Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 3-9 Sep 19, one attempted incident of armed robbery against ship was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred to a tanker while anchored at Tanjung Uban anchorage, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia on 7 Aug 19. Refer to map below for the location of the incident. The detailed description of the incident is tabulated in the attachment.
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\(^1\) 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:

1. Philippine Coast Guard District
   Southwestern Mindanao
   Tel: +63 998 585 7972
   +63 917 842 8445
   VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"
   Email: brcdrsvm@yahoo.com

2. Philippine Coast Guard Station,
   Bongao (Central Tawi-Tawi)
   Tel: +63 998 585 7941
   +63 917 842 8402
   VHF: Channel 16
   Email: cpd_tawi2@yahoo.com

3. Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi
   Tel: +63 955 714 0133
   VHF: Channel 16
   Email: jointtaskgroup@gmail.com

4. Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)
   Tel: +60 89863181/016
   Fax: +60 89863182
   VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"
   Email: blikgerakan_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

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\(^1\) 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”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ship Name</th>
<th>Type of Ship</th>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Gross Tonnage</th>
<th>IMO Number</th>
<th>Date Local time of Incident (LT)</th>
<th>Position of the Incident</th>
<th>Details of the Incident</th>
<th>Consequences for crew, ship, cargo</th>
<th>Action taken by the master and crew</th>
<th>Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?</th>
<th>Reporting State or International Organization</th>
<th>Coastal State Action Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SG Pegasus</td>
<td>Chemical tanker</td>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>8195</td>
<td>9494876</td>
<td>07/08/19 0300 hrs</td>
<td>1° 6.2' N, 104° 10.7' E</td>
<td>1° N, 104° E</td>
<td>While at anchor, three perpetrators using grappling hooks attempted to board the chemical tanker from a small craft with outboard engine. Upon sighting of the perpetrators, the crew sounded the ship's horn and general alarm. The perpetrators subsequently aborted the attempt. The crew was safe and nothing was stolen. The incident was reported to the local port authority.</td>
<td>The crew was safe. Nothing was stolen.</td>
<td>Sounded the ship's horn and general alarm.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Local port authority</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INCIDENT IN ASIA ATTEMPTED INCIDENT**