



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15 January 2019

Seventy-Six Incidents Reported to ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre in 2018, Marking 25% Year-on-Year Decrease, and the Lowest in a Decade

Annual Report (January to December 2018) released at the 10th Nautical Forum, ReCAAP ISC's annual dialogue with maritime, diplomatic and shipping communities

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) today released its Annual (January to December 2018) Report. Highlights of the report, whose information is verified by the respective government agencies, also known as Focal Points, and regional authorities, include:

Overall Summary

- There was a total of **76 incidents** of piracy and armed robbery reported in Asia between January to December 2018, comprising 62 actual incidents and 14 attempted incidents
- This represents a **decrease of 25% in the total number of incidents** and a **31% decrease in actual incidents** compared to 2017
- This marks the **lowest number of incidents** since ReCAAP ISC began keeping records in 2007
- Of the 76 incidents, **four were incidents of piracy**, while **72 were armed robbery against ships**

Areas of Improvement

- There was **improvement at some ports and anchorages in 2018**, particularly at the Manila anchorage in the Philippines
- **Successful arrests of perpetrators** were reported in 2018 in Bangladesh (Chittagong), India (off Alang, Gujarat), Philippines (Manila), Indonesia (Pulau Batam), Malaysia (Pulau Tinggi, Sarawak, and off Tambisan, Sabah)
- There was **no theft of oil cargo** in 2018; while there were two incidents of suspicious intent to steal oil cargo reported in June and August 2018, the Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) successfully arrested the mastermind and perpetrators in both incidents
- There was a **decrease of incident of abduction of crew for ransom** in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah in 2018; three incidents (two

actual and one attempted incidents) of abduction of crew were reported in 2018 compared to seven incidents (three actual and four attempted incidents) in 2017

Areas of Concern

- There were **more than ten incidents at ports and anchorages in Chittagong, Bangladesh, and in Samarinda, Indonesia**
- There were also **slight increases reported in Malaysia and Vietnam**
- Despite the decrease in the number of incidents in the **Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah**, the abduction of crew for ransom remains a serious threat in the area

Insights from Data Analytics

Over the past 12 years (2007-2018), ReCAAP ISC has collected the data of 1,560 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. These data enable the Centre to conduct deeper analysis on the nature of incidents.

Using data analytics, ReCAAP ISC has made several observations on the incidents of the past 12 years in the Annual Report on the patterns concerning the number of perpetrators, the weapons used, treatment of crew, items stolen, the types of ships boarded, and time of incidents reported in Asia.

The characteristics of the incidents in the past 12 years are:

- The majority of the incidents involved **4-6 perpetrators (34%)** or **1-3 perpetrators (24%)**
- The most commonly used weapons were **knives/machetes/others** (such as rod). The weapons were often used to cut mooring ropes and remove items on the deck such as life/floating buoys, fire hose, etc
- **More than 81%** of the incidents reported that the **crew did not suffer from any injuries** or there was no information on the condition of the crew
- In **32%** of the incidents, **nothing was stolen** by perpetrators who escaped empty-handed when sighted by the crew
- The most **common stolen items were ship stores** (e.g. ropes, paint, lubricating oil/grease, etc)
- There was no evidence to suggest that certain types of ships were targeted, but **63% of incidents occurred on board either tankers or bulk carriers**
- Most of the incidents occurred during **hours of darkness** with 60% of incidents occurred between 0000-0600 hours and 20% between 1900-2400 hours

The Annual Report (January to December 2018) was released at the 10th Nautical Forum was attended by more than 150 participants from shipping companies, industry associations, government/regulatory agencies, diplomatic missions as well as academic institutions.

“While ReCAAP ISC welcomes the recent downward trend in the number of incidents of piracy and sea robbery in Asia, we urge the law enforcement/regulatory authorities and shipping industry to continue the vigilance and cooperation that has led to the decrease,” said Masafumi Kuroki, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC.

“In Asia, more than 90% of the incidents are armed robbery against ships, which occur in territorial waters of the Coastal States. Therefore, the ownership and efforts of the Coastal States in deterring, detecting, and apprehending perpetrators is vital in reducing the number of incidents in Asia, as are the vigilance and preventive measures by ships,” concluded Masafumi Kuroki.

– End of Release –

Media Contact

David Lee

E-mail: david_lee@recaap.org

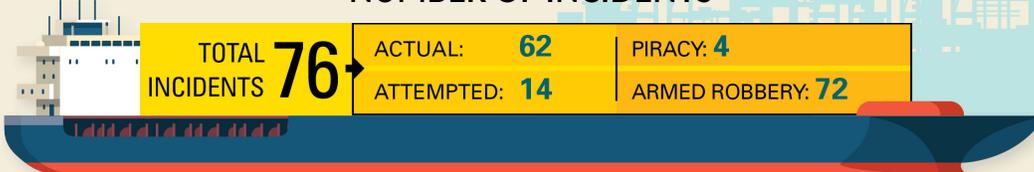
Tel: +65 6376-3091

About ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC)

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) is the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. The Agreement entered into force on September 4, 2006 with 14 Asian countries as Contracting Parties, and the Information Sharing Centre was established on November 29, 2006. To date, 20 States (14 Asian countries, 4 European countries, Australia, the USA) have become Contracting Parties to ReCAAP. To fulfil its vision as the Information Hub for combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, ReCAAP ISC enhances regional cooperation through information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements. At the 12th Governing Council Meeting in 2018, the Council announced that ReCAAP ISC has met the criteria to be a Centre of Excellence for information sharing in combating piracy and armed robbery at sea. For more information about ReCAAP ISC, please visit <http://www.recaap.org>

PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS IN ASIA 2018

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

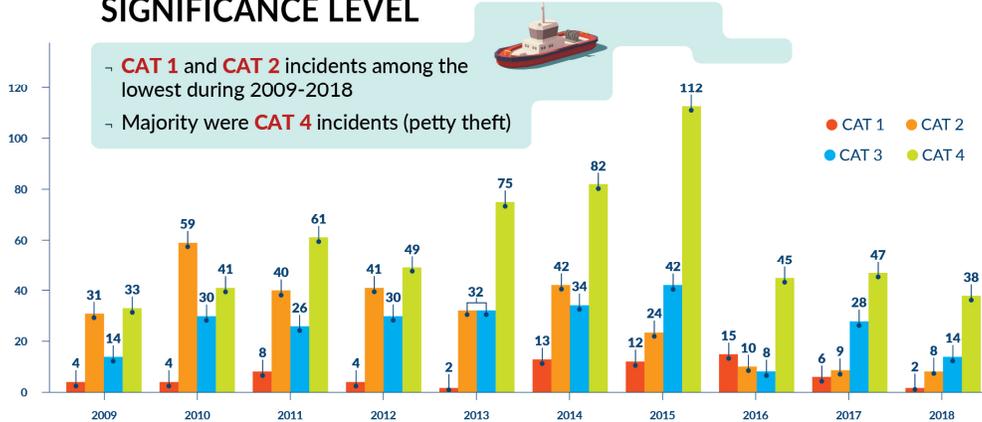


25% compared with 2017

LOWEST total number of incidents and actual incidents in the last 10 years (2009-2018)

SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL

- CAT 1 and CAT 2 incidents among the lowest during 2009-2018
- Majority were CAT 4 incidents (petty theft)



STATUS OF SHIPS



57 (75%) incidents on board ships **AT ANCHOR/BERTH**

19 (25%) incidents on board ships **UNDERWAY**

2018 COMPARED TO 2017

IMPROVEMENT



DECREASE IN INCIDENTS

- At Manila anchorages, Philippines
- In South China Sea
- Abduction of crew for ransom



NO SUCCESSFUL

- Theft of oil cargo incidents



OCCURRENCE

- Two actual and one attempted abduction of crew for ransom incidents



MORE THAN 10 INCIDENTS AT PORTS/ ANCHORAGES IN

- Samarinda, East Kalimantan, Indonesia
- Chittagong, Bangladesh

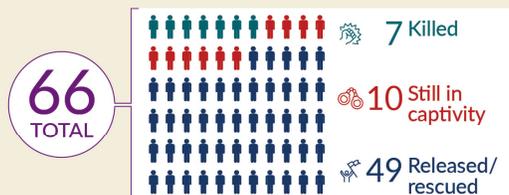


ABDUCTION OF CREW FOR RANSOM IN SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

INCIDENTS IN 2018

- Two actual incidents (Sri Dewi 1 on 11 Sep 18 & fishing boat on 5 Dec 18)
- One attempted incident (Kudos 1 on 16 Feb 18)

STATUS OF ABDUCTED CREW (as of 31 Dec 2018)



ADVISORY TO SHIPPING INDUSTRY

- Despite a decrease of abduction incidents, threat remains
- Re-route where possible, otherwise to:
 - » Exercise enhanced vigilance
 - » Make timely report
 - » Maintain communication with local authorities
 - » Adopt piracy countermeasures to mitigate risk
 - » Refer to contact details



CONTACT DETAILS OF REPORTING CENTRES

PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD DISTRICT

Southwestern Mindanao (CGDSW)

Tel: +63 998-585-7972
+63 917-842-8446

VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"

Email: hcgdswm@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD STATION

Bongao, Central Tawi-Tawi

Tel: +63 998-585-7941
+63-917-842-8402

VHF: Channel 16

Email: cgd_tawi2@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINE NAVY - LITTORAL MONITORING STATION (LMS)

Bongao, Tawi-Tawi

Tel: +63 955-714-0153

VHF: Channel 16

Email: jointtaskgroup@gmail.com

EASTERN SABAH SECURITY COMMAND (ESSCOM)

Lahad Datu, Sabah

Tel: +60 89863181/016

Fax: +60 89863182

VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"

Email: bilikgerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my

ADVISORY OF ReCAAP ISC

SHIPS AT ANCHOR/BERTH:

- Authorities of coastal States to enhance surveillance at ports and anchorages
- Respond to reports of incidents immediately
- Ships to increase vigilance, secure all stores and adopt preventive measures.

SHIPS UNDERWAY:

- Enforcement agencies of littoral States to increase patrols
- Ships to maintain all round lookout for suspicious boats in vicinity.

MASTER AND CREW:

- Keep abreast of the latest situation (www.recaap.org)
- Implement preventive measures in the *Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia*
- Report all incidents to coastal State and flag State