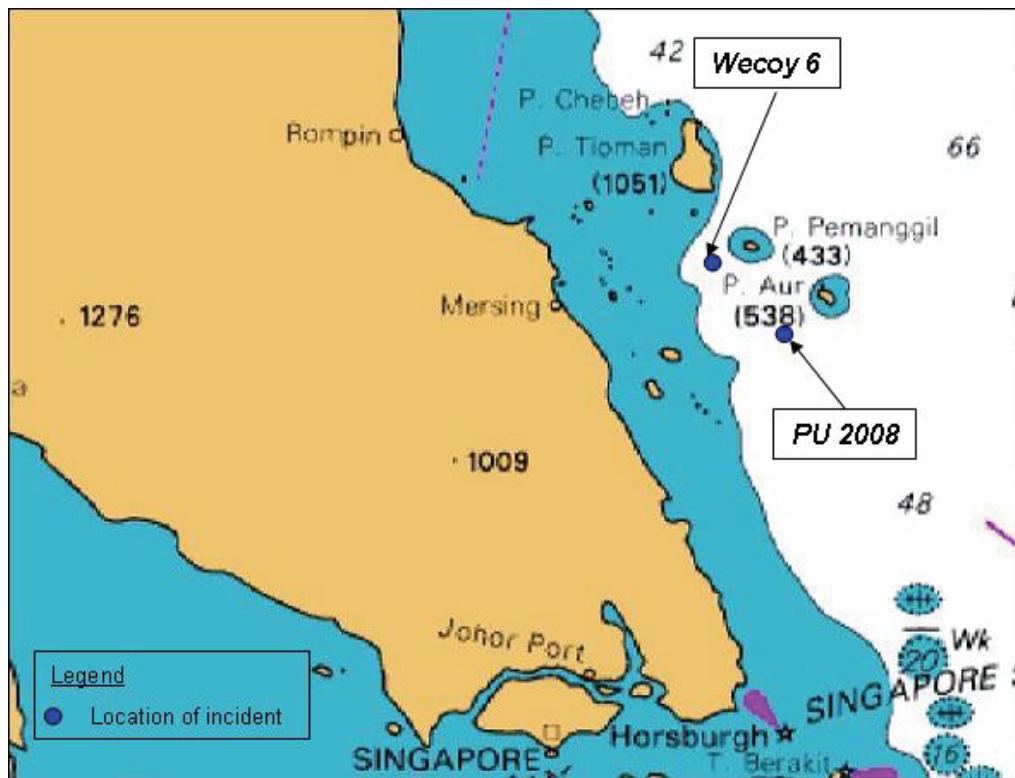


Incident Report :	11/2008
Date/Time of Incident :	29 Jun 2008 at 0130 hrs
Location of incident :	02° 30.6' N, 104°14' E
Area Description :	10 nm south of Pulau Tioman
Name/Type of Ship:	<i>Wecoy 6</i> / Tug Boat
<p>Details of Incident :</p> <p>The Singapore-registered tug boat, the <i>Wecoy 6</i> towing barge, the <i>Cakrawala</i> was underway to Singapore from Can Tho, Vietnam on 29 June 2008.</p> <p>At 0130 hrs on 29 June 2008, the tug boat was at 02° 30.6' N, 104°14' E (approximately 10 nm south of Pulau Tioman) when six men armed with long knives and axe boarded the tug boat from a long white speedboat with twin outboard motors. Four other men stood by and waited in the speedboat.</p> <p>The robbers took away the crew's personal belongings including a laptop, mobile phones, cash (estimated about RP1,500) and a portable VHF radio. After stealing the items, they sped off in the direction towards Pulau Pemanggil. No crew was injured. Please refer to map below.</p> <p>The ship master reported the incident to the MRCC of the coastal state and the flag state. The Singapore Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) has initiated a NAVTEX broadcast warning ships in the vicinity to look out for fast moving craft approaching their ships and to increase anti-piracy watch.</p>	
Reported by :	ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)

<p>Comment by ISC :</p>	<p>Ship masters are advised to exercise vigilance at all times and maintain constant watch.</p>
<p>Observation by ISC :</p>	<p>This is the second incident in 2008 involving a tug boat towing a barge in the vicinity. The first incident occurred on 30 April 2008 involving tug boat, the <i>PU 2008</i> towing barge, the <i>PU 3306</i>. At 2330 hrs on 30 April 2008, the <i>PU 2008</i> was about 25 km south of Pulau Tioman when six masked men armed with long knives boarded the tug boat from a dark blue speed boat measuring about 4 m long. They entered the accommodation area of the crew and stole laptops, mobile phones and cash (total estimated USD 3600) before escaping. No crew was injured.</p> <p>The modus operandi of the robbers in both incidents was similar in that the robbers would come alongside the tug boat in a speedboat under the cover of darkness. They boarded the tug boats, stole the crew's personal belongings and fled in their speedboat. There was no injury to the crew.</p>



Approximate Location of Incidents