

29 November 2019



Incident Alert

Incidents involving ships while underway in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait (Part II)

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IA 06/2019

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Incidents involving ships while underway in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait (Part II)

Since ReCAAP ISC had issued Incident Alert 05/2019 on 23 October 2019 on '*Incidents involving ships while underway in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait*', another four incidents were reported in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of the Singapore Strait.

Three actual incidents occurred in the eastern sector of the Strait within a period of five days during 23-27 November and one attempted incident occurred in the western sector on 25 October. The four victim ships were two bulk carriers (actual incidents), one chemical tanker (attempted incident) and one tug boat & barge (actual incident).

(Another attempted incident against a chemical tanker was reported on 5 November in the westbound lane of TSS in the western sector of the Strait when the tanker was on the way to the eastbound lane.)

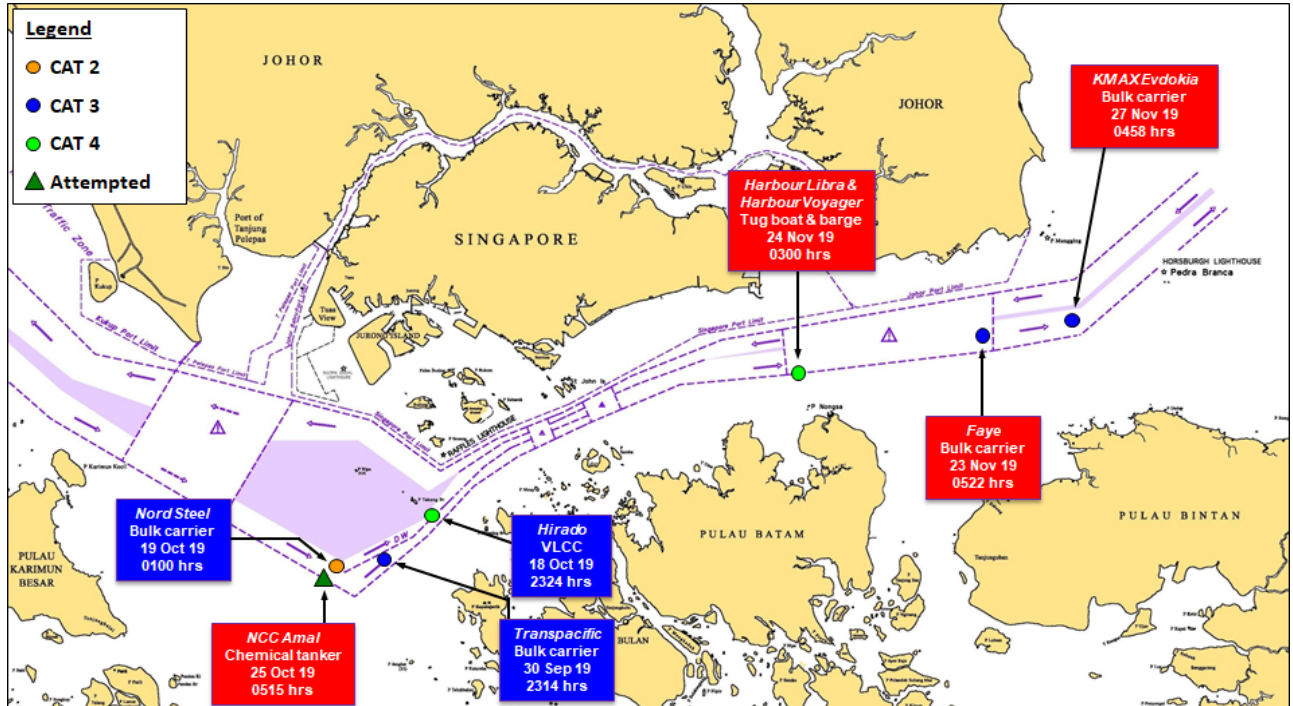
With the occurrence of seven incidents from September to November 2019 in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait (in both western and eastern sectors), the ReCAAP ISC advises all ships to exercise enhanced vigilance, adopt extra precautionary measures and report all incidents immediately to the nearest coastal State. The ReCAAP ISC recommends to the law enforcement agencies of the littoral States to step up surveillance, increase patrols and enhance cooperation and coordination among them in order to respond promptly to incidents.

Detail of Incidents

On 23 October 2019, the ReCAAP ISC issued Incident Alert 05/2019 on '*Incidents involving ships while underway in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait*' to raise awareness of the maritime community on three incidents which had occurred in September and in October in the locations of close proximity to each other in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the western sector of the Singapore Strait.

Since then, another four incidents were reported in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait in October and in November. Of the four incidents, three occurred on board ships underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the eastern sector of the Singapore Strait; and one occurred on board ship underway in the eastbound lane of TSS in the western sector. The three incidents in the eastern sector occurred within a five-day period from 23 to 27 Nov 2019. The map below shows the approximate location of the four new incidents (in red) as well as the three incidents reported in the previous Incident Alert 05/2019 (in blue).





Map 1 - Approximate location of the incidents in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait (September – November 2019)

Observations

1. The modus operandi of the perpetrators in the four incidents reported in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait in October and November are summarized in table below.

Ship Name	Actual Incidents			Attempted Incident
	<i>Faye</i>	<i>Harbour Libra & Harbour Voyager</i>	<i>KMAX Evdokia</i>	<i>NCC Amal</i>
Date/time (local time)	23 Nov at 0522 hrs	24 Nov at 0300 hrs	27 Nov at 0458 hrs	25 Oct at 0515 hrs
Type of ship	Bulk carrier	Tug boat & barge	Bulk carrier	Chemical tanker
Gross tonnage	39,737	163	41,662	29,168
No. of perpetrators	5	2	5	4
Weapons carried	Long knives	Not stated	Knife	Not stated
Treatment of crew	No confrontation	No injuries	Duty oiler was grabbed & had a knife pointed at him	No injuries
Items stolen	Nothing stolen	Twist lock & ropes	Nothing stolen	Nothing stolen



<Reference: Incident Alert 05/2019 dated 23 Oct 2019>

The modus operandi of the perpetrators in the three incidents in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait reported in the Incident Alert 05/2019:

Ship name	<i>Transpacific</i>	<i>Hirado</i>	<i>Nord Steel</i>
Date/time (local time)	30 Sep at 2314 hrs	18 Oct at 2324 hrs	19 Oct at 0100 hrs
Type of ship	Bulk carrier	VLCC	Bulk carrier
Gross tonnage	43,721	159,806	90,086
No. of perpetrators	5	5	5
Weapons carried	Knives	Not stated	Gun & jungle knife
Treatment of crew	No confrontation	No confrontation	Threatened crew and tied his hands
Items stolen	Nothing stolen	Nothing stolen	Engine spares

2. The observations on the latest four incidents are detailed as below.

- a. Time of incident. All four incidents occurred during hours of darkness between 0300 hrs and 0522 hrs.
- b. Type of ships. Two incidents involved bulk carriers, one involved a chemical tanker (attempted incident) and one involved a barge towed by a tug boat, while transiting the eastbound lane of the TSS of the Singapore Strait.
- c. Number of perpetrators. Two of the four incidents involved five perpetrators, one involved four perpetrators and one involved two perpetrators. The two incidents involving five perpetrators occurred on board bulk carriers. It is to be noted that the three incidents reported in the previous Incident Alert 05/2019 (two bulk carriers and one VLCC) also involved five perpetrators.
- d. Type of weapons carried. Two of the four incidents reported that the perpetrators were armed with knives and two had no information if the perpetrators were armed. Notably, both incidents involving perpetrators armed with knives occurred on board bulk carriers.
- e. Treatment of crew. Three of the four incidents reported that the crew did not suffer any injuries or there was no confrontation between perpetrators and crew. In the incident involving *Kmax Evdokia* on 27 Nov 19, the perpetrators grabbed the duty oiler and pointed a knife at him. It is to be noted that, in one of the three incidents reported in the previous Incident Alert 05/2019, the perpetrators armed with gun and jungle knife threatened the duty oiler and tied his hands (incident on bulk carrier *Nord Steel* on 19 Oct).
- f. Items stolen. Two of the three actual incidents reported that nothing was stolen from the ships. One incident reported that twist locks and ropes were stolen.

