

3 January 2019



Update of Contact Details in ReCAAP ISC Advisory for Cases of Abduction of Crew from Ships

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

21 Media Circle, #05-04

Singapore 138562

Tel: (65) 6376 3091

Fax: (65) 6376 3066

Web: <http://www.recaap.org>

Brief extracts from the report may be reproduced for non-commercial use provided the source is acknowledged. Request for extensive reproduction should be made to ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC), who owns the copyright of this document.

Introduction

1. The ReCAAP ISC is deeply concerned with the situation of abduction of crew from ships in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah. On 21 Nov 16, the ReCAAP ISC published an Incident Alert titled *Increasing Cases of Abduction of Crew from Ships*, advising ships to re-route from the area, where possible. Otherwise, ship masters and crew are urged to exercise extra vigilance while transiting the area and report immediately to the Operation Centre of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia.

Update of the Situation in 2018

2. There has been an improvement in the situation of abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah in 2018. A total of three incidents (comprising two actual incidents and one attempted incident) were reported in 2018 compared to seven incidents in 2017 and 18 incidents in 2016. The number of incidents reported during 2016 - 2018 is tabulated as follows:

Incident type	2016	2017	2018	Total
Actual	<u>12</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>17</u>
Attempted	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>
Total	<u>18</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>28</u>

3. Despite the decrease in the number of incidents, the abduction of crew for ransom remains a serious threat in the area. Most of the abduction incidents occurred on ships of slow speed and low free board such as fishing trawlers and tug boats (seven fishing trawlers and six tug boats were boarded out of 17 actual incidents). Although most were unsuccessful, perpetrators attempted to attack bigger ships as well. The ReCAAP ISC urges the shipping industry to give serious consideration to the Advisory issued by ReCAAP ISC on 21 Nov 16.

Update of Contact Details

4. To ensure timely responses to the reports of incidents by ships transiting the Sulu-Celebes Seas, the Philippine Coast Guard has included an additional contact of the Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao in Tawi-tawi; and updated the contact numbers and email addresses of the Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao (CGDSW), and the Philippine Navy – Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS) Bongao in Tawi-Tawi. The updated contact details of the Operation Centres of Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia are as follows:

S/No.	Centre	Contact no.	Email address
1.	Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao (CGDSW)	<u>Tel:</u> +63 998-585-7972 +63 917-842-8446 <u>VHF</u> Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"	hcgdswm@yahoo.com
2.	Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao, Central Tawi-Tawi	<u>Tel:</u> +63 998-585-7941 +63 917-842-8402 <u>VHF</u> Channel 16	cgd_tawi2@yahoo.com
3.	Philippine Navy – Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi	<u>Tel:</u> +63 955-714-0153 <u>VHF</u> Channel 16	jointtaskgroup@gmail.com
4.	Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)	<u>Tel:</u> +60 89863181/016 <u>Fax:</u> +60 89863182 <u>VHF:</u> Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"	bilikgerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my

