

Incident of Missing

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| Tug Boat: | 04/2012 |
| Name and Type of Ship: | <i>Wantas 6</i> / Tug boat (registration number: 333420) <i>Wantas VII</i> / Barge |
| Date/Time of Lost of Communications: | 26 Apr 12 at 1705 hrs (local time) |
| Location of Barge: | 8° 41.33' N, 119° 50.55' E |
| Area Description: | Approximately 3.5 nm southeast of the South Islet, Cagayancillo, Palawan, Philippines |

Description of Incident

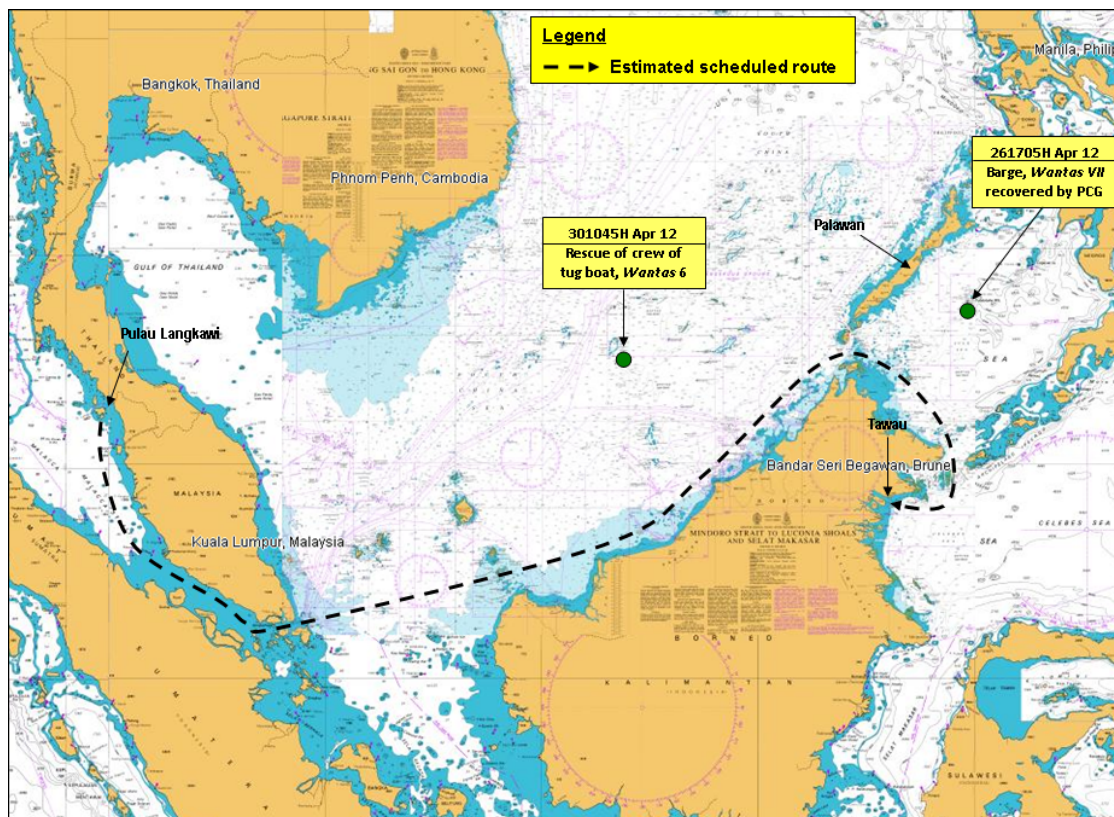
On 12 Apr 12, a Malaysian-registered tug boat, *Wantas 6* towing barge *Wantas VII* departed Langkawi, Malaysia for Tawau, Sabah. On 26 Apr 12, the owner of the vessels reported to the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) that he lost communication with the vessel. The owner last communicated with the master on 16 Apr 12 at 1000 hrs (local time) when the vessels were passing Batam, Indonesia.

On 26 Apr 12 at 1705 hrs (local time), the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported to the ReCAAP ISC that a barge, named *Wantas VII* was found at approximately 3.5 nm southeast of the South Islet, Cagayancillo, Palawan, Philippines (8° 41.33' N, 119° 50.55' E). The PCG boarded the barge and discovered eight containers containing electrical/construction supplies/materials, of which some of them had been forcibly opened.

Upon receipt of the report, the ReCAAP ISC alerted all ReCAAP Focal Points, MMEA and the Indonesian authorities about the barge, and requested all to look out for the missing crew and tug boat, *Wantas 6*.

On 30 Apr 12, the MMEA reported to the ReCAAP ISC that seven personnel believed to be the crew of *Wantas 6* was rescued by a passing Vietnamese fishing boat *PY 2647* on 30 Apr 12 at about 1045 hrs (local time) in the South China Sea (7° 20.00' N, 111° 55.00' E). Refer to map below on the approximate locations.





Approximate locations of incident

Comments by ReCAAP ISC

The ReCAAP ISC requests all vessels transiting the area to keep a sharp lookout for *Wantas 6* (photographs enclosed below for reference) and to report sightings of the vessel to the nearest coastal State. The tug boat, *Wantas 6* originally painted red could be repainted and renamed; and possibly intended to be sold.



Tug boat, *Wantas 6*



Photographs courtesy of the shipowner
Barge, *Wantas VII*

