

Incident Report: 18/2008

Date/Time of Incident: 10 November 2008 at 0130 hrs

Location of incident: 01° 11.13' N, 103° 51.83' E

Area Description: Off Batu Berhenti beacon

Name and Type of Ship: *Maju Daya 3* / Tug boat

Details of Incident

On 10 November 2008, an Indonesia-registered tug boat, the *Maju Daya 3* towing a Singapore-registered barge the *Marcopolo 188* was off Batu Berhenti in the east bound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme. At or about 0130 hrs, the tug boat was at position 01° 11.13' N, 103° 51.83' E, off Batu Berhenti when five robbers armed with parangs boarded the tug boat. Please see approximate location of the incident below.

The robbers took the crews' personal belongings and cash before escaping. No injury was reported by the crew. The tug boat was proceeding to Batu Ampar, Indonesia after the incident.

The ship master reported the incident to the Port Operations Control Centre (POCC), Singapore which is also the ReCAAP Focal Point for Singapore. The Singapore's POCC initiated a navigational broadcast on VHF and informed the MRCC, Jakarta about the incident.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)

Comments by ISC

This is the fourth incident reported in the vicinity of the Batu Berhenti beacon since January 2008. Ship masters and crew are advised to maintain vigilance and strengthen watch keeping particularly during hours of darkness when transiting through the area.



Observations by ISC

The first incident occurred on 8 September 2008 involving a Singapore-registered tug boat, the *Kimtrans Echo* towing a barge. The tug boat was enroute to Singapore from Vietnam towing a barge laden with sand. On 8 September 2008, between 0350 hrs and 0420 hrs, five masked men armed with parangs and long knife boarded the tug boat at position 01° 10.7' N, 103° 48.5' E, off Batu Berhenti,. The robbers tied all six Indonesian crew and stole cash amounting to about S\$550, mobile phones, watches and walkie-talkies before escaping in a wooden boat with outboard engines.

The second incident occurred on 4 October 2008 involving a Malaysia-registered coaster, the *MV Sin Huat*. The ship was under way from Singapore to Sibul, Sarawak. At 0050 hrs on 4 October 2008, the ship was at position 01° 12.5' N, 103° 54.5' E (approximately 2 nm east of Batu Berhenti buoy) in the east bound lane of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore when three masked robbers armed with parangs boarded the ship from a speed boat. The robbers damaged the VHF handset, stole the ship master's computer and cash, and the crew's personal belongings before escaping.

The third incident took place on 31 October 2008 involving a Malaysia-registered tanker, the *MT Arowana Ranger*. The tanker was enroute from Singapore to Pasir Gudang, Malaysia with cargo of gas oil. At about 0115 hrs, five to six robbers boarded the ship at position 01° 11' N, 103° 50' E, west of Batu Berhenti. The robbers took the crew's personal effects and the ship's communication equipment before escaping in a small wooden boat.

Although there is no conclusive evidence as yet, it appears that the same group of robbers was probably involved in the incidents. In all four incidents, the robbers came alongside the ships in their boat during hours of darkness, boarded the ship while under way and escaped with the crew's personal belongings and in two of the incidents, also took with them the ship's communication equipment. The ship masters and crew were not injured in all four incidents.





Approximate location of incidents

