

OVERVIEW

Two incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (both CAT 4¹ incidents) was reported to ReCAAP ISC. The incidents occurred on board a container ship while anchored at Manila Anchorage, the Philippines; and a tanker while underway in the Singapore Strait. The crew members were not injured in the incidents. However, some ship properties/stores were stolen in both incidents. Detail of incident is shown in table (*).



Factors	Location	
	Philippines Manila Anchorage Area (1 incident)	Singapore Strait Off Tanjung Pergam, Indonesia (1 incident)
Type of ship	Container ship	Tanker
Date/Time	19 Mar at 0430 hrs	27 Mar at 0001 hrs
Number of perpetrators	5	4
Weapons	Not mentioned	Not mentioned
Treatment of crew	No injuries	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 4	CAT 4
Items stolen	Fire nozzles, brass nuts, bolts & wire, portable fan	Spare parts of fuel pumps

AREA OF CONCERN

Of concern was the continued occurrence of incidents in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS). With the latest incident on 27 Mar, a total of 16 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.

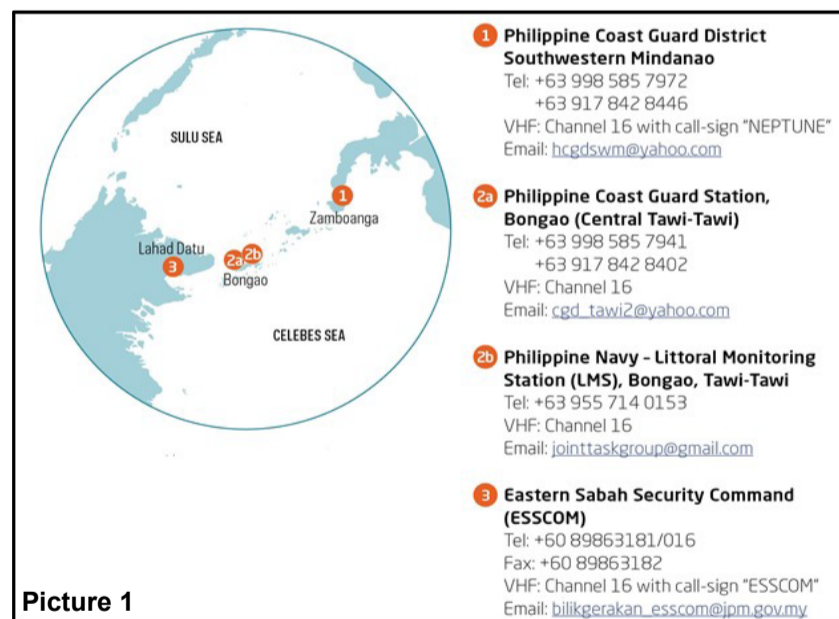
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

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*.

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