

Incident Report: 02/2013

Name and Type of Ship: *TCL 4401* / Tug boat
Crest 289 / Barge

Date/Time of Incident: 15 May 2013 between 0000 and 0400 hrs (local time)

Location of incident: 03° 17.11' N, 103° 48.83' E

Area Description: Northwest of Pulau Tioman, Malaysia

Details of Incident

On 15 May 13, a Singapore-registered tug boat, *TCL 4401* towing Singapore-registered barge, *Crest 289* were on route to Kuantan Port, Malaysia from Singapore when the master discovered 12 pieces of manhole covers and sternlight solar cell were missing upon arrival at Kuantan Port. The master reported the incident to the agent and charterer.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)

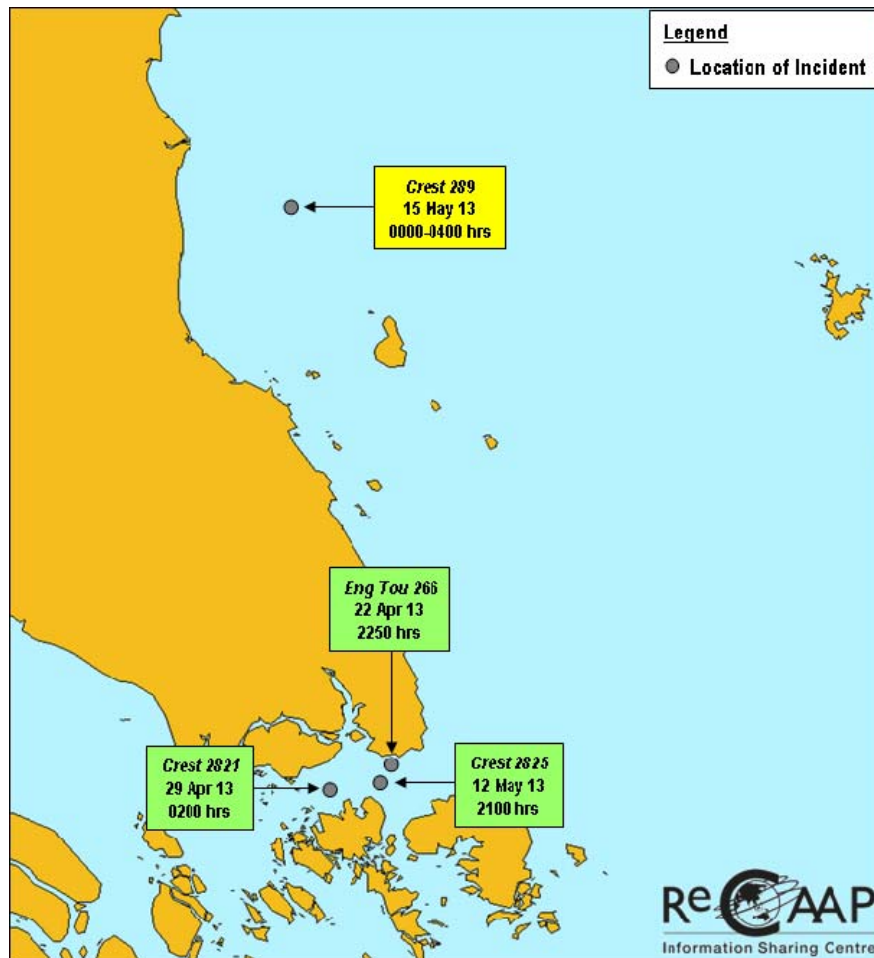
Comments by ReCAAP ISC

Since January 2013, four incidents of robbery (two in April and two in May) onboard barges have been reported. The two incidents in April 2013 involved barges, *Eng Tou 266* and *Crest 2821* on 22 Apr 13 and 29 Apr 13 respectively. The ReCAAP ISC had earlier promulgated an Incident Alert on the two incidents (refer to Incident Alert 01/2013 at www.recaap.org/AlertsReports/IncidentReports.aspx?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=300).

The third and fourth incident involving *Crest 2825* on 12 May 13 in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore and *Crest 289* on 15 May 13 northwest of Pulau Tioman, Malaysia respectively. The map shows the approximate locations of the four incidents onboard barges in 2013.

Coincidentally, of the four incidents, three involved barges from the same shipping company. Ship masters and crew of tug boats towing barges are advised to enhance vigilance particularly during hours of darkness. Unmanned barges are vulnerable and easy targets for robbers who usually board the barges unnoticed during hours of darkness, and escaped immediately after they had taken items from the barge.





Approximate location of Incidents

