

Report for NOVEMBER 2014

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1 November 2014 - 30 November 2014

Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia

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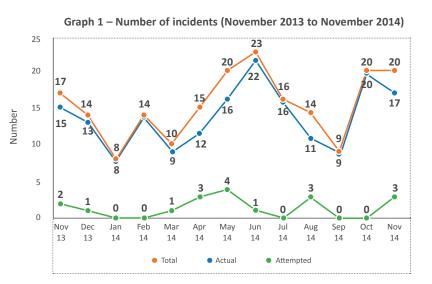




Report for November 2014

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

A total of 20 incidents were reported in November 2014, consistent with October 2014. However, of the 20 incidents, three were attempted cases where boarding was not successfully carried out. The number of incidents has fluctuated throughout the past 12 months with the peak recorded in June 2014 (23) and the bottom recorded in January 2014 (8). Refer to Graph 1 on the monthly number of incidents reported between November 2013 and November 2014.





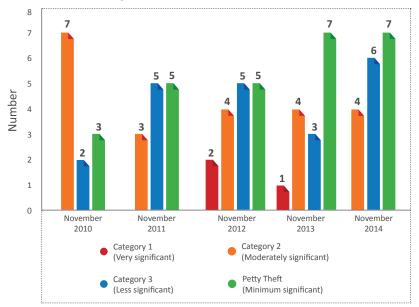


Chart 1 shows the significance level of incidents reported during November of 2010-2014. Overall, there has been an improvement in terms of the severity level of incidents reported in November 2014 compared to the past two years. No Category 1 (very significant) incident was reported in November 2014, and the number of Category 2 (moderately significant) incidents had remained fairly consistent throughout the past three years. However, there has been an increase in the number of Category 3 (less significant) incidents in November 2014.

Characteristics of Incidents

Of the 20 incidents reported in November 2014, 11 occurred onboard ships while underway in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore and in the South China Sea. The other incidents occurred onboard ships while anchored/berthed in the South China Sea (4), Cochin and Sandheads anchorages in India (2), Chittagong port, Bangladesh (1), Samarinda anchorage, East Kalimantan, Indonesia (1) and Vung Tau, Vietnam (1). See Map 1 on the location of the incidents.



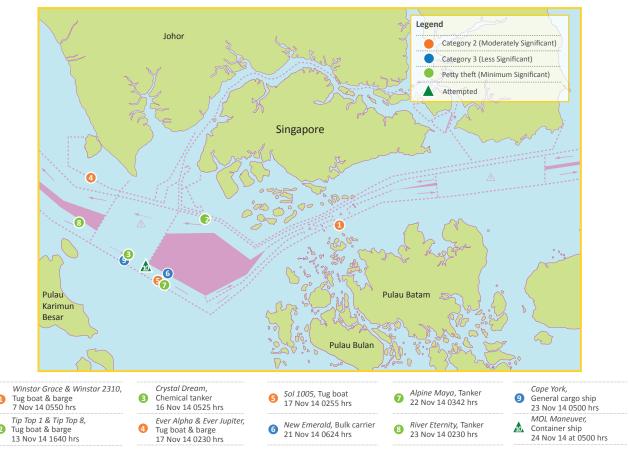
Map 1 – Location of incidents in November 2014



Report for November 2014

Situation in the Straits of Malacca & Singapore (SOMS)

A total of 10 incidents were reported in SOMS in November 2014. Of these, four involved tug boat towing barge; and six involved tanker (2), chemical tanker (1), general cargo ship (1), container ship (1) and bulk carrier (1). See Map 2 on the location of these incidents.



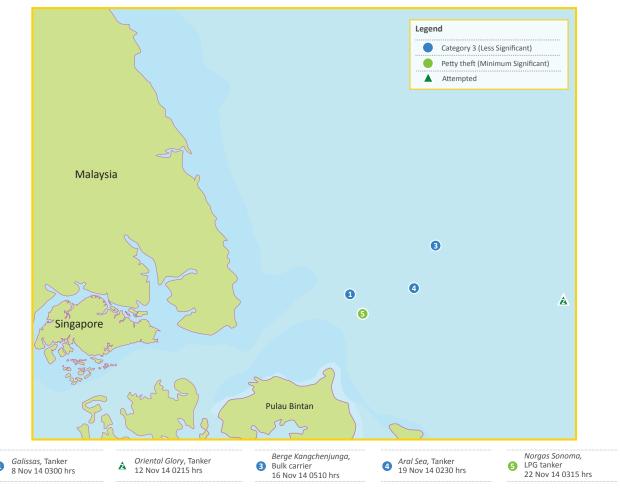


Notably, incidents involved tug boats towing barges were relatively more significance in nature. Of the four incidents, three were Category 2 incidents involving robbers who were armed with knives. The robbers tied the master and crew before ransacking the cabins as reported in the incident onboard *Winstar Grace*, pushed a crew overboard into the waters (in the incident onboard *Ever Alpha*) and involved up to seven robbers who boarded tug boat, *SOL 1005*. While all three incidents occurred during hours of darkness (between 0230 hrs and 0550 hrs), there was one incident that occurred during day-light hours at about 1640 hrs involving tug boat, *Tip Top 1*. The master sounded the alarm and the five robbers escaped from the barge, *Tip Top 8* loaded with scrap metal, after seeing a Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) craft in the vicinity.

The other six incidents occurred in the east-bound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in SOMS onboard bigger vessels. Believed to be loaded with cargoes, these vessels were moving on slower speed when navigating in congested waters, particularly making a turn in the SOMS. They were therefore vulnerable to boarding by perpetrators, particularly during hours of darkness between 0230 hrs and 0600 hrs. Opportunistic in nature, the perpetrators boarded the vessels and escaped when sighted. Four of the six incidents involved the perpetrators escaped empty-handed after the crew raised the alarm. Persistent in trying their luck after a few failed attempts, the ReCAAP ISC notes that four of these incidents occurred over three consecutive days (21-23 Nov 14).

Incidents in the South China Sea





Of the five incidents reported in the SCS, four occurred onboard vessels when anchored/berthed and one was an attemtped incident involving tanker, *Oriental Glory* while underway. The vessels while at anchor/berth off port limits were boarded during hours of darkness (between 0230hrs and 0510 hrs). Except in one of the incidents where a VHF radio was stolen, nothing was stolen from the other five vessels due to the vigilance of the crew who raised the alarm and mustered the crew when they sighted unknown personnel onboard their vessels. Earlier detection of a suspicious boat in the vicinity has successfully prevented boarding in the incident involving tanker *Oriental Glory* when the master raised the alarm, mustered the crew and shone the search light at the boat, and carried out evasive maneuvering actions.

Conclusion

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned about the spate of incidents reported in the SOMS and SCS, although most of them were petty theft and less significance in nature. More needs to be done by the crew to stay vigilant as demonstrated in the incident involving *Oriental Glory* where the perpetrators aborted the attempt to board when the crew sighted the suspicious boat and undertook the necessary piracy countermeasures. On the part of the enforcement agencies, the littoral States are encouraged to step up surveillance, intensify patrols and respond immediately to reports made by victim ship as evidenced in the incident involving *Tip Top 1* towing *Tip Top 8* where the robbers fled when the Singapore PCG patrol craft in the vicinity responded to the master's call for help.



Contact Details of ReCAAP Focal Points / Contact Point

Country & Agency In Charge	Point of Contact			
	Phone No	Fax Number		
Australia				
Border Protection Command Australian Maritime Security Operations Centre (AMSOC)	+61-2-6275-6000	+61-2-6275-6275		
Email: AMIFC@customs.gov.au				
Bangladesh				
Department of Shipping	+88-02-9554206	+88-02-7168363		
Email: info@dos.gov.bd				
Brunei				
National Maritime Coordination Centre Brunei	+673-2233751	+673-2233753		
Email: p2mk@jpm.gov.bn				
Cambodia				
Merchant Marine Department	+85-5-2386-4110	+85-5-2386-4110		
Email: mmd@online.com.kh				
China				
China Maritime Search and Rescue Centre (Beijing)	+86-10-6529-2218	+86-10-6529-2245		
Email: <u>cnmrcc@mot.gov.cn</u>	+86-10-6529-2219 +86-10-6529-2221			
Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (Hong Kong)	+85-2-2233-7999	+85-2-2541-7714		
Email: <u>hkmrcc@mardep.gov.hk</u>	+85-2-2233-7998			
Denmark				
Danish Maritime Authority (DMA)	+45-9137-6000	+45-9137-6001		
Email: ReCAAP-FP-DK@dma.dk				
India				
MRCC (Mumbai) Coast Guard Region (West) Mumbai – India	+91-22-2431-6558 +91-22-2438-8065	+91-22-2433-3727 +91-22-2431-6558		
Email: icgmrcc_mumbai@mtnl.net.in mrcc-west@indiancoastguard.nic.in				
Japan				
Japan Coast Guard (JCG) Ops Centre	+81-3-3591-9812	+81-3-3581-2853		
Email: <u>op@kaiho.mlit.go.jp</u>	+81-3-3591-6361			
Republic of Korea				
Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries Operations Centre	+82-44-200-5895 to 98	+82-44-200-5886 to 88		
Email: piracy@gicoms.go.kr				
Laos				
Department of Foreign Relations Ministry of Public Security	+85-6-2121-2505	+85-6-2121-2505 +85-6-2121-2547		
Email: <u>keomps@yahoo.com</u>				

Country & Agency In Charge	Point of Contact			
	Phone No	Fax Number		
Myanmar	_			
MRCC Ayeyarwaddy (Myanmar Navy)	+95-313-1650	+95-1202-417		
Email: mrcc.yangon@mptmail.com.mm				
Netherlands				
Dutch Coastguard Maritime Information Centre (MIK-NL)	+31-223-658-101	+31-223-658-358		
Email: <u>mik-nl@kustwacht.nl</u>				
Norway				
Norwegian Maritime Authority	+47-5274-5130	+47-5274-5001		
Email: morten.alsaker.lossius@sjofartsdir.no	+47-5274-5000			
Philippines				
Philippine Coast Guard PCG Action Centre-MRCC (Manila) PCG Hot Text Email: <u>pcg_cg2@yahoo.com</u> <u>cg2@coastguard.gov.ph</u> <u>isc.cg2@coastguard.gov.ph</u>	+63-2-527-3877 +63-2-527-8481 to 89 (ext: 6136/6137) +63-917-724-3682 (Text Hotline) +63-2-527-8481 loc6122	+63-2-527-3877		
Singapore				
Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore Port Operations Control Centre (POCC)	+65-6226-5539 +65-6325-2493	+65-6227-9971 +65-6224-5776		
Email: <u>pocc@mpa.gov.sg</u>				
Sri Lanka				
Sri Lanka Navy Operations Centre Email: <u>nhqsoo@navy.lk</u> <u>nhqhydrographer@navy.lk</u> <u>nhqdno@navy.lk</u>	+94-11-244 5368 (Hotline)	+94-11-244 9718		
Thailand				
Royal Thai Navy Maritime Information Sharing Centre (MISC)	+66-2475-5432	+66-2475-4577		
Email: <u>miscdutyofficer@misc.go.th</u>				
United Kingdom				
National Maritime Information Centre Operations Centre	+44(0)2392-211951	+44(0) 2392-212024		
Email: <u>nmic-ws@mod.uk</u>		Please indicate "FAC NMIC-A leg" if send via fa		
United States		www.e.v.ieg in Sena via la		
USCG Rescue Coordination Center Alameda (RCCAlameda)	+1-510-437-3701			
Email: rccalameda@uscg.mil				
Vietnam				
Vietnam Coast Guard	+84-4-3355-4378	+84-4-3355-4363		
Email: <u>phongqhqtcsb@vnn.vn</u> vietnamfocalpoint@yahoo.com.vn		2		



Information for Readers

List of Abbreviations

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

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A/B	Able Seaman
ADF	Automative Diesel Fuel
CE	Chief Engineer
СРА	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 2 (Moderately Significant)		CAT 3 (Less Significant)		Petty theft (Minimum significant)
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S/N	Ship Name, Type of Ship, Flag, IMO No., GT	Date Time	Location of Incident	Details of Incidents
1	Winstar Grace Tug boat Singapore 142 9092836 Winstar 2310 Barge Singapore	07/11/14 0550 hrs	103° 52.80' E Off Batu Berhenti,	While the tug boat towing barge was underway, six armed robbers approached the barge on a 7-8 m speedboat. Five of the robbers boarded from the port aft side of the barge by stepping on the tyre fender. The robbers tied the master and crew before they ransacked the cabins. The robbers stole the crew's personal belongings, and destroyed the vessel's VHF radio before escaping. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]
2	Galissas Tanker Panama 29924 9397781	08/11/14 0300 hrs	01° 28.30' N, 104° 38.40' E Approximately 21 nm off Pulau Bintan, Indonesia (SCS)	While at anchor, the security watchman during routine rounds noticed three pirates at the poop deck of the tanker's starboard side. One of the pirates carried a long knife. The alarm was raised, the crew mustered and a search was conducted. No pirates were found, nothing was stolen and the crew was not injured. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]
3	<i>Vishva Nidhi</i> Bulk carrier India 33170 9464742	08/11/14 2345 hrs	00° 17' S, 117° 36' E Samarinda anchorage, Indonesia	While at anchor, five robbers boarded the bulk carrier and tied two of the crew. The robbers stole crew's personal belongings, including gold chain, mobile phone etc, and ship stores before they escaped. The crew was not injured. [ReCAAP Focal Point (India)]
4	Tip Top 1 Tug boat Malaysia 147 3126980 Tip Top 8 Barge	13/11/14 1640 hrs	01° 11.67' N, 103° 38.49' E Approximately 2.56 nm northwest of Pulau Nipa (SOMS)	While the tug boat towing a barge was underway, four crafts were seen in the vicinity. Two of them went alongside the barge and the master sounded for help from a Singapore PCG patrol craft in the vicinity. Upon seeing the PCG patrol craft responding, five robbers escaped from the barge to their crafts. Nothing was stolen from the barge and the crew was not injured. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]



Appendices

S/N	Ship Name, Type of Ship, Flag, IMO No., GT	Date Time	Location of Incident	Details of Incidents
5	Berge Kangchenjunga Bulk carrier Isle of Man 148159 9073438	16/11/14 0510 hrs	01° 38' N, 104° 55' E Approximately 30 nm northeast of Tg. Berakit, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia (SCS)	While at anchor, the duty crew spotted five pirates onboard the bulk carrier, of which one was armed with a long knife. He immediately informed the bridge, raised the alarm and mustered the crew. A search was conducted but the pirates were no longer onboard. Nothing was stolen and the crew was not injured. [ReCAAP Focal Point (United Kingdom)]
6	Crystal Dream Chemical tanker Panama 6961 9498080	16/11/14 0525 hrs	01° 08' N, 103° 30' E Approximately 9.3 nm west of Pulau Nipa (SOMS)	While underway, five robbers boarded the chemical tanker. The master sounded the alarm and mustered the crew in the wheelhouse. A search was conducted but the robbers were no longer onboard. Nothing was stolen and the crew was not injured. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]
0	<i>Ever Alpha</i> Tug boat Malaysia 272 5630237 <i>Ever Jupiter</i> Barge	17/11/14 0230 hrs	01° 16.28' N, 103° 26.04' E Approximately 4.7 nm west-northwest of Tanjung Piai, Malaysia (SOMS)	While the tug boat towing barge was en route to Pulau Pinang, Malaysia, four armed robbers boarded the tug boat. The robbers stole the crew's personal belongings, including cash and mobile phones. One of the crew was pushed overboard into the water by the robbers before they escaped. The incident was reported to Singapore POCC, who informed MMEA. The MMEA subsequently conducted SAR operations to search for the missing crew.
8	<i>SOL 1005</i> Tug boat Indonesia 152 8663547	17/11/14 0255 hrs	01° 05.47' N, 103° 33.70' E Approximately 6.56 nm southwest of Pulau Nipa (SOMS)	[ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)] While the tug boat was en route to Singapore, seven robbers armed with knives approached and boarded the vessel. The robbers stole the crew's personal belongings, including cash and mobile phones, and escaped. The crew was not injured. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]
9	Aral Sea Tanker Singapore 58129 9161314	19/11/14 0230 hrs	01° 29.70′ N, 104° 51′ E Approximately 22.6 nm northeast of Pulau Bintan, Indonesia (SCS)	While at anchor, the pump man spotted the pirates at the poop deck when he was about to refill the hydraulic oil tank. When the pump man tried to escape, the pirates hit his head with a radio and tied his feet. The on-watch duty personnel witnessed the incident and immediately reported to the duty engineer. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered at mess room. The vessel had also warned all ships in the vicinity. A search was later conducted but the pirates were no longer onboard. A VHF radio was reported to be stolen.
				[ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]

S/N	Ship Name, Type of Ship, Flag, IMO No., GT	Date Time	Location of Incident	Details of Incidents
1	Gas Aries Tanker Liberia 50357 8906810	20/11/14 1800 hrs	10° 15.17' N, 107° 03.45' E Vung Tau, Vietnam	While at anchor, three robbers boarded the tanker. The crew spotted the robbers and upon realising the crew had been alerted, the robbers escaped empty-handed. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Vietnam)]
1	<i>New Emerald</i> Bulk carrier Panama 27116 9110987	21/11/14 0624 hrs	01° 06.08' N, 103° 34.37' E Approximately 5.74 nm southwest of Pulau Nipa (SOMS)	While the bulk carrier was en route to Singapore, six robbers armed with knives boarded the vessel. Nothing was stolen and the crew was not injured. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]
12	Norgas Sonoma LPG tanker Singapore 8720 9240134	22/11/14 0315 hrs	01° 24.60' N, 104° 41.70' E Approximately 13 nm northeast of Pulau Bintan, Indonesia (SCS)	While at anchor, the second mate spotted three pirates carrying bags at the starboard wing first poop deck during security checks. The second mate raised the alarm and the crew was mustered on the bridge. At or about 0320 hrs, the crew spotted a small target escaping from the vessel and the crew conducted a search. Nothing was stolen and the crew was not injured.
3	<i>Alpine Maya</i> Tanker Hong Kong, China 29733 9387932	22/11/14 0342 hrs	01° 05.30' N, 103° 33.80' E Approximately 9.5 nm east- southeast of Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia (SOMS)	[ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)] While underway, five robbers boarded the tanker. Nothing was stolen and the crew was not injured. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]
4	<i>River Eternity</i> Tanker Panama 56285 9323974	23/11/14 0230 hrs	01° 11.25' N, 103° 24.53' E Approximately 2 nm northeast of Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia (SOMS)	While underway, four robbers boarded the tanker. A search was later conducted but the robbers were no longer onboard. Nothing was stolen and the crew was not injured. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]



Appendices

S/N	Ship Name, Type of Ship, Flag, IMO No., GT	Date Time	Location of Incident	Details of Incidents
ſ	<i>Cape York</i> General cargo ship Hong Kong, China 17433 9218088	23/11/14 0500 hrs	01° 07.50' N, 103° 29.80' E Approximately 5.6 nm east- southeast of Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia (SOMS)	While en route from Port Klang, Malaysia to Bunbury, Australia, six robbers armed with knives boarded the general cargo ship from a 10 m long speedboat and entered the engine room. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. Upon realising the crew had been alerted, the robbers escaped with stolen engine spares. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore), ReCAAP Contact Point (Hong Kong)]
16	<i>Kimolos Trader</i> Container ship Singapore 25145 9658458	23/11/14 1950 hrs	22° 07' N, 091° 48' E Chittagong anchorage, Bangladesh	While at anchor, the duty watchman spotted two robbers armed with long knives at the poop deck. The duty watchman immediately reported the incident to the bridge and the alarm was raised. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped immediately. Nothing was stolen and the crew was not injured. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]
0	Doradus Product tanker Marshall Islands 4599 9471185	25/11/14 0200 hrs	09° 54' N, 076° 11' E Cochin anchorage, India	While at anchor, five robbers in two speedboats boarded the product tanker via the forward port bow from port bridge wing. The duty crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. Upon realising the crew had been alerted, the robbers escaped immediately with stolen paint drums and cans. The master reported the incident to Cochin Port Control, who informed the ICG. The ICG despatched a patrol boat to the location of the incident and conducted investigation.
				[ReCAAP Focal Point (India)]

Attempted Incidents

S/N	Ship Name, Type of Ship, Flag, IMO No., GT	Date Time	Location of Incident	Details of Incidents
13	<i>Oriental Glory</i> Tanker Malaysia 2223 9072587	12/11/14 0215 hrs	01° 27.13' N, 105° 20.06' E Approximately 56 nm east off Horsburgh Lighthouse (SCS)	While underway, a boat was seen approaching the tanker. The alarm was raised, the crew mustered and search light was directed at the boat. The tanker also carried out evasive maneuvering actions and the attempt was eventually aborted. [ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]
19	<i>MOL Maneuver</i> Container ship Marshall Islands 78316 9475648	24/11/14 0500 hrs	01° 06.60' N, 103° 32.10' E Approximately 7.7 nm east of Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia (SOMS)	While underway, two robbers in a small boat approached and attempted to board the container ship. The robbers eventually aborted the attempt.[ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)]
20	<i>Dimitris L</i> Bulk carrier Greece 39958 9216456	27/11/14 0355 hrs	20° 55.90' N, 088° 07.30' E Sandheads anchorage, India	While at anchor, seven robbers in a wooden boat attempted to board the bulk carrier via the aft. The robbers eventually aborted the attempt. [ReCAAP Focal Point (India)]