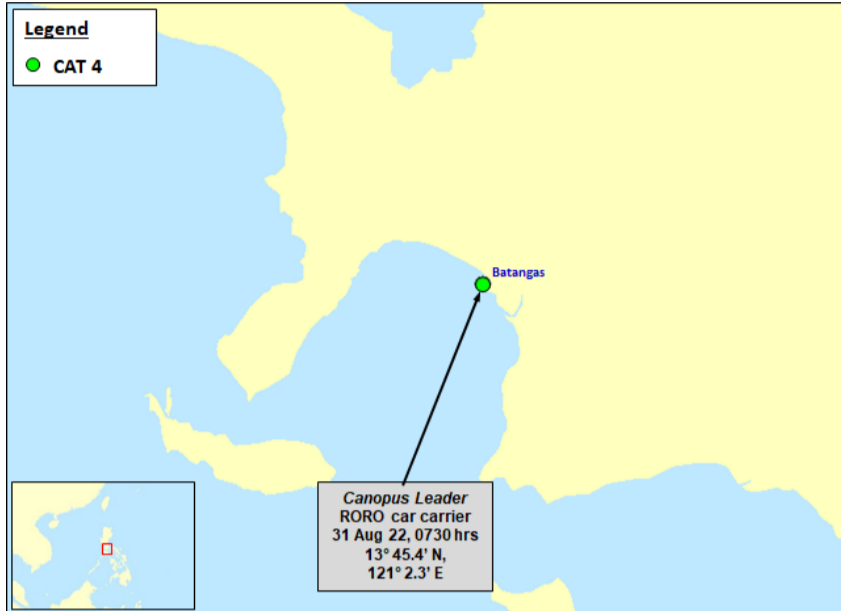


OVERVIEW

One CAT 4¹ incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred on board a RORO car carrier while berthed at Batangas Port, Philippines for cargo operations on 31 Aug 22. As the theft was only discovered later, the Centre took some time to verify the incident with the relevant authorities. Details of the incident in table (*).



Factors	Location
	Batangas Port
	Philippines
Type of ship	RORO Car Carrier
Time of incident	Between 0730 hrs and 2130 hrs
Number of perpetrators	No known
Weapons	Not known
Treatment of crew	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 4
Items stolen	14 fire hose nozzles and four fire hydrant spanners

AREAS OF CONCERN

The Centre advises ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting areas of concern, including the Singapore Strait and the Sulu-Celebes Seas; and littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in these areas.

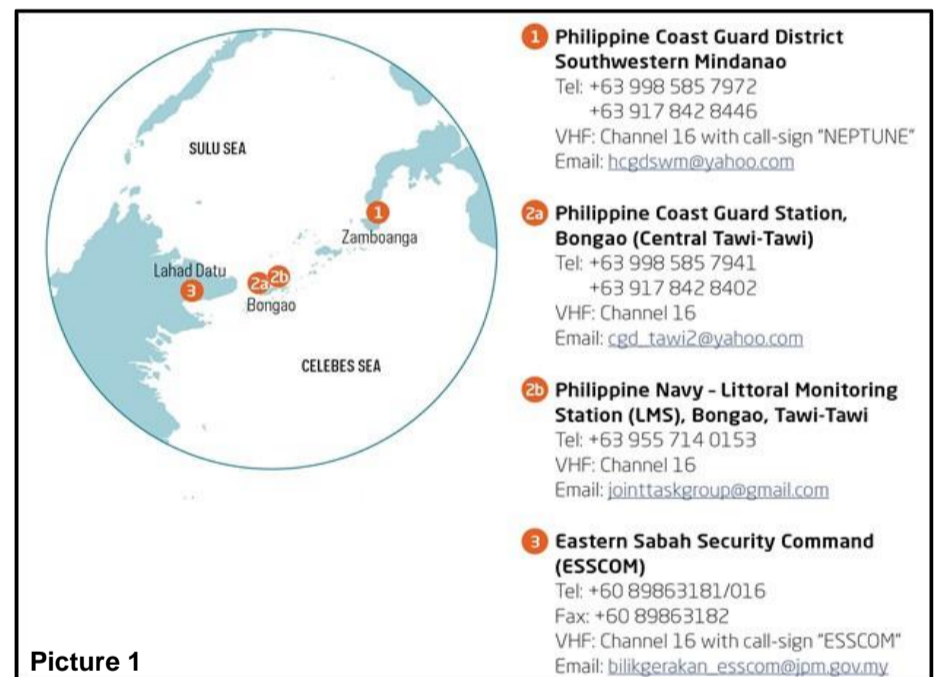
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

Downgrading of threat level

- The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), after careful consideration of inputs from stakeholders and counterparts with vital involvement in securing the Sulu-Celebes Seas maritime security measure, recommends the downgrading of the threat on the 'Abduction of Crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas' from 'POTENTIALLY HIGH' to 'MODERATE'. The MODERATE threat level implies that '**Incidents are possible to occur but are relatively less severe in nature**'.

Update of ReCAAP ISC Advisory

- As the threat of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas has diminished since January 2020 due to successful military operations and robust law enforcement initiatives, the ReCAAP ISC updates its Advisory to all ships to **consider re-route from the area as an option based on its prerogative**.
- For ships transiting the area, the **ship masters and crew are strongly encouraged to exercise extra vigilance 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 in Picture 1.



Picture 1

RECOMMENDATIONS

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 appropriate preventive measures taking reference from the *Regional Guide 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.

* Table at [https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2022/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202022%20\(caa%2015%20Sep%202022\).pdf](https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2022/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202022%20(caa%2015%20Sep%202022).pdf) for details of the incidents.

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¹ CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed, and the crew not harmed.