

21 Oct 2021



Incident Alert

Sea Robbery Incidents in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

21 Media Circle, #05-04

Singapore 138562

Tel : (65) 6376 3091

Fax : (65) 6376 3066

Web : www.recaap.org

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21 October 2021

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Sea robbery incidents in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait

The ReCAAP ISC gives an alert to the maritime community on the continued occurrence of armed robbery against ships while underway in the Singapore Strait and a possibility of further incidents.

In October 2021, six incidents are already reported on board ships while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait. The six incidents occurred at the following locations.

- off Nongsa Point/Lighthouse, Batam Island (Indonesia): three incidents (6, 14, 15 Oct)
- off Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia): two incidents (10, 20 Oct)
- off Nipa island (Indonesia): one incident (7 Oct)

The locations of incidents are indicated with longitude and latitude in the map next page.

In the incident on 15 Oct, the perpetrators were armed with knives and sighted in the engine room workshop. They tied up the duty oiler and escaped with some engine spares.

In the incident on 20 Oct, the perpetrators were armed with guns and sighted in the engine room. The perpetrators escaped when the ship alarm was raised, and nothing was stolen.

The perpetrators were not armed in the other four incidents.

The crew was not injured in all the incidents and engine spares were stolen in three incidents.

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the persistent occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait, particularly an important cluster of incidents off Tanjung Pergam (22 incidents since January), and an increase of incidents off Nongsa Island (five incidents). With the six incidents reported in October, a total of 32 incidents were reported in the Singapore Strait since January 2021. **As the perpetrators are not arrested, there is a possibility of further incidents in the Singapore Strait**

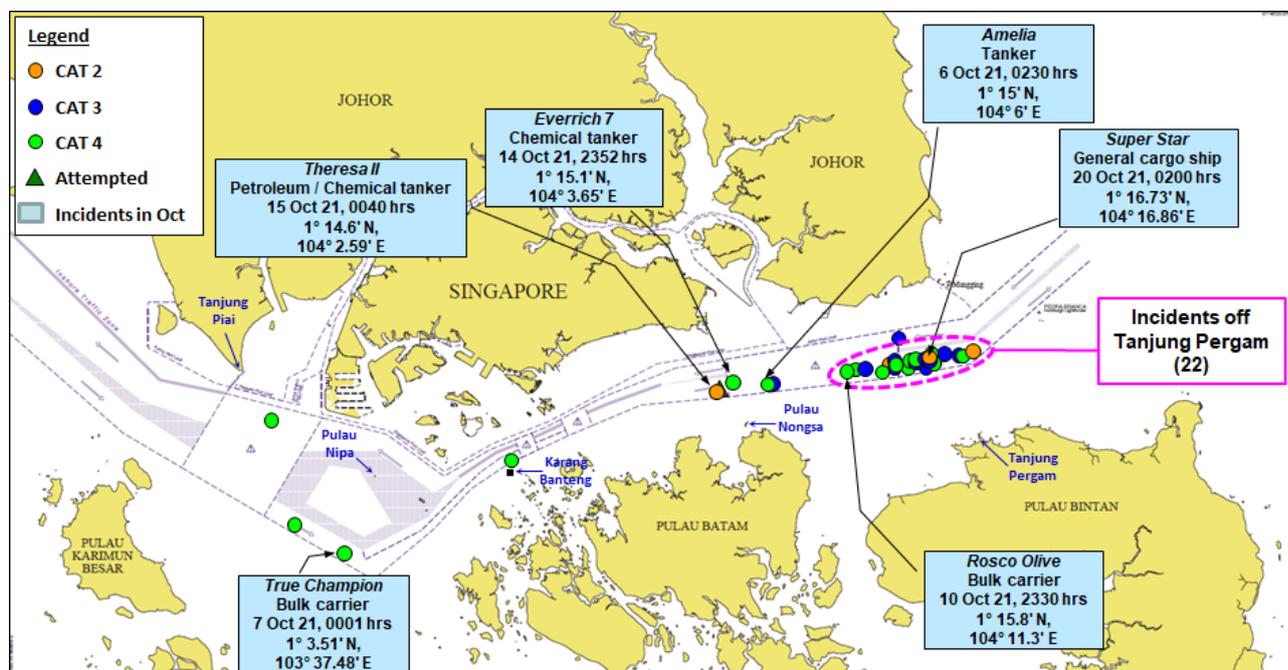
The ReCAAP ISC urges the littoral States to increase patrols in their respective waters, respond promptly to incidents reported by ships, strengthen coordination among the littoral States and promote information sharing on incidents and criminal groups involved in order to arrest the perpetrators.

All ships are advised to intensify vigilance and maintain look-out while transiting the area, particularly during night time, adopt preventive measures and report all incidents immediately to the nearest coastal State. Ship masters and crew are advised to get the latest information (at www.recaap.org) and tune-in to advisories and navigational broadcasts announced by the littoral States.



Details of Incidents

During 6 – 20 Oct, the ReCAAP Focal Points reported to the ReCAAP ISC six incidents that occurred to ships while underway in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait. The locations of the incidents are shown in the map below, and detailed description of the incidents is tabulated in Annex A.



Location of the incidents in the Singapore Strait since January 2021 and in Oct 2021



Description of sea robbery incidents in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait (during 6-20 Oct 2021)

| S/N | Date/Time/location | Details of Incidents |
|-----|---|---|
| 1. | <p>6/10/21 0230 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 3.3nm NNE of Nongsa Point, Batam Island, (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait.</p> | <p>While underway, the master of the ship reported to Singapore VTIS that three unauthorised persons were sighted in the vicinity of the engine room.</p> <p>The ship alarm was raised and the crew conducted a search for the perpetrators on board the ship. At 0320 hrs, the master updated Singapore VTIS that the search was completed with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master declared some engine spares were stolen. The crew was safe with no injury.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.</p> |
| 2. | <p>07/10/21 0001 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 5.2 nm southwest of Nipa Island (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait</p> | <p>While underway, the crew discovered some engines spares were stolen. The incident was likely to have had occurred at about 0001hrs on 7 Oct 21. The perpetrators were not sighted by the crew. A search on board was carried out. The master reported the incident to the Company Security Officer. All crew were safe.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.</p> |
| 3. | <p>10/10/21 2330 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 10 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait</p> | <p>While underway, the crew of the ship noticed two perpetrators in the engine room area. The crew immediately informed the duty chief engineer who subsequently notified the bridge. The ship alarm was raised and crew were mustered in the engine room. A search was conducted and the perpetrators not found. Nothing was stolen.</p> |



| S/N | Date/Time/location | Details of Incidents |
|-----|--|--|
| 4. | 14/10/21 2352 hrs Approximately 3.9 nm northwest of Nongsa Point, Batam Island (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait | <p>While underway, the ship reported to Singapore VTIS that three perpetrators were sighted at the stern main deck of the ship.</p> <p>The ship alarm was raised and the crew conducted a search for the perpetrators on board the ship. At 0045 hrs, the master updated Singapore VTIS that the search was completed with no further sighting of the perpetrators. Nothing was stolen. The crew was safe with no injury.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.</p> |
| 5. | 15/10/21 0040 hrs Approximately 3.2 nm from Nongsa Lighthouse, Batam Island (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait | <p>While underway, the duty oiler spotted about seven to eight perpetrators armed with knives in the engine room workshop. The perpetrators tied up the duty oiler and subsequently released him before they left. Upon release, the oiler reported the incident to the chief engineer who immediately informed the bridge. The alarm was activated and a thorough search of the ship was conducted. The perpetrators were not found. There was no reported damage to the ship and the crew was not injured. Some engine spares were stolen.</p> |
| 6. | 20/10/21 0200 hrs Approximately 6.3 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait | <p>While underway, the master reported to Singapore VTIS that five unauthorised persons were sighted in the engine room. Two of them were armed with guns. The ship alarm was raised and the crew conducted a search on board the ship. There was no further sighting of the perpetrators. Nothing was stolen. The crew was safe.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.</p> |

