

Incident Alert

Incident Report: 17/2008

Date/Time of Incident: 31 October 2008 at 0115hrs (local time)

Location of incident: 01° 11' N, 103° 50' E

Area Description: West of Batu Berhenti

Name and Type of Ship: *MT Arowana Ranger* / Tanker

Details of Incident

On 31 October 2008, a Malaysian-registered tanker, the *MT Arowana Ranger* was enroute from Singapore to Pasir Gudang, Malaysia with a cargo of gas oil on board. At or about 0115 hrs (local time), five to six robbers boarded the ship at position 01° 11' N, 103° 50' E, west of Batu Berhenti (east bound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme, TSS). Please see approximate location of the incident below.

The robbers robbed the crew of their personal effects and stole the ship's communication equipment before escaping in a small unidentified wooden boat.

The ship master reported the incident to Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) which is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). The Singapore's POCC initiated navigational broadcast on VHF and NAVTEX, and informed the MRCC, Jakarta about the incident.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)

Comments by ISC

Ship master and crew are advised to maintain vigilance and strengthen watch keeping particularly during hours of darkness when transiting through the area.



Observations by ISC

This is the second incident reported in the vicinity of Batu Berhenti since January 2008. The first incident occurred on 8 September 2008 involving a tug boat, the *Kimtrans Echo* towing a barge. The tug boat was enroute to Singapore from Vietnam towing a barge laden with sand. On 8 September 2008, between 0350 hrs and 0420 hrs, five masked men armed with *parangs* and long knife boarded the tug boat at position 01° 10.7' N, 103° 48.5' E, off Batu Berhenti,. The robbers tied all six Indonesian crew and stole cash amounting to about S\$550, mobile phones, watches and walkie-talkies before escaping in a wooden boat with outboard engines.

In both incidents, the robbers came along side the ship in their boat, boarded the ship during hours of darkness while she was under way, and escaped with the crew's personal belongings and ship's communication equipments.



Approximate location of incidents

