

# Incident Alert

**Incident Report:** 19/2009

**Date/Time of Incident:** 21 Nov 2009 at 2100 hrs (local time)

**Location of incident:** 07° 42.95' N, 122° 06.51' E

**Area Description:** Siocon Bay, Zamboanga Del Norte, Philippines

**Name and Type of Ship:** *Marinero* / Tug boat

## Details of Incident

At about 2100 hrs (local time) on 21 November 2009, a Philippines-registered tug boat, *Marinero* towing barge, *Salvamar-II* were anchored and taking shelter at position 07° 42.95' N, 122° 06.51' E (Siocon Bay, Zamboanga Del Norte, Philippines) when nine robbers armed with high-powered firearms approached the tug boat in three motor boats. Please see map below.

The robbers took the tug boat's Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment, marine radio, the crew's mobile phones and some of the ship's provisions. They also abducted the Master of the tug boat, the Chief Mate and the Chief Engineer. The remaining 11 crew left onboard the tug boat reported the incident to the Cebu Barge and Tug Corporation.

The incident was reported to the Philippine Coast Guard District Eastern Visayas (CGDEV) in Cebu who alerted the Philippine Coast Guard Command Center in Manila. The Philippine Coast Guard Command Centre, in turn activated the Philippine Coast Guard District South Western Mindanao (CGDSWM)<sup>1</sup> and the adjoining districts. Together with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP), a joint operation in pursuit of the perpetrators was conducted. The Philippine Navy dispatched three naval patrol gun boats and the Philippine Coast Guard dispatched a search and rescue vessel.

The CGDSWM also issued a Notice to Mariners (NOTAMs) to advise commercial vessels transiting the vicinity to adopt precautionary measures and to report all suspicious vessels' movements to the authorities.

The Philippine Coast Guard who is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines) reported the incident to the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC).

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<sup>1</sup> The Philippine Coast Guard District South Western Mindanao (CGDSWM) has jurisdiction over Siocon Bay.



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## Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)

## Comments by ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

This is the second incident that had occurred in the Zamboanga peninsula since January 2009. The first incident involved a Philippines-registered fishing trawler, *Columbia 5* on 5 March 2009 at Lanhill Sibago Fishing Ground, Zamboanga City. Armed robbers boarded the fishing trawler while she was underway. They killed three crew and kidnapped two others. The robbers also took away one GPS equipment, one microphone and 10 pieces of super light bulbs.

The ReCAAP ISC advises ship masters and crew to maintain vigilance at all times and take precautionary measures when transiting through the area especially during hours of darkness.

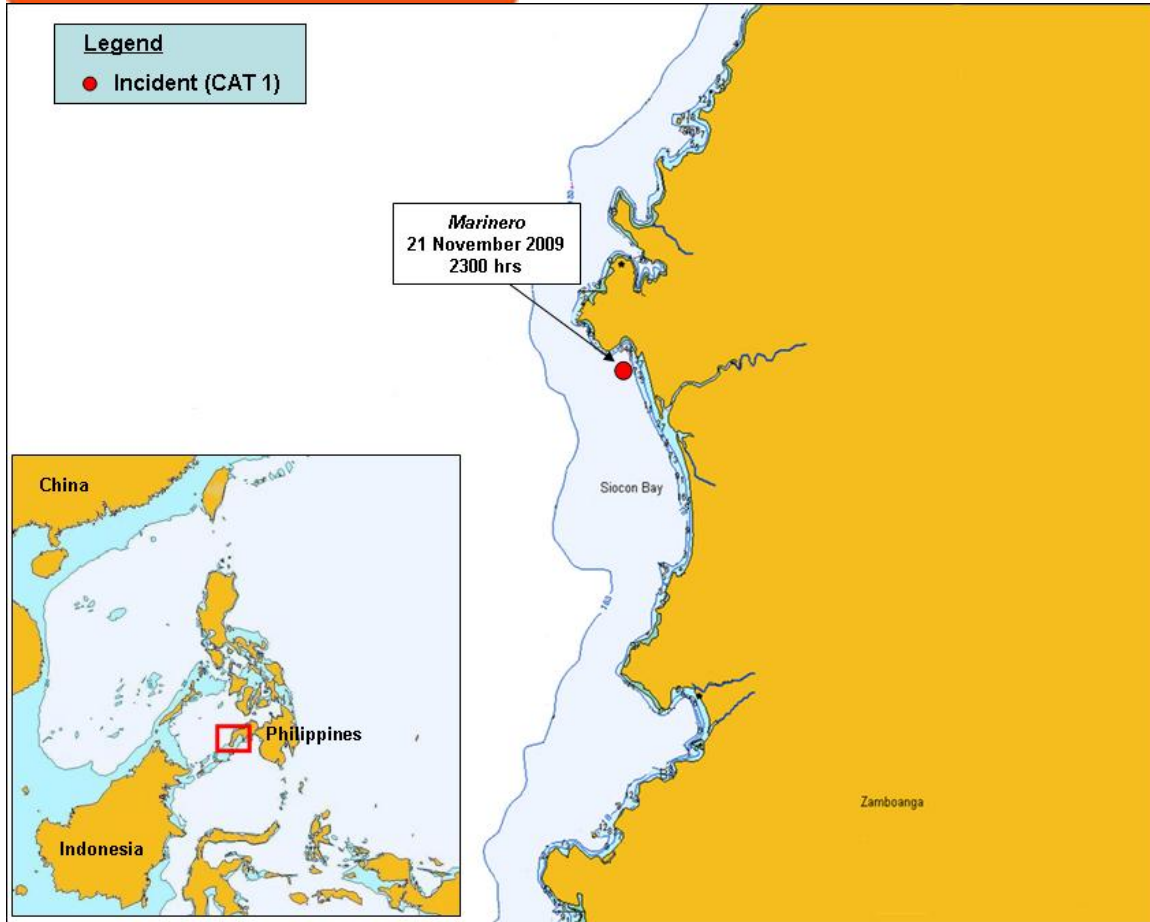
Ship masters, ship owners and ship operators are encouraged to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery occurring in the Zamboanga peninsula to the Philippine Coast Guard Command Center immediately (contact numbers are as shown below). This is to facilitate follow-up action in response to the incident, investigation by the coast guard and issue of precautionary warning to ships operating in the vicinity.

### **Philippine Coast Guard Command Center**

+63-2-527-3877, +63-2-527-8481 to 89 (local 6136 and 6137)



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Location of incident

