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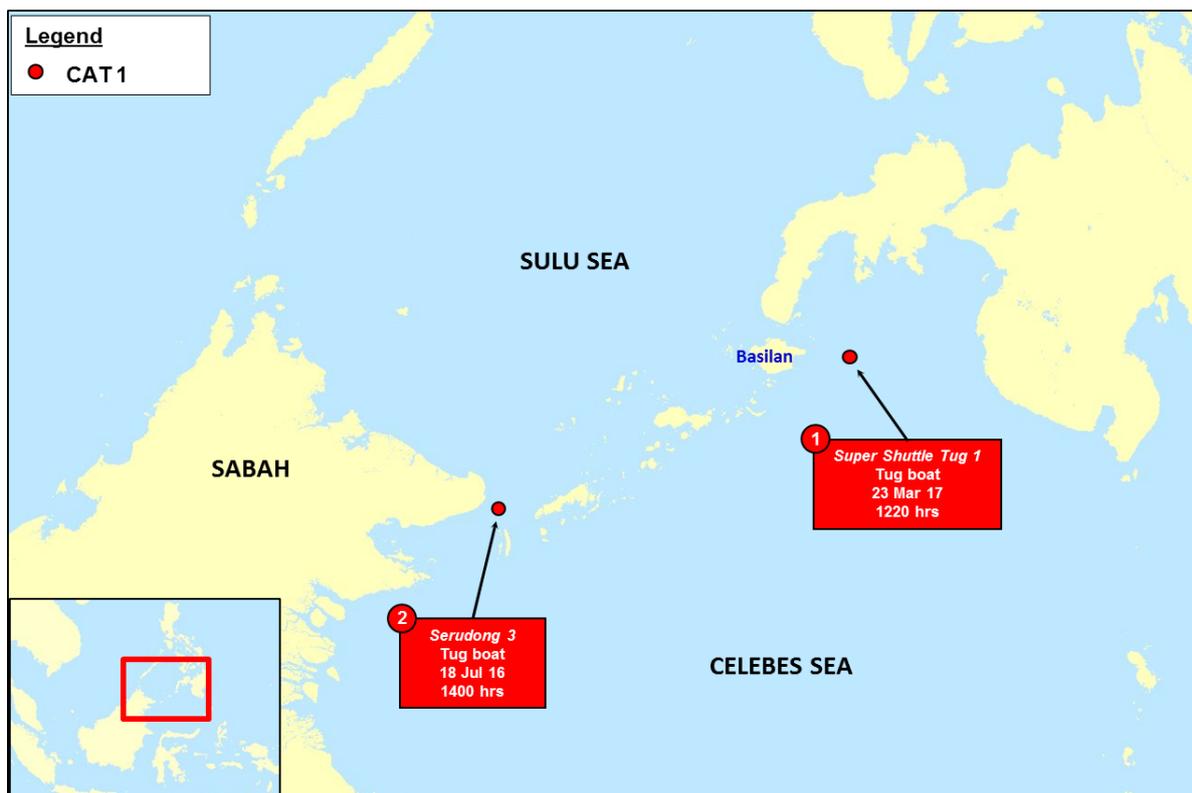
ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 21 – 27 March 2017

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

For the period of 21-27 Mar 17, one incident of abduction of crew from a tug boat while underway at approximately 26 nm east of Matanal Point, Basilan, Philippines was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The ReCAAP ISC issued a **Warning** on the incident, and after verification with the ReCAAP Focal Point for Philippines who is the Philippines Coast Guard, the ReCAAP ISC disseminated an **Incident Alert** with more information about the incident.

An update on another incident which occurred on 18 Jul 16 was reported to the ReCAAP ISC on 27 Mar 17. The recent efforts of the Philippine Government had led to the successful rescue of five Malaysian crew of tug boat, *Serudong 3* crew who were abducted on 18 Jul 16. The crew was rescued on 23 Mar 17 and 26 Mar 17. The location of the incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description tabulated in attachment.



Location of incident (21 – 27 Mar 17)

RECOMMENDATIONS

The ReCAAP ISC urges ship master and crew to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State and flag State, exercise vigilance and adopt relevant preventive measures taking reference from the *Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.

The ReCAAP ISC reiterates its advisory issued via the *ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert* dated 21 November 2016 to all ships to re-route from the area, where possible. Otherwise, ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance while transiting the Sulu-Celebes Sea and eastern Sabah region, and report immediately to the following Centres:



Contact details of the centres

**Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships
21 to 27 March 2017**

NO	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	Date Local time of Incident (LT)	Position of the Incident	Details of the Incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and crew	Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A. ACTUAL INCIDENT									
1	<p>Super Shuttle Tug 1 Tug boat Philippines 225 8609709</p> <p>Super Shuttle Roro 9 Roro cargo ship Philippines 17884 7902647</p>	23/3/17 1220 hrs	06° 34.8' N, 122° 44.7' E Approximately 26 nm east of Matanal Point, Basilan, Philippines	<p>Tug boat, <i>Super Shuttle Tug 1</i> towing roro cargo ship, <i>Super Shuttle Roro 9</i> was en route from Cebu to General Santos City when four armed men boarded the tug boat from three wooden green speed boats. They abducted two crew (identified as the boat captain and chief engineer, both of Filipino nationality), and fled towards mainland Basilan. There were two armed men on board each speed boat.</p> <p>The remaining crew was safe and reported the incident to Philippine Coast Guard Station Zamboanga who immediately coordinated with local authorities and deployed floating assets to conduct maritime patrol in the vicinity.</p>	<p>The boat captain and the chief engineer were abducted. Latest report indicates that they were rescued on 24 Mar 17 and 27 Mar 17 respectively.</p> <p>No items were stolen.</p>	Reported incident to the Philippine Authorities	Yes Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Philippine Navy (PN)	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	<p>After receiving the report from the crew of passing vessel, Coast Guard Station (CGS) Zamboanga immediately coordinated with local authorities and deployed its floating assets to conduct maritime patrol in the area.</p> <p>The PN also deployed its speedboat and air assets after receiving the distress call from the tug boat. The authorities were able to track down the Abu Sayyaf militants who escaped on speed boats. The immediate response by the forces on the ground led the rescue of the abducted boat captain.</p> <p>On 27 Mar 17, the Philippine authorities rescued the chief engineer in the Municipality of Hadji Mohammad Ajul, Basilan Province.</p> <p>The PCG personnel were also deployed to provide security to the rest of the crew and the tug boat while it anchored off Kaliwasan, Basilan.</p>

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B. REPORT UPDATE									
2.	<i>Serudong 3</i> Tug boat Malaysia 60 <i>Serudong 4</i> Barge	18/07/16 1400 hrs	05° 08' N, 119° 24' E Tanjung Labian, Lahad Datu, Sabah, Malaysia	<p>This is a follow-up report on the incident which was published in ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report covering the period for 19-25 Jul 16.</p> <p>The details of the incident were described as follows: A ship passing by the waters in Tanjung Labian, Lahad Datu, Sabah discovered an abandoned tug boat, <i>Serudong 3</i> with barge, <i>Serudong 4</i>. The tug boat with no crew on board has its engine still running, the ship compass was missing and the crew's belongings were in a mess. The tug boat and barge were later towed to Lahud Datu Jetty Port for further investigation by the authorities. The five Malaysian crew of <i>Serudong 3</i> were missing and they were later confirmed to had been abducted by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).</p> <p>Update. The recent effort of the Philippine Government had led to the successful rescue of the five crew on 23 Mar 17 and 26 Mar 17.</p>	<p>Five Malaysian crew were missing</p> <p>Crew's belongings were left in a mess</p> <p>The recent effort of the Philippine Government had led to the successful rescue of the five crew on 23 Mar 17 and 26 Mar 17.</p>	No information given	Yes Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	<p>The recent efforts of the Philippine Government led to the successful rescue operation of two Malaysian crew, confirmed to be the abducted crew of <i>Serudong 3</i> on 23 Mar 17 at 0200 hrs.</p> <p>Subsequently, at about 2330 hrs on 26 Mar 17, the remaining three abducted Malaysian crew of <i>Serudong 3</i> were rescued.</p> <p>Both rescue operations took place in Sulu town in Southern Philippines.</p>