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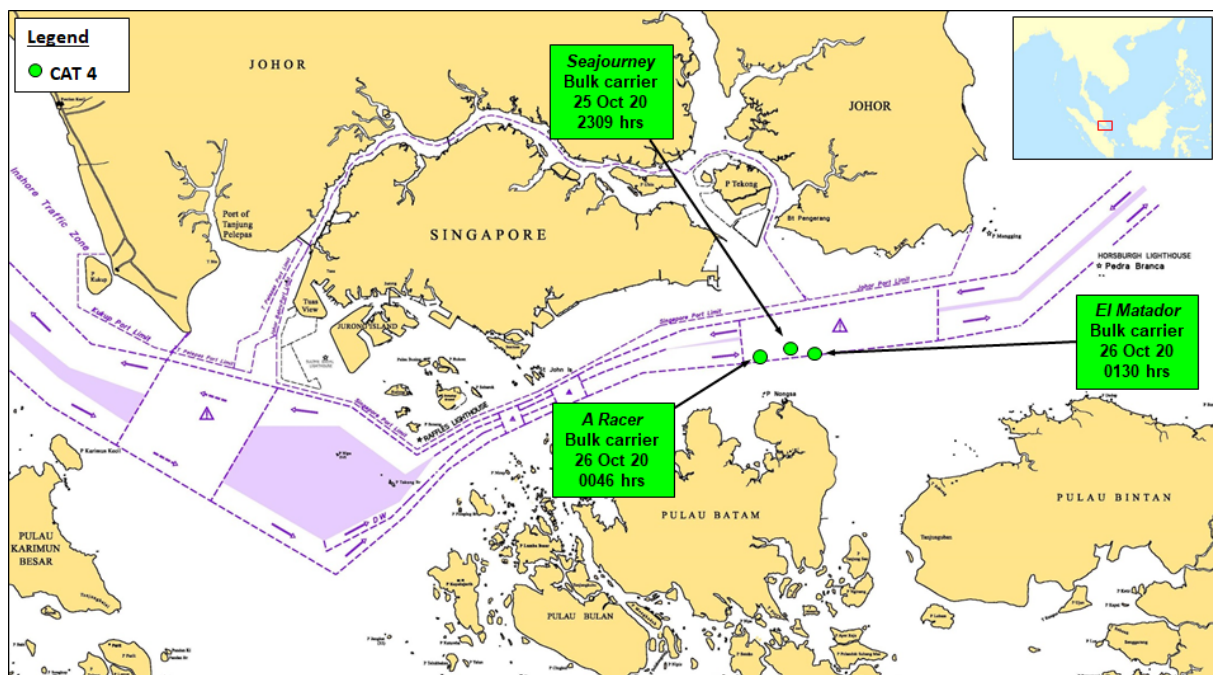
ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 20-26 Oct 2020

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 20-26 Oct 20, three CAT 4¹ incidents (where the perpetrators are not armed and the crew not harmed) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. All three incidents occurred on board ships while they were underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait (SS). The location of the three incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description of the incidents tabulated in the attachment.

With these three incidents, a total of 28 incidents have been reported in the SS since January 2020. The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued increase of incidents in the Singapore Strait, and has issued an Incident Alert (IA 06/2020) on 26 Oct to advise ships to exercise utmost vigilance, adopt extra precautionary measures and report all incidents to the nearest coastal States; and urge the littoral States to increase patrols, enforcement and strengthen coordination among them and share information on the incidents in order to make arrests of the perpetrators.



Location of incidents


¹ CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as “least significant” in nature.

INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA

During 20-26 Oct 20, one incident outside Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). The actual incident occurred on 19 Oct on board a container ship while anchored at Pointe Noire anchorage, Republic of the Congo. The detailed description of the incident is tabulated in the attachment.

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 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
20-26 October 2020**

1	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	2 Date Local Time of Incident (LT)	3 Position of the Incident	4 Details of the Incident	5 Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	6 Action taken by the master and crew	7 Was the incident reported to coastal authority? Which one?	8 Reporting State or International Organization	9 Coastal State Action Taken	10
INCIDENTS IN ASIA										
ACTUAL INCIDENTS										
1.	El Matador Bulk carrier Cyprus 36394 9750048	26/10/20 0130 hrs	1° 14.6' N, 104° 7.58' E Approximately 3.2 nm from Nongsa Point, Pulau Batam, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)	While underway, the bulk carrier was alerted by VTIS East about an unknown craft alongside the bulk carrier. The master reported the sighting of three perpetrators in the engine room. The alarm was raised and four perpetrators were seen escaping from the ship. As the master was not sure if all the perpetrators had left the ship, he diverted the ship to Batam anchorage for boarding by the Indonesian Navy. A security search was conducted on board the ship by the Indonesian Navy, with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The crew was safe, nothing was stolen and the ship resumed its voyage. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF), Singapore Police Coast Guard and the Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. [Category 4]	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	The alarm was raised. As the master was not sure if all the perpetrators had left the ship, he diverted the ship to Batam anchorage for boarding by the Indonesian Navy.	Yes Singapore VTIS	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A security search was conducted on board the ship by the Indonesian Navy.	

	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.	A Racer Bulk carrier Liberia 16041 9086318	26/10/20 0046 hrs	1° 14.55' N, 104° 4.43' E Approximately 2.3 nm north of Nongsa, Pulau Batam, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)	While underway and en route to China, the bulk carrier was alerted by VTIS East about an unknown craft alongside the bulk carrier. The master reported that five unauthorized perpetrators were sighted on board the ship. The alarm was raised and a search was carried out on board, but with no sighting of the perpetrators. The crew was safe and nothing was stolen. The RSN's MSTF, Singapore Police Coast Guard, and the Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. [Category 4]	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	The alarm was raised and a search was carried out on board.	Yes Singapore VTIS	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The RSN's MSTF, Singapore Police Coast Guard, and the Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated.
3.	Seajourney Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 43152 9392456	25/10/20 2309 hrs	1° 15.03' N, 104° 6.15' E Approximately 3.1 nm from Nongsa Point, Pulau Batam, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)	While underway and en route to Ciwadan, Indonesia, the master reported to VTIS East that one unauthorized perpetrator was sighted in the vicinity of the entrance of the engine room. The alarm was raised and the master carried out a search on board the ship, but with no sighting of the perpetrator. The crew was safe, and nothing was stolen. The RSN's MSTF, Singapore Police Coast Guard, and the Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. [Category 4]	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	The alarm was raised and the master carried out a search on board the ship.	Yes Singapore VTIS	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The RSN's MSTF, Singapore Police Coast Guard, and the Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated.

	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
INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENT									
1.	Maersk Rubicon Container ship Singapore 51032 9632480	19/10/20 0207 hrs	4° 46' S, 11° 45' E Pointe Noire anchorage, Republic of the Congo	While at anchor, the duty officer saw a perpetrator boarding the ship at forecastle. The duty officer sounded the alarm and mustered the crew. The Port Control was notified via VHF Ch. 16 and the ship's Company Security Officer (CSO) was informed. A Coast Guard patrol boat was deployed to investigate and confirmed that there were no signs of any perpetrators on board or nearby the ship. A search on board the ship was conducted and two mooring ropes were found missing. The crew was not injured.	The crew was not injured. Two mooring ropes were stolen.	The duty officer sounded the alarm and mustered the crew. A search on board the ship was conducted.	Yes Port Control	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A Coast Guard patrol boat was deployed to investigate.