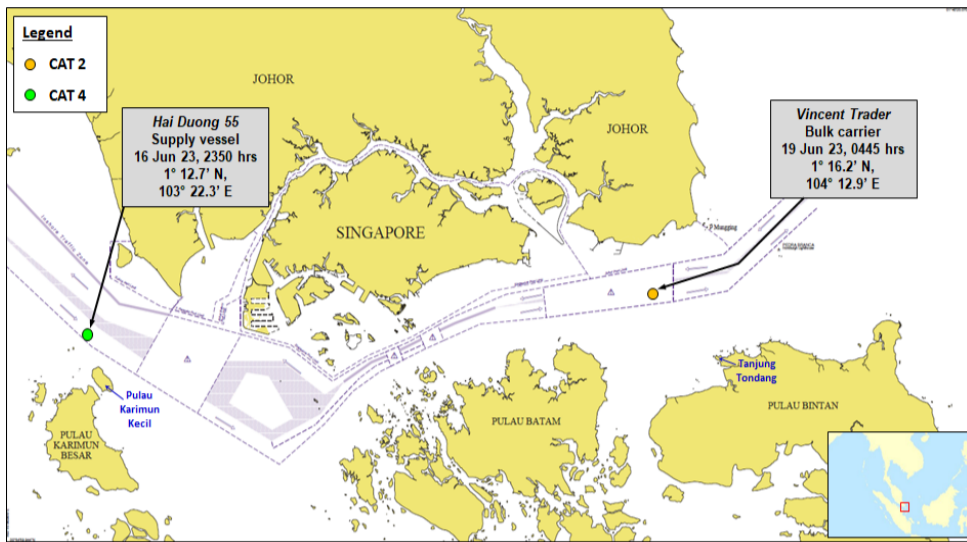


OVERVIEW

Two incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (one each CAT 2¹ and CAT 4² incident) were reported to ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 2 incident occurred on board a bulk carrier, and CAT 4 incident on board a supply vessel. Both incidents occurred on board these ships while underway in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS). In the CAT 2 incident, one crew member was assaulted with minor injury on his head, while the crew members of the supply vessel were not injured. Ship properties, stores and engine spares were stolen in both incidents. Detail of incident is shown in table (*).



Factors	Location	
	Straits of Malacca and Singapore	
	Off Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia (1 incident)	Off Tanjung Tondang, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia (1 incident)
Type of ship	Supply vessel	Bulk carrier
Date/Time	16 Jun at 2350 hrs	19 Jun at 0445 hrs
Number of perpetrators	Unknown	4
Weapons	Not armed	Knives
Treatment of crew	No injuries	One crew was assaulted with minor injury on his head
Significance level	CAT 4	CAT 2
Items stolen	Ship properties and stores	Engine spares

AREA OF CONCERN

Of concern was the continued occurrence of incidents in the SOMS. With the latest two incidents, a total of 37 incidents were reported in the SOMS since January 2023. The Centre advises ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting SOMS; and the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in the area.

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, referring to the Poster on the *Contact Details for Reporting of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia*, 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/2023/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202023.pdf> for details of the incidents.

¹ CAT (Category) 2 incident is moderately significant. Under this category, the perpetrators are likely to be armed with knives/machetes and in some incidents armed with guns. The crew is threatened or held hostage temporarily and, in some cases, the crew suffered injury and physical violence.

² CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.