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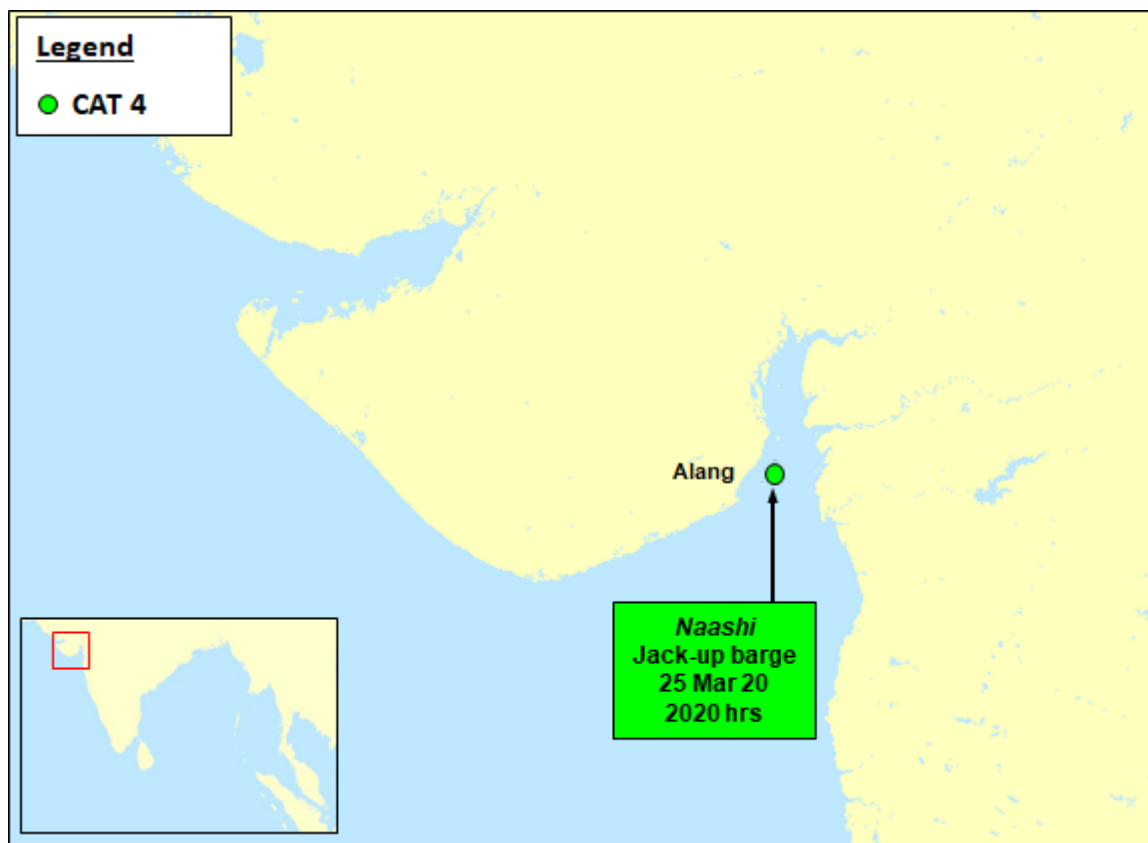
ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 24 – 30 March 2020

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 24-30 Mar 20, one incident of armed robbery against ship in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 4¹ incident occurred on board an unmanned jack-up barge, towed by an offshore tug boat, while underway off Alang Anchorage, India.

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




Location of the incident

¹ 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 recurrence of the abduction incident on 17 Jan 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. Four contact points are indicated with numbered circles: 1 (Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao), 2a (Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao), 2b (Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao), and 3 (Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)).

- 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
24 – 30 March 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	
INCIDENT IN ASIA										
ACTUAL INCIDENT										
1.	Naashi Jack-up barge Panama 2910 8762898 Bateleur Offshore tug boat	25/03/20 2020 hrs	21° 24.1' N 72° 20.2' E Off Alang Anchorage, India	The tug boat, <i>Bateleur</i> towing barge, <i>Naashi</i> was bound for demolition at Alang when about four perpetrators boarded the unmanned barge from a dinghy boat. The master of the tug boat noticed the perpetrators with torches on board <i>Naashi</i> and raised the alarm. He also reported the incident to VTS Khambhat, who informed the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The ICG Station Pipavav directed the Marine Police, Alang to despatch their boats to the location of the incident for investigation. Investigation is currently ongoing and the loss of items is still being ascertained by the investigating agencies and local agent. (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. Loss of items is still being ascertained by the investigating agencies and local agent.	The master raised the alarm and reported the incident to VTS Khambhat.	Yes VTS Khambhat	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	VTS Khambhat informed ICG; and the ICG Station Pipavav directed the Marine Police, Alang to despatch their boats to the location of the incident for investigation. Investigation is currently ongoing.	