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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report

15-21 Sep 2020

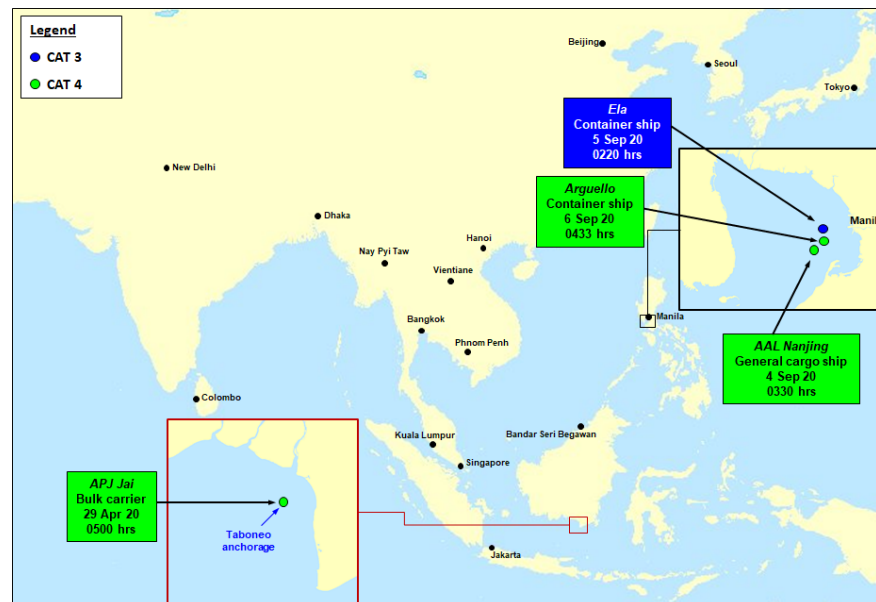
Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 15-21 Sep 20, four incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Of the four incidents, three incidents (comprising one CAT 3¹ and two CAT 4² incidents) occurred at Manila Anchorage, Philippines on consecutive days of 4, 5 and 6 Sep. The other incident was a CAT 4 incident occurred on 29 Apr on board a bulk carrier while anchored at Taboneo Anchorage, Indonesia. All four incidents were reported to ReCAAP ISC after verification by the ReCAAP Focal Points.

From Jan to 21 Sep, there were 13 incidents in total at ports/anchorages in the Philippines (nine incidents in Manila, three incidents in Batangas and one incident in General Santos).

The location of the four incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description of the incidents tabulated in the attachment.




Location of incidents

¹ CAT (Category) 3 incident is 'less significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators could be armed with knives/machetes or other items such as sticks or rods. The crew was not harmed although there remains a small possibility that the crew could be subjected to duress or threat during the incident but not harmed physically. In most CAT 3 cases, the perpetrators were unable to steal anything from the vessel, but in cases where losses were reported, stores and engine spares were commonly targeted items.

² CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed, and the crew not harmed.

SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

As the risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah is high as demonstrated by the abduction incident on 17 Jan 20 and information of planned kidnapping in Sabah and Semporna, Malaysia (as reported in ReCAAP ISC's Warning issued on 2 Jul 20), the ReCAAP ISC reiterates its advisory issued via 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 the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia (updated by ReCAAP ISC on 3 Jan 19) are as follows:



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Key locations marked include Lahad Datu, Bongao, and Zamboanga. Contact points are indicated by numbered red circles: 1 near Zamboanga, 2a and 2b near Bongao, and 3 near Lahad Datu.

- 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

Contact details

In the event that the ship master is not able to establish contact with the Operation Centres of the Philippines as listed in the ReCAAP ISC Advisory, he can contact the **Philippine Coast Guard Command Centre** at the following contact details:

Tel: +632-8-527-8481 (ext: 6136/37)
+632-998-585-5327 (mobile)
+632-917-842-8249 (mobile)
+632-8-527-3877 (fax)
Email: pcqcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph

The ReCAAP ISC advises the shipping industry and ships to enhance their situation awareness by referring to the *Guidance on Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah* produced by ReCAAP ISC in July 2019. The Guidance is available at www.recaap.org.

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*.

**Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships
15-21 September 2020**

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	Date Local Time of Incident (LT)	Position of the Incident	Details of the Incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and crew	Was the incident reported to coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Taken	State Action
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
INCIDENTS IN ASIA										
ACTUAL INCIDENTS										
1.	Arguello Container ship Liberia 40839 9409027	06/09/20 0433 hrs	14° 33.42' N, 120° 52.35' E South Harbour Anchorage Area, Manila, Philippines	While at anchor waiting for crew change, the crew noticed that the lock of the bosun store was broken. The general alarm was raised immediately. Ship stores including fire nozzles, fireman suits, breathing apparatuses, unlocking twist lock, a flashlight and a scaling machine were stolen. The incident was reported to VTMS Manila and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). The crew was not injured. (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. The lock of the bosun store was broken. Ship stores including fire nozzles, fireman suits, breathing apparatuses, unlocking twist lock, a flashlight and a scaling machine were stolen.	The general alarm was raised immediately.	Yes VTMS Manila and Philippine Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	There was a delay of reporting of the incident to VTMS Manila. The PCG monitors and coordinates with the relevant agencies for identification of the perpetrators.	

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	Date Local Time of Incident (LT)	Position of the Incident	Details of the Incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and crew	Was the incident reported to coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Action Taken
2.	Ela Container ship Liberia 18358 9516777	05/09/20 0220 hrs	14° 35.66' N, 120° 52.15' E Manila Anchorage, Philippines	While at anchor, the crew reported to the bridge that he spotted a perpetrator at forward bow behind the life craft. The crew proceeded to check the area and noticed that the perpetrator wore a mask and was holding a knife. The alarm was raised immediately and a search for the perpetrator was conducted. Unfortunately, the person already left the ship. Two breathing apparatuses and a gong were stolen. The incident was reported to VTMS Manila and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). The PCG proceeded to the location of the ship and conducted inquiry into the incident. The crew was not injured. (Category 3)	The crew was not injured. Two breathing apparatuses and a gong were stolen.	The alarm was raised immediately and a search for the perpetrator was conducted.	Yes VTMS Manila and Philippine Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	The PCG proceeded to the location of the ship and conducted inquiry into the incident.
3.	AAL Nanjing General cargo ship Liberia 14053 9521552	04/09/20 0330 hrs	14° 31.85' N, 120° 50.6' E South Anchorage Area, Manila, Philippines	While at anchor, the crew noticed that the forecastle light was opened. The crew conducted inventory check and discovered that some of their equipment including chainsaws, ship bell, welding machine and breathing apparatus were missing. The incident was reported to VTMS Manila and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). The crew was not injured. (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. Equipment including chainsaws, ship bell, welding machine and breathing apparatus were stolen.	The crew noticed that the forecastle light was opened and conducted an inventory check.	Yes VTMS Manila and Philippine Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	The PCG monitors and coordinates with the relevant agencies for identification of the perpetrators.

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	Date Local Time of Incident (LT)	Position of the Incident	Details of the Incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and crew	Was the incident reported to coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Action Taken
4.	APJ Jai Bulk carrier Panama 32987 9491393	29/04/20 0500 hrs	3° 41.43' S, 114° 25.95' E Taboneo Anchorage, Indonesia	While at anchor, the rope access hatch on forecastle deck was found partially open. Three mooring ropes were reportedly stolen. The incident was reported to the local agent and Port Facility Security Officer (PFSO). At about 1020 hrs, the deputy PFSO and the Marine Police boarded the ship for investigation. The crew was not injured. (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. Three mooring ropes were stolen.	No information available	Yes Local agent and PFSO	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	The deputy PFSO and the Marine Police boarded the ship for investigation.