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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 20-26 Aug 2019

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 20 – 26 Aug 19, one CAT 3¹ incident of armed robbery against ship was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred on 21 Aug 19 to a tug boat while anchored at Batam anchorage, Indonesia.

Refer to map below for the location of the incident. The detailed description of the incident is tabulated in the attachment.




Location of the Incident

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 not harmed physically. In most 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.

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 crew² 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. Key locations marked include Lahad Datu, Bongao, and Zamboanga. Contact points are indicated by numbered circles: 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
- 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

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

² 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 information collected from past incidents. The Guidance can be found at 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
20 – 26 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
INCIDENT IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENT									
1.	Salvicero Tug boat Singapore 2658 9351830	21/8/19 0340 hrs	1° 6.15' N, 103° 53.06' E Batam Anchorage, Indonesia	While the tug boat was at anchor, five perpetrators wearing dark clothes and armed with knives and hammer boarded the boat. The perpetrators were sighted by the crew who raised the alarm and mustered at the bridge. The master reported the incident to the local authorities and flag State, and activated the Ship Security Alert System (SSAS). Following the master's report to the authorities, the coast guard reportedly boarded the ship and conducted a search. No perpetrator was found on board the ship. It was reported that the deck and engine spares were stolen. (Category 3)	The crew was not injured. Deck and engine spares were stolen.	The crew raised the alarm and mustered at the bridge. The master reported the incident to the local authorities and flag State, and activated the SSAS.	Yes Local authorities	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Coast Guard reportedly boarded the tug boat and conducted a search. No perpetrator was found.