

9 November 2020



Incident Alert

Incidents against ships in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait (Part X)

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Incidents against ships in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait (Part X)

During 8 – 9 November 20, three incidents of armed robbery against ships occurred on board ships while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait. The incidents occurred within the interval of six hours and in close proximity to each other. In all three incidents, there was no confrontation between the perpetrators and the crew. Ship equipment and a lifebuoy were stolen in two of the incidents; and nothing was stolen in the other incident.

With the three incidents during 8-9 November, a total of 31 incidents have been reported in the Singapore Strait since January 2020. Of these, 27 incidents occurred in the eastbound lane of the TSS, one incident in the westbound lane of the TSS, two incidents in the precautionary area, and one incident just outside (south) of the TSS.

The ReCAAP ISC had issued five Incident Alerts in 2019 and four Incident Alerts in 2020 on the incidents occurred in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait. In the entire year of 2019, a total of 31 incidents were reported in the Singapore Strait; of which 17 incidents occurred in the eastbound lane, and 14 incidents in the westbound lane.

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait. As the perpetrators of these incidents are not arrested, there is a possibility of further incidents in the Singapore Strait. All ships are advised to exercise utmost vigilance, adopt extra precautionary measures and report all incidents immediately to the nearest coastal State. Ship master and crew are advised to keep abreast of the latest situation (at www.recaap.org) and tune-in to advisories and navigational broadcasts announced by the littoral States. The ReCAAP ISC urges the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in their respective waters, strengthen coordination among them and promote information sharing on the latest situation, and the criminal groups involved in order to make arrests of the perpetrators.

Details of Incidents

During 8 - 9 Nov 20, the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) reported to the ReCAAP ISC three incidents that occurred to ships while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait. The details of the three incidents are described as follows:

- a. On 8 Nov at about 2125 hrs, tanker, *Zeno* was underway at about 4.4 nm south of Tanjung Bulat, East Johor, Malaysia when three perpetrators were sighted in the engine room. The alarm was immediately raised and a search on board the ship was conducted. At about 2305 hrs, the master updated Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) via VHF that there was no further sighting of the perpetrators on board. Some ship equipment including a sounding rod, an oil

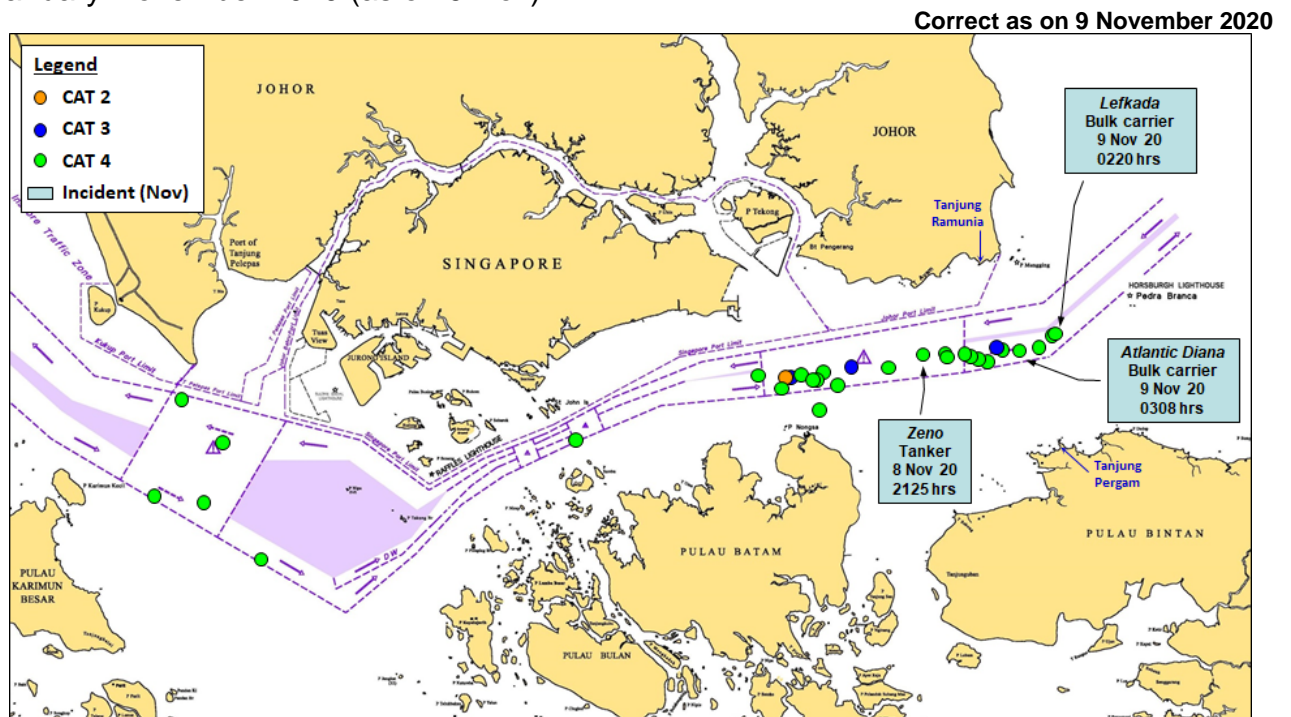


sampling rod, a portable breathing apparatus, portable instruments for measuring ullage and a portable spray painter were stolen from the engine room. The crew was not injured. The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)'s Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed; and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated to alert mariners.

b. On 9 Nov at about 0220 hrs, bulk carrier, *Lefkada* was underway at about 5.4 nm southeast of Tanjung Ramunia, East Johor, Malaysia when two perpetrators were sighted in the vicinity of engine room locker. The alarm was raised, crew mustered and a search on board the ship was conducted. At about 0340 hrs, the master updated Singapore VTIS that there was no further sighting of the perpetrators on board. The oil spill equipment locker was found unlocked and a lifebuoy was stolen. The crew was not injured. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed; and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated to alert mariners.

c. On 9 Nov at about 0308 hrs, bulk carrier, *Atlantic Diana* was underway at about 5.7 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia when one perpetrator was sighted in the vicinity of the steering gear flat. The alarm was raised, crew mustered and a search on board the ship was conducted. At about 0755 hrs, the master updated Singapore VTIS that there was no further sighting of the perpetrators on board. Nothing was stolen and the crew was not injured. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed; and the Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated to alert mariners.

Refer to map below on the approximate location of the 31 incidents that occurred during January-November 2020 (as on 9 Nov).



Approximate location of the 31 incidents occurred during January-November 2020

