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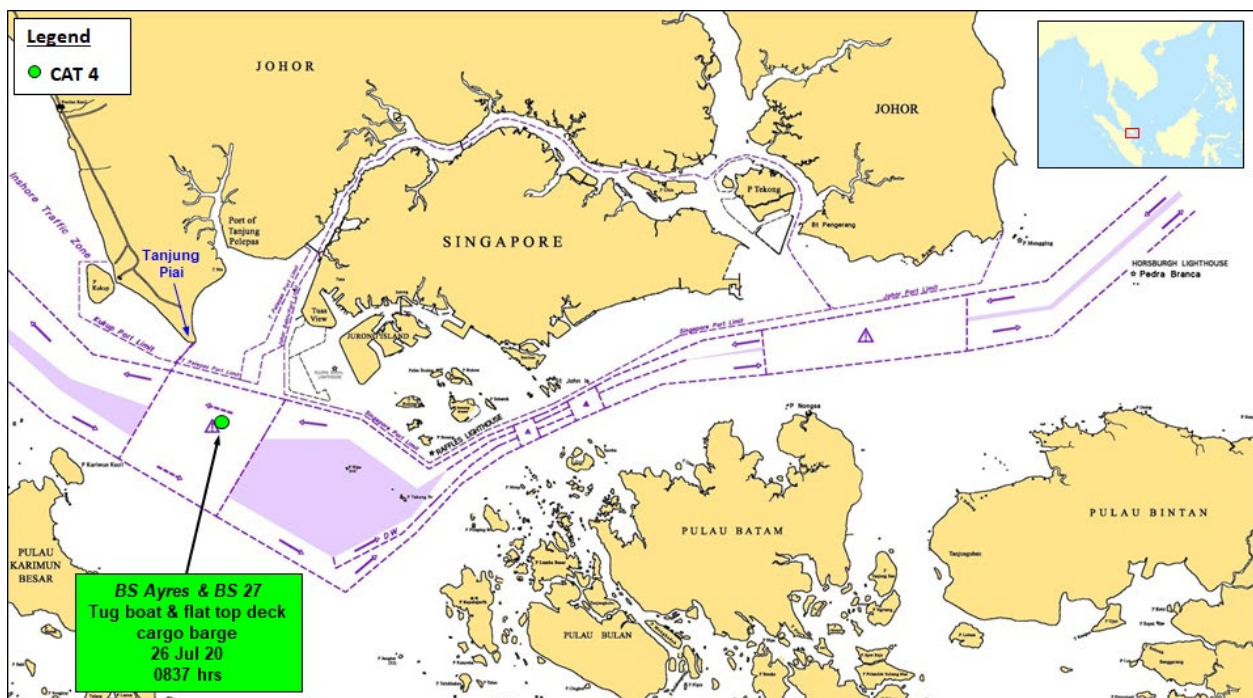
## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 21-27 Jul 2020

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 21-27 Jul 20, one incident of armed robbery against ship in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 4<sup>1</sup> incident occurred on board a flat top deck cargo barge towed by a tug boat while underway in the precautionary area in the Singapore Strait.

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




Location of incident

<sup>1</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 and information of planned kidnapping in Sabah and Semporna, Malaysia, 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. Four contact points are indicated with numbered red circles: 1 (Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao), 2a (Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao), 2b (Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station, Bongao), and 3 (Eastern Sabah Security Command).

- 1 Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao**  
Tel: +63 998 585 7972  
+63 917 842 8446  
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"  
Email: [hcgdsww@yahoo.com](mailto:hcgdsww@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  
21-27 July 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	
<b>INCIDENT IN ASIA</b>										
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENT</b>										
1.	<b>BS Ayres</b> Tug boat Singapore 299 9740287  <b>BS 27</b> Flat top deck cargo barge Singapore 4506	26/07/20 0837 hrs	1° 11.5' N, 103° 32.3' E  Approximately 4.4 nm from Tanjung Piai, Johor, Malaysia in the precautionary area in the Singapore Strait  (SOMS)	While the tug boat towing the flat top deck cargo barge was en route to Singapore, two unknown crafts with three perpetrators on each craft were sighted approaching the barge. Two perpetrators boarded the barge. They left the barge after 20 minutes, and the two crafts left the location of the incident and were seen heading in a southwestern direction. The tug boat and barge resumed its voyage to Singapore. Some batteries were reported stolen from the barge. The crew was safe and no assistance was required.  A safety navigational broadcast was initiated after the incident. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF), Singapore Police Coast Guard, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified.  (Category 4)	The crew was safe.  Some batteries were reported stolen from the barge.	No information available	Yes  Singapore Police Coast Guard and Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A safety navigational broadcast was initiated after the incident. The RSN's MSTF, Singapore Police Coast Guard, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified.	