



Situation of Piracy & Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia

ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery
Conference 2019

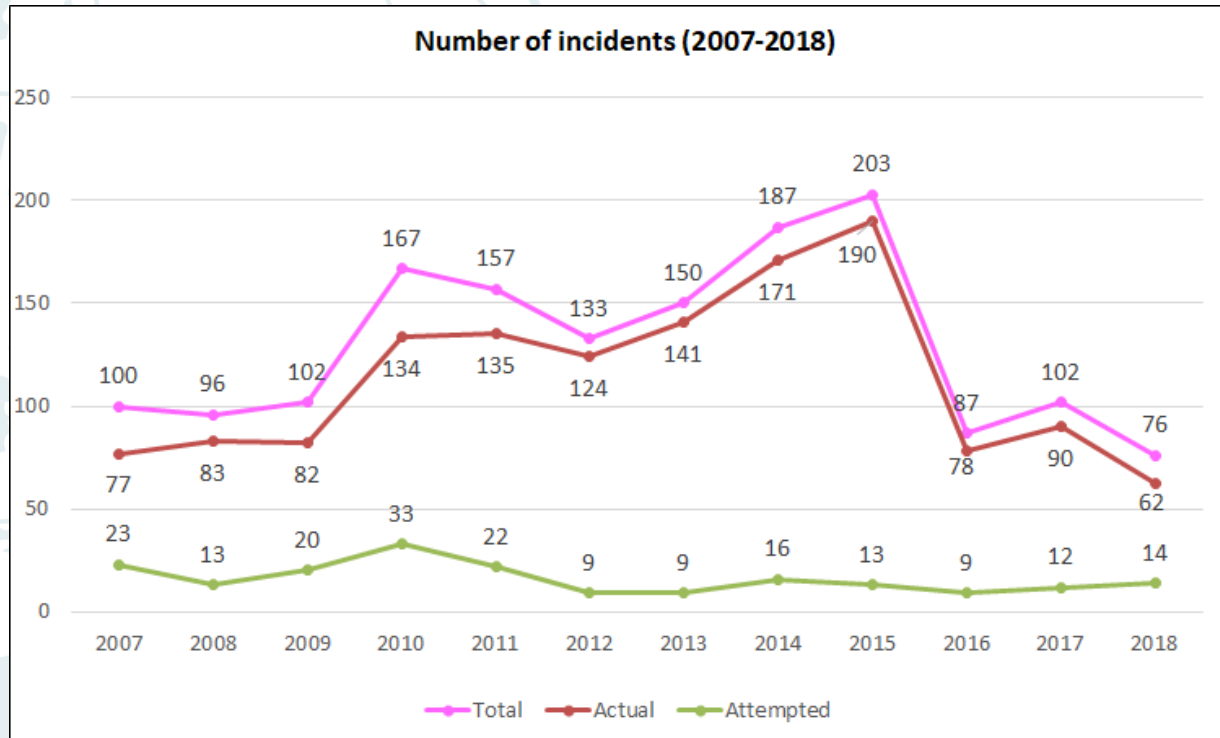
9 April 2019

Scope

- I. Situation Update (2018)**
- II. Analysis of Past Trends: Data Analytics**
- III. Latest Situation (January-March 2019)**
- IV. Abduction of Crew Incidents**

I. Situation Update (2018)

Number of Incidents



76 incidents (62 actual & 14 attempted)

❖ Total Incidents

Lowest in the last 12 years (2007-2018)

Decrease by 25% compared to 2017

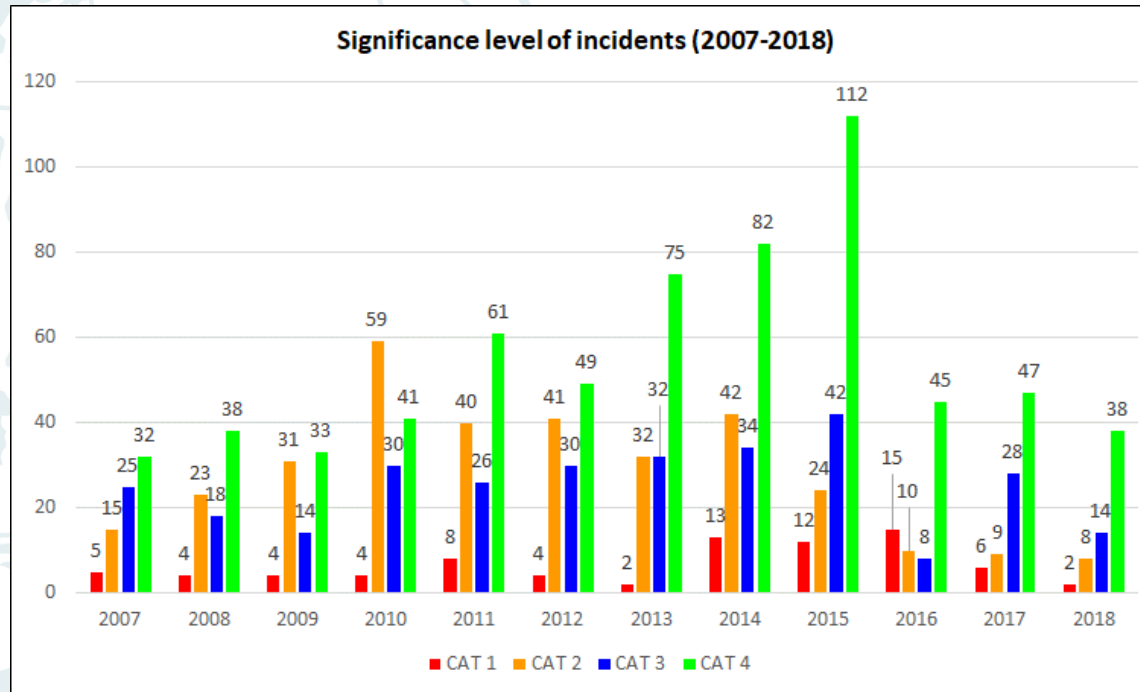
❖ Actual incidents

Lowest in the last 12 years

Decrease by 31% compared to 2017

I. Situation Update (2018)

Significance Level



❖ Significance level of incidents in 2018

- ❑ Two CAT 1 incidents: Abduction of crew for ransom
- ❑ Decrease in CAT 1 incidents compared to 2017 (6 – 2 incidents)
- ❑ The lowest number of CAT 2 incidents in the last 12 years (2007-2018)
- ❑ Decrease in CAT 3 by 50% compared to 2017
- ❑ Majority of incidents were CAT 4 incidents (petty theft)

I. Situation Update (2018)

Improvement & Concern



Improvement

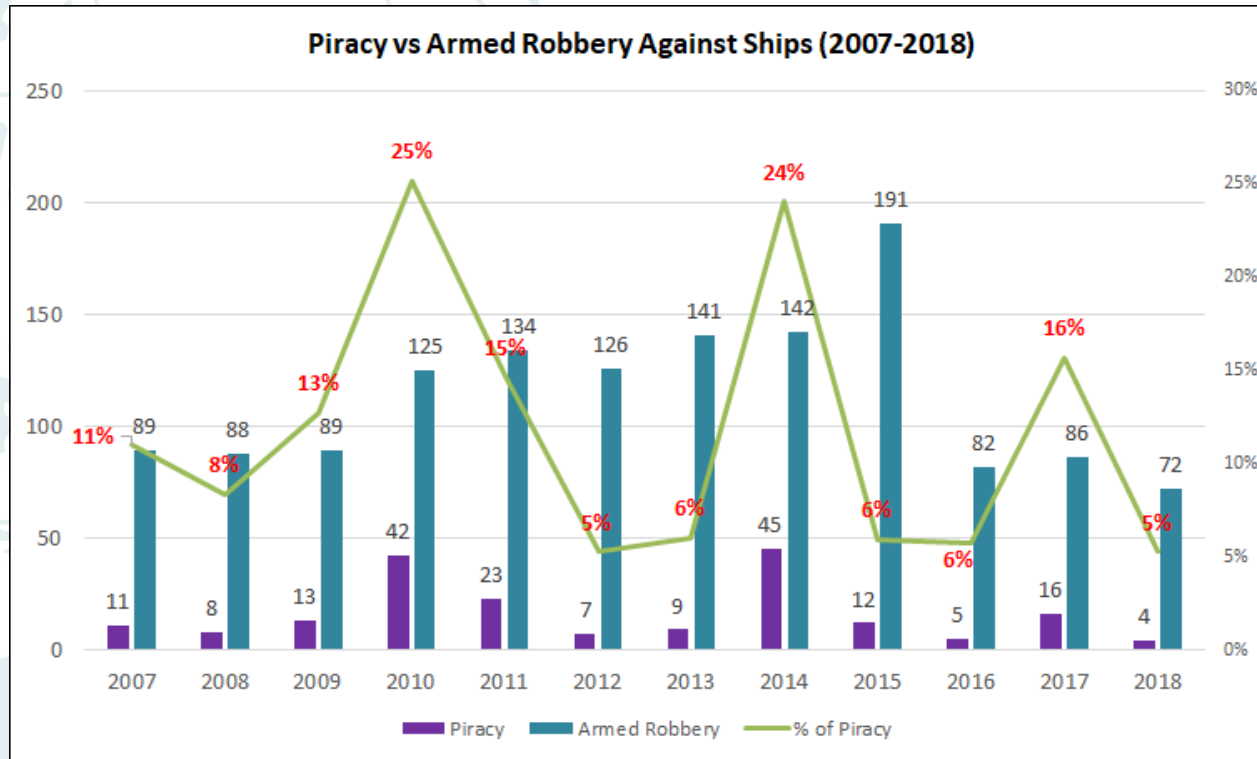
- ❖ At Manila anchorage, Philippines
(10 incidents in 2017 → 1 incident in 2018)
- ❖ South China Sea
(12 incidents in 2017 → 4 incidents in 2018)
- ❖ No successful theft of oil cargo
- ❖ Arrests of Perpetrators

Of concern

- ❖ Occurrence of abduction of crew incidents, despite the decreasing number
(2 actual and 1 attempted incidents)
- ❖ More than 10 incidents at ports/anchorages in Chittagong (10), Bangladesh; and Samarinda (15), Indonesia

I. Situation Update (2018)

Piracy vs Armed Robbery Against Ships (2007-2018)



❖ 2018

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

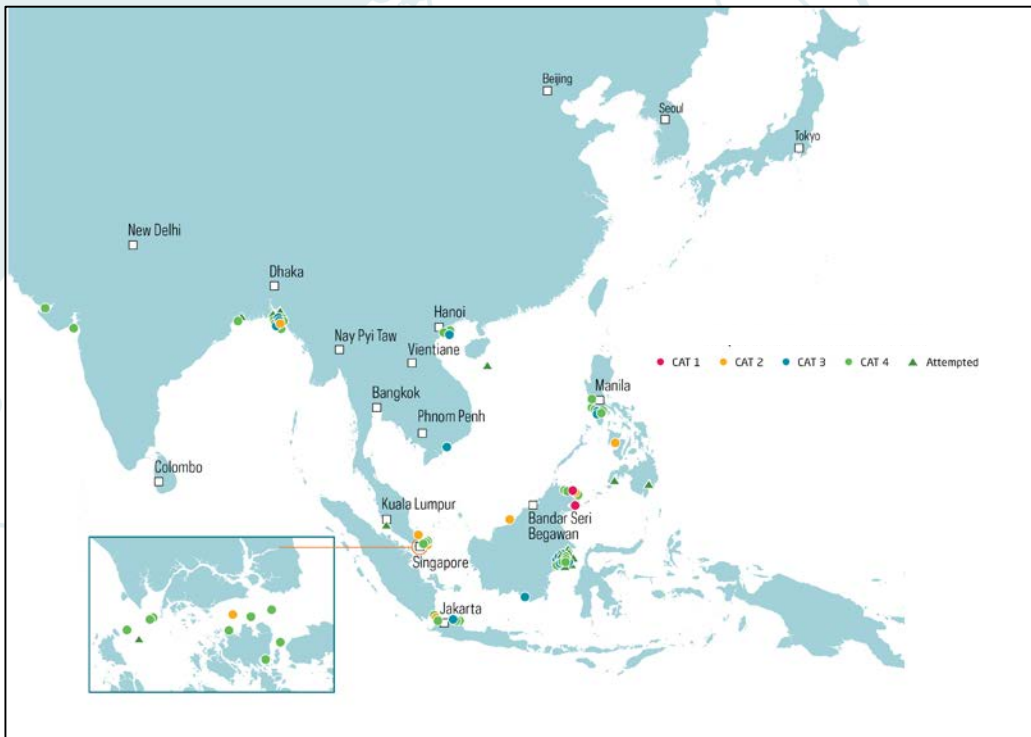
❖ Past 12 years (2007-2018)

❑ Majority are armed robbery against ships (88% average), Piracy (12% average)

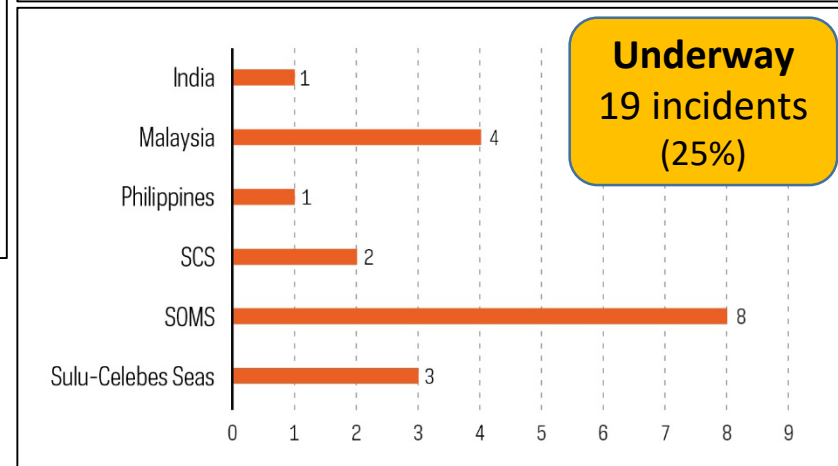
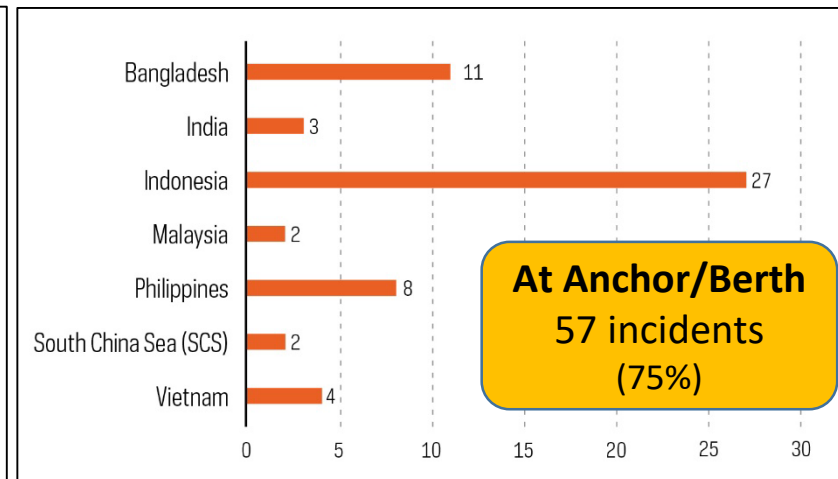
❑ Piracy mostly occurred in South China Sea

I. Situation Update (2018)

Location & Status of Ships

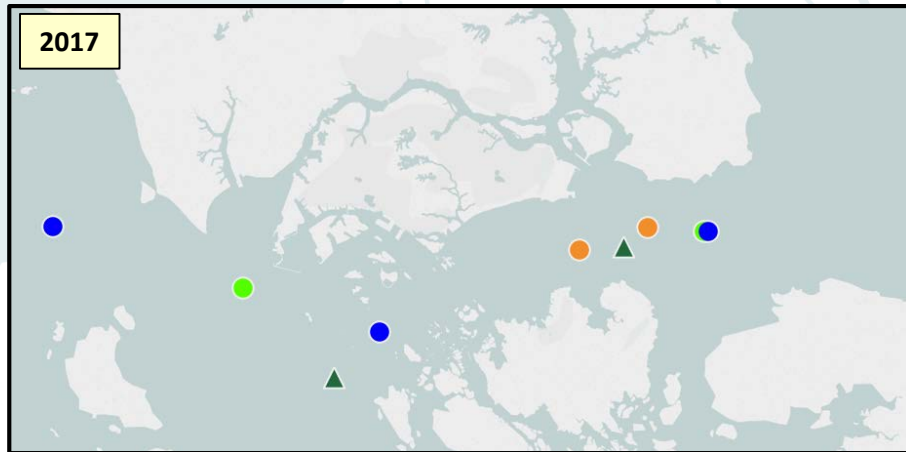


Indonesia (27), Bangladesh (11), Philippines (9),
SOMS (8), Malaysia (6), India (4), SCS (4),
Vietnam (4), Sulu-Celebes Seas (3)



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)

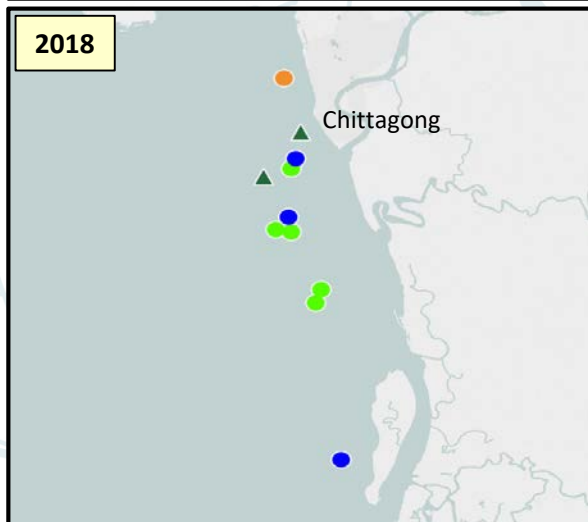
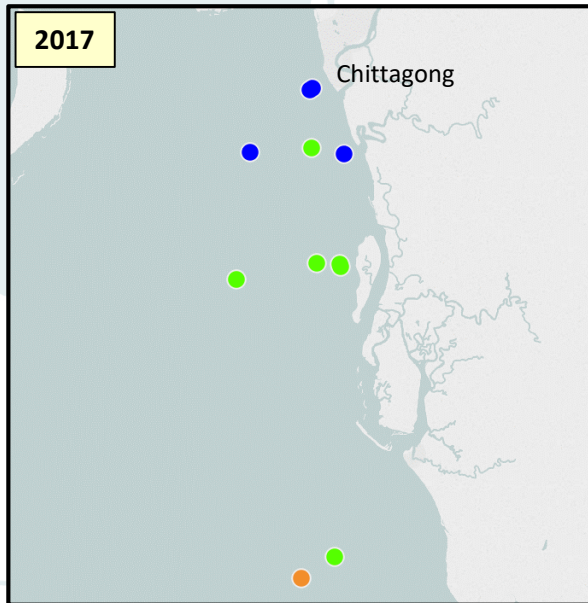


Insights of the 8 incidents in 2018

- ❖ 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)

Update by Location

(2) 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)

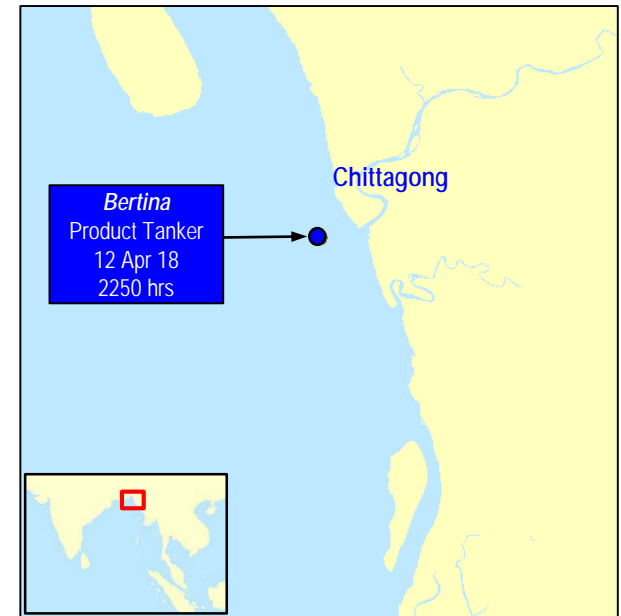
Recommendation

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

Arrest of Perpetrators – Timely reporting & Response

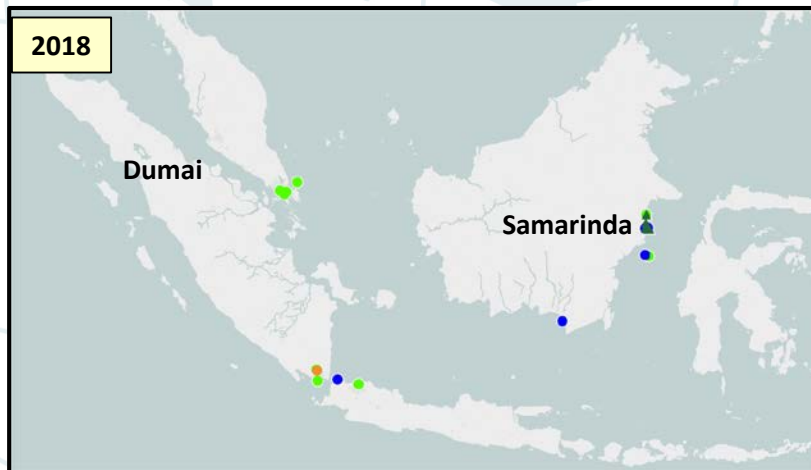
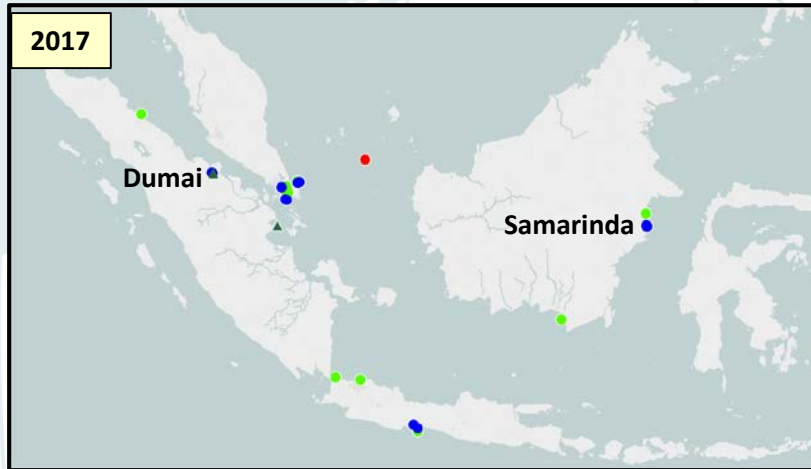
Bertina (12 Apr 18)

- ❖ **12 Apr 18 at 2250 hrs**: Product tanker, *Bertina* was anchored at Chittagong Anchorage, Bangladesh
- ❖ Three perpetrators armed with iron rod boarded the ship
- ❖ They injured the watch keeper, stole drums of paint and escaped
- ❖ The **master raised the alarm, mustered the crew and reported the incident** to the Chittagong Port Control and Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG)
- ❖ **BCG dispatched a patrol boat** to the location, **arrested the perpetrators** and **recovered the stolen items**
- ❖ Stolen items were returned to victim ship and perpetrators were handed over to local police



Update by Location

(3) Indonesia



Past 5 years ...

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

2018

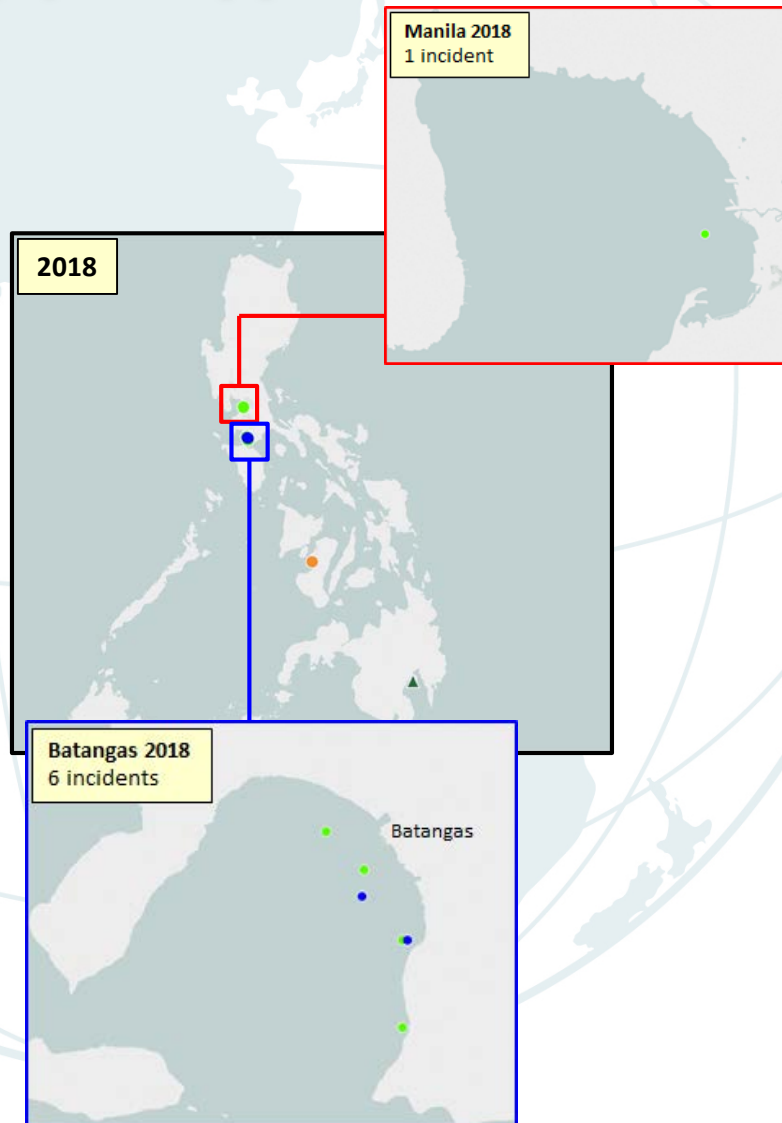
- ❖ 2018 improved by 18% compared to 2017
- ❖ 1 x CAT 2, 7 x CAT 3, 13 x CAT 4, 6 x attempted
- ❖ Improvements in:
 - ❑ Pulau Batam/Bintan (11 → 4), Dumai (5 → 0)
- ❖ Increase incidents in:
 - ❑ Samarinda (8 → 15)

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)

Update by Location

(4) 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)

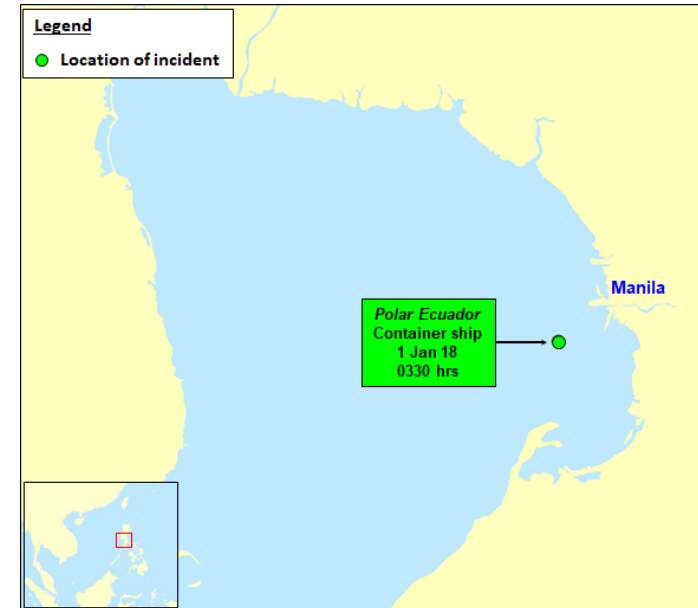
Insights of 2018 incidents

- ❖ Majority involved 1-3 perpetrators (6), 4-6 (1), 7-9 (1)
- ❖ Perpetrators not armed (3), knives/machetes/others (2), Guns & knives (1), not stated (3)
- ❖ 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)

Arrest of Perpetrators – Timely reporting & Response

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
- ❖ Since then, no more incident in the area in 2018



(Top) Stolen items recovered

All photographs courtesy of ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)

II. Analysis of Past Trends: Data Analytics



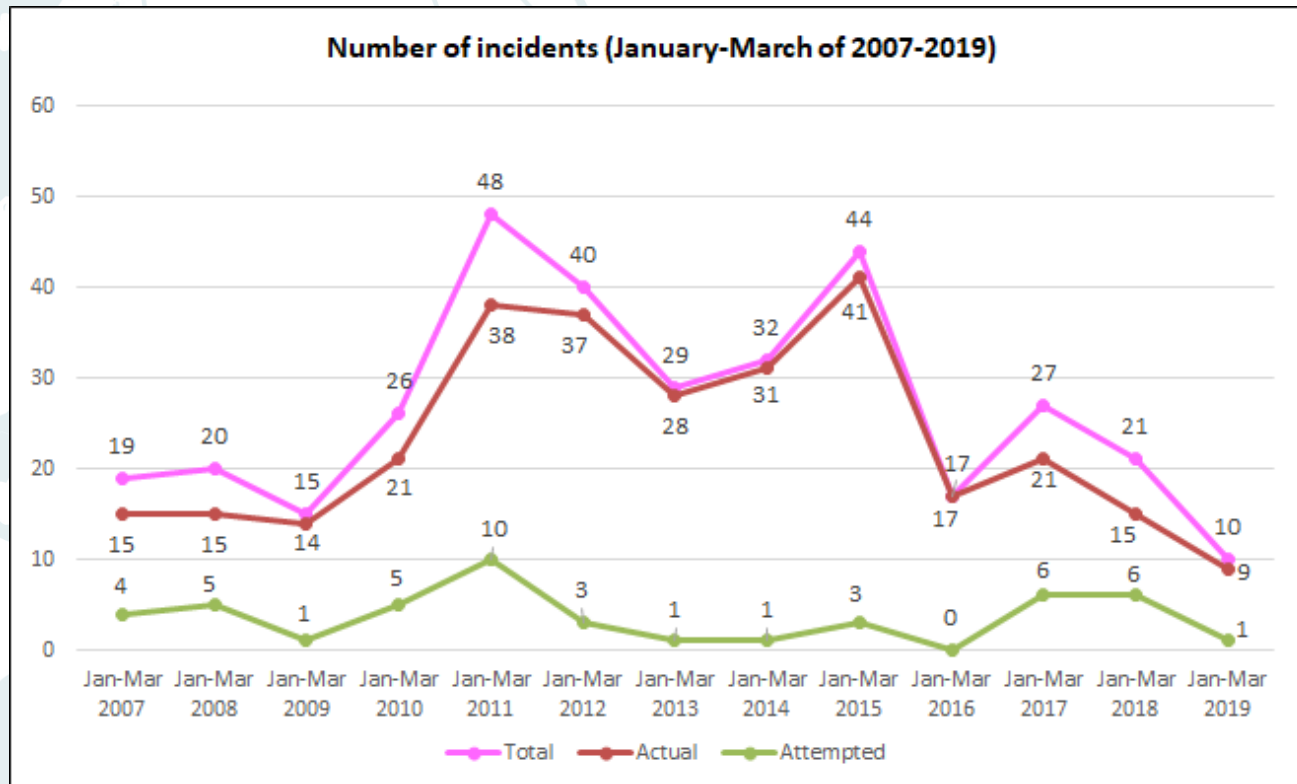
Past 12 years (2007-2018)

❖ Characteristics of Incidents in Asia

- ❑ 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. Latest Situation (January-March 2019)

Number of Incidents



10 incidents (9 actual & 1 attempted)

❖ Total Incidents

Lowest in last 13 years of Jan-Mar of 2007-2019

Decrease by 52% compared to 2017

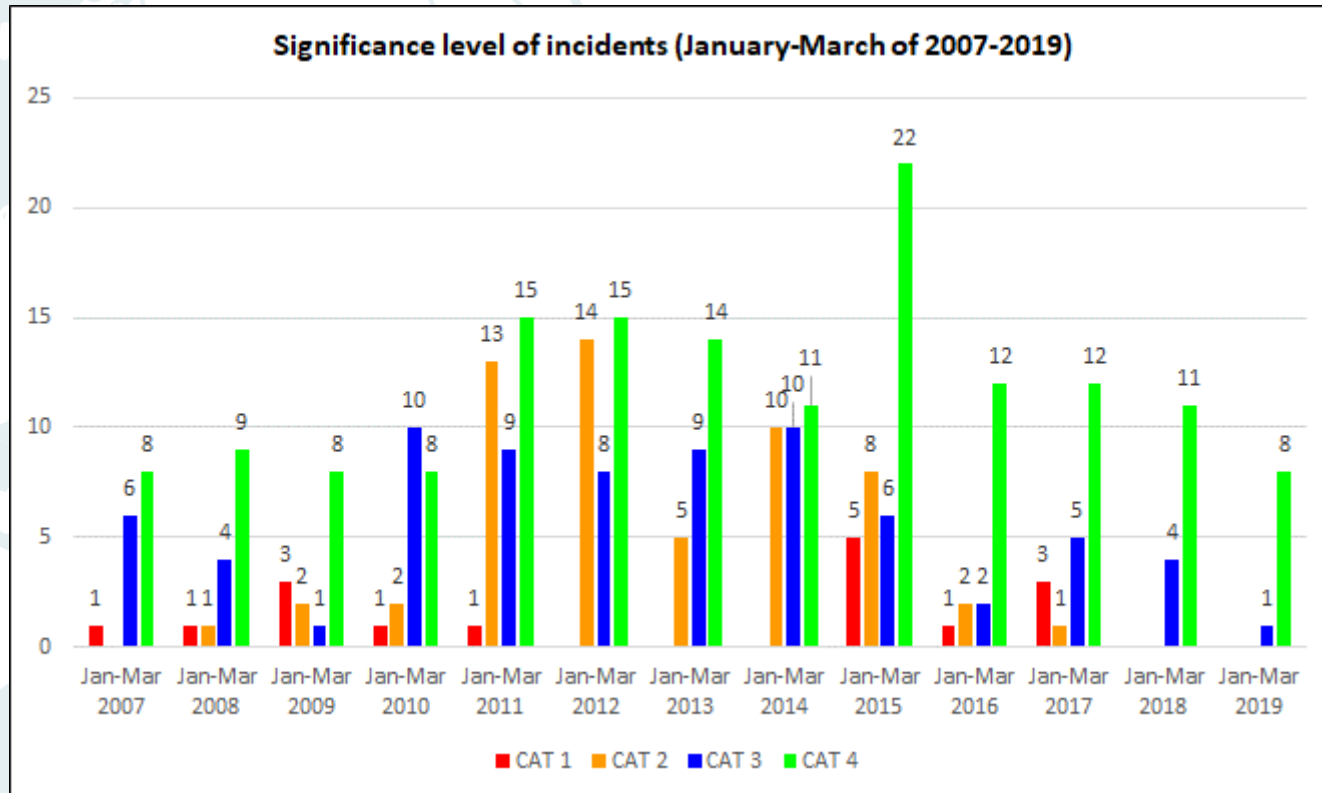
❖ Actual incidents

Lowest in the last 13 years

Decrease by 40% compared to 2017

III. Latest Situation (January-March 2019)

Significance Level of Incidents



- ❖ One CAT 3 incident and eight CAT 4 incidents
- ❖ No CAT 1 and CAT 2 incidents
- ❖ Decrease in CAT 3 incidents
- ❖ Majority CAT 4 incidents

IV. Abduction of Crew incidents



Situation Update

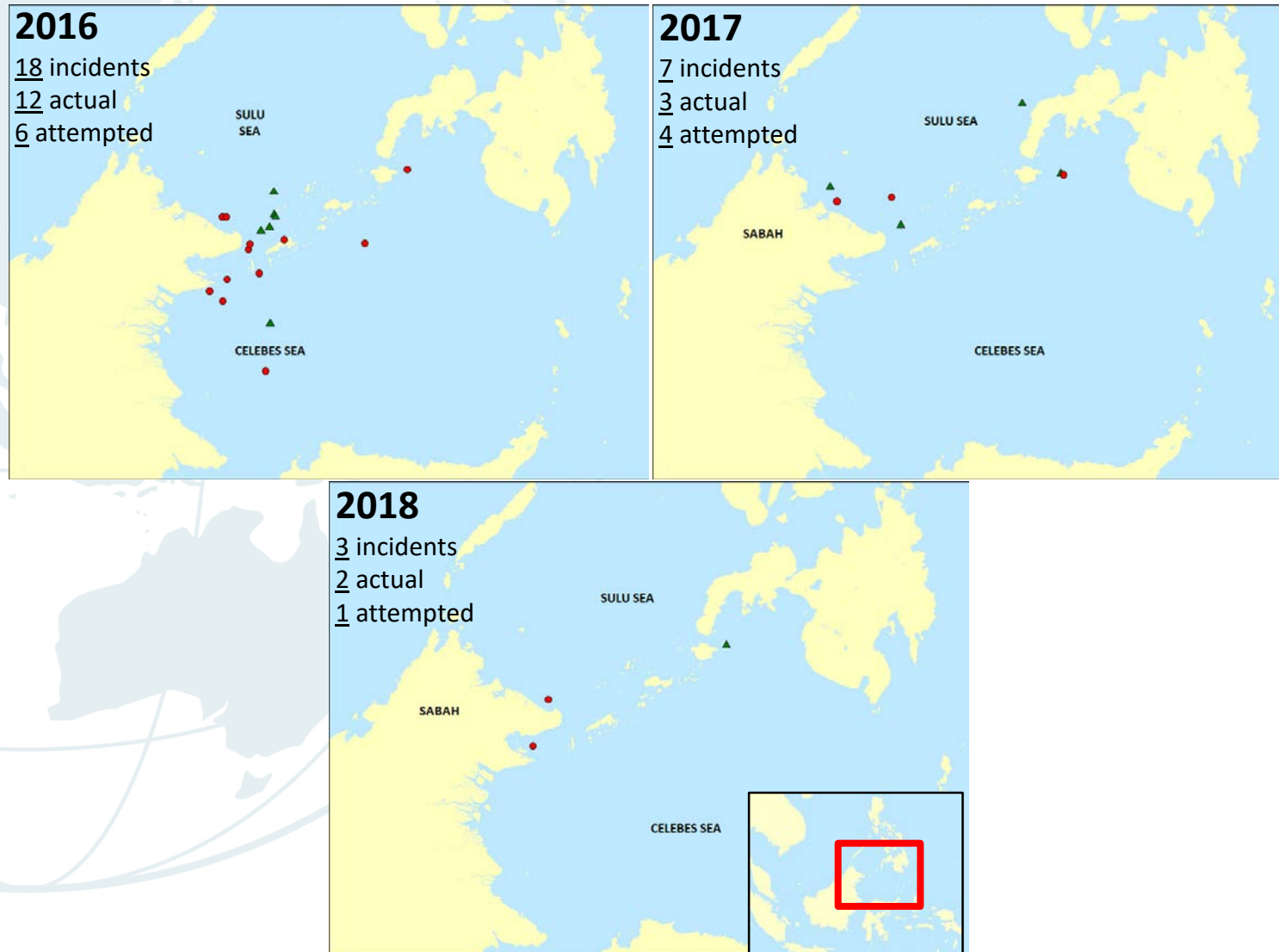
No incidents reported during Jan-Mar 2019

17 actual incidents and **11** attempted incidents (2016-2018)

Incident/Type & GT of Ships	2016	2017	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 8 Apr 19)	Crew released/rescued (<u>52</u>), crew fatality (<u>8</u>), crew held in captivity (<u>6</u>)		

IV. Abduction of Crew incidents

Location of incidents (2016-2018)



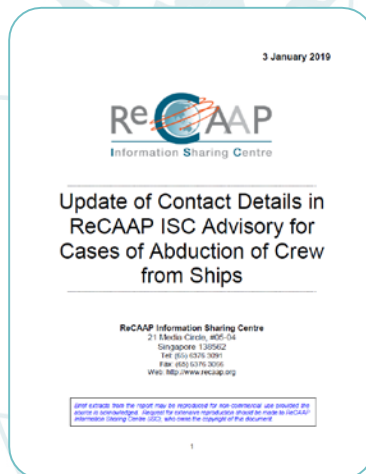
IV. Abduction of Crew incidents

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



Information Sharing Centre

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)
Email: info@recaap.org
Tel: +65 6376 3084
Fax: +65 6376 3066



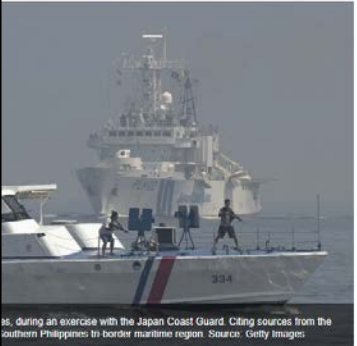
Country Risk
ReCAAP warns of imminent attack on ships in Sulu and Celebes seas
Ridzwan Rahmat, Singapore - Jane's Navy International
30 October 2018
Share | Like | Tweet | Email

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)

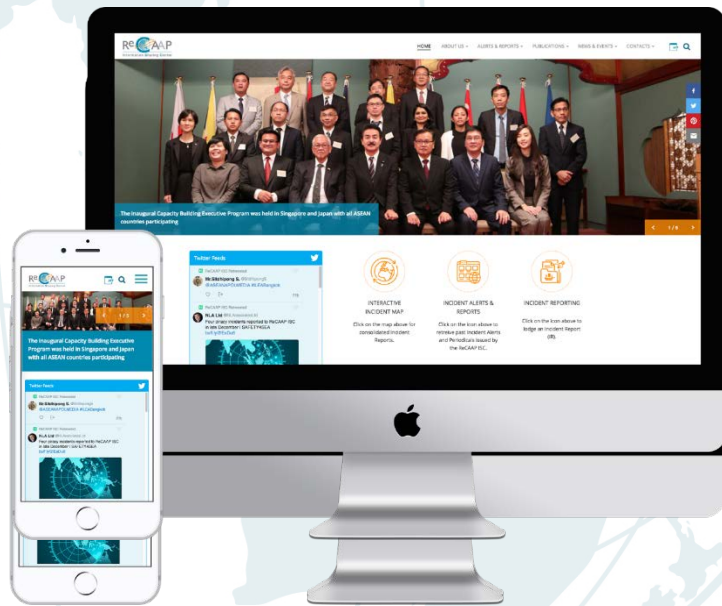
KOTA KINABALU: The Eastern Sabah Security Command (Esscom) has confirmed a report by an online maritime news website that a group of armed terrorists from the Abu Sayyaf group may be on the prowl in Sabah's waters.



...s, during an exercise with the Japan Coast Guard. Citing sources from the southern Philippines, in-border maritime region. Source: Getty Images

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