

Incident Alert

Incident Report: 02/2010

Date/Time of Incident: 06 February 2010 at 0130 hrs (local time)

Location of incident: 02° 59.40' N, 104° 00.06' E

Area Description: Off Pulau Tioman, Malaysia

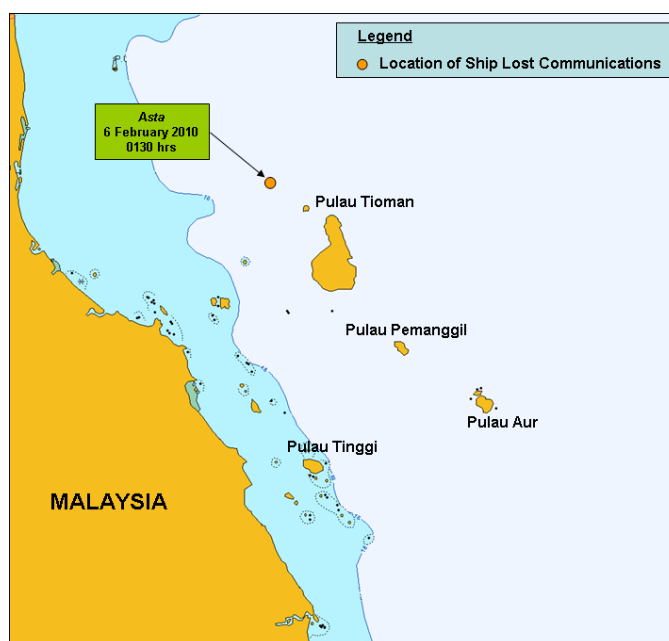
Name and Type of Ship: *Asta*/Tug boat (IMO Number: 0095229)



Photograph of *Asta* courtesy of IFC

Details of Incident

A Singapore-registered tug boat, *Asta* towing barge *Callista* departed Singapore for Cambodia on 5 February 2010. At about 0130 hrs on 6 February 2010, the ship Agent reported lost communications with the tug boat at position 02° 59.40' N, 104° 00.60' E, off Pulau Tioman, Malaysia. Please see map below for approximate location. The tug boat has reportedly deviated from its planned course and was tracked to be heading northeasterly in the South China Sea.



Approximate location

There were 12 crew onboard *Asta* at the time of the incident, and there was no cargo onboard the barge. The *Asta* was scheduled to arrive at Cambodia on 9 February 2010. The ship owner suspected that *Asta* had been hijacked and reported the incident to the Singapore Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) who had issued a broadcast to all vessels to report sightings of *Asta* and *Callista* to POCC. It had also notified the MRCCs of Basarnas, Putra Jaya, Vietnam, Bangkok and Philippines.



Incident Alert

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)
Information Fusion Centre (IFC)

Comments by ReCAAP ISC

The ReCAAP ISC encourages all ships to look out for *Asta* and report to the Singapore POCC, or the nearest MRCC when sighted her. However, there were concerns that the tug boat had been repainted and changed in name. The Singapore POCC who is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) had reported the incident to all ReCAAP Focal Points and provided the details of *Asta* when she arrives at any of the ports.

Past incident in the area

This is the second tug boat reported missing in this area. The previous incident occurred on 7 April 2009, at 2035 hrs, involving a Singapore-registered tug boat, *Prospaq T1* towing an empty barge, the *Prospaq B1*. (*Prospaq T1* departed Singapore for Vietnam on 5 April 2009.) While she was underway in the South China Sea when 12 pirates armed with two hand guns and knives boarded the tug boat from a motor boat with two outboard motors at about 60 nm north of Pulau Anambas. The tug boat is still missing.

