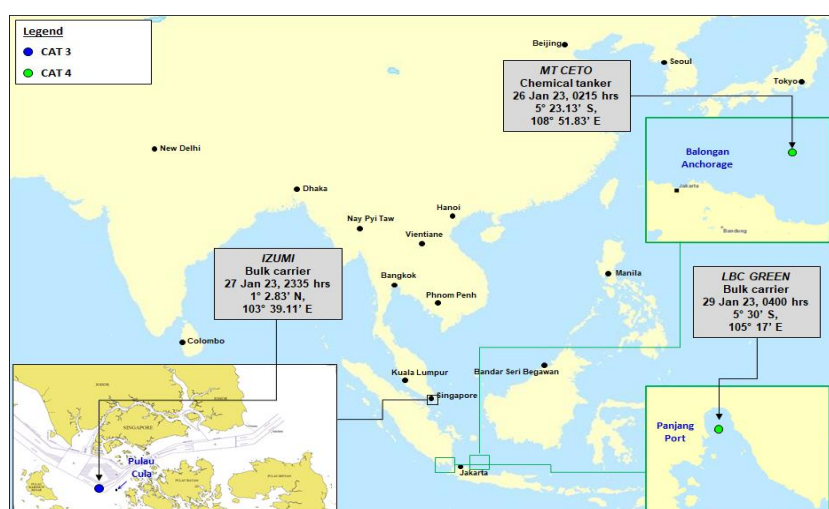


OVERVIEW

Three incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (comprising of one CAT 3¹ incident and two CAT 4² incidents) were reported to ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 3 incident occurred on board a bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait. Of the two CAT 4 incidents, one incident occurred on board a tanker while anchored at Balongan Anchorage, Indonesia and the other incident on board a bulk carrier while anchored at Panjang Port, Indonesia. The crew members were not injured in all three incidents; and nothing was reported stolen. Details of incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Locations		
	Singapore Strait (1 incident)	Balongan Anchorage, Indonesia (1 incident)	Panjang Port, Indonesia (1 incident)
Type of ship	Bulk carrier	Oil /Chemical/ Gas tanker	Bulk carrier
Date/Time	27 Jan at 2335 hrs	26 Jan at 0215 hrs	29 Jan at 0400 hrs
Number of perpetrators	2 perpetrators	5 Perpetrators and 1 craft	4 perpetrators
Weapons	Adjustable wrench	Not stated	Not stated
Treatment of crew	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 3	CAT 4	CAT 4
Items stolen	Nothing was stolen	Nothing was stolen	Nothing was stolen

AREA OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait. A total of four incidents were reported in the Singapore Strait in 2023 as of now. The Centre advises ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting the Singapore Strait; and the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in the area.

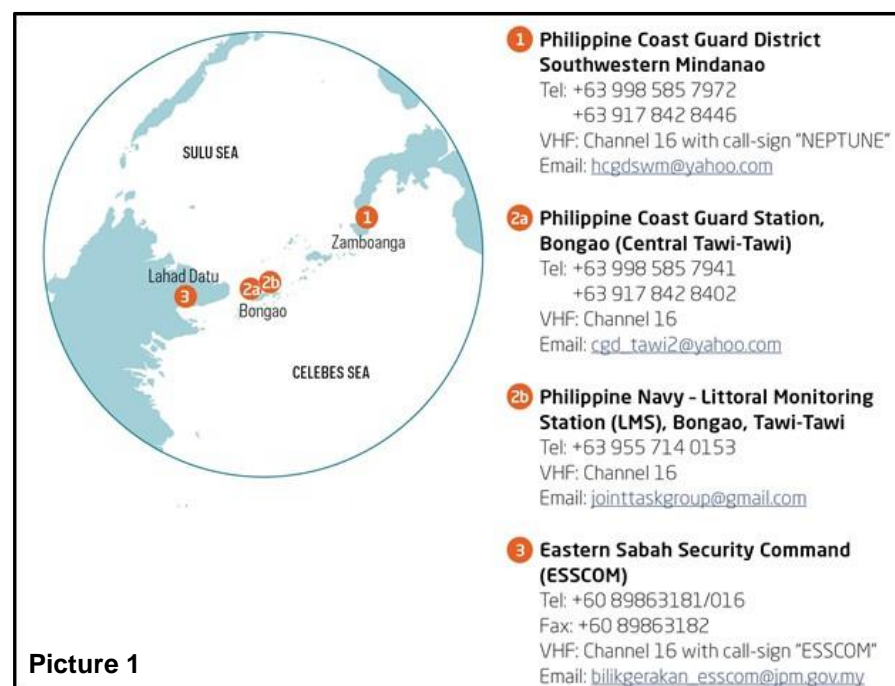
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

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, 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/2022/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202023.pdf> for details of the incidents.

¹ CAT (Category) 3 incident is 'less significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are armed with knives/machetes or other items such as sticks or rods. Although the crew can be subjected to duress or threat during the incident, they are not harmed physically. In most CAT 3 cases, nothing is stolen. In cases where losses are reported, stores and engine spares are commonly stolen items.

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.