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## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 23-29 July 2019

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 23 – 29 Jul 19, two CAT 4<sup>1</sup> incidents of armed robbery against ship were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Both incidents occurred to tug boats towing barges while underway in the westbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait. The incidents occurred on 11 Jul 19 and 25 Jul 19 in the western sector of the Singapore Strait. The location of the incidents is shown in the map below, and description tabulated in the attachment.



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 is high as demonstrated by the abduction of 9 crew<sup>2</sup> on 18 Jun 19, the ReCAAP

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

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

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:



**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@jpm.gov.my](mailto: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](mailto:pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph)

#### 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**  
23-29 Jul 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>INCIDENT IN ASIA</b>									
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENT</b>									
1.	<b>Modalwan 11</b> Tug boat Malaysia 91  <b>Lion Kimtrans</b> <b>2301</b> Barge	11/7/19  1030 hrs	1.0; 13.0' N 103.0; 31.0' E  Approximately 2.9 nm south east of Tanjung Piai, Johor, Malaysia (westbound land of TSS in Singapore Strait)  (SOMS)	While underway, an unknown number of perpetrators boarded the barge from six small wooden boats. They stole scrap metal from the barge and escaped. The master reported the incident to the Malaysian authority who dispatched a patrol vessel to investigate the incident. There was no confrontation between the perpetrators and crew. The crew was safe.  (Category 4)	The crew was safe.	The master reported the incident to the Malaysian authority.	Yes	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Malaysian Marine Police dispatched a patrol vessel to investigate the incident.
2.	<b>Virgo 29</b> Tug boat Malaysia 149 9576612  <b>Victory 9</b> Barge	25/7/19  0703 hrs	1.0; 13.5' N 103.0; 31.63' E  Approximately 2.6 nm south east of Tanjung Piai, Johor, Malaysia (westbound land of TSS in Singapore Strait)  (SOMS)	While underway, an unknown number of perpetrators boarded the barge, <i>Victory 9</i> which was loaded with scrap metal on board. The Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) contacted the master of tug boat, <i>Virgo 29</i> via VHF and told him that some sampans were approaching the barge.  The master raised the alarm, and the perpetrators escaped. No item was stolen from the barge. The ship proceeded to the next port of call in Penang, Malaysia.  (Category 4)	The crew was safe.	The master raised the alarm.	Yes	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Singapore Navy informed the VTIS who communicated with the master via VHF about some sampans approaching the barge. The Singapore's Police Coast Guard and the Malaysian authorities were notified, and a safety navigational broadcast was initiated.