



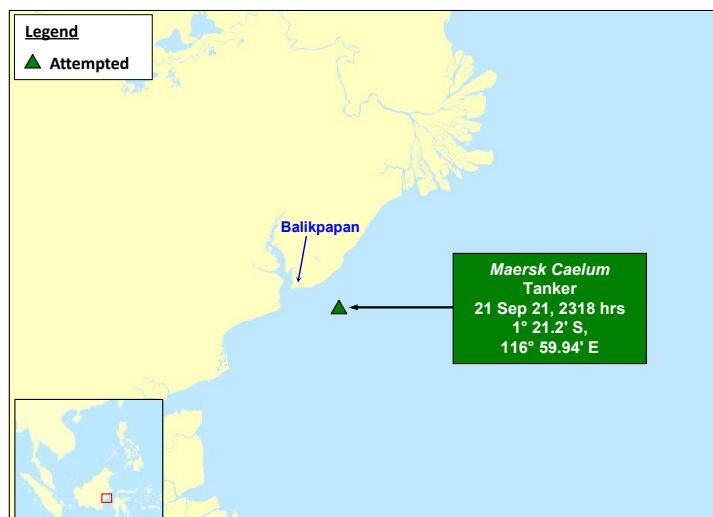
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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 28 September – 4 October 2021

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 28 Sep – 4 Oct 21, one attempted incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred on 21 Sep to a tanker while anchored at Balikpapan Anchorage, Indonesia. One perpetrator attempted to board the ship through the anchor hawse pipe. As the hawse pipe was secured with plates to prevent access, the perpetrator could not unlock the plates. The ship alarm was raised and the perpetrator escaped in a nearby water craft. Nothing was stolen and all crew were safe. The location of the incident is shown in the map below, and detailed description of the incident tabulated in the attachment.



Location of incident

ARREST OF ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR INCIDENTS OF ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS AT MANILA ANCHORAGE AREAS


On 29 Sep, the Philippine Coast Guard and the Philippine National Police arrested another member of the group responsible for the recent series of incidents of armed robbery occurred to ships while anchored at Manila Anchorage Areas. The leader of the group was arrested on 27 Sep (refer to ReCAAP ISC's Weekly Report of 21-27 Sep). During the arrest, items stolen from the victim ships were recovered. The two arrested perpetrators are currently held in custody and pending prosecution by the Manila court. The joint law enforcement agencies are currently carrying out follow-up operations against other members of the group.

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. Contact points are indicated by numbered 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
28 September – 4 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
INCIDENT IN ASIA									
ATTEMPTED INCIDENT									
1.	Maersk Caelum Tanker Denmark 30948 9724582	21/09/21 1518 hrs	1° 21.2' N, 116° 59.94' E Balikpapan Anchorage Zone A, Balikpapan Indonesia	On 21 Sep 21, a crew while preparing the ship for departure from Balikpapan anchorage area noticed one perpetrator attempted to board the ship through the anchor hawse pipe. As the hawse pipe was secured with plates to prevent access, the perpetrator was struggling to unlock the plates. The ship alarm was raised and the perpetrator escaped in a nearby water craft. The crew was mustered and a search carried out on board the ship. All padlocks and seals were found intact. No item was stolen and all crew were safe.	All crew were safe and accounted for. No item was stolen.	The ship alarm was raised. The crew was mustered and all accounted for. The crew conducted a search on board the ship. All padlocks and seals were found intact.	No information given	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information given