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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 2-8 April 2019

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

The ReCAAP ISC did not receive report of incident of piracy or armed robbery against ships that occurred in Asia during 2-8 Apr 19.

SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS

Rescue of three abducted crew. Three abducted crew were rescued by the Philippine military authorities on 4 and 5 Apr 19. During the rescue process, one crew was shot during the firefight between the military forces and his abductors, and he later died from the gun wound; and another crew was drowned. The three crew (comprising one Malaysian and two Indonesians) were abducted on 5 Dec 18 when 20 men believed to be from the Sulu-based ASG boarded their fishing boat while underway off Tambisan, Lahad Datu, Sabah, East Malaysia.

As the threat of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah remains, ReCAAP ISC maintains its advisory issued via the *ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert* dated 21 Nov 16 to all ships to reroute from the area, where possible. Otherwise, ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance while transiting the area, and report immediately to the Operation Centres of Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The contact details of the Operation Centres of Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia (updated by ReCAAP ISC on 3 Jan 19) are as follows:

1 Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao
 Tel: +63 998 585 7972
 +63 917 842 8446
 VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"
 Email: hcgdswm@yahoo.com

2a Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao (Central Tawi-Tawi)
 Tel: +63 998 585 7941
 +63 917 842 8402
 VHF: Channel 16
 Email: cgd_tawi2@yahoo.com

2b Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi
 Tel: +63 955 714 0153
 VHF: Channel 16
 Email: jointtaskgroup@gmail.com

3 Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)
 Tel: +60 89863181/016
 Fax: +60 89863182
 VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"
 Email: bilikgerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my

RECOMMENDATION

The ReCAAP ISC urges ship master and crew to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State and flag State, exercise vigilance and adopt relevant preventive measures taking reference from the *Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.