

ReCAAP ISC Nautical Forum 10/19

**Situation of
Piracy & Armed Robbery
against Ships in Asia
2018**

**ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre
15 January 2019**

Scope

- I. Situation Update (2018)**
- II. Update by Location**
- III. Analysis of Past Trends: Data Analytics**
- IV. Abduction of Crew Incidents**

I. Situation Update (2018)

Number of Incidents

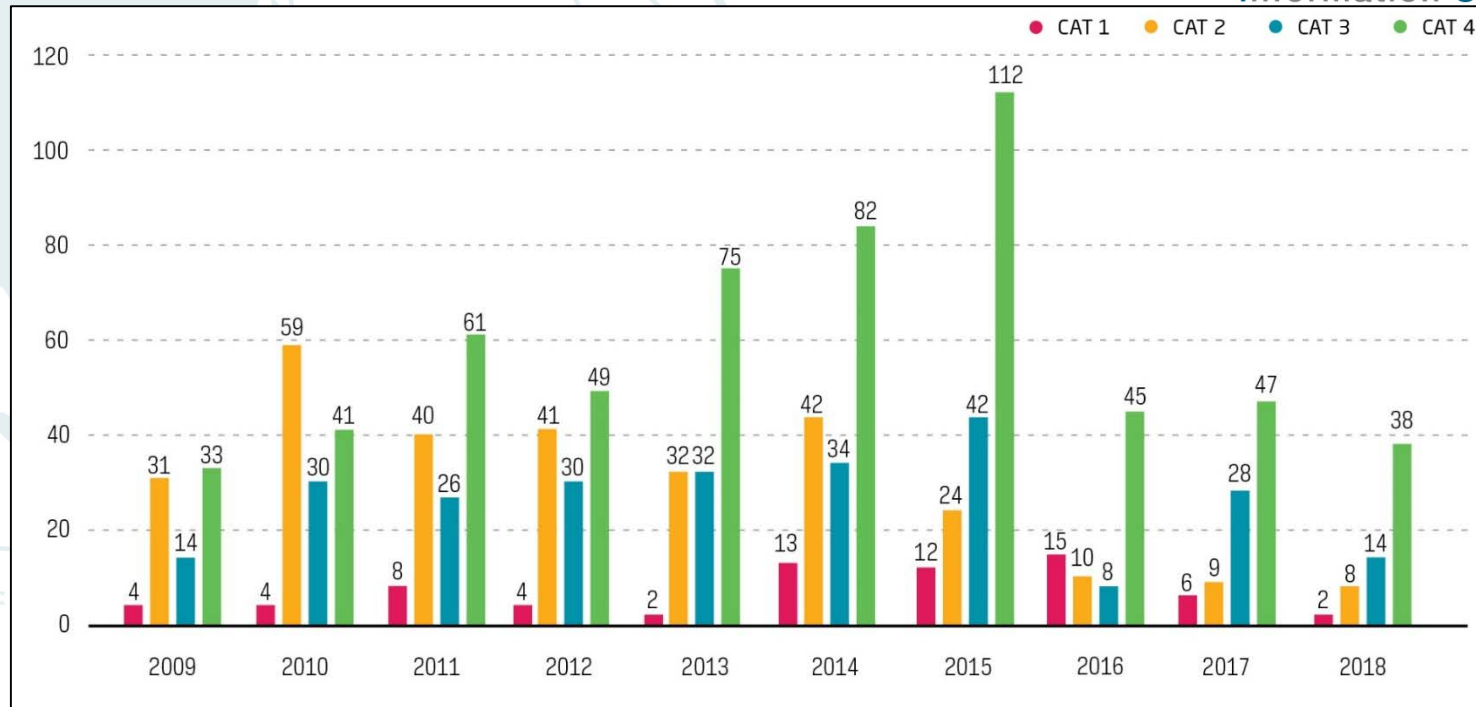


76 incidents (62 actual & 14 attempted)

- ❖ Lowest total number of incidents in the last 10 years (2009-2018)
Decrease by 25% compared to 2017
- ❖ Lowest actual number of incidents in last 10 years (2009-2018)
Decrease by 31% compared to 2017

I. Situation Update (2018)

Significance Level



❖ Significance level of incidents in 2018

- ❑ CAT 1: Lowest number in past 10 years (2009-2018)
Decrease by 67% compared to 2017
- ❑ CAT 2: Lowest number in past 10 years (2009-2018)
- ❑ CAT 3: Decrease by 50% compared to 2017
- ❑ CAT 4: Majority of incidents (61%) (petty theft)

I. Situation Update (2018)

Improvement & Concern

Improvement

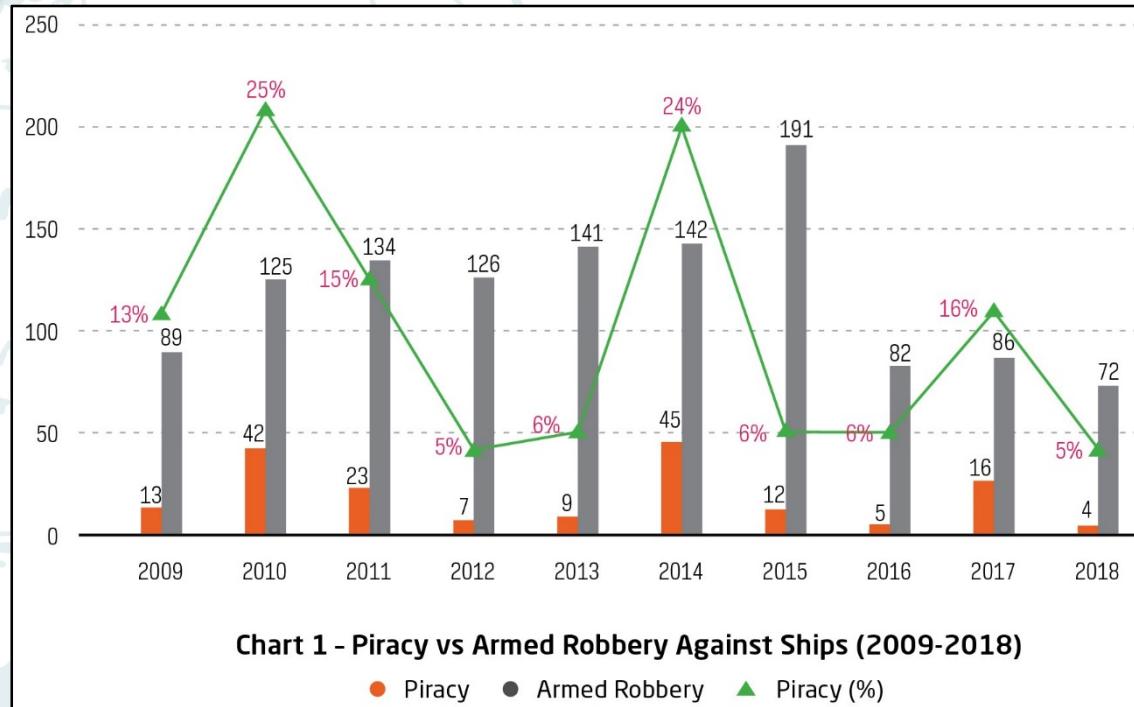
- ❖ At Manila anchorage, Philippines
(10 incidents in 2017 → 1 incident in 2018)
- ❖ South China Sea
(12 incidents in 2017 → 4 incidents in 2018)
- ❖ No successful theft of oil cargo

Of concern

- ❖ Abduction of crew incidents (2 actual and 1 attempted incidents)
- ❖ More than 10 incidents at ports/anchorages in Samarinda (15), Indonesia; and Chittagong (10), Bangladesh

I. Situation Update (2018)

Piracy vs Armed Robbery Against Ships (2009-2018)



❖ 2018

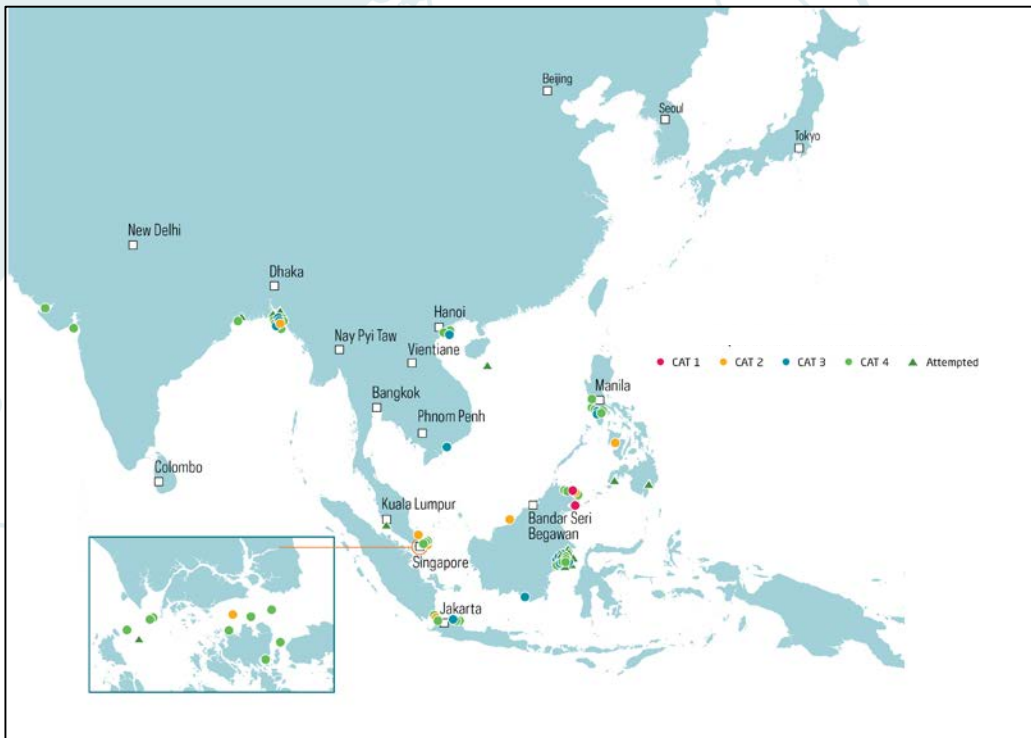
- ❑ 72 are armed robbery against ships incidents (95%) vs 4 piracy incidents (5%)

❖ Past 10 years (2007-2018)

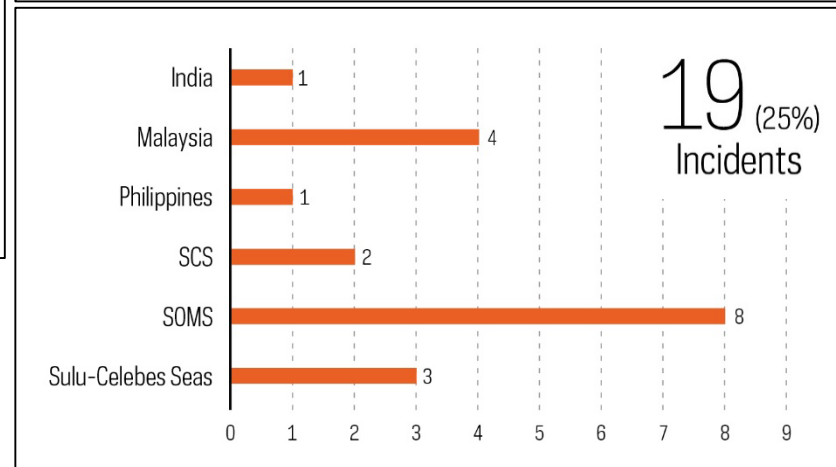
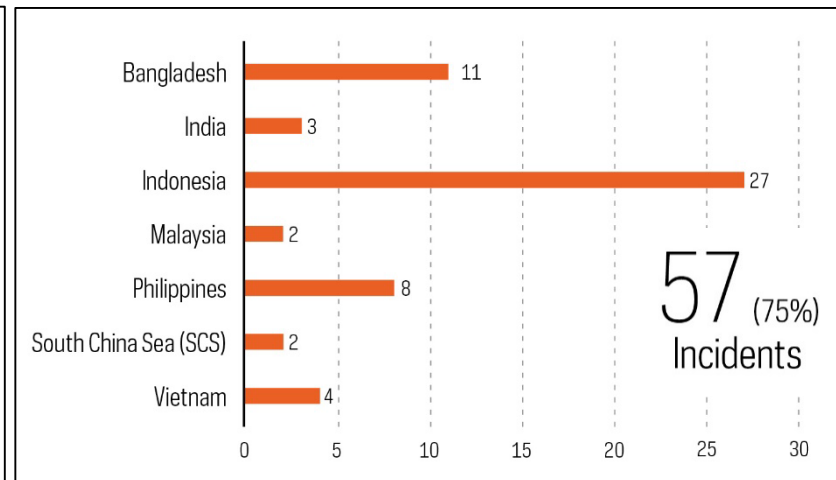
- ❑ Majority are armed robbery against ships (88% average), Piracy (12% average)
- ❑ Piracy mostly occurred in South China Sea

I. Situation Update (2018)

Location & Status of Ships

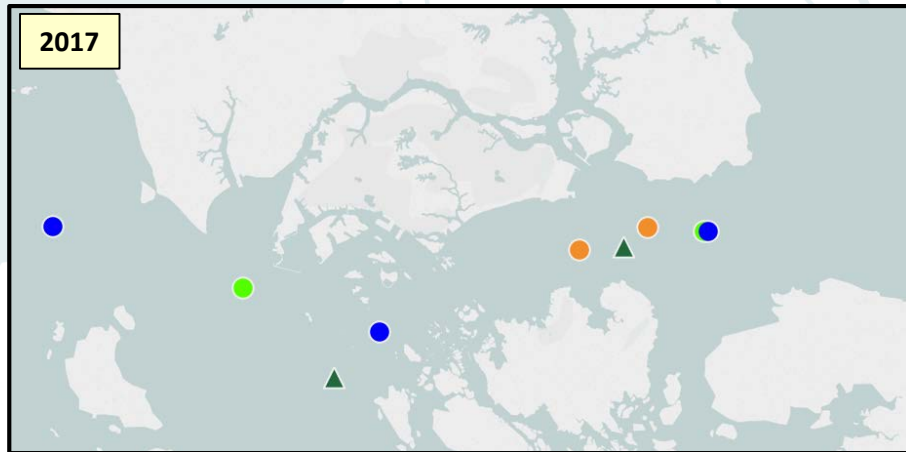


Indonesia (27), Bangladesh (11), Philippines (9),
SOMS (8), Malaysia (6), India (4), SCS (4),
Vietnam (4), Sulu-Celebes Seas (3)



II. Update by Location

(1) Straits of Malacca & Singapore



Past 5 years ...

- ❖ 49 (2014) → 104 (2015) → 2 (2016)
→ 9 (2017) → **8** (2018)

2018

- ❖ Slight decrease in 2018 compared to 2017
- ❖ 1 x CAT 2, 5 x CAT 4 and 2 x attempted
- ❖ 1 incident in Malacca Strait & 7 incidents in Singapore Strait (4 eastbound lane, 3 westbound lane of TSS)

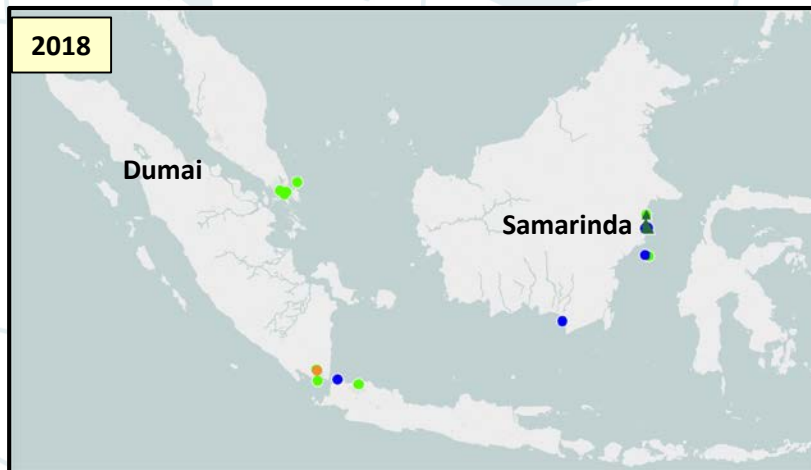
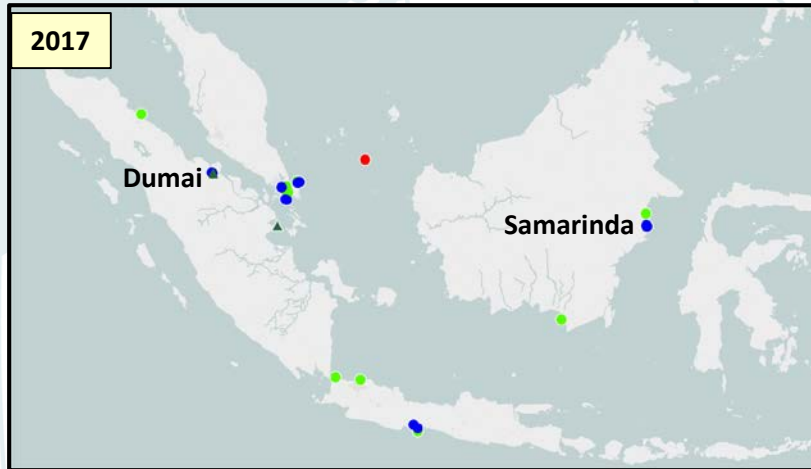


Insights of the 8 incidents in 2018

- ❖ Majority involved 4-6 perpetrators (3)
- ❖ Crew not injured (6)
- ❖ Nothing was stolen (4)
- ❖ Tug boat (3), bulk carrier (2), tanker (2) other (1)
- ❖ Most during hours of darkness (5), daylight hours (3)

II. Update by Location

(3) Indonesia



Past 5 years ...

❖ 47 (2014) → 23 (2015) → 32 (2016) → 33 (2017) → **27** (2018)

2018

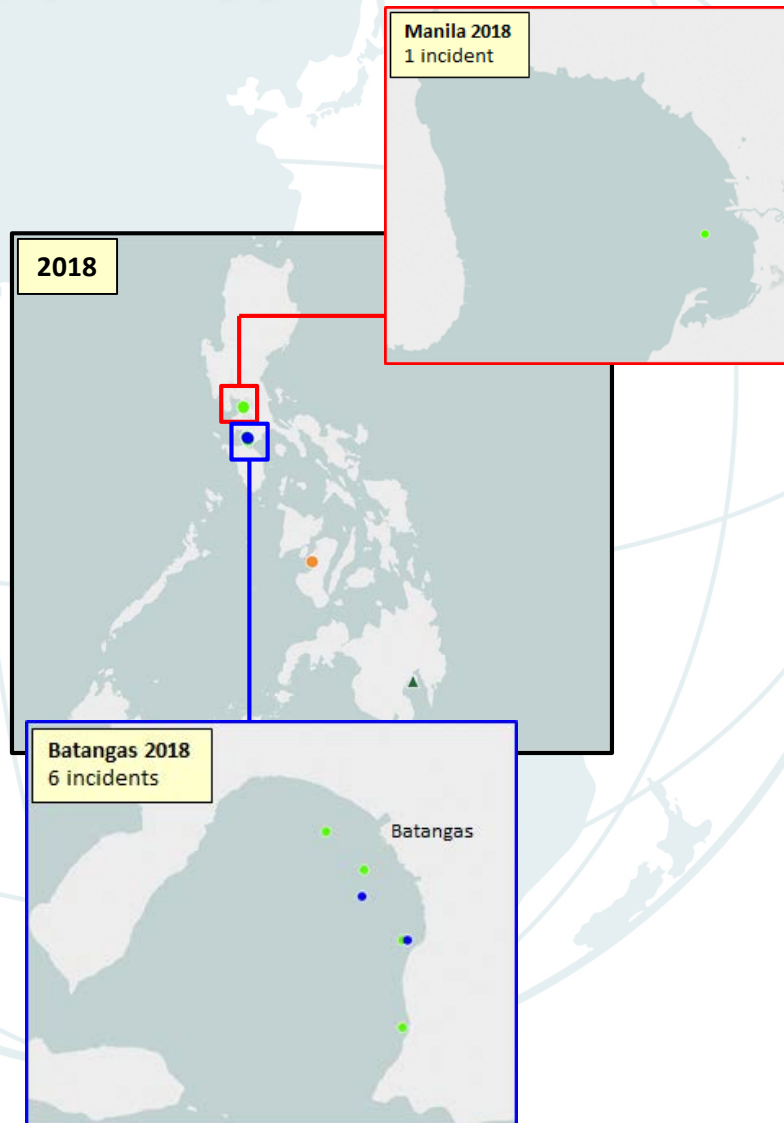
- ❖ 2018 improved by 18% compared to 2017
- ❖ 1 x CAT 2, 7 x CAT 3, 13 x CAT 4, 6 x attempted
- ❖ Improvements in:
 - ❑ Pulau Batam/Bintan (11 → 4), Dumai (5 → 0)
- ❖ Increase incidents in:
 - ❑ Samarinda (8 → 15)

Insights of the 27 incidents in 2018

- ❖ Majority involved 4-6 perpetrators (10), 1-3 (8)
- ❖ Crew not injured or no information (24)
- ❖ Nothing stolen (10), stores (9), engine spares (4)
- ❖ Bulk carrier (20), Tanker (5), General cargo ship (1), tug boat (1)
- ❖ During hours of darkness (22), daylight hours (5)

II. Update by Location

(5) Philippines



Past 5 years ...

❖ 5 (2014) → 8 (2015) → 3 (2016) → 19 (2017) → **9** (2018)

2018

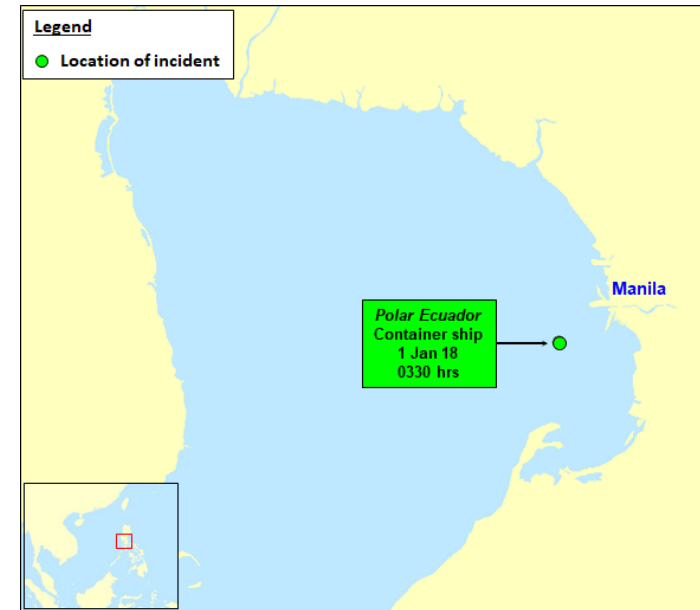
- ❖ Decrease by 53% compared to 2017
- ❖ 1 x CAT 2, 2 x CAT 3, 5 x CAT 4 & 1 x attempted
- ❖ 6 in Batangas, 1 in Manila, 1 in Davao & 1 in Negros
- ❖ Improvement:
 - ❑ Manila anchorage (10 → 1)
 - ❑ Batangas anchorage (7 → 6)

Insights of the 9 incidents in 2018

- ❖ Majority involved 1-3 perpetrators (6), 4-6 (1), 7-9 (1)
- ❖ Perpetrators not armed (3), not stated (3), knives/machetes/others (2), Guns & knives (1)
- ❖ Crew not injured (6)
- ❖ Stores stolen (6) (fire hose nozzles, fire hydrant caps, cable wire, scupper plugs, etc)
- ❖ Tanker (5), Container ship (2), Bulk carrier (1), Fishing trawler (1),
- ❖ During hours of darkness (9)

Polar Ecuador (1 Jan 18)

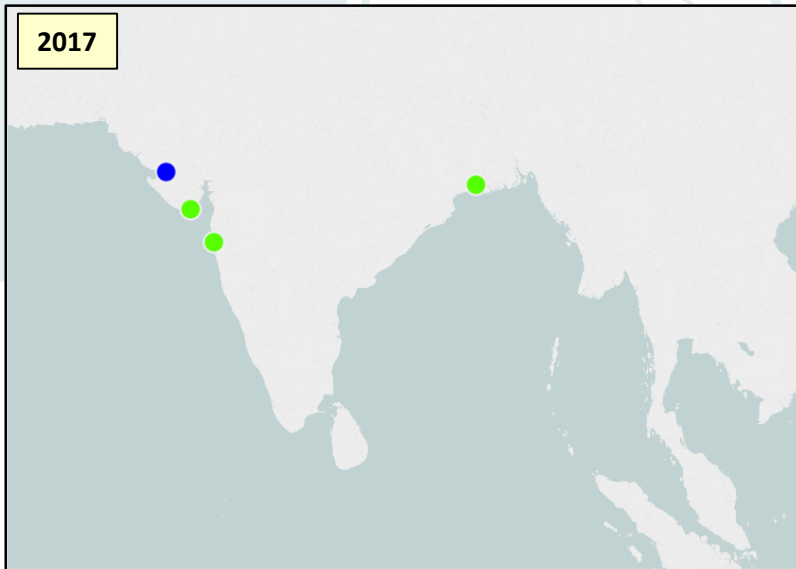
- ❖ **1 Jan 18 at about 0330 hrs**: Container ship, “*Polar Ecuador*” was anchored at South Harbour Anchorage, Manila, Philippines
- ❖ 7 perpetrators boarded from motor banca
- ❖ **Master reported incident immediately** to Manila port authority
- ❖ **Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) immediately deployed** its asset
- ❖ PCG arrested 5 perpetrators
 - ☑ Recovered stolen items (welding machine, breathing apparatus, extension wire and paint)
- ❖ Prosecution of perpetrators
- ❖ **No incident was reported since then**



(Top) Stolen items recovered
All photographs courtesy of ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)

II. Update by Location

(2) India



Past 5 years ...

- ❖ 14 (2014) → 12 (2015) → 12 (2016)
→ 4 (2017) → **4** (2018)

2018

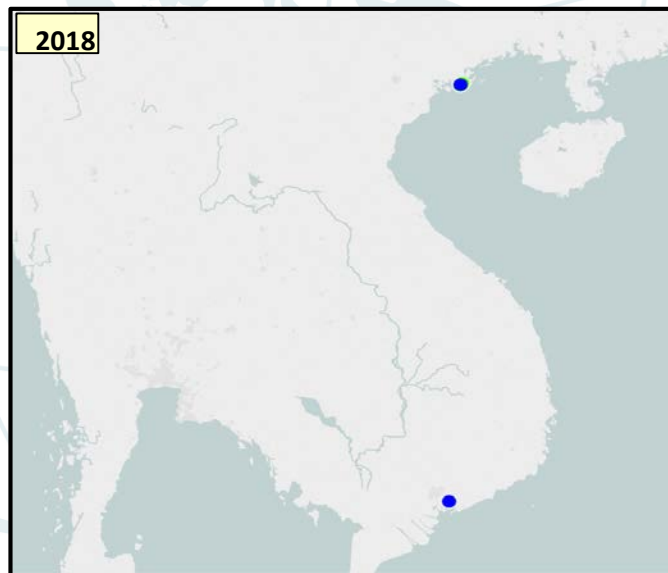
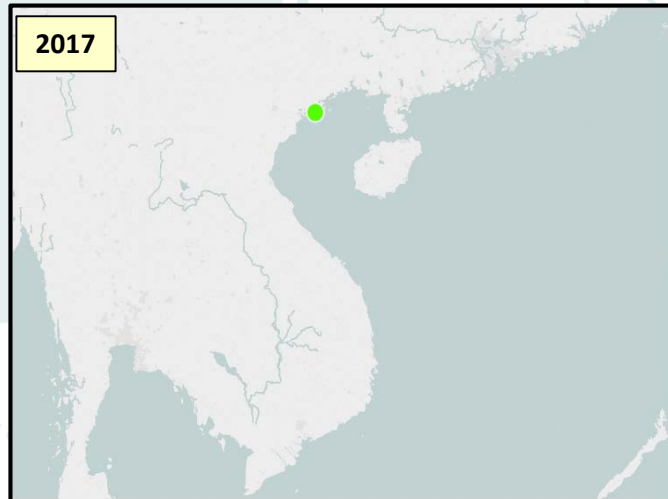
- ❖ 3 x CAT 4, 1 x attempted
- ❖ 2 in Haldia/Sagar, 1 in Gujarat & 1 in Kandla
- ❖ Improvement in Kandla
 - ❖ 6 (2014) → 9 (2015) → 8 (2016) → 1 (2017) → 1 (2018)

Insights of the 4 incidents in 2018

- ❖ Majority involved 1-3 perpetrators (3)
- ❖ Perpetrators not armed or no info (3)
- ❖ Crew not injured in all incidents.
- ❖ Loss of stores (2), cash/property (1), nothing stolen(1)
- ❖ Tanker (2), General cargo ship (1), Bulk carrier(1)
- ❖ During hours of darkness (2), daylight hours (2)

II. Update by Location

(4) Vietnam



Past 5 years ...

❖ 6 (2014) → 27 (2015) → 9 (2016) → 2 (2017) → 4 (2018)

2018

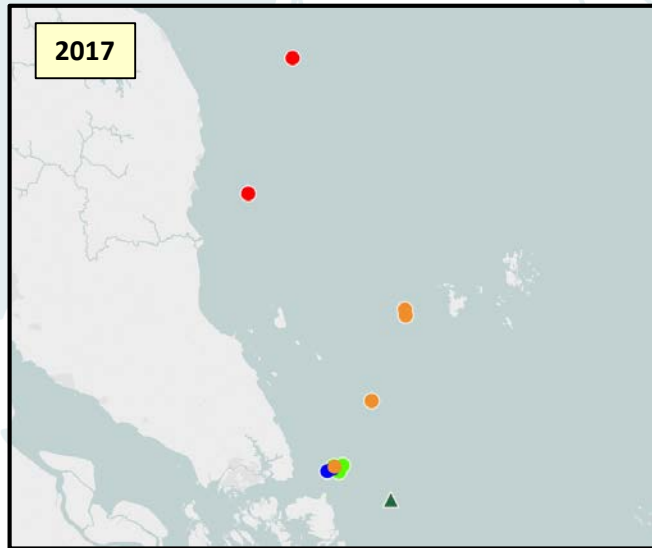
- ❖ Increase by 50% compared to 2017
- ❖ 2 x CAT 3, 2 x CAT 4
- ❖ 3 incidents in northern Vietnam and 1 incident in southern Vietnam
- ❖ Continued improvement in Vung Tau port
5 (2015) → 7 (2016) → 0 (2017) → 1 (2018)

Insights of the 4 incidents in 2018

- ❖ Crew not injured (3)
- ❖ Stores stolen in all 4 incidents (paint, grease, lubricating oil, etc)
- ❖ Bulk carrier (all incidents)
- ❖ During hours of darkness (2), daylight hours (2)

II. Update by Location

(6) South China Sea



Past 5 years ...

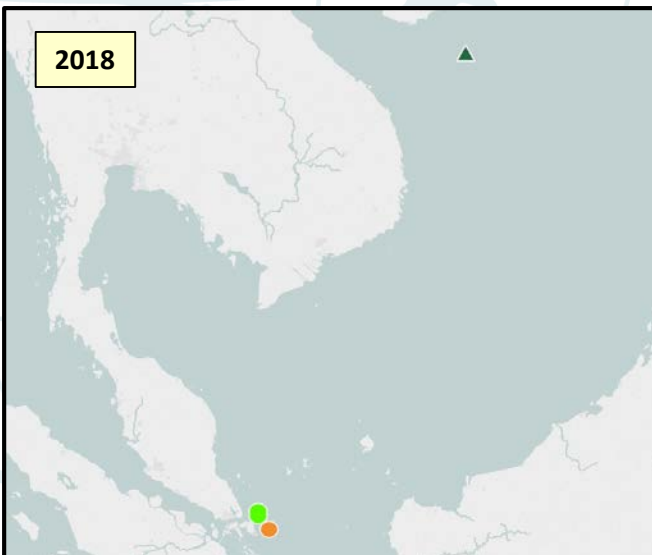
- ❖ 42 (2014) → 11 (2015) → 5 (2016)
- 12 (2017) → **4** (2018)

2018

- ❖ Decrease by 67% compared to 2017
- ❖ 1 x CAT 2, 2 x CAT 4, 1 x attempted
- ❖ 2 x underway, 2 x anchored

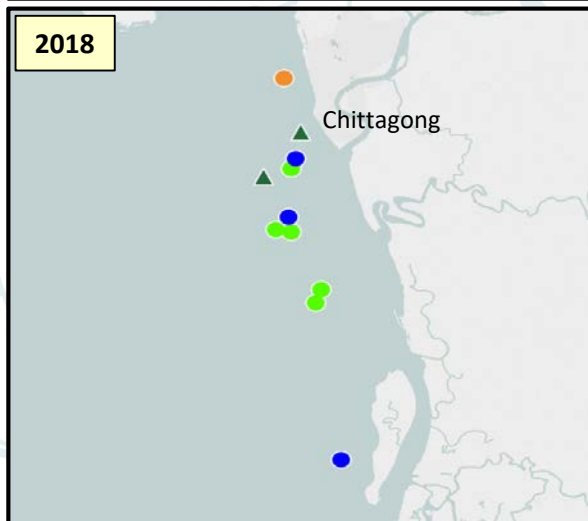
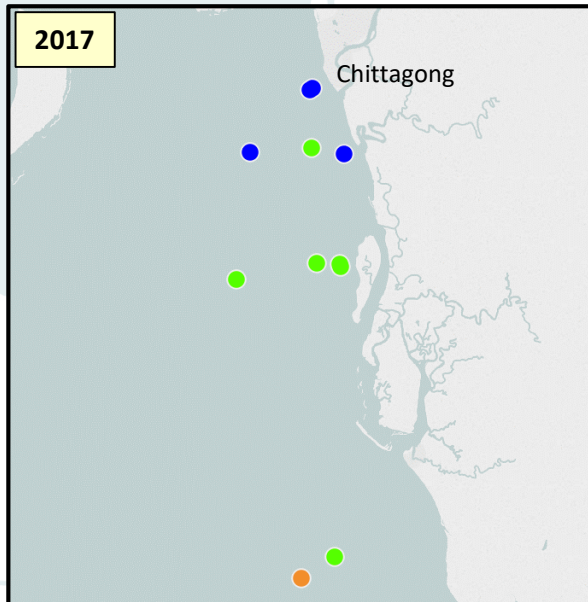
Insights of the 4 incidents in 2018

- ❖ Involved 4-6 perpetrators (2), 1-3 (1),
- ❖ Perpetrators armed with knives/machetes/others (1), not stated (3)
- ❖ Crew not injured (3)
- ❖ Nothing stolen (3), cash/property (1)
- ❖ Tanker (1), General cargo ship (1), Bulk carrier (1), Catamaran (1)
- ❖ All 4 incidents occurred during 0000-0559 hrs



II. Update by Location

(7) Bangladesh



Past 5 years ...

- ❖ 16 (2014) → 10 (2015) → 2 (2016)
→ 11 (2017) → **11** (2018)

2018

- ❖ 1 x CAT 2, 3 x CAT 3, 5 x CAT 4, 2 x attempted
- ❖ Majority at Chittagong port/anchorages

Insights of the 11 incidents in 2018

- ❖ Perpetrators armed with knives/machetes/others (4), not stated (7)
- ❖ Crew not injured (5), not stated (3), threatened (2), assaulted (1)
- ❖ Stores (8), Nothing stolen (2), unsecured item (1)
- ❖ Bulk carrier (5), Tanker (2), General cargo ship (2), Container ship (2)
- ❖ During hours of darkness (11)

Recommendation

- ❖ Refer to Advisory by ReCAAP Focal Point (Bangladesh) in ReCAAP ISC Annual Report 2018

III. Analysis of Past Trends: Data Analytics



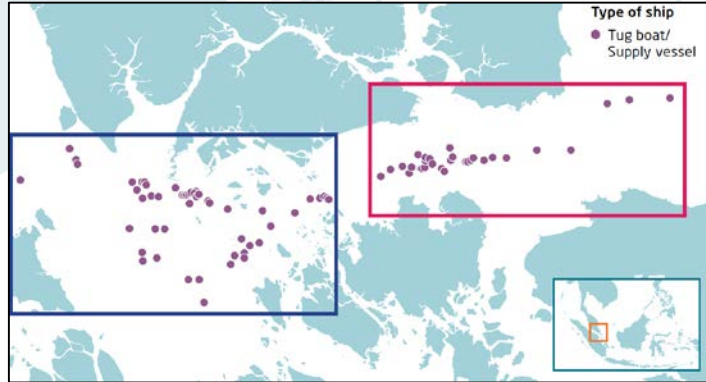
Asia

- ❖ **Characteristics of Incidents reported in Asia for past 12 years (2007-2018)**
 - ❑ Majority of incidents involved 4-6 perpetrators (34%), or 1-3 perpetrators (24%)
 - ❑ Perpetrators mostly armed with knives/machetes/others (such as rods and wooden poles)
 - Commonly used to cut mooring ropes and remove items from ships
 - ❑ No injuries to crew or there was no information on condition of the crew (> 81%)
 - ❑ Nothing stolen by perpetrators who escaped empty-handed when sighted by the crew (32%)
 - For incidents reported with losses, ship stores were mostly stolen
 - ❑ 63% of incidents occurred on board either tankers or bulk carriers
 - ❑ Most of the incidents occurred during hours of darkness
 - ❑ Between 0000-0600 hrs (60%); between 1900-2400 hrs (20%)

III. Analysis of Past Trends: Data Analytics

Straits of Malacca and Singapore

Correlations between type of ships vis-à-vis location



- ❖ Incidents involving tug boats/supply vessels occurred in **western sector** (blue rectangle) and **eastern sector** (red rectangle), with most incidents off Pulau Batam, Indonesia

- ❖ Incidents involving bulk carriers mostly occurred in the **western sector** of Singapore Strait.



- ❖ Incidents involving tankers mostly occurred in the **western sector** of Singapore Strait.



III. Analysis of Past Trends: Data Analytics

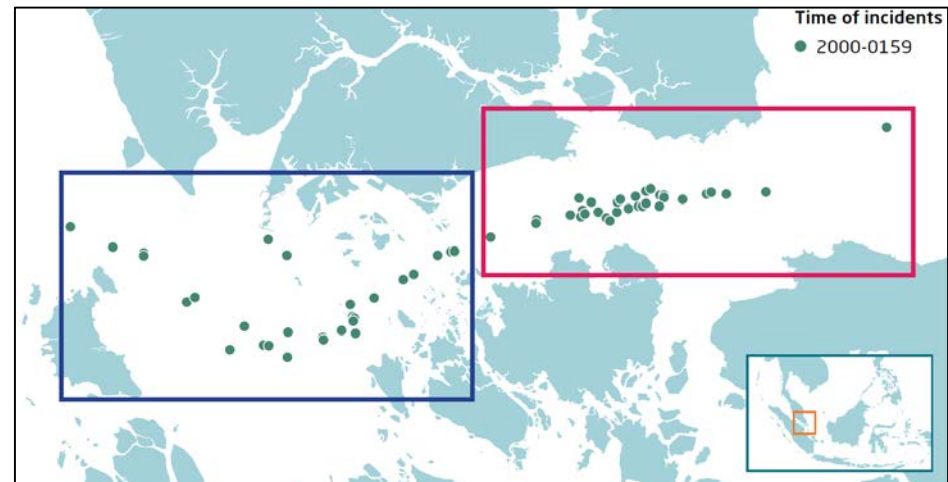
Straits of Malacca and Singapore

Correlations between time of incident vis-à-vis location



- ❖ Bulk of the incidents between 0300-0600 hrs mostly occurred in **western sector** (blue rectangle)

- ❖ Bulk of incidents between 2000-0200 hrs occurred in **eastern sector** (red rectangle)



IV. Analysis of Past Trends: Data Analytics

Indonesia

Correlations between type of ships vis-à-vis location



Tankers

- ❖ No concentration of locations
- ❖ Scattered across various locations



Bulk carriers

- ❖ Mostly along coast of East Kalimantan, particularly Samarinda



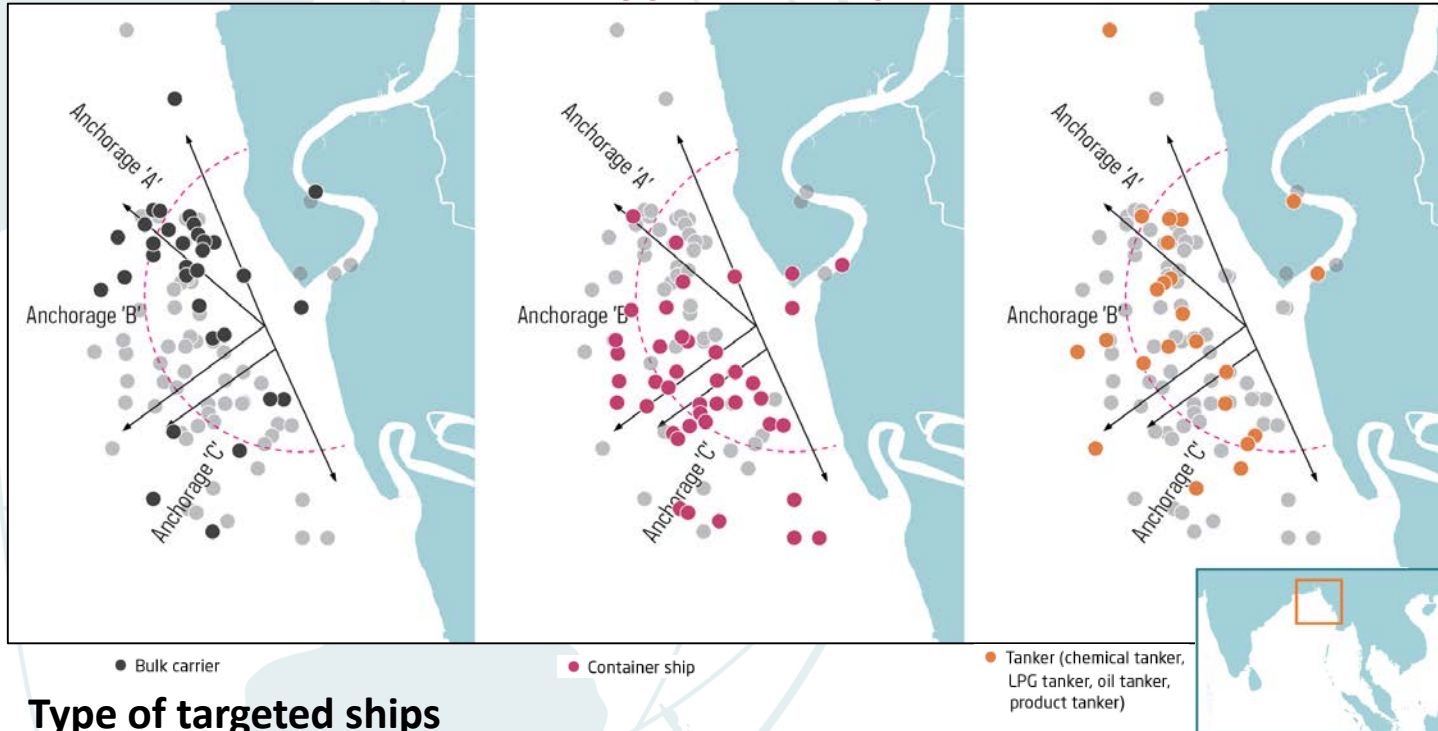
Tug boats / supply vessels

- ❖ Mostly in the vicinity of Pulau Batam/Pulau Bintan

III. Analysis of Past Trends: Data Analytics

Bangladesh

Correlations between type of ships vis-à-vis location



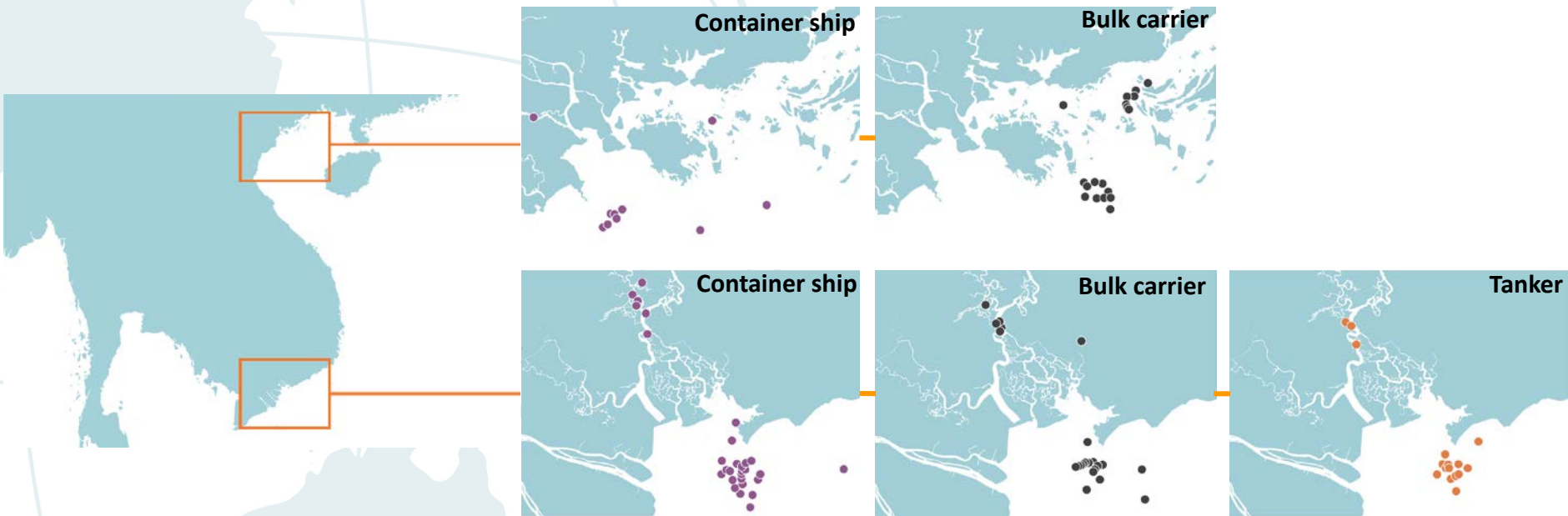
Type of targeted ships

- ❖ 2018: Bulk carriers (5), Container ships (2), General cargo ships (2), Tankers (2)
- ❖ 11-year trend: most common – bulk carriers, container ships & tankers
 - **Bulk carriers**: mostly at Anchorage A
 - **Container ships**: between Anchorage B and C
 - **Tankers**: scattered between Anchorage A and B, with a few in Anchorage C

III. Analysis of Past Trends: Data Analytics

Vietnam

Correlations between type of ships vis-à-vis location



Type of targeted ships

- ❖ Container ships: 10 in Northern Vietnam, 29 incidents in Southern Vietnam
- ❖ Bulk carriers: 18 in Northern Vietnam, 21 incidents in Southern Vietnam
- ❖ Tankers: 18 incidents in Southern Vietnam

IV. Abduction of Crew incidents

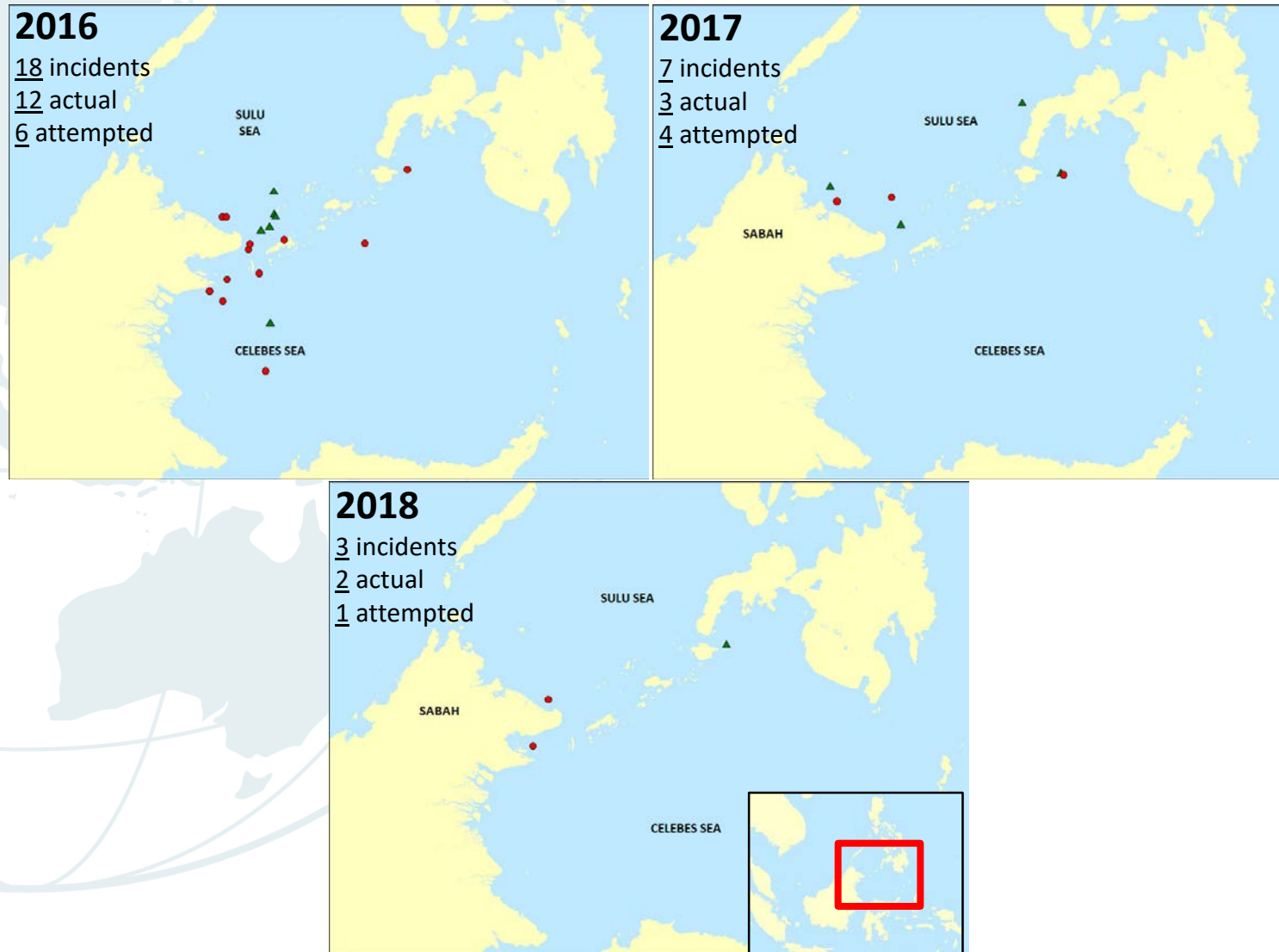
Situation Update (Mar 2016 – Dec 2018)

17 actual incidents and 11 attempted incidents

Incident/Type & GT of Ships	2016	2017	Jan-Dec 2018
Actual (26 Mar 16 – 5 Dec 18)	<u>12</u> 5 – Tug boat (60 – 269 GT) 5 – Fishing trawler/boat (NA) 1 – General cargo ship (11,391 GT) 1 – Bulk carrier (2,999 GT)	<u>3</u> 1 – Tug boat (225 GT) 1 – Fishing trawler (NA) 1 – Bulk carrier (2,875 GT)	<u>2</u> 2 – Fishing boat (NA)
Attempted (13 Nov 16 – 16 Feb 18)	<u>6</u> 5 – Bulk carrier (17,979 – 93,169 GT) 1 – Product tanker (5,557 GT)	<u>4</u> 1 – Container ship (NA) 1 – Bulk carrier (45,026 GT) 1 – General cargo ship (1,599 GT) 1 – Passenger/Cargo ferry (NA)	<u>1</u> 1 – Container ship (NA)
Status of crew abducted Total 66 (as on 31 Dec 18)	Crew released/rescued (<u>49</u>), killed (<u>7</u>), held in captivity (<u>10</u>)		

IV. Abduction of Crew incidents

Location of incidents (2016-2018)



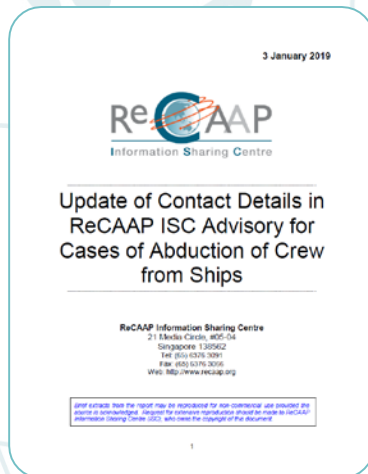
IV. Abduction of Crew incidents

Efforts by ReCAAP ISC (1)



❖ Advisory via ReCAAP ISC Alert on 21 Nov 2016

- ❑ Re-route from area, where possible
- ❑ Exercise extra vigilance and maintain comms with authorities of Philippines and Malaysia
- ❑ ReCAAP ISC updated contact details of authorities on 3 Jan 19



- 1 Philippine Coast Guard District
Southwestern Mindanao
Tel: +63 998 585 7972
+63 917 842 8446
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"
Email: hcgdswm@yahoo.com
- 2a Philippine Coast Guard Station,
Bongao (Central Tawi-Tawi)
Tel: +63 998 585 7941
+63 917 842 8402
VHF: Channel 16
Email: cgd_tawi2@yahoo.com
- 2b Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring
Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi
Tel: +63 955 714 0153
VHF: Channel 16
Email: jointtaskgroup@gmail.com
- 3 Eastern Sabah Security Command
(ESSCOM)
Tel: +60 89863181/016
Fax: +60 89863182
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"
Email: bilikgerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my

IV. Abduction of Crew incidents

Efforts by ReCAAP ISC (2)

- ❖ Issued 2 x Warnings and 2 x Incident Alerts in 2018
- ❖ Latest Warning issued on 30 Oct 18
 - ❑ Information on militant group's possible course of action
 - ❑ Alert ship masters & crew to take necessary actions
 - ❑ Enforcement agencies to step up patrols

WARNING 01-10-2018
Date: 30 Oct 2018

1. The ReCAAP ISC has received information from the Philippine Focal Point (Philippine Coast Guard) that a group of approximately 10 ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) members armed with pistol, rifles and grenade launcher is planning to conduct kidnapping activities at any opportune time in undisclosed areas in Sabah primarily targeting businessmen or ship's crew of foreign vessels passing through the area. They are using unmarked coloured blue and white motorbanca locally known as jungkong.
2. Ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance when transiting the waters off Eastern Sabah and Sulu-Celebes Seas.
3. Source: Philippine Coast Guard

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)
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Country Risk
ReCAAP warns of imminent attack on ships in Sulu and Celebes seas
Ridzwan Rahmat, Singapore - Jane's Navy International
30 October 2018

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Esscom on alert for possible kidnappings by Abu Sayyaf
FMT Reporters - October 31, 2018 7:52 PM

85 Shares [f](#) 59 [t](#) 18 [w](#) 6 [G+](#) 2





The Eastern Sabah Security Command (Esscom) has increased vigilance in the waters off Sabah. (Facebook pic)

KOTA KINABALU: The Eastern Sabah Security Command (Esscom) has confirmed a report by an online maritime news website that a group of armed terrorists from the Abu Sayyaf group may be on the prowl in Sabah's waters.



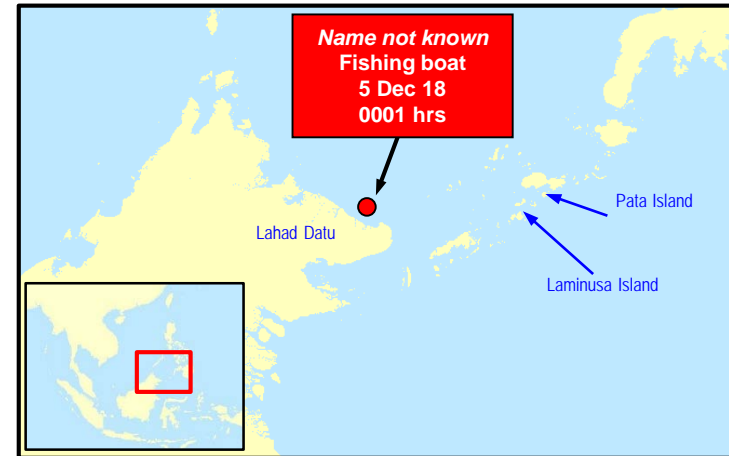
...during an exercise with the Japan Coast Guard. Citing sources from the southern Philippines: It's border maritime region. Sources: Getty Images

Related IHS Products
IHS Jane's Security Intelligence Solutions 
IHS Jane's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence 

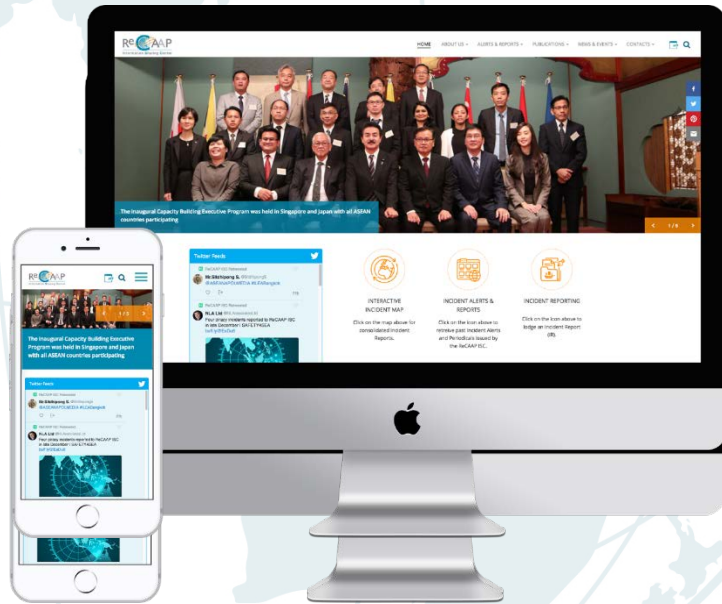
IV. Abduction of Crew incidents

Latest incident on 5 Dec 18

- ❖ 5 Dec 18 at 0001 hrs: Fishing boat was in the vicinity waters of Tambisan, Lahad Datu, Sabah
- ❖ About 20 men believed to be from the Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) boarded the boat
 - ❖ Armed with firearms
 - ❖ Speed boats painted green with grey, and powered with double engines
- ❖ Three crew (two Indonesians and one Malaysian) were abducted
- ❖ Perpetrators with abducted crew arrived at Laminusa Island, Siasi Municipality, Sulu Province on 6 Dec 18, and then to So Dumlog, Barangay Likud, Pata, Sulu Province on 7 Dec 18
- ❖ The Joint Task Force Sulu of the Philippines is exerting efforts to establish the condition and location of the abducted victims



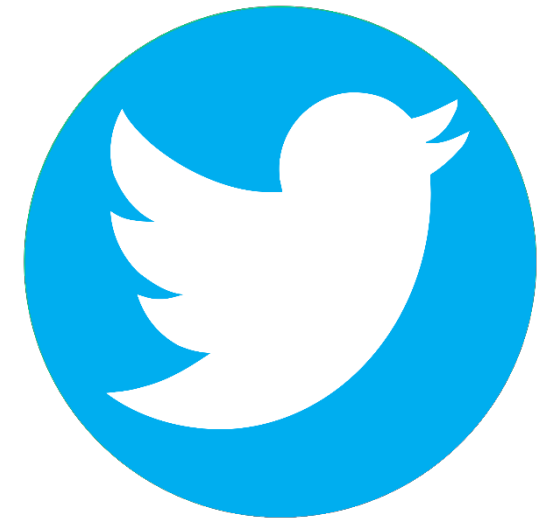
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