

Incident Alert

Incident Report: 08/2011

Name and Type of Ship: *Thor Nereus* / Bulk carrier

Date/Time of Incident: 20 Mar 11 at 0210hrs (local time)

Location of incident: 02° 55.1' N, 105° 17.2' E

Area Description: Approximately 12 nm northwest of Pulau Damar, Indonesia

Details of Incident

On 20 Mar 11 at or about 0210 hrs, a Thailand-registered bulk carrier, *Thor Nereus* was underway at approximately 12 nm northwest of Pulau Damar, Indonesia (02° 55.1' N, 105° 17.2' E) when eight robbers armed with long knives boarded the bulk carrier from a speed boat. They threatened two crew members to direct them to the master's cabin. Upon prying open the door of the master's cabin, the robbers demanded for the master's personal belongings and other valuables. After robbing the master of his mobile phones, binoculars, watches and sports shoes they took him to the deck, tied him up before escaping in the speed boat. The crew was not injured.

The ship's local agent reported the incident to Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) which is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). The POCC in turn initiated broadcast to alert mariners operating in the vicinity and informed the Singapore Police Coast Guard, Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), MRCC (Jakarta) and MRCC (Kuala Lumpur) about the incident.

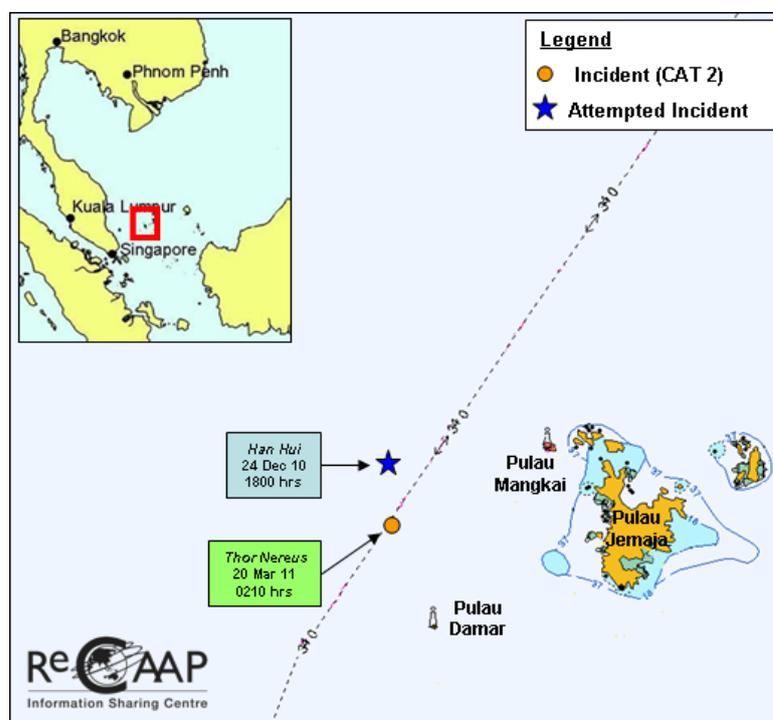
Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)

Comments by ReCAAP ISC

This is the first incident reported off Pulau Mangkai and Pulau Damar since January 2011. The last incident in the vicinity was an attempted incident reported on 24 Dec 10 involving Hong Kong-registered general cargo vessel *Han Hui*. Please refer to the map on the approximate location of the incidents.





Approximate Location of the Incidents

The ReCAAP ISC notes that for the past three years (2008-2010), no incidents were reported in the vicinity between January-February. However, from March/April onwards, there was an increase in activities in the area. The other periods which witnessed an increase in activities were in June, August and September periods. See table below. The weather condition in the area during these periods could be more conducive for small boat operations. The ReCAAP ISC notes that the past incidents reported during these periods occurred either on the same day or consecutive days within a 72-hrs window.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2008	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	1	2	-	-
2009	-	-	1	3	-	4	-	1	2	-	2	-
2010	-	-	-	2	2	3	-	8	3	-	-	1

Number of incidents reported between January-December of 2008-2010

Given the modus operandi of the robbers, it is possible that the same group of pirates and robbers are likely to strike again as they could still be lurking in the area. Hence, ship masters and crew are advised to exercise enhanced vigilance with all around look-out, and take necessary precautionary measures when operating in the area especially during hours of darkness. Ship masters are encouraged to report all actual and attempted incidents to the coastal State and flag State immediately.

