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## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report

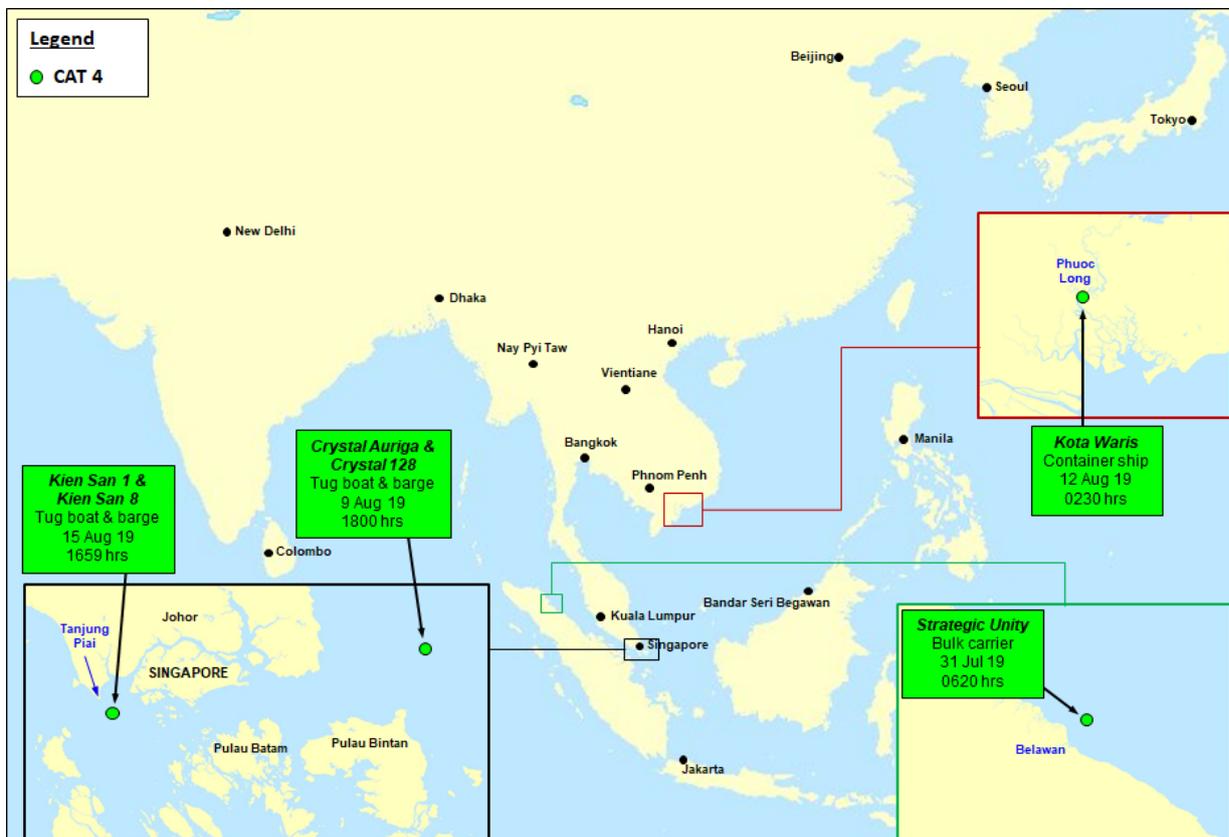
### 13-19 Aug 2019

## Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

### OVERVIEW

During 13 – 19 Aug 19, four CAT 4<sup>1</sup> incidents of armed robbery against ship were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The four incidents occurred on (1) 31 Jul 19 at Belawan Anchorage, Indonesia; (2) 9 Aug 19 northeast of Pulau Bintan, Indonesia; (3) 12 Aug 19 at Phuoc Long Mooring Buoy No 3, Vietnam; and (4) 15 Aug 19 southeast of Tanjung Piai, Johor, Malaysia.

Refer to map below on the location of the incidents. The detailed description of the incidents is tabulated in the attachment.



Location of the Incidents

<sup>1</sup> The ReCAAP ISC classifies CAT (Category) 4 incident as 'least significant' incident. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not harmed.

## 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 is high as demonstrated by the abduction of nine crew<sup>2</sup> on 18 Jun 19, 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. 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 the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia (updated by ReCAAP ISC on 3 Jan 19) are as follows:



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Three numbered locations are marked: 1 near Zamboanga, 2a and 2b near Bongao, and 3 near Lahad Datu.

- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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@ipm.gov.my](mailto:bilikgerakan_esscom@ipm.gov.my)

### Contact details

In the event that the ship master is not able to establish contact with the Operation Centres of the Philippines as listed in the ReCAAP ISC Advisory, he can contact the **Philippine Coast Guard Command Centre** at the following contact details:

Tel: +63-2-5273877 (direct)  
+63-2-527-8481 to 89 (ext: 6136/37)  
+63-917-724-3682 (mobile)  
+63-929-825-3207 (mobile)

Email: [pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph](mailto:pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph)

<sup>2</sup> The nine abducted crew were released on 21 Jun 19.

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

The ReCAAP ISC has produced the “*Guidance on the Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah*” to assist the shipping industry and ships to enhance their situation awareness and avoid such incidents. The Guidance consists of advisory on the measures to be taken by the ships transiting the area, including contact details and the Notice to Mariners (NOTAM) issued by the Philippines and Malaysia. It also shares the analysis of incidents based on the information collected from past incidents. The Guidance can be found at [www.recaap.org](http://www.recaap.org).

### **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**  
13 – 19 Aug 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
<b>INCIDENTS IN ASIA</b>									
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENTS</b>									
1.	<b>Strategic Unity</b> Bulk carrier Singapore 24641 9648099	31/7/19  0620 hrs	3° 56.8' N, 98° 48.73' E  Belawan Anchorage, Indonesia	While at anchor, two perpetrators boarded the ship from the port side anchor chain by removing the hawse pipe. The crew discovered them hiding in the forecastle and raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the perpetrators escaped in a small speed boat. Nothing was stolen from the ship. The crew secured back the hawse pipe cover plate with additional wire slings. The crew is safe.  (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	The crew raised the alarm	No information	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information
2.	<b>Crystal Auriga</b> Tug boat Indonesia 108 9072228  <b>Crystal 128</b> Barge	09/8/19  1800 hrs	1° 26.62' N, 104° 38.93' E  Approximately 14 nm northeast of Pulau Bintan, Indonesia (South China Sea)	While anchored off Pulau Bintan, the barge was boarded by an unknown number of perpetrators on 9 Aug 19. They stole some mattress protectors from a container on the barge. The master discovered that the items on board the barge were missing upon arrival at Crystal Offshore Yard, Singapore on 10 Aug 19 at 1200 hrs. He immediately reported the incident to Singapore Port Operation Control Centre (POCC) and Singapore Police Coast Guard.  (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. Some mattress protectors were stolen from a container.	The master reported the incident to the authorities	Yes  Singapore Port Operation Control Centre (POCC) and Singapore Police Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Upon arrival in Singapore, the Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded the tug boat and barge to investigate.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	<b>Kota Waris</b> Container ship Singapore 16772 9157404	12/8/19  0230 hrs	10° 44.33' N, 106° 46.2' E  Phuoc Long Mooring Buoy No. 3, Vietnam	While at anchor, two perpetrators in black mask boarded the ship through the port quarter deck from a wooden boat. They were trying to open the entrance door of the steering gear room. The duty A/B discovered them when he was conducting deck safety and security round. He reported the incident to the duty officer and raised the general alarm. The perpetrators jumped into water and escaped in a wooden boat.  (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	The alarm was raised. The master reported incident to the agent	Yes  Local port authorities	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Vietnam)	No information
4.	<b>Kien San 1</b> Tug boat Malaysia 192 9218600  <b>Kien San 8</b> Barge	15/8/19  1659 hrs	1° 12.95' N, 104° 33.31' E  Approximately 3.8 nm southeast of Tanjung Piai, Johor, Malaysia in the westbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait  (SOMS)	While underway, three perpetrators from two small boats boarded the barge and stole some scrap metal. The master raised the alarm and reported the incident to the Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) via VHF. The perpetrators disembarked the barge at about 1710 hrs with some scrap metal. The crew was not injured; and the tug boat and barge resumed their passage westbound.  (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. The perpetrators stolen some scrap metal.	The master raised the alarm and reported the incident to Singapore VTIS	Yes  Singapore VTIS	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Singapore Navy and Police Coast Guard were notified. The safety navigational broadcast was initiated and Malaysian authority was also notified.