



Website : [www.recaap.org](http://www.recaap.org)  
 Tel : +65 6376 3063  
 Fax : +65 6376 3066  
 Email : [info@recaap.org](mailto:info@recaap.org)

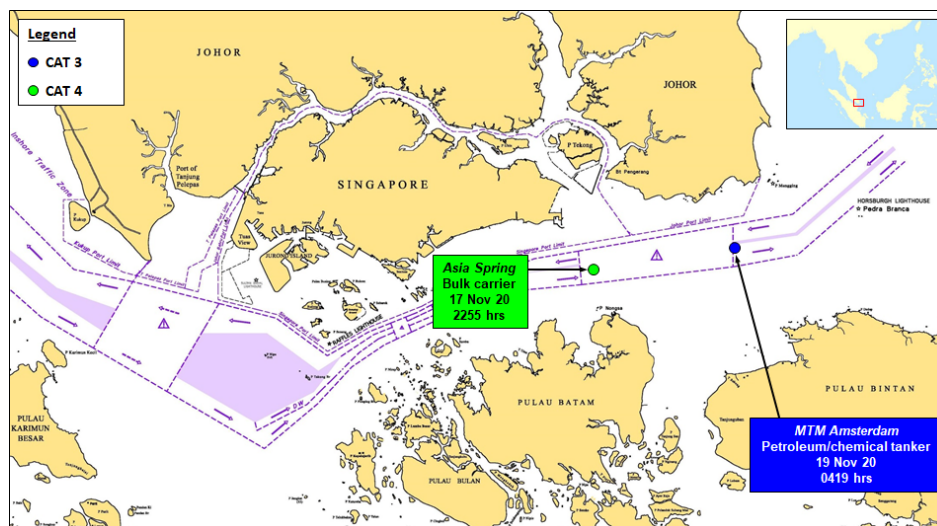
## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 17-23 Nov 2020

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 17-23 Nov 20, two incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Both incidents occurred on board ships while they were underway in the Singapore Strait. Of the two incidents, one was a CAT 3<sup>1</sup> incident occurred on 19 Nov on board a tanker and the other was a CAT 4<sup>2</sup> incident occurred on 17 Nov on board a bulk carrier. The location of the two incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description of the incidents tabulated in the attachment.

With these two incidents, a total of 33 incidents have been reported in the Singapore Strait during January-November 2020 compared to 31 incidents occurred during the entire year of 2019. The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait; and has issued a Special Report on 23 Nov to provide an insight of the incidents, modus operandi of the perpetrators and recommendations to the shipping industry and authorities of littoral States to address the situation collectively in order to arrest and prosecute the perpetrators.



Location of incidents

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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, information of planned kidnapping in Sabah and Semporna, Malaysia (as reported in ReCAAP ISC's Warning issued on 2 Jul 20), and the latest operation on 3 Nov 20 by the Philippine authorities in preventing a kidnap-for-ransom incident; 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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: [pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph](mailto:pcgcomcen@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](http://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  
17-23 November 2020**

| 1                        | Ship Name<br>Type of Ship<br>Flag<br>Gross Tonnage<br>IMO Number                      | 2<br>Date<br>Local<br>Time<br>of<br>Incident<br>(LT) | 3<br>Position of the<br>Incident  | 4<br>Details of the Incident   | 5<br>Consequences for<br>crew, ship, cargo           | 6<br>Action taken by the<br>master and crew                                    | 7<br>Was the incident<br>reported to coastal<br>authority? Which<br>one? | 8<br>Reporting State<br>or International<br>Organization | 9<br>Coastal State<br>Action<br>Taken   | 10 |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|----|
| <b>INCIDENTS IN ASIA</b> |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |    |
| <b>ACTUAL INCIDENTS</b>  |   |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |    |
| 1.                       | <b>MTM Amsterdam</b><br>Petroleum/chemical<br>tanker<br>Singapore<br>12184<br>9776444 | 19/11/20<br>0419 hrs                                 | 1° 16.96' N,<br>104° 14.95' E<br><br>Approximately<br>10.6 nm from<br>Pulau Nongsa,<br>Indonesia in the<br>eastbound lane of<br>the Traffic<br>Separation<br>Scheme (TSS) in<br>the Singapore<br>Strait<br><br>(SOMS) | While underway, two perpetrators armed with knives were sighted at aft poop deck. The alarm was raised and a search on board the ship was conducted immediately. The master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS); and that the perpetrators had escaped undetected. Nothing was stolen and the crew was not injured. The ship proceeded on her passage to China. The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed; and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified.<br><br>[Category 3] | The crew was not injured.<br><br>Nothing was stolen. | The alarm was raised and a search on board the ship was conducted immediately. | Yes<br><br>Singapore VTIS  | ReCAAP ISC via<br>ReCAAP Focal<br>Point (Singapore)      | The RSN and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed; and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified. |    |

|    | Ship Name<br>Type of Ship<br>Flag<br>Gross Tonnage<br>IMO Number | Date<br>Local<br>Time<br>of<br>Incident<br>(LT) | Position of the<br>Incident  | Details of the Incident   | Consequences for<br>crew, ship, cargo                | Action taken by the<br>master and crew  | Was the incident<br>reported to coastal<br>authority? Which<br>one? | Reporting State<br>or International<br>Organization | Coastal State<br>Action<br>Taken  |
|----|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | <b>Asia Spring</b><br>Bulk carrier<br>Panama<br>39994<br>9223320 | 17/11/20<br>2255 hrs                            | 1° 15.19' N,<br>104° 4.34' E<br><br>Approximately 2.9<br>nm north of Pulau<br>Nongsa,<br>Indonesia in the<br>eastbound lane of<br>the TSS in the<br>Singapore Strait<br><br>(SOMS) | While underway, three perpetrators were sighted on the main deck. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. The perpetrators escaped from the stern of the ship. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS. Nothing was stolen and the crew was not injured. The ship did not require assistance and proceeded on her passage to China. The RSN's Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed; and the Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated to alert mariners.<br><br>[Category 4] | The crew was not injured.<br><br>Nothing was stolen. | The alarm was raised and crew mustered. | Yes<br><br>Singapore VTIS   | ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)       | The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed; and the Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated to alert mariners. |