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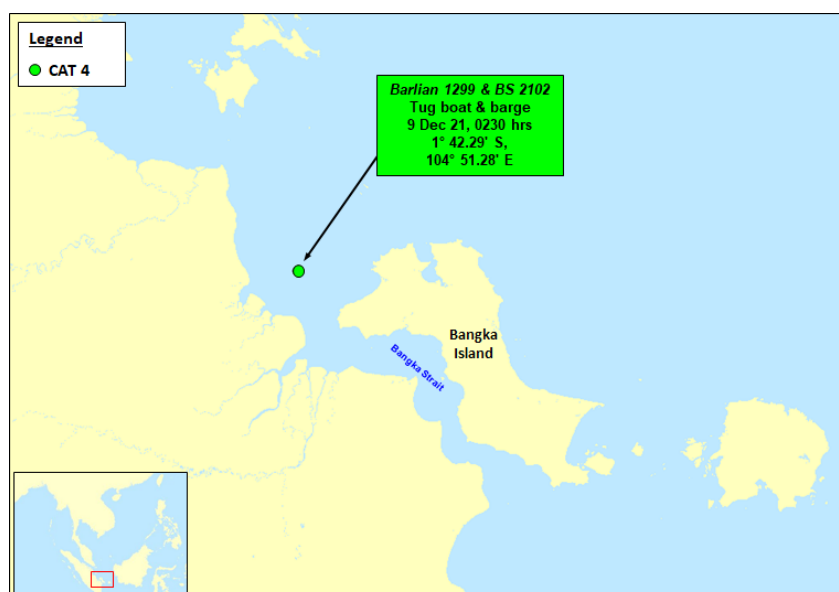
ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 28 December 2021 - 3 January 2022

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 28 Dec 21- 3 Jan 22, one CAT 4¹ incident of armed robbery against ship was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred to a barge while on tow by a tug boat at approximately 60 nm from Baung Bangka Strait, Indonesia on 9 Dec. Two unattended wooden boats were spotted alongside the port and starboard side of the unmanned barge. The master of the tug boat turned on the search light towards the barge to alert the perpetrators but to no avail. Seven crates of cargoes on board the barge containing machinery parts were found opened, and items inside were missing. The crew was safe and accounted for.

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



Location of incident


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.

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 on next page:



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), 2a (Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao), 2b (Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station, Bongao), and 3 (Eastern Sabah Security Command).

- 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 December 2021 – 3 January 2022**

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage	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.	Barlian 1299 Tug Boat Singapore 411 9431795 BS 2102 Barge	9/12/21 0230 hrs	1° 42.29' S 104° 51.28' E Approximately 60 nm from Baung Bangka Strait, Indonesia.	While underway, two unattended wooden boat were spotted alongside the port and starboard side of the barge which was on tow by the tug boat. The master of the tug boat turned on the search light towards the barge to alert the perpetrators but to no avail. The perpetrators left the barge. The master continued the voyage and performed the inspection of the barge at a safe location. During the inspection, seven crates of cargoes on board the barge containing machinery parts were opened, and items inside were missing. There was no damage to the barge and the crew was safe and accounted for. [Category 4]	The crew was safe and accounted for. Seven crates of cargoes on board the barge containing machinery parts were opened and items inside were missing.	The master of the ship turned on the search light towards the barge to alert the perpetrators but to no avail.	Yes The manager of the shipping company only reported the incident to Focal Point Singapore (Maritime Port and Authority) on 21 Dec 21.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information given.