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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report

25-31 Aug 2020

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 25-31 Aug 20, three incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Of these, two incidents (one CAT 3¹ and one CAT 4²) occurred on board bulk carriers while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait. In these two incidents, the crew was safe and no item was missing. The third incident (CAT 4) occurred on board a tanker while anchored at Sandakan Inner Anchorage, Sabah, East Malaysia. The crew was safe but 11 drums of paint were stolen.

The location of the 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 ship, 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, 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: 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.

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
25-31 August 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 Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
INCIDENTS IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENTS									
1.	Sea Diamond Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 40690 9374181	30/08/20 0040 hrs	1° 16.35' N, 104° 15.71' E Approximately 7 nm off Tanjung Pergam, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)	While underway, one perpetrator was reported on board the bulk carrier. The master later updated Singapore VTIS East that the crew conducted a search on board and no perpetrator was found. The crew was safe, and no item was missing A navigational broadcast was promulgated to warn all ships in the vicinity. The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)'s Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF), Singapore Police Coast Guard, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified. (Category 4)	The crew was safe. Nothing was stolen.	A search on board was conducted and no perpetrator was found.	Yes Singapore VTIS East	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A navigational broadcast was promulgated to warn all ships in the vicinity. The RSN's MSTF, Singapore Police Coast Guard, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified.

	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.	Amina Bulk carrier Iran 40166 9305192	29/08/20 2324 hrs	1° 16.93' N, 104° 16.78' E Approximately 6.9 nm north- northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)	While underway, six perpetrators armed with long knives were on board the bulk carrier. The master later updated Singapore VTIS East that the crew conducted a search on board and no perpetrator was found. The crew was safe and no item was missing. A navigational broadcast was promulgated to warn all ships in the vicinity. The RSN's MSTF, Singapore Police Coast Guard, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified. (Category 3)	The crew was safe. Nothing was stolen.	A search on board was conducted and no perpetrator was found.	Yes Singapore VTIS East	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A navigational broadcast was promulgated to warn all ships in the vicinity. The RSN's MSTF, Singapore Police Coast Guard, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified.
3.	GS Fabulous Petroleum/Chemical tanker Singapore 11261 9421269	25/08/20 0500 hrs	5° 49' N, 118° 7' E Sandakan Inner Anchorage, Sabah, East Malaysia	The CSO reported that the store padlock of the tanker was found broken and 11 drums of paint were discovered stolen from the paint store. There were footprints found near the railings, indicating that the perpetrators were likely to have boarded the ship from port side of forecastle. The crew was not injured. (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. The store padlock was found broken. Eleven drums of paint were stolen.	No information available	Yes	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available