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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 27 July-2 Aug 2021

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 27 Jul-2 Aug 21, no incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. However, the ReCAAP ISC advises ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance; and littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in areas of concern, including the Singapore Strait, the Sulu-Celebes Seas and at ports and anchorages.

INCIDENTS OUTSIDE ASIA


During 27 Jul-2 Aug 21, two incidents outside Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC by the ReCAAP Contact Point (Hong Kong) and ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). Of the two incidents, one incident occurred on 29 Jul on board a bulk carrier while anchored at Isla Brujas, Columbia and the other incident occurred on 29 Jul on board a tanker while anchored at Rabaul Port Pilot Boarding area, Papua New Guinea. The detailed description of the two incidents is tabulated in the attachment.

SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

There is no incident of abduction of crew reported since the last incident in January 2020 up to today, and no crew is currently being held in captivity by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

On 23 Apr 21, the Philippine Armed Forces had conducted a military operation against members of the ASG during which one of the ASG leaders responsible for the abduction of crew in the area of Sulu and Tawi-Tawi had managed to escape. The threat of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah remains high particularly in the areas of Sulu and nearby waters off Tawi-Tawi.

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 all incidents immediately to the Operation Centres of the Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The contact details of the Operation Centres of the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia are as shown next page:



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Three numbered red circles indicate contact points: 1 is near Zamboanga; 2a and 2b are near Bongao; and 3 is 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
27 July-2 August 2021**

	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	
INCIDENTS OUTSIDE ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENTS									
1.	Puffin Pacific Petroleum/chemical tanker Singapore 29403 9876402	29/07/21 0233 hrs	4° 15.3' S 152° 11.2' E Rabaul Port Pilot boarding area, Papua New Guinea	While at anchor, the duty able bodied seaman when on patrol encountered two perpetrators armed with a long knife and holding a laptop near the accommodation area. Upon being sighted by the duty crew, the two perpetrators ran away. The officer on watch was informed and general alarm was activated. The duty able bodied seaman chased after the perpetrators to retrieve the laptop but the perpetrators climbed down the ship via the anchor chain at the forward and escaped in a small boat with one other perpetrator waiting. The deck watch was then doubled. The ship was searched twice with no sighting of other intruders. The ship was not damaged and the crew not injured.	No damage to the ship and the crew was not injured. A laptop was stolen.	The Office Watch was informed and the general alarm was activated. The duty able bodied seaman tried to chase after the perpetrators who climbed down the ship via the anchor chain at the forward and escaped in a small boat with one other perpetrator waiting. The master and the chief engineer were informed of the incident. The deck watch was then doubled and a search on board the ship was conducted.	Not known	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Not known

	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	
2.	Otago Harbour Bulk carrier Hong-Kong, China 19829 9268928	29/07/21 0030 hrs	10° 19.42' N 75° 31.73' W Isla Brujas, Colombia	<p>While at anchor, the roving duty crew onboard the ship noticed two perpetrators at forecastle. Immediately, he informed the Officer on Watch (OOW) who raised the ship's alarm.</p> <p>The crew was mustered, and a search conducted at the forecastle area. Upon sighted by the ship's crew, the perpetrators escaped in a boat.</p> <p>The master immediately informed Cartagena Port Authority and the Coast Guard about the incident. One 6-men life raft was stolen. The Coast Guard came around the ship, and left after confirming that the crew was safe.</p>	<p>The crew was not injured.</p> <p>One life raft was stolen.</p>	<p>Duty crew informed the Officer on Watch (OOW) about the incident.</p> <p>Ship's alarm was raised, crew mustered and a search at the forecastle was conducted.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The master reported the incident to Cartagena Port Authority and the Coast Guard.</p>	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Contact Point (Hong-Kong)	The Coast Guard came around the ship and left after confirming that the crew was safe.