

<b>Incident Report :</b>	15/2008
<b>Date/Time of Incidents :</b>	30 September 2008 at 0350 hrs (local time) 2 October 2008 at 0220hrs (local time)
<b>Location of incidents :</b>	02° 48.00' N, 105° 09.2' E 03° 11.84' N, 105° 22.40' E
<b>Area Description :</b>	South China Sea
<b>Name and Type of Ships:</b>	<i>JKM Muhieddine</i> /Bulk carrier <i>Sun Geranium</i> /Chemical tanker
<p><b>Details of Incidents:</b></p> <p>Two incidents of piracy were reported in the South China Sea on 30 September 2008 and 2 October 2008. The details of the incidents are described below.</p> <p><u>Incident on board the <i>JKM Muhieddine</i> on 30 September 2008</u></p> <p>At 0350 hrs on 30 September 2008, at least seven pirates armed with long knives boarded the Panama-registered bulk carrier, the <i>JKM Muhieddine</i> while she was under way in the South China Sea (at about 64 nm east of Pulau Tioman). Please refer to approximate location of incident in diagram below. The bulk carrier was steaming at about 11 knots heading towards Singapore when the pirates boarded the ship from her aft. The pirates tied up the ship master and another crew member with ropes, and stole their money and personal belongings including camera, mobile phones, shoes and clothes. The pirates also went to the chief engineer's cabin and stole his money. After that, the pirates tied up the ship captain in the aft bollard and left the ship at about 0410 hrs. No injuries were sustained by the crew.</p>	

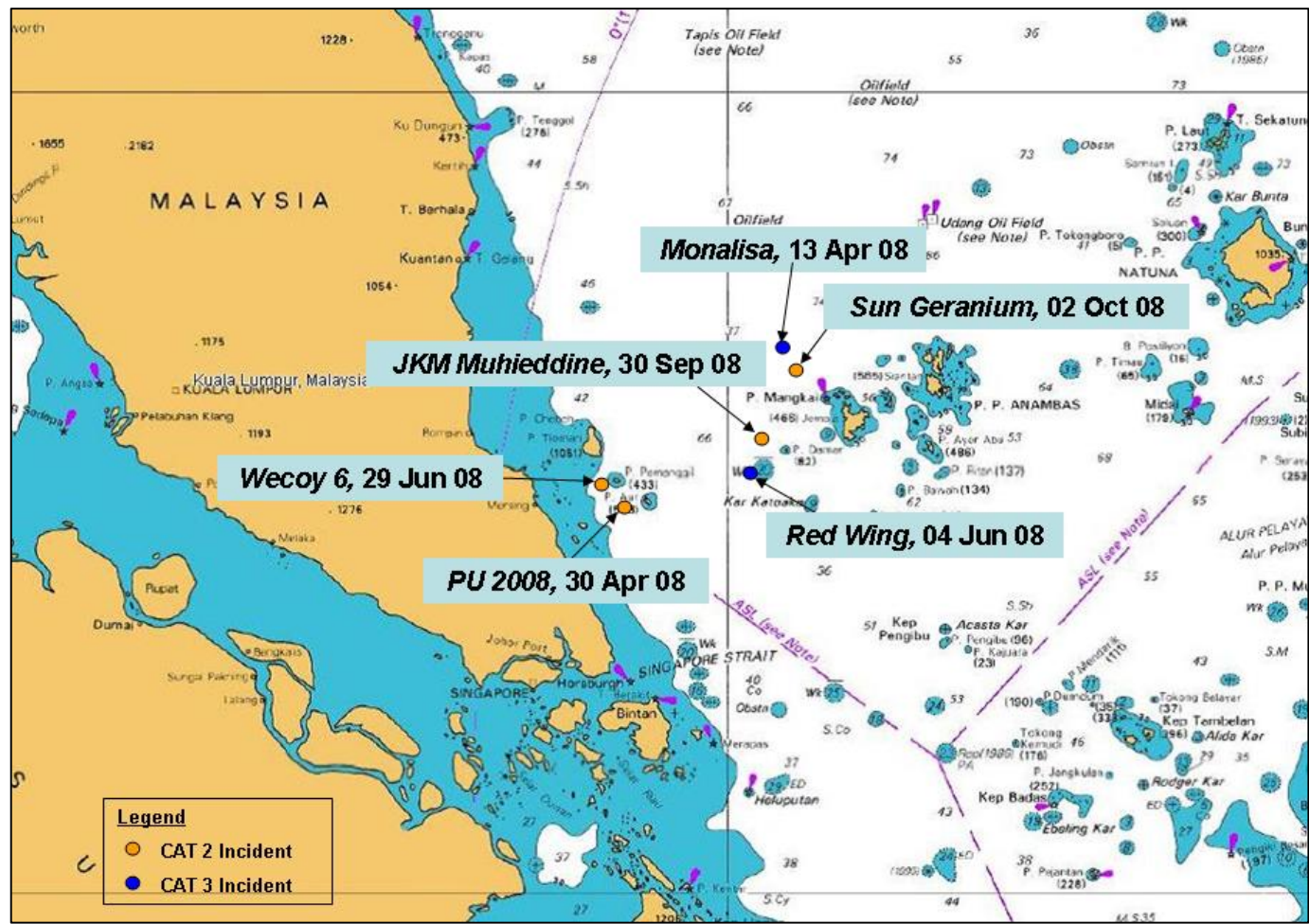
The ship master reported the incident to the Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) who initiated a NAVTEX broadcast to warn ships of the incident. The Singapore POCC also informed the MRCC of Putra Jaya about the incident.

Incident on board the *Sun Geranium* on 2 October 2008

At 0220 hrs on 2 October 2008, eight pirates armed with long knives and pipes boarded the Panama-registered chemical tanker, the *Sun Geranium* while she was under way in the South China Sea (at about 70 nm north-east of Pulau Tioman). Please refer to approximate location of incident in diagram below. The pirates boarded the tanker from a speed boat, entered the bridge and tied up the duty AB and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer. The pirates brought the duty AB and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer to the ship master's cabin. They also tied up the ship master and took his money. The ship master and 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer were then brought to the poop deck of the ship. The pirates escaped in their speedboat. No injuries were sustained by the crew.

The ship master reported the incident to the Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) who initiated a NAVTEX broadcast to warn ships of the incident. The Singapore POCC also informed the MRCC of Putra Jaya and the MRCC of Jakarta about the incident.

<b>Reported by :</b>	ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)
<b>Comments by ISC :</b>	<p>Although there is no conclusive evidence as yet, it appears that the same group of pirates was probably involved in the two incidents that occurred in the South China Sea on 30 September 2008 and 2 October 2008.</p> <p>The ReCAAP ISC notes that these were the fifth and sixth incidents that have occurred in the South China Sea area since January 2008. Please see the approximate locations of the other incidents of piracy and armed robbery in the diagram below.</p> <p>Ship masters are advised to maintain vigilance with all around look-out as per established norms, and take security precautions when operating in the area especially during hours of darkness. They are encouraged to monitor all maritime safety information broadcasts for the area. The ReCAAP ISC encourages ship owners and ship masters to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery to the nearest coastal states immediately.</p>



Approximate location of Incidents

