PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS IN ASIA (JANUARY-JUNE 2023)

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

59 incidents
January-June 2023

Highest number of incidents amongst Jan-Jun of 2019-2023

No piracy incident, all armed robbery against ships

40% increase in total number of incidents

Compared to January-June 2022 (42)

SEVERITY OF INCIDENTS (JAN-JUN 2023 VS JAN-JUN 2022)

- No CAT 1 incidents for Jan-Jun of 2023 & 2022
- Incidents of crew sustained minor injuries [2 vs 1]
- Incidents of crew being tied-up [3 vs 0]
- Incidents of crew threatened [0 vs 1]

CONCERNS

- Continued occurrence of incidents in Straits of Malacca & Singapore
- Threat of abduction of crew for ransom in Sulu-Celebes Seas (moderate)

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STRAITS OF MALACCA AND SINGAPORE (SOMS) - 41 incidents

RECOMMENDATIONS

Litoral States
- Increase patrols and enforcement
- Respond promptly to incidents
- Strengthen coordination and promote information sharing
- Arrest and prosecute perpetrators

Ship master and crew
- Maximise alertness of lookouts and increase vigilance
- Take rounds of ship’s compartment prior entering area of concern
- Sound alarm when sighting unauthorised persons on board ship or suspicious boats in the vicinity
- Keep abreast of latest situation, advisories & navigational broadcasts
- Report all incidents to nearest littoral State immediately, with contact details as follows:

CONTACT DETAILS OF LITORAL STATES

Indonesia - BAKAMLA (Maritime Incident Reporting)
Tel : +62 895 6003 00846
Email: puskodal@bakamla.go.id

Malaysia - MMEA (Maritime Operation Centre)
Tel : +60 38 943 4001 / +60 38 995 7201
Fax: +60 38 941 4527
Email: pomarhq@mmea.gov.my

Singapore - MRCC Singapore
Tel : +65 6226 5539 / +65 6325 2493
Fax: +65 6227 9971 / +65 6224 5776
Email: pocc@mpa.gov.sg

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

No abduction of crew incident reported

Last known incident occurred in January 2020, no crew held in captivity

Downgrading of Threat Assessment Level

Philippine Coast Guard recommended downgrading of the threat of ‘Abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas’ to ‘MODERATE’ - ‘Incidents are possible to occur but are relatively less severe in nature’

Advisory & Guidance

Refer to updated ReCAAP ISC Advisory dated 15 Sep 2022 - all ships to consider re-route from the area as an option based on its prerogative

Refer to Guidance on Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah

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