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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 2 - 8 July 2019

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 2 - 8 Jul 19, one CAT 3¹ incident and two CAT 4² incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC.

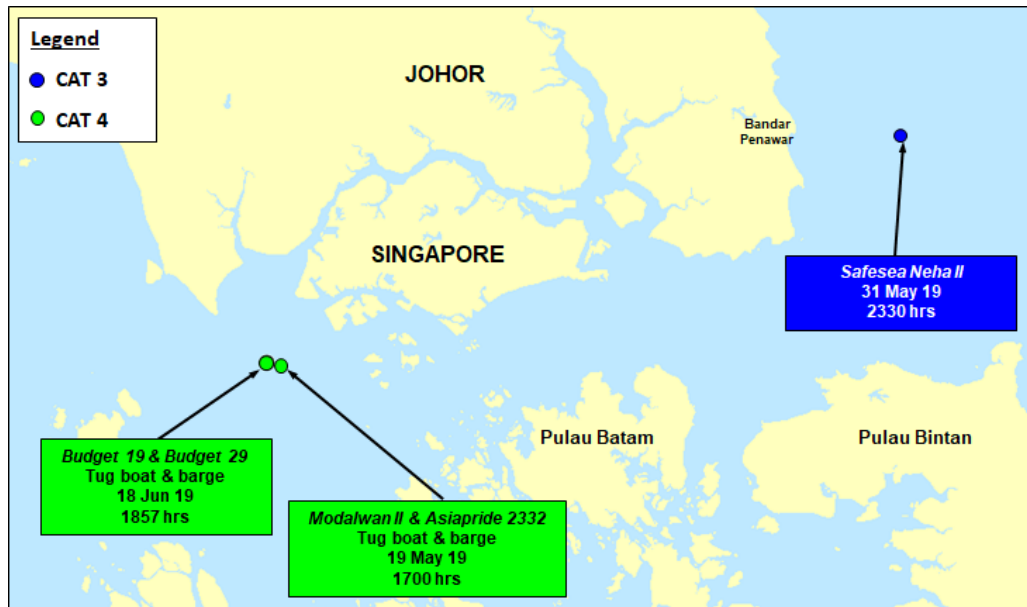
The CAT 3 incident occurred on 31 May 19 at 12.2nm east of Bandar Penawar, Johor, Malaysia when two perpetrators armed with knives boarded the ship. Upon sighted by the crew, the perpetrators escaped empty-handed by jumping overboard.

The two CAT 4 incidents involved the theft of scrap metal from barges towed by tug boats while underway in the west sector of the Singapore Strait. The incidents occurred about one month apart (on 19 May 19 and 18 Jun 19) and in close proximity to each other. The perpetrators adopted similar modus operandi by coming alongside the barges in sampans. They boarded the barges and stole scrap metal on board the barges.

The location of the three incidents is shown in map next page, and description tabulated in the attachment.

¹ ReCAAP ISC classifies Category 3 incident as 'less significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators could be armed with knives/machetes or other items such as sticks or rods. The crew was not harmed although there remains a small possibility that the crew could be subjected to duress or threat during the incident but no harmed physically. In most of CAT 3 cases, the perpetrators were unable to steal anything from the vessel, but in cases where losses were reported, stores and engine spares were commonly targeted items.

² CAT 4 incident is 'least significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed and the crew not harmed.



Location of the incidents

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

As the risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah, Malaysia is high as demonstrated by the abduction of nine fishermen from two fishing boats on 18 Jun 19³, the ReCAAP ISC reiterates its advisory issued via the *ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert* dated 21 Nov 16 to all ships to reroute from the area, where possible.

RECOMMENDATION

Ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance while transiting the area, and report immediately to the Operation Centres of Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The contact details of the Operation Centres of Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia (updated by ReCAAP ISC on 3 Jan 19) are as follows:

³ The nine abducted fishermen were released on 21 Jun 19.

1 Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao
 Tel: +63 998 585 7972
 +63 917 842 8446
 VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"
 Email: hcgdswm@yahoo.com

2a 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

2b Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi
 Tel: +63 955 714 0153
 VHF: Channel 16
 Email: jointtaskgroup@gmail.com

3 Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)
 Tel: +60 89863181/016
 Fax: +60 89863182
 VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"
 Email: bilikgerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my

Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships
2 – 8 July 2019

	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
INCIDENTS IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENT									
1.	Safesea Neha II Malaysia 31144 GT Bulk carrier 9347918	31/5/19 2330 hrs	1.0; 35.0'N 104.0; 28.0'E 12.2 nm East of Bandar Panawar, Johor, Malaysia	While at anchor, two perpetrators armed with knives boarded the bulk carrier. The crew sighted them and gave chase. The perpetrators jumped overboard and escaped. It was not known if they were picked up by other craft. The crew was not injured and nothing was stolen. (Category 3)	The crew was not injured and nothing was stolen.	The crew chased the perpetrators who jumped overboard.	Yes	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information.
2.	Budget 19 Tug boat Malaysia 141 GT 5647360 Budget 29 Barge	18/6/19 1857 hrs	1.0; 12.91'N 103.0; 34.12'E Approximately about 4.5 nm southeast of Tanjung, Piai, Johor, Malaysia in the westbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of Singapore Strait Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS)	While underway, eight perpetrators boarded the barge from nine sampans. They stole scrap metal and escaped. The crew was not injured. (Category 4)	The crew were not injured. Scrap metal were stolen from the barge.	No available information	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information

	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
3	Modalwan II Tug boat Malaysia 141 GT 5647360 Asiapride 2332 Barge	19/5/19 1700 hrs	1.0; 11.79'N 103.0; 34.96'E Approximately about 5.9 nm southeast of Tanjung, Piai, Johor, Malaysia in the westbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of Singapore Strait Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS)	While the tug boat towing barge was en route to Port Klang, Malaysia, perpetrators in four sampans came alongside and boarded the barge. The perpetrators stole some scrap metal and a few small items from the barge before they escaped. The crew was not injured.	The crew was not injured. Scrap metal and a few small items were stolen from the barge.	No available information	Yes	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information.