

24 March 2017



Incident Alert

Abduction of Crew of Super Shuttle Tug 1

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Incident Alert

Incident Alert : 02/2017

Name and Type of Ship : Super Shuttle Tug 1 / Tugboat

Date/Time of incident : 23 Mar 2017 at about 1220 hrs (Local Time)

Location of Last Known Position : 6° 34.8' N 122° 44.7' E

Area Description : Vicinity waters east of Matanal Point, Basilan, Philippines

Detail of Incident

The ReCAAP ISC received report about an abduction incident occurred on a Philippine-flagged tug boat *Super Shuttle Tug 1*. At about 1220 hrs on 23 Mar 17, the *Super Shuttle Tug 1* was towing *MV Super Shuttle Roro 9* departed Cebu for General Santos City. The incident occurred at 26 nm east of Matanal Point, Basilan, at position 6° 34.8' N 122° 44.7' E. Initial investigation revealed that three wooden speed boats with six men on board, of which four armed men boarded the tug boat and abducted two Filipino crew identified as Aurelio Agac-ac (Muster) and Laurencio Tiro (Chief Engineer). The perpetrators fled heading towards mainland Basilan. The ships are presently anchored in the vicinity of Kaliwasan, Basilan and Philippine Coast Guard personnel are deployed to provide security to the ships.



Reported by: Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)

Comments

This is the third actual incident involving the abduction of crew that occurred in the Sulu-Celebes Sea since January 2017. For the period of January-March 2017, a total six incidents (comprising three actual and three attempted boarding incidents) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The ReCAAP ISC is deeply concerned about the situation of abduction of crew from ships while underway in the Sulu-Celebes Sea region. It reiterates its advisory which was issued via the ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert dated 21 November 2016 to all ships to re-route from the area, where possible. Otherwise, ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance while transiting the area.



All vessels are advised to report to the Philippine authorities and **Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)** prior to entering or passing the Sibutu Passage and Sulu-Celebes Sea. Concerning the reporting centres in the Philippines, **Navy-Littoral Monitoring Stations(LMS)** based in Bongao, Tawi Tawi, is included in addition to the **Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao Operation Centre** based in Zamboanga.

The contact details and location of the reporting centres are as shown below.

