



Website : [www.recaap.org](http://www.recaap.org)  
Tel : +65 6376 3063  
Fax : +65 6376 3066  
Email : [info@recaap.org](mailto:info@recaap.org)

## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 18-24 January 2022

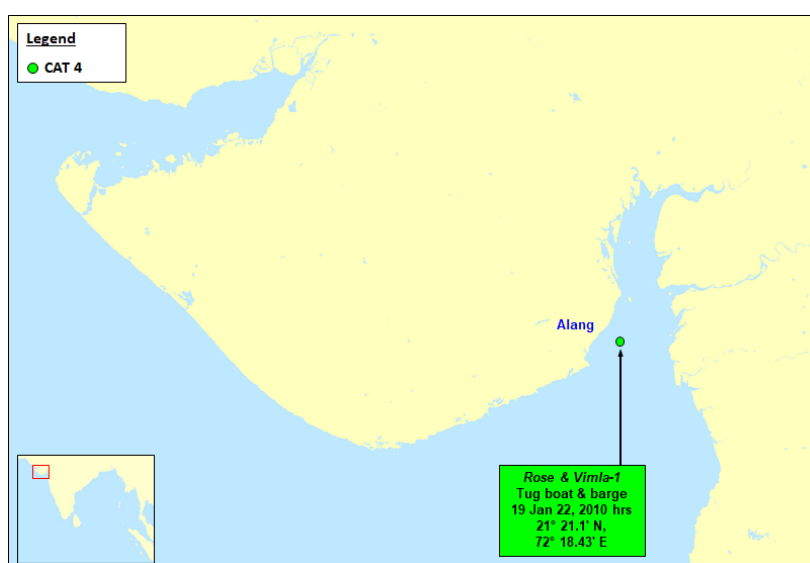
### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 18-24 Jan 22, one CAT 4<sup>1</sup> incident of armed robbery against ship in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred on 19 Jan on board an unmanned jack-up barge towed by a tug boat while underway at approximately 7.5 nm east off Alang, India.

About three or four perpetrators boarded the unmanned barge and subsequently fled in a boat. The master reported the incident to VTS Khambhat. An Indian Coast Guard ship C-419 (in the area) was diverted to investigate the incident. A team from the ship boarded the barge and conducted an extensive search of all compartments including living spaces. The lock of living space was broken and belongings were scattered. There were no further sightings of the suspected fishing boat or the perpetrators. The crew was not harmed, and the items lost were not known.

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**


<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, Zamboanga, and Bongao. 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](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: [bilanggerakan\\_esscom@jpm.gov.my](mailto:bilanggerakan_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  
18-24 January 2022**

1	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	2 Date Local Time of Incident (LT)	3 Position of the Incident	4 Details of the Incident	5 Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	6 Action taken by the master and crew	7 Was the incident reported to coastal authority? Which one?	8 Reporting State or International Organization	9 Coastal State Action Taken	10
<b>INCIDENT IN ASIA</b>										
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENT</b>										
1.	<p><b>Rose</b> Tug boat India 134 9220512</p> <p><b>Vimla-1</b> Jack-up barge India 107</p>	19/1/22 2010 hrs	21.0°; 21.1' N, 72.0°; 18.43' E  Approximately 7.5 nm east off Alang, India	<p>While underway, the master of the tug boat reported that about three or four perpetrators had boarded the unmanned barge towed by the tug boat. The perpetrators subsequently fled in a boat. An Indian Coast Guard ship C-419 in the area was diverted to investigate the incident. A team from the ship boarded the barge and conducted an extensive search of all compartments, including living spaces. During the search, it was discovered that the lock of the living space was broken and belongings were scattered. There were no further sightings of the suspected fishing boat or the perpetrators. The crew was not harmed, and the items lost were not known.</p> <p>The master of the tug boat reported the incident to VTS Khambhat who subsequently shared the information of the incident with Indian Coast Guard Station (ICGS) Pipavav/ MRCC Mumbai. ICGS Pipavav reported the incident to the respective law enforcement agencies for investigation. In addition, VTS Khambhat was advised to alert the merchant traffic in area to enhance vigilance and adhere to the standard norms of security and SOPs especially during night time and hours of darkness .</p> <p align="right">[Category 4]</p>	The crew was safe.  Items lost was not known.	The master of tug boat reported the incident to VTS Khambhat.	Yes. The Master of tug boat reported the incident to VTS Khambhat.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	<p>The Indian Coast Guard ship C-419 in the area was diverted to investigate the incident.</p> <p>The incident was shared with Indian Coast Guard Station (ICGS) Pipavav/ MRCC Mumbai. ICGS Pipavav reported the incident to the respective law enforcement agencies for investigation. In addition, VTS Khambhat was advised to alert the merchant traffic in area to enhance vigilance and adhere to the standard norms of security/ SOPs especially during night time and hours of darkness.</p>	