



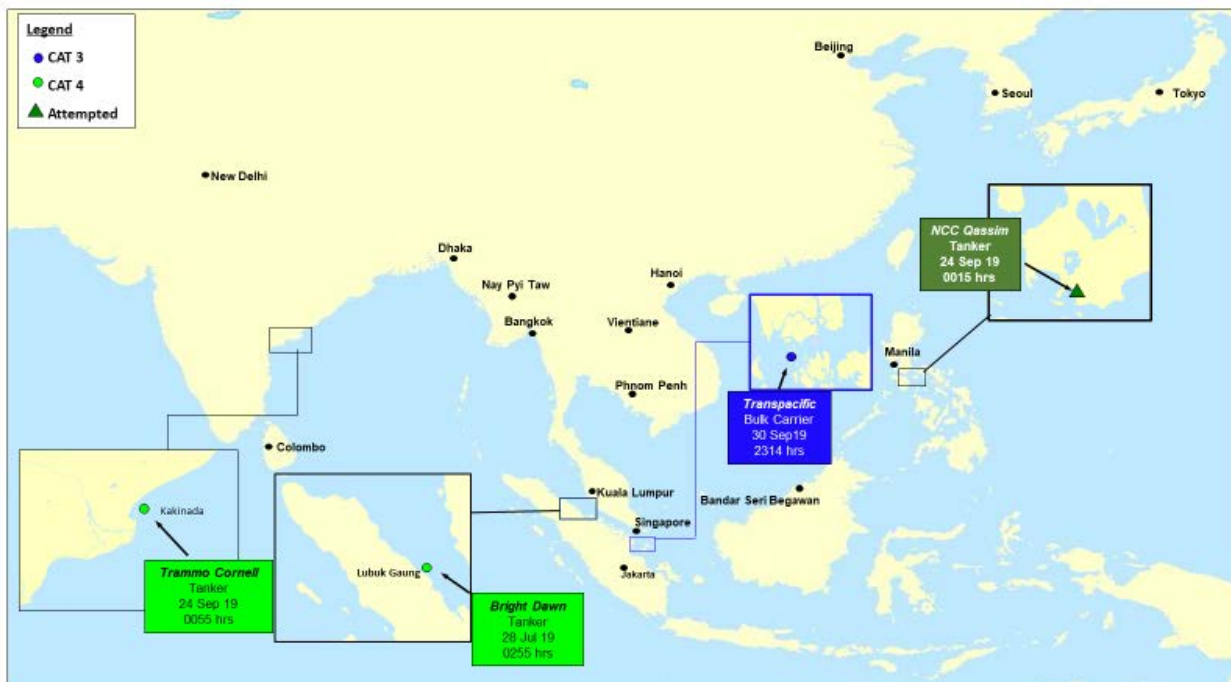
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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 24-30 Sep 2019

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 24-30 Sep 19, a total of four incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Of the four incidents, one was a CAT 3¹ incident, two were CAT 4² incidents and one was an attempted incident³. The location of the incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description of the incidents is tabulated in attachment.



Location of the incidents

¹ CAT (Category) 3 incident is '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.

² CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed and the crew not harmed.

³ Attempted incident is incident where pirates/robbers tried but failed to board the ship.


Incident outside Asia

The Focal Point (Singapore) reported to ReCAAP ISC an incident of armed robbery against ship that occurred outside Asia. The incident occurred on board a petroleum product tanker on 23 Sep 19 while anchored at Lagos Anchorage, Nigeria. The detailed description of the incident is tabulated in attachment.

SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

On 26 Sep 19, the ReCAAP ISC issued an **Incident Alert** on the abduction of three Indonesian crew from a Malaysian fishing boat (with markings SN3384/F) that occurred on 23 Sep 19 in the vicinity waters of Tambisan Island, Lahad Datu, Sabah, Malaysia. The Incident Alert was issued upon verification of the incident by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). The Incident Alert is attached. The ReCAAP ISC first issued a Warning about the incident on 24 Sep 19 to provide maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the area.

As the risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah is high, ReCAAP ISC reiterates its advisory issued via *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. Numbered markers 1, 2a, 2b, and 3 indicate the locations of the contact details listed to the right.

- 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

The ReCAAP ISC advises the shipping industry and ships to enhance their situation awareness by referring to the *Guidance on Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah* produced by ReCAAP ISC in July 2019. The Guidance is available 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
24-30 Sep 19**

	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 coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Taken	State Action
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
INCIDENTS IN ASIA										
ACTUAL INCIDENTS										
1	Transpacific Bulk carrier Malta 43721 9599722	30/9/19 2314 hrs	1° 3.83' N 103° 41.2' E Approximately 2.1 nm northwest of Pulau Cula, Indonesia, in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of the Singapore Strait (Strait of Malacca and Singapore)	While underway, five perpetrators armed with knives were sighted on the ship deck. The alarm was raised and the crew searched the accommodation area but the perpetrators already escaped. The master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS). The crew was safe and nothing was stolen. (Category 3)	The crew was safe. Nothing was stolen.	The alarm was raised. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.	Yes Singapore Police Coast Guard and Singapore Navy	ReCAAP ISC via Focal Point (Singapore)	The Singapore VTIS initiated the safety navigational broadcast. The Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded the ship when it arrived in Singapore. A search for the perpetrators was conducted. The Indonesian authorities were notified	
2	Trammo Cornell Tanker Singapore 25600 9543081	24/919 0055 hrs	17° 3.0' N 82° 26' E Kakinada Anchorage, India	While at anchor, two perpetrators boarded the ship through the forecastle area from a dinghy boat and stole two mooring ropes, each of 220 meter long. The emergency alarm was raised and the perpetrators jumped overboard and escaped in the dinghy boat. The master reported the incident to Kakinada Port. The crew was not injured. (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. Two mooring ropes, each of 220 meter long were stolen.	The alarm was raised. The master reported the incident to Kakinada Port Control through VHF Channel 14	Yes Kakinada Port Control	ReCAAP ISC via Focal Point (India)	The Kakinada Port Control advised the ship master to lodge a police complaint in order to follow up with the investigation.	

	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 coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Action Taken
3	Bright Dawn Chemical tanker Panama 30042 9362372	28/7/19 0255 hrs	1° 45.5' N 101° 22' E SDS Terminal ST 01, Lubuk Gaung, Indonesia	While at berth, four perpetrators boarded the ship by breaking the seal of the steering flat. They entered the engine room near the workshop and stole the engine spares. The duty oiler saw the perpetrators immediately informed the duty officer who raised the general emergency alarm. The crew was mustered and a search for the perpetrators was conducted. The perpetrators escaped from the ship with the engine spares. The crew was not injured. (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. The steering gear room security seal was found broken. Engine spares were stolen.	The general emergency alarm was raised. The crew was mustered and a search was conducted. The master reported the incident to the flag state, Port Facility Security Officer (PFSO) and Chief Security Officer (CSO)	Yes Flag state, PFSO, CSO	ReCAAP ISC via Contact Point (Hong Kong)	The authority boarded the ship and conducted investigation.
ATTEMPTED INCIDENT									
1	MT NCC Qassim Tanker Saudi Arabia 29595 9306811	24/9/19 0015 hrs	13° 46' N 120° 59' E Mabini Anchorage, Batangas, Philippines	While at anchor, a perpetrator from a small watercraft climbed the anchor chain and attempted to board the ship through the hawse pipe.	No information	The master reported the incident to the authorities	Yes Philippine Coast Guard Station (CGS) Batangas, and Port State Center (PSC) Batangas	ReCAAP ISC via Focal Point (Philippines)	The personnel of CGS Batangas and PSC Batangas boarded the ship to investigate.
INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA									
1	Grace Victoria Tanker Singapore 40953 9321201	23/9/19 0415 hrs	6° 17.6 N 3° 14.2 E Secured Anchorage Area, Lagos, Nigeria	While at anchor, the duty watchmen raised the alarm when he found two unauthorized persons on board the ship. The perpetrators jumped overboard upon hearing the alarm. The nearby patrol boat NSS Fortress was alerted via VHF. No injury was reported and no property was stolen.	A small section of the razor wire on the portside next to the bulwark was found broken. One of the cargo oil tank vapour lock cap was opened.	The duty watchman raised the alarm. A nearby patrol boat was informed to assist. The Chief Security Officer (CSO) was informed	No information	ReCAAP ISC via Focal Point (Singapore)	No information

26 September 2019



Incident Alert

Abduction of Crew from Fishing Boat

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre
21 Media Circle, #05-04
Singapore 138562
Tel : (65) 6376 3091
Fax : (65) 6376 3066
Web : <http://www.recaap.org>

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Incident Alert

Incident Alert : 04/2019
Name and Type of Ship : SN338/4/F / Fishing boat
Date/Time of incident : 23 Sep 19 at about 1300 hrs (GMT +8)
Location : 5° 33.95' N 119° 1.18' E
Area Description : Vicinity waters of Tambisan Island, Lahad Datu, Sabah, Malaysia

Detail of Incident

On 23 Sep 19 at about 1300 hrs, seven perpetrators wearing mask and military camouflage uniform boarded the fishing boat (SN 338/4/F) from two pump boats painted in green and blue with red stripes in the vicinity waters of Tambisan Island, Lahad Datu, Sabah, Malaysia. They abducted three Indonesian crew from the fishing boat, and fled towards Tawi-tawi Island, Philippines. The perpetrators believed to be members of the Kidnap for Ransom Group (KFRG) of Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), were reportedly armed with AK 47, M16 (with grenade launcher) and pistols.

The Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao has intensified their seaborne and coastal security patrol in coordination with Philippine and Malaysian authorities.



Location of the incident

