Incident Report: 15/2011

Name and Type of Ship:
(1) Woodstar /bulk carrier
(2) Octopus/tug boat

Date/Time of Incident:
(1) 1 Jul 11 at or about 2320 hrs (local time)
(2) 2 Jul 11 at or about 0235 hrs (local time)

Location of incident:
(1) 01° 15.72' N, 104° 08.97' E
(2) 01° 31.60' N, 104° 32.2' E

Area Description:
(1) Approximately 4.8 nm NNE Nongsa, Pulau Batam, Indonesia
(2) Approximately 14 nm northeast of Horsburgh Lighthouse

Detail of Incidents

On 1 Jul 11 at or about 2320 hrs (local time), a Marshall island-registered bulk carrier, Woodstar was underway at approximately 4.8 nm north-northeast of Nongsa, Pulau Batam, Indonesia (location 01° 15.72' N, 104° 08.97') when an unknown number of robbers were spotted attempting to board the bulk carrier from about four to five motorized boats. The bulk carrier took evasive actions and prevented the robbers from boarding. The crew did not sustain any injuries and no properties were stolen. The ship master reported the incident to Singapore’s Port Operations Control Centre (POCC), which is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore).

On the next day, 2 Jul 11 at or about 0235 hrs, a Republic of Moldova-registered tug boat, Octopus was underway at approximately 14 nm northeast of Horsburgh Lighthouse (location 01° 31.60' N, 104° 32.2' E) when the Second Engineer saw three robbers armed with long knives boarded the tug boat from a black speed boat. He sounded the alarm and the robbers escaped via the speed boat immediately. The Second Engineer sustained some minor injuries in his hand and feet, but it was not known if it was caused by the robbers. The tug boat reportedly sent out an Inmarsat C distress alert to the Singapore’s POCC.

In both incidents, the Singapore’s POCC sent out messages to warn mariners in the vicinity about the incidents, and also informed the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG), MRCC (KL) and MRCC (Jakarta). The ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) also reported the incidents to the ReCAAP ISC and all its Focal Points.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)
Comments by ReCAAP ISC

Ship masters and crew are advised to exercise enhanced vigilance with all around look-out, and take necessary precautionary measures when in the vicinity especially during hours of darkness. See map below on location of the incidents. The ReCAAP ISC encourages ship masters to report all actual and attempted incidents to the coastal State and flag State immediately.

Approximate location of Incidents