

21 February 2022



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## Incident Alert

# Sea Robbery Incidents in the Singapore Strait

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## Sea robbery incidents in the Singapore Strait

**Incidents of armed robbery against ships continues to occur to ships while underway in the Singapore Strait (SS) since January 2022. The ReCAAP ISC alerts the maritime community of the situation and advises to uphold vigilance.**

Since January 2022, 10 incidents (comprising nine actual incidents<sup>1</sup> and one attempted incident<sup>2</sup>) were reported on board ships while underway in the SS. Among them, seven incidents occurred in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), one incident in the westbound lane, one incident in the precautionary area and one incident outside the TSS.

Incidents in the eastbound lane of TSS. Of the seven incidents, four incidents occurred off Nongsa Point, Batam Island (Indonesia) on 8 Feb, 16 Feb, 17 Feb and 18 Feb. The other three incidents occurred off Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia) on 8 Jan (two incidents) and 12 Feb.

The locations of 10 incidents are indicated with latitude and longitude in the map next page. All the incidents were of low severity level. Of the 10 incidents, two incidents reported the perpetrators were armed with knives. However, there was no report of the use of knives to threaten or harm the crew. The crew was not injured in all the incidents. Engine spares were stolen in one incident while item stolen was not known in one incident and nothing was stolen in the other eight incidents.

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the persistent occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait, particularly the increase of incidents off Nongsa.

**Since the perpetrators are not arrested, there is a possibility of continued occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait.**

The ReCAAP ISC urges the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in their respective territorial seas/archipelagic waters, and promote cooperation and coordination among the littoral States in patrols and 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 areas 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](http://www.recaap.org)) and tune-in to advisories and navigational broadcasts announced by the littoral States.

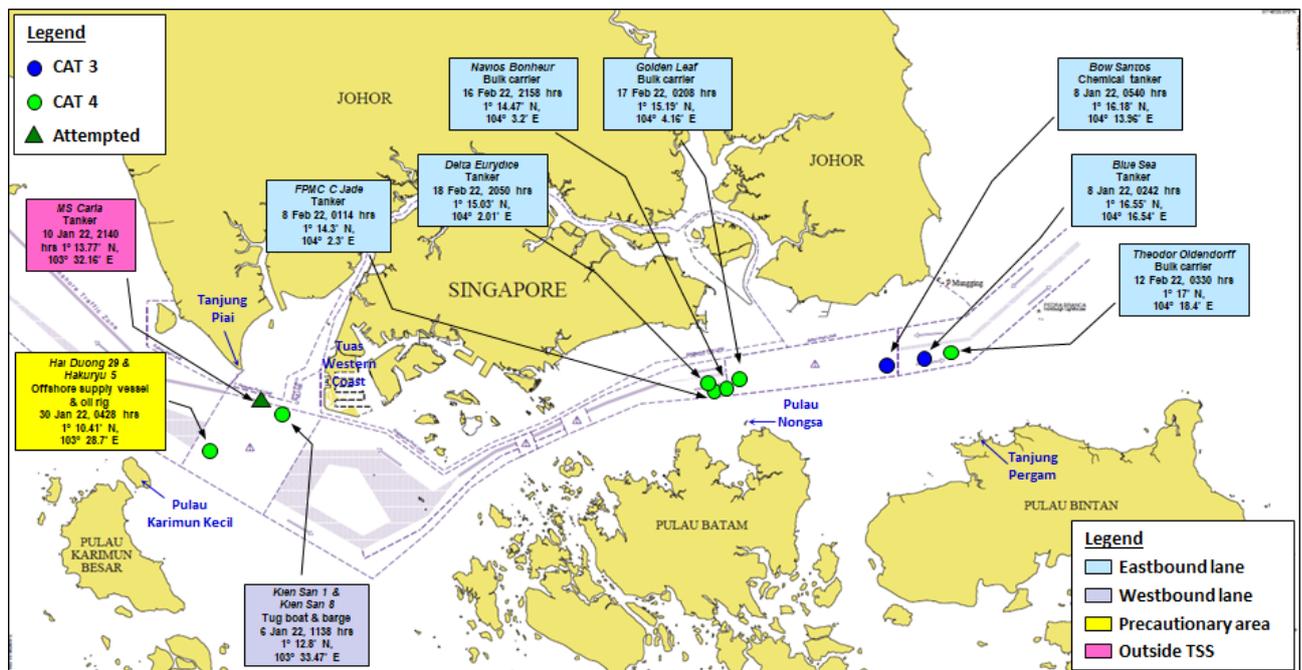
<sup>1</sup> Actual incidents are incidents where pirates/robbers boarded the ship, regardless of whether they stole any items or not.

<sup>2</sup> Attempted incidents are incidents where pirates/robbers tried but failed to board the ship.



## Location of Incidents in the Singapore Strait (since January 2022)

Since January 2022, ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) reported to the ReCAAP ISC 10 incidents that occurred to ships while underway in the Singapore Strait. The locations of the incidents are shown in the map below; and the modus operandi and detailed description of the incidents are in Annex A.



Location of incidents in the Singapore Strait since January 2022



## Annex A

### Modus Operandi and Description of Incidents in the Singapore Strait (since January 2022)

The modus operandi of the 10 incidents that occurred to ships while underway in the SS since January 2022 are summarized in the table below:

Date/time	Ship name Ship type	Number of perpetrators	Weapons carried by perpetrators	Location the perpetrators were sighted	Items stolen	Treatment of crew
<b>Off Tuas Western Coast (1 incident) [Westbound lane of TSS]</b>						
6 Jan 22 1138 hrs	<i>Kien San 1 &amp; Kien San 8</i> Tug boat & barge	1	Not stated	Barge	Scrap metal	No injuries
<b>Off Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (3 incidents) [Eastbound lane of TSS]</b>						
8 Jan 22 0242 hrs	<i>Blue Sea</i> Tanker	4	One perpetrator sighted w with a long knife	Engine room	Nil	No injuries
8 Jan 22 0540 hrs	<i>Bow Santos</i> Chemical tanker	4	Knives	Engine room	Not stated	No injuries
12 Feb 22 0330 hrs	<i>Theodor Oldendorff</i> Bulk carrier	2	Not stated	Engine room	Engine spare parts	No injuries
<b>Off Tanjung Piai (1 incident) [outside of TSS]</b>						
10 Jan 22 2340 hrs	<i>MS Carla</i> Tanker	5	Not stated	Attempted to place ladder at port side of ship	Nil	No injuries
<b>Off Karimun Kecil Island (1 incident) [Precautionary Area of TSS]</b>						
30 Jan 22 0428 hrs	<i>Hai Duong 29 &amp; Hakuryu 5</i> Offshore supply ship & oil rig	2	Not stated	Port side mid ship	Nil	No injuries
<b>Off Pulau Nongsa, Batam Island (4 incidents) [Eastbound lane of TSS]</b>						
8 Feb 22 0114 hrs	<i>FPMC C Jade</i> Tanker	4	Not stated	Engine room	Nil	No injuries
16 Feb 22 2158 hrs	<i>Navios Bonheur</i> Bulk carrier	2	Not stated	Starboard quarter stern deck of ship	Nil	No injuries
17 Feb 22 0208 hrs	<i>Golden Leaf</i> Bulk carrier	2	Not stated	Starboard side main deck of ship	Nil	No injuries
18 Feb 22 2050 hrs	<i>Delta Eurydice</i> Tanker	2	Not stated	Engine room	Nil	No injuries



The description of incidents as shown below:

S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
1.	06/01/22 1138 hrs  Approximately 2.9 nm southwest off <b>Tuas Western Coast</b> (Singapore), in the westbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, <b>one unauthorised person</b> was sighted on board the barge that was being towed by the tug boat. One small craft was also sighted alongside the barge. The perpetrator left the barge about 12 minutes later, and escaped in a sampan.</p> <p>The master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS). <b>Some scrap metals were stolen</b> from the barge. <b>The crew was safe and accounted for</b>. No assistance was required. The tug boat and barge were bound for Penang, Malaysia.</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.</p>
2.	08/01/22 0242 hrs  Approximately 6.4 nm northwest of <b>Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island</b> (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, the duty oiler sighted <b>four unauthorised persons</b> in the <b>engine room</b>. <b>One of them was armed with a long knife</b>. The perpetrators escaped upon being sighted. The ship's alarm was raised. The crew conducted search on board with no further sighting of the perpetrators.</p> <p>The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS. <b>Nothing was stolen. The crew are safe</b>. The master confirmed that no assistance required. The ship departed Pengerang, West Johor, Malaysia and is bound for Kanokawa, Japan.</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 Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.</p>
3.	08/01/22 0540 hrs  Approximately 8 nm northwest of <b>Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island</b> (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, <b>four unauthorised persons armed with knives</b> were sighted in the <b>engine room</b>. The master raised the alarm and the crew mustered at the bridge.</p> <p>The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS. At about 0644 hrs, the master updated Singapore VTIS that a search on board the ship was completed with no further sighting of the perpetrators. <b>The crew was safe and accounted for with no report of injuries</b>. However, the <b>loss of property cannot be ascertained</b>. The master informed VTIS East that no assistance was required and resumed her voyage.</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 Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.</p>



S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
4.	<p>10/01/22 2140 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 2.65 nm from <b>Tanjung Piai</b>, (Malaysia), outside of the TSS in the Singapore Strait</p>	<p>While underway, the duty deck officer sighted <b>five perpetrators</b> on board a wooden boat placing a ladder at the port side of the ship. The ship's alarm was raised, and the <b>perpetrators abandoned the boarding</b> and sped away.</p> <p>The master reported the incident to the Port Operation Control Centre (VTIS West). Safety broadcast on anti-piracy watch was carried out and it increased to every half hour interval to warn all ships to maintain vigilant watch at all times.</p>
5.	<p>30/01/22 0428 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 4.6 nm northeast of <b>Karimun Kecil Island</b> (Indonesia), in the Precautionary Area of the TSS in the Singapore Strait</p>	<p>While underway, <b>two unauthorised persons</b> were sighted on the ship's port side midship from the ship's CCTV camera. The incident took place while the supply ship was towing an oil rig <i>Hakuryu 5</i>. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board was conducted. At 0446 hrs, the master updated Singapore VTIS that the search on board was completed with no further sighting of the perpetrators.</p> <p>The master reported that <b>nothing was stolen. The crew was safe and accounted for.</b> The master did not require any assistance and continued the voyage to Singapore.</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 Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.</p>
6.	<p>08/02/22 0114 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 3.1 nm northwest of <b>Pulau Nongsa, Batam Island</b> (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait</p>	<p>While underway, the crew sighted <b>four unauthorised persons</b> in the <b>engine room</b>. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered at the bridge. The perpetrators were seen escaping in a small craft. The crew conducted a search on board with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master declared that <b>nothing was stolen</b> and the <b>crew was safe with no injury.</b></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>



S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
7.	12/02/22 0330 hrs  Approximately 6 nm northwest of <b>Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island</b> (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, the crew sighted <b>two unauthorised persons</b> in the <b>engine room</b>. Ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. The perpetrators escaped when the alarm was raised. A search on board the ship was carried out with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master declared <b>some engine spare parts were stolen. The crew was safe with no injury</b>. The ship departed Singapore and is bound for Qingdao, China.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian and Malaysian authorities.</p>
8.	16/02/22 2158 hrs  Approximately 3.6 nm northwest of <b>Nongsa Point, Batam Island</b> (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, the crew sighted <b>two unauthorised persons</b> escaping from the starboard quarter stern deck of the ship. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.</p> <p>A search on board the ship was carried out with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master declared that <b>nothing was stolen. The crew was safe and accounted for</b>. The master declared that no assistance was required and continued with the voyage. The ship is bound for Kwangyang, Republic of Korea.</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>
9.	17/02/22 0208 hrs  Approximately 3.7 nm northwest of <b>Nongsa Point, Batam Island</b> (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait	<p>While underway, the crew sighted <b>two unauthorised persons</b> on the starboard side main deck of the ship. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.</p> <p>A search on board the ship was carried out with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master declared that <b>nothing was stolen. The crew was safe and accounted for</b>. The master declared that no assistance was required and continued with the voyage. The ship departed Singapore and is bound for Sarawak, Malaysia.</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>



S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
10.	<p>18/02/22 2050 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 4.8 nm northwest of <b>Nongsa Point, Batam Island</b> (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait</p>	<p>While underway, <b>two unauthorised persons</b> were sighted in the <b>engine room</b>. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. Upon realising that the crew had been alerted, the perpetrators escaped in a small boat. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.</p> <p>A search on board the ship was carried out with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master declared that <b>nothing was stolen. The crew was safe and accounted for</b>. The master declared that no assistance was required and continued with the voyage. The ship is bound for Sriracha, Thailand.</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>

