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## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 14-20 May 19

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 14-20 May 19, one Category 4<sup>1</sup> incident of armed robbery against ship in Asia was reported to ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred on 18 May 19 at approximately 3.3 nm southeast off Tanjung Piai, Malaysia in the westbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of the Singapore Strait. This incident is in the vicinity of the previous four incidents reported in the Singapore Strait from February to April 2019. The location of the incident is shown in map below; and detailed description tabulated in attachment.




Location of incident

<sup>1</sup> ReCAAP ISC classifies Category 4 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

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:



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Key locations marked include Lahad Datu (point 3), Bongao (points 2a and 2b), and Zamboanga (point 1).

- 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: [bilanggerakan\\_esscom@jpm.gov.my](mailto:bilanggerakan_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*.

**Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships  
14-20 May 2019**

	<b>Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number</b>	<b>Date Local time of Incident (LT)</b>	<b>Position of the Incident</b>	<b>Details of the Incident</b>	<b>Consequences for crew, ship, cargo</b>	<b>Action taken by the master and crew</b>	<b>Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?</b>	<b>Reporting State or International Organization</b>	<b>Coastal State Action Taken</b>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>INCIDENT IN ASIA</b>									
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENT</b>									
1.	<b>Barlian T1201</b> Tug boat Niue 153 9433432  <b>Smit Cyclone</b> Barge Dominican Republic	18/5/19 1650 hrs	1° 13.27' N, 103° 32.72' E  Approximately 3.3 nm southeast off Tanjung Piai, Malaysia (westbound lane of TSS in Singapore Strait)	While the tug boat towing barge was underway, the master of the tug boat reported to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) via VHF that six perpetrators were boarding the barge from a small boat.  The master later reported that the perpetrators had left the barge with some tools stolen from the barge. The tug boat and barge continued her voyage to Port Klang, Malaysia.	The crew was not injured.  Tools were stolen from the barge.	The master of the tug boat reported the incident to Singapore VTIS via VHF.  The master raised the alarm and mustered the crew.	Yes  Singapore VTIS	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Singapore VTIS initiated the safety navigational broadcast and notified the Singapore Police Coast Guard, the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and the Malaysian authority.