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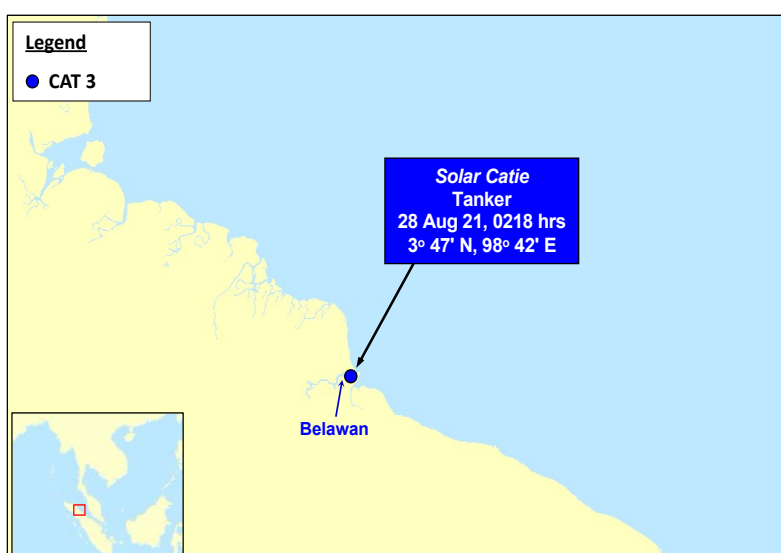
ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 31 Aug - 6 Sep 2021

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

For the period 31 Aug - 6 Sep 21, an incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 3¹ incident occurred to a tanker while berthed at Belawan Port, Indonesia on 28 Aug where, two perpetrators armed with knives boarded the ship, stole some ship stores and escaped unnoticed. The theft was only discovered by the duty crew after the ship departed the port. Details of the incident was ascertained when the ship's CCTV was reviewed. The incident was reported to the Company Security Officer (CSO) who provided evidence of the boarding and assessed that three deck scupper plugs, six fire hose couplings, two fire house coupling keys and three fire hose nozzles were stolen.

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



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 is 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 vessel, but in cases where losses were reported, stores and engine spares were commonly targeted items.


Location of incident

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 all round 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
31 Aug – 6 Sep 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									
ACTUAL INCIDENT									
1.	Solar Catie Tanker Liberia 18335 9887401	28/08/21 0500 hrs	3.0°; 47.0' N, 98.0°; 42.0' E Belawan Port, Indonesia	While at berth, two perpetrators armed with knives boarded the ship, stole some ship stores and escaped unnoticed. The theft was only discovered by the duty crew after the ship departed the port. The ship's CCTV was reviewed and the incident was reported to the Company Security Officer (CSO). The ship master did not report the incident to Belawan port authority. The CSO provided evidence of boarding and updated that three deck scupper plugs, six fire hose couplings, two fire house coupling keys and three fire hose nozzles were stolen. The crew was not injured. [Category 3]	The crew was not injured. The ship stores stolen were three deck scupper plugs, six fire hose couplings, two fire hose coupling keys and three fire hose nozzles.	The ship's CCTV was reviewed, and the incident was reported to the CSO. The ship master did not report the incident to Belawan port authority.	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information. The incident was not reported to Belawan port authority