

9 February 2020



Incident Alert

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

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IA 03/2020

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

On 9 Feb 20, two incidents occurred within an interval of an hour to ships while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait. Some engine spares were stolen in one incident, and nothing was reported stolen in the other. There was no confrontation between the perpetrators and the crew. With these two incidents, a total of six incidents have been reported in the Singapore Strait since January 2020, all in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait.

The ReCAAP ISC had issued five Incident Alerts in 2019 and one Incident Alert in 2020 on incidents occurred to ships while underway in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait. A total of 31 incidents have been reported in the Singapore Strait in 2019. Of these, 17 occurred to ships while underway in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait, and 14 incidents in the westbound lane.

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait and the persistence of the perpetrators in their attempts to board ships as demonstrated in the two incidents that occurred on 9 Feb 20. Since the perpetrators of these incidents are not arrested, there is a possibility of further incidents reported in the Singapore Strait. All ships are strongly advised to exercise utmost 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 further step up surveillance, increase patrols and enhance cooperation and coordination among them in order to respond promptly to incidents.

Details of Incident

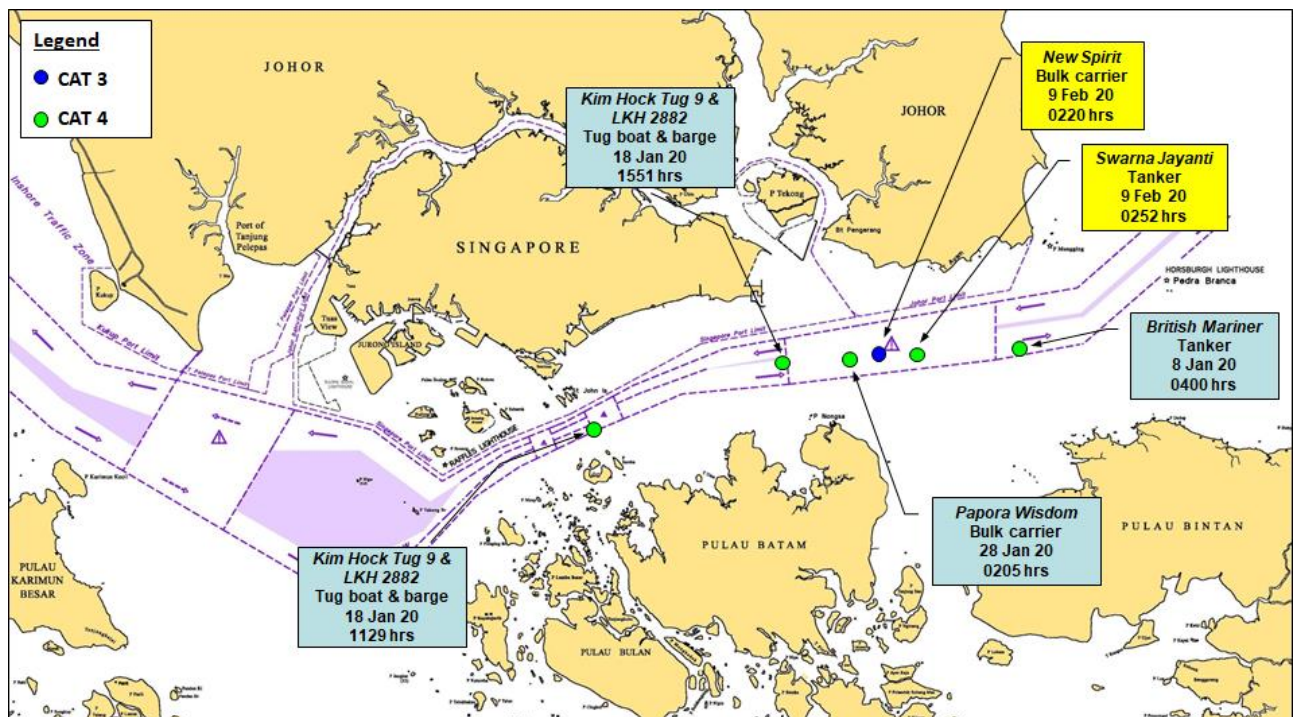
On 9 Feb 20, the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) reported to ReCAAP ISC two incidents that occurred on the same day within an interval of one hour to ships while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait. The details of the incidents are described as follows:

- a. On 9 Feb 20 at about 0220 hrs, bulk carrier, *New Spirit* while underway at about 5.1 nm from Nongsa Point, Indonesia when six perpetrators armed with knives were seen in the engine room. The perpetrators ran onto the deck when they saw the crew. The master mustered the crew in the bridge and accounted for all of them. He reported the incident to Singapore VTIS East and requested to go to Singapore to conduct further search. Upon arrival in Singapore, the Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded the ship to conduct further search. No perpetrators were found and nothing was reported stolen.



b. On the same day (9 Feb 20) at about 0252 hrs, tanker, *Swarna Jayanti* was underway at about 6.2 nm from Nongsa Point, Indonesia when the crew sighted one perpetrator in the engine room. The master raised the alarm, mustered the crew and conducted search for the perpetrator. Some valves (engine spares) were reported missing from the engine room. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS East. The crew was not injured.

Refer to map below on the approximate location of the six incidents that occurred in January 2020 and on 9 Feb 20.



Map1 – Approximate location of the incidents in January 2020 and on 9 Feb 20

