Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 14-20 Aug 18, two incidents of armed robbery against ship were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The location of the incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description of the incidents is tabulated in attachment.
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS

The last actual incident of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas occurred on 23 Mar 17 and the last attempted incident on 16 Feb 18. However, as the threat of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas is not eliminated, ReCAAP ISC maintains its advisory issued via the ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert dated 21 November 2016 to all ships to reroute from the area, where possible. Otherwise, ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance while transiting the Sulu-Celebes Seas and eastern Sabah region, and report immediately to the Centres as shown in map below.

The Philippine Coast Guard had informed ReCAAP ISC about the update of the call-sign of the Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao Operation Centre. The call-sign is NEPTUNE instead of ENVY as previously reported.

RECOMMENDATION

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.
## Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships
### 14-20 August 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship Name</th>
<th>Type of Ship</th>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Gross Tonnage IMO Number</th>
<th>Date Local time of Incident (LT)</th>
<th>Position of the Incident</th>
<th>Details of the Incident</th>
<th>Consequences for crew, ship, cargo</th>
<th>Action taken by the master and crew</th>
<th>Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?</th>
<th>Reporting State or International Organization</th>
<th>Coastal State Action Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Omera Legacy</strong></td>
<td>Tanker</td>
<td>Marshall Islands</td>
<td>9291236</td>
<td>2/8/18 2320 hrs</td>
<td>22° 0.9’ N, 91° 46.1’ E Chittagong Anchorage Area, Bangladesh</td>
<td>While at anchor, six perpetrators boarded the ship, stole rope and escaped. The incident was reported to the Chittagong Port Control. The Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG) investigated the incident and recovered the stolen rope, which was handed over to the ship on 4 Aug 18.</td>
<td>A rope was stolen. The crew was not injured.</td>
<td>The master informed the Chittagong port control through VHF radio.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Chittagong Port Control and Bangladesh Coast Guard</td>
<td>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Bangladesh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Ever Alpha</strong></td>
<td>Tug boat</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>272 9552757</td>
<td>10/8/18 1000 hrs (UTC)</td>
<td>5°26’4.20”N, 119°13’28.20”E Off Tambisan Island, NE of Sabah, East Malaysia</td>
<td>While underway, 10 perpetrators wearing masks covering their faces boarded the tug boat towing a barge carrying 3,900 tons of Crude Palm Kernel Oil (CPKO) from a small motorized boat. The crew locked themselves safely inside the bridge and contacted the local authorities. They did not see the perpetrators carrying any firearms (from their position inside the bridge). Unable to enter the tug boat, the perpetrators fled. A Royal Malaysian Navy vessel arrived at the location, and escorted the tug boat into Sandakan waters. The Marine Operation Force, Royal Malaysian Police boarded the tug boat for investigation. The tug boat was then allowed to continue her voyage to Kuantan Port. The crew was not injured.</td>
<td>No items were stolen. The crew was not injured.</td>
<td>The master informed the local authorities. The crew safely locked themselves inside the bridge.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Regional authorities</td>
<td>ReCAAP ISC via Information Fusion Centre (IFC)</td>
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