

Incident Alert

Incident Report: 10/2009

Date/Time of Incident: 12 July 2009 at 0200 hrs (local time)

Location of incident: 01° 09.90' N, 103° 46.0' E

Area Description: East of Raffles Lighthouse, Singapore Strait

Name and Type of Ship: *Kenryo* / tug boat

Details of Incident

On 12 July 2009 at about 0200 hrs (local time), a Singapore-registered tug boat, *Kenryo* towing barge *Al Jabber 35* carrying a load of oil rig equipment was at position 01° 09.90' N, 103° 46.0' E (east of Raffles Lighthouse, Singapore Strait) when five robbers boarded the tug boat from a speed boat. The incident occurred when the tug boat was underway to Singapore from Batu Ampar, Indonesia.

Four of the robbers worn masks and armed with parangs. The robbers took away mobile phones, money and other valuables from the crew of *Kenryo*. They also damaged the communication equipment onboard *Kenryo* before fleeing in the speed boat. The 12 crew who are Indonesians were not harmed.

The master of *Kenryo* contacted another Singapore-registered tug boat which was in the vicinity by mobile phone to request for assistance in relaying the report of the attack to Singapore VTIS via VHF. Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) who is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) initiated a NAVTEX broadcast warning mariners about the incident and notified the Singapore Police Coast Guard.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)

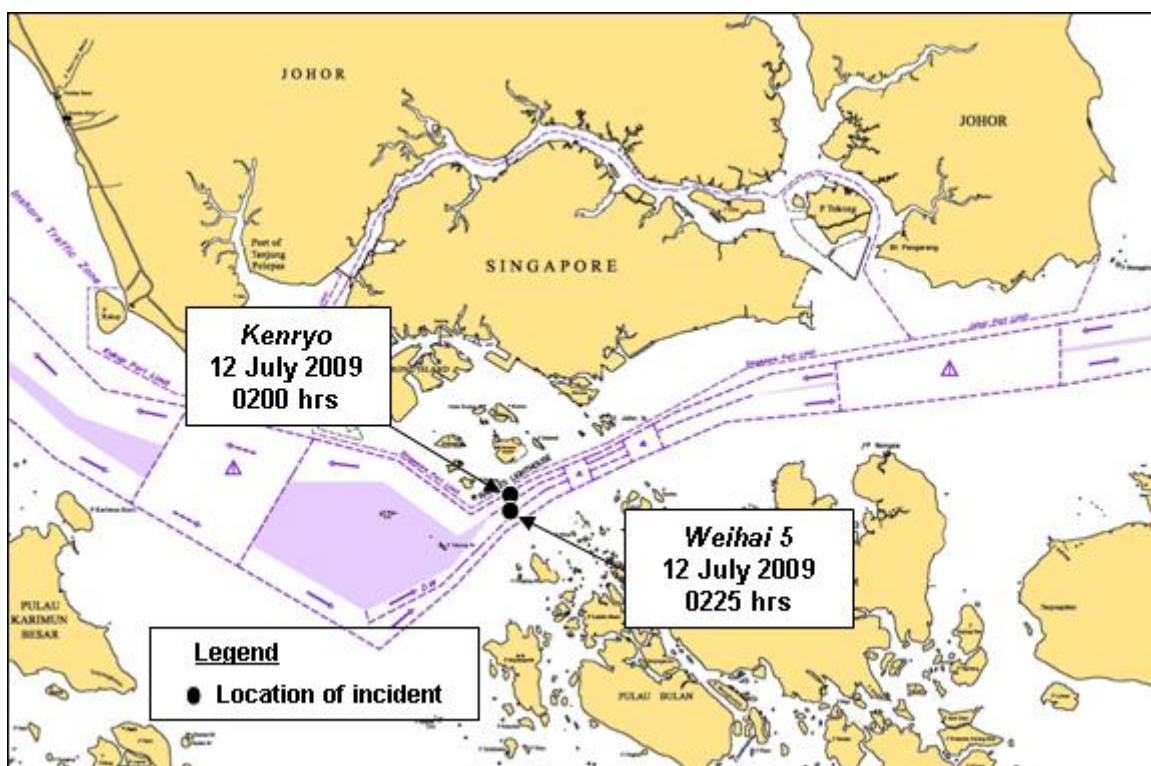


Comments by the ReCAAP ISC

This is the second incident that had occurred on 12 July 2009 in close proximity with an earlier incident reported by the ReCAAP ISC via Incident Alert 09/2009 dated 13 July 2009. The incident involved a Singapore-registered tug boat, *Weihai 5* off Helen Mar Reef on 12 July 2009 at 0225 hrs. In that incident, five robbers boarded *Weihai 5* from a speed boat, took away the crew's mobile phones, money and other valuables. They destroyed the communication equipment onboard *Weihai 5* before fleeing. Four of the five robbers also worn masks and armed with parangs.

Notably, the incident involving *Kenryo* has occurred in close proximity to *Weihai 5* on the same day and within half an hour interval. The modus operandi of the robbers in the two incidents is similar and it is likely that the same group of robbers is involved in the two incidents. Please see map below on the location of the incidents.

Ship masters and crew are advised to maintain vigilance when operating in the vicinity at all times.



Approximate location of incidents

