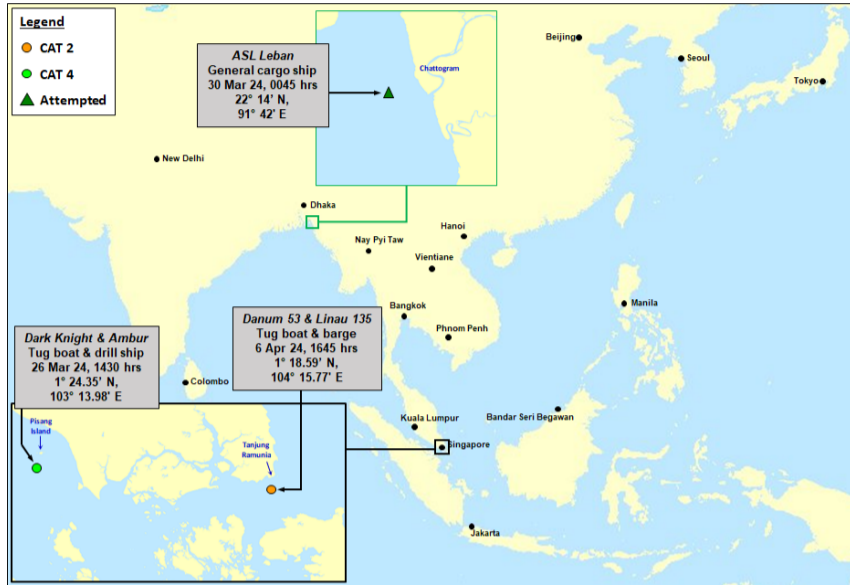


OVERVIEW

Three incidents of armed robbery against ships (one CAT 2¹, one CAT 4² and one attempted³) in Asia were reported to ReCAAP ISC. Two of the incidents occurred onboard tug boats on tow while underway in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS), while one incident occurred to a general cargo ship anchored at Chattogram Anchorage, Bangladesh. The details of incidents are shown in table below.



Factors	Location		
	Bangladesh	SOMS	
	Chattogram Anchorage (1 incident)	Off Pisang Island, Malaysia (1 incident)	Off Tanjung Ramunia, Malaysia (1 incident)
Type of ship	General cargo ship	Tug boat & drill ship	Tug boat & barge
Date/Time	30 Mar at 0045 hrs	26 Mar at 1430 hrs	6 Apr at 1645 hrs
Number of perpetrators	3 men	4 men	3 men
Weapons	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated
Treatment of crew	No injuries	No injuries	No injuries
Items stolen	Nothing stolen	Nothing stolen	Copper coils & fibre boards
Significance level	Attempted	CAT 4	CAT 2

AREA OF CONCERN

With the incidents in SOMS, a total of 12 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 the area and at ports and anchorages.

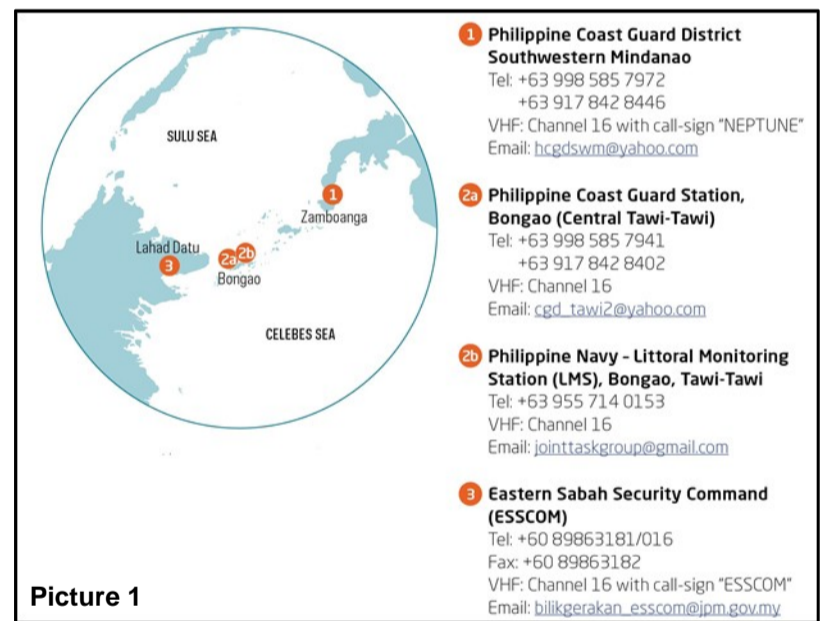
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

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.



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) 2 incident is moderately significant. Under this category, the perpetrators are likely to be armed with knives/machetes and in some incidents armed with guns. The crew is threatened or held hostage temporarily and, in some cases, the crew suffered injury and physical violence.

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.

³ Attempted incident refers to incidents whereby the pirates/robbers tried but failed in their attempt to board the ship.