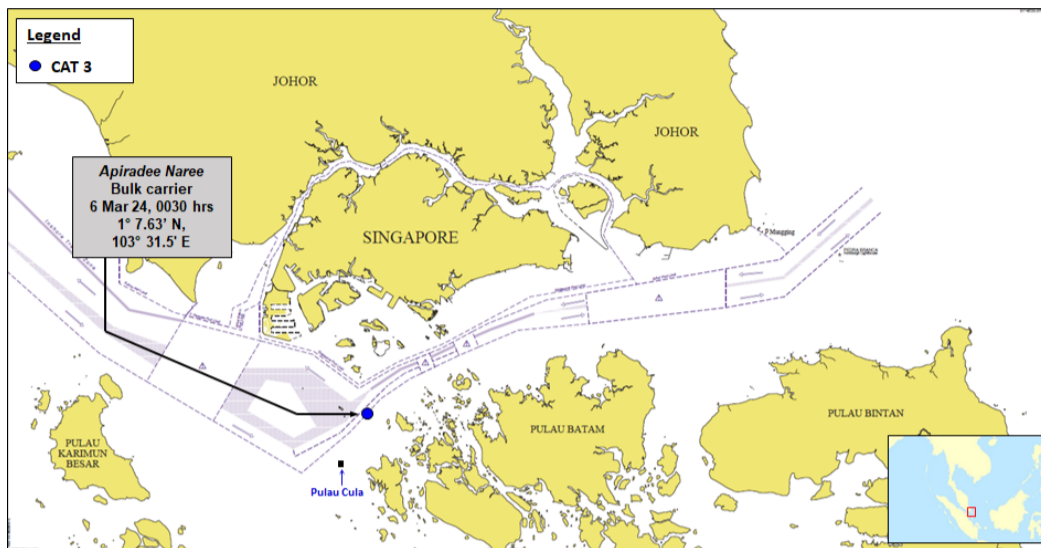


OVERVIEW

One incident of armed robbery against ships (CAT 3¹) in Asia was reported to ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred onboard a bulk carrier while underway in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) on 6 Mar 2024. The details of incident are shown in table below.



Factors	Location
	SOMS
	Off Pulau Cula, Indonesia (1 incident)
Type of ship	Bulk carrier
Date/Time	6 Mar at 0030 hrs
Number of perpetrators	3 men
Weapons	Metal rods
Treatment of crew	No injuries
Items stolen	Nothing stolen
Significance level	CAT 3

AREA OF CONCERN

With the incident in SOMS, a total of eight incidents were reported in the area since January 2024. The ReCAAP ISC advises ships to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting SOMS, and the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in these areas.

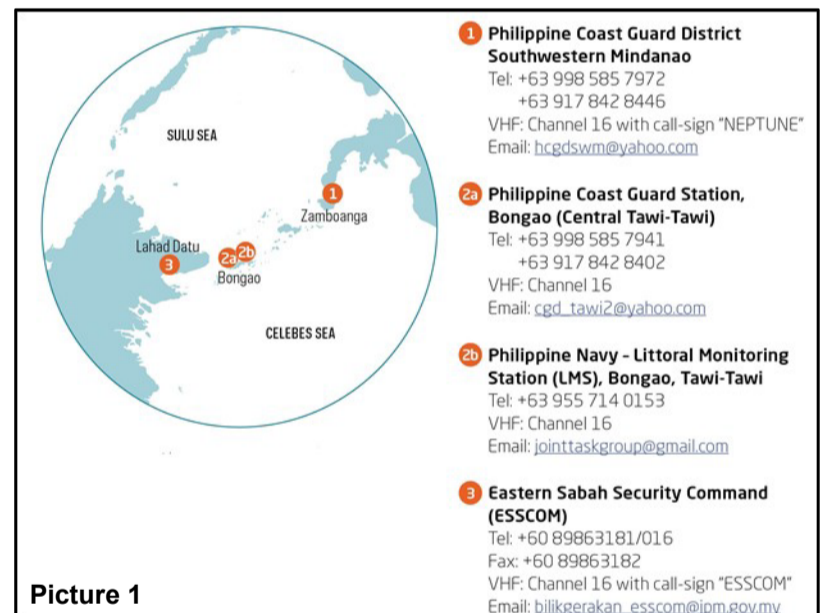
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

Re-Assessment and Downgrading of threat level

- The efforts by the Philippine Government in Zamboanga, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi through the conduct of continuous military operations led to the dismantling of the support base and neutralising the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu archipelago. Against this backdrop, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), coordinated with other stakeholders and counterparts that have vital involvement in the maritime security of the Sulu-Celebes Seas, reviewed the threat situation and recommended further downgrading the threat level of 'Abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas' from 'MODERATE' to '**MODERATE LOW**', which implies that '**Incidents are unlikely to occur due to perpetrators' perceived lack of capability to orchestrate an attack. Nevertheless, minimal damages are expected to the vessel and crew in case of an attack**'.

Update of ReCAAP ISC Advisory

- With downgrading of the threat on the 'Abduction of Crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes seas by the PCG, ReCAAP ISC have updated its Advisory for ships to "**exercise vigilance & adopt necessary preventive measures while transiting the area**".
- 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 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/2024/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202024.pdf> for details of the incidents.

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