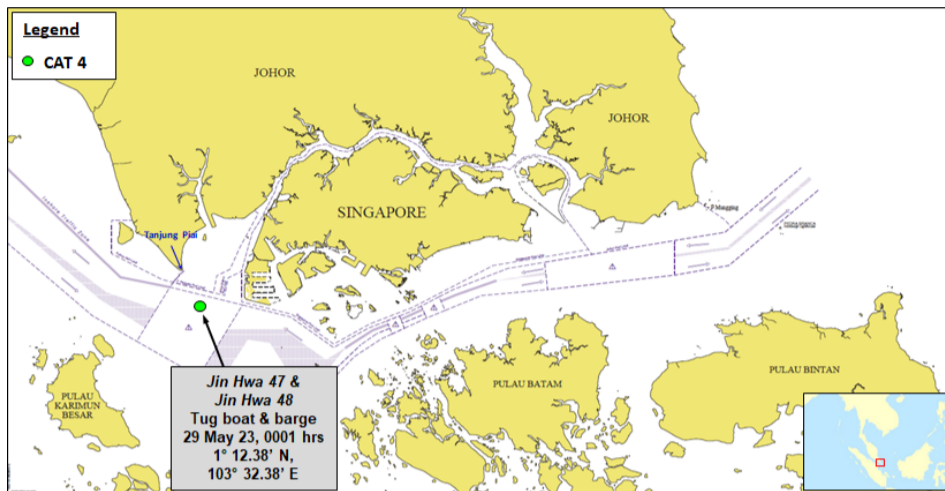


OVERVIEW

One CAT 4¹ incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred on board a barge while being towed off Tanjung Piai, Malaysia in the precautionary area of the westbound lane of Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), in the Singapore Strait (SS). Scrap metals were reported stolen from the barge. The crew members were safe. Details of the incident are shown in table (*).



Factors	Location
	Straits of Malacca and Singapore
	Off Tanjung Piai, (Malaysia) (1 incident)
Type of ship	Tug boat and barge
Date/Time	29 May at 0001 hrs
Number of perpetrators	3 perpetrators
Weapons carried by perpetrators	Not stated
Treatment of crew	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 4
Items stolen	Scrap metals

AREA OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS). With this incident, a total of 29 incidents were reported in the SOMS since January 2023. Of these, 28 incidents occurred in the Singapore Strait (SS), and one incident in the Malacca Strait (MS). 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.



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