

Report for AUGUST 2014

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Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia

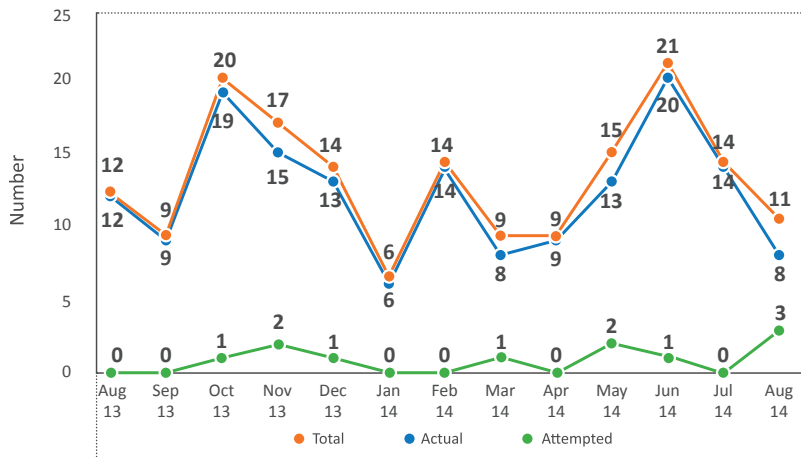
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Report for August 2014

Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia in August 2014

Graph 1 - Number of incidents (August 2013 to August 2014)



The situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia continues to improve in August 2014. A total of 11 incidents, comprising eight actual incidents and three attempted incidents were reported in August 2014.

Compared to the same period in 2013, the number of incidents remained fairly consistent. Refer to Graph 1 on the number of monthly incidents reported between August 2013 and August 2014.

Graph 2 shows the number of incidents reported in August over the past five years (2010-2014). The number of actual incidents reported in August 2014 is lowest among the same period of 2010-2013.

Graph 2 - Number of incidents (August of 2010-2014)

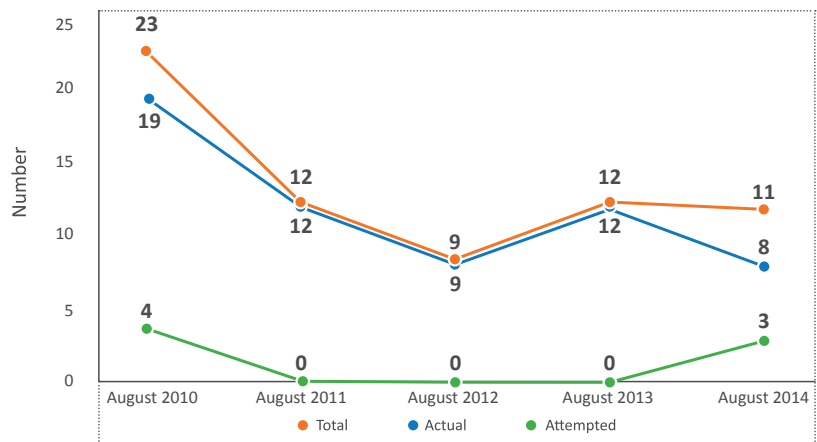
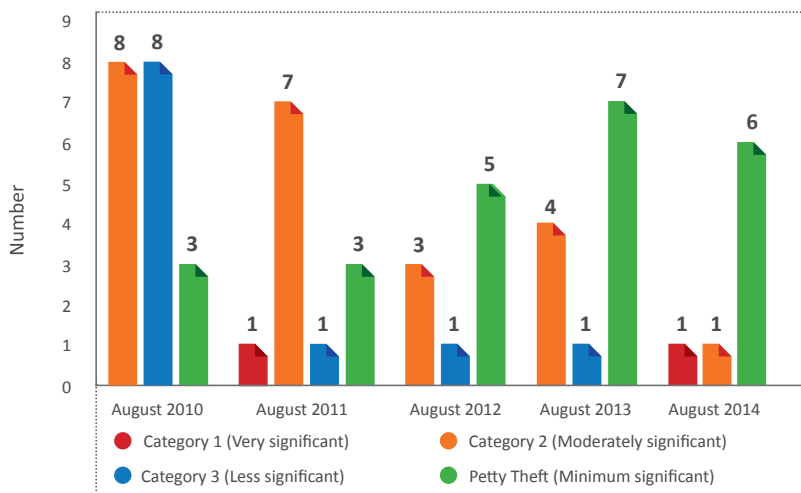


Chart 1 - Significance level of incidents (August of 2010-2014)



Majority of the incidents reported in August 2014 were petty thefts. However, there was one Category 1 (relatively more severe in nature) incident involving the siphoning of lube oil from V.L. 14 on 28 Aug 14 in the South China Sea and one Category 2 (moderately severe) incident of armed robbery onboard Mongolia-registered water barge, *Dews* on 10 Aug 14 off Tanjung Ramunia, Malaysia. Refer to Chart 1 for the significance level of incidents reported during August of 2010-2014.

Location and Description of Incidents Reported in August 2014

Of the 11 incidents reported in August 2014, five of them occurred at ports and anchorages in Indonesia, three in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS), two in the South China Sea (SCS) and one in Malaysia. See Map 1 below and refer to the Appendix for detailed description of the incidents.

Map 1 – Location of Incidents in August 2014



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 BW Tokyo, LPG tanker
4 Aug 14 0151 hrs | 5 Challenge Procyon, Tanker
20 Aug 14 0405 hrs | ▲ Pentraeder, Tanker
2 Aug 14 2200 hrs |
| 2 Giuseppe Mauro Rizzo, Bulk carrier
8 Aug 14 0345 hrs | 6 Port Hainan, Bulk carrier
23 Aug 14 0700 hrs | ▲ Kota Jata, Container ship
22 Aug 14 0440 hrs |
| 3 Dews, Water barge
10 Aug 14 2300 hrs | 7 Lincoln Express, Livestock vessel
24 Aug 14 0635 hrs | ▲ Bro Vario, Product tanker
25 Aug 14 0230 hrs |
| 4 Bomar Prelude, Tanker
11 Aug 14 0630 hrs | 8 V.L. 14, Tanker
28 Aug 14 2040 hrs | |

Report for August 2014

Case Studies



Incident of Siphoning of Lube Oil from V.L. 14

On 28 Aug 14 at or about 2040 hrs, six pirates armed with guns boarded a Thailand-registered oil product tanker, V.L. 14 in the South China Sea, at approximately 30 nm north of Pulau Tioman, Malaysia (03° 24' N, 104° 04.80' E). The vessel of 1074 GT was en route to Bangkok, carrying 1,296 tonnes of lube oil. The pirates came alongside in a wooden speed boat, approached the vessel on the port quarter, and boarded from the stern. They broke the bridge glass, gained access to the crew's cabins and gathered the crew in the engine room.

The pirates temporarily took control of the vessel and sailed about 10 nm away from the location of boarding. They ordered the crew to open all cargo valves, activate the cargo pump and transfer the lube oil to two tankers which came alongside. The pirates also stole the crew's personal belongings, damaged the navigational and communication system before they left V.L. 14 at or about 0400 hrs on 29 Aug 14. The crew managed to repair the windlass, heaved up the anchor, sailed towards Pulau Tioman and reported the incident to the company. The vessel returned to Thailand on 1 Sep 14. The crew was not injured.

Upon receiving report about the incident from the ship owner on 29 Aug 14, the ReCAAP ISC alerted the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) and triggered the ReCAAP Focal Point (Thailand) to follow up with the investigation of the incident. Through the ReCAAP Focal Point (Thailand), the ReCAAP ISC hopes to gather the investigation outcome about the incident from the ship owner.

Incident of Armed Robbery onboard *Dews*

On 10 Aug 14 at or about 2300 hrs, the Mongolia-registered water barge, *Dews* was anchored at approximately 2.26 nm southeast of Tanjung Ramunia, Malaysia when 15 to 20 robbers in two fiberglass boats approached and boarded the vessel via astern. The robbers were armed with pistols and knives and wore face masks. They gathered the crew, tied them; and reportedly slapped and punched the crew as they seek to gather information about the cargo *Dews* was carrying. The robbers eventually stole the crew's personal belongings (mobile phones, watches, laptops etc.), ship equipment (GPS transceiver unit, VHF transceiver unit, walkie-talkies etc.); and damaged the navigation and communication equipment before they escaped. The incident lasted about an hour.

Map 2 – Location of incidents off Tanjung Ramunia (Jul & Aug 2014)



This is the second incident reported off Tanjung Ramunia within an interval of 16 days from an earlier incident onboard *Ji Xiang* on 25 Jul 14. Both incidents involved large groups of robbers (about 10 to 20 men) armed with guns and knives. The robbers were aggressive and violent, injured a crew in the neck in the incident involving *Ji Xiang* and assaulted the crew onboard *Dews*. In the incident involving *Ji Xiang*, it was assessed that the robbers intended to siphon fuel/oil from *Ji Xiang* but was thwarted by the timely response of the MMEA who arrived at the location of the incident. As for *Dews*, the robbers also questioned the crew about the cargo she was carrying, an indication that the intention was to steal the cargo onboard. The modus operandi of the robbers in both incidents were quite similar, an indication that the same group of people might be involved.

Conclusion

The situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia continues to improve in August 2014 with a decline in the number of incidents from 21 cases in June 2014 to 14 cases in July 2014 and 11 cases in August 2014. Although there has been a continuous decline in the number of incidents over the past three months, the ReCAAP ISC is concerned about incidents involving the siphoning of fuel/oil from small tankers and therefore urged all ship owners and master to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance while operating in the region, and adopt appropriate precautionary measures highlighted in the ReCAAP ISC Special Report on “Incidents of siphoning of fuel/oil at sea in Asia”.

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Correct as at 20 August 2014

Information for Readers

List of Abbreviations

Below is a list of abbreviations that are commonly used in the reports published by the ReCAAP ISC.

A/B	Able Seaman
ADF	Automotive Diesel Fuel
CE	Chief Engineer
CPA	Chittagong Port Authority
GMDSS	Global Maritime Distress and Safety System
ICG	Indian Coast Guard
JCG	Japan Coast Guard
MDO	Marine Diesel Oil
MGO	Marine Gas Oil
MMEA	Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency
MOGAS	Motor Gasoline
MSTF	Maritime Security Task Force
OOW	Officer-on-Watch
O/S	Ordinary Seamen
PCG	Philippine Coast Guard
PNP	Philippine National Police
POCC	Port Operations Control Centre
RMN	Royal Malaysian Navy
RSN	Republic of Singapore Navy
SCBA	Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
SCS	South China Sea
Singapore PCG	Singapore Police Coast Guard
SOMS	Straits of Malacca & Singapore
SSAS	Ship Security Alert System
SSSA	Sabah and Sarawak Shipowners' Association
TNI-AL	Indonesian Navy
TSS	Traffic Separation Scheme
VTIS	Vessel Traffic Information System
VTMS	Vessel Traffic Management System

Time

The time of incidents indicated in this report is in local time.

Appendices

Description of incidents

Actual Incidents

● CAT 1 (Very Significant) ● CAT 2 (Moderately Significant) ● Petty theft (Minimum significant)

S/N	Ship Name, Type of Ship, Flag, IMO No., GT	Date Time	Location of Incident	Details of Incident
1	BW Tokyo LPG tanker Singapore 47985 9398307	04/08/14 0151 hrs	05° 34.30' S, 104° 38' E Teluk Semangka, Indonesia	While at anchor, the crew spotted three robbers at starboard side poop deck. The alarm was raised and upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped immediately in a boat. The crew was not injured and nothing was stolen. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]
2	Giuseppe Mauro Rizzo Bulk carrier Italy 47984 9448580	08/08/14 0345 hrs	00° 17' S, 117° 41' E Muara Berau anchorage, Samarinda, East Kalimantan, Indonesia	While at anchor, two robbers boarded the bulk carrier. The duty A/B spotted the robbers, raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Noting that the crew had been alerted, the robbers escaped immediately. A search onboard the vessel was conducted and padlocks to the store room were found broken, but nothing was stolen. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]
3	Dews Water barge Mongolia 377 8810322	10/08/14 2300 hrs	01° 19.50' N, 104° 16.60' E Approximately 2 nm south of Tanjung Ramunia, Malaysia	While at anchor, 15 to 20 robbers in two fiberglass boats approached and boarded the vessel via astern. The robbers were armed with pistols and knives, and wore face masks. They gathered the crew, tied them; and reportedly slapped and punched the crew as they seek to gather information about the cargo <i>Dews</i> was carrying. The robbers eventually stole the crew's personal belongings (mobile phones, watches, laptops etc.), ship equipment (GPS transceiver unit, VHF transceiver unit, walkie-talkies etc.); and damaged the navigation and communication equipment before they escaped. The incident lasted about an hour. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]
4	Bomar Prelude Tanker Marshall Islands 5770 9272723	11/08/14 0630 hrs	03° 54' N, 098° 46' E Belawan outer anchorage, Indonesia	While at anchor, four robbers boarded the tanker via the forecandle from a wooden boat. The robbers subsequently escaped empty-handed. The crew was not injured. [ReCAAP Focal Point (United Kingdom)]

Appendices

S/N	Ship Name, Type of Ship, Flag, IMO No., GT	Date Time	Location of Incident	Details of Incident
5	Challenge Procyon Tanker Panama 28735 9527403	20/08/14 0405 hrs	01° 33.57' N, 104° 46.40' E Approximately 22.36 nm northeast of Pulau Bintan, Indonesia (South China Sea)	While at anchor, four robbers boarded the tanker from a wooden boat. The crew spotted the robbers and informed the master who activated the SSAS and communicated with ships in vicinity via VHF. Realising the crew had been alerted, the robbers escaped empty-handed. A search was later conducted onboard the vessel. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore), ReCAAP Focal Point (Japan)]
6	Port Hainan Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 33036 9456422	23/08/14 0700 hrs	06° 05' S, 106° 53' E Berth 114, Jakarta Port, Indonesia	While at berth, robbers boarded the bulk carrier, stole ship stores including fireman's outfit, breathing apparatus, air bottles, nozzles, couplings and spanners. The crew discovered the missing items and conducted a search onboard the vessel but the robbers had already escaped. [ReCAAP Contact Point (Hong Kong)]
7	Lincoln Express Livestock vessel Philippines 3185 8616611	24/08/14 0635 hrs	01° 05.23' N, 103° 43.44' E Off Pulau Takong Light, eastbound lane of Traffic Separation Scheme (Straits of Malacca & Singapore)	While underway, the master sighted robbers onboard the livestock vessel. The alarm was raised and the crew was mustered. Realising that the crew had been alerted, the robbers escaped from the vessel empty-handed. The incident was reported to Singapore VTIS, who initiated a navigational broadcast to alert mariners. They also informed the Singapore PCG, the RSN; and MRCC Indonesia. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]

S/N	Ship Name, Type of Ship, Flag, IMO No., GT	Date Time	Location of Incident	Details of Incident
8	V.L. 14 Product tanker Thailand 1074 9084712	28/08/14 2040 hrs	03° 24' N, 104° 04.80' E Approximately 30 nm north of Pulau Tioman, Malaysia (South China Sea)	<p>While underway, six pirates armed with guns boarded the oil product tanker. The vessel of 1074 GT was en route to Bangkok, carrying 1,296 tonnes of lube oil. The pirates came alongside in a wooden speed boat, approached the vessel on the port quarter, and boarded from stern. They broke the bridge glass, gained access to the crew's cabins and gathered the crew in the engine room.</p> <p>The pirates temporarily took control of the vessel and sailed about 10 nm away from the location of boarding. They ordered the crew to open all cargo valves, activate the cargo pump and transfer the lube oil to two tankers which came alongside. The pirates also stole the crew's personal belongings, damaged the navigational and communication system before they left V.L. 14 at or about 0400 hrs on 29 Aug 14. The crew managed to repair the windlass, heaved up the anchor, sailed towards Pulau Tioman and reported the incident to the company. The vessel returned to Thailand on 1 Sep 14. The crew was not injured.</p> <p>Upon receiving report about the incident from the ship owner on 29 Aug 14, the ReCAAP ISC alerted the MMEA and triggered the ReCAAP Focal Point (Thailand) to follow up with the investigation of the incident.</p> <p>[ReCAAP Focal Point (Thailand), MMEA, Shipping company]</p>

Appendices

Attempted Incidents

S/N	Ship Name, Type of Ship, Flag, IMO No., GT	Date Time	Location of Incident	Details of Incident
9	<i>Pentradar</i> Tanker Malaysia 492 8604955	02/08/14 2200 hrs	05° 24' N, 100° 05' E Approximately 6 nm west of Penang Island, Malaysia (Straits of Malacca & Singapore)	While underway, robbers armed with machetes followed the tanker in a small speed boat. The crew noticed the boat, raised the alarm and switched on the deck lights. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers jumped into the sea and disappeared. The master reported the incident to Penang Port Control Center, who informed MMEA. MMEA deployed a vessel to the location of the incident to provide assistance. A search was also conducted but the suspected boat could not be found. [MMEA]
10	<i>Kota Juta</i> Container ship Hong Kong, China 18502 9226839	22/08/14 0440 hrs	01° 10.89' N, 103° 30.56' E Traffic Crossing area, West of Nipa Anchorage (Straits of Malacca & Singapore)	While underway, eight robbers attempted to board the container ship. The alarm was raised and the robbers aborted the attempt. The crew was not injured and nothing was stolen. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]
11	<i>Bro Vario</i> Singapore Product tanker 9882 9276303	25/08/14 0230 hrs	06° 01.15' S, 106° 53.80' E Tanjung Priok, Jakarta, Indonesia	While at anchor, three robbers in a craft attempted to board the product tanker. The duty officer raised the alarm and the crew was mustered. Realising the crew had been alerted, the robbers aborted the attempt and escaped. The crew was not injured and nothing was stolen. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]