

Incident Report: 04/2009

Date/Time of Incident: 28 May 2009 at 0200 hrs (local time)

Location of incident: 02° 14.46' N, 104° 14.84' E

Area Description: About 19.5 nm southwest of Pulau Aur, Malaysia

Name and Type of Ship: *Topniche 5* / Tug boat towing *Chrisniche 4* /Barge

Details of Incident

On 23 May 2009, a Singapore-registered tug boat, the *Topniche 5*, departed Koh Kong, Cambodia at 1600 hrs (local time) for Singapore. The tug boat, towing a Singapore-registered barge, the *Chrisniche 4* was scheduled to arrive Singapore on 28 May 2009 at about 2300 hrs (local time).

At 0200 hrs (local time) on 28 May 2009, five robbers armed with guns and knives, boarded *Topniche 5* when she was at approximately 02° 14.46' N, 104° 14.84' E (about 19.5 nm southwest of Pulau Aur). The robbers stole cash and the crew's personal belongings which included mobile phones, laptops, watches, computer accessories, portable radio sets and binoculars before fleeing. There were nine Indonesian crew on board the tug boat at the time of the incident and no injuries were reported.

The ship's agent reported the incident to the Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) which is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). The Singapore's POCC initiated a navigational broadcast on the Navtex to warn mariners operating in the region about the incident. The MRCC Putra Jaya has also been informed.

Reported by

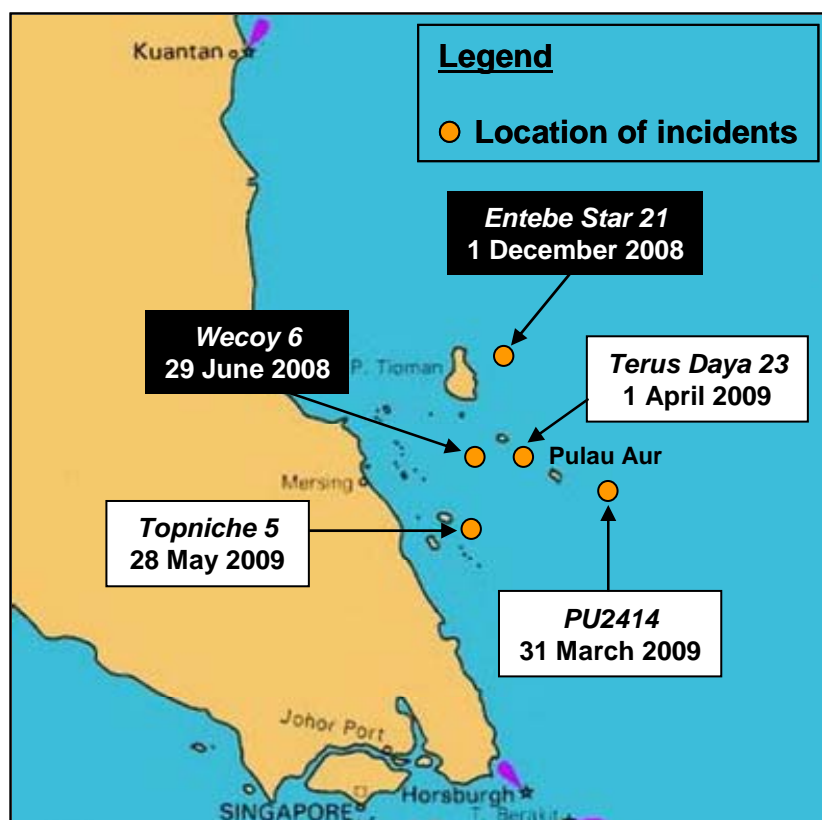
ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)



Comments by ISC

Between May 2008 and May 2009, a total of five incidents were reported in the vicinity off Pulau Aur. Notably, all five incidents involved tug boats and were Category 2 (moderately significant) incidents. Please see map on the location of these incidents.

Ship masters and crew of tug boats are advised to maintain vigilance at all times and take necessary precautionary measures when operating in the vicinity especially during hours of darkness. The ReCAAP ISC encourages ship masters to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery to the nearest coastal state immediately.



Approximate location of incidents

