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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 11-17 June 19

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

The ReCAAP ISC did not receive report of incident of piracy or armed robbery against ships in Asia during 11-17 Jun 19. On 18 Jun 19, the ReCAAP ISC knew from a media report about the abduction of 10 crew from two fishing boats off Semporna, Sabah, and issued a Warning to provide maritime surveillance awareness for mariners operating in the area. The detail of the Warning is described in the paragraph below.

SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS

On 18 Jun 19 at 0245 hrs, two Malaysia-registered fishing boats were in Lahad Datu's Tambisan waters and heading towards Semporna when they were boarded by gunmen from two speedboats. The perpetrators believed to be heavily armed took with them four of the six crew members from the first fishing boat and six of the 10 crew members from the second boat. Please see map below. The last incident of abduction of crew occurred on 5 Dec 18.



Location of Semporna

As the threat of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off eastern Sabah remains, ReCAAP ISC maintains its advisory issued via the *ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert* dated 21 Nov 16 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 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:



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

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*.