

Incident Alert

Incident Report:	03/2012
Name and Type of Ship:	<i>Great Fish</i>
Date/Time of Incident:	15 Apr 2012 at 2200hrs (local time)
Location of incident:	1° 35.0' N, 104° 37.0' E
Area Description:	Approximately 20 nm northeast of Horsburgh Lighthouse

Details of Incident

On 15 Apr 2012 at or about 2200 hrs, a Panama-registered tanker *Great Fish* while enroute from Singapore to Vietnam was boarded by seven pirates armed with guns and knives at approximately 20 nm northeast of Horsburgh Lighthouse (1° 35.0' N, 104° 37.0' E). The pirates threatened the crew, stole their money and personal possessions, and escaped in a boat. The crew was not injured.

The shipping agent based in Singapore reported the incident to the Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) which is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). The POCC, in turn notified MRCC Jakarta (Indonesia), MRCC Putra Jaya (Malaysia), the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and the Singapore's Police Coast Guard (PCG).

The Vietnam Maritime Security Information Centre also reported the incident to the ReCAAP ISC after they were informed by the ship master.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)
Vietnam Maritime Security Information Centre

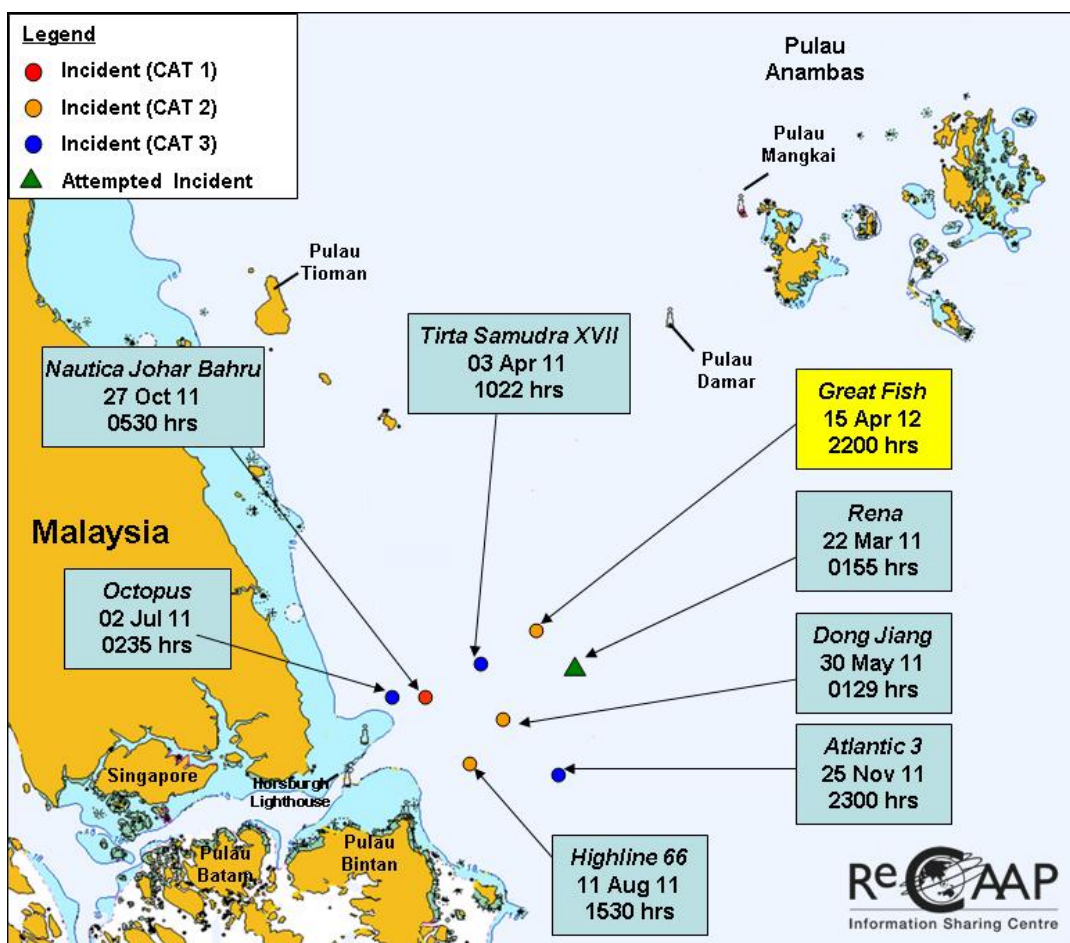
Comments by ReCAAP ISC

Since January 2012 till 15 April 2012, this is the first incident reported in the same vicinity in the South China Sea. This incident involved pirates who were reportedly armed with guns. Although the guns were not discharged, ship masters and crew operating in the vicinity were advised to exercise enhanced vigilance with all around look-out, and take necessary precautionary measures.



However, during the same period in 2011, two incidents (comprising one actual incident and one attempted incident) were reported in the vicinity of South China Sea. Throughout 2011, a total of seven incidents comprising six actual incidents (involved three tug boats and three tankers/product tanker¹.) and one attempted incident (involved a general cargo ship) were reported. Please refer to the map below on the approximate location of the incidents.

The ReCAAP ISC encourages all ship masters and crew operating in the vicinity to exercise vigilance and report all incidents to the coastal State and flag State immediately.



Approximate location of the incidents

¹ Of the seven incidents reported in 2011, only one incident involved pirates armed with a pistol. On 27 Oct 11, product tanker *Nautica Johor Baru* was hijacked by 10 pirates armed with a pistol and machetes. Due to timely reporting of the incident by the shipping company, *Nautica Johor Baru* renamed *ICA JO* was eventually located. Under the pursuit by the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities, the pirates abandoned the tanker and escaped in a speed boat.

