

Incident Report:	21/2010
Date/Time¹ of Incident:	16 Aug 10 at or about 0145 hrs
Location of incident:	3° 15' N, 105° 18.5' E
Area Description:	Approximately 19 nm northwest of Pulau Mangkai
Name and Type of Ship:	<i>Stolt Botan</i> , chemical/product tanker
Date/Time of Incident:	17 Aug 10 at or about 0250 hrs
Location of incident:	3° 05' N, 105° 07' E
Area Description:	Approximately 28 nm west of Pulau Mangkai
Name and Type of Ship:	<i>Bet Fighter</i> , bulk carrier
Date/Time of Incident:	17 Aug 10 at or about 0340 hrs
Location of incident:	3° 17' N, 105° 29' E
Area Description:	Approximately 13 nm northwest of Pulau Mangkai
Name and Type of Ship:	<i>Chem Orchid</i> , product tanker

Details of Incident

Over a two-day period of 16-17 Aug 10, three incidents of sea piracy were reported off Pulau Mangkai, Indonesia. With these, a total of 11 incidents had been reported off Pulau Mangkai since January 2010. Refer to location of incidents in map.

Given the date/time and the location of the incidents reported during the period of 16-17 Aug 10, it is not likely that the same group of pirates were responsible for all three incidents. Ship masters operating in the vicinity are advised to exercise vigilance and take precautionary measures when transiting the area, and are to report all

¹ Expressed in local time



actual and attempted incidents to the nearest coastal State and flag State immediately.

The details of the three incidents are described below:

Incident onboard *Stolt Botan* on 16 Aug 10 at or about 0145 hrs

The shipping company of the Liberia-registered chemical tanker reported the incident to the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) and the ReCAAP ISC. On 16 Aug 10 at or about 0145 hrs, the tanker was underway at 3° 15' N, 105° 18.5' E (approximately 19 nm northwest of Pulau Mangkai) when about five to six pirates armed with knives boarded the tanker via the poop deck. The Master raised the alarm, mustered the crew and announced over the public address system about the incident. The pirates escaped empty-handed.

Incident onboard *Bet Fighter* on 17 Aug 10 at or about 0250 hrs

On 17 Aug 10 at or about 0250 hrs, the Isle-of-Man registered bulk carrier, *Bet Fighter* was underway at position 3° 05' N, 105° 07' E (approximately 28 nm northwest of Pulau Mangkai) when six pirates armed with long knives boarded the bulk carrier. The pirates entered the bridge and tied up the Second Officer and other crew before breaking into the Master's cabin and threatening him with knives. The Master was tied up and the pirates escaped after taking with them the ship's cash, stores and crews' personal belongings.

Incident onboard *Chem Orchid* on 17 Aug 10 at or about 0340 hrs

The ReCAAP Focal Point (Republic of Korea) reported to the ReCAAP ISC another incident onboard a Republic of Korea-registered product tanker, *Chem Orchid* on 17 Aug 10. At or about 0340 hrs, the tanker was en-route from Singapore to Vietnam at position 3° 17' N, 105° 29' E (approximately 13 nm northwest of Pulau Mangkai) when six pirates armed with automatic guns and long knives boarded the vessel. The pirates approached the starboard quarter of the vessel in a small speed boat. They proceeded to the ship's bridge, tied up the Master and Second Officer, and robbed



the Master and crew of their cash and personal belongings. They escaped in the speed boat 15 min later, taking with them the stolen items. The Master reported the incident to the nearby vessels on VHF (Channel 16) and the shipping company.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Republic of Korea)

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)

Maritime Security Task Force – Information Fusion Centre (MSTF-IFC)

Shipping company of *Stolt Botan*

Comments by ReCAAP ISC

Giving the date/time and location of the three incidents, there is insufficient information to suggest that the same group of pirates were involved in all three incidents.

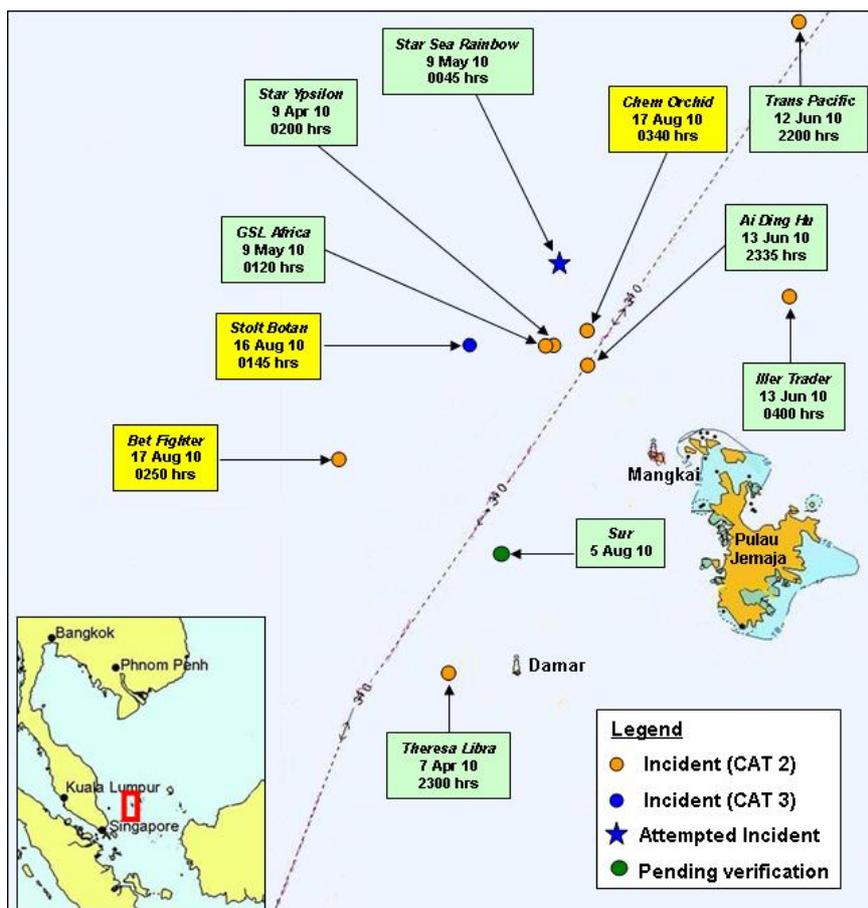
Although not conclusive, detailed analysis of the incidents in the area indicates the following modus operandi of the pirates/robbers²:

- a. All incidents occurred while the ships were underway. Although the recent incident reports use of automatic guns, the robbers/pirates were usually armed with knives, came alongside the victim ship during hours of darkness. They generally boarded vessels from quarters (probably approaching from the aft being the blind sector) using rope with grapnel. Most were CAT 2 (moderately significant) incidents which reported loss of cash and properties including the crew's personal belongings.

² The ReCAAP ISC Special Report dated 18 June 2010 on Situation Update off the Islands of Anambas, Natuna and Mangkai, available at http://www.recaap.org/index_home.html.



- b. The pirates/robbers did not harm the crew and escaped after taking cash and property from the crew. None of the 11 incidents reported since January 2010 stated any injury to the crew. The crew was generally restricted, threatened or held hostage until the pirates/robbers made off with their loot.
- c. In most incidents, the pirates/robbers operated in groups of six to eight. Only one incident involving *Iller Trader* reported the involvement of up to 12 robbers.
- d. The incidents appear to occur over two consecutive days, and in cases, more than one incident occurring on the same day. Nine out of the 11 incidents seem to have happened northwest sector off Pulau Mangkai mostly along the recommended route (034-214). The probability of a mother ship as a landing platform operating in the vicinity cannot be eradicated.



Approximate location of incidents

