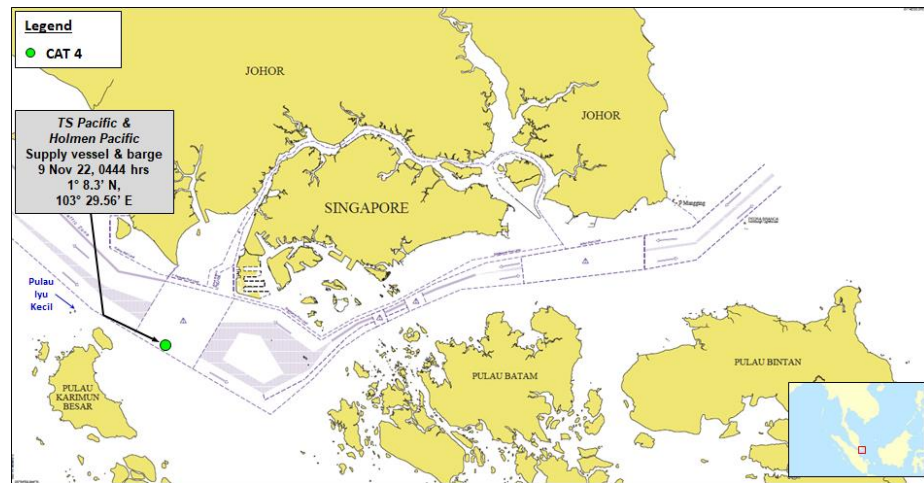


OVERVIEW

One CAT 4¹ incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred to a barge while towed by a supply vessel east of Pulau Iyu Kecil, Indonesia in the Singapore Strait (SS). In the incident, one perpetrator boarded the barge via its astern from a small boat. One mooring line was reported stolen, and all crew members were safe. Details of incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Location
	Precautionary area of TSS
	Approximately 9 nm east of Pulau Iyu Kecil, Indonesia (1 incident)
Type of ship	Supply vessel and barge
Time of incident	Hours of darkness
Number of perpetrators	1 small boat/ 1 perpetrator
Weapons	None
Treatment of crew	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 4
Items stolen	1 mooring rope

AREAS OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the SS. With the incident, a total of 45 incidents were reported in the SS since January 2022.

The ReCAAP ISC 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 are 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*.

Follow us on: W: www.recaap.org Twitter: @recaapisc

Contact us at: E: info@recaap.org T: +65 6376 3063 F: +65 6376 3066

*Table at <https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2022/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202022.pdf> for details of the incidents.

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.