

1 August 2022



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## Incident Alert

# Sea Robbery Incidents in the Singapore Strait

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1 August 2022

## Sea robbery incidents in the Singapore Strait

The ReCAAP ISC, had issued the Incident Alert (02/2022) on 2 Mar 22. The incidents of Sea Robbery continue to occur to ships while underway in the Singapore Strait (SS). During 30-31 July 2022, three incidents were reported while ships were underway in the Singapore Strait (SS).

Two incidents were reported on 30 Jul 22 within an interval of two hours and at close proximity to each other in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), and one incident occurred on 31 Jul 22 in the westbound lane of the TSS. The ReCAAP ISC alerts the maritime community of the increase in incidents in the SS, and advises ships transiting the area to exercise enhanced vigilance.

The two incidents on 30 Jul 22 occurred on board bulk carriers when they were underway **off Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia)**. There is a possibility that the same group of perpetrators is responsible for both incidents as the modus operandi of the perpetrators are similar. In the two incidents, the perpetrators were armed with knives, sighted in engine room and engine spare parts were reported missing. The crew was not injured in both incidents.

The incident on 31 Jul 22 occurred on board a barge towed by a tug boat while underway off **Tanjong Setapa, Johor (Malaysia)**. The perpetrators stole scrap metals from the barge and escaped in three small boats. The crew was not injured.

With these three incidents, a total of 33 incidents were reported in the SS since January 2022, comprising 23 incidents in the eastbound lane of the TSS, five incidents in the precautionary area, three incidents in the westbound lane and two incidents outside the TSS. The locations of the 33 incidents are indicated in the map next page.

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the persistent occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait, particularly the clusters of incidents off Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island and Nongsa Point, Batam Island.

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.

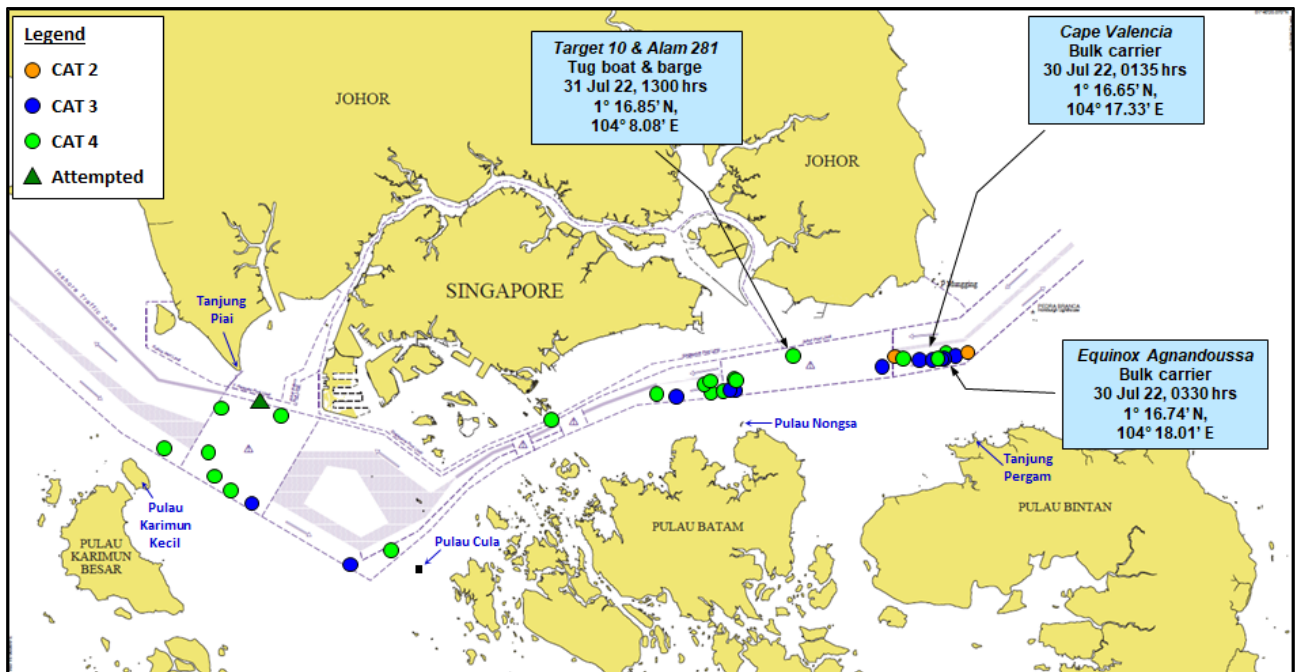
**All ships are advised to intensify vigilance and maintain look-out while transiting the areas of concern, particularly during night time**, adopt preventive measures and report all incidents immediately to the nearest coastal State. Ship masters and crew are advised to get the latest information (at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



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

Since January 2022, ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) reported to the ReCAAP ISC 33 incidents that occurred to ships while underway in the Singapore Strait. Notably, of the 33 incidents, 11 incidents involved ships which departed Singapore port.

The locations of the 33 incidents are shown in the map below; and description of the three incidents are in Annex A.



Location of incidents in the Singapore Strait since January 2022



## Annex A

The description of the three incidents as shown below:

S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
1.	<p>30/7/22 0135 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 5.97 nm northwest of <b>Tg Pergam, Bintan Island</b> (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the SS</p>	<p>While underway, the ship crew sighted <b>four unauthorised personnel, reported to be armed with knives</b>, of which two were in the <b>engine room</b> and two were in the mess room. Ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search in the accommodation and engine room spaces was conducted but the unauthorised personnel had already escaped from the ship. <b>Some engine spare parts were reported missing. All crew were accounted for and no injury was reported.</b> The master reported the incident to VTIS East and the company security officer. The ship did not require further assistance. The ship had departed from Singapore and was bound for Beilun, China.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified of the incident. Information of the incident was shared with Indonesian authorities.</p>
2.	<p>30/7/22 0330 hrs</p> <p>Approximately 5.73 nm northwest of <b>Tg Pergam, Bintan Island</b> (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the SS</p>	<p>While underway, the ship crew sighted <b>three unauthorised personnel, who were armed with knives</b>, of which one was in the <b>engine room</b> and two were on deck. Ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered on navigation bridge. <b>No injury was reported.</b> The master reported the incident to VTIS East and the company security officer. The ship had departed Singapore and was bound for Xingang, China.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified of the incident. Information of the incident was shared with Indonesian authorities.</p> <p>The master requested to return to Singapore for Singapore Police Coast Guard to conduct a search on board and investigate the incident. At about 0922 hrs, Singapore Police Coast Guard completed their search on board and found no unauthorised personnel onboard the ship. <b>Some engine spare parts were found missing.</b></p>



S/N	Date/Time/location	Details of Incidents
3.	31/7/22 1300 hrs  Approximately 3.7 nm south of <b>Tanjong Setapa, Johor</b> (Malaysia), in the westbound lane of the TSS in the SS	<p>While underway, <b>six perpetrators</b> were sighted on board the barge, which was towed by a tug boat, and were seen stealing <b>scrap metals from the barge</b>. Ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. The master reported the incident to VTIS East and requested for assistance to chase the perpetrators from the barge. The master subsequently reported that all perpetrators had left the barge in three small boats and were headed towards Pulau Batam, Indonesia. <b>No injury was reported</b>. The tug boat &amp; barge were en route from Kota Kinabalu, East Malaysia to Port Klang, Malaysia.</p> <p>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified of the incident. Information of the incident was shared with Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.</p>

