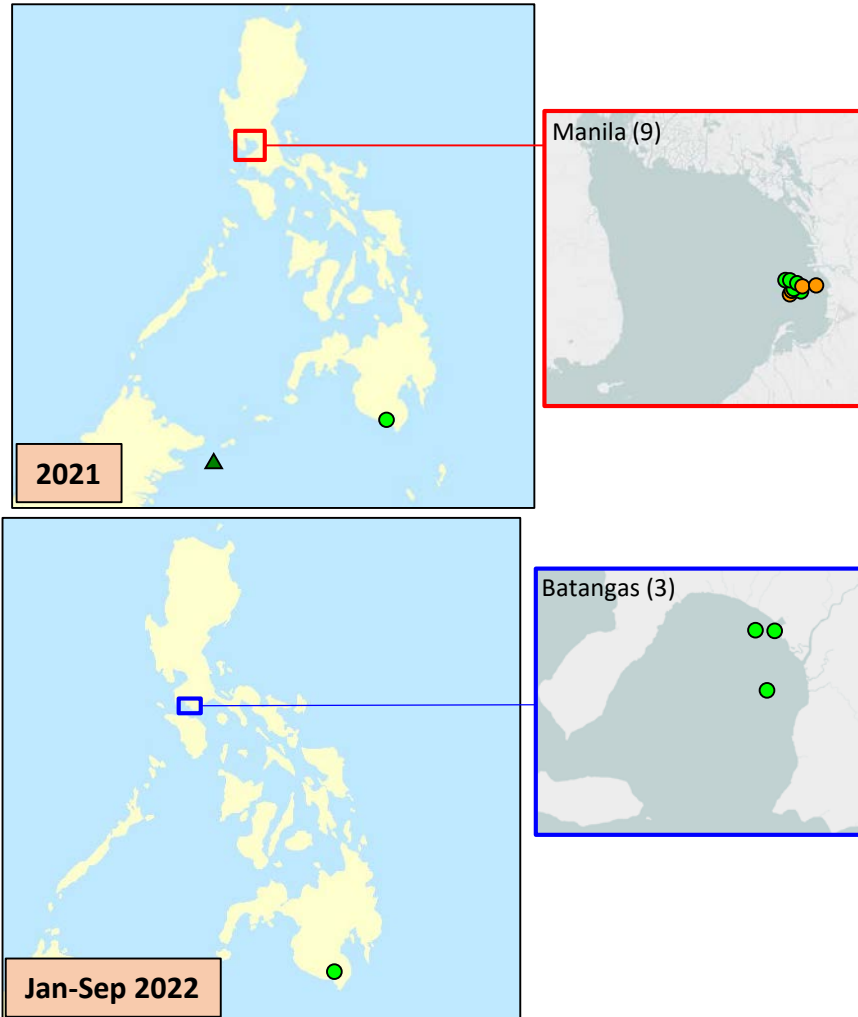
January-September 2022

➢ 4 x **CAT 3**, 5 x **CAT 4**

➢ **Belawan Port & Anchorage (3)**
- Bulk carrier (2), Tanker (1)
- Fire nozzles, hydrant caps & couplings, ship stores, connection cable, cover cap (fire hydrant, air pipe)

➢ **Jakarta Anchorages (3)**
- Bulk carrier (2), Container ship (1) / Nothing stolen

➢ **Balikpapan Anchorage (1)**
- Tanker (1)
- Mooring & stopper ropes

➢ **Karimata Strait (1)**
- Bulk carrier (1) / Nothing stolen

➢ **Panjang Anchorage (1)**
- Bulk carrier (1)
- Auxiliary engine spares

Improvement

➢ **Tanjung Priok Anchorage, Jakarta**

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Philippines (excluding abduction of crew incidents)

Manila (9)

2021

Batangas (3)

Jan-Sep 2022

Past 5 years …

➢ 9 (2018) → 7 (2019) → 13 (2020) → 11 (2021) → **4** (Jan-Sep 2022)

January-September 2022

➢ 4 x **CAT 4**

➢ **Batangas Anchorages (3)**

- RORO car carrier (2), Tanker (1)
- Fire hydrant cap, fire hydrant spanner,
  fire hose nozzle, rope bundle, grease cans and butterfly nuts stolen

➢ **Port of Makar, General Santos (1)**

- Container ship (1)
- Nothing stolen

Improvement

➢ **Manila Anchorage**

Abduction of Crew in Sulu-Celebes Seas

➢ **No incident** reported since January 2020

➢ **No crew** currently held in captivity

➢ Presence of remnants of Abu Sayyaf Group in Sulu & off Tawi-Tawi, **threat of abduction of crew remains**

➢ Philippine Coast Guard recommends **downgrading threat** from 'POTENTIALLY HIGH' to '**MODERATE**' [*Incidents possible to occur but relatively less severe in nature*]

➢ ReCAAP ISC updated Advisory to ships to **consider re-route from area as option**

  ▪ Ships transiting area - masters strongly encouraged to **exercise vigilance & report** immediately to Ops Centre of Philippines & Malaysia
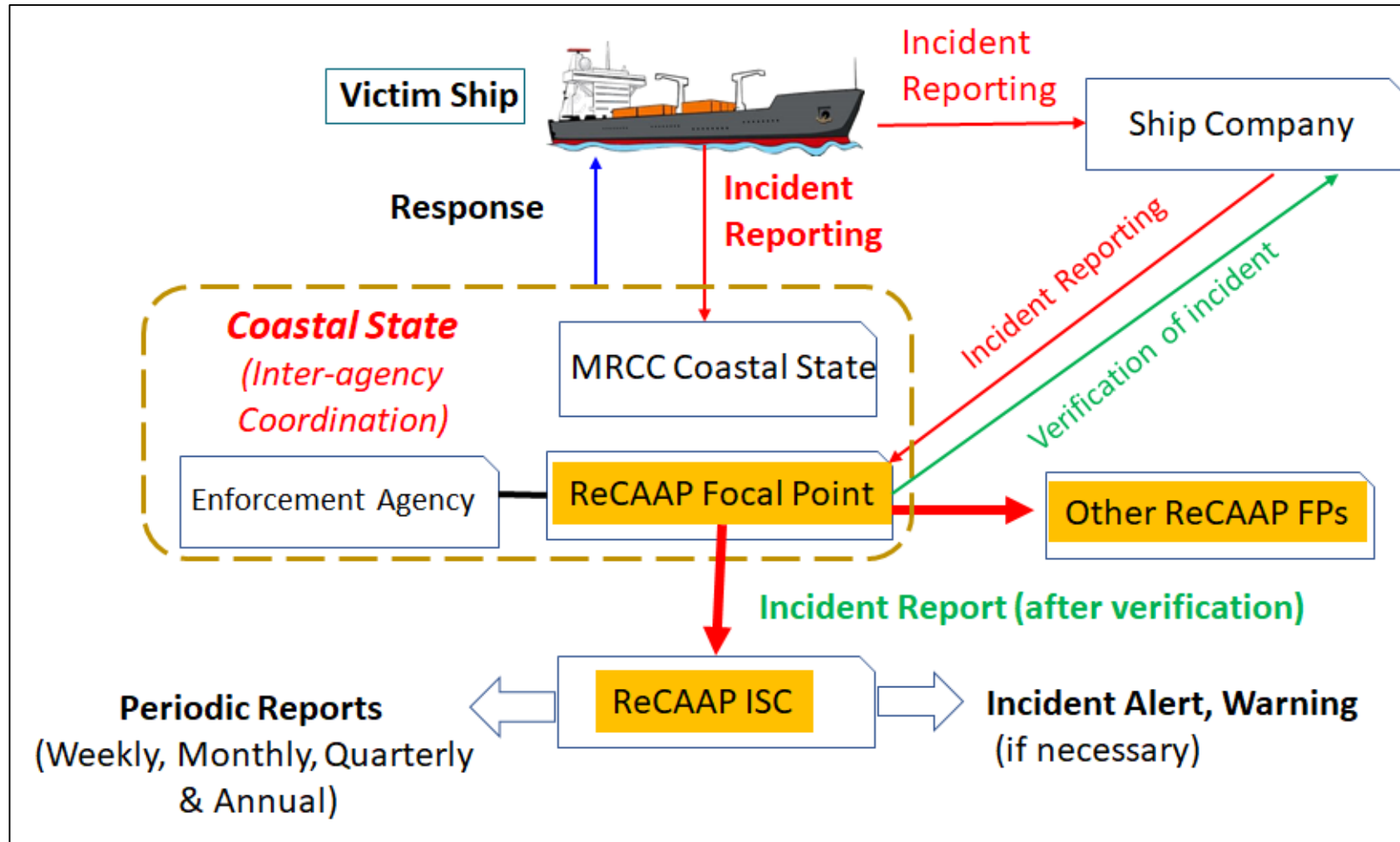
Measures to improve situation

➢ **Collective efforts & shared responsibility of all stakeholders crucial to mitigate Piracy & Armed Robbery against Ships**

- Shipping industry

- Coastal State, flag State

- Maritime community

- ReCAAP ISC

**Incident reporting, response, incident verification & information sharing**

(Based on IMO/MSC Circular 1333 & 1334)

Measures to improve situation   (cont'd)

Timely reporting of incident to coastal State & flag State

➢ *"Guidance to shipowner & ship operator, ship master & crew on preventing & suppressing acts of piracy & armed robbery against ships"*, issued by IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ. 1334 requires ship master to <u>report</u> all actual or attempted attacks or threats thereof, to:

- <u>Nearest RCC</u> or <u>regional piracy focal point</u> where applicable (e.g. ReCAAP Focal Point in Asian region)

- <u>Flag State</u>

FLOW DIAGRAM FOR REPORTING INCIDENTS IN ASIA
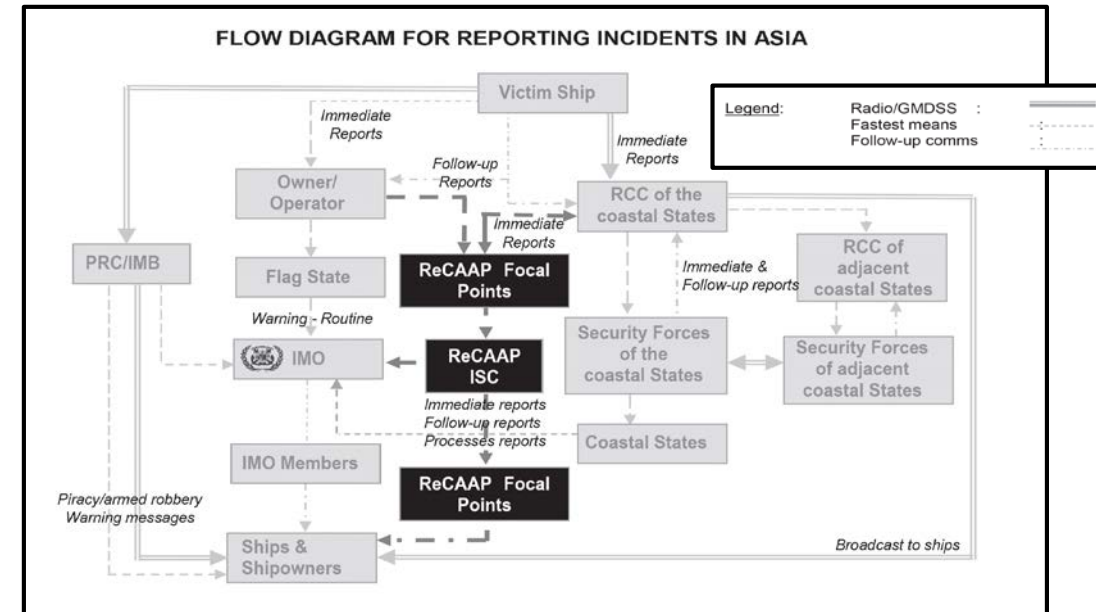
➢ **Shipping company** to re-assess Risk, Ship Security Plan, Vessel Hardening Plan for safe voyage

➢ **Engage ship agent** at Port of call to coordinate with master for security measures

➢ **Periodical training** of crew to handle developing situation as sea

Measures to improve situation

ReCAAP ISC

➢ Enhance regional cooperation with authorities in the region through information sharing & capacity building

➢ Impress Focal Points to increase surveillance & patrols to deter perpetrators

➢ Emphasise importance of arrest & prosecution of perpetrators to mitigate threat from Maritime Crimes

➢ Continue to produce timely & accurate reports, Incident Alerts & Warnings to shipping community

➢ Updated & published *Regional Guide 2 to counter piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia*

➢ Published Poster with contact details of MRCC & Focal Points for incident reporting

➢ **LATEST**: Published *Guide Book on Identification of Fishing Boats in Asian Waters*
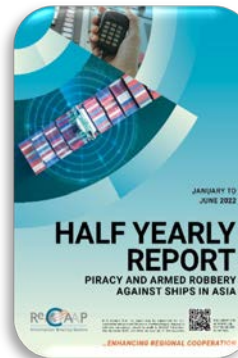
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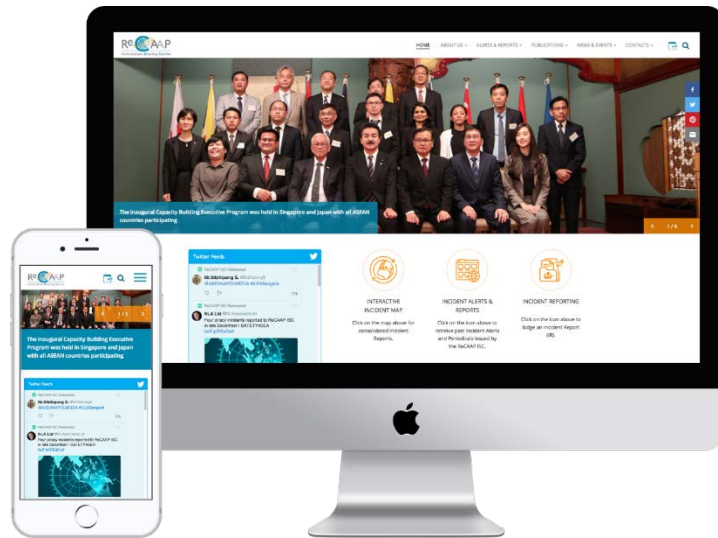
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