



Siphoning of Fuel/Oil from Product Tanker, *Lapin*

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Incident Update

Name of vessel : *Lapin*
Type of vessel : Product tanker
Flag of vessel : Thailand
IMO number : 7808786
GT : 1848



Background

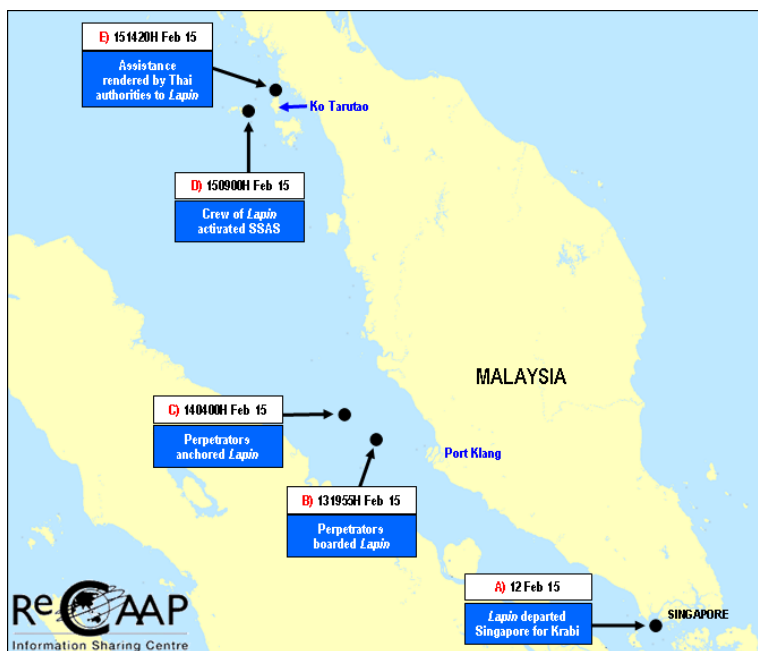
1. On 12 Feb 15, a Thailand-registered product tanker, *Lapin* departed Singapore for Krabi province, Thailand. The vessel with 15 crew was laden with 2,000 tons of bunker oil.

Siphoning of Diesel and Bunker Oil

2. On 13 Feb 15 at or about 1955 hrs (local time), six to eight perpetrators armed with pistols and knives boarded *Lapin* from a small boat at approximately 39.73 nm west-southwest of Port Klang, Malaysia (03° 11' N, 100° 43' E). The perpetrators gathered the crew and took control of the tanker. Thereafter, an unknown vessel came alongside *Lapin* and siphoned a total of five tons of diesel and 2,000 tons of bunker oil from *Lapin*. On 14 Feb 15 at or about 0400 hrs (local time), the perpetrators stopped the vessel and anchored *Lapin* at approximately 62.7 nm southwest of Port Klang (03° 23.94' N, 100° 22.71' E).

Explosive Threat

3. After the perpetrators had siphoned the fuel/oil from *Lapin*, they destroyed the communication devices onboard *Lapin* and stole the ship property and the crew's belongings. The perpetrators also tied the crew, informed them that an improvised explosive package was left onboard and threatened the crew not to move, before they escaped.



Chronology of Events involving *Lapin*

Assistance by Thai authorities

4. On 14 Feb 15 at or about 0700 hrs (local time), the crew of *Lapin* managed to free themselves and sailed towards Thailand. On 15 Feb 15 at or about 0900 hrs (local time), *Lapin* anchored at approximately 14.34 nm west of Ko Tarutao, Thailand and activated the Ship Security Alarm System (SSAS). On the same day at or about 1145 hrs (local time), the master managed to contact the shipping company with the assistance of a passing fishing vessel.

5. The Royal Thai Navy (RTN) which is the ReCAAP Focal Point (Thailand) informed the ReCAAP ISC that on 15 Feb 15 at or about 1420 hrs (local time), the Thai authorities boarded *Lapin* at location north of Ko Tarutao and rendered assistance to the crew. The Focal Point also mentioned that a Thai Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team managed to disarm the “improvised’ explosive package and found only an electric circuit with no explosive or detonator attached.



Cabins ransacked by perpetrators
(Photographs courtesy of ReCAAP Focal Point (Thailand))

Comments by the ReCAAP ISC

6. This is the first successful siphoning incident reported in 2015, and it occurred in the Malacca Strait. The last incident occurred in the Malacca Strait was in April 2014 involving *Naniwa Maru No. 1*, off Port Klang. Most of the siphoning incidents reported in 2014 occurred in the South China Sea. While the incident involving *Lapin* displayed the usual trend observed in previous siphoning incidents, the use of a ‘dummy’ explosive package by the perpetrators to threaten the crew is a first case, and of concern to the ReCAAP ISC. The use of this ploy serves to distract the authorities, delay their responses and deter the crew from doing much whilst the perpetrators escaped. The ReCAAP ISC will continue to monitor the situation and urge ship masters and crew to exercise extra vigilance.