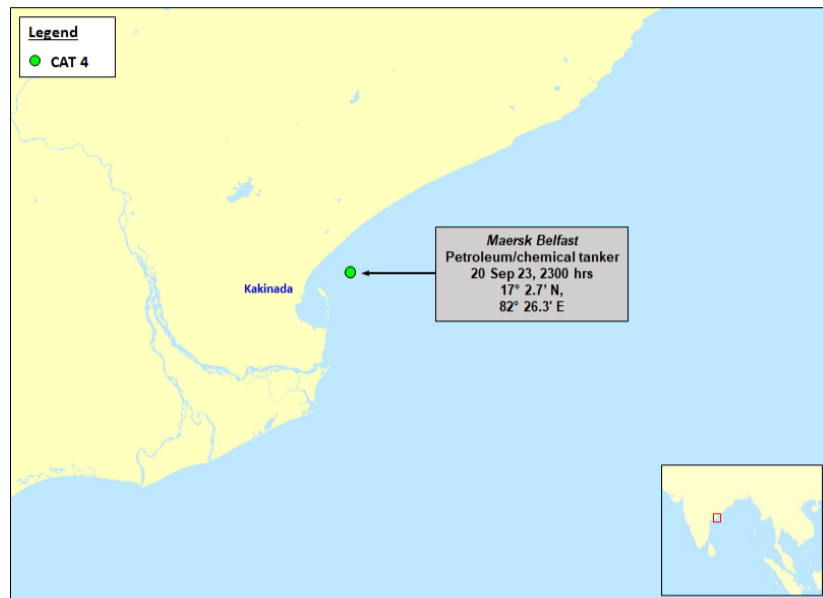


OVERVIEW

One actual incident¹ of armed robbery against ships (CAT 4²) in Asia was reported to ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred on 20 Sep 23 to a petroleum/chemical tanker while anchored at Kakinada Anchorage in India. Details of incident are shown in table (*).



Factors	Location
	India
	Kakinada Anchorage (1 incident)
Type of ship	Petroleum/Chemical tanker
Date/Time	20 Sep at 2300 hrs
Number of perpetrators	Not known
Weapons	Not stated
Treatment of crew	No injuries
Items stolen	Two mooring ropes
Significance level	CAT 4

AREA OF CONCERN

Since January 2023, a total of 81 incidents comprising 80 actual incidents and one attempted incident of armed robbery against ships were reported to the Centre. The ReCAAP ISC advises ships to continue to exercise vigilance while underway or at anchor/berthed at ports; and the law enforcement agencies to enhance surveillance, increase patrols and respond promptly to reported incidents.

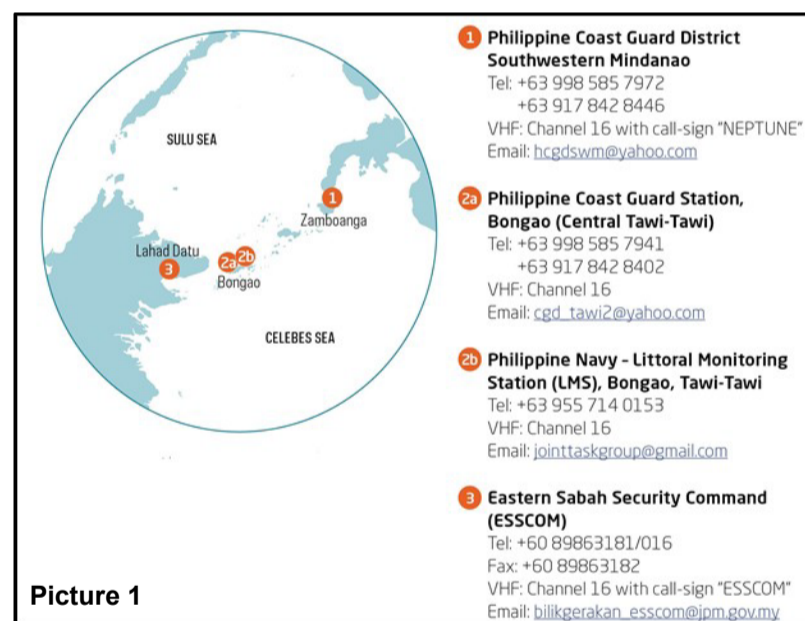
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

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 RCC and flag State, referring to the Poster on *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 **Actual incident** is incident where pirates/robbers boarded the ship; and regardless of whether they stole any items from the crew or took away any items found on board the ship.

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.