



Website : [www.recaap.org](http://www.recaap.org)  
Tel : +65 6376 3063  
Fax : +65 6376 3066  
Email : [info@recaap.org](mailto:info@recaap.org)

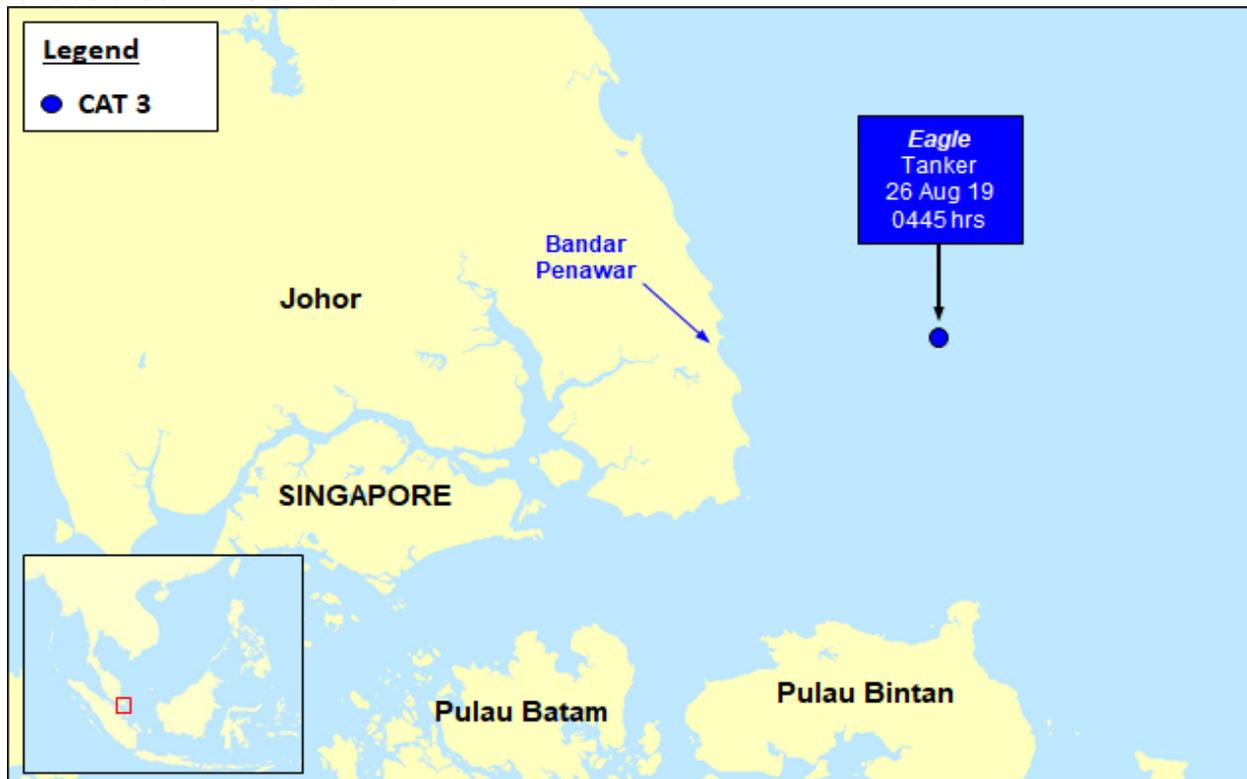
## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 27 Aug – 2 Sep 2019

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 27 Aug – 2 Sep 19, one CAT 3<sup>1</sup> incident of armed robbery against ship was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred to a tanker while anchored in the South China Sea, at approximately 17 nm east of Bandar Penawar, Johor, Malaysia on 26 Aug 19.

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**

<sup>1</sup> 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 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. Key locations marked include Lahad Datu, Bongao, and Zamboanga. Contact points are indicated by numbered red 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](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)

<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 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**  
27 Aug – 2 Sep 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>Eagle</b> Tanker Marshall Island 333 9233753	26/8/19 0445 hrs	1° 35.0' N, 104° 32.0' E  Approximately 17 nm east of Bandar Penawar, Johor, Malaysia  (South China Sea)	While at anchor, four perpetrators armed with knives and sharp object boarded the tanker from a wooden raft by climbing the anchor chain and entering through the hawse pipe. The crew raised the alarm and sounded the whistle. The perpetrators escaped with a 6-man life raft, and a few fire hose and nozzles. There was no confrontation between the perpetrators and the crew. The crew was safe. The Malaysian authority was notified.  (Category 3)	The crew was safe. A 6-man life raft, and a few fire hose and nozzles were stolen.	The crew raised the alarm and sounded the whistle.	Yes  The Malaysian authority	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information.