

Incident Alert

Incident Report: 01/2009

Date/Time of Incident: 19 Feb 2009 at 1430 hrs (Local Time)

Location of incident: 05° 10.5' N °, 099° 6.03' E

Area Description: Straits of Malacca and Singapore

Name and Type of Ship: *MLC Nancy 5*(Tug boat) towing *Miclyn 3316*(Barge)

Details of Incident

On 19 February 2009, a Singapore-registered tug boat, the *MLC Nancy 5* towing a barge the *Miclyn 3316* was en route to Singapore from Colombo. At about 1430 hrs, the tug boat and the barge was attacked by a group of 12 pirates from a small speed boat at approximate location 05° 10.5' N °, 099° 6.03' E (in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. Refer to the location in map.

The pirates took all the navigational equipment including radars, VHF radios, SSB radios and personal belongings of the crew before fled in their small boat. When the incident happened, there were 10 crew on the *MLC Nancy 5* and no crew and cargo on the barge. The Master and a crew member were taken away but no one was injured.

After the pirates fled, the 2nd Officer reported the incident to the ship owner through the vessel's iridium phone, which was the only piece of communication equipment not taken. He navigated the tug boat and barge to Penang as it is the nearest port. The ship owner reported the incident to the Port Operations Control Centre (POCC), Singapore. The POCC transmitted a navigational broadcast on Navtex and Safety Net to warn vessels operating in the vicinity about the incident and requested them to look out for the tug and barge.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)

Comments by ISC

This is the first incident of piracy reported in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore since January 2009. Ship masters and crew are advised to maintain vigilance at all



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times and take necessary precautionary measures when operating in the vicinity. These pirates are likely to be armed.



Approximate location of incident

