



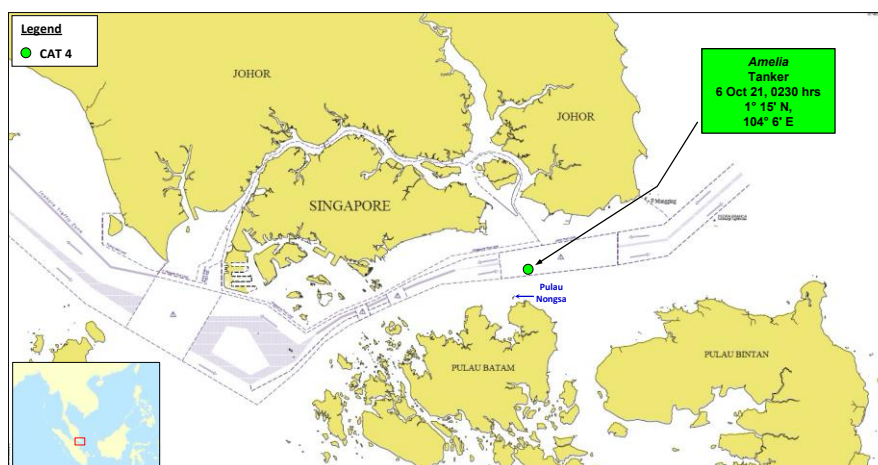
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## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 5-11 October 2021

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 5-11 Oct 21, one incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 4<sup>1</sup> incident occurred on 6 Oct to a tanker while underway in the Singapore Strait (SS) at approximately 3.3nm NNE of Nongsa Point, Batam Island (Indonesia). The master sighted three unauthorised persons in the vicinity of the engine room of the ship. The ship alarm was raised and a search on board the ship was carried out. The crew was safe and some engine spares were reportedly stolen. With this incident, a total of 27 incidents had occurred in the SS since January 2021. The location of the incident is shown in the map below, and detailed description of the incident is tabulated in the attachment.



Location of incident

#### INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA

During 5-11 Oct 21, one attempted incident outside Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). The incident occurred on 4 Oct to a VLCC while transiting the TSS in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, Yemen. The detailed description of the incident is tabulated in the attachment.


<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

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 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 below:



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: 1 (Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao) near Zamboanga; 2a and 2b (Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao) near Bongao; 3 (Eastern Sabah Security Command) 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](mailto: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](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  
5-11 October 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	10
<b>INCIDENT IN ASIA</b>									
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENT</b>									
1.	<b>Amelia</b> Tanker Malaysia 28799 9308778	6/10/21 0230 hrs	1.0°; 15.0' N, 104.0°; 6.0' E  Approximately 3.3nm NNE of Nongsa Point, Batam Island, (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Singapore Strait.  (SOMS)	While underway, the master of the ship reported to Singapore VTIS that three unauthorised persons were sighted in the vicinity of the engine room.  The ship alarm was raised and the crew conducted a search for the perpetrators on board the ship. At 0320 hrs, the master updated Singapore VTIS that the search was completed with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master declared some engine spares were stolen. The crew was safe with no injury.  A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.  The master confirmed that no assistance was required and continued her voyage to Zhuhai, China	All crew was safe with no injury.  Some engine spares were stolen.	The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS .  The alarm was raised and the crew conducted a search on board the ship.	The incident was reported to Singapore VTIS.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.

	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
				[ CAT 4]					
<b>INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA</b>									
<b>ATTEMPTED INCIDENT</b>									
1.	<b>KHK Empress</b> VLCC Singapore 160682 9830965	4/10/21 0750 hrs	13.0°; 6.2' N, 43.0°; 7.7' E.  The Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, Yemen	While transiting the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, the ship was approached by a suspected pirate skiff from the port beam. The skiff stopped pursuing the ship when noticed that there were armed guards on board the ship, and after the ship increased her speed.  It was reported that there were about 8-9 persons on the skiff and there was no visible boarding equipment or weapons sighted on board the skiff.  The crew was not injured, and the ship not damaged.	The crew was not injured and ship not damaged.	The ship activated counter-piracy procedures such as increasing her speed.	The master reported the incident to the shipping company.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information given.