

2 December 2021



Incident Alert

Sea Robbery Incidents in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait

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Sea robbery incidents in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait

The ReCAAP ISC alerts the maritime community on the continued occurrence of armed robbery against ships while underway in the Singapore Strait, and warns a possibility of further incidents.

During 1 Nov-1 Dec 2021, six incidents were reported on board ships while underway in the Singapore Strait, of which five incidents occurred in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) and one incident in the precautionary area.

Incidents in the eastbound lane of TSS

The five incidents reported in the eastbound lane (comprising four actual incidents and one attempted incident) occurred at the following locations:

- a. Off Nongsa Point/Lighthouse, Batam Island (Indonesia): three incidents (4 Nov, 25 Nov and 1 Dec)
- b. Off Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia): two incidents (22 Nov and 25 Nov)

The locations of incidents are indicated with latitude and longitude in the map next page. There was no report of arms and the crew was not injured in all the five incidents. Engine spares were stolen in one incident and ship stores were stolen in another incident. Nothing was stolen in the other three incidents.

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the persistent occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait, particularly a growing cluster of incidents off Tanjung Pergam (25 incidents since January), and an increase of incidents off Nongsa Island (nine incidents).

With six incidents reported from 1 Nov to 1 Dec, a total of 41 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**

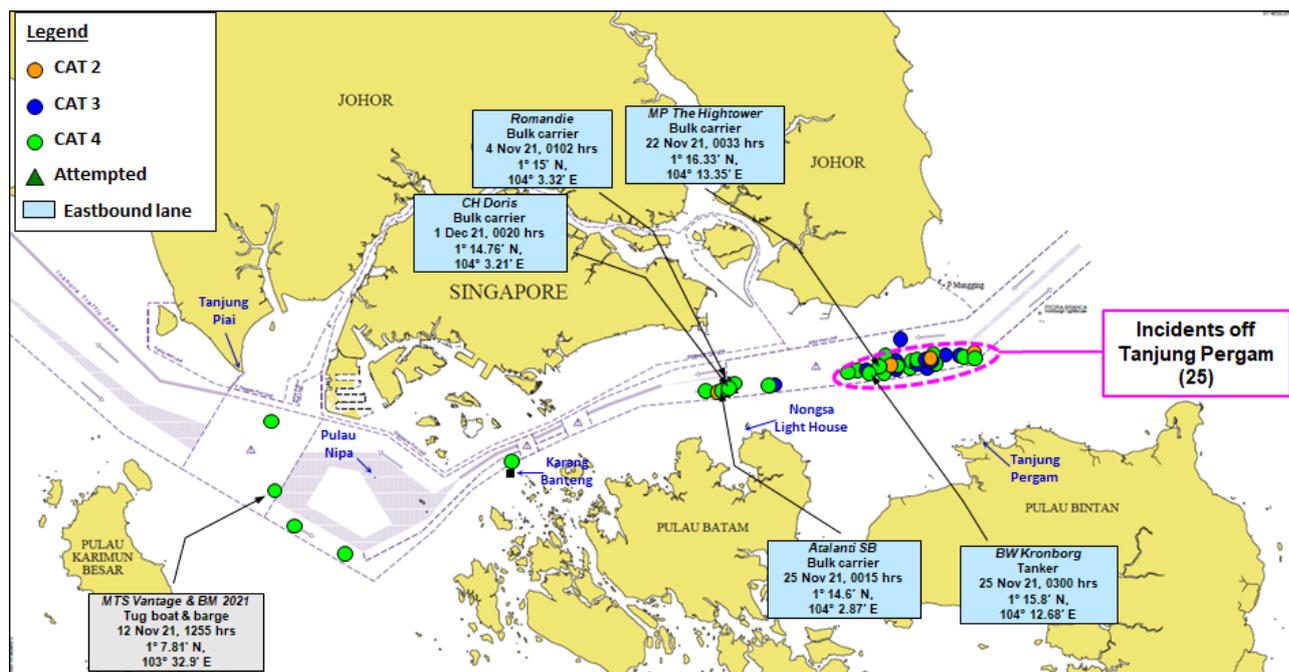
The ReCAAP ISC urges the littoral States to increase patrols in their respective waters, respond promptly to incidents reported by ships, strengthen coordination among the littoral States and promote information sharing on incidents and criminal groups involved in order to arrest the perpetrators.

All ships are advised to intensify vigilance and maintain look-out while transiting the area of concern, 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.



Location of Incidents in the Singapore Strait (during 1 Nov-1 Dec 2021)

During 1 Nov - 1 Dec, ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) reported to the ReCAAP ISC six incidents that occurred to ships while underway in the Singapore Strait (five incidents in the eastbound lane of the TSS, and one incident in the precautionary area). The locations of the incidents are shown in the map, and detailed description of the incidents as tabulated below.



Location of incidents in the Singapore Strait since January 2021

Description of sea robbery incidents in the Singapore Strait (during 1 Nov – 1 Dec)

S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
1.	04/11/21 0102 hrs Approximately 3.2 nm northwest of Nongsa Lighthouse, Batam Island (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	While underway, the ship crew while patrolling on deck anti-piracy rounds sighted two perpetrators climbing from ship stern railing. He raised the alarm immediately and shouted at the perpetrators who aborted the attempt to board the ship. A search on board the ship was conducted, and at 0124 hrs, the master updated Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) East that the search was completed with no further sighting of any unauthorised persons. All crew were accounted for. No items were stolen. 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 Indonesian authorities.



S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
2.	12/11/21 1255 hrs Approximately 6.5 nm southwest of Nipa Island (Indonesia) in the precautionary area of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, one unauthorised person was sighted disembarking from the unmanned barge that was being towed. The ship alarm was raised and a search on board the barge was carried out. One coil of towing line and one coil of mooring rope were stolen. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS. All crew was safe and accounted for.</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.	22/11/21 0033 hrs Approximately 8.6 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, two masked perpetrators with bags were sighted at the stern of the ship. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board was conducted and at 0207 hrs, the master updated Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that there was no further sighting of the perpetrators on board. All crew was accounted for and the crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen from the ship.</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 and Malaysian authorities.</p>
4.	25/11/21 0015 hrs Approximately 3.1 nm northwest off Nongsa Light House, Batam Island (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, three unauthorised persons were sighted in the engine room. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS, and deviated the ship back to the port of Singapore to ensure the safety of crew and the ship. The Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded the ship to conduct a search upon her arrival. The ship was cleared with no sighting of the perpetrators on board. The crew was safe and nothing was stolen.</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.	25/11/21 0300 hrs Approximately 7.9 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, the duty second engineer while making his rounds spotted that the steering room cupboards were opened and boxes containing the auxiliary engine spare parts were lying on the floor. He reported the incident to the chief engineer, who then informed the master. The master and the chief engineer checked the steering gear room and engine room stores. Apart from some auxiliary engine spare parts that were missing, all other items were in order. The ship crew then conducted an extensive search of the vessel but there was no further sighting of any perpetrators. The incident was reported to the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA). There was no reported damage to the ship and the crew was not injured.</p>



S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
6.	01/12/21 0020 hrs Approximately 2.8 nm northwest of Nongsa Light House, Batam Island (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, two unauthorised persons were sighted in the engine room. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board was conducted and at 0140 hrs, the master updated Singapore VTIS that there was no further sighting of the perpetrators on board. All crew was accounted for and the crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen from the ship.</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>

