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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 18 – 24 April 2017

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 18-24 Apr 17, the ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines) reported to the ReCAAP ISC an incident involving *MV Doña Annabel* on 18 Apr 17 while the ship was underway at approximately 14 nm NW of Port Santa Maria, Siocon, Zamboanga Peninsula, Philippines.

The ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines) also reported to the ReCAAP ISC the latest inputs pertaining to the incident involving fishing boat *Ramona 2* which occurred on 20 Dec 16.

The location of the two incidents is shown in map below; and detailed description tabulated in attachment.



Location of incident (18 – 24 Apr 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
18 to 24 April 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
ATTEMPTED INCIDENT									
1	MV Doña Annabel Passenger/ cargo ferry Philippines	18/4/17 0754 hrs	7° 57.5' N, 121° 55.96' E Approximately 14 nm NW of Port Santa Maria, Siocon, Zamboanga Peninsula, Philippines	While underway, three fast boats with unknown number of perpetrators wearing bonnets and armed with guns surrounded and tried to approach the ship. The ship captain contacted the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and reported that they were in distress. After receiving the distress call from the ship, the PCG immediately coordinated with local authorities and deployed its floating assets to conduct maritime patrol in the area. The Philippine Navy also deployed its floating assets and the Philippine Air Force deployed two Huey helicopters. The authorities located the ship and rendered assistance to her until she arrived safely at the port of Zamboanga City, Philippines.	The crew was not injured. No item was stolen.	Reported incident to the PCG	Yes Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	After receiving the report from the ship captain, the PCG immediately coordinated with local authorities and deployed its floating assets to conduct maritime patrol in the area. The Philippine Navy also deployed its floating assets and the Philippine Air Force deployed two Huey helicopters. The authorities located the ship and rendered assistance to her until she arrived safely at the port of Zamboanga City, Philippines. The quick response and immediate presence of the authorities in the area prompted the perpetrators to abort their attempt to board the ship.

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REPORT UPDATE									
2.	Ramona 2 Fishing boat Philippines	20/12/16 0230 hrs	5° 10' N 121° 42' E 55 nm Southeast off Pata Island, Sulu, Philippines	<p>This is a follow-up report on the incident which was published in ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report covering the period for 20-26 Dec 16.</p> <p>The details of the incident were described as follows: While underway, an unknown number of perpetrators armed with firearms boarded <i>Ramona 2</i> from an unmarked speed boat. The perpetrators abducted all four crew, took away the boat's Global Positioning System (GPS) and VHF radio, and left the boat unmanned and drifting. The sister boat, <i>Melissa 2</i> found <i>Ramona 2</i> when she passed by the vicinity.</p> <p>Update. On 13 Apr 17, one of the abducted crew was beheaded by the abductors in Sitio Pantay Minol, Brgy. Tanum, Patikul, Sulu where his remain was found by Philippine Government forces who conducted a search operation after informed about the incident.</p>	<p>All four crew abducted, and latest report revealed that one of them was killed.</p> <p>The boat's GPS and VHF radio were stolen from the boat on 20 Dec 16.</p>	No information given	Yes Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	<p>The PCG alerted all government units in the areas of Sulu archipelago.</p> <p>Upon receipt report about the beheading of the crew, the Philippine Government forces conducted a search operation to retrieve the remains of the crew.</p>